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Common Cause, et al.)
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v.) 4:22-cv-109
)
Cord Byrd)
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TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO FILE
House Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
The Florida Channel
October 13, 2021

DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP
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Washington, D.C. 20036
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1 (Beginning of Video Recording.)

2 CHAIR SIROIS: Good afternoon, members.
3 The Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
4 will come to order. Sam, please call the
5 roll.

6 MALE VOICE: Chair Sirois.

7 CHAIR SIROIS: Here.

8 MALE VOICE: Vice Chair Tuck.

9 MS. TUCK: Here.

10 MALE VOICE: Ranking Member Skidmore.

11 MS. SKIDMORE: Here.

12 MALE VOICE: Representative Beltran.

13 Beltran. Benjamin?

14 MR. BENJAMIN: Present.

15 MALE VOICE: Brown?

16 MS. BROWN: Here.

17 MALE VOICE: Fabricio?

18 MR. FABRICIO: Here.

19 MALE VOICE: Fetterhoff?

20 MS. FETTERHOFF: Here.

21 MALE VOICE: Fischer? Fischer?

22 Giallombardo?

23 MR. GIALLOMBARDO: Here.

24 MALE VOICE: Harding?

25 MR. HARDING: Here.

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1 MALE VOICE: Hunschofsky?

2 MS. HUNSCHOFSKY: Here.

3 MALE VOICE: Joseph?

4 MS. JOSEPH: Here.

5 MALE VOICE: Massullo, excused.

6 Morales?

7 MS. MORALES: Present.

8 MALE VOICE: Perez?

9 MR. PEREZ: Here.

10 MALE VOICE: Plakon?

11 MR. PLAKON: Here.

12 MALE VOICE: Silvers?

13 MR. SILVERS: Here.

14 MALE VOICE: Toledo?

15 MS. TOLEDO: Here.

16 MALE VOICE: Trabulsy?

17 MS. TRABULSY: Here.

18 MALE VOICE: Williamson? A quorum is
19 present, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you very much,
21 Sam.

22 Members, a few reminders before we
23 begin. Please silence all electronic devices,
24 and if you wish to make a public comment,
25 please fill out a form and turn it into the

1 Sergeant's staff.

2 Also, as a reminder for our members and
3 presenters, please ensure that you turn on
4 your microphone when you're ready to speak and
5 off when you are finished.

6 Members, with this being our second
7 committee meeting, I want to remind you,
8 again, that it is a noteworthy responsibility
9 for our committee to undertake a thorough,
10 educational effort to ensure that everyone has
11 the understanding they need to be able to
12 propose, analyze, and most importantly, vote
13 on legally compliant boundaries.

14 Today, we will review some new updates
15 that have been rolled out on our website, for
16 accessibility and public input, as well as
17 discuss some of our map drawing application's
18 advanced functionality, and how those tools
19 can assist us in aligning with our
20 constitutional standards for map drawing.

21 Before we dive into the substance of
22 our meeting, I want to take a moment to
23 address an opinion piece that was published
24 last week. Chair Leek also addressed this
25 yesterday in the full Redistricting Committee.

1 While this piece is truly just the
2 opinion of two professors at UF, it alleges
3 gross inaccuracies and attempts to cast a dark
4 shadow on the work of this committee and the
5 undertaking before us. I do not want any of
6 our members or any of our constituents to
7 wonder whether this process is being conducted
8 above board as the speaker, Chair Leek, and
9 myself have been very clear from the beginning
10 this process will follow all laws and the
11 Florida Constitution.

12 The first inaccuracy this opinion piece
13 alleges is that we are hiding elections data
14 from public view. This could not be further
15 from the truth, as you will see today, this
16 elections data is fully accessible within our
17 map drawing application with the intent and
18 purpose of it being used to conduct a
19 functional analysis.

20 Members, this functional analysis
21 ensures that racial and language minority
22 groups' ability to elect a candidate of their
23 choice is not diminished, and that is required
24 by the Florida Constitution.

25 The article also falsely states that we

1 are shielding data from public records
2 requests. The contract that it referenced is
3 written so that the legislature maintains the
4 responsibility of responding to and producing
5 public records. Not any vendor or contractor.

6 The article also falsely insinuates
7 that the legislature is using geocoding
8 services. There are no geocoding services
9 anywhere within our application, and that
10 technology is specifically not being used in
11 order to protect against favoring or
12 disfavoring an incumbent; a Constitutional
13 standard we must also follow.

14 Members, as we will all come to
15 experience, there are outside entities that
16 will try to impute their own political desires
17 into our process and to harm the integrity of
18 our process, and we will not tolerate it.

19 So with that, we'll move into the
20 substance of today's meeting, and I would
21 welcome any questions that members may have at
22 the end of our presentation and agenda today.

23 Members, today, we're going to look at
24 some new upgrades to our website as well as
25 some of Esri's advanced functionality that

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1 will help us align with our Constitutional
2 standards. As we have been doing, our goal is
3 to continue educating this committee about the
4 standards that will produce legally compliant
5 maps.

6 With that being said, first up, let's
7 talk about Floridaredistricting.gov. Members,
8 I'd like to turn it over to Jason to review
9 the website with us.

10 MR. BRADY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let
11 me exit out of the slideshow for a minute.
12 Quickly to -- so this is the
13 floridaredistricting.com -- I'm sorry, .gov
14 homepage, and you can see here one of the
15 pages that I want to highlight today for you
16 is the new submitted plans page.

17 As promised, we rolled this out, and
18 now anyone in the public, including all of the
19 members here, can go onto this website and see
20 all of the plans that have been submitted by
21 the public or -- and eventually all of our
22 committee products or member products, whether
23 they be bills or amendments, will all be
24 posted here in a accessible format for anyone
25 to see.

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1 So first, let me just talk about the
2 top of the page. You can see here, there are
3 three buttons, where you can see -- when you
4 click on these, you can see the currently
5 enacted maps of all three. I'll click on the
6 Congressional map plan here, just to kind of
7 give you a sense of when you click on that, it
8 brings you to this plan details page that
9 shows all the details of that particular plan,
10 and then all of the other artifact files that
11 come with it, including all of the data
12 reports and ability to download the maps and
13 upload them in any other program you want in
14 addition to our own website.

15 But real quick, going down, you can see
16 here, you can sort by plan type. So you can
17 look at the type of plans that you're
18 interested in, whether they be Senate, House,
19 or Congressional. You can sort by where
20 they're submitted from, whether it be the
21 courts, the Senate, the public, or the House.
22 That kind of like where the plan originates
23 from, which chamber it originates from.

24 You can sort by plan name and a number
25 of other items, as well, to filter down to see

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1 the plans you want to see.

2 And as you can see down here, when you
3 come down into the body of the page, you can
4 see all the currently submitted plans that we
5 already have in the system. You can see here
6 there's displays four, five plans per page,
7 and you can click on the next page and see all
8 of the other ones that are currently
9 available, including currently enacted plans
10 that are also linked at the top.

11 So real quick, I'm going to -- on the
12 first page here, I'm going to click on this
13 first one, which is a Congressional map
14 submitted by a member of the public.

15 And you can see here this has a very
16 similar plan details page that came up when I
17 clicked on the Congressional plan. You can
18 see the number of districts, what type of plan
19 it is, where it was submitted from.

20 And then also, in case someone doesn't
21 want to launch the full redistricting
22 application, which can sometimes be a little
23 intimidating for some people, just have the
24 ability to look at the plan in a quick format.
25 We have this web map button here. When you

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1 click on that, it brings up -- it'll take a
2 second to load, and then bring up something
3 similar to Google Maps or other mapping
4 software or website that people are very
5 familiar with, and you can zoom around and
6 look around.

7 You can see here, this is a
8 Congressional map that this gentleman
9 submitted, and you can explore it all you
10 want. You can't draw with this, but it is a
11 good way to explore and view any of the
12 submitted maps that come in.

13 So in addition to that, some of the
14 plan files that are here that you can
15 download, including, again, some of the data
16 reports, the compactness report, which I'll
17 get into more later when we talk about the
18 actual software. You can download an actual
19 image of it, but you can also download a KMZ
20 plan or a text file format.

21 The plan file format will open in the
22 Esri redistricting software application that
23 we have there. The text format and KMZ format
24 are GIS mapping formats that can open in other
25 programs. The text format is actually fixed

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1 text file format or what is sometimes referred
2 to as a block assignment file, which is
3 literally just the Census block separated by a
4 comma, and then the district that that block
5 belongs to.

6 And here in Florida, we have 390,066
7 Census blocks. So that file is just a list of
8 390,000-plus Census blocks and what district
9 they belong to. That can easily be imported
10 in any other redistricting application and
11 have those districts displayed and used in
12 that program. And similarly, that same text
13 format can be imported into ours.

14 So as I mentioned before, this is the
15 new submitted plans page that is available for
16 anyone.

17 Another page that got some updates
18 after some feedback that we heard last time is
19 the get involved page. We've added some
20 things here. The first thing I want to
21 highlight is the provide public input button
22 that we put here. This opens up a form right
23 on the website that people can fill out and
24 submit back to us with their comments with the
25 text box they can fill in down here.

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1 So that is something that we've added
2 to the website. I also want to point out that
3 we've added some assistance here because we've
4 heard back because we have some PDFs available
5 on the site. Not everyone is familiar with
6 how to use a PDF or have programs that can
7 open a PDF.

8 In addition to the redistricting
9 submission form requires a digital signature,
10 not everyone is familiar with how to put that
11 on a PDF. So we added some assistance here
12 for that in case anyone has questions with
13 that.

14 And in addition, at the bottom of our
15 page, we added a link so people can get a free
16 version of Adobe Reader so they can view any
17 of the PDFs that are available on our site if
18 they don't have that capability currently.

19 In addition to that, some other items
20 that we're working on, we're working with a
21 translation service to have some of those PDFs
22 translated into some other languages to have
23 it -- multiple ones available on our website.
24 So we're working on that as well.

25 And thank you, Chair. That's it.

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1 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you very much,
2 Jason. The next topic I'd like to discuss
3 today is focused on some of our map-drawing
4 application's advanced drawing tools and how
5 they can and how they can help us analyze the
6 Constitutional standards by which we must make
7 our maps compliant.

8 For those of you who are able to join
9 Legislature University, consider this your 201
10 course, and for those who are not able to join
11 us and for everyone's benefit, you can watch
12 recording on myfloridahouse.gov, and the
13 training is also made available at
14 floridaredistricting.gov.

15 What I'd like to do now is walk through
16 the next several slides, so we can discuss the
17 concepts and the related map drawing tools,
18 and I will hand the mic back over to Jason to
19 walk us through an actual demonstration of
20 some of the tools.

21 Members, this slide, I encourage you
22 always to pay special attention to. These are
23 the guardrails that will be guiding us moving
24 forward. First off, let's take a moment for a
25 refresher.

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1 The Florida Supreme Court has made it
2 clear that Florida's Constitutional standards
3 for redistricting have two distinct tiers.
4 Tier One, a whole map or an individual
5 district shall not be drawn with the intent to
6 favor or disfavor a political party or
7 incumbent. Districts shall protect racial and
8 language minority groups' ability to elect
9 candidates of their choosing. And districts
10 shall consist of contiguous territory. In
11 Tier Two districts shall be nearly as equal in
12 population as practicable, be compact, and
13 where feasible, follow existing geographical
14 and political boundaries.

15 It's important to remember, Tier One
16 standards take priority over two Tier
17 standards, in case of conflict, however,
18 within each tier, the standards are equally
19 weighted amongst one another.

20 As we dive in, there's another
21 important concept to keep in mind, as there is
22 no single correct map. There is no such thing
23 as the best map. As seen even in our
24 standards, all decisions must be weighed among
25 one another with the goal of drawing legally

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1 compliant maps.

2 We're going to start with the Tier Two
3 standards. So first up, let's talk about,
4 where feasible, existing political and
5 geographical boundaries, "where feasible",
6 using existing political and geographical
7 boundaries. From the Florida Supreme Court
8 ruling in 2012, they delineated that political
9 boundaries primarily encompass county and
10 municipal boundaries, which are our first two
11 bullets here.

12 The Court then went on to state that
13 "geographical boundaries" are "easily
14 ascertainable and commonly understood, such as
15 rivers, railways, interstates, and state
16 roads". In the map drawing application, there
17 are two tools that we will walk through that
18 will coincide with political and geographical
19 boundaries. The referenced layer tool and the
20 boundary analysis report.

21 Next up is compactness. Districts
22 shall be compact. In Florida, compactness has
23 been defined by the Courts as "geographical
24 compactness" in relation to the "shape of a
25 district". There is no single official or

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1 best compactness test that the Court relies on
2 when reviewing redistricting plans.

3 The compactness measures shown on the
4 screen here are the three scores the Florida
5 Supreme Court supported during the 2012
6 redistricting cycle: the Reock, Convex Hull,
7 and Polsby-Popper test. Each test is unique
8 and places priority on a certain
9 characteristic of a district, therefore it is
10 best to view them in tandem and in the context
11 of your district, not in isolation.

12 Let's explore these three scores,
13 further. I hope everybody took geometry. A
14 Reock score takes the area of a district and
15 finds the smallest, minimum bounding circle
16 that fits around the district. Like all three
17 of these scores, the Reock score is rated on a
18 scale of zero to one, with values falling
19 closer to one indicating a more compact
20 district. Districts that are circular in
21 shape earn a higher Reock score.

22 A Convex Hull score applies a similar
23 principle, but instead of a circle, it uses a
24 polygon. This measure accounts for
25 indentations in districts and oftentimes a

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1 square or rectangular district will earn a
2 higher Convex Hull score.

3 The Polsby-Popper score is a ratio of
4 the area of the district to the area of a
5 circle whose circumference is equal to the
6 perimeter of the district. This score
7 accounts for jagged edges of a district, the
8 more jagged edges that the district has, the
9 larger the circle, resulting in a lower score.

10 There is also another test, which is
11 commonly referred to as the Eyeball Test.
12 Oftentimes it is said that districts that
13 "look bizarre or oddly shaped may be evidence
14 of partisan or racial gerrymandering". And
15 while that may be true, in some situations, I
16 would encourage the committee to also remember
17 the state in which we live has a very unusual
18 geography itself, which will create difficulty
19 in the formation of these districts.

20 For starters, we are a peninsula,
21 surrounded by water on three sides, of which
22 we cannot move. Our counties are often
23 uniquely shaped and may have flags that come
24 off one side of the county.

25 In addition to which very few of them

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1 are nice squares, like you may see out in the
2 Western states. Members, think about our
3 different counties. One example that we
4 discussed in the larger redistricting
5 committee was Volusia County, where it has
6 different -- they appear to be fins off of
7 different sides of the county. So that's what
8 I'm referring to by flags. C

9 Compactness scores are used for
10 evaluation within the context of that district
11 and as points of reference. The compactness
12 test function in the map-drawing application,
13 calculates these scores for us for each
14 district.

15 Continuing on to our Constitutional
16 standards, the Florida Constitution mandates
17 that districts shall be nearly equal in
18 population as practicable. In our map-drawing
19 application, there are two tools to help you
20 view population figures at various levels of
21 geography.

22 The identify tool allows you to select
23 units of geography and see how much population
24 is contained within that piece of geography.
25 And the themes tool enables you to apply a

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1 color-coded theme across the entire map to
2 which you can have color-coded pieces of
3 geography that indicate population levels in a
4 given area.

5 Now, let's move on to the Tier One
6 standards. Districts shall consists of
7 contiguous territory. When defining district
8 contiguity, the Florida Supreme Court has said
9 a district lacks contiguity when a part is
10 isolated from the rest of the territory of
11 another district or when the lands mutually
12 touch only at the common corner, or right
13 angle.

14 In our map-drawing application, our
15 check integrity functionality will evaluate
16 the districts that you've created in your map
17 and identify if any are not contiguous.

18 Moving on, the last two Constitutional
19 standards allow me to speak to a new concept
20 I'd like to introduce, called functional
21 analysis.

22 Last decade, the Court said a
23 functional analysis can be conducted to ensure
24 the standard is met, which states, we must not
25 deny or diminish a racial or language minority

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1 group's ability to elect a candidate of their
2 choice.

3 This functional analysis is conducted
4 by analyzing registered voters, voter turnout,
5 and election results for a given district.

6 Let me be clear. This elections data
7 is not used on the front end to draw districts
8 but as an analysis tool on the back end to
9 ensure that a district drawn based on
10 population, and that protects the racial or
11 language minority, as we are required to do.
12 Using elections data on the front end of the
13 map-drawing process could inherently violate
14 the other Tier One standard listed here that
15 prohibit us from favoring or disfavoring a
16 political party or incumbent.

17 This functional analysis data is being
18 made available as a part of the report's
19 functionality of our map drawing application.
20 And with that, I'd like to ask Jason to walk
21 through these examples and demonstrate the
22 functionality of our application.

23 MR. BRADY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Okay. So here you can see, we are already in
25 the map-drawing software. As the chairman

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1 mentioned, any member who was not able to join
2 us for the Legislature University that we had
3 to walk through some of the basic functions of
4 the website, including how to log in and begin
5 to navigate the map, I encourage you to go
6 watch that.

7 We also have a lot of great tutorial
8 videos on the website that can help you walk
9 through some of that stuff. We'd be happy to
10 answer some questions, too, but today, we're
11 going to kind of move past that and talk about
12 some of the more advanced functionality within
13 the software that'll help us evaluate these
14 districts and stick to the standards that the
15 Chair just walked through very well.

16 So the first functionality that I'm
17 going to walk through is in this sidebar over
18 here, this little button with the arrow, you
19 can click, and it's going to pop out what we
20 call the reference layers.

21 And these reference layers include the
22 currently enacted district lines, primary and
23 secondary roads, railroads, cities, counties,
24 and even hydrology to look at rivers and
25 things like that. So we'll zoom in and

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1 demonstrate some of that for you. We'll kind
2 of go into the Tallahassee area.

3 So if I go through here, turn them, you
4 can see if I turn on the Senate district
5 lines, I'm going to actually turn off the fill
6 there -- you'll start to see some lines. You
7 see these green lines just kind of pop up.
8 These are the House districts that just popped
9 in, and then the Congressional lines, which
10 you can't see, because I have the
11 Congressional map open, they're red that kind
12 of display over the other lines. So those are
13 good reference points to use as you're
14 drawing.

15 Another helpful one is called primary
16 and secondary roads as defined by the U.S.
17 Census Bureau. These are interstates, state
18 roads, county roads, and we can use these on
19 the tool so as you're drawing your districts,
20 you can try to stick to those -- those lines a
21 little bit more than maybe some other roads
22 where you can. But this is a good tool to
23 help display that.

24 I'm going to switch our base map real
25 quick, so make the next one a little bit

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1 easier to see. So you can see with the base
2 maps, I just changed real quick, and I'm now
3 on a satellite view. Here, I'm actually going
4 to turn on this light gray canvas, and I'm
5 going to turn on railroads. You can see these
6 orange lines pop up. You can see them all
7 throughout the state.

8 So these are the railroads through our
9 state. We can use those to try to find some
10 district lines.

11 Another one that's really interesting
12 is the cities. If I turn these on, this
13 illuminates all 412 incorporated
14 municipalities that we have here in Florida,
15 and you can see -- I zoom in here, you can see
16 them all illuminated, and you can see where
17 their boundaries are.

18 And kind of used in tandem with this is
19 our identify tool, which is down here on this
20 tab here. If I identify from or place -- and
21 click on this little identify button here, and
22 I can click on, say, the City of Tallahassee,
23 and it illuminates entirely, and it shows all
24 the statistics for the City of Tallahassee
25 over here on the side.

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1 You can see how all the racial
2 breakdowns and everything else, and if I
3 scroll all the way to the bottom, you can see
4 the total population. So you can see that for
5 any of the geography layers that you see here
6 with the exception of the roads and railways
7 because they're just lines. You can see the
8 population for all of those things throughout
9 the map as we're drawing.

10 Now, what's really interesting is you
11 can actually use this identify feature, as
12 I've identified the entire city of Tallahassee
13 there. If I wanted to, say, assign that to a
14 district, I could select an active district,
15 and I can use this, and I can say assign to --
16 and then the entire territory of Tallahassee
17 is now a part of (audio breaks up) you'll see
18 that. A little tough to see here.

19 So that is a way to help draw the
20 district there. So moving on, that's kind of
21 a way of how to use the identify tool, and as
22 you can see, as I zoom in, as we showed
23 before, you can see all the way down to the
24 block level. You can zoom out and see all the
25 different types of geography. That's just a

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1 way of helping identify the different layers
2 throughout the map.

3 So the next test that we have in here
4 is the compactness test. This is a button
5 here on the review tab that'll open up a
6 separate pop-up window that'll have all of the
7 compactness tests that the Chair talked about
8 before run by district. And this is a
9 separate pop-up window that can be refreshed
10 as you draw, and you can see them and how the
11 scores change as you're drawing districts.

12 So you can see here the Reock test, the
13 Convex Hull test, and the Polsby Popper test.
14 So it's doing all the math of all those
15 circles and polygons that everyone kind of
16 panicked about earlier. It's doing all of
17 that behind the scenes. So you don't actually
18 have to see in all that, but here are the
19 ratios.

20 And you see as you get closer to 1 that
21 is a better score, but looking at them in
22 tandem because they do test different things
23 as far as compactness is the right way to look
24 at that. Don't look at it in isolation or try
25 to achieve something (audio breaks up) score

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1 because you have to look at it in context of
2 everything else. But that is a great tool to
3 help as you're drawing.

4 And you can actually get that same
5 district compactness report as a PDF or an
6 Excel, if you wanted to export that and keep
7 that (audio breaks up) in a separate pop-up.

8 Also in the review tab, we have the
9 check integrity button, which will help --
10 although these tests are not required to
11 submit a map, it will help evaluate your map
12 and maybe identify some places in the map as
13 you're drawing to -- that you might want to
14 change and -- before you submit or as you're
15 drawing.

16 The last one I'm going to draw your
17 attention to is the connectivity check, which
18 is the test that tests for contiguity. If I
19 click on here, you can see District 1 has two
20 parts because it has the one part that's over
21 here, and then it has the second part, that
22 one little block that I assigned over there
23 before in Tallahassee.

24 So that'll help you figure out that
25 you've accidentally created two separate parts

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1 for a district.

2 And it has different tests, too, again,
3 none of them are required, but they will help
4 you elevator your map as you're drawing it.

5 The next thing I want to highlight is
6 the rest of our reports that you see here.
7 The top one that's called VAP summary is a
8 very powerful report. It has the voting age
9 population statistics default selected to it,
10 but you can select any of these fields in any
11 of these folders that you see available here,
12 the last of which is the elections data that
13 the Chair referred to for our functional
14 analysis.

15 And as you can see here, as I open up
16 these folders, you can see we have elections
17 data. This is the registered voter data for
18 the general election in 2020, '18, going all
19 the way back to 2012. And then we have the
20 voter turnout information available for all of
21 the same elections and the election results
22 also available for all of the statewide
23 elections throughout those same years.

24 And you can select any fields you want,
25 add them to the report, and export them. If

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1 you select PDF, you can only do ten fields at
2 a time because that limits the width of a
3 piece of paper, basically, for printing
4 purposes. If you want more than that, it's
5 select Excel and HTML, and you could select
6 the entire list if you wanted and export it
7 for the map that you drew to do the proper
8 functional analysis for whatever datapoints
9 happen to be necessary for that particular
10 evaluation. So all of that is available to
11 everyone.

12 Next tool I want to show in the reports
13 is in this metes and bounds category at the
14 end. It is a report that we call the boundary
15 analysis, which helps quantify the political
16 and geographic boundary and following what
17 boundaries the districts is following.

18 As you can see, we have all of these
19 reference layers built into the programs, and
20 we have the program is helping us come up with
21 a ratio of how many -- how much of our
22 district is following those particular layers.

23 The report does take a few minutes to
24 load because it is kind of intense. So I've
25 taken the liberty of producing one separately,

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1 and you can see here -- and then it pops up in
2 the web browser as an HTML, but to make a
3 little easier to read here, pops into that PDF
4 so you can see.

5 So for every district, it comes up with
6 a percentage. So for city, that's the
7 percentage that the district follows city
8 lines, for county lines, it's the percentage
9 there, for road, and that's just primary and
10 secondary roads that we referred to earlier in
11 that layer.

12 Here's water. So any rivers or
13 coastlines or lakes that the district lines
14 happen to follow. Here's railways. And then
15 here is the remainder of the district that
16 does not follow any of those particular
17 things.

18 This is another tool like compactness
19 scores, there is no perfect score. Every
20 district has to be looked at individually.
21 There might be a reason why a district doesn't
22 follow some of those particular boundary lines
23 in certain areas, particularly in the context
24 of a Congressional map, where we have to
25 achieve population equality do closely.

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1 So just keep that in mind that it is a
2 good tool to evaluate a district or its
3 neighboring districts as you're drawing
4 because sometimes improving the score in one
5 district negatively impacts the districts of
6 all the districts surrounding it. So it is
7 kind of a holistic view as you're looking at
8 everything. So keep that in mind. But it is
9 a very good tool to have to help evaluate our
10 district as we move forward.

11 And then finally, the last thing I want
12 to show you on the create tab, there is this
13 themes button here. If I bring that up,
14 that's going to bring up this little window
15 that'll let you display the statistics that
16 you see down on the bottom data grid down
17 here, so all of the Census, racial categories,
18 and total population, and it allows you to
19 color the map with them.

20 It also allows you to turn on labels.
21 So all of the Census geographies will have
22 labels of whatever you've selected. So for
23 this particular example, I'm just going to use
24 total population. Have the color areas, and
25 you can see I'm going to turn on the label.

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1 So if I click update, everything will turn on.
2 And if I zoom out to the county level, you can
3 see that what is being displayed is the
4 coloration. So if you're red, you're a
5 smaller county. If you're green, you're a
6 bigger county. And the different ranges
7 there.

8 And you can see the colors throughout
9 the map. Actually, if I turn off the district
10 fills, you can see the colors even more and
11 all the labels associated with them. If I go
12 down here to South Florida, you can see Miami-
13 Dade, Broward County, obviously, are big
14 counties, so they're more green.

15 As I zoom and other geographies begin
16 to display -- so we're no longer on
17 counties -- currently, we're on the track
18 level, which is a county subdivision. So you
19 can see certain parts of the county are not
20 very populated, but -- I'm going to turn off
21 the cities so you can see all the other ones.
22 Other parts of the countries are more
23 populated.

24 And as I further zoom in, the smaller
25 and smaller pieces of geography start to

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1 display. And if I get down far enough, you
2 can start to see the labels pop on for even
3 the tiniest of blocks. So you can see the
4 total population in all of these little, tiny
5 blocks.

6 And you can use -- you can change this
7 from universe to the VAP categories. So you
8 can change them to any of the other statistics
9 that are available down on the data grid
10 below. And that's it.

11 CHAIR SIROIS: All right. Thank you
12 very much for the presentation.
13 Representative Joseph, did you have a
14 question?

15 MS. JOSEPH: Is it possible to identify
16 language minorities in addition to racial
17 minorities? And if so, like, how do you do
18 that on the map?

19 MR. BRADY: So the statistical
20 categories are available below are the ones
21 that come from the United States Census
22 Bureau. So they are single race White, non-
23 Hispanic Black, Hispanic-Black, which is the
24 combination of someone who has selected both,
25 Hispanic not Black, all other population, and

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1 then due to Owenby (phonetic) guidance, the
2 combination of everyone that has selected
3 Black or everyone that has selected Hispanic.

4 MS. JOSEPH: So that doesn't quite get
5 to my question. I guess the reason I'm asking
6 is I know this was the first time the Census
7 also took into account national origin, which
8 can be used as a proxy for the language
9 minorities, which is one of the legal criteria
10 that we can look at.

11 So are you saying that that does not
12 exist in the current program, or I just don't
13 know how to look for it?

14 MR. BRADY: I can talk to you further
15 about that offline. So some of the language
16 minority categories are a part of the American
17 Communities Survey, which is not part of the
18 normal Census questionnaire form. So they're
19 not part of the data statistics that we
20 currently have available.

21 MS. JOSEPH: Right, but the national
22 origin is. Like, say, for example, if
23 somebody was from Haiti, right, that would be
24 a language minority and national origin that
25 would happen to correlate, and that data,

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1 supposedly, was collected from the Census this
2 time. Well, we can talk offline.

3 MR. BRADY: Yeah, we can talk offline
4 and talk about that and how the Census
5 compiles that data and delivers it in -- as
6 part of the redistricting data that we get.
7 We can talk about those category breakdowns
8 and how they categorize some of those
9 questions and roll them up before they send
10 them into the redistricting data that every
11 state gets.

12 MS. JOSEPH: Perfect. And then follow-
13 up question, Mr. Chair?

14 CHAIR SIROIS: You're recognized.

15 MS. JOSEPH: So going back to the other
16 slide where you pulled the report when you
17 showed us that we could pull it either as an
18 HTML or a PDF, is there a way to extract that
19 data either as a (inaudible) file or Excel
20 spreadsheet or something where you can, like,
21 play with the data a little bit more?

22 MR. BRADY: You're talking about the
23 boundary analysis report?

24 MS. JOSEPH: That, yes. And also, if
25 you pull -- if you -- let's say you went ahead

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1 and drew a map, right, and then you want to
2 pull the data from that, are you able to
3 export that, and if so, how?

4 MR. BRADY: Yeah, so the boundary
5 analysis report displays as the HTML or PDF,
6 but you could -- from the HTML, you could
7 highlight and copy it down all you want. The
8 remaining statistics in the -- if you click on
9 the VAP summary report, and if I click on the
10 Excel version of that and I can click on any
11 of these categories I want -- because if you
12 click on Excel, you can literally select as
13 many as you want.

14 And you can then -- then when you click
15 okay, it downloads an Excel file to your
16 computer. You can also email that file to
17 yourself, and that is in Excel that you can
18 manipulate all you want.

19 MS. JOSEPH: Okay. And then, from that
20 report, separate from the report, is that the
21 same thing as -- okay, let's say somebody drew
22 a map, right? They picked maybe three maps
23 they want to play with. Are you able to
24 download that data in the same way?

25 MR. BRADY: I'm sorry. I'm not sure if

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1 I completely -- so you can export the actual
2 districts. So you can load them in a
3 different program. That's a different thing
4 than the reports. But any of the data points
5 that are available in the application, you can
6 download as an Excel through the VAP summary
7 report, and you'll get a percentage and the
8 raw total for all the districts that you've
9 drawn.

10 And then get all of the data points,
11 but you could separately export the KMZ or the
12 text file, which will just have the districts.
13 It won't have the data associated with them
14 because that's just the district boundaries
15 that can then be loaded into any other
16 program. But you could get either one either
17 through the reports or through the export
18 functions.

19 MS. JOSEPH: Okay. So --

20 CHAIR SIROIS: I'm sorry,
21 Representative. Do you have another question?

22 MS. JOSEPH: Yeah, follow-up, Mr.
23 Chair. So just making sure I understand. So
24 forget the reports for a second. Just
25 downloading the data to be exported into a

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1 separate program, can you show me or show us
2 how or where to do that? That's the part I
3 don't think I follow.

4 MR. BRADY: Mr. Chair?

5 CHAIR SIROIS: (Inaudible).

6 MR. BRADY: Sure. So there's two
7 different things we're talking about here. So
8 you're talking about the data that is
9 associated with the districts. You can get
10 that through the VAP summary report in an
11 Excel that you can download.

12 MS. JOSEPH: Okay.

13 MR. BRADY: The district boundaries and
14 how they're defined, you can get that through
15 the -- I'm sorry, through the -- the file
16 (audio breaks up), a fixed text file format or
17 a shape file that can then be loaded (audio
18 breaks up).

19 MS. JOSEPH: -- underlying data. That
20 would have to come from the report.

21 MR. BRADY: Yes.

22 MS. JOSEPH: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair.

24 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you,
25 Representative, for the questions, and I would

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1 point out, too, that this is exactly what this
2 process is for right now are those kinds of
3 questions to build the foundational knowledge
4 that will allow us to move forward. So I
5 appreciate your questions.

6 Representative Toledo for questions.

7 MS. TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair, and
8 thank you for the presentation. Can we
9 overlay the different submitted maps?

10 CHAIR SIROIS: Mr. Brady (phonetic),
11 you're recognized.

12 MR. BRADY: Yes, any of the submitted
13 maps that you see on the website, you can
14 download the .plan file and load them into
15 this program. And you can -- or you could
16 load them in a text format, as well. You can
17 import them as that. But those are the two
18 different file types that you can import into
19 our program.

20 But any of the submitted maps, publicly
21 or otherwise, can be opened in our program.

22 CHAIR SIROIS: Recognized for a follow-
23 up.

24 MS. TOLEDO: Thank you. Is there a
25 limit on how many we can overlay, or can you

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1 open all of them?

2 MR. BRADY: I'm sorry, ma'am. At one
3 time?

4 MS. TOLEDO: That's right. So if we
5 wanted to just look at all the different
6 boundaries and see if there's any trends in,
7 like, the different submitted maps.

8 CHAIR SIROIS: You're recognized.

9 MR. BRADY: So there is a function here
10 in the review tab that is a plan comparison
11 function that allows you to compare two
12 different plans at once.

13 So you could compare two different
14 boundaries at one time, but to do more than
15 that, you'd have to load one at a time. But
16 you're able to load as many as you want
17 individually, kind of like opening a Word
18 document or something like that.

19 But it does have a capability to
20 compare two different plans at once.

21 CHAIR SIROIS: Other questions?
22 Ranking Member?

23 MS. SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Will there be additional Legislature
25 University classes for some of these in-depth

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1 questions that our members have in terms of
2 being able to access the functionality a
3 little bit better?

4 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you very much for
5 the question. I think that's an ongoing
6 discussion. You know, I would encourage
7 members to continue to explore the application
8 to bring questions forward in the committee
9 setting. I think this is the perfect place
10 where we all have the opportunity to learn
11 from each other through good questions.

12 And I think if there's a need, please
13 feel free to discuss it with me, and I'd be
14 happy to address it.

15 Any other questions? Ranking Member,
16 did you have any comments before we conclude
17 our session today?

18 MS. SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Yes, I just wanted to -- to make a few
20 comments. And first, thank you and Chair Leek
21 for commenting on the news article that we all
22 read that raised some serious concerns, and we
23 definitely appreciate the response and the
24 openness in which you took to explain all of
25 those pieces to us.

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1 We are committed, as I said before, to
2 open access to the public and request, again,
3 for an opportunity for the public to
4 participate. Notwithstanding the fact that we
5 have a lot of room in the committee today, as
6 we move forward, I think this is going to be
7 an issue that the public cares deeply about.

8 And so we would request that using the
9 technology that is available to us, create
10 opportunities for people to participate, and
11 potentially access points at libraries or
12 wherever for those who don't have the ability
13 to participate fully because they don't have
14 the equipment or the access.

15 So we want as fair a process as
16 possible. I appreciate all of the openness
17 that you've shown to us to our members so far,
18 and there are a couple of our members who are
19 concerned about using bill slots, you know, to
20 submit maps.

21 Based on the -- how technical the map-
22 drawing process is, I'm not sure everyone
23 would want to. But to the extent that you can
24 share those concerns with Chair Leek and
25 Speaker Sprowls that if there's an opportunity

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1 at the beginning of session to modify the
2 rules before, you know, that gives us an
3 opportunity to submit maps without using a
4 bill slot, that has been a concern of some of
5 our members.

6 And the last thing is that while I
7 completely appreciate that the maps are being
8 submitted already and that there's a public
9 input portal, just want to ensure that the
10 public information that's being submitted is
11 actually being read and reviewed at the very
12 least by staff or that we -- obviously, we all
13 have an opportunity as individuals to go in
14 there and look at it at our own pace.

15 But just wanting to make sure that
16 staff who are very engaged and involved in
17 this process are also looking at what the
18 public is putting on the website and wishing
19 to be seen. Thank you very much for the
20 opportunity, Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIR SIROIS: And thank you, Ranking
22 Member. A couple of comments, if I may.
23 First of all, I think it's important for
24 members to know, you know, you and I are
25 speaking, and I value your friendship and what

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1 you have to add, your perspective, to this
2 process. I was excited when I learned of your
3 appointment at Ranking Member to have the
4 opportunity to work with you in this capacity.

5 As far as public input goes, you know,
6 I can assure members that those conversations
7 are continuing. And I think one of the things
8 that we have the benefit from is an
9 environment with our technology where people
10 can reach us and can make that available to
11 us.

12 This website is phenomenal. I think we
13 can all agree that the resource that it offers
14 to the residents of our state and to this
15 legislature is going to be something that I
16 think we can all be very proud of moving
17 forward.

18 On the subject of bill slots -- and I
19 know that that's a conversation that
20 Representative Geller, Ranking Member Geller,
21 on the larger redistricting committee has as a
22 priority as well.

23 What I will remind members is a couple
24 of things. First of all, for us to go back
25 and -- or for us to change the rules in order

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1 to do something with the number of available
2 bill slots, we would have to do that during
3 session. And I would remind members that we
4 also recently had the number of our bills --
5 available bill slot increased to seven. So
6 keep that in mind.

7 The other thing that you should keep in
8 mind is that there's an unlimited number of
9 amendments that you can offer as this process
10 moves forward. So I would use that as a tool
11 in your thinking as you're contemplating maps,
12 as you're reviewing different ideas and
13 options, use that amendatory process (audio
14 breaks up) committee.

15 The other thing that I would like to
16 just comment on very briefly is review of
17 (audio breaks up) perspective and
18 encouragement of all committee members to take
19 a look at the maps that our fellow Floridians
20 are submitting through our portal because
21 there's something -- if somebody's taken the
22 time to do that and create a submission to
23 send into the legislature, you should take a
24 look at it.

25 But also, how cool is it to see our

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1 fellow citizens taking advantage of these
2 resources that we've put at their
3 fingerprints. So I would encourage you to
4 take the time to do that.

5 I most certainly will share your
6 concerns and look forward to continuing to
7 work with you throughout this process.

8 We'll now move into public comments.
9 Are there any members of the public that would
10 like to -- we have no speaker cards. Are
11 there any members of the public that would
12 like to share some thoughts with us this
13 afternoon? Ma'am, you sure? You look like
14 you've got something to say.

15 Members, I know that this is a lot of
16 information to take in, and I've said before,
17 and I'll say it again, redistricting is not an
18 easy task. Understanding the foundational
19 concepts that underly the maps that we'll be
20 voting on is a critical initial step.

21 I appreciate the seriousness and the
22 good questions and the dedication that you
23 bring to this committee. Hearing no further
24 public comments -- Representative Joseph?
25 Yes. You're recognized.

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1 MS. JOSEPH: Awesome. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. The only question I have is -- because
3 I don't sit on the larger redistricting
4 committee. Other than the website, is there
5 another mechanism contemplated for public
6 participation?

7 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you for the
8 question. You know, we have -- we have the
9 website that's available. We're looking at
10 other options in terms of public input. We
11 certainly have different means of technology
12 available to us. We have the public input
13 process that is here available during our
14 committee schedule.

15 I know that Representative Geller and
16 Chair Leek discussed in the big committee
17 yesterday some different options in terms of
18 public input. I know those discussions are
19 ongoing. So I hope to have some more
20 information to be able to provide you at our
21 next committee meeting.

22 MS. JOSEPH: Thank you.

23 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you for the
24 question. Members, any other comments,
25 questions? Vice Chair? All right. Thank you

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1 very much. Representative Toledo moves we
2 adjourn.

3 (End of Video Recording.)
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I, Wendy Sawyer, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and transcribed the foregoing recorded proceedings, and that the transcript is a true record, to the best of my ability.

DATED this 8th day of March, 2023.



WENDY SAWYER, CDLT

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