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Common Cause, et al.)
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v.) 4:22-cv-109
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Cord Byrd)
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TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO FILE
House Congressional
Redistricting Subcommittee
The Florida Channel
September 23, 2021

DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 812
Washington, D.C. 20036
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1 (Beginning of Video Recording.)

2 CHAIR SIROIS: The Congressional
3 Redistricting Subcommittee will come to order.
4 Kyle, please call the role.

5 MR. LANGAN: Chair Sirois?

6 CHAIR SIROIS: Here.

7 MR. LANGAN: Vice Chair Tuck?

8 VICE CHAIR TUCK: Here.

9 MR. LANGAN: Ranking Member Skidmore?

10 RANKING MEMBER SKIDMORE: Here.

11 MR. LANGAN: Representatives Beltran?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BELTRAN: Here.

13 MR. LANGAN: Benjamin?

14 REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN: Here.

15 MR. LANGAN: Brown? Brown? Fabricio?

16 REPRESENTATIVE FABRICIO: Here.

17 MR. LANGAN: Fetterhoff?

18 REPRESENTATIVE FETTERHOFF: Here.

19 MR. LANGAN: Fischer?

20 REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER: Here.

21 MR. LANGAN: Giallombardo?

22 REPRESENTATIVE GIALLOMBARDO: Here.

23 MR. LANGAN: Harding?

24 REPRESENTATIVE HARDING: Here.

25 MR. LANGAN: Hunschofsky?

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1 REPRESENTATIVE HUNSCHOFSKY: Here.

2 MR. LANGAN: Joseph? Joseph?

3 Massullo?

4 REPRESENTATIVE MASSULLO: Here.

5 MR. LANGAN: Morales?

6 REPRESENTATIVE MORALES: Present.

7 MR. LANGAN: Perez?

8 REPRESENTATIVE PEREZ: Here.

9 MR. LANGAN: Plakon?

10 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Here.

11 MR. LANGAN: Silvers, excused. Toledo?

12 REPRESENTATIVE TOLEDO: Here.

13 MR. LANGAN: Trabulsy?

14 REPRESENTATIVE TRABULSY: Here.

15 MR. LANGAN: Williamson?

16 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMSON: Here.

17 MR. LANGAN: Quorum is present, Mr.

18 Chair.

19 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you very much,

20 Kyle. Members, good morning. A few reminders

21 before we begin. Please silence all

22 electronic devices. And if you wish to make a

23 public comment and did not fill out a form

24 online before the meeting, please fill out a

25 form now and turn it into the Sergeant Staff.

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1 Also, as a reminder for our members and
2 presenters, please ensure that you turn off--
3 or turn on your microphone when you're
4 speaking and turn it off when you are
5 finished.

6 Members, redistricting is a once in a
7 decade process. I am honored that Speaker
8 Sprowls and Chair Leek have entrusted me with
9 this responsibility to serve as Chair of the
10 Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee, and
11 I look forward to working with each of you
12 throughout this process. I would like to
13 first and foremost thank Vice Chair Tuck and
14 Ranking Member Skidmore, who will be my
15 partners in spearheading this process. So, I
16 look forward to working with you both.

17 I would now like to introduce our
18 redistricting staff. Jason Poreda is our
19 Chief Map Drawer, Karen Dearden is our
20 External Affairs Chief, and Kyle Langan is our
21 Policy Analyst. We have a few additional team
22 members that are at the other subcommittee
23 meeting this morning, and they include Staff
24 Director Leda Kelly, Policy Analyst Sam
25 Wagner, and DJ Ellerkamp, our Administrative

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1 Assistant.

2 As you look around at your fellow
3 committee members, and those of the
4 redistricting committee, and our other
5 subcommittee, you will realize that we have
6 over 50 percent of The House -- that's 62
7 members -- involved in this committee process.
8 We also have all four corners of the state
9 represented, all the way from the Panhandle,
10 to Northeast Florida, to the I-4 corridor, and
11 to South Florida and the Keys, with urban and
12 rural areas represented.

13 Members, Chair Leek gave a similar
14 educational presentation during yesterday's
15 big Redistricting Committee. I will be
16 presenting some similar information today,
17 because I feel it's important to ensure all of
18 our committee have the same foundational
19 knowledge as we move forward in this process.
20 And on a personal note, I would like to add
21 this is my first chairmanship, so please bear
22 with me if there's any bumps and bruises along
23 the way.

24 The last time we met on The House Map
25 was 2012. Fast forward 10 years, and the vast

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1 majority of the House of Representatives is
2 new to redistricting, including myself. So, I
3 want to start by giving some context. While
4 The House Map was constitutionally upheld in
5 2012, there were successful court challenges
6 to both the Congressional Plan and the Senate
7 Plan throughout the subsequent years.

8 It is important to remember that during
9 the 2012 redistricting cycle, the members and
10 staff were implementing two brand-new,
11 substantial constitutional amendments. They
12 did not have the benefit of historical
13 reference to court precedent to guide them
14 through their process, however we do.

