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Audio Transcription

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

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DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 812  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 232-0646

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1 (Beginning of Video Recording.)

2 CHAIR BYRD: The State Legislative  
3 Redistricting Subcommittee will come to order.  
4 DJ, please call the roll.

5 MS. ALLERKAMP: Chair Byrd?

6 CHAIR BYRD: Here.

7 MS. ALLERKAMP: Vice Chair Robinson?

8 VICE CHAIR ROBINSON: Here.

9 MS. ALLERKAMP: Ranking Member Daley?

10 RANKING MEMBER DALEY: Here.

11 MS. ALLERKAMP: Representatives  
12 Arrington?

13 REPRESENTATIVE ARRINGTON: Here.

14 MS. ALLERKAMP: Barnaby?

15 REPRESENTATIVE BARNABY: Here

16 MS. ALLERKAMP: Bell?

17 REPRESENTATIVE BELL: Here.

18 MS. ALLERKAMP: Brannan?

19 REPRESENTATIVE BRANNAN: Here.

20 MS. ALLERKAMP: Chambliss? Chambliss?  
21 Garrison?

22 REPRESENTATIVE GARRISON: Yep.

23 MS. ALLERKAMP: Hart?

24 REPRESENTATIVE HART: Here.

25 MS. ALLERKAMP: Hawkins has been

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1           excused. Maney?

2                   REPRESENTATIVE MANEY: Here.

3                   MS. ALLERKAMP: McClain?

4                   REPRESENTATIVE MCLAIN: Here.

5                   MS. ALLERKAMP: Melo?

6                   REPRESENTATIVE MELO: Here.

7                   MS. ALLERKAMP: Mooney?

8                   REPRESENTATIVE MOONEY: Here.

9                   MS. ALLERKAMP: Persons-Mulicka?

10                  REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Here.

11                  MS. ALLERKAMP: Salzman?

12                  REPRESENTATIVE SALZMAN: Here.

13                  MS. ALLERKAMP: Snyder?

14                  REPRESENTATIVE SNYDER: Here.

15                  MS. ALLERKAMP: Tant has been excused.

16                  Valdes?

17                   REPRESENTATIVE VALDES: Good morning,  
18                  present.

19                  MS. ALLERKAMP: Woodson?

20                  REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Here.

21                  MS. ALLERKAMP: Quorum is present, Mr.  
22                  Chair.

23                   CHAIR BYRD: Okay. Thank you, DJ. And  
24                  members, of welcome on this fine Thursday  
25                  morning. And a few reminders before we begin,

1 please silence all electronic devices. And if  
2 -- for any members of the public wishing to  
3 make public comment and that have not filled  
4 out a form online before the meeting, please  
5 fill out a form and turn it into the Sergeant  
6 Staff. Also, as a reminder for our members  
7 and presenters, please ensure that you turn  
8 your microphone on when you are speaking, and  
9 off when you were finished.

10 Members, redistricting is a once in a  
11 decade process. I am honored that Speaker  
12 Sprowls and Chair Leek have entrusted with me  
13 the responsibility to serve as Chairman of the  
14 State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee,  
15 and I look forward to working with each of you  
16 throughout this process.

17 I would first and foremost into-- like  
18 to introduce Vice Chair Robinson and Ranking  
19 Member Daley, who will be my partners and  
20 spearheading this process. I would now like  
21 to introduce the redistricting staff. Our  
22 staff director is Leda Kelly, policy analyst  
23 is Sam Wagner, and DJ Allerkamp is our  
24 administrative assistant. Additional team  
25 members who are currently in other



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1 subcommittee meetings include Jason Poreda,  
2 our chief map drawer, Karen Dearden, external  
3 affairs chief, and Kyle Langan, policy  
4 analyst.

5 As you look around at your fellow  
6 committee members, and those of the  
7 Redistricting Committee, and our other  
8 subcommittee, you will realize that we have  
9 over 50 percent of the House, 62 members in  
10 total, involved in this committee process.

11 We also have all corners of the state  
12 represented, all the way from the Panhandle,  
13 to Northeast Florida, to the I-4 corridor, to  
14 South Florida and the Keys, with urban and  
15 rural areas represented.

