

Exhibit 8

In the Matter Of:
FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

April 28, 2026



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TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO FILE OF:
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
April 28, 2026

1 (Beginning of Video Recording)

2 CHAIR REDONDO: The Select Committee on
3 Congressional Redistricting will come to order.
4 Kimberly, please call the roll.

5 THE CLERK: Chair Redonda?

6 CHAIR REDONDO: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Ranking Member Antone?

8 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Representatives, Baker?

10 REPRESENTATIVE BAKER: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Berfield?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BERFIELD: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Chambliss?

14 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Cobb?

16 REPRESENTATIVE COBB: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Lopez?

18 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Maney?

20 REPRESENTATIVE MANEY: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Oliver?

22 REPRESENTATIVE OLIVER: Here.

23 THE CLERK: Persons-Mulicka?

24 REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Here.

25 THE CLERK: Robinson?

1 REPRESENTATIVE ROBINSON: Here.

2 THE CLERK: Quorum is present, Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Kimberly.

4 Members and members of the audience, as a
5 reminder, please make sure that all electronic devices
6 are silenced. And just as a reminder, as we go
7 throughout today's process, I just want to make sure
8 that we all keep in mind the rules of decorum here in
9 this meeting room. We'll ask that everyone be
10 respectful of each other and of everyone else's time
11 as well.

12 Our only bill before us today is HB1D by
13 Representative Persons-Mulicka related to
14 Congressional redistricting. Members for the proposed
15 map, EOG PCRP 2026, the House did not have a role in
16 the creation of Congressional districts. This map is
17 provided by the Governor. As such, I plan to have
18 Representative Persons-Mulicka provide a brief
19 overview of the bill, and I've invited the Governor's
20 staff to explain the map and answer questions from the
21 members after these presentations.

22 Representative Persons-Mulicka, you're
23 recognized to explain the bill.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chair. House Bill 1D establishes the

1 Congressional districts for the State of Florida.

2 Members, that is the bill.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Representative
4 Persons-Mulicka.

5 Members, next, we're going to have Jason
6 Pareda with the Governor's office is here to explain
7 the map. Mr. Pareda, you are recognized to begin your
8 presentation.

9 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Would it
10 be okay if Mo Jazil, the attorney, gives a brief legal
11 explanation before I explain the map?

12 CHAIR REDONDO: Absolutely. Mr. Jazil, if
13 you'd like to come up first, you can make that
14 presentation. Go ahead.

15 MR. JAZIL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
16 you, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee. I
17 appreciate the invitation to speak with you here
18 today.

19 My remarks will be limited to the executive
20 branch's legal position on redistricting. I have
21 never drawn a redistricting plan. I don't intend to
22 draw a plan, and so I will leave it to Mr. Pareda to
23 address the factual questions at the heart of the plan
24 that's being presented here.

25 To begin, I note for the Committee that

1 there is nothing in federal or state law, nothing in
2 the federal or State Constitution that prohibits mid-
3 cycle Congressional redistricting. The Governor's
4 stated reasons for redrawing the Congressional map now
5 are twofold. One, to account for greater population
6 growth between 2020 and 2025 in the suburban and
7 exurban communities throughout the state, and two, to
8 ensure that the state has a race neutral Congressional
9 plan.

10 As you know, between decennial Censuses, the
11 American Community Survey and the State's Office of
12 Economic and Demographic Research puts out pretty high
13 quality estimates for growth at the county level.

14 This data, however, is not broken down to
15 the granular level needed to draw a map. So it's
16 perfectly fine to account for the county level growth,
17 but then rely on the 2020 decennial numbers to draw a
18 map to comply with the federal Constitution's one
19 person, one vote requirement.

20 The Supreme Court's plurality opinions in
21 LULAC versus Perry from 2006 and from Georgia versus
22 Ashcroft in 2003 allow for just this.

23 Next, the use of race in redistricting.
24 This is an evolving area of the law. We've had
25 several important cases decided since Article 3,

1 Section 20 was added to the Florida Constitution after
2 the 2010 election. And as you've likely heard, the US
3 Supreme Court is poised to address the issue again in
4 Louisiana versus Calais.

5 To level set, outside of redistricting,
6 cases concerning the Fourteenth Amendment to The US
7 Constitution's Equal Protection Clause say that some
8 distinctions are just so odious, so suspect that they
9 need to pass the strictest of scrutiny. Race is the
10 paradigmatic example of this. In simple terms, if you
11 separate people based on race, you need to satisfy a
12 really, really high hurdle.

13 In most cases, it's an insurmountable
14 hurdle. You will never clear that bar and nor should
15 you if, for example, you pass a law that segregates
16 schoolchildren or that bans marriages between the
17 races.

18 In redistricting, however, we have been
19 trying to use race as a factor in legislative decision
20 making. We're trying to be race conscious without
21 letting race predominate. The Governor's position on
22 the issue is this: we should not use race at all when
23 drawing districts. We should instead adhere to basic
24 principles of equal protection, which are that race
25 plays no role in the process.

1 There are at least three benefits to this
2 position. First, it's consistent with the
3 overwhelming weight of equal protection jurisprudence.
4 It doesn't discriminate based on race. That's why
5 it's consistent with the overwhelming weight of equal
6 protection jurisprudence.

7 Second, it avoids questions like what level
8 of consideration of race is enough but not too much,
9 where we draw the line between being race conscious
10 but not race predominant.

11 Third, it puts the state in a position to
12 best comply with the results of Louisiana versus
13 Calais.

14 Now, how does the Voting Rights Act and the
15 Florida Constitution's race-based provisions play into
16 the analysis? At the most fundamental level, if
17 compliance with the Voting Rights Act or the Florida
18 Constitution violates the Equal Protection Clause --
19 again, this is the Fourteenth Amendment to the US
20 Constitution -- then the Equal Protection Clause
21 prevails. Why? Because it's a superior law. That's
22 how our hierarchy of laws works.

23 When it comes to the Voting Rights Act, in
24 particular, the US Supreme Court has assumed without
25 deciding for decades that the use of race is a

1 compelling enough reason for us to be race conscious.
2 That's, in part, because the Voting Rights Act was
3 enacted with a very voluminous legislative record, and
4 it was enacted consistent with Congress's powers under
5 Section 2 of the Fifteenth Amendment, which
6 specifically allow Congress to pass laws such as this.

7 But there is an inherent tension there. If
8 Congress is passing a law saying that you can be race
9 conscious, but the guidepost for equal protection
10 purposes is you cannot take race into account, there
11 is an inherent tension there, and that's why the
12 Supreme Court has struggled with this over decades.

13 Calais is the most recent case to deal with
14 this issue. And the procedural posture of Calais
15 suggests that it's going to resolve the issue in a way
16 which will bar the consideration of race. And I say
17 that because Calais was a case that was relisted and
18 reargued.

19 Past examples of cases that were relisted
20 and reargued include Brown versus Board of Education.
21 They include Roe versus Wade. They include Citizens
22 United. So if we're looking at the background of how
23 Calais is working out, it's set up to be a seminal
24 case.

25 Turning to the Florida Constitution where

1 Article 3, Section 28 talks about racial
2 considerations in redistricting. Unlike the Voting
3 Rights Act, there was no detailed legislative record
4 that supported the enactment of this provision. It
5 was a citizen initiative. Also, unlike Congress,
6 which had power under Section 2 of the Fifteenth
7 Amendment, there is no similar grant of power to the
8 states to come up with race-based solutions such as
9 Article 3, Section 28, especially in lieu of a race-
10 based problem, a record of a race-based problem that
11 Congress had when it enacted the Voting Rights Act.

12 So in the recent Black Voters Matters
13 decision, the Florida Supreme Court recognized that
14 complying with the Florida Constitution is not a
15 compelling enough reason to use race. Now, if you
16 can't point to the Florida Constitution as a basis to
17 use race, then what effect, if any, should the race-
18 based provisions of Article 3 Section 28 have? And
19 it's the Governor's position that they should have no
20 effect.

21 Every time you try to comply with Article 3,
22 Section 28's race-based provisions, you're forced to
23 look at racial data. You're forced to assess whether
24 sorting people on the basis of race is feasible and
25 whether this race-based sorting results in the kind of

1 performance you want in a particular region or a
2 particular race. That entire exercise is inconsistent
3 with the Constitution's equal protection guarantee.

4 The superior law in this instance, again,
5 it's our contention should trump because the superior
6 law is the supreme law of the land. Now, because the
7 race-based provisions in Article 3, Section 20 are
8 inconsistent with federal law, the next question
9 becomes, well, what about the rest of Article 3,
10 Section 20? The executive branch's position on this
11 is this. The rest of Article 3, Section 20 cannot be
12 saved. This is because the provisions are inseparable
13 from one another. Why is that?

14 When Article 3, Section 20 was sold to the
15 Florida voters in 2010, it was sold as a package. It
16 was reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court for ballot
17 placement, also, where that court concluded that the
18 provisions were "directly connected". That's the test
19 for citizen initiative under Article 11, Section 3.
20 Is there a direct connection? Are they directly
21 connected?

22 And the Florida Supreme Court in 2009, when
23 looking at the single subject directly connected
24 requirement said this, these are all component parts
25 or aspects of a single dominant plan or scheme.

1 Another thing to consider, there was no
2 severability provision included in the fair
3 districting amendments when they were passed by the
4 voters in 2010. That's unlike, for example, the term
5 limit citizen initiative that passed in the '90s, the
6 one that said there are going to be term limits for
7 members of Congress and for members of the Florida
8 Legislature.

9 The members of Congress requirement was
10 struck because it violated the qualifications clause
11 of the US Constitution. However, the Florida Supreme
12 Court allowed the remainder, the term limits for
13 members of the Florida Legislature to stand because
14 there was an express severability clause and because
15 the two things could be separated.

16 That brings me to my final point on
17 severability. The text of Article 3, Section 20 sets
18 up a tiered structure. You've gone through the
19 Committees in the past. You've talked about tier one,
20 tier two. That is the tiered structure.

21 Now, what happens when you take a tier out
22 from this architecture? The structure falls. So this
23 is unlike other instances where provisions could be
24 severed.

25 So in sum, Members, the issues on the table

1 are weighty, but the Governor's position has a benefit
2 of being consistent, simple, and likely right. I'll
3 stop there, and I'm happy to answer legal questions at
4 the end. But with that, Mr. Chair, with your
5 permission, I'd like to give the remainder of my time
6 to Mr. Pareda.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Mr. Jazil.
8 Appreciate it. And Members, yeah, we will wait till
9 the end for the conclusion of presentations before we
10 start questions.

11 So, Mr. Pareda, thank you.

12 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
13 you, Chair. Thank you, Vice Chair. Thank you,
14 Members of the Committee. My name is Jason Pareda. I
15 am employed with the Office of Policy and Budget, the
16 Executive Office of the Governor. I have been
17 employed there since July of last year.

18 I have also been involved in the
19 redistricting process here in Florida for the last two
20 redistricting cycles, serving on Committees in the
21 Legislature in both the 2012 and 2022 redistricting
22 cycles, as well as all of the subsequent litigation
23 that happened after 2012 and even after 2020.

24 Most recently, I just recently in January
25 testified in the Cubanos (phonetic) trial in the

1 Southern District of Florida back in January. So I've
2 had extensive redistricting experience. And, with
3 that, that's why I am now involved with this map
4 drawing.

5 First, let me give you kind of a high level.
6 I know you've already gotten some briefing about
7 redistricting from previously from attorneys, but let
8 me give you a quick high level just to make sure we're
9 all on the same page before I get into the map
10 explanation.

11 So first, the US Census Bureau apportioned
12 counts to all states in April 2021, resulting from the
13 2020 Census that was conducted the year prior.
14 Florida gained 1 seat for a total of 28 Congressional
15 seats here in Florida. Our total population,
16 according to the 2020 US Census, was just over
17 21,000,000 people at 21,538,187 people. When you
18 divide that by 28, you get a number of 769,221 people.
19 That is the ideal or exact population for all 28
20 Congressional districts here in the State of Florida.

21 Now, unlike with state legislative
22 redistricting, which the standard is substantially
23 equal in population for districts, which courts have
24 interpreted as giving you a little bit of a range with
25 legislative redistricting, typically plus or minus 5

1 percent. So a total range of about 10 percent in some
2 states.

3 With Congressional redistricting, the
4 standard is they have to be as nearly equal as
5 possible, which has been interpreted over the years to
6 mean exact population equality down to a single
7 person, not a percent. So 27 of our Congressional
8 districts hit that number exactly, 769,221. There's
9 one Congressional district in the state that is
10 769,220, to meet that exact population equality, which
11 is very difficult and obviously is almost the
12 definition of an exact zero sum game.

13 When you move districts around or change
14 population from one district, it inevitably is going
15 to affect another district, and in many cases,
16 multiple districts in a region.

17 You can see here, the change between the
18 2010 Census and the 2020 Census here in Florida. It
19 was a difference of just over 2,700,000 people.
20 Again, one more Congressional district gained by that
21 amount. And you can see how that difference of change
22 in population changed the ideal population of a
23 Congressional district between the decades.

24 Now, as Mr. Jazil had mentioned before, we
25 have a lot of population estimates provided by the

1 Legislative Office of Economic Research. And through
2 the American Community Survey from the US Census
3 Bureau and the University of Florida, we have an
4 estimate that the State of Florida has already, in the
5 last five years, based on April 2025 estimates, has
6 already gained about 1,800,000 people compared to the
7 21,500,000 that we had just five years ago.

8 That is almost the entire difference that we
9 had over the last previous decade. We're now quickly
10 coming up to that number, and we're now even one year
11 past that. So that estimate, when it gets released
12 this July, will presumably be even higher.

13 Moving on. So first, the term with
14 redistricting, everyone talks about drawing districts.
15 I want to be clear that it isn't exactly that. You
16 can't just draw lines wherever you want on a map. We
17 are provided a dataset, which has population and
18 geography from the United States Census Bureau through
19 Public Law 94171. It is distributed to all 50 states
20 after the Census is conducted. Comes out about a year
21 after approximately when the apportionment totals come
22 out typically.

23 And it's those units of geography and all of
24 that subsequent data attached to those units of
25 geography that we have to use in redistricting. And

1 they are called Census blocks at the most basic level.
2 From there, you can have block groups or tracts or
3 other bigger units of geography, but those units of
4 geography are just collections of the smallest unit,
5 which is a Census block.

6 In Florida, we have 390,066 Census blocks
7 throughout the state. Sometimes they have no people
8 in them at all, whether they're over water or an
9 unpopulated area. Sometimes they have thousands of
10 people, sometimes tens of thousands of people.
11 Sometimes they are regularly shaped, as you see in the
12 image on the left, and it is sometimes easier to
13 assign different Census blocks to different districts
14 as you're building.

15 And in some cases, as you see on the left,
16 they are very irregularly shaped over areas of
17 geography where there might be rivers or other water
18 or sometimes just undeveloped areas that don't have
19 roads or other things that the US Census can align
20 Census blocks with.

21 Sometimes a road doesn't even have a Census
22 block. So sometimes, although you might see on a map,
23 there is a Census block there, like, oh, I want to use
24 that as a dividing line for a district. If there's no
25 Census geography that aligns with it, you cannot use

1 that. You have to use the geography that is available
2 to you with the Census.

3 So it is really more assembling districts
4 using these units of geography and more of a puzzle
5 rather than simply drawing. It's just kind of a term
6 that we like to use thrown around. It's fine. I just
7 want to make sure we're all on the same page and know
8 what we're all talking about.

9 So, real basically, this map that you see
10 here is the proposed Congressional redistricting plan.
11 I drew this map as a race neutral map, without
12 consideration of the race. As you just heard from Mr.
13 Jazil --

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Excuse me. Ladies and
15 gentlemen, there will not be laughter. This is going
16 to be an appropriately held Committee. I would ask
17 that you respect everyone who's speaking. When you
18 all come up here to speak in a moment, I'm going to
19 afford you all the same respect. If you're unable to
20 do so, I will ask the sergeant's office to remove you.
21 So please, let's maintain decorum in the chamber.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 So, again, this map was drawn race
25 neutrally. I did not look at any racial data or

1 analyze any racial demographic information in the
2 formation of this map. Otherwise, all other
3 traditional redistricting criteria were considered,
4 used when I drew this map. In addition, I also
5 considered that population growth that you referred to
6 before. Although I did have to balance all of the
7 districts down using those Census blocks, using the
8 2020 Census data, I did attempt to account for where
9 we know certain counties are growing faster than
10 others or certain areas where there might be
11 population that didn't exist when the 2020 Census was
12 conducted to the best of my ability.

13 And as a practical matter, when I refer to
14 the benchmark plan when comparing some of the
15 districts to this newly developed map, I am referring
16 to the currently enacted Congressional map, which
17 is -- and redistricting usually refers to the last map
18 that you're drawing until you draw a new map or a new
19 proposed map that you see here today. So that's what
20 I mean when I refer to that.

21 So on a quick high level, this map splits,
22 I'm sorry, keeps 48 counties whole of the 67 that we
23 have in the state. It keeps 382 of our 412 cities
24 whole, which is just over 93 percent of the cities in
25 Florida are kept whole in one district or another.

1 The mathematical compactness scores, on
2 average for all of the 28 districts you see in this
3 map, are consistent with that in the benchmark
4 district. The Reock score, which is a measure that --
5 a mathematical measure that compares each district to
6 the smallest circle that you can fit around each
7 district, and the average of all of those for the 28
8 districts is .46, which is, again, consistent with the
9 benchmark.

10 The Polsby-Popper score, is .81, which is
11 also consistent with the benchmark district. Polsby-
12 Popper score compares the area of a circle that has
13 the same perimeter of all of the districts. That 28
14 times on an average.

15 And finally, the convex hull score, the
16 other mathematical measure that's used consistently
17 throughout the country by courts to measure
18 mathematical compactness, is the measure of the
19 smallest polygon shape that can fit around the
20 districts and compares that area to the area of each
21 of the districts.

22 All of these mathematical compactness scores
23 are just ratios based on something that they're
24 comparing to the area or the perimeter of the
25 district. And all of these districts are comparable

1 to that in the benchmark.