15 The Speaker and Chair Leek have made it
16 consistently and abundantly clear that the
17 House of Representatives will conduct this
18 process in compliance with the Florida
19 Constitution and relevant federal and state
20 legal standards, including relevant court
21 precedent.

22 Now, I want to point out that only five
23 members in our entire chamber were part of the
24 last redistricting cycle, and only three of
25 them were with the House of Representatives.

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1 That creates a noteworthy responsibility for
2 our committee to undertake a thorough
3 educational effort, to ensure that everyone
4 has the understanding that they need to be
5 able to propose, analyze, and most
6 importantly, vote on legally compliant
7 boundaries.

8 Throughout our initial committee
9 meetings this fall, we're going to build this
10 foundational knowledge for members of the
11 committees, including such things at the
12 methodologies that guide how we draw and
13 analyze districts, and the related policy
14 decisions that we will face as we draw and
15 debate boundary lines. And that -- that time
16 will come.

17 The Subcommittee's first lesson begins
18 today, with an explanation of redistricting
19 terminology and an overview of the United
20 States Census Bureau. We will also
21 demonstrate for you the new website that was
22 launched yesterday, that contains important
23 resources for you and your constituents. And
24 that website is FloridaRedisctracting.gov.

25 In subsequent -- in subsequent

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1 committee weeks, we will train members in our
2 map drawing software. This training will
3 teach members how to use the software to draw
4 districts, how to use the reporting tools to
5 analyze what you drew, and how to activate
6 advanced tools within the software to make
7 drawing as efficient as possible.

8 We will also provide members with an
9 understanding of the legal landscape
10 surrounding redistricting. This landscape
11 will be true to established law, not third-
12 party interpretation. And then, once that
13 foundational understanding is established
14 across our committees, we will begin
15 workshopping maps.

16 It is critical for members to
17 understand how these activities and decisions
18 points may interact with one another, and how
19 they should be weighted when considering where
20 boundary lines are placed. Without proper
21 context for members to understand the issues
22 and standards, we are not properly preparing
23 ourselves to take votes on compliant district
24 lines. Redistricting is a precise and
25 technical process, and creating this framework

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1 is also consistent with Speaker Sprowls'
2 approach of education, training, and
3 preparation.

4 Before we get into the substance of
5 today's meeting, I want to address a couple of
6 additional items. Members, first let's talk
7 about record retention. The House of
8 Representatives continues to urge all members
9 to retain all records related to
10 redistricting.

11 These records can include documents and
12 correspondence, including emails and texts,
13 regardless of whether they were sent or
14 received on your public or personal devices,
15 or accounts. The House also continues to urge
16 all members to avoid private conversations
17 about redistricting with individuals who have
18 a vested interest in the outcome of this
19 process, and to keep their comments about the
20 redistricting process in alignment with the
21 constitutional standards that apply to
22 redistricting plans. If you have any
23 questions regarding this process or this
24 guidance, please reach out to the House
25 General Counsel's Office.

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1 Next, I want to address committee
2 procedures. While the redistricting subject
3 matter may be new to many of you, the filing
4 of bills and amendments will follow
5 traditional House procedures we are all
6 familiar with. If you wish to submit a map as
7 a bill, it will count towards your bill
8 allotment, and you are subject to the
9 submission and filing deadlines.

10 If you wish to amend a Committee work
11 product or another member's bill, those
12 amendments will be heard through the standard
13 committee process and are subject to the same
14 respective deadlines. As members of our
15 Subcommittee, we will propose and analyze maps
16 in our committee of jurisdiction. And we will
17 then pass those maps on to the full
18 Redistricting Committee for consideration.

19 Members, the last thing I will touch on
20 is expectations for map submissions. As I
21 have mentioned, the House of Representatives
22 expects transparency in how input for our work
23 product is received, reviewed, and considered.
24 You should not be naïve to the fact that
25 external entities and individuals want to

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1 influence this process in a way that may not
2 be compliant with the law.

3 Similar to the House of Representatives
4 high standards for lobbyist disclosures, the
5 goal of transparency is to bring awareness to
6 the process of individuals who may be trying
7 to assert their undue influence into our
8 process.

9 If you choose to submit a map as a part
10 of this redistricting process, you should be
11 prepared to disclose any and all individuals
12 who assisted you in creating the map.

13 Similarly, submissions by members of the
14 public will be accompanied by a form inquiring
15 about groups or individuals with whom they
16 collaborated, and whether any form of
17 compensation was received and returned for
18 comments and submissions.

19 The work we have ahead of us is
20 exciting, but we cannot overlook the gravity
21 of what we are charged to do, it is quite an
22 undertaking. This important work occurs every
23 ten years, and it's worth noting that the
24 legislature only has two constitutional
25 obligations, to pass a budget and to

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1 redistrict. And we should all be honored to
2 carry out this responsibility and I look
3 forward to working with you all in the task
4 ahead, to produce legally compliant maps that
5 will well serve the people of Florida.

6 I would like to pause here for any
7 initial questions. If there are no questions,
8 we will move into our presentation. All
9 right, let's get to it.

10 Members, what we're covering today are
11 the initial foundations for everything that we
12 will discuss in this committee. During
13 today's presentation, we're going to cover
14 some of the basic terminology that you will
15 hear repeatedly over the next several months.

16 We will provide everyone with
17 background on the United States Census
18 Bureau's role in the redistricting process,
19 including where our data comes from. We will
20 discuss results of the 2020 Census, and what
21 Florida looks like today, as well as be able
22 to show you our very recently launched
23 redistricting website.

24 So, what is redistricting? Why are we
25 doing it now? And what are we required to do?

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1 This slide will cover some terminology that
2 are commonly used, and they are
3 interchangeable, but there are some important
4 distinctions that I would like to point out
5 between reapportionment and redistricting.
6 Reapportionment, or apportionment, is the
7 process of redistributing districts of a
8 legislative body within a particular
9 jurisdiction.

10 Most commonly, this is the process used
11 to established how many seats there -- there
12 are in the United States House of
13 Representatives for each of the 50 states.
14 Redistricting is the process of drawing
15 district boundaries, usually after a Decennial
16 Census, to ensure that each district has equal
17 population.

18 The applicable federal law, we have
19 Article 1, Section 3 of the United States
20 Constitution, often referred to as the
21 Elections Clause of the Constitution, and it's
22 what gives authority for redistricting to each
23 of the state's legislatures. The 14th
24 Amendment is the Equal Protection Clause, and
25 it has been interpreted to mean substantial

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1 equality of population among districts.

2 Now, members, when talking about
3 Congressional Districts, this means that the
4 population of each district that we will
5 achieve will be plus or minus one person.
6 This is different from state Legislative
7 Districts where there is a general standard of
8 a 10 percent population deviation range that
9 the courts have deemed to be accept-- an
10 acceptable range. We will go into this in a
11 bit more detail in a few minutes. Section 2
12 of the Voting Rights Act establishes
13 protections for majority/minority districts.

14 Continuing on our discussion of federal
15 law, Article 3, Section 16 of the Florida
16 Constitution establishes that -- the overall
17 timeline and gives authority for legislative
18 redistricting in Florida to the legislature.
19 It also have some very basic standards that we
20 must follow. The Florida Constitution does
21 not dictate a timeline for redistricting
22 congressional boundaries.

23 As a matter of tradition and
24 efficiency, the legislature undertakes both
25 the state legislative and congressional

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1 redistricting at the same time. State
2 legislative boundaries are passed as a joint
3 resolution. The congressional boundaries that
4 our Subcommittee will work on are passed as a
5 bill. This means congressional maps go
6 directly to the governor for signature, like
7 any other bill, whereas House and Senate maps
8 undergo a Florida Supreme Court review. We
9 will discuss this process further in a few
10 slides.

11 Continuing on Florida law, Article 3,
12 Sections 20 and 21 of the Florida Constitution
13 were added in 2010, and the bottom line is
14 this. These two articles -- these two
15 sections, excuse me, are part of the Florida
16 Constitution, and like with any other part of
17 the Constitution, we have made an oath to
18 follow them.

19 Members, I want to underscore that,
20 it's very important. I want this Committee to
21 be fully engaged, aware, and educated. And
22 it's important to understand not only
23 redistricting on a conceptual level, but the
24 context of the legal guideposts, such as our
25 constitutional standards that we must follow.

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1 Within our first couple of interim
2 committee meetings, we will thoroughly examine
3 these standards. This decade, we have added
4 the benefit of hist-- we have the added
5 benefit of history and court precedent,
6 something that the prior members dec-- the
7 prior decade's members and staff did not. So,
8 we have a better understanding today than the
9 legislature did ten years ago about how we
10 implement these standards.

11 So, let's take a look at the standards.
12 The Florida Supreme Court has made it clear
13 that these -- that the standards for
14 redistricting have two distinct tiers, and I
15 would like to take a moment to read the Tier 1
16 and Tier 2 standards to you.

17 Under Tier 1, no apportionment plan or
18 individual district shall be drawn with the
19 intent to favor or disfavor a political party
20 or incumbent. Districts shall not be drawn
21 with the intent or result of denying or
22 abridging the equal opportunity of racial or
23 language minorities to participate in the
24 political process, or diminish their ability
25 to elect -- or to elect representatives of

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1 their choice. Districts shall consist-- shall
2 consist, excuse me, of continuous territory.

3 Under our Tier 2 standards, districts
4 shall be nearly equal in population as is
5 practical, districts shall be compact,
6 districts where feasible will utilize existing
7 political and geographic boundaries. Tier 1
8 prohibits favoring or disfavoring any
9 political party or incumbent, Tier 1 protects
10 racial and language minority group's ability
11 to elect candidates of their choice using
12 language -- language similar to what is in
13 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Excuse me
14 for one moment.

15 Tier 2 provides that the districts be
16 nearly as equal in population as practical, be
17 compact, and follow existing geographical and
18 political boundaries. As was mentioned on my
19 previous slide, Tier 1 takes priority over
20 Tier 2 standards in case of a conflict. And
21 with each tier, the standards are equal
22 amongst one another.

23 Continuing on Florida law, these are
24 other statutes that are relevant to this
25 process. Chapter 8 defines the technical

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1 boundaries of Congressional Districts, Chapter
2 Ten defines the technical boundaries of State
3 Senate and House Districts, and Chapter 11 of
4 Florida Statutes provides that the Florida
5 Legislature use the latest, federal Decennial
6 Census -- statewide census for the
7 apportionment process.

8 Now, let's talk about our timeline for
9 this process. What is shown here is important
10 dates for what has already happened in this
11 process, where we are now, and the important
12 dates for what is to come in the future. As
13 you can see, we are still in the middle of
14 this process, and the bulk of our work is just
15 beginning.

16 If you look at the chart -- and I
17 apologize on the screen, it's a bit -- it's a
18 bit difficult to see here. But what we
19 anticipate is we are -- we have the data now
20 that we will need to proceed, we are on track
21 to begin our work of analyzing maps through
22 the committee process that we have during this
23 interim committee week period, and we will
24 take up work products during the Regular
25 Session.

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1 So, if you take a look at the slide --
2 and I apologize that it is a little bit
3 difficult to see -- but what we're looking at
4 now is the 2022 Regular Session, of course,
5 convenes on January 11th. And that is our
6 constitutional period to begin working on our
7 product during Session. Our goal is to have
8 things completed by the 60th day of the
9 Regular Session.

10 So, you will note on your calendar here
11 that this is all important in terms of our
12 schedule, because the candidate qualifying
13 period begins on June 13th of 2022. So, we
14 have -- that kind of -- slide kind of helps
15 you get a view of the schedule that we will
16 have moving forward.

17 Because Article 3, Section 16 of the
18 Florida Constitution states that Florida will
19 approve new districts in the second year after
20 the Decennial Census, we're still on track to
21 complete this process on time and on schedule,
22 even given the delay in the state's receiving
23 of the Census data.

24 I would like to move on now to discuss
25 the United States Census Bureau, and provide a

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1 little bit more background on how this process
2 plays in. First we'll cover some terminology.
3 The United States Census Bureau is charged
4 with conducting the Decennial Census with the
5 mission statement for the Bureau being
6 count -- I'm sorry, with the mission statement
7 for the Bureau being count everyone once, only
8 once, and in the right place for the Census.
9 The Decennial Census is the enumeration or
10 complete count of every whole person, which is
11 conducted every 10 years. Apportionment
12 counts are the number of seats of -- that each
13 of the 50 states receives in the United States
14 House of Representatives.

15 Redistricting data, this is the PL
16 data, referring to Public Law 94-171, which
17 directs the Bureau to deliver to the states
18 the product that contains summary statistics
19 on population, demographics, and housing.
20 Population counts for the total population,
21 and of the population 18 years of age and
22 over, are presented by race and by Hispanic or
23 Latino origin, and for the total group
24 quarters population by major group quarters
25 type. We will specifically explore this item

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1 in a couple of slides.

2 Continuing on federal law, Article 1,
3 Section 2 of the United States Constitution.
4 This is the section that requires the
5 Decennial Census to be conducted, and that the
6 count of whole persons be an actual
7 enumeration of those people. This means an
8 actual count of every person. Title 13
9 establishes the United States Census Bureau as
10 the agency that is to conduct the Decennial
11 Census, and requires them to provide the data
12 accurately and in a manner that protects the
13 privacy of those being counted.

14 Public Law 94-171 directs the Bureau to
15 deliver to the states the product that
16 contains summary statistics on population,
17 demographics, and housing, population counts
18 for the total population, and for the
19 population 18 years and over are presented by
20 race and by Hispanic or Latino origin. And
21 for the total group quarters, population by
22 major group quarters type.

23 So, how do -- how does the United
24 States Census Bureau conduct the Census? This
25 is a sample image of the 2020 Census form that

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1 was mailed out in the beginning of 2020. The
2 first Census was conducted in 1790 and is
3 conducted every 10 years. The Decennial
4 Census is the basis for reapportionment
5 counts, federal funding allocation, and
6 redistricting. The 2020 Census is the 24th
7 Decennial Census, and first ever to be offered
8 online. This was the first census, as I said,
9 that allowed online responses. This greatly
10 helped self-response rates, especially in
11 light of the COVID 19 panic-- pandemic, excuse
12 me.

13 Decennial Census continued. 2020
14 presented unique challenges to us all, and the
15 United States Census Bureau was no exception.
16 You can see here that the whole process to
17 conduct and tabulating the Census results were
18 reflected in 2020 -- were delayed, excuse me,
19 in 2020 due to COVID 19, wildfires,
20 hurricanes, and other factors.

21 I'm not going to walk through every
22 item on this graphic, but we included it to
23 illustrate the timeline challenges the Census
24 Bureau faced last year. Their challenges did
25 result in the delay of states receiving

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1 apportionment counts and redistricting data.
2 And while that is unfortunate, these delays
3 did not delay our timeline here in Florida.
4 We are still on track and on schedule to
5 complete our redistricting process during next
6 year's Regular Session, which is what our
7 Constitution instructs us to do despite the
8 delays from the United States Census Bureau.

9 Continuing on the Decennial Census,
10 Florida's total enumeration was consistent
11 with the national average of 99.9 percent of
12 the total households for which the Census
13 Bureau has a record for, and they were counted
14 in the 2020 Census.

15 As we also saw on the last slide, there
16 are two main phases of data collection during
17 the Census, self-response rate and non-
18 response follow up. Self-response is an
19 individual completing the Census questionnaire
20 on their own, whether by mail, phone, or
21 online.

22 Non-response follow up is the Census
23 Bureau going back into the communities, and
24 using administrative records to help complete
25 the outstanding questionnaires. So, you will

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1 sometimes here this process referred to as
2 imputation. What is reassuring is that
3 Florida's total enumeration was 99.9 percent,
4 and this means that the count here in Florida
5 was in line with the national average's
6 completeness. The self-response rate and non-
7 response follow up rates in Florida were
8 consistent with other states and with the
9 overall national average.

10 Moving on into our apportionment
11 counts. As we discussed before, Florida will
12 be getting 28 Congressional Districts, one
13 more than we had in 2010. This slide also
14 shows you the ideal population for each
15 district within each different type of map.
16 For example, the ideal population is
17 calculated by taking the 2020 population
18 divided by the number of districts in the
19 respective plan. These numbers are the
20 guideposts for our districts as we begin
21 drawing maps.

22 And members, I would like to point your
23 attention to the slide under the 22-- under
24 the 2020 count. You take the (inaudible) --
25 the statewide population and divide it by 28,

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1 and that gives us our Congressional District
2 ideal population of 769,221 persons.

3 Moving on, data from the United States
4 Census Bureau. So, now that we've talked
5 about the Census Bureau's process, let's
6 discuss the types of Census Bureau data that
7 we will specifically use for redistricting.
8 P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data is a detailed
9 population dataset, and the basis for us to
10 analyze and draw district boundaries. The go-
11 - the geography support products details the
12 geographical landscape of Florida. The two
13 buckets of data and the products work together
14 to enable our redistricting process.

15 Continuing on redistricting data,
16 Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data, or P.L.
17 data for short, is broken down into different
18 census geography layers, the smallest being
19 called blocks. This is detailed population
20 data that is grouped by total population and
21 voting age population, and is then grouped by
22 race and ethnic group.

23 This data set also contains group
24 quarters data. While this data is provided as
25 part of the redistricting data, it has minimal

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1 involvement with the redistricting process.
2 However, demographers and statisticians use
3 this data for other analysis. The same data
4 was delivered in a legacy format on August
5 12th, and the same data was then again
6 delivered officially in a more user-friendly
7 format just last week on September 16th.

8 Continuing on redistricting data, the
9 Census questionnaire asked a variety of
10 questions, however there are two that are
11 specifically important for the redistricting
12 purposes. The first is question eight, which
13 asks respondents to identify their ethnicity.
14 This results in two categories, Hispanic or
15 Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino.

16 Continuing on redistricting data,
17 question nine asks a respondent to identify
18 their race, resulting in six categories.
19 Members, you see them listed on the slide,
20 American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black
21 or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other
22 Pacific Islander, White, or other race.

23 And if you look closely at the Census
24 questionnaire, you can see how the Census
25 Bureau has provided some examples of what is

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1 contained within each of those racial
2 categories. If a respondent selects multiple
3 categories, using guidance from the United
4 States Office of Management and Budget, they
5 are counted in each racial category that they
6 selected.

7 You will see these categories again
8 from questions eight and nine as we go through
9 the software and understand the legal
10 requirements, especially surrounding the
11 protection of benchmark minority districts.

12 Now that we've talked about how the
13 population data is collected, and how people
14 can identify themselves, let's talk about
15 geography. They geography support products
16 are produced by the Census Bureau, and
17 essentially break our -- excuse me -- are
18 essentially breakdown of -- breakdown of the
19 landscape of Florida into different geographic
20 units. These units are then used to draw
21 districts.

22 Census blocks are the smallest unit of
23 geography defined by the United States Census
24 Bureau. They range in size from individual
25 parcels of land, to city blocks, to larger

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1 areas. Regardless of geographic size or
2 population, they serve as the building blocks
3 for the other units of geography. Now, we'll
4 take a closer look as the Committee works
5 through the map drawing application, and you
6 will be able to see first-hand how these units
7 of geography, and the associated population
8 counts give us a detailed picture of Florida's
9 population.

10 Now members, bear with me, I know
11 we're diving in here and it's getting a little
12 long, but we're working through it. We have
13 covered a lot of terminology and baseline
14 details, now let's take a look at some of
15 Florida's top line results from the 2020
16 Census.

17 Representative Hunschofsky, this --
18 this is the part you were looking forward to.
19 And these are some pretty -- these are some
20 pretty cool slides too. You can see Florida's
21 67 counties and which ones grew in population.
22 The darker the green indicates a greater
23 percentage change in population. The lighter
24 colored counties lost population when compared
25 to the 2010 population counts. The counties

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1 with the biggest increases were mostly in the
2 Central Florida area. Many of the more rural
3 counties in Florida lost population, which was
4 consistent with national trends.

5 Members, this slide shows the counties
6 with over 20 percent growth that we saw on the
7 previous slide. So, counties with over 20
8 percent growth include Osceola, St. Johns,
9 Sumpter, Walton, Lake, Orange, Santa Rosa,
10 Manatee, Nassau, Lee, Pasco, Flagler, and Polk
11 County.

12 Again, these are the counties with over
13 20 percent growth. On the next slide,
14 members, you will see counties that lost
15 populations, that -- from what we saw on the
16 previous slide. Those counties include Golf,
17 Hardy, Lafayette, Calhoun, Madison, Glades,
18 Gadsden, Hamilton, Jackson, Liberty, Taylor,
19 DeSoto, Jefferson, Putnam, Holmes, Okeechobee,
20 and Bradford County.

21 Members, on this slide you will see
22 Florida's top 10 largest counties as of 2020.
23 They include Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach,
24 Hillsborough, Orange, Duval, Pinellas, Lee,
25 Polk, and Brevard. As I said, these are the

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1 top ten largest counties, and they're the same
2 ten counties as in the 2010 Census, however
3 Duval overtook Pinellas County for the number
4 six spot this decade.

5 Members, this slide shows you
6 Florida's top ten smallest counties. These
7 are the smallest counties in the state, also
8 comprised of the same ten counties as in 2010.
9 These counties are Liberty, Lafayette, Glades,
10 Franklin, Calhoun, Hamilton, Golf, Jefferson,
11 Union, and Dixie County.

12 Members, Florida's municipalities as of
13 April 1st, 2020. Florida has 412 incorporated
14 municipalities, compared to 411 in the last
15 decade. During the decade, Estero,
16 Indiantown, and Westlake became incorporated.
17 Hastings and Island-- Islandia became
18 unincorporated.

19 Although currently unincorporated,
20 members, you may recall from last session
21 Weeki Wachee was still incorporated as an area
22 in January 2020 when the United States Census
23 Bureau finalized their geography support
24 products, as well as on April 1st, 2020, when
25 the 2020 Census was conducted. Therefore

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1 Weeki Wachee appears in this decade's Census
2 as an incorporated city. Yes, so -- I'm
3 sorry, Representative Benjamin, you wanted me
4 to say Weeki Wachee one more time? Did you
5 want to make a point of order, did I -- did I
6 pronounce that incorrectly? Weeki --

7 REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN: (Inaudible).

8 CHAIR SIROIS: All right. We will make
9 sure that's noted in the record. Thank you
10 very much. Members, moving on, this slide
11 covers Florida's top ten largest
12 municipalities. These are the top ten in
13 Florida in this is decade. Cape Coral jumps
14 into the top ten, after being ranked 11th in
15 2010.

16 So, our top ten largest municipalities
17 Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, Orlando, St.
18 Petersburg, Hialeah, Port St. Lucie,
19 Tallahassee, Cape Coral, and Fort Lauderdale.

20 Members, this is a slide similar to the
21 county slide, but shows how each House
22 District has changed in population. The
23 darker the green indicates larger percentage
24 growth, again seeing notable growth depicted
25 along the I-4 corridor.

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1 Members, this slide depicts Florida's
2 Senate Districts, this shows a similar pattern
3 as State House, and -- but the slide is
4 obviously at a less granular level. And
5 lastly, the Congressional Districts. Again
6 members, the green indicates more population
7 growth, and the lighter color indicates less
8 population change.

9 Now members, you've heard enough from
10 me. I'm excited and pleased to turn it over
11 to Mr. Poreda to review our website with us.
12 Mr. Poreda, you're recognized.

13 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 And now, with the help of Kyle, we will go
15 through the website, which was launched
16 yesterday afternoon. And I'm sure you guys
17 have seen on Twitter, and news articles, that
18 it was launched, and maybe you have even
19 checked it out on your own. But we will
20 demonstrate it here in committee so you can
21 see it more closely.

22 So first, this is a joint website that
23 the Florida Senate and Florida House
24 constructed together to put out to be a
25 repository for all the important redistricting

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1 data and information that will be used
2 throughout this process.

3 The Florida House and the Florida
4 Senate have elected to use Esri as a vendor
5 for this website and for our redistricting
6 application, which will be a part of this
7 website and available to everyone in the
8 state. So, Kyle if you want to click on the
9 website?

10 So, here you go, this is the home page
11 of Florida Redistricting. The first thing I
12 want to note is that we have embedded the
13 Google Translate feature into the website.

14 So, with this button right here, you
15 can translate the website into any language,
16 or whatever your native language happens to
17 be, so it will be -- all the information will
18 be available to everyone in -- however they
19 want to see it. So, here this is the home
20 page with an introduction to the Florida
21 redistricting, and everything else that is
22 available on the website.

23 Part of the reason why we selected
24 going with the Esri vendor is, it enabled us
25 to really make this website an incredibly

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1 interactive and powerful tool for everyone in
2 the state to view data, and to analyze the
3 state. So here -- in this window right here,
4 if you click explorer, this will let anyone on
5 the public see interactive maps very similar
6 to the slides that Chair Sirois just
7 demonstrated to you before, by all of the
8 three different district maps in Florida.

9 And what is displayed here is a little
10 bit different than the percentage population
11 growth slides that we showed, this is an over
12 under the ideal population for each district
13 based on the total number of districts in the
14 map. And you can zoom into these districts,
15 and move around, and get really, really
16 detailed if you want. And that's a very
17 powerful tool for analyzing the state.

18 And as Kyle just did, if you clicked on
19 each of the districts, it will show you what
20 the ideal population is, what the current
21 total population based on the 2010 -- or 2020
22 Census, and its deviation from that ideal with
23 the percentage. Scroll down a little bit
24 more, Kyle? Okay, and at the bottom here, you
25 will see contacts and everything else.

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1 So, go up to the about tab? So, here
2 on the about tab, this will go through some of
3 the terminology that we went through today and
4 today's presentation, including some Florida
5 fast facts that -- we will have that slide
6 there so everyone can see what the total state
7 population is, what it was in 2010, what it is
8 now, and the differences, along with all of
9 those different ideal populations.

10 It also has a lot of information on the
11 Voting Rights Act, and all of the other
12 pertinent information, a lot of which we went
13 through in the slides today. It also has some
14 buttons for the process in general, so
15 everyone can know what we're going through,
16 and the timeline that we also presented today.

17 And those are available on the website
18 for everyone to see, so everyone has all the
19 information about what we're doing, and how
20 we're doing it, and when we're doing it.

21 Then there's a tab for each committee,
22 this is the tab for The House website. And
23 you can see there our Redistricting Committee,
24 and as you scroll down, you will see all of
25 the subcommittees displayed beneath that. And

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1 beneath each of that, there's link back to our
2 Subcommittee web page on myfloridahouse.gov,
3 along with all the member pages, all of the
4 publications that we will be making throughout
5 the committee process, as well as a link to
6 watch the videos of all of our committee
7 presentations on there.

8 So, is it -- it is accessible all in a
9 single place for anyone to see, and have all
10 that information.

11 There's also some buttons down below
12 with any additional member-- memos or
13 correspondence that we put out as a committee,
14 or perhaps The House puts out in general.
15 There's the same link that's available on
16 myfloridahouse.gov to find your elected
17 officials, we have placed that here.

18 You can track bills, including all of
19 the redistricting bills, once they get filed.
20 And also, if people -- some people want to
21 appear in committee, and want to fill out a
22 notice online, we put that link down there as
23 well.

24 Down below, it's all the important
25 dates, so all of our committee meetings,

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1 whatever other important dates go on
2 throughout the process that also links back to
3 myfloridahouse.gov.

4 The Senate Committee page is very
5 similar to The House page, but since this is a
6 joint process and a joint website that we're
7 going through, the maps -- just like any other
8 piece of legislation -- needs to path-- passed
9 through both chambers.

10 So, we were very fortunate to work with
11 our Senate partners on this website, and
12 getting all the information for redistricting
13 in the same place, so that there isn't two
14 separate websites, one for The House, one for
15 The Senate. Everything is all in the same
16 place. And they have very similar access to
17 the Senate committee pages and Senate website
18 as we have with The House.

19 Now on the resources tab, this is an
20 exciting place here on the website that has
21 access to a lot of information. You see these
22 three buttons here, these will bring up what
23 Esri calls story maps. And if you click on
24 each of those, we actually have it up on
25 another tab, because it sometimes takes a

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1 little bit of time to load. If you bring that
2 up, this will bring up a story map so you can
3 go through all of the districts.

4 And as you scroll down, it actually
5 goes through all of the maps and will update
6 in real time. There's even a box to, kind of,
7 describe what that -- why that map was passed,
8 or what the circumstances were behind that map
9 being passed. And as you scroll down, you can
10 see the districts change, and you can go all
11 the way back to the 1980s when Florida
12 switched to single member districts.

13 And you can even, on that map, Kyle --
14 as you -- you can scroll down through all the
15 different decades, but you can even zoom in on
16 that. Zoom out, or zoom in, so you can see a
17 greater level of detail, whatever districts
18 you want to take a look at. That's a really
19 exciting and powerful tool.

20 Below that we have all of the
21 redistricting terminology and glossary, some
22 of which the Chairman went over today. As
23 well as the Census Bureau's geography
24 hierarchy, and other information as well. And
25 then below, we have links to the actual census

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1 websites, along with the Florida Division Of
2 Elections, since both of those sources are
3 where all of the data that is important to
4 this process get collected.

5 On the get involved tab -- now this is
6 the page that probably a lot of people,
7 especially people in the public, and yourself
8 here in the chamber are interested. This is
9 how people can get involved with the process,
10 and it includes a link to our map drawing
11 application that anyone in the public can
12 click there.

13 And it's the same software that will be
14 available to anyone in the public, members
15 here in this Committee, and all of our other
16 committees, or anyone in The House, along with
17 all of the staff. This is the same product
18 that we will be using across the board.

19 There's also a redistricting suggestion
20 form. If people don't want to, or can't,
21 click on the redistricting software and draw
22 an actual map, there's a form so they can
23 submit a suggestion to us in writing. There's
24 also a quick start guide and a help manual to
25 get started with the drawing application, to

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1 guide people along the way, and kind of get
2 them started drawing their own maps. And
3 below that, there's even some tutorial videos
4 that we have produced to -- if people don't
5 want to read the help manual, and they want
6 something a little bit more visual, there's a
7 way here to help get them started.

8 And then finally, on the contact us
9 page, you can see we actually have a joint e-
10 mail address that goes to both chambers for
11 the public when they want help. So, they
12 don't have to worry about contacting The House
13 Committee, or The Senate Committee, or getting
14 different information. We have created a
15 central place where all of those help
16 questions can go. And that is the website.

17 And actually, the website is linked now
18 on the home page of myfloridahouse.gov. So,
19 you can access the website individually, but
20 if you scroll down, you can see there's a new
21 button right on the home page for Florida
22 redistricting. So, it is accessible to
23 everyone.

24 There's also an-- a separate button for
25 members available in Legis that will bring you

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1 to the map drawing application in the portal,
2 simply because that -- you all are more used
3 to using Legis to file bills and whatnot, so
4 that button is there available in the
5 software. And that's it, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIR SIROIS: All right. Thank you
7 very much for the presentation. I think that
8 website is going to be a remarkable tool for
9 all of us, and for our fellow Floridians as
10 well. Members, are there any questions? All
11 right. Thank -- yes. Yep. We have one
12 public comment, moving into public comments,
13 Richard Templin, Florida AFL CIO.

14 Is there anybody else from the audience
15 wishing to provide public comment? Hearing
16 none, thank you very much. Members, I want to
17 thank you for your time this morning. Ranking
18 Member Skidmore, I would like to invite you to
19 offer some remarks if you would like.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SKIDMORE: Thank you so
21 much, Mr. Chair. I'm grateful to the Speaker
22 to be appointed as ranking member to this
23 Committee and honored to be working with you,
24 Chair Leek, and Chair Byrd, and our Senate
25 partners. I think this is going to be the

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1 most exciting of the committees, because we
2 have the challenge of adding the new seat and
3 the guardrails of, you know, plus or minus
4 just one person for each congressional seat.
5 So, these are some really exciting
6 opportunities for us.

7 On behalf of the Democratic Caucus,
8 we're looking forward to fully participating,
9 and reaching, and achieving the goal of fair
10 and legal districts at the end of the process.
11 And looking forward to the next few months of
12 working with you. So, thank you so much.

13 CHAIR SIROIS: Thank you very much,
14 Ranking Member, I look forward to working with
15 you as well. Members, I hope you found
16 today's materials educational and a solid
17 first step on our journey.

18 A quick housekeeping note regarding the
19 map drawing application that was launched
20 yesterday, committee staff will be reaching
21 out over the next couple of days to provide
22 you with your pre-registered login
23 credentials. I encourage you to take time to
24 explore our new website and familiarize
25 yourself with our map drawing application.

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1 Also, keep your eyes open for an e-mail about
2 an upcoming Legislator University, for
3 additional training on the map drawing
4 application.

5 Members, thank you very much for your
6 time this morning. This concludes our meeting
7 agenda for today. Representative Benjamin
8 moves that we rise. Unless there's an
9 objection, the meeting is adjourned.

10 (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 15th day of March, 2023.



WENDY SAWYER, CDLT

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