16 Members, Chair Leek gave a similar  
17 educational presentation yesterday at  
18 yesterday's big Redistricting Committee. I  
19 will be presenting some similar information  
20 today, as we feel it is important to ensure  
21 that all of our committees have the same  
22 foundational knowledge as we move forward in  
23 this process.

24 Education is a key to the success of  
25 this committee, the last time we met on the

1 House map was in 2012. Fast forward 10 years,  
2 and the vast majority of the House is new to  
3 redistricting, including myself, so I want to  
4 start by giving some context.

5 While the House map was  
6 constitutionally upheld in 2012, there were  
7 successful court challenges to both the  
8 Congressional and Senate plans throughout the  
9 subsequent years.

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

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

23 Now I want to point out only five  
24 members in our entire chamber were part of the  
25 last redistricting cycle, and only three of

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

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

16             The Committee's first lesson begins  
17      today with the explanation of redistricting  
18      terminology, and an overview of the U.S.  
19      Census Bureau. We will also demonstrate for  
20      you the newly launched -- this was just  
21      yesterday afternoon --  
22      www.floridaredistricting.gov website that  
23      contains resources for you and your  
24      constituents.

25             In subsequent committee weeks, we will



1 train members in our map drawing software,  
2 this training will teach members how to use  
3 the software to draw districts, how to use the  
4 reporting tools to analyze what you drew, and  
5 how to activate advanced tools within the  
6 software to make drawing as efficient as  
7 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 crucial for members to understand  
17 how these activities and decision points may  
18 interact with one another, and how they should  
19 be weighted when considering where boundary  
20 lines are placed.

21 Without the proper context for members  
22 to understand the issues and standards, we are  
23 not properly preparing ourselves to take votes  
24 on compliant district lines. Redistricting is  
25 a precise and technical process, and creating



1 this framework is also consistent with Speaker  
2 Sprowls 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. First, let's address records  
7 retention. The House continues to urge all  
8 members to retain all records relating to  
9 redistricting, these records can include  
10 documents and correspondence, including e-mail  
11 and text, regardless of whether sent or  
12 received on your public or personal devices,  
13 or accounts.

14 The House also continues to urge all  
15 members to avoid private conversations about  
16 redistricting with individuals who have a  
17 vested interest in the outcome of that  
18 process, and to keep their comments about the  
19 redistricting process in alignment with the  
20 constitutional standards that apply to  
21 redistricting plans. If you have House -- if  
22 you have questions regarding this guidance  
23 please reach out to the House General  
24 Counsel's Office.

25 Next I want to address committee

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

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

18 Members, the last thing I will touch on  
19 is expectations for map submissions. As I've  
20 mentioned, the House expects transparency in  
21 how input for our work product is received,  
22 reviewed, and considered. You should not be  
23 naive to the fact that external entities and  
24 individuals want to influence this process in  
25 a way that may not be in compliance with the

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1 law. Similar to the House's high standards  
2 for lobbyist disclosures, the goal of  
3 transparency is to bring awareness to the  
4 process of individuals who may be trying to  
5 assert their undue influence into our process.

6 If you choose to submit a map as part  
7 of this redistricting process, you should be  
8 prepared to disclose any and all individuals  
9 who assisted you in creating the map.  
10 Similarly, submissions by members of the  
11 public will be accompanied by a form inquiring  
12 about groups or individuals with whom they  
13 collaborated, and whether any form of  
14 compensation was received, and returned for  
15 comments or submissions.

16 The work we have ahead of us is  
17 exciting, but we cannot overlook the gravity  
18 of what we are charged to do, it is quite the  
19 undertaking. This important work only occurs  
20 every ten years, and it is worth noting the  
21 legislature has only two constitutional  
22 requirements, to pass a balanced budget and to  
23 redistrict.

24 And we should all be honored to carry  
25 out this responsibility. I look forward to



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1 working with all of you to proceed -- to  
2 produce legally compliant maps that will --  
3 that well serve the people of Florida.

4 Before we begin the -- today's  
5 presentation, are there any initial questions  
6 on what I've already covered? All right,  
7 seeing none. We will now launch into 2022  
8 Redistricting and U.S. Census Bureau  
9 overview.

10 Today's in four to-- today's has four  
11 topics on the agenda, redistricting overview,  
12 U.S. Census Bureau overview, Florida  
13 population overview, and a demonstration of  
14 the website.

15 And members, just so you know what I'm  
16 going to -- I think the way we will proceed  
17 is, as we -- as we conclude each of the four  
18 items on the agenda, we will take questions at  
19 that time. So, you know, if you have any  
20 questions, we will take them after one, two,  
21 three and four. All right.

22 Members, what we're covering today are  
23 the initial foundations for everything that we  
24 will discuss in this committee. During  
25 today's presentation, we're going to cover



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1 some of the basic terminology you will hear  
2 repeatedly over the next several months,  
3 provide everyone background on the U.S.  
4 Census Bureau's role in the redistricting  
5 process, including where our data comes from,  
6 discuss the results of the 2020 Census, and  
7 what Florida looks like today, as well as be  
8 able to show you our very recently debuted  
9 redistricting website.

10 So what is redistricting, why are we  
11 doing it now and what are we required to do?  
12 Terminology, they're -- so, reapportionment  
13 and redistricting are different.  
14 Reapportionment is the redistribution of seats  
15 in the U.S. House of Representatives among  
16 the 50 states based on the decennial census.  
17 Each state gets at least one seat.

18 Redistricting is the redrawing of  
19 Congressional and State legislative district  
20 boundaries, usually after a decennial census.  
21 Other entities can redistrict, such as local  
22 governments, courts, and school boards. These  
23 two terms are commonly used interchangeably,  
24 but there is an important distinction.

25 Federal law. Article 1, Section 4 of

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1 the U.S. -- United States Constitution states  
2 the times, places, and manner of holding  
3 elections for senators and representatives  
4 shall be prescribed in each state by the  
5 legislature thereof. The relevant portion of  
6 the 14th Amendment states that one person, one  
7 vote. And Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act  
8 states no voting qualification, or  
9 prerequisite to voting, or standard practice  
10 or procedure shall be imposed or applied in a  
11 manner which results in a denial or  
12 abridgement of the right of any citizen of the  
13 United States to vote, on account of race or  
14 color.

15 Next (inaudible). Yeah. All right,  
16 Florida Law. Article 3, Section 16 of the  
17 Florida Constitution says -- states the  
18 following, it directs the legislator --  
19 legislature at its regular session, in the  
20 second year following each decennial census --  
21 in this case 2022 -- to conduct redistricting  
22 of state legislative boundaries.

23 It identifies that the Senate must be  
24 comprised of 30 to 40 Senatorial Districts, 80  
25 to 120 Representative Districts. Districts

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1 shall be contiguous, and consecutively  
2 numbered, and provides directives and  
3 timelines for establishing new districts.

4 So, this section of law that  
5 establishes the overall timeline and gives  
6 authority for legislative redistricting in  
7 Florida to the legislature, it also has some  
8 very basic standards we must follow. The  
9 Florida Constitution does not dictate a  
10 timeline for redistricting congressional  
11 boundaries.

12 As a matter of tradition and  
13 efficiency, the legislature undertakes both  
14 state legislative and congressional  
15 redistricting at the same time. State  
16 legislative boundaries are passed as a joint  
17 resolution, congressional boundaries are  
18 passed as a bill.

19 This means congressional maps go  
20 directly to the governor for signature, like  
21 any other bill, whereas House and Senate maps  
22 may undergo a Florida Supreme Court review.  
23 We will discuss this process further in a few  
24 slides.

25 This slide and the next one I want to



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1 pause on for a minute. Article 3, Section 20  
2 and 21 were added to the Constitution --  
3 that's the Florida Constitution -- in 2010,  
4 and the bottom line is there are -- they --  
5 these are a part of the Florida Constitution,  
6 and like with any other part of the  
7 Constitution, we have all taken an oath to  
8 follow them.

9 I want this committee to be fully  
10 engaged, aware, and educated. It is important  
11 to understand not only redistricting at a  
12 conceptual level, but the context of the legal  
13 guideposts, such as our constitutional  
14 standard that we must follow as well. Within  
15 our first couple of interim meetings --  
16 committee meetings, we will thoroughly examine  
17 these standards.

18 This decade we have the bene-- added  
19 benefit of history and court precedent,  
20 something the prior decade's members and staff  
21 did not. So, we have a better understanding  
22 than the legislature did ten years ago as to  
23 how we should implement these amendments. So,  
24 let's take a first look.

25 The Florida Supreme Court has made it



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1 clear that these standards have two distinct  
2 tiers. Tier 1 prohibits favoring or  
3 disfavoring any political party or incumbent.  
4 Tier 1 also protects racial and language  
5 minority group's ability to elect candidates  
6 of their choice, using language to -- similar  
7 to what is in Section 5 of the Voting Rights  
8 Act.

9 Tier 2 standards must be nearly as  
10 equal in population as practicable, be  
11 compact, and follow existing geographical and  
12 political boundaries. As was mentioned on the  
13 previous slide, Tier 1 standards take priority  
14 over Tier 2 standards in case of conflict.

15 Within each tier, the standards are  
16 equal amongst one another. These are other  
17 Florida statutes that are relevant to this  
18 process. Article 3, Section 16 of the Florida  
19 Constitution also states reapportionment shall  
20 occur following a decennial census, with the  
21 implication being that data should be used as  
22 most updated.

23 Next, the redistricting timeline. What  
24 is shown here are important dates for what  
25 has already happened in this process, where we

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1 are now, and the important dates for what is  
2 to come in the future. As you can see, we are  
3 still in the middle of this process and the  
4 bulk of our work is just beginning.

5 FEMALE VOICE: (Inaudible).

6 CHAIR BYRD: I can't.

7 FEMALE VOICE: (Inaudible).

8 CHAIR BYRD: Okay. Yeah, members what  
9 I'm going to ask you to do, instead of reading  
10 each of the timelines that are indicated on  
11 the slide -- instead of reading each of those  
12 individually, I will have -- I will have you  
13 take note of, you know, when we start session  
14 on January 11th and when we conclude on sine  
15 die, and the various time requirements we have  
16 in completing the redistricting process.  
17 Because Article 3, Section 16 of the Florida  
18 Constitution that states that Florida will  
19 approve new districts in the second year after  
20 the decennial census, we are still on track to  
21 complete this process on time and on schedule.

22 Members, at this time we will take our  
23 first pause for questions from the Committee  
24 members. Are there any questions? All right.  
25 Seeing none, we will now continue to Section

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1 2, U.S. Census Bureau.

2 In this next section, we will look at  
3 the role of the U.S. -- the -- that the U.S.  
4 Census Bureau plays in this process. The U.S.  
5 Census Bureau is charged with conducting the  
6 decennial census, with the mission statement  
7 for the Bureau being quote, count everyone  
8 once, only once, and in the right place for  
9 the decennial census.

10 Decennial census means the enumeration,  
11 or complete count, of every whole person,  
12 which is conducted every ten years.  
13 Apportionment counts, the number of seats each  
14 of the 50 states receives in the U.S. House  
15 of Representatives.

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



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1 will specifically explore this item further in  
2 a couple of slides.

3 Relevant federal law. Article 1,  
4 Section 2 of the Constitution states, this is  
5 the section that requires the decennial census  
6 be conducted and that the count of whole  
7 persons be an actual enumeration of those  
8 people. This means an actual count of every  
9 person.

10 Title 13 establishes the U.S. Census  
11 Bureau as the agency that is to conduct the  
12 decennial census, and requires them to provide  
13 the data accurately, and in a manner that  
14 protects the privacy of those being counted.  
15 Public Law 94-171 directs the Bureau to  
16 deliver to the states the product that  
17 contains summary statistics on population,  
18 demographics, and housing.

19 Population counts for the total  
20 population, and for the population 18 years  
21 and over are presented by race, and by  
22 Hispanic or Latino origin, and for the total  
23 group quarters population by major group  
24 quarters type.

25 Okay. All right. So, how does the



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1 U.S. Census Bureau conduct the census? This  
2 is a sample image of the 2020 Census form that  
3 was mailed out at the beginning of 2020. And  
4 you will note on the slide that the first  
5 census was conducted in 1790 and is conducted  
6 every ten years. The decennial census is the  
7 basis for apportionment counts, federal  
8 funding allocation, and redistricting. The  
9 2020 Census is the 24th decennial census and  
10 first ever to be offered online.

11 2020 presented unique challenges to us  
12 all, and the U.S. Census Bureau was no  
13 exception. You can see here that the whole  
14 process to conduct and tabulating the census  
15 results were delayed in 2020 due to COVID-19,  
16 wildfires, hurricanes, and other factors. I'm  
17 not going to walk through every item on this  
18 graphic, but we included it to illustrate the  
19 timeline challenges the Census Bureau faced  
20 last year.

21 Their challenges resulted in the delay  
22 of the states receiving apportionment counts  
23 and redistricting data, and while that is  
24 unfortunate, these delays did not delay our  
25 timeline here in Florida. We are still on

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1 track and on schedule to complete our  
2 redistricting process during the first-- next  
3 regular session, which is what our  
4 constitution instructs us to do, despite these  
5 delays by the U.S. Census Bureau.

6 Florida's total enumeration was  
7 consistent with the national average with 99.9  
8 percent of the total households for which the  
9 Census Bureau has a record for were counted in  
10 the 2020 Census. As we also saw on the last  
11 slide, there are two main phases of data  
12 collection during a census, self-response rate  
13 and non-response follow up.

14 Self-response is an individual  
15 completing the census questionnaire on their  
16 own, whether by mail, phone, or online. Non-  
17 response follow up is the Census Bureau going  
18 back into the communities and using  
19 administrative records to help complete the  
20 outstanding questionnaires.

21 You will sometimes hear this later --  
22 this latter process referred to as imputation.  
23 What is reassuring is that Florida's total  
24 enumeration was 99.9 percent, and this means  
25 that the count here in Florida was in line

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1 with the national average's completeness. The  
2 self-response rate and non-response follow up  
3 rates in Florida were consistent with other  
4 states, and with the overall national average.

5 The next slide is apportionment counts.  
6 As we discussed before, Florida will be  
7 getting 28 Congressional Districts, one more  
8 than Florida had in 2010.

9 This slide also shows you the ideal  
10 population for each district within each  
11 different type of map. For example, the ideal  
12 population is calculated by taking the 2020  
13 population, divided by the number of districts  
14 in a respective plan. These numbers are  
15 guideposts for our districts as we begin  
16 drawing maps.

17 So, now that we have talked about the  
18 Census Bureau's process, let's discuss the  
19 types of Census Bureau data we use  
20 specifically for redistricting. P.L. 94-171  
21 Redistricting Data is a detailed population  
22 data set, and the basis for us to analyze and  
23 draw district boundaries.

24 The geography support products details  
25 the geographical landscape of Florida, the two



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1 buckets of data and products work together to  
2 enable our redistricting process. P.L. 94-  
3 171 Redistricting Data, or P.L. Data for  
4 short, is broken down in the different census  
5 geography layers, the smallest being called  
6 blocks. This is detailed population data that  
7 is grouped by total population, voting age  
8 population, and is then grouped by race and  
9 ethnic groups.

10 The data set also contains group  
11 quarters data. While this data is provided as  
12 part of the redistricting data, it has minimal  
13 involvement with the redistricting process.  
14 However, demographers and statisticians use  
15 this data for other analysis. The same data  
16 was delivered in a legacy format on August  
17 12th, and the same data was then again  
18 delivered officially any more user-friendly  
19 format last week on September 16th.

20 The census questionnaire asked a  
21 variety of questions. However, there are two  
22 that are specifically important for  
23 redistricting purposes. The first is question  
24 eight, shown on the screen, which asked  
25 respondents to identify their ethnicity.



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1           This result -- this results in two  
2           categories, Hispanic or Latino and not  
3           Hispanic or Latino. Question nine, as shown,  
4           asks a respondent to identify their race  
5           resulting in six categories. Those categories  
6           are American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian,  
7           Black or African American, -- it's -- it's cut  
8           off -- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific  
9           Islander, White or other race.

10           If you look closely at the census  
11           questionnaire, you can see how the Census  
12           Bureau has provided some examples of what is  
13           contained within each of those racial  
14           categories.

15           If a respondent selects multiple  
16           categories, using guidance from the U.S.  
17           Office of Management and Budget, they are  
18           counted in each racial category as they  
19           selected. You will see these categories again  
20           from questions eight and nine as we go through  
21           the software and understand the legal  
22           requirements, especially surrounding  
23           protecting benchmark minority districts.

24           Geography support products. Now that  
25           we have talked about the population data is

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1 collected and how people can identify  
2 themselves, let's talk about geography. The  
3 geography support products are produced by the  
4 Census Bureau, and essentially breakdown the  
5 landscape of Florida into different  
6 geographical units. These units are then used  
7 to draw district.

8 Census blocks are the smallest unit of  
9 geography defined by the U.S. Census Bureau,  
10 they range in size from individual parcels of  
11 land, to city blocks, to larger areas.  
12 Regardless of geographic size or population,  
13 they serve as the building blocks for all  
14 other units of geography. We will take a  
15 closer look at this.

16 As the committee -- as this committee,  
17 through the map drawing application, you will  
18 be able to see first-hand how these units of  
19 geography, and the associated population  
20 counts, give us a detailed picture of  
21 Florida's population. So, before moving on, -  
22 - oh, (inaudible). Do we want to -- any  
23 questions on where we are so far? All right.

24 FEMALE VOICE: (Inaudible).

25 CHAIR BYRD: Okay. Next, Florida

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1 populations overview. Now that we have  
2 covered a lot of the terminology and baseline  
3 details, let's actually take a look at some of  
4 Florida's top line results from the 2020  
5 Census. Here you can see Florida's 67  
6 counties and which ones grew in population.  
7 The darker the green indicates a greater  
8 percentage of change. So, that -- the dark  
9 green doesn't mean they're the largest  
10 counties, it means they have the largest  
11 percentage of (inaudible)-- change.

12 The light-colored counties lost  
13 population when compared to the 2010  
14 population counts. The counties with the  
15 biggest increases were mostly in the Central  
16 Florida area. Many of the more rural counties  
17 in Florida lost population, which was  
18 consistent with national trends.

19 The next slide shows the counties with  
20 over 20 percent growth that we saw on the  
21 previous slide. Those would include Osceola,  
22 St. Johns, Sumpter, Walton, Lake, Orange,  
23 Santa Rosa, Manatee, Nassau, Lee, Pasco  
24 Flagler and Polk. The next slide contains  
25 counties that lost population that we saw on



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1 the previous slides.

2 Those are Golf, Hardy, Lafayette,  
3 Calhoun, Madison, Glades, Gadsden, Hamilton,  
4 Jackson, Liberty, Taylor, DeSoto, Jefferson,  
5 Putnam, Holmes, Okeechobee, and Bradford.

6 The next slide contains Florida's top  
7 ten largest counties. These are the -- these  
8 are the top ten largest counties, they are the  
9 same 10 counties as in 2010, how -- however  
10 Duval overtook Pinellas for the number six  
11 spot this last decade.

12 And so, the top ten largest counties  
13 are Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach,  
14 Hillsborough, Orange, Duval, Pinellas, Lee,  
15 Polk, and Brevard. These are the smallest  
16 counties in the state, and they also are  
17 compr-- are comprised of the same 10 counties  
18 as in 2010, Liberty, Lafayette, Glades,  
19 Franklin, Calhoun, Hamilton, Golf, Jefferson,  
20 Union, and Dixie.

21 The Florida municipalities. As of  
22 April 1st, 2020, Florida has 412 incorporated  
23 municipalities compared to the 411 in the last  
24 decade. During the decade Estero, Indiantown  
25 and Westlake became incorporated, Hastings and



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1 Islandia became unincorporated.

2 Although currently unincorporated,  
3 Weeki Wachee was still an incorporated area in  
4 January 2020-- 2020, when the U.S. Census  
5 Bureau finalized their geography support  
6 products, as well as on April 1st, 2020, when  
7 the -- when the 2020 Census was conducted.  
8 Therefore, it appears in this decade's census  
9 data set as an incorporated city.

10 This slide shows the 10 largest cities  
11 in Florida. This decade, Cape Coral jumps  
12 into the top 10 after being ranked 11th in  
13 2020. So our largest municipalities are  
14 Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, Orlando, St.  
15 Petersburg, Hialeah, Port St. Lucie,  
16 Tallahassee, Cape Coral, and Fort Lauderdale.

17 This is a similar slide to the county  
18 slide that shows how each House District  
19 changed in population. The darker green  
20 indicates larger percentage growth, again,  
21 seeing notable growth depicted along the I-4  
22 corridor. Florida Senate Districts. Moving  
23 on to the State Senate graphic, similar  
24 patterns as the State House slide, but  
25 obviously at a less granular level.

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1 And once again, we see the growth  
2 throughout the I4 corridor. Florida  
3 Congressional Districts. Once again, you can  
4 see the darker green is the areas of growth,  
5 the lighter areas -- areas of depopulation.

6 Once again, we're going to pause for  
7 any questions at this time. Any questions? I  
8 see everybody's lively on a Thursday morning.  
9 Everybody's ready at home. All right. All  
10 right, so now we are going to go to the  
11 redistricting website demonstration. And for  
12 that, I am going to turn it over to our staff  
13 director, Leda Kelly. Leda, take it away.

14 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. DJ  
15 is going to assist me with this. So, while  
16 she flips over to our website, we are very  
17 excited. Yesterday we were able to launch a  
18 joint House and Senate product. We have a  
19 public website available, as well as our  
20 public map drawing application.

21 The Florida House and the Florida  
22 Senate elected to use Esri redistricting  
23 online application for the 2022 redistricting  
24 cycle. This application is web-based, which  
25 means you don't have to have any software

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1 downloaded onto your computer or tablet. It's  
2 accessible from anywhere by anyone, and it  
3 uses the latest census data so that everyone  
4 has the most updated data, and the most  
5 updated technology to draw maps as we go  
6 throughout this process.

7 Here, as you can see up on the screen,  
8 is our home page for floridaredistricting.gov.  
9 We have a little intro note here, and DJ, if  
10 you would scroll down to the bottom of the  
11 screen? What's really great about this  
12 website is, we have a lot of interactivity.

13 So, DJ if you would click on that blue  
14 explorer button? The maps that are shown here  
15 on the home page are similar to what Chair  
16 Byrd just walked through. They're House,  
17 Senate, Congressional maps, as well as  
18 counties and cities. And DJ, if you would  
19 just click on a district there, any district?

20 Whenever you click on it, it actually  
21 pulls up the current numbers associated with  
22 that district. So, the ideal population, the  
23 total population that it currently sits at,  
24 and the difference between those numbers. So  
25 again, trying to make this information very



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1 readily accessible for folks.

2 DJ, let's move on to the about tab.

3 So, here similar to some of the information we  
4 just walked through with committee -- in this  
5 committee, we wanted to make sure everyone has  
6 a foundational knowledge of what Florida's  
7 charged to do.

8 Every state has very unique  
9 requirements for redistricting, as well as  
10 their timeline, and so we wanted to make this  
11 accessible. You saw up at the top, the  
12 population chart that we walk through, as well  
13 as some of the legal references for the Voting  
14 Rights Act, as well as obviously, our Florida  
15 constitutional standards. DJ, as you continue  
16 to scroll down the page, we also included  
17 similar graphics that you guys saw about  
18 process and timeline.

19 Let's go to the House Committee page.  
20 So, obviously, this website is external to  
21 myfloridahouse.gov. So, we wanted to be able  
22 to have a way that everyone could still access  
23 relevant information to this committee  
24 process.

25 So, as you can see DJ scrolling through



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1 here, we have our lovely committee leadership  
2 displayed on the page, and all of those icons  
3 right below them link back to existing  
4 resources on myfloridahouse.gov.

5 Additionally, as you do those drop-down menus  
6 right below there, they have access to any  
7 press release or memos that are put out about  
8 redistricting, as well as accessibility to  
9 appear in committee, track bills, and also  
10 find their representatives as well. The  
11 bottom section rounds it out with other  
12 important calendar dates and overall House  
13 procedural dates, as well.

14 DJ, would you flip over to  
15 myfloridahouse.gov right now? So, we also  
16 wanted to point out, we have placed a link to  
17 floridaredistricting.gov on the homepage of  
18 myfloridahouse.gov.

19 So, again, if your constituents, or  
20 yourselves, or your staff find -- you know,  
21 they can't remember the website or are looking  
22 where to go, we have it prominently displayed  
23 there so that they're inter linkable. And  
24 again, trying to make it as user-friendly as  
25 possible. You can go back to Florida

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1       redistricting. Thank you.

2               Let's go to the resources tab, please?

3       And I will note, the Senate Committee also has  
4       a similar page to myfloridahouse, with their  
5       chamber's respective resources. So, this is a  
6       pretty cool feature. This top section right  
7       here, we have taken a historical look at the  
8       Congressional House and Senate maps. So, DJ,  
9       if you will flip over to that other tab? Just  
10      -- we preloaded it.

11             This is what's called a story map. And  
12      so, as you scroll throughout, the map itself,  
13      actually updates with the districts that were  
14      drawn for that respective decade. So, there's  
15      a little synopsis about what process took  
16      place during that decade, and then as you go  
17      you can actually see how the maps evolve. We  
18      take this all the way back to the 1980  
19      redistricting cycle.

20             DJ, you can go back to the website.  
21      And just continuing to scroll down on this  
22      page, additional resources, a redistricting  
23      glossary. We have gone through several terms  
24      today, but there are more out there, and you  
25      will come to know the ones that we have

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1 covered today quite well.

2 We also linked back to direct Census  
3 Bureau products, so that those of people  
4 looking for, you know, our source data, or  
5 source terminology, whatever the case may be,  
6 they have easy access to that as well. The  
7 get involved tab, please?

8 So, I think this is a tab all of you  
9 will become very familiar with. So, for  
10 constituents and members of the public who are  
11 looking to get involved by drawing maps, this  
12 is the page that you will direct them to. As  
13 you can see here, very prominently displayed,  
14 click here to draw and submit maps is where  
15 any member of the public can go and create a  
16 profile, and access our Esri redistricting  
17 online application. They can draw, submit  
18 maps, submit maps to committees through that  
19 process. So, again, this is a page I'm sure  
20 you will become quite familiar with.

21 Along those lines, as you continue to  
22 scroll down the page, we have included a  
23 variety of help tutorials.

24 So, we have a quick start guide here,  
25 which is kind of, again, a fast how do I get



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1 started with the software, or how do I log in,  
2 create a profile. As well as a help manual  
3 that goes into much more detail, it's step-by-  
4 step functionality of how you use each  
5 individual tool within the drawing  
6 application. We have also taken and created  
7 some of those materials into videos, which do  
8 have closed captioning enabled as well.

9 And then DJ, just to round it out on  
10 the last page. This, again, is just a contact  
11 us page. Again, this product, as well as our  
12 software is a joint effort by the House and  
13 the Senate.

14 So, we have a  
15 help@Floridaredistricting.gov e-mail address  
16 for individuals that are looking for help,  
17 specifically you know with software or  
18 additional questions that they may have. They  
19 can e-mail us, and both committee's staffs  
20 work to get back to constituents in a timely  
21 manner. Mr. Chair, that concludes my  
22 presentation. Thank you.

23 CHAIR BYRD: So, members at this time,  
24 are the -- the presentation -- this  
25 presentation is concluded. Are there any



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1 questions about anything that we discussed  
2 today? Ranking Member Daley, you're  
3 recognized.

4 RANKING MEMBER DALEY: Thanks, Mr.  
5 Chair. It's not a question. If I may, I  
6 would just like to make a few quick remarks.  
7 And I know that you, and Chairman Leek, and  
8 the Speaker are honorable and men of your  
9 word. And with that in mind, I look forward  
10 to -- and as I know we all do -- an open and  
11 transparent process, where we want to avoid  
12 even the appearance of impropriety.

13 Members, as you already know, and as  
14 the Chairman already touched on, what we're  
15 about to do is one of the most important  
16 things we do as a body and is actually a  
17 pillar of our democracy. So, I look forward  
18 to working with the Chair and the Committee to  
19 draw fair maps that comport with the Florida  
20 Constitution. And with that, thank you for  
21 the presentation, Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIR BYRD: Thank you, Ranking Member  
23 Daley. Representative Snyder, do you have a  
24 question? You're recognized.

25 REPRESENTATIVE SNYDER: Thank you, Mr.

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1 Chairman. When we talk about, you know,  
2 members of the public drawing and submitting  
3 maps, can you explain a little bit about what  
4 does that mean? Where does it go? Is it --  
5 what is that? Leda, I'm going to ask you to  
6 answer that question. Thank you.

7 MS. KELLY: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chair. Thank you, Representative, for