2 In addition to that, in the Legislature's
3 map drawing program, there is something called a
4 boundary analysis score that compares its -- all of
5 the different major boundaries, either major roadways,
6 waterways, railways, other things like that that, to
7 all of the district boundaries to get a percentage of
8 how much of the district boundaries follow those major
9 criteria or not.

10 This map has, on that boundary analysis
11 score, it's just over 85, almost 86 percent of its
12 boundaries of all the district boundaries follow
13 either a county line, a city line, a major roadway, a
14 waterway, or a railway.

15 Now, let me walk you through the individual
16 districts in the map. First, Districts 1 through 7
17 are unchanged from that in the enacted map. There are
18 nine more districts that -- or I'm sorry, ten more
19 districts that are largely the same as they are on the
20 enacted map and trying to keep the cores of those
21 existing districts and trying to limit the impact of
22 this mid-decade redistricting that we're doing while
23 also respecting all of the other things that I
24 mentioned before.

25 I'll get more into exactly which those

1 districts are or what may have -- may or may not have
2 changed in each one as we go through all of the
3 districts.

4 So first, in South Florida, the biggest
5 change, because we are drawing this map in a race
6 neutral way, we did not recreate the Congressional
7 District 20 that is currently within Palm Beach County
8 and Broward County that has arms that extend into Palm
9 Beach and Broward County to attach two different Black
10 communities in those two counties together. We did
11 not do that here. So that significantly changed how
12 the districts around that one district that was
13 created previously can be drawn now.

14 So first, we'll go to Congressional District
15 21, which is entirely made up of St. Lucie County,
16 Martin County, and then gets its remaining population
17 from the northern part of Palm Beach County. This
18 district is very similar to that district that exists
19 in the benchmark map. It has the same two counties
20 whole within it and then gets its remaining population
21 from the northern part of Palm Beach County.

22 The boundary within the Palm Beach County is
23 slightly different than the benchmark, but, otherwise,
24 has the same amount of population from Palm Beach.
25 That was created and then now since we don't have to

1 deal with the arm that comes from Congressional
2 District 20 through Palm Beach, the next district that
3 I started to draw is District 23, where I simply
4 started to where District 21 ends and started drawing
5 south, trying to find some good boundaries on the
6 western side since the eastern side is the coast just
7 going straight down.

8 So on that western side of District 23,
9 you'll find the Florida Turnpike as a boundary.
10 You'll find the municipal line of Green Acres. And
11 then US 441, is the bulk of the boundary as you work
12 it your way south. And the rest of that is just
13 balancing the population because, like I said, we have
14 to get down to that exact number. And with
15 Congressional districts, that requires sometimes you
16 deviating or doing what you can to find Census blocks
17 or Census block groups that will achieve the equal
18 population for that district.

19 Now, this is a district that's entirely
20 within Palm Beach County. This is something that I've
21 always tried to do when I draw maps. If I'm given the
22 opportunity and there's nothing -- no other,
23 redistricting principle or redistricting criteria that
24 prevents it, I try to, when I can, put a district
25 wholly within the county if it is too big to be

1 entirely kept whole within a Congressional district.
2 So District 23 is that doing that for Palm Beach
3 County, putting a district entirely within it, and
4 then going south.

5 After I do that, there's a remaining
6 population, just south of it, in Palm Beach County
7 that I follow the same US 41 or also State Road 7
8 south to the Palm Beach/Broward County line. That's
9 about 230,000 people, and I put that into its own
10 district. It's kind of a placeholder, not knowing
11 where it was going to be connected to after the rest
12 of the map gets drawn.

13 But sometimes in map drawing, people think
14 you kind of start with one district, and you work your
15 way all the way around, and you just kind of go in
16 some sort of circle. Unfortunately, it doesn't really
17 work like that.

18 So, from here, I actually moved all the way
19 south and started to fill in the southern part of the
20 district. Another reason why you do this as a map
21 drawer is simply so you don't get stuck in the middle
22 of drawing districts down or drawing districts at the
23 end and being stuck with the district that either you
24 don't like the orientation of or for whatever reason
25 doesn't follow traditional redistricting principles.

1 So you try to, when you can, jump back and
2 forth and try to put the entire region together as a
3 whole rather than just kind of going in one direction
4 and ignoring the rest of it. So here, I went down to
5 the southern part of the state and put in District 28
6 and District 27, which are both, just like District
7 21, largely almost identical to the districts that are
8 in the enacted map.

9 Largely because if you're down in Monroe
10 County, you can only go one way, which is north, and
11 you could have to connect the same amount of
12 population with Miami-Dade. And District 27 in the
13 enacted map is one of the most compact districts that
14 was in that map, carried over to this map. There's
15 only so many ways that you can draw that, and it
16 follows all the traditional redistricting principles
17 to a T and is very well drawn.

18 So although there were some slight changes
19 to those districts along the western boundary of
20 District 21 just to kind of clean up that boundary
21 slightly, they're largely exactly the same as they
22 were in the enacted map.

23 Now moving north, next district that I drew
24 is District 24, which also is largely the same as it
25 is in the enacted map. The major difference is that

1 in the enacted map, District 24 includes all of the
2 coastal municipalities out to the east of along the
3 coast in Northern Miami-Dade County.

4 This was an attempt, if you look at the
5 enacted map, there's actually a space in between
6 District 27 and District 24, where District 26 kind of
7 came in, that I was aware of that split Miami-Dade --
8 or the City of Miami three ways and was done in such a
9 way that left that kind of an arm underneath there. I
10 was trying to correct that. And if I can, only split
11 Miami twice, which I was able to do.

12 But by doing that, because that area is so
13 densely populated, it pulled District 24 out of those
14 coastal Miami Beach and other municipalities along the
15 barrier islands there in Miami-Dade County.

16 From there, trying to respect as many
17 municipal boundaries as I could as I worked my way
18 north, some of which are the City of Hialeah to the
19 West, which is in District 26, the City of Opa-locka,
20 Miami Beach, and City of Miami to the south, and other
21 cities as I work my way north toward the Miami-
22 Dade/Broward border.

23 Now, the district had to go into Broward a
24 little bit, as well, to get some remaining population
25 rather than having an arm that might be an entire

1 city, but sticks out from it, over to the barrier
2 islands, just because the municipal lines there don't
3 really allow that. And where I could, I tried to do
4 that, although that wasn't -- I tried to keep a city
5 whole. So instead, I went north and built that
6 district in that way.

7 Now, to the west, District 26 takes the
8 remaining portion of Miami-Dade County, which includes
9 the entire city of Hialeah, using the Tamiami Trail to
10 the South, where District 28 comes up and fills in the
11 rest of Miami-Dade there.

12 Now, instead of going west into Collier,
13 because we're drawing this district race neutrally,
14 the most logical way to go from here is to just draw a
15 basically rectangular district and go up into Southern
16 Broward. And that's what I did here, trying to find
17 as many major roadways as possible. The northern
18 boundary of the district, actually, I believe, uses I-
19 75, as it comes over, Alligator Alley. Also goes
20 around the City of Weston, which is why it dips down
21 before finding that straight line road to go all the
22 way over to where it ends at the Florida Turnpike.
23 But that's why it dips down. It goes around the City
24 of Weston there. But that is a square, nice district.

25 So now we have all the districts to the

1 south. We have District 24 and District 26 in their
2 more or less final orientations.

3 So if you remember, I also try to include
4 districts entirely within counties where I can, and I
5 wanted -- there's District 27 in Miami-Dade. We
6 created District 23 in Palm Beach previously. So
7 knowing that those Districts 24 and 26 came into
8 Southern Broward, I was trying to do that same thing
9 for Broward with what became District 20.

10 There's a lot of smaller municipalities
11 right there, in kind of Central Northern Miami-Dade.
12 You start putting them all together, and you very
13 quickly get a very compact district right there in
14 kind of Central Broward County that became a Broward-
15 only Congressional district.

16 Now by doing that, though, that created a
17 space where we had previously put a district
18 placeholder about 230,000 people in Southern Palm
19 Beach County. It then created a space by drawing 24
20 in the way I did, where the beach municipalities in
21 Miami-Dade. And then next to district now, District
22 20, there's this whole area along the coast that was
23 either going to be connected together or going to be
24 connected separately in separate districts.

1 Connecting it separately in separate
2 districts would have created multiple districts that
3 would have had appendages that would have looked like
4 sticking down to different areas. So instead, I
5 connected them all together as you see here, trying to
6 find as the best boundaries I could on the Western
7 side. As I said before, the boundary within Palm
8 Beach County is US 441 or State Route 7 that goes down
9 to the county line.

10 Then within Broward County, the westernmost
11 boundary of District 25 as it goes around District 20
12 and 24 is the Florida Turnpike in both ways. And you
13 can see, just south of District 20 and north of
14 District 24, the Turnpike is the boundary of three
15 districts in that area. So that is a very commonly
16 understood boundary.

17 Within that, I tried to respect as many of
18 the municipality boundaries as I could within Broward
19 County, as well as trying to find what other major
20 roadways there. You can see the northern bit of
21 District 20 actually uses the railway as it comes
22 through Broward County and tried to find as many clean
23 or recognizable boundaries as I could to fill in these
24 four districts.

25 From there, after completing all of those

1 districts, it left an area of both Palm Beach to the
2 West, out toward the Everglades and in Broward County,
3 that needed to be included in the district, obviously,
4 since we have to account for every population and
5 every Census block.

6 Now, this also gets into the Everglades,
7 which is, from a map drawing perspective, is always a
8 difficult area to draw and put districts within
9 because it is an area that has very little, if any,
10 population in some cases and right next to an area
11 that is highly densely populated. Inevitably, there's
12 going to be some district that's going to have to take
13 this area.

14 And in this case, taking that those two
15 areas of Western Palm Beach and Western Broward and
16 taking that district west seemed like a logical choice
17 in this particular case. And here, I included all of
18 Hendry County, which is just west of both those two
19 bigger counties and then goes south into Collier
20 County and gets -- adds most of Collier County to it.
21 It goes right up to I-75. That's the straight line
22 that goes down within Collier County. And then you
23 see the little dip down there of District 19. That's
24 actually the municipal boundary of Naples. That is
25 not split. That District 22 goes around.

1 From there, another -- when you start kind
2 of in the South working your way up, there's only so
3 much you can do. District 19 is another district that
4 may look a little bit different than the enacted
5 district, but is a district that is very similar in
6 that it has population in both Lee and Collier
7 Counties. Although that share of population might
8 change a little bit, it is basically of similar
9 orientation.

10 So it gets the remainder of Collier County,
11 including all of Naples, and it goes up and grabs the
12 remaining portion of its population to get to the
13 magic number of 769,221 in Lee County. And you can
14 see the little divot that 19 kind of dips down and
15 goes around. That's actually going around the
16 municipal lines for Fort Myers.

17 So Fort Myers is included in District 17,
18 that got cut off on the top of this slide that
19 includes the rest of that population, including that
20 entire City of Fort Myers, the entire city, entire
21 County of Charlotte, and then goes into Sarasota,
22 which is also very similar to the enacted map. But in
23 the enacted map, it includes the entire county of
24 Sarasota.

25 Because of the way the populations were

1 coming, moving up from the South, that was not
2 possible. So I tried to find a dividing line within
3 Sarasota that made sense. And as it turns out, it was
4 I-75 for almost the entire length through the county,
5 until it had to equalize population near the North
6 Port area.

7 So from there, as I said, we've kind of
8 jumped around a little bit in the map drawing process
9 in order not to be boxed in or be boxed into a
10 decision that I didn't want to make while I was
11 drawing the map, I jumped up to Central Florida.

12 So the next district I tackled was District
13 8, which is all of Brevard and goes into Orange County
14 with its remaining about 160 -- just over 160,000
15 people in Orange County.

16 Now, in the enacted map, this district
17 includes Indian River and Brevard together and only
18 goes into Orange County by about 2,800 people.
19 Because we know Brevard and the Indian River are both
20 growing at about approximately the state average, and
21 because that one split into Orange County was so
22 small, I felt it was a good decision to just include
23 Brevard County, which we know is growing, and include
24 it just with Orange County and put its remaining
25 160,000 people in there and allow Indian River to be

1 connected to a different district that I'll talk about
2 shortly.

3 Now, because of that, because District 8
4 came into Orange County more than it did previously,
5 District 10, which is also wholly within Orange
6 County, had to be shifted slightly to the east. So
7 although its boundaries look slightly different, it is
8 effectively the same district and has most of the same
9 population that it did before, even though it shifted
10 slightly to the east.

11 But that is wholly within Orange County.
12 Fortunately, I did not have to go further north and
13 break the Seminole County line or impact District 7 or
14 District 6 in doing all of this. I was attempting to
15 not do that, and, fortunately, I was able to do so
16 here.

17 Now, you can also see District 11, which has
18 all of Sumter County, the remaining portion of Lake
19 County that's not in District 6, and the eastern
20 portion of Orange County, and that became District 11.
21 Now, in the enacted map, District 11 actually went all
22 the way down to Polk County as well, and had a little
23 less of Orange County.

24 But here, the way I oriented these
25 districts, I was able to do it in such a way that I

1 did not have to do that. So District 11 is entirely
2 Sumter, Lake, and eastern Orange County. Trying to
3 find as good a lines as I could within Orange County
4 around municipal lines, and you can see the dividing
5 line between the district I'll talk about shortly,
6 District 9 and District 11. That's a railway. And
7 then I believe Flamingo Avenue up from the south,
8 trying to keep a nice straight line as best I could up
9 to where District 10 is in there.

10 Now, District 9 is a district that contains
11 four whole counties in Indian River, Highlands,
12 Glades, and Okaloosa County. Not Okaloosa. I'm
13 sorry. Okeechobee County, altogether and connected it
14 with part of Polk County and Osceola County before
15 connecting it with Orange County.

16 Now, we, in the central part of our state,
17 have some rural counties that have to be included
18 somewhere. In the enacted map, there's District 18,
19 which includes a lot of them together, and then goes
20 into Southern Polk.

21 With the way the populations were coming
22 together in this map, this is a different approach,
23 taking those counties and attaching them to other
24 areas that we know are high growing, like Osceola, one
25 of the highest growing counties that we're aware of in

1 the map, and connecting them with those other counties
2 just beneath it along with a little bit up into Orange
3 County.

4 Now, you can see another county that is
5 growing at an extremely fast rate that we know is Polk
6 County. This is an attempt to keep a district mostly
7 entirely within Polk County to account for that
8 growth. That county that's in between the urban areas
9 of Orlando and Tampa is growing at a very fast rate,
10 and now it has a district that is almost entirely
11 within it.

12 Now, you'll notice it does go into Osceola a
13 little bit, because there's a lot of communities that
14 are right there along the border. You'll notice the
15 enacted map actually does the same thing, but in
16 reverse. It takes District 9 and comes into Polk
17 County a little bit and crosses that line in a similar
18 way that District 18 is to account for those
19 communities that that really straddle that county line
20 there.

21 And this is doing that in a similar way but
22 different and also including it with Indian River
23 County, which is now a county of about 160,000 people
24 that is no longer just attached to one other bigger
25 county. It's attached with other counties of similar

1 size. It's now the second -- its share of the
2 district, it is number two on the list of -- as
3 opposed to being more shut out by a bigger county that
4 made, now it has a bigger voice, combined with those
5 smaller counties.

6 So next was District 16. We've drawn all
7 the districts to the east of it, and we're coming up
8 from the South before. So now, this district,
9 largely, almost formed itself.

10 So it has three whole counties. It has
11 Manatee County, DeSoto, and Hardee County all attached
12 together, the remaining portion of Sarasota County,
13 the remaining portion of Southern Polk County that was
14 put together, and that was not in the previous
15 districts that I spoke about.

16 So now, having been almost entirely
17 completed, it needs about 250,000 people more to
18 complete its population. So now there's a choice. Do
19 we go into Southern Hillsborough County, or do we go
20 into Pinellas County? At the moment, those are really
21 the only two options.

22 Now, looking at the population growth
23 numbers that I said I told you about before, Pinellas
24 County, which previously had a district wholly within
25 it, Hillsborough did not. Trying to choose, do I

1 stick with what is in the enacted map or try to make a
2 different choice and give Hillsborough its own
3 district, which it has never had, at least in the
4 redistricting that I've been a part of.

5 Here, knowing that Pinellas County is one of
6 the slowest growing counties in our state and knowing
7 that Hillsborough is around the state average and of
8 the higher population counties in our state is growing
9 among the fastest, I chose to put a district entirely
10 within Hillsborough starting on the southern side and
11 working way up. As a result, that meant District 16
12 had to use the Skyway Bridge and go into Saint Pete
13 and take the southern part of Saint Pete and put that
14 with District 16.

15 So now finishing with the Tampa Bay region.
16 So we have that district wholly within Hillsborough
17 County, which goes up and includes all of Plant City,
18 use a lot of major roadways, the highways down, and
19 then the block lines around Tampa Bay and the water
20 can be somewhat difficult to work with, using as many
21 major roadways as I can and including them along the
22 county line all the way up, kind of up into the
23 Downtown Tampa area.

24 Now, District 13, which had previously been
25 entirely within Pinellas County, is still almost

1 entirely within Pinellas County. There's about 62,000
2 people that have to go up into Pasco County to achieve
3 its equal population. So even though it goes into
4 Pasco, it's still only doing that by about 60,000
5 people.

6 From there, the final two districts that we
7 have are District 15 and District 12. Now, I try to
8 keep counties whole where I can. So trying to keep
9 Citrus County and Hernando County whole meant that one
10 of the districts was going to have to come through
11 Pasco down into Hillsborough as opposed to splitting
12 one or both of those counties to put two districts
13 that would be more vertically oriented or some other
14 orientation altogether.

15 So to do that, I chose to keep the two
16 counties whole in this particular case. And then
17 coming through Central Pasco County can be difficult
18 with those Census block lines I talked about before.
19 There really is not a good divider line kind of in
20 between the eastern population centers of Zephyrhills
21 and Wesley Chapel and on the coast with, like, New
22 Port Richey.

23 In between, which where we know people have
24 grown and people have moved to at the Census block
25 level, there really is nothing there at the moment.

1 So trying to find a dividing line through Pasco County
2 is sometimes difficult. I chose to use I-75 during
3 almost in the entire length all the way from the
4 northern side to the southern side of the county. And
5 then within Hillsborough County, again, using I-75 and
6 other major roadways to come up with as vertical an
7 orientation as I could for the division between those
8 two districts.

9 And that, Mr. Chairman, is the map.

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Mr. Pareda.

11 Members, at this time, we're going to go
12 into questions. Again, if you're going to direct a
13 question to a specific person, just please let me
14 know. But other than that -- Ranking Member Antone?

15 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. Can I make a motion?

17 CHAIR REDONDO: Sure. Well, what's the
18 purpose of the motion?

19 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Some sort of motion
20 that we put all of the witnesses under oath.

21 CHAIR REDONDO: So Representative, I'll you
22 that, you know, we typically -- it's a highly unusual
23 thing to do and only is typically done when there's a
24 question as the veracity of the person speaking. I
25 don't think there's any questions in this case. So if

1 you'd like to make that motion, we can certainly vote
2 on it. I don't think it'll pass, but if you'd like to
3 make that motion, you're free to do so. I just -- you
4 know, we have time for questions, but we can certainly
5 make that -- we can hear that motion if you'd like.

6 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: All right. Thank
7 you, Mr. Chair. I'll make it real quick.

8 You know, as you know, this redistricting
9 effort is viewed by pretty much everyone as a
10 generational event. There's a lot we are learning
11 here today about a very important piece of
12 legislation, the district maps that we have not had
13 much time with and cannot afford to get wrong.

14 We need confidence the information we have
15 been given is complete, true, and accurate. Our
16 constituents deserve nothing less, and we as a
17 Legislature deserve nothing less. Therefore, as
18 provided by House Rule 7. 20, I move that we place the
19 individual or individuals presenting the Governor's
20 maps today, as well as any other state officer,
21 employee, or their agent advocating on the map, under
22 oath as provided by law.

23 And here's a sample oath: do you solemnly
24 swear or affirm that the testimony that you're about
25 to give to this Committee is the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

2 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: All right. Members, we have
4 a motion. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

5 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

6 CHAIR REDONDO: All those opposed, say no.

7 MULTIPLE VOICES: No.

8 CHAIR REDONDO: All right. The noes have
9 it. The motion fails.

10 All right, Members. Again, are there any
11 questions? Yep. Representative Chambliss.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thanks so much,
13 Mr. Chair. Want to kind of talk, kind of the process
14 of this, if you will. Wanted to ask why we are having
15 the opportunity to get so much information with such
16 little time. Was there any opportunity for us to get
17 this data and/or have access to this presentation in a
18 more timely manner, being that we're expected to vote
19 on it tomorrow?

20 CHAIR REDONDO: So, Mr. Pareda, to the
21 extent that you have an answer, you're free to give
22 it. I mean, Members, I'll just ask that again.
23 Obviously, the purpose of the questions is supposed to
24 go to the bill and the maps, of course. If you have
25 an answer, Mr. Pareda, you're free to give it.

1 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2 don't have any control over the legislative Committee
3 process or when special sessions were called and all
4 of that.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Yes, sir. Thank
6 you, Mr. Chair.

7 For example, I was a part of the legislative
8 redistricting process back in 2022. The public had
9 ample time to give input. There was a map drawing app
10 that was on the House website. The public had the
11 opportunity to submit their own maps by using that.
12 There was a lot more opportunity for us to not only
13 see maps.

14 As a matter of fact, if I recall, there were
15 actual multiple maps that were presented as options.
16 Why are we only -- why are we not using that same
17 process?

18 CHAIR REDONDO: So, Representative, I'll
19 just say I mean, look. I understand your question
20 again. I don't think Mr. Pareda is in control of that
21 issue, and I think some of that certainly is -- you
22 can certainly make those points in debate, but I would
23 ask that if you have questions, at least for Mr.
24 Pareda, certainly that they're limited to his
25 presentation, the maps, the process of how he did it,

1 things like of that nature. Otherwise, certainly in
2 debate, I'm going to give everybody ample time to
3 debate if they need it.

4 But if you have any questions, again, on the
5 presentations or for the bill sponsor, please, you
6 know, feel free.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: For
8 clarification, Mr. Chairman, so questions need to be
9 based on the map process or the map drawing process?

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Well, just to the extent
11 that there's questions about why we're here, the
12 timing, things that are, again, not certainly not
13 within Mr. Pareda's control, Mr. Jazil's control, I
14 would just say that's probably great for debate if you
15 want to make those points there. But at least for Mr.
16 Pareda and/or Mr. Jazil or, you know, Representative
17 Persons-Mulicka, we limit it to the bill, the maps,
18 the presentations that we've heard. I think that's
19 the purpose of questions.

20 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chair. And I'd like to redirect to some more of
22 the -- I'll start with the map drawing decision making
23 as far as data used.

24 So I heard, excuse me. Correct me if I'm
25 wrong. We're using the 2020 Census data. Is that

1 correct?

2 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
3 Pareda.

4 MR. PAREDA: Mr. Chair, the Census data that
5 was used from was from 2020.

6 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: And so are we
8 using any additional indicators of population growth
9 and also of population movement?

10 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
11 Pareda.

12 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. As
13 I mentioned before, we have to balance all the
14 districts using the 2020 Census redistricting files
15 and all of the Census blocks I talked about before.
16 So they're all balanced using that.

17 Now, the population growth data that I had
18 mentioned during my presentation, that's from the EDR
19 office, the Economic Demographic Research Office for
20 the Legislature, that gets its data from the US Census
21 Bureau and the University of Florida. They work in
22 conjunction to do population estimates.

23 The US Census Bureau, they conduct the
24 American Community Survey, which is something they do
25 on an annual basis where they survey 1 to 3 percent of

1 the US population to get a sense of where populations
2 are growing in every state, including Florida.

3 Although that data is not directly inputted
4 into any of the existing applications because they're
5 just estimates, they don't get down to the granular
6 level that we need to draw districts with to achieve
7 population equity. But we can know, especially on a
8 county level, what counties are growing, what counties
9 are not, and how they're comparing to the state
10 average and things like that. And we can try to take
11 that into account when we reorient the districts, but
12 they still have to be balanced using the 2020
13 population and Census geography.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

15 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. So we're looking at population growth by
17 county. Are we looking and it's been well stated by
18 several members of the Legislature. I mean, it's
19 something that we're proud of the population growth of
20 the State of Florida.

21 Are you familiar with the estimated
22 population growth of the State of Florida just for the
23 purpose of these questions?

24 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
25 Pareda.

1 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Chair. To the
2 extent that the EDR office publishes its information,
3 the last one, I believe, is from July that used the
4 population estimate data from April of last year. So
5 it's about a year old, but I'm somewhat familiar with
6 that, if that's what you're asking.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

8 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, sir.
9 If I'm -- I think I've heard numbers close to 700,000,
10 in that range. Am I off, or have you heard similar
11 numbers or less or less than that?

12 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
13 Pareda.

14 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are you
15 referring to the state as a whole or if it's --

16 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: The state as a
17 whole. I'm sorry.

18 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
19 Pareda.

20 MR. PAREDA: So according to those
21 estimates, as a state as a whole has grown by about,
22 eight and a half percent, exactly 8.55 percent
23 according to those estimates, according to last April
24 of last year, which is 1,841,000 more people have
25 moved to Florida.

1 So the estimated population used to be,
2 according to the Census date of 2020, 21,538,187. Now
3 with the estimated change, it's 23,379,261.

4 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

5 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. I noticed that we still have only 28
7 Congressional districts. Based on that growth, as you
8 were making, decisions drawing the maps, was there any
9 consideration to adding another Congressional
10 district?

11 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
12 Pareda?

13 MR. PAREDA: We have to abide by the
14 apportionment counts that the US Census Bureau
15 provides to every state. So we do not have the
16 ability to -- there's only 535 representatives in
17 Congress, 435 in the House of Representatives, and the
18 US Census Bureau is the one that distributes those
19 seats using the method of equal proportions to all 50
20 states.

21 So they tell all of the states, they tell
22 Florida how many Congressional districts you have, so
23 we don't have the ability to adjust that number.

24 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

25 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: So we talked

1 about population growth. I did want to talk about
2 population mobilization, mobility, population mobility
3 moving from one place to the other.

4 Just to give a pretext of it, if anybody has
5 driven to the Keys in the last couple years, you know
6 that South Dade, just as an example, has grown
7 exponentially. These are not necessarily new
8 residents to the State of Florida.

9 These are people who are moving from one
10 place to the other, based on affordability issues, you
11 know, more affordable housing, or based on the lack
12 of, you know, inventory for housing. Right? So do we
13 have any model that would be able to account for
14 population mobility?

15 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
16 Pareda.

17 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
18 population change figures by county that I referred to
19 with EDR, there's obviously more people in the state.
20 But if people move from, let's say, Leon County to
21 Miami-Dade or something like that, that would be
22 reflected in the estimated population growth for Dade.

23 Or if someone moves from Miami-Dade to
24 Monroe County, that would be reflected in Miami or
25 Monroe County's population growth.

1 So it'll take the kind of movement into
2 account in addition to the overall growth that the
3 whole state has seen, either from births or people
4 moving in from other states or other countries.

5 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

6 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chair. I'd like to shift the conversation and
8 questioning to boundaries. I remember in the last
9 process, a lot of -- a lot of time was put into making
10 sure that when we were drawing boundaries, that we
11 were using existing infrastructure or existing
12 municipal boundaries to help do that. Does this map
13 do a better job? Is this an improved version of that,
14 based on your experience?

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Pareda, you're
16 recognized.

17 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It does
18 it in a consistent manner that it did before. Whether
19 or not to keep a city whole or not is part of the
20 traditional redistricting principles, and that was
21 applied here amongst all of the other redistricting --
22 traditional redistricting principles.

23 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

24 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Is there a term
25 for that? Forgive me. I'm not the lawyer in the

1 room. Isn't there a term for how accurate we are in
2 abiding by those infrastructural lines? Is there a
3 map making term for that?

4 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
5 Pareda.

6 MR. PAREDA: Not exactly, though, in our --
7 the Legislature's EZRE (phonetic) program, there is
8 the boundary analysis score, and it'll give you a
9 score, which is a percentage.

10 So for each district, the percentage of its
11 boundaries that follow either waterways, roadways,
12 counties, municipal lines, and then a total score at
13 the end to let you know how much of the total district
14 follows one of those major, recognizable, geographical
15 features, whether they be major roads or anything
16 else.

17 I know the average score for this particular
18 map is almost 86. It's 85.7 percent of the boundaries
19 of all of the districts in the map follow roadways,
20 municipal lines, everything else. Specifically, if
21 you give me a moment, I don't have an average, but
22 that boundary analysis score will show you what the
23 individual district scores are for cities if that's
24 the thing that you're specifically wondering about.

25 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

1 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. I guess my question was, you know, based on
3 the current map in existence to this map, is this map
4 an improved version based on that score?

5 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
6 Pareda.

7 MR. PAREDA: I believe that this map is
8 consistent with that analysis. I don't remember the
9 exact percentage. I think there was a slight
10 difference, but it's within the same ballpark. They
11 were both above -- they were both between 85 and 90
12 percent if I'm remembering correctly.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

14 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chair. Again, going back, I know we're not going to
16 ask the procedural questions here in this format, but
17 I am curious because as I was listening to your
18 presentation, a lot of the decision making was
19 discretionary. Were you the sole person drawing the
20 map? Was there a team of people? I'll start there
21 and then.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
23 Pareda.

24 MR. PAREDA: I am the only person that drew
25 this map. All of the decision making processes for

1 boundaries were made solely by me.

2 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up.

3 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: In the 2020
4 process, wasn't there a team of you guys? Because I
5 swore it was, like, more than -- I remember you, but I
6 think there were multiple people who were involved in
7 the map making process. Is that correct?

8 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
9 Pareda.

10 MR. PAREDA: There was a Committee staff.
11 Yes. And primarily, it was me and one or two other
12 people that were for the House Committee was drawing
13 maps.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thanks so much,
16 Mr. Chair. So going back to that process, because
17 like I say, I was listening, and it was a lot of
18 discretion that was used.

19 Is it fair to say that if someone else that
20 was not you, another human being was drawing the map
21 that they could have come up with a different
22 conclusion to provide the same amount -- excuse me.
23 Yes. That could another person come up with a
24 different conclusion and still be within the -- within
25 the premise of map making?

1 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
2 Pareda.

3 MR. PAREDA: Map making is an art as much of
4 it as a science. Any individual person, there's
5 practically an infinite way of drawing redistricting
6 maps. You move one Census block, it's technically a
7 new map. Those decision points that I was talking
8 about, any other person could have made a different
9 decision, but I'm the only one that made the decisions
10 in this particular map that you see before you today.

11 CHAIR REDONDO: I'm fine with the follow-
12 ups. Just want to make sure any if anyone else has
13 any questions, I just want to maybe pass around if
14 that's right, and we can certainly come back.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: If I could just
16 finish this line and --

17 CHAIR REDONDO: Sure, go ahead, and I just
18 want to make sure other members have a chance as well.
19 But go ahead.

20 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Absolutely.
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And in the process, as you were
22 creating the map, were you the sole person that saw
23 your process, that saw the map as it was created? I
24 have to assume that this was not a one-sitting event.

25 Were you the only person who saw it

1 throughout the process, or did you go and consult with
2 anyone else, as you were creating the map?

3 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
4 Pareda.

5 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm the
6 sole person that that drew the map. I'm not going to
7 get into any of the internal discussions I had with
8 other EOG staff during the process. But I'm the only
9 person that changed any lines on the map or made any
10 decisions about where the lines were for any
11 particular districts.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: I'll release
13 there.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Okay. Any -- Representative
15 Lopez. Yes.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 The proposed map appears to eliminate the current
18 Tampa area and the Orlando area district. Both
19 districts contain large communities of color. What
20 compactness and contiguity analysis your office
21 conduct, and how does the elimination of this district
22 satisfy the Voting Rights Act's requirement that
23 minority communities retain an effective voice?

24 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
25 Pareda. Mr. Jazil, if you feel the need, you can

1 always jump in.

2 MR. PAREDA: Yeah. I can let Mr. Jazil
3 speak more to the legal aspect of it. But as I
4 mentioned before, I drew this map in a race neutral
5 manner and did not consider race statistics, for any
6 districts.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm
8 going to just remind everyone here, okay? We're in
9 the House of Representatives, I would ask as a
10 courtesy to everyone -- and, again, I assure you, you
11 will have my personal commitment that I will be
12 courteous to all of you when we do public testimony.

13 I hear the laughter. I assure you it
14 doesn't help. All this is doing is taking away time
15 from the questions and eventually the public
16 testimony.

17 So every time I have to stop to address
18 this, we're losing time. So I would just ask that
19 everyone please maintain the quorum.

20 You'll have an opportunity to speak if you
21 filled out a comment card, and I'd like to give as
22 many of you as I possibly can the chance to do that.
23 But the longer I have to keep doing this, the less
24 time there is for that. So please, again, I'd ask
25 that we maintain decorum.

1 Follow-up?

2 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Thank you, Mr.
3 Speaker. How many municipal boundaries and county
4 lines does this proposed map split compared to the
5 2022 map?

6 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
7 Pareda.

8 MR. PAREDA: Let me look through my numbers
9 here real quick. So as I mentioned at the beginning,
10 there are 48 counties whole, which means it splits 19
11 counties. I believe the benchmark map splits 17
12 counties. For cities, I believe the benchmark map
13 splits 16, and this one splits 30 or keeps 382 whole.
14 Follow-up?

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: A follow-up for the
17 same question. The Fair Districts Amendments require
18 that district withdrawn to keep political and
19 geographical boundaries intact where feasible. Can
20 you provide that comparison today?

21 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
22 Pareda.

23 MR. PAREDA: During my presentation, I
24 talked about how I tried to balance all of the
25 different criteria including that. And where

1 feasible, I did keep municipalities and counties whole
2 where I could.

3 You can see throughout the map that there
4 are multiple districts with whole counties or
5 districts within counties and/or instances like in
6 District 19, trying to keep Fort Myers whole. I did
7 try to apply that principle, mixed with all of the
8 other redistricting principles throughout the map
9 where feasible.

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 I just have to ask, who is the person in charge that I
13 can ask question -- I can do it in the next round, if
14 you allow me -- related to fiscal responsibility and
15 taxpayer protection.

16 CHAIR REDONDO: Is that a question for me,
17 Representative Lopez?

18 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: For them -- from the
19 group, who is the person who can answer that -- those
20 type of questions related to this process of
21 redistricting?

22 CHAIR REDONDO: To the extent, Mr. Pareda,
23 that you have an answer for that, you're welcome to
24 give one. I would say that I think the questions for
25 Mr. Pareda and Mr. Jazil are obviously limited to

1 their presentations. If you have an answer, Mr.
2 Pareda, you're free to give one. If not, that's fine.

3 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, ma'am. I'm just
4 here presenting the map that I drew on behalf of the
5 Executive Office of the Governor. I don't have any
6 information regarding anything else.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized. Go
8 ahead.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: And related to the
10 legal aspects, is you or the other gentleman.

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Jazil -- you have a
12 question for Mr. Jazil?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: No.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized?

15 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Mid-decade
16 redistricting is exceedingly rare. Can you cite the
17 specifics of statutory or Constitutional provision
18 that authorizes this Legislature to withdraw maps that
19 occur after already been drawn in 2022?

20 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
21 Jazil.

22 MR. JAZIL: Thank you, Representative. It
23 is rare, but it's not prohibited. I note that Florida
24 has a history of mid-cycle redistricting.

25 The 1885 Constitution, which was in place

1 until the 1968 Constitution replaced it, required
2 redistricting after the fifth year following a
3 decennial Census. So you were exactly at the
4 midpoint.

5 Also, there is a long history of Florida
6 having special sessions, redistricting sessions,
7 etcetera. Governor Collins, when he was in office --
8 and the historical record may correct me -- but my
9 recollection is that there were redistricting efforts
10 constantly his entire term there. The 1960s, there
11 were redistricting efforts often.

12 So there is a long history of redistricting
13 efforts being held mid-cycle, both as a Constitutional
14 matter because of the 1885 Constitution and other
15 circumstances. And there is, again, no prohibition in
16 the state and federal Constitution when it comes to
17 mid-cycle Congressional redistricting.

18 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up? You're
19 recognize?

20 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Senate President
21 Albritton's April memo confirmed that the Governor's
22 Office, not the Legislature, would be drawing the
23 maps. I'd like to know at what point did the
24 Legislature Select Committee on Congressional
25 Redistricting formally vote to cede the authority, and

1 is there a written record of that delegation?

2 CHAIR REDONDO: So, Representative,
3 obviously, a question regarding what this Committee
4 did or didn't do. You remember this Committee.
5 Right? So we all are in this Committee. If you have
6 questions for Mr. Jazil or Mr. Pareda with respect to,
7 again, the presentations, the maps, but I don't think
8 that's a question that's appropriate for either of the
9 witnesses. Anything else? Yes, please.

10 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Thank you, Mr.
11 Speaker. Under normal redistricting cycles, the
12 Legislature holds public hearings as maps are
13 developed. The Governor's Office drew these maps
14 internally and released them the night before the
15 special sessions begins (sic).

16 Can you explain how that process is
17 consistent with the separation of powers outlined in
18 our State Constitution, and where exactly does it
19 grant the Executive Branch the authority to draw
20 legislative maps?

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Jazil, you're
22 recognized.

23 MR. JAZIL: Thank you, ma'am. So Florida,
24 as you rightly note, has an express separations of
25 power provision in Article 2, Section 3. That

1 provision needs to be read with the other provisions
2 of the Florida Constitution. The Florida Constitution
3 is very specific that the Governor has no role when it
4 comes to legislative reapportionment, so apportionment
5 of the House and Senate districts.

6 However, the Congressional process does
7 contemplate the Governor being involved. There is no
8 express exclusion of the Governor from the
9 Congressional redistricting process as there is for
10 the state legislative processes.

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Thank you. All good.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Ranking Member Antone.

14 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: All right. Thank
15 you, Mr. Chair. Real quick, how many people what's
16 the population of each of the newly proposed
17 districts? I know you mentioned 769,221 thousand
18 (sic) for the current districts, but has that number
19 changed for the newly proposed districts?

20 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
21 Pareda.

22 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I
23 stated before, because I had to balance everything
24 using the 2020 Census redistricting data set and all
25 the geography, every district in the map is 769,221

1 people exactly, except for one that is one person
2 under that number.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

4 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: All right. Thank
5 you, Mr. Chair. I want to just move toward the issue
6 of race. Couple of things. You talked about Article
7 3, Section 20. You talked about race being a
8 predominant issue here. You talked about the use of
9 race and drawing districts as an evolving area of law.

10 You mentioned Louisiana versus Calais,
11 Calais, whatever it is. So I guess my question here
12 becomes, did you draw these maps based on the decision
13 you think the Supreme Court may make regarding
14 Louisiana versus Calais?

15 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
16 Pareda. And to the extent you need Mr. Jazil.

17 MR. PAREDA: Yeah, Mr. Jazil.

18 MR. JAZIL: Thank you, Representative. It's
19 in part based on the decision that might come out of
20 Calais. However, I also note that it's also in
21 response to the Florida Supreme Court's decision in
22 the Black Voters Matter case from 2025.

23 The two walk in tandem, but they walk
24 separately. And the decision in BVM in 2025 talked
25 about how the Fair Districting Amendments can't be a

1 compelling interest.

2 Calais is dealing with the issue, which is
3 frankly a tougher issue when it comes to the VRA, the
4 Voting Rights Act, because of the things we discussed
5 about the Fifteenth Amendment. But it is not wholly
6 dependent on Calais coming out a certain way.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

8 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: And thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. So does that mean you're totally discarding
10 Article 3, Section 20 in drawing these maps, or are we
11 not dealing with compactness and not diminishing
12 minority voters? Or --

13 MR. JAZIL: So, sir, my legal --

14 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
15 Jamil.

16 MR. JAZIL: Sir, my legal analysis that I
17 laid out is you do not need to take it into account.
18 However, whether it was taken into account is a
19 question for Mr. Pareda as the map drawer, and he can
20 walk you through what he did and how he did it.

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

22 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. So I want to just move to the maps. I mean, I
24 wish we had a side by side comparison of what the
25 current map looks like versus the newly proposed map

1 because, again, with only having 24 hours to review
2 these maps, man, it's just kind of difficult, and this
3 is my first time dealing with redistricting.

4 So I noticed some just some major
5 significant changes in how the districts were drawn.
6 It looks like you used District 19, which is, I guess,
7 Brian Mass District as the center of the world, the
8 center of the universe.

9 And then you go to District 10, which is in
10 Orange County. I think you said it shifted east, but
11 it looks like it shifts west. District 8, I think,
12 shifts west. District 16 appears to be just a major
13 reconfiguration. District 22 shifted west. District
14 9 shifted west.

15 I mean, why we -- and you may have explained
16 this, but why are we making such dramatic changes to
17 the configurations of the current maps?

18 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
19 Pareda.

20 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I
21 mentioned before, particularly in South Florida,
22 because I drew this map in a race neutral way,
23 Congressional District 20, which was a district drawn
24 predominantly with race in Palm Beach and Broward
25 County, that changed how all of the districts in South

1 Florida could be configured, which then had a ripple
2 effect throughout much of the map up until you get to
3 Orlando and Tampa. And then north of that, I did not
4 have to make any changes.

5 But because of what I said earlier with that
6 population equity that has to happen with
7 Congressional redistricting, when you change one
8 district, particularly one district that had a large
9 impact on how the Southern districts were configured,
10 you could make start to make a lot of different
11 decisions throughout the map that had a ripple effect
12 throughout it.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up? You're
14 recognized.

15 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: And thank you for
16 your patience here, and thank you for your answer. So
17 the transmittal letter from the Governor says the map
18 was redrawn because the Fair Districts Amendment is
19 unconstitutional under the United States Constitution.
20 And so I'm curious if you know whether the Legislature
21 agrees with that position that's stated in the
22 transmittal letter.

23 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Pareda, to the extent --
24 I mean, I would just say, Ranking Member, that,
25 obviously, again, Mr. Pareda's role here, I think, is

1 to talk about the map itself, the process of how he
2 drew it. Mr. Jazil may have a comment, but, really,
3 at least if the question is directed to Mr. Pareda, I
4 think if you have a question on the map specifically
5 as you have, I think that'd be more appropriate.

6 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Try to make the
7 necessary corrections. Thank you. So is it your
8 contention that the newly proposed maps do not need to
9 take into consideration race or compactness?

10 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
11 Pareda.

12 MR. PAREDA: So, I'm presenting this map to
13 you to the Legislature for your consideration on
14 behalf of the Governor's Office. Ultimately, it's up
15 to the Legislature to decide the answer to some of
16 those questions.

17 Now, I drew this map using race neutral
18 practices, meaning I did not consider race. I did
19 consider compactness and some of the other what would
20 be considered traditional redistricting principles
21 throughout the map, compactness included, which is why
22 you can see me trying to keep, districts as compact as
23 I can or keep counties whole or use all of those other
24 principles that used to be part of what we would
25 consider to be tier two, along with a lot of other

1 redistricting principles that kind of come into the
2 equation.

3 So you -- I think I did include compactness
4 in all of those other principles. The only one I did
5 not do while drawing this map is consider race at all.

6 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

7 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chair, and thank you for that answer. So you just
9 mentioned compactness. And again, I mentioned some of
10 the districts that had changed significantly, and it
11 looks like you veered away from compactness on maybe
12 District 16. And I can't even think of which other
13 district it is right now because, again, I don't have
14 that data in front of me. But it looks like you
15 ventured away from compactness.

16 I mean, districts went from like this to
17 this and that. Maybe District 16 and some of the
18 others. Let's see. District 15, 16. And, again, I'm
19 just trying to go through what I've been provided.

20 District 9 changed significantly. District
21 8 may have changed because it went from the coast and
22 it went further east or further west, which appears to
23 be veering away from compactness.

24 And, again, I'm looking at District 20, and
25 it almost seemed like District 20 went from here and

1 it went north totally. Am I getting that wrong? Am I
2 interpreting your map wrong?

3 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized, Mr.
4 Pareda.

5 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
6 I'd, first of all, step back and kind of look. When
7 you're dealing with redistricting, unlike you can you
8 can pick and choose particular districts and compare
9 them, you need to look regionally or really in this
10 term where you're talking about, you need to look
11 globally at the entire map and how compactness because
12 compactness may have improved for one district, may
13 have gone down slightly in another, but in the
14 aggregate, it's all consistent and similar.

15 As I mentioned to you before, the
16 compactness averages are consistent with the enacted
17 map. Now there might be individual districts that
18 have gone up or down.

19 For example, you mentioned some that you
20 think have gone down. District 18 in the newly
21 enacted map, which is almost entirely within Polk
22 County and is almost a circle, it's a very compact
23 district compared to the District 18 that existed in
24 the enacted map, which went from Polk County all the
25 way down to Hendry County.

1 So it's just a difference. Some districts
2 may have improved. Some districts may have gone down.
3 But instead of looking at an individual district
4 comparison, because we're looking at an entire map,
5 and in redistricting, it's one of those processes
6 where, you know, you as legislatures or people who are
7 from certain areas are going to look at their area.

8 But as a map drawer, I have to look more
9 globally as how a region comes together or how the
10 whole map comes together. Because as you can see,
11 making some decisions in South Florida may impact
12 Tampa or Orlando. So you have to look at things a
13 little bit more globally.

14 And, something that we've always used, as is
15 synonymous for compactness, is keeping counties whole,
16 which a lot of those rural counties in the middle,
17 which have were going to be very large because they're
18 less densely populated than some of the more urban
19 counties on the coast, including them with some
20 districts is going to inevitably create a district
21 that's either longer or taller than other districts
22 simply because the populations in those counties are
23 less dense.

24 So in order to include the entire county,
25 rather than splitting it up to try to make some shapes

1 that may look more visually appealing are using the
2 current political and geographical features that we
3 have in our state.

4 I wish Florida was a box, where things like
5 this might be a little bit easier, but part of what
6 makes Florida great is that it's on the coast, and we
7 have a variety of geographies throughout the state.
8 But that does make building districts, particularly
9 with the county lines that we have sometimes or the
10 rivers or islands or bays, can make drawing districts
11 more complicated.

12 CHAIR REDONDO: Follow-up?

13 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. And, again, thank you for your patience. I
15 just got a lot of questions here because, like I said,
16 this is all new to me.

17 And this might be a legal question. You
18 talked about the history of mid-decade redistricting,
19 and I know of three instances, maybe in the instances,
20 maybe in the last 20 or 30 years, when the Legislature
21 has redrawn districts, and that might have been 2014,
22 maybe once back in the '90s, maybe once back in the
23 early 2000 to deal with Corinne Brown (phonetic).

24 But seems like we have not done any
25 mid-decade redistricting since 1970. And I think

1 somebody mentioned something about the Constitution
2 revision commission changing something from every five
3 years you could redistrict.

4 So, again, can you just take me back through
5 the history? What prompts this mid-decade
6 redistricting effort? Because I have seen quotes in
7 the paper, population shifts. This needs to look like
8 Florida today, but I'm just trying to -- just trying
9 to wrap my mind around. What is the trigger point
10 here?

11 MR. PAREDA: Mr. Chair, I'd like Mr. Jazil
12 to --

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Sure. Mr. Jazil, you are
14 recognized.

15 MR. JAZIL: Thank you, Representative. And
16 just to back up for a minute, our modern Constitution
17 really came about in 1968. Before that, we were
18 operating under the 1885 Constitution, and the 1885
19 Constitution required redistricting in the fifth year
20 following the Census. So if you're thinking about it,
21 following a Census every ten year is the very
22 midpoint. So that's part one.

23 Part two, in the '50s and '60s, the State
24 is, you know, is changing a great bit, and there were
25 some reform governors who were clashing with the

1 legislatures. And so there were a lot of
2 redistricting efforts that were going on there.

3 The 1950s, especially Governor Collins and
4 the Legislature did not get along terribly well. And
5 so as I recall, the entire portion there was
6 redistricting going on. Governor Collins even asked
7 the Florida Supreme Court for an advisory opinion as
8 Governor DeSantis did.

9 So that is some of the historical record.
10 And as you move forward, the '60s, '70s, '80s, there
11 are always conflicts coming about on how to do
12 redistricting.

13 Some of those were remedial redistricting
14 efforts. So if a court strikes something down, then
15 the Legislature meets again and gets a first crack at
16 doing the redistricting. And that's what I believe
17 you were referencing with Congresswoman Corinne Brown.

18 I hope that answers the question, sir.

19 CHAIR REDONDO: And, Rick, maybe just before
20 you go, I just want to just remind everybody that, you
21 know, we have quite a few public testimony cards. I
22 want to give as much time as possible to allow the
23 public to speak here.

24 But I can already tell you based on the
25 number of cards, we're not even going to have a minute

1 for everyone. So I'm happy to do some more questions,
2 but I just want to be cognizant of that. I recognize
3 many people have probably traveled from other parts of
4 the state, and I know we didn't have the public
5 comment previously.

6 So I am -- I just want to make sure we're
7 all aware of the clock because we do we're coming up
8 about an hour and a half left. You're recognized.

9 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: All right. Thank
10 you, Mr. Chair. And I'm going to ask maybe two or
11 three more questions, then I think it's important to
12 hear from people because there hadn't been any public
13 input.

14 So the Constitution, I believe, says that
15 the Legislature shall draw new districts, reapportion,
16 and new districts after the Census. So I guess if you
17 could just answer this question, if the maps are
18 coming from the Governor's Office, what role is the
19 Legislature playing in drawing new districts?

20 Are we actually playing a role in this other
21 than me asking questions and then we vote today or
22 tomorrow on this?

23 MR. JAZIL: Representative, I can't answer
24 some of the normative, is this good, is this bad,
25 should this happen, should this not happen, parts of

1 your question.

2 But I will note this Article 3, Section 16
3 says that the Legislature has the exclusive
4 prerogative to draw and consider the legislative
5 districts. Again, I simply note that the Florida
6 Constitution does not prohibit the Governor from being
7 involved and part of being part of the process when it
8 comes to Congressional districts.

9 He obviously has it from a Constitutional
10 perspective the ability to review whatever this body
11 passes, consider it, veto it, etcetera. So from just
12 a legal perspective, that's where things stand.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognized.

14 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Two more. You know,
15 I think between y'all's presentations and whatever,
16 many of the questions I've written down, you know,
17 have been answered.

18 I just want to go back to this race thing
19 and Louisiana versus Calais. And Louisiana versus
20 Calais deals with the Legislature drawing a second
21 district. I hope I'm getting this right. Drawing a
22 second district after the court ruled that they had to
23 go back to the drawing table.

24 And so it almost seems to me, somebody who's
25 not an attorney, that the Louisiana case revolves

1 around whether it was legal to draw a second district
2 for Black people using race. I'm not sure how that
3 applies to Florida.

4 Maybe you can help me understand because,
5 say, District 20, has always been considered a Black
6 district since 1992 redistricting. So in Florida,
7 we're not drawing a new Black district, and we're not
8 drawing a new Hispanic or Asian or Hasidic district.

9 It just seems like these maps we are looking
10 at here take away from what we already have. And I
11 think Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act deals with
12 not taking away, not diminishing, same thing at the
13 Fair District.

14 So help me understand how these maps are
15 legal in today's world if we -- if we're using Section
16 2 of the Voting Rights Act and Fair Districts and the
17 broader -- help me understand how these maps are
18 legal.

19 CHAIR REDONDO: You're recognizes.

20 MR. JAZIL: Thank you, Representative. And
21 just to take your question in part, starting with
22 Calais. You're absolutely right. Calais dealt with
23 creating another Black performing district, a second
24 one.

25 And what happened there was that Louisiana

1 was sued under the Voting Rights Act, and the argument
2 was made that there should be a second Black
3 performing district. Louisiana lost at the
4 preliminary injunction stage, and then Louisiana went
5 back. Their Legislature created a second district.

6 What happened after they created a second
7 district is they got sued again. This time for saying
8 that, hey. Because you tried complying with the
9 Voting Rights Act, you violated the Equal Protection
10 Clause. And that is the conundrum that the Court's
11 dealing with at the US Supreme Court in Calais is
12 trying to comply with the Voting Rights Act going to
13 get you sued for violating the Equal Protection
14 Clause, and the other works too.

15 If you're say that you're trying to draw a
16 race neutral map, do you get sued for not complying
17 with the Voting Rights Act or in Florida's case, the
18 Fair Districting Amendment. And that's what I believe
19 your question is going to.

20 And our position at the Governor's Office,
21 legally, is that, look, this is getting a little
22 overly complicated, this line between race
23 consciousness and race predominance.

24 It's creating sort of a Hobson's choice for
25 Legislatures where if you're trying to comply with

1 one, you get sued for the other. And so the best way
2 to do this is just to do this in a manner that's
3 consistent with background equal protection
4 principles, which are, don't consider race. Just
5 don't divide people based on race.

6 Now, getting to the final part of your
7 question, does this map comply with the Voting Rights
8 Act? I don't know. And here's why I'm saying I don't
9 know. Because at the end of the day, we haven't
10 considered race. I don't know how this map performs
11 for African-Americans in Southeast Florida.

12 Say Calais goes the way the NAACP and others
13 wish it to go, and Section 2 is upheld, no changes,
14 and the law is the same. Now, we believe that is
15 unlikely to happen, but let's say that happens.

16 I don't know whether or not this map still
17 performs for African-Americans and still retains two
18 Black performing seats in Southeast Florida because,
19 again, we didn't consider race.

20 But if the Voting Rights Act remains the
21 same, it does not change, the preconditions which are
22 used to decide whether or not you have a Black
23 community that's efficiently compact and is a
24 majority, that is a precondition.

25 Once you set that precondition and you meet

1 it, you do not need to draw a majority Black district
2 to comply. And so even though there might not be a
3 majority Black district, they might well still be two
4 Black performing districts in Southeast Florida, and
5 you would not violate the Voting Rights Act even if
6 things don't change.

7 But, again, we'd not consider race. I don't
8 know how this map performs. I'm not commenting on it,
9 but I'm just answering your legal questions, sir, and
10 I hope I have.

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Yes. You're recognized.

12 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. Just the last question. Thank you for your
14 answer. So, again, I wasn't here doing the 2022
15 redistricting, but I know that the Legislature, the
16 House and the Senate, agreed on some maps, which ended
17 up becoming the B set of maps in the bill that passed,
18 and then the A set of maps were driven -- drawn by the
19 Governor's Office.

20 And so my question becomes, if the
21 Governor's Office drew the maps that passed,
22 ultimately passed, and was approved by the Supreme
23 Court in 2000 -- whenever that that case went to
24 court, what's changed? What's wrong with the maps
25 that were approved and drawn by the Governor's Office

1 then versus today?

2 Because I don't think anybody in Florida has
3 sued the State of Florida regarding these maps based
4 on race or whatever. So what changed since then?

5 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Pareda, you're
6 recognized.

7 MR. PAREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
8 sorry, sir. Can you repeat the question? I was
9 stepping up.

10 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: Yeah. I mean,
11 that's unfair. Yeah. So going back to my question,
12 2022, the Legislature, the House and the Senate agreed
13 on their maps, then the Governor came back with his
14 map. So the bill that were -- or the resolution that
15 was pushed through the Legislature was two maps.

16 A, the maps drawn by Governor, Part A, and
17 then Part B. And the maps, I think, that were adopted
18 were the Governor's maps. So I'm asking, what has
19 changed since the Governor's maps were adopted in
20 2022? I mean, what prompts us to come back and change
21 that? Is there a lawsuit where somebody's suing the
22 State of Florida, whatever, based on these maps being
23 drawn using race? I mean, what's the trigger point?

24 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Pareda, to the extent
25 you can answer it, I'll just point out that, again,

1 you know, I think some of this stuff that was
2 initially addressed in by Mr. Jazil in terms of the
3 legal bases or prohibitions or lack of prohibitions
4 for doing a mid-decade redistricting.

5 But, Mr. Pareda, to the extent you have an
6 answer, you can give it.

7 MR. PAREDA: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 I can say, well, as I pointed out, the population
9 estimates that we know have come in. We know Florida
10 has grown. We know Florida has changed since then.
11 So trying to reorient the districts despite equalizing
12 population using the 2020 Census data could in and of
13 itself be a good enough reason to come back and do
14 this.

15 As far as anything else goes, I'm not aware
16 of that. I actually know that the Cubanos trial that
17 I testified in, there was a Congressional case that
18 was at issue with that particular case, but we have
19 not heard back on that. I don't think that that would
20 necessarily be relevant. But that's the biggest issue
21 is the population growth.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Mr. Pareda. So,
23 Representative Chambliss, I'll recognize you, but,
24 again, I'll just ask that if we can, to the extent
25 that you guys have debate or anyone has debate, we can

1 certainly continue to express that. But I do -- we
2 have over 100 cards, and we will not have 100 minutes.
3 I can promise you that.

4 So if we could try and just get to public
5 testimony, but I'm happy to do as many questions as
6 you'd like.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Yes, sir. Mr.
8 Chair, I'm actually to that point. Since all the
9 other Committees were canceled today, this is
10 literally the only thing I got to do. So is there any
11 way that we can extend this Committee around -- take
12 that into consideration, being that we do have so many
13 comment cards and we do have so much renewed time?

14 CHAIR REDONDO: So I will say that the Rules
15 Committee, it has not been canceled, and this
16 Committee does need to report out before that
17 Committee meets in order for us to be able to have for
18 the Rules Committee to do its work.

19 So, if you'd like to make a motion, we can
20 certainly go through that process, but there is no
21 intention on my part to extend at this point. You're
22 recognized. Yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: And, staff, y'all
24 help me out. Y'all know I don't make motions like
25 this, but I would like to make a motion that we extend

1 this Committee by 30 minutes to give the public enough
2 time to consider their input.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Okay. We have a motion.

4 All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

5 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

6 CHAIR REDONDO: All those opposed, say no.

7 MULTIPLE VOICES: No. All right. The noes
8 have it. So the motion fails.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Call for hands.

10 CHAIR REDONDO: If two members call for it,
11 we can do that. But, again, I'm just reminding
12 everyone that this Committee ends at 3:05. And so, if
13 you'd like to do that, we can certainly go through it.

14 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chair. I understand.

16 CHAIR REDONDO: All right. Members, are
17 there any further questions at this time? Seeing no
18 further questions, we're going to start to move into
19 public testimony. Okay. Members were -- or excuse
20 me.

21 Members of the public, we're going to start
22 with those who are waiting. I apologize if I'm going
23 to try and go through these quickly so that we can get
24 to those who actually want to make comments. So I'm
25 going to be quick. I mispronounce your name. I

1 apologize in advance. We have Jonathan Burgess
2 waiving in opposition. Daryl Alfred waiving in
3 opposition. Joanne McBrooks waiving in opposition.
4 Sharletta Sowell, waiving in opposition. Lawrence
5 Ratcliffe, waiving in opposition. Ingrid Montgomery,
6 waiving in opposition.

7 Evangeline Watson, waiving in opposition.
8 Vicky Pepper, waiving in opposition. Nate Nadine
9 Huey, waiving in opposition. Denise Webb, on behalf
10 of the NAACP, waiving in opposition. Brian Higgins,
11 on behalf of Indivisible Jax Riverside, waiving in
12 opposition.

13 Maria Bartholomew, waiving in opposition.
14 Peter Fitzpatrick, waiving in opposition. Dana Novak,
15 waiving in opposition. Barbara Devane, on behalf of
16 FL NOW waiving in opposition. Kate Renklein, I
17 believe. I apologize. On behalf of LWV, PBC, and the
18 NAACP of West Palm Beach waiving in opposition. Linda
19 Bridge waiving in opposition. Jessica Solano, waiving
20 in opposition. Devin Weick, waiving in opposition.

21 Nyla Monet, waiving -- excuse me. On behalf
22 of St. Johns County, Democrats, waiving in opposition.
23 Barbara Turner Delist waiving in opposition. Susan
24 Horowitz on behalf of St. Johns County Democrats
25 waiving in opposition.

1 Joey Arellano on behalf of the League of
2 Women Voters of Florida waiving in opposition.
3 Patricia Zeke, waiving in opposition. Robert Zeke,
4 waiving in opposition. Raya Alcantara, waiving in
5 opposition.

6 Pamela Birch Fort on behalf of the NAACP of
7 Florida of Florida State Conference of NAACP waiving
8 in opposition. Brenda Phillips waiving in opposition.
9 Michelle De La Cruz waiving in opposition. Monica
10 Davis waiving in opposition. Wayne Brody waiving in
11 opposition.

12 I apologize. I think it's Elsie Solomon, on
13 behalf of the South, I think, waiving in opposition.
14 Mark Hegsted waiving in opposition. Brenda Flournoy
15 on behalf of the South waiving in opposition.
16 Mackenzie Patterson waiving in opposition.

17 Samantha Bromfield waiving in opposition.
18 Emily Ziliquis Da Silva waiving in opposition.
19 Dezilis Douglas waiving in opposition. Taisha Goosby
20 waiving in opposition. Marvin Douglas waiving in
21 opposition.

22 Theresa Guzman Pagan waiving in opposition.
23 Reginald Dailey, I believe it is, waiving in
24 opposition. Zion Aflabi, waiving in opposition.
25 Jordan Bowden, on behalf of Planned Parenthood Florida

1 Action, waiving in opposition. Deborah Morningstar,
2 waiving in opposition.

3 Williamson Soria, waiving in opposition.
4 Jamille Davis, on behalf of Black Voters Matter,
5 waiving in opposition. Chloe Scott, waiving in
6 opposition. Ayesha Diaz -- excuse me. Ayesha Diaz,
7 waiving in opposition. Kisiah Caravallo, waiving in
8 opposition, Nicole La Straub waiving in opposition,
9 Karen Woodall, on behalf of the Florida Center for
10 Fiscal and Economic Policy, waiving in opposition, and
11 Michael Seth waiving in opposition.

12 So those are the members of the public
13 waiving in opposition. The rest are the members that
14 I'm going to call you up. So, ladies and gentlemen,
15 what I'd ask you do is that you make your way promptly
16 to the podium. Again, we're going to give you a
17 maximum of a minute just to the more time we spend,
18 obviously, the less time that your everyone else will
19 have to speak. So if you conclude your comments
20 before then, please let me know.

21 You can leave. And, also, if your comments
22 have already been said, you can waive an opposition or
23 you can limit your comments as much as possible. But
24 we'll start with Latoya Reed Lewis on behalf of Equal
25 Ground NAACP. And up next, if the following speaker

1 could just come up to be ready, it's going to be
2 Jessica. I want to say, Bansome -- Ransom.

3 Excuse me. So you could just Ms. Ransom,
4 you can come up and be waiting, but we'll start with
5 again Latoya Reed Lewis if she's present. Ms. Reed
6 Lewis? Okay. Well, I again, I want to get to as many
7 people as possible.

8 So Jessica Ransom, if you'd like to come up.
9 Oh, thank you. Yes. Please come up to the podium,
10 and then, again, you'll have one minute. And then
11 following this ransom will be Haley.

12 You could just come up and sit right, next
13 to the podium so you can be ready when we go.

14 MS. RANSOM: Okay. Good afternoon. Thank
15 you so much. As a citizen of the State of Florida and
16 a voting member of the Democratic Party, I believe in
17 fair maps. And I'm asking you as representative of
18 all of us to be fair in the process.

19 The fact that your map removes potentially
20 four Democratic Congressional districts says all that
21 needs to be said going from eight to four. How is
22 that fair? So I ask you to please take into
23 consideration everyone who lives in the state. Thank
24 you.

25 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Ms. Ransom.

1 Again, Hunyen Bailey, if you're in the room, please
2 come on up. And then Barbara, I think it's S. Harris.
3 If you if you're on deck, if you could please, again,
4 just make your way up if you're the next person to
5 speak just so we can try and get through as many
6 speakers as possible. Ms. Bailey, you're recognized.

7 MS. BAILEY: Hi. My name is Anne Bailey,
8 and I am a citizen of Florida, and I'm also running
9 for Congress. Let's just be real about what's going
10 on here. These maps have clearly been drawn to get
11 more Republicans into Congress.

12 It violates our State Constitution. It
13 disenfranchises voters, and it's immoral as well as
14 illegal. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you.

16 Barbara S. Harris. And on deck, we will
17 have Matthew Rykalski, I want to say. I apologize if
18 I mispronounced that. If you could just make your way
19 to the front. You're recognized.

20 MS. HARRIS: Hi. I'm Barbara Harris, and
21 I'm from Polk County, Florida. I live in
22 Congressional District 9. I've lived there in that
23 district for the last 20 years or more. And suddenly,
24 we've been moved into a district that literally
25 separates us from the rest of our Polk County

1 partners.

2 I believe that you've disenfranchised our
3 vote immensely. The worst part is the SOE has already
4 sent out our cards. So you are now going to create a
5 situation where nobody is going to know where to go
6 and vote because everybody is going to be wrong in
7 District 9.

8 So I think that I really hope that you look
9 at this deeply before you just say we're just going to
10 get rid of millions of votes because we can. It's in
11 our Constitution, and you're breaking our
12 Constitution.

13 And I really hope that that doesn't happen.
14 Have a good day.

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

16 Matthew, again, Rykalski. I apologize if I
17 mispronounced that. And following, Matthew, we're
18 going to have Colleen Kan, if you could just make your
19 way to the front.

20 MR. RYKALSKI: Awesome. Only one minute to
21 talk about the future decades and decades of our
22 democracy. My name is Matthew Rykalski. I'm a voter
23 from Orlando. I have to point out, I think it's
24 really sad actually because it seems like the Governor
25 thinks that the third legislative branch is not you

1 guys, but Fox News.

2 The map having the Gulf Of Mexico is also
3 pretty laughable because I thought you forced her to
4 transition a few years ago like how you claim that
5 loving parents do to their trans children to be the
6 Gulf Of America.

7 The Governor's office just said Alligator
8 Alley, but let's be honest. It's a damn concentration
9 camp that you're sending the same group of people that
10 you're trying to dilute representation from today --

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Sir, I'm going to ask you to
12 please be respectful in your comments. I'm going to
13 give you your time. I'm stopping the time. Sir, just
14 give me a moment. I've stopped the time.

15 I'm just going to ask that you could please
16 be respectful in your comments. You have about 20
17 more seconds. Please go ahead.

18 MR. RYKALSKI: So you're scared of Black,
19 Hispanic, and young voters, and you're scared because
20 the Governor is about to be unemployed, but maybe he
21 can find a job at Waffle House with his bestie, James
22 Fishback.

23 You're scared because the Trump
24 administration is unpopular because it's on a platform
25 of deporting kids, bombing kids, and trafficking kids.

1 You're scared because the President is a damn
2 pedophile.

3 HEARING OFFICER STALEY: Mr. Rykowski, thank
4 you for your comments. Thank you for your comments.

5 MR. RYKALSKI: Decorum is not present when
6 democracy is broken.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Mr. Rykowski --

8 MR. RYKALSKI: You have the blood of
9 democracy on your --

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Sergeants, if you could
11 please remove Mr. Rykowski from this. Colleen Kan.
12 And then following Colleen, we're going to have
13 Shannon Keever on behalf of Voices of Florida. You're
14 recognized.

15 MS. KAN: Okay. My name is Colleen Kan.
16 I'm from Davenport in Polk County. I came here to
17 urge you not to redistrict Florida. It's against the
18 Florida Constitution? It is nothing more than a
19 partisan power grab, and it will further
20 disenfranchise your already vulnerable, marginalized
21 constituents. Thank you.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
23 Shannon Keever, Voices of Florida. And
24 following Shannon Keever, we're going to have
25 Catherine Ashby. You're recognized.

1 MS. KEEVER: Good afternoon. To those of
2 you who are trying to protect democracy, thank you
3 very much. First off, let's stop calling this
4 redistricting. It is gerrymandering, which has a
5 negative connotation, and that's why you don't want to
6 use it because it's cheating.

7 I stand here not as a Democrat, not as a
8 Republican, but as a citizen who values 250-year
9 experiment in democracy, and I'd like to see that
10 continue.

11 In democracy, voters choose their
12 representatives, not the other way around. If you
13 want to be elected, don't cheat. Do the work to
14 listen to the people and then actually represent them.
15 If you are -- if you care about your children being
16 able to cast their votes, you will oppose this move
17 because you're incredibly naive to think that this
18 won't come back to bite them in the future. Do the
19 right thing.

20 CHAIR REDONDO: Next up, we have Catherine
21 Ashby followed by Dr. Rich Templin. You're
22 recognized.

23 MS. ASHBY: Hello. I'm here to urge you to
24 vote against HB 1. There is no new consensus or
25 Census data and no court order requiring new maps.

1 Mid-decade redistricting is not prohibited, but
2 redistricting to benefit a political party is. That
3 is exactly what is happening here.

4 The Governor's rationale fails for three
5 reasons. First, even if the fair district amendment
6 was deemed unconstitutional, there is no legal
7 requirement to redraw maps absent a court order.

8 Second, the Governor and this Legislature
9 has no authority to declare a Constitutional provision
10 void. Only the courts have that power, and no court
11 has ruled the partisan provision unconstitutional.

12 Third, Calais has not been decided. The
13 Governor's entire rationale currently rests on
14 conjecture. In fact, the United States Supreme Court
15 and *Rucho v Common Cause* cited the Fair Districts
16 Amendment as a model for how states can address
17 partisan gerrymandering. And in the *League of Women*
18 *Voters v Debtsters* (phonetic), the Florida Supreme
19 Court emphasized the importance of transparency in
20 this process.

21 This process has been anything but
22 transparent, and we all have a right to have
23 representatives who support us and are elected by us.
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Dr. Rich Templin

1 on behalf of Florida AFL CIO followed by Larry
2 Culliton on behalf of Florida Voters League and Orange
3 County branch NAACP. Sir, you're recognized.

4 DR. TEMPLIN: Mr. Chairman, you got the hard
5 job today, but thank you so much for your patience and
6 respect for everybody out here.

7 The Florida AFL CIO, you know, we represent
8 probably about 400,000 Republican voters across the
9 State of Florida. My phone started ringing yesterday
10 when these maps hit Fox News. And I would say nine
11 out of the ten of the phone calls that I've, that I've
12 fielded from members and local union leaders have been
13 from Republicans, and they're incredibly frustrated.

14 They like their Congresspeople. They like
15 their districts, and they do not understand the need
16 for these changes to be made at this point.

17 And I also want to remind you that there
18 there's a couple of us in here that have were here
19 over a decade ago when we did the last redistricting.
20 This is not how it's done. It really isn't. The
21 amount of data, the amount of information that we're
22 all given when we look at these districts, the amount
23 of public input, is really a testament to democracy
24 and a testament to a deliberative body, and that's not
25 what we're seeing here today.

1 For those reasons, we would ask that you
2 vote against these maps that that if mid-district
3 redistricting is necessary, we can do it next year,
4 when it's not a charged political climate. We can
5 look at the data. We can look at the shifts.

6 And I just want to -- one more thing if I
7 may. One of the individuals probably most credited
8 with you all being here today, Congressman Dan
9 Webster, just announced that he's retiring.

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Doctor.

11 DR. TEMPLIN: Because of what's happening
12 right now. Thank you.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Calling, Larry Culliton. I
14 apologize if I mispronounced that. And then, next,
15 we're going to have Reverend Reginald Gundy, on deck,
16 please.

17 MR. CULLITON: Yes. Good afternoon,
18 Chairman and members of the Committee. This is -- I
19 stand in opposition of this proposed redistricting
20 map. You all aren't doing your job. You were
21 appointed to this Committee, this Select Committee, to
22 have discussions about it.

23 We've had two meetings, no public comment,
24 and now you're here, and you're not doing it. You
25 didn't draft the map. The Governor did. One person

1 out of the so-called 23,000,000 people who live in
2 this state, one person voted -- created it.

3 Representative Antone, your two questions,
4 what triggered this? The man at 1600 Pennsylvania
5 Avenue triggered this. That's who triggered this.
6 And the question is, will the cult followers just fall
7 in line and do?

8 CHAIR REDONDO: All right. We next, we have
9 Reverend Dr. Reginald Gundy on behalf of True SCLC
10 Florida National followed by Jada Brown. Sir, you're
11 recognized.

12 MR. GUNDY: Good afternoon. I want to cut
13 to the chase because most of the things I wanted to
14 say, they've said. But I want to say that it violates
15 the principle of fairness, stability, and
16 nondiscrimination embedded in the Constitution and
17 Florida law.

18 I want to commend those of you who were here
19 last time we did this when you took my district away
20 in Jacksonville. It was a Governor who called you in.
21 You didn't really want to come in.

22 This Governor cannot do any hurt, harm, or
23 hinder you the rest of your life. He's gone. And
24 soon, the President's going to be gone. I'm asking
25 you to be the men and women of God and do what's right

1 and say, no, Governor. This time, we need to leave
2 things alone. That's all I ask you to do. It's a
3 moral and ethical issue, and it's in your hand. And
4 you're going to have to answer to this someday, in
5 some way, some shape, or some form. God bless you.

6 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Reverend. Jada
7 Brown is up next, followed by Marshy Debroski. I
8 apologize. Debroski, if I mispronounced that. You
9 recognize her.

10 MS. BROWN: Thank you. Good afternoon.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. So I came
12 before you all today not to just speak about lines on
13 a paper or a map, but to ask you all to be held
14 accountable and responsible for the decision that may
15 take place. So redistricting is not just a technical
16 exercise reserved for experts alone.

17 It is one of the most powerful tools we have
18 to shape whose voices are heard and whose are
19 diminished. I came before you today to say that the
20 President is not the priest and the Governor is not
21 God, and I ain't scared of neither one of them.

22 So we ask you, this is not about partisan
23 advantage. It is about legitimacy. No matter who
24 holds power today, the process we establish will shape
25 outcomes for years to come. Fairness cannot be

1 conditional, and it must be structural. Thank you.

2 CHAIR REDONDO: Up next again, we have
3 Marcia Debroski. I apologize if I mispronounced that,
4 followed by Courtney.

5 MS. DEBROWSKI: Marcia Dabrowski. Thank
6 you, Chairperson and Committee members. I'm from
7 Casselberry, Florida, in Seminole County. As you
8 know, Seminole County is very bipartisan. I'm asking
9 you to vote against redistricting and drawing new
10 maps.

11 This is rushed, and you need time to really
12 do this right. In 2010, I voted and my neighbors
13 voted for the Fair Districts Amendment. Then in 2022,
14 I was impacted, and my neighbors were too, by the
15 Governor's redistricting map that caused
16 inconsistencies in our school districts, our
17 healthcare, nursing homes, infrastructure, and water.
18 I'm very into water and the Everglades and the
19 springs.

20 I saw the new Governor's map. Like many
21 others, my phone and my text and my email were off the
22 hook. Everybody was appalled, and it is bipartisan
23 politics, that map.

24 I also -- it impacts our people. I do
25 elections and polling, and this is going to confuse

1 what district, what poll, where are my candidates.

2 CHAIR REDONDO: If you could bring your
3 comments in for landing, please.

4 MS. DEBROSKI: Thank you. Please reject,
5 and no effort to withdraw and redraw our maps like in
6 (inaudible). Thank you so much.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, ma'am. Corin
8 Denman on behalf of Orlando 50501 followed by Cynthia
9 Slater on behalf of Florida NAACP.

10 MS. DENMAN: Hi. How are you? A lot of the
11 things I was going to say have already been said, so
12 I'm just going to simply say this. I'm new to
13 politics, even though I've been voting since I was 18.
14 I never really understood issues, never knew the
15 people.

16 But I do understand what's happening now is
17 that people are trying to take away our voice, not
18 just my voice, but so many people in this state. We
19 work hard. We work hard for a living. We earn the
20 right as being citizens to have our voice heard, and I
21 don't understand.

22 Please help me understand why people would
23 want to disenfranchise people and make confusion in
24 voting and make people just so, just not even want to
25 participate because there is so much confusion and

1 chaos out there.

2 I just I ask you to consider really strongly
3 consider voting against these maps. Thank you.

4 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Cynthia Slater
5 on behalf of Florida NAACP, followed by Beverly Casias
6 on behalf of Florida Rising. You're recognized.

7 MS. SLATER: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Cynthia Slater. I'm from Daytona Beach, Volusia
9 County, Florida. I am the second vice President for
10 the Florida State Conference of NAACP branches. The
11 NAACP strongly oppose the new maps that has been
12 presented.

13 These efforts constitute racial
14 gerrymandering and intentional discrimination against
15 Black voters. These maps are partisan and illegal
16 under Florida law and violate the Fourteenth and
17 Fifteenth Amendments, which prohibit intentional
18 racial discrimination and protect the right to vote.

19 The Florida State Conference NAACP advocate
20 for strict adherence to Florida's 2010 Fair District
21 Constitutional amendment, which prohibits maps drawn
22 with partisan intent or that diminish minority voting
23 power. The people delivered a mandate, not a
24 suggestion, to not draw partisan maps. Let me repeat
25 that.

1 The people delivered a mandate, not a
2 suggestion, to not draw partisan maps. How can you
3 sleep at night knowing that this decision is in your
4 hands? Think about it. Thank you.

5 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. We have Beverly
6 Casias on behalf of Florida Rising. I apologize if I
7 mispronounced that. Followed by Victoria Merriam.
8 You're recognized.

9 MS. CASIAS: Thank you. My name is Beverly
10 Casias, and I'm coming here, from Orlando,
11 representative of Florida Rising. Today, we heard how
12 this map was created. It stated that it was created
13 without race in mind. However, generally, Republicans
14 are considered White people, Democrats are Black
15 people.

16 Unilaterally, this map was drawn to divide
17 our votes. The fact is as a people, as for Florida,
18 56 percent of the Florida people do not want this map.
19 They don't. Whether you're Democrat or Republican,
20 please, Legislator, please vote with the people. Say
21 no to this because the people are watching, and we
22 know who stands with us and who's against us. Thank
23 you.

24 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Victoria Merriam
25 is up next followed by Lola Smith for Voices of

1 Florida Fund. And I'm just going to ask all members
2 of the audience. I can already tell you we're going
3 to run out of time. So if you if you have fewer than
4 one minute or if your comments have already been made,
5 you could please say that or you can wave in
6 opposition.

7 But, ma'am, you're recognized.

8 MS. MERRIAM: Thank you. Hello, everyone.
9 My name is Victoria Merriam, and I'm from Saint
10 Petersburg, Florida. And I'm here today because I
11 love this state. When you love something, you fight
12 for it.

13 I'm here to vocalize my strong opposition to
14 the gerrymandering, which I believe is being
15 specifically designed to minimize my vote as a
16 progressive voter.

17 With respect, I ask you to remember why we
18 have given race a place in this conversation in the
19 first place. If we don't protect our minority voters,
20 we will suffocate their voice. I implore you to
21 reject this inappropriate proposal. Thank you for
22 your time.

23 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Lola Smith on
24 behalf of Voices of Florida Fund followed by Psy Day
25 Smith as well. You're recognized.

1 MS. SMITH: Hello. My name is Lola Smith,
2 and I am 15 years old. You all know that today's map
3 break the Florida Fair District Amendment, which
4 states no opponent plan or individual district shall
5 be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a
6 political party or incunement (phonetic).

7 This law could lead to expensive court
8 battles and many legal issues in the future. This map
9 threatens to weaken powers of communities -- weaken
10 the power of communities of color, making it an
11 unethical political move that silences voters in
12 marginalized communities.

13 So ask yourself, should you support this
14 horrible illegal bill that only serves a few in power,
15 or do you want to stand up and vote no on these racist
16 maps? Choose where you stand. Thank you.

17 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Psy Day Smith,
18 Voices of Florida Fund followed by Paul Segan. You're
19 on deck. You're next.

20 MS. SMITH: Hi there. I'm Psy Day Smith.
21 Thank you for having us here today. I would like to
22 take just a second to ask every one of you for just a
23 moment to look at the people behind me to be aware of
24 the fact that they are spilling into the hallways.

25 The people behind me that you have not made

1 eye contact with, they are here because they are
2 choosing to have faith in you that you care about
3 their voice.

4 If they didn't believe that, they wouldn't
5 have come this whole way to speak to you today.
6 Please do not take that voice away. Your constituents
7 have built relationships with you. They voted for
8 you, and they trust you, and you have a responsibility
9 to them. If your response is to throw them away, how
10 do you think that that is going to affect your
11 political careers?

12 Ron DeSantis wants to grow his own political
13 ambitions from the graves of yours. Are you really
14 willing to sacrifice your futures for that of a lame
15 duck governor? I urge you all to fulfill your duties
16 as elected officials and uphold the Florida
17 Constitution. Voters spoke in 2010 --

18 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for --

19 MS. SMITH: -- for the Fair Districts
20 Amendments, and they're speaking up again today.
21 Please listen.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
23 Paul Segan is up followed by Michael Kerstin. You're
24 recognized, sir.

25 MR. SEGAN: Paul Segan, voter from Osceola

1 County, Florida, pastor of Iglesia Alianza and
2 secretary of NAACP in Osceola County. And the people
3 are coming to me in both my church and NAHB meetings
4 and say, where am I supposed to vote with this
5 redistricting? And they feel like, they have not a
6 voice, and then so they often choose not to vote.

7 And if you have Hispanics in your district,
8 they're not going to vote for you if you vote for this
9 redistricting. I urge you not to vote for this
10 redistricting plan.

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Michael Kerstin
12 is up followed by Chad Charland.

13 MR. KERSTIN: Thank you for letting us speak
14 today. My name is Mike Kerstin. I'm from Fernandina
15 Beach, Florida, and I'm opposed to this. This isn't
16 redistricting. This is a power grab.

17 If you could win on policy, you wouldn't
18 have to do this. Gerrymandering lets you pass laws
19 that people can't vote against. This isn't about
20 protecting voters. It's about protecting power, and
21 that is not democracy. Thank you.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Chad Charland
23 followed by Quinn Diaz of Equality Florida,
24 recognized.

25 MR. CHARLAND: Chad Charlin, Fernandina

1 Beach and running for State House in District 15.
2 Politics by Fox News. Political theater from an
3 expiring governor to breathe attention into another
4 humiliating run for President.

5 I remind the legislators that redistricting
6 and drawing Congressional maps is your responsibility,
7 your authority, not the Governor's. Introducing his
8 map on cable TV on the eve of this session without
9 your consultation shows how unseriously he's taking
10 this very serious issue.

11 This is subjugation without representation.
12 Politicians choosing their voters, not voters choosing
13 their politicians. Race neutral? Try race
14 neutralize, perhaps. The map effectively neutralizes
15 minority voters.

16 41 percent of Florida voters are registered
17 Republicans. The Governor's new map gives 86 percent
18 of Florida's Congressional representation to
19 Republicans. 41 does not equal 86, and you should 86
20 this map.

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Quinn Diaz with Equality
22 Florida followed by Amy Keith from Common Cause.

23 MR. DIAZ: Thank you, Chair. Quin Diaz from
24 Equality Florida. Equality Florida opposes this map
25 because it takes power from the voters and locks it in

1 the hands of politicians. It is drawn to predetermine
2 outcomes to reduce competition, to protect those in
3 power from accountability. The result is fewer
4 choices, weaker representation, and a government that
5 answers less to the people of Florida.

6 And the harm is real. Floridians,
7 especially those who are Black and Latino, are harmed
8 when communities are split or packed. Their voting
9 power is diluted. Their ability to elect candidates
10 of choice is weakened. The coalitions that drive
11 progress are fractured.

12 That is not accidental. That is the design
13 of this map, and it is exactly what Florida voters
14 banned. Our constitution prohibits maps drawn to
15 favor a political party or diminish minority voting
16 power. Those protections exist for this moment to
17 stop this. If voters are supposed to choose their
18 leaders, this map cannot stand. We urge you to reject
19 it. Thank you.

20 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you, Amy Keith, from
21 Common Cause followed by Kristen Robinson from the
22 League of Women Voters. You're recognized.

23 MS. KEITH: My name is Amy Keith with Common
24 Cause Florida. This map is a slap in the face to the
25 people of Florida, and you don't have to approve it.

1 You can say no.

2 The people of Florida made partisan
3 gerrymandering illegal when we passed the Fair
4 Districts Amendment in 2010. The people of Florida
5 across party affiliations in poll after poll after
6 poll have made it clear that they continue to oppose
7 partisan gerrymandering today, and they oppose this
8 partisan mid-decade redistricting effort.

9 The people of Florida deserve to have a full
10 voice in a transparent redistricting process, but they
11 have been kept out of this process that has been
12 conducted behind closed doors.

13 The people of Florida deserve not to have
14 their districts changed at the last minute before a
15 midterm election. They deserve an opportunity to know
16 their districts, the people voting with them, and the
17 people vying to represent them. The people of Florida
18 deserve fair voting maps. They don't deserve to have
19 their communities chopped up for the benefit of a
20 political party.

21 Partisan gerrymandering is illegal in the
22 State of Florida, and the people of Florida do not
23 want it. Please vote no.

24 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Kristen Robinson
25 on behalf of the League of Women Voters followed by

1 Rebecca Parsons.

2 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Chair, and good
3 afternoon, distinguished representatives. Thank you
4 for having me here today. I am a volunteer with the
5 League of Women Voters organizing bipartisan,
6 nonpartisan candidate forums. I work with a lot of
7 voters already in the municipals, and I can tell you
8 people are confused about what's going on. They don't
9 know which district they're in.

10 They're asking us a lot of questions, and
11 this is going to make it worse. My district
12 personally is going to change with this map and create
13 a lot of confusion when election information has
14 already gone out.

15 I've also spent twenty years working abroad
16 on elections, democracy, open data, and open
17 government. And I did that because I believe in our
18 country's democracy holding the highest standard
19 possible. It's the 250th anniversary of that
20 democracy, and I think it would be a real shame to put
21 a black mark on that reputation today here. Thank
22 you.

23 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Rebecca Parsons,
24 followed by Aurelie Colom Lorady. I apologize if I
25 mispronounced that.

1 Rebecca Parsons, are you in the room? No?
2 Okay. Moving on.

3 Aurelie, I hope I didn't butcher your name
4 on behalf of SPLC.

5 LORADY: You did the first two correct. My
6 name is Aurelie Colondas Rauri, senior policy
7 associate with SPLC. We in Florida -- redistricting
8 happens for two reasons, a new Census or a court
9 order.

10 The Census tell us where people have moved.
11 Or the Constitution, the courts step in when something
12 has gone wrong under the law. That's it. Florida
13 voters were clear about this in 2010. The Fair
14 District Amendments were meant to stop politicians
15 from picking their voters and to prevent maps from
16 being redrawn for political advantage.

17 The Florida constitution is clear. If these
18 maps are withdrawn for partisan gain, it will violate
19 Florida law, waste taxpayer money, and further damage
20 trust in government.

21 To be crystal clear, if this wasn't about
22 partisanship in Congress, you'd also be redrawing the
23 state legislative maps right now, but you're not
24 because that has no bearing on the national
25 conversation about the partisan control of Congress

1 after the midterm elections.

2 You don't have to do this. Our democracy
3 depends on people in positions like yours choosing to
4 follow the law even when it's inconvenient for party
5 politics.

6 Without a new Census or a court order, this
7 comes down to politics, and politics isn't a lawful
8 reason to betray -- to redraw maps in Florida. Please
9 do the right thing. Follow the law --

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
11 Paquita Leon followed by Deborah Courtney. And,
12 again, if you're on deck, if you could just plan on
13 making your way up just so we can maximize the amount
14 of time we have available.

15 MS. LEON: Hi. Thank you for taking my
16 comment. I'm a resident and a voter, Pinellas County,
17 and everybody has said so many great things. I just
18 wanted to thank you all for having this hearing, and
19 giving us the opportunity to relay our displeasure
20 with gerrymandering in Florida, which is unlawful.
21 And if you want to call it mid-decade redistricting,
22 it's unnecessary. It's wasteful, and it's unlawful.
23 Please oppose gerrymandering in Florida. Thank you.

24 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Deborah Courtney
25 followed by Leslie Grubel. You're recognized.

1 MS. COURTNEY: Hi. I'm Deborah Courtney,
2 and I'm from Jacksonville, Florida. And thanks again
3 for letting me come here and speak before you. I got
4 up at 4:30 this morning. It took a very long drive to
5 get here, so I appreciate the opportunity.

6 My question for each of you is why are you
7 doing this? The people of Florida did not ask for
8 this. If you see in this room, did anybody come up
9 and testify and go, wow, I really love that map. No.
10 Everybody is saying, please don't do this.

11 And I think most people understand that
12 really what triggered this was a call from Washington.
13 So my question to you is, and my understanding is, you
14 represent the people of Florida. The people of
15 Florida do not want this. We passed the Fair
16 Districts Amendment overwhelmingly by 63 percent. So
17 two out of three people in this room and in the whole
18 State of Florida don't want partisan maps.

19 So I'm asking you, who do you represent?
20 The people of Florida or the folks in Washington? So
21 please vote against this.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
23 Leslie Grubel followed by Cotton Taylor. You're
24 recognized.

25 MS. GRUBEL: Hi. I'm Leslie Grubel. I'm

1 from Longwood, Seminole County. Redistricting a
2 decade without new Census data only allows best
3 guesses or estimates, as our map maker said, which
4 flies in the face of democratic principles and the
5 will of the voters who are demonstrably against
6 mid-decade just redistricting.

7 The Emerson College polling Florida survey
8 conducted of this year said that 56 percent of people
9 are thinking that mid-district redistricting is bad
10 idea.

11 The Common Cause Noble Poll also said that
12 three in five or 60 percent of voters oppose allowing
13 political parties to engage in mid-decade
14 redistricting. These are studies of what our people
15 think in this state. Please listen to them.

16 The State Constitution says the district
17 shall not be drawn with the intent to favor or
18 disfavor a political party. This map appears to favor
19 one political party by projecting to remove only one
20 particular other party's members. Please vote no on
21 redistricting.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Cotton Taylor followed by
23 Judy Sheklin on behalf of JAX NOW.

24 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, my name is Colton
25 Taylor. Just want to say, this effort to redraw

1 districts is really to disenfranchise voters and to
2 make sure Republicans will stay in power. The
3 Governor is trying to reduce the freedom of Florida
4 voters. The Governor knows he's failed the people of
5 Florida time and time again because of his inability
6 to address affordability, health care, and how bad
7 things have gotten with our environment.

8 So it sounds like to me, he figures, well,
9 let's just rig the elections. The people of Florida
10 are growing more and more tired of this leadership.
11 More people are waking up to the fact their lives
12 aren't getting any better under this leadership, and
13 the governor is scared.

14 I encourage you to vote against this, and to
15 keep Florida free. Thank you.

16 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Ladies and
17 gentlemen, I'm going to just try and ask that everyone
18 limit their -- just because we have 40 cards
19 approximately left. If we could try and limit our
20 comments to 45 seconds, I would appreciate it.

21 MS. SHEKLIN: I'll speed talk. My name is
22 Judy Sheklin. I'm a voter from Jacksonville, Florida.
23 Please vote no and oppose this mid-decade partisan
24 redistricting. Floridians are hurting now
25 financially, exploding prices for health care, gas,

1 insurance, housing, food, and this legislature is
2 spending \$50,000 a day on this special session and
3 then another one.

4 The map submitted by the governor is a
5 partisan power grab. This process is unneeded, but if
6 it's done, it should include public hearings,
7 transparency, deliberations, and time to consider the
8 ramifications of these changes by and for the people
9 of Florida, not Fox News.

10 We have more than one branch of government
11 in Florida, and the Governor is becoming more and more
12 of a dictator daily. Please do not let one man rule
13 the state and challenge our democracy. Please vote
14 against this map.

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Terry Condos on
16 behalf of the League of Women Voters, followed by
17 Erica Christo, also on behalf of League of Women
18 Voters. You're recognized.

19 MS. CONDOS: Thank you. Hi. My name is
20 Terry Condos. I'm from Will Robinson's District,
21 District 16. I came here today from Manatee County.
22 I'm a retired senior executive serving 38 years on
23 Department of Defense in The US intelligence
24 community, including a war in the Iraq -- a year in
25 the Iraq War zone.

1 As such, I took an oath to The US
2 constitution and take all those very seriously,
3 including yours, to the Florida constitution and your
4 duty to your constituents.

5 The Governor's position on nonseverability
6 of the Fair Districts Amendment is laughable. Right?
7 It's like throwing the baby out with the bathwater.
8 Punishing citizens for not anticipating a severability
9 clause would be needed is ridiculous.

10 You know what the voters intended, and you
11 need to pay attention to that. I would hope that this
12 body would not so callously disregard voters' will.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
14 Appreciate it.

15 MS. CONDOS: That's 45 seconds?

16 CHAIR REDONDO: It's 54 seconds. Thank you.

17 MS. CONDOS: Okay. What's happening in
18 Manatee County is ridiculous. We're going from two
19 counties to five counties.

20 CHAIR REDONDO: Erica Christo on behalf of
21 League of Women Voters followed by Jason Thornton.
22 And whoever's on deck, if you want to just come up and
23 sit right next to the podium just to try and again get
24 as many people as possible. Ma'am, you're recognized.

25 MS. CHRISTO: I am Erica Christo, and I am

1 with the League of Women Voters, Jacksonville First
2 Coast, as well as Nassau County's Nassau Forward.

3 In 2010, Florida voters overwhelmingly voted
4 to oppose partisan gerrymandering by passing the Fair
5 Districts Amendments. They enshrined it in the State
6 Constitution. Please respect the will of Florida's
7 voters as well as the financial realities of its
8 citizens.

9 Florida's taxpayers are overwhelmed by
10 rising grocery and insurance, housing, and utility
11 costs, and they'd like their tax dollars to be used to
12 address these urgent issues.

13 Taxpayers do not want their hard earned tax
14 dollars to be used engaging in legal battles over
15 gerrymandering, an issue that the voters already
16 decided in 2010. Or on drawing maps based on
17 speculative rather than actual population data.

18 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you so much.

19 MS. CHRISTO: Thank you.

20 CHAIR REDONDO: Jason Thornton followed by
21 Samantha Cadiz on behalf of the Clio Institute.
22 You're recognized.

23 MR. THORNTON: My name is Jason Thornton,
24 and I'm a 17 year old high school student from
25 Orlando, Florida. I'm here in strong opposition of

1 mid-decade redistricting.

2 I understand the sentiment behind this bill
3 as of other states have been doing the same thing, but
4 Florida should have the ability to do so, and I
5 understand that, but we're not the same as other
6 states.

7 You are taking the power from the people and
8 quite frankly setting a negative connotation for new
9 voters. Why vote if the elected officials in
10 Tallahassee will just redistrict your county when the
11 election gets close enough? No state should be
12 gerrymandering or mid-decade redistricting as it
13 strips the power from the people. I urge you to take
14 this into account when voting onward. Thank you for
15 your time.

16 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Samantha Cadiz
17 followed by Jessica Lowe Minor at the League of Women
18 Voters.

19 MS. CADIZ: Good afternoon. Samantha Cadiz
20 representing the Clio Institute and a Tampa voter. I
21 often come and speak at committees about being an
22 environmental steward, not building golf courses on
23 our state parks.

24 But I'm here to take today to tell you that
25 everything I care about starts with voting. I care

1 that every Floridian who is registered to vote in this
2 state is able to access the ballot and have the right
3 to that.

4 Just this past session, this body restricted
5 voter IDs for young people by changing it to students
6 can't allow -- aren't allowed to use student IDs to
7 vote anymore.

8 Two years ago, this body passed legislation
9 to make it harder for volunteers to collect petitions
10 for constitutional amendments. And I'll be out door
11 knocking all summer begging young people to try and
12 vote, and a confused young person does not vote. And
13 I am very fearful that this redistricting process will
14 continue to make young voters more confused and,
15 hence, not turn up to the polls.

16 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you so much for your
17 time. Jessica Lowe Minor followed by Harrison Lundy,
18 Voices of Florida Fund. You're recognized.

19 MS. MINOR: Good morning and afternoon. The
20 League of Women Voters of Florida was heavily involved
21 in the Fair Districts campaign to add clear
22 redistricting standards to the State Constitution in
23 2010. Those standards, which prohibit partisan
24 gerrymandering, were passed by 63 percent of Florida
25 voters.

1 Since then, the league has continued to
2 advocate on behalf of the State's redistricting
3 standards, and we speak to citizens groups regularly
4 about this issue. Over and over again, voters tell us
5 that they are tired of partisan gamesmanship, and
6 recent polls show that a strong majority of Floridians
7 oppose mid-decade redistricting.

8 Despite what other states may do, Florida
9 has an explicit prohibition on partisan mapmaking.
10 This current redistricting effort does not, in the
11 league's opinion, comply with the State's
12 Constitution, and we hope you will reject it. Thank
13 you.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Harrison Lundy
15 on behalf of Voices of Florida Fund followed by
16 Douglas Curry. Recognized.

17 MR. LUNDY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name
18 is Harrison with Voices of Florida Fund and the No
19 Partisan Maps Coalition. You're going to hear this a
20 lot because it's been the truth for several years now,
21 but partisan gerrymandering is illegal and against the
22 State Constitution.

23 The lack of transparency in the handling of
24 these maps that are apparently drawn by one person
25 just reveals to me a severe lack of professionalism

1 that needs to be looked at. You're about to vote on
2 maps that you've barely had 24 hours to look at, much
3 less time to actually talk with voters about.

4 I remember the first time that this
5 committee met, what was prefaced was maps will not be
6 drawn for partisan purposes, and we laughed much like
7 we laughed a couple times today.

8 Because for the average voter, four
9 Democratic districts being, you know, all of a sudden
10 erased barely four years after two additional ones is
11 laughable. And I just want to ask if this is truly a
12 nonpartisan effort, why was it only Republicans that
13 voted against, having our presenters testify under
14 oath?

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments,
16 sir.

17 MR. LUNDY: That voted that down to extend
18 the --

19 CHAIR REDONDO: Sir, you've gone beyond your
20 time. I want to be respectful of everyone else.
21 Thank you for your time.

22 Douglas Curry followed by Catherine
23 Fitzpatrick. Recognized.

24 MR. CURRY: My name is Douglas Curry, and
25 I'd be happy to be under oath. I'm a fifth generation

1 Floridian living in Tallahassee. I'm asking you to
2 oppose the sham effort to create a more partisan
3 congressional map that violates the Florida
4 constitution.

5 Mid-decade redistricting follows personal
6 pressure by the President and Governor, runs counter
7 to the position of most citizens in the Sunshine
8 State.

9 I taught United States Government, and my
10 students universally rejected partisan gerrymandering,
11 seeing it as blatantly unfair. Violations of basic
12 fairness discourage young people from becoming
13 involved in the political process. A disillusioned
14 and disengaged electorate portends a bleak future,
15 portends a bleak future indeed. Please end this
16 charade and get back to governing.

17 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Catherine
18 Fitzpatrick followed by Heidi White, you're
19 recognized.

20 MS. FITZPATRICK: Good afternoon, and thank
21 you for my time here. I'm going to speak as the
22 mother that I am. What part of no do you not
23 understand? The citizens of Florida made it very
24 clear where we stand on the issue of redistricting.
25 Anybody who votes in favor of this redistricting

1 should be looked at very carefully as a threat to our
2 democracy. Thank you.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Heidi White
4 followed by Rob Woods.

5 MS. WHITE: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Heidi White. I'm here on behalf of the League of
7 Women Voters, Saint Petersburg. I drove all the way
8 up here this morning on a bus at 4:00 AM. I'm here to
9 remind you today of your each and every one of you
10 have an oath to the State Constitution, and I'm asking
11 you to uphold that oath.

12 Partisan gerrymandering is illegal in
13 Florida. Section 20 of the Florida Constitution
14 states, in establishing Congressional district
15 boundaries, nor apportionment plan or individual
16 district shall be drawn in the intent to favor or
17 disfavor a political party or an incumbent.

18 That is exactly what this map does. And by
19 having the complete lack of transparency to allow the
20 voters to be able to look at it --

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comment.

22 MS. WHITE: -- It should be rejected. Thank
23 you for your time, and please vote accordingly.

24 CHAIR REDONDO: Rob Woods followed by
25 Catherine Ballina.

1 MR. WOODS: Good afternoon. I am Rob Woods,
2 an honorably discharged United States Veteran. I am
3 also a child of Florida. I was born here, raised
4 here, and I have done all I can to keep people from
5 making bad jokes about us. Please don't make it go
6 any further.

7 The very first thing of politics is you must
8 know how to count. If there was such a thing as the
9 square root of zero, that would be absolute fair, and
10 it's not. But let's not make it worse. And in
11 closing, please make the bad people stop. No more
12 voter intimidation. No more gerrymandering. And once
13 and for all, no means no. Thank you.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Catherine
15 Ballina. And ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to --
16 I'm going to ask that everyone try and limit their
17 comments to 30 seconds. Otherwise, we will not be
18 able to reach everyone.

19 MS. BALLINA: Good afternoon. I had a bunch
20 of fancy stuff wrote down. As I sat over there, I'm
21 physically shaking with frustration. I am emotionally
22 angry at what's happening here today, and I'm going to
23 talk fairly to the side. I am begging you to think of
24 the voters. You know this is wrong.

25 We're not stupid. We had a lot of legalese

1 today. We had a lot of justifications, but we never
2 had a reason given to us why this is happening because
3 we know. And it's offending that I think a lot of
4 people think myself and all these people behind me are
5 stupid. We're not.

6 And I think everybody in this room knows
7 exactly why this is happening. And it's already been
8 said. I'm not going to say all that. But I am asking
9 you to please do the right thing here. You know this
10 is wrong.

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you.

12 MS. BALLINA: I'm asking you to vote no.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR REDONDO: Ash Bradley followed by
15 Cameron Diggers, the Florida Youth Action Fund. And,
16 again, 30 seconds is all I can frankly give you at
17 this point. So if you --

18 MS. BRADLEY: No worries, understood.
19 Hello. My name is Ash. I'm from District 15, and it
20 seems as though the Governor is retaliating because we
21 flipped our seat to a Democrat. One man is moving us
22 into majority Republican counties with this map.

23 This legislation has already made it clear
24 in our regular session that they will do anything to
25 silence Black, Brown, Hispanic, Latin American,

1 multiracial, and indigenous families like mine and
2 further perpetuate White supremacy in this state. It
3 is abhorrent.

4 Please stand with all of your constituents
5 and everyone here and stop the blatant attempts of
6 erasure happening in the state and vote down on
7 redistricting.

8 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

9 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Cameron Diggers, Florida
11 Youth Action Fund, followed by Cyn Doyle.

12 MR. DIGGERS: Yeah. Good afternoon,
13 representatives. My name is Cameron. I'm a grad
14 student at UCF. I'm a voter in Orange County.

15 I'm here today to represent students and
16 young workers who have across the state who have been
17 left out of this process. My team and I have had
18 almost 50,000 conversations with students on the issue
19 of redistricting. They're very concerned with the
20 Governor's proposal.

21 I'm sure this committee will believe that
22 given we've sent nearly 5,000 letters to this body and
23 across the legislature in opposition to this proposal.
24 And even if you can put aside that this proposal is
25 brazenly illegal, we all know this, but just for the

1 sake of politics, I want you all to sincerely consider
2 the message this is sending to Florida's next
3 generation.

4 The three youngest generations of our
5 electorate make up 52 percent of the constituency yet
6 remain the most underrepresented group in elected
7 office. And by splicing up student neighborhoods,
8 this proposal would shrink what little representation
9 we have to a new low. If you want your constituents
10 to have --

11 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
12 Appreciate it. Thank you. Cyn Doyle, Lake County
13 Indivisible is followed by Ernie Payne. You're
14 recognized.

15 MS. DOYLE: Yes. My name is Cyn Doyle.
16 We're looking at that, and we all see a horse, but
17 you're trying to tell us it's a cow. And it doesn't
18 fly. Okay?

19 It really doesn't. It's time for you guys
20 to get back to the truth, to be what we want you to
21 be. You are voting for us. It's for us, the We The
22 People. Where's We The People on any of these maps?

23 It's not there. So get it there, and don't
24 listen to the Governor. Don't listen to that orange
25 man in the White House.

1 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

2 MS. DOYLE: Quit drinking his poison.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

4 Ernie Payne, League of Women Voters Tallahassee
5 followed by Kara Gross, ACLU Florida.

6 MR. PAYNE: I'm Ernie Payne from the
7 nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Tallahassee.
8 Florida constitution is very clear on partisan
9 gerrymandering. Careful wording of a bill cannot mask
10 the publicly stated true intent. Please vote no on
11 redistricting. Thank you.

12 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Kara Gross, ACLU
13 of Florida followed by Larry Hannon, State voices,
14 Florida.

15 MS. GROSS: Good afternoon. I'm Kara Gross,
16 the interim political director of the ACLU of Florida,
17 and the ACLU of Florida opposes this partisan power
18 grab.

19 What Governor DeSantis and the Florida
20 legislature are attempting to do is unconstitutional,
21 illegal, and an affront to every Floridian who voted
22 in favor of Fair Districts Amendments. Article 3,
23 Section 20 of the Florida constitution is clear. No
24 district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or
25 disfavor a political party.

1 These bills do exactly that. They seek to
2 redraw districts to favor a political party. This is
3 a clear violation of the Florida constitution.

4 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

5 MS. GROSS: The people of Florida will --

6 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Thank you for
7 your comments. Larry Hannon, State Voices Florida
8 followed by Nicholas Berg, Central Florida
9 Indivisible. You're recognized.

10 MR. HANNON: Good afternoon. I'm Larry
11 Hannon, communications and policy director with State
12 Voices Florida. Every one of you took an oath to
13 support, protect, and defend the Florida Constitution
14 when you were sworn into the house. If you vote for
15 this, you are violating your oath. This gerrymandered
16 map is clearly illegal under the Fair Districts
17 Amendment.

18 I urge you to vote no and end this rushed,
19 unnecessary, and illegal redistricting. Thank you.

20 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Nicholas Berg,
21 Central Florida Indivisible, followed by Marlene
22 Malcolm on behalf of Equal Ground. Nicholas Berg, do
23 we have Nicholas Berg? No? Okay.

24 Moving on. Marlene Malcolm, followed by
25 Sarah Peacock, the League of Women Voters of Saint

1 Petersburg. You're recognized.

2 MS. MALCOLM: Mr. Chair, good afternoon,
3 members of the committee. My name is Merlee Malcolm,
4 and I got up at 3:30 this morning to come here from
5 Miami, Florida, because I wanted you to see me. I
6 stand on behalf of myself, my family, my friends who
7 could not come here today.

8 We are people. We are not numbers on a map.
9 We are not lines on a map. We are people whose voices
10 are continuously being erased. I was already moved in
11 2022. Now looking at what it looks like, I'm going to
12 be moved again. We deserve representation too.
13 Please vote no on this map. We are people.

14 Please stop --

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments
16 now.

17 MS. MALCOLM: We matter.

18 CHAIR REDONDO: Sarah Peacock, League of
19 Women Voters of Saint Petersburg followed by Sandra
20 Weeks on Pinellas National Organization for Women.

21 Is this Sarah Peacock? No? All right.
22 Sandra Weeks followed by Sadie Holzmeyer.

23 MS. WEEKS: As someone who is descended from
24 three generations of suffragists, I know how difficult
25 the 72-year battle for women's voting rights was. I

1 also know that the over 100 years battle of voting
2 rights for Black people was, if not more -- if not as
3 difficult, more difficult than the voting rights
4 battle for women.

5 We know from the legal study discrimination
6 that if a law is neutral on its face, but --

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

8 MS. WEEKS: -- has disparate impacts, it is
9 still discrimination.

10 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
11 Thank you. Sadie Holzmeyer followed by Reverend
12 Dimitri Burke.

13 MS. HOLZMEYER: Hello. Sadie Holzmeyer
14 here. I'm an Orlando voter, executive director of the
15 Florida chapter of Digital Democracy Project. I just
16 wanted to say other states have put this up to the
17 voters to decide. Voters and taxpayers fund the
18 special session.

19 They're going to fund the inevitable legal
20 battles that come out of this. Gerrymandering
21 suppresses the voices of voters. Voters deserve to
22 have a say. I wanted to let you know Digital
23 Democracy Project provides a way for voters anywhere
24 in the state. Not everyone's able to make it here.

25 They can have a say in a verified, certified

1 way to say what they want. So I want to offer up if
2 anyone's interested in getting direct input from your
3 voters in a transparent way, help communicate that.
4 And we're also helping hold voters accountable. So
5 we'll be posting how everyone votes on this so voters
6 know.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you.

8 MS. HOLZMEYER: Thank you.

9 CHAIR REDONDO: Reverend Dimitri Burke
10 followed by Paul Heroux.

11 MR. BURKE: Mr. Chairman and members of this
12 Committee, thank you for this opportunity. I'm
13 standing before you. I'm a resident and voter of
14 Volusia County. I pastor a church in Saint Johns
15 County, and I work in Clay County. I want you to vote
16 no.

17 I watched you during this hearing. Most of
18 you are rolling your eyes, sleepy, and it appears to
19 me that you know that this is not what is best for
20 Florida, and I pray that you will vote no.

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Paul Heroux
22 followed by Genesis Robinson, Equal Ground Education.
23 You're recognized.

24 MR. HEROUX: My name is Paul Heroux, and I
25 am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for pronouncing it

1 correctly and not --

2 CHAIR REDONDO: I tried. I tried.

3 MR. HEROUX: I'm not wearing my hat right
4 now, which I have worn for over 14 years in the
5 process of coming before committees in Tallahassee
6 because I was told I could not wear it in this room,
7 and I wanted to speak. So I left it off in spite of
8 the fact that it was an obviously toxic and
9 unnecessary rule for the safety and good of Florida.

10 It has a lot in common with this map, and I
11 would suggest that it be postponed until a proper
12 legal Constitutional time. Thank you. Thank you.

13 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Genesis Robinson
14 followed by Dr. Allison Clark.

15 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Somewhere I read that the foundation ideal of America
17 was the consent of the governed. Well, in this state,
18 people have spoken, and yet you are ignoring their
19 will.

20 The Fair District Amendments were passed for
21 a reason to stop partisan gerrymandering and rigging
22 and stacking the deck in our democracy. You do not
23 have to move forward with this plan.

24 Each of you swore an oath to the
25 Constitution and to the constituents of your district,

1 not Ron DeSantis or Donald Trump. Reject this
2 partisan power grab and ensure the people of Florida
3 maintain their voting rights. Thank you.

4 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
5 Dr. Allison Clark followed by Cheryl Bell.
6 Recognized.

7 DR. CLARK: Good afternoon. Many things
8 have been said, and so I'll just keep it short. The
9 gentleman mentioned 1885 five maps and Constitution.
10 And in my research, I came across a phrase that said
11 that was the year that the Florida Legacy of
12 Malapportionment began. Then it went to
13 Reconstruction, then the Pork Chop Gang, and now we're
14 here today again under the same reason.

15 And that legacy continues. I'm Dr. Allison
16 Clark, and I thank you for your time. I ask that you
17 vote against this.

18 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Cheryl Bell
19 followed by Russell Meyer, Florida Faith Advocacy
20 Office. Recognized.

21 MS. BELL: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Cheryl Bell. I'm a constituent from Saint Augustine,
23 Saint Johns County. I am opposed to this
24 redistricting situation. It's illegal. It's immoral.
25 It's unethical, and it shouldn't happen, voters have

1 already spoken on this issue in 2010.

2 Instead of handling this matter, it's
3 appropriate for you to be more productive and do
4 something that actually helps the voters, like deal
5 with our affordability crisis, housing crisis, health
6 care, education --

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Reverend Doctor
8 Russell Meyer followed by Marlon Williams Clark.

9 DR. MEYER: Dear Members of the House, we
10 are living at this very moment through a process of
11 corruption. And that process of corruption whenever
12 it happens in any society, it's a process by which
13 voices are silenced so that there's only one opinion
14 that ends up mattering in society.

15 And that corruption then has a negative
16 impact on every household in that society. And I just
17 referenced to you the country of Hungary, which came
18 full alive and said, we don't want corruption anymore.
19 It's ruining all of our families, and that's the road
20 we're going down right now.

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
22 Marlon Williams Clark, Tallahassee branch NAACP,
23 followed by Lisa Lloyd.

24 MR. CLARK: Good afternoon. Thank you all
25 for having me. This is not just about gerrymandering

1 and redistricting. This is a pattern of silencing
2 Florida voices. To our representatives who had the
3 audacity to ask simple common sense questions, thank
4 you.

5 This pattern is showing of the weakening of
6 the democracy in Florida. In here, the legislature
7 has raised the threshold for citizen led amendments,
8 added barriers to participation, stripped power from
9 local communities, and they have a legal state
10 responsibility to make the last map.

11 This is terrible. And so we need to do
12 better. Now that the Legislature is doubling down on
13 the mid-decade redistricting, the culmination of all
14 of this failure --

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Thank you for
16 your comments. Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Thank
17 you.

18 Lisa Lloyd followed by Willie Hill.

19 MS. LLOYD: Right. Governor DeSantis showed
20 his priorities. They are not the State of Florida.
21 They are not the legislature. They pretty much seem
22 to come down to Governor DeSantis. And if that's the
23 case, don't expect that he's going to be loyal to you.

24 You understand when the litigation starts,
25 and it will, on this issue, there's a new word.

1 Instead of dangling chads, we now have dummy
2 mandering, which means that the Republican Party is
3 going to be thinned out so broadly in all of these
4 districts that it may give us as you know, the people
5 on the other side of bounce.

6 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you so much for your
7 time. Thank you. Thank you. Willie Hill followed by
8 Gail Kerstin. Willie Hill. All right. So, Gail
9 Kerstin will be up followed by Elizabeth Drury.

10 MS. KERSTIN: Good afternoon, Members, and
11 thank you for hearing me. The Constitutional
12 protections meant to guard fair representation are
13 being bent to fit a political outcome, one that
14 excludes minority voices and weakens the voice of
15 Democratic voters. Voters choose their
16 representatives when the principle is undermined, so
17 is public trust. Members, you hold a super majority.
18 That is power.

19 But more importantly, it's responsibility.
20 A responsibility to represent all of us, all the
21 people, not just some.

22 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you so much. Thank
23 you. Thank you. Elizabeth Drury followed by Carol
24 Weisert. And if Carol's in the room, if you could
25 please just make your way up. Thank you. You're

1 recognized.

2 MS. DRURY: Hello. My name is Elizabeth
3 Drury. I'm from Nassau County, Fernandina Beach.
4 Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today.
5 I'm the theme of what I have to say is about time,
6 and, obviously, I'm on the clock.

7 But, anyway, we, I feel like Governor
8 DeSantis is running out the clock. That is his
9 strategy. I feel as though it's a sinister strategy.
10 You're not being listened to. We're not being
11 listened to.

12 And he only is taking his strategy from
13 President Trump and with his basic premise of doing
14 mid-districting to make sure that he does not --

15 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
16 Thank you. Thank you. Carol Weisert, followed by
17 Sheila Howard. Ms. Howard, if you could please come
18 up.

19 MS. WEISERT: Good afternoon. Thank you for
20 having us. I'm Carol Weisert. I'm from Tallahassee,
21 and I just have to say I'm in awe that all these
22 people came on buses from 4 o'clock this morning just
23 to get 30 seconds before you, so I think that's
24 terrific. I came down the street.

25 I have a lot of notes. So one thing I did

1 want to say that people haven't mentioned is how
2 unique our provision in our Constitution is that
3 prohibits gerrymandering. No other state has this in
4 their Constitution, and we have to -- this is in our
5 Constitution. We need to abide by it. We need to be
6 proud of it and not ignore it.

7 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Sheila Howard.
8 If Sheila's here. If not, Germaine Miller. Germaine
9 Miller. Sheila Howard. Okay? Britt Robinson. Okay.
10 Britt followed by Alex Hazen. You're recognized.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Hello. My name is Britt
12 Robinson, and I'm running for Congress to represent
13 Florida's 4th District. Let's be honest here. This
14 is a rushed and illegal attempt at wiping out
15 Democratic and minority representation in congress.
16 Governor DeSantis is trying to override the majority
17 of Floridians who do not want gerrymandered maps.

18 Trump has pressuring Republicans to push
19 redistricting in a desperate attempt to hold on to
20 power and avoid accountability for his crimes. I want
21 everyone to know that whatever map we end up with,
22 Democratic candidates will still flip Republican seats
23 in November because Floridians deserve representatives
24 who will actually listen --

25 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.

1 Thank you so much. Ma'am, thank you so much. I
2 appreciate your time.

3 Alex Hazen followed by Tony Cooper. You're
4 recognized.

5 MR. HAZEN: Hi there. I'm Alex Hazen, and
6 I'm a candidate for US Congress in Florida's 5th
7 Congressional District. I was the last person to
8 enter my race. Since announcing my run, I've had to
9 worry the entire time that my community would be
10 fractured by partisan politics. This week was
11 originally supposed to be the qualifying period for
12 the election for candidates to be locked in for
13 constituents to learn about candidates.

14 How do you expect representatives on either
15 side of the aisle to adequately represent their
16 constituents when their districts change this late
17 into the campaign season, especially when the voters
18 aren't the ones deciding to redistrict. Let's be
19 clear. This gerrymandering is a late illegal plan to
20 disenfranchise --

21 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you for your comments.
22 Tony Cooper. Tony Cooper. Okay.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the
24 public testimony. At this time, Members, we're going
25 to now move into debate. I understand we have three

1 members who want to debate. We're going to give each
2 member five minutes just so we have enough time to
3 conclude, have a conclusion from the bill sponsor, and
4 then to vote. So, Minority Leader Antone, if you want
5 to start.

6 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: All right. Thank
7 you, Mr. Chair. And let me start by thanking you for
8 the manner in which you've conducted this committee.
9 I mean, this is how the process is supposed to work,
10 and I thank you for giving us adequate time to ask
11 questions and giving the public adequate time to come
12 up. And I want to thank the public for being here.

13 Thank you. You might not have had long
14 enough to speak, but thank you all so much for coming
15 here. So let me just get straight to my point.

16 I do not believe there's compelling reason
17 for us to redistrict. Just because there's a shift in
18 population is not a compelling reason to redistrict
19 mid-decade. Nothing feels right about this particular
20 exercise. It almost seems to me that this is more
21 about a reapportionment of the state than
22 redistricting.

23 The other thing, I do believe this is
24 partisan gerrymandering. I mean, the canary in the
25 mind was the information being released to Fox News

1 yesterday, a red and blue map. That's the canary in
2 the mind. That was the indication that something was
3 wrong.

4 And then lastly, I will just say this. In
5 my non-attorney thinking today, the Florida
6 Constitution states, the legislature shall draw the
7 maps. These maps were not drawn by the Florida House
8 of Representatives or the Florida Senate. We talked
9 about ten years of population change in five years.
10 Well, population of Florida changes by 2 to 3 million
11 every decade.

12 And so right now, as the presenter stated,
13 we're only at 1,800,000, so we haven't seen ten years
14 of population change in five years.

15 And so in closing, I just say that the maps
16 that I saw do not meet the legal standards required by
17 the 1965 Voting Rights Act or the Florida
18 Constitution. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Representative
20 Lopez, you're recognized.

21 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Since this body announced the Special Committee on
23 Redistricting, our office has received over 1247
24 emails and 19 letters from constituents in my district
25 and from Floridians across the state against this mid-

1 decade redistricting effort.

2 What concerns me a lot is that this bill
3 conflicts with the Florida constitution, specifically
4 the Fair District Amendment of 2010, approved by 63
5 percent of voters and codified in Article 3, Section
6 20 and 21. The standard is clear. No intent to favor
7 or disfavor a political party or incumbent.

8 But one, this is mid-decade. No new Census,
9 no court order, no demographic trigger. The only
10 variable that has changed since 2022 is political.

11 Two, it originated with the Governor, not
12 this House. Apportionment is the legislative function
13 under Article 3. We are being asked to ratify the map
14 drawn outside this chamber.

15 Three, the maps were released to the press
16 color coded by party before being sent to the
17 legislature and this body. Partisan intent was not
18 inferred. It was published.

19 Four, the proposed lines deny Black and
20 Hispanic Floridians equal opportunity to elect
21 candidates of choices. That is the opposite of what
22 the Constitution requires, which bars any intent of
23 result that denies or average minorities equal
24 opportunity to participate or diminishes their ability
25 to elect candidates of choice.

1 And finally, when this bill is supposed to
2 preserve existing political and geographic boundaries
3 where feasible, it breaks them broadly, not narrowly.
4 This bill does not meet that the -- did not meet what
5 the Constitution established. It is unconstitutional,
6 and this is why I will vote no, and I will encourage
7 everyone to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. And
9 Representative Chambliss, you're recognized.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. Today, we have an opportunity for Florida to
12 take the lead and not follow national trends and
13 what's going on nationally. We can be Florida, as we
14 so proudly announce. We lead. We don't follow.

15 This whole process is both irresponsible,
16 unconstitutional, and illogical. It is irresponsible
17 because it was too much information and too short of a
18 notice with only one option.

19 In the past, we had multiple options. In
20 the past, we had the opportunity to meet with staff
21 and to talk about specific communities and get proper
22 analysis. In the past, we've had the opportunity to
23 hear from communities regarding their own culture and
24 the reason why they live where they live, what's the
25 history behind it, why they vote in a certain way. We

1 had that opportunity. We do not have that opportunity
2 today.

3 It is unconstitutional because the truth is
4 based on the timing, you will not be able to argue
5 against partisan intent. It's not reasonable, and I
6 don't think any judge would agree with it. So we know
7 that lawsuits are pending and are ready, and that is a
8 waste of taxpayer dollars.

9 If we wanted to have this conversation,
10 which we've had, we could say, okay. We had the
11 conversation and say, no. Thank you. Because the
12 legislature has been left out of the process of
13 actually creating and saying what we think would be a
14 proper way to address this issue.

15 But understand, because it's
16 unconstitutional, the proper way to address this issue
17 is to wait till 2032 until we have a proper Census and
18 proper data to actually create a proper map.

19 That is the way to address this issue, and
20 it is illogical. It is illogical because we cannot
21 fool the Florida voters. We know what's going on, but
22 we don't have to be a part of it. We don't have to be
23 complicit. And this is not about Republican or
24 Democrat.

25 This is about the State of Florida. We can

1 take a stand right now. We can say, we're not going
2 to get involved in all this. Our voters created a
3 mandate for fair districts. We stand on that.

4 If we believe in our own individual policies
5 and that we're right in our policies, we would not be
6 afraid to do so. Again, I encourage my members to say
7 no to this map. Thank you.

8 CHAIR REDONDO: Thank you. Seeing no
9 further debate, I just want to take a moment to thank
10 the Members of the Committee before we vote. I also
11 want to thank the members of the public who came to
12 speak today and those who maintained the decorum. I
13 greatly appreciate it. With all that being said, I'm
14 going to recognize Representative Persons-Mulicka to
15 close on the bill.

16 REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair. Thank you, Members. I want to echo, as
18 well, our appreciation for everybody who showed up
19 today to express your opinions with us. Even if we
20 don't agree with your opinions, they are valued, and
21 your voices were heard.

22 Members, based on the presentation today
23 that this race neutral map was drawn utilizing
24 traditional redistricting criteria as well as the
25 legal analysis provided, I ask for your favorable

1 support to move this map forward to the floor for full
2 consideration by the House.

3 CHAIR REDONDO: Ladies and gentlemen, we've
4 had a good run. Let's please end this committee. I
5 appreciate everyone's maintaining decorum and respect.
6 Kimberly, will you please call the roll?

7 THE CLERK: Chair Redondo?

8 CHAIR REDONDO: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Ranking Member Antone?

10 RANKING MEMBER ANTONE: No.

11 THE CLERK: Representatives. Baker?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BAKER: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Berfield?

14 REPRESENTATIVE BERFIELD: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Chambliss?

16 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: No.

17 THE CLERK: Cobb?

18 REPRESENTATIVE COBB: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Lopez?

20 REPRESENTATIVE LOPEZ: No.

21 THE CLERK: Maney?

22 REPRESENTATIVE MANEY: Yes, ma'am.

23 THE CLERK: Oliver?

24 REPRESENTATIVE OLIVER: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Persons-Mulicka?

1 REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Robinson?

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROBINSON: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: The bill passes, Mr. Chair.

5 CHAIR REDONDO: Members with your vote, the
6 bill passes favorably. Seeing no further business
7 before the committee, again, I thank everyone for
8 their time today. And with that, Representative
9 Robinson moves that we rise. This meeting is
10 adjourned.

11 (End of Video Recording)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I WENDY K. SAWYER, hereby certify that I was authorized to and did transcribe the provided recording and that the foregoing transcript is a true transcript of said electronic recording to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 29th day of April, 2026.



WENDY K. SAWYER, CDLT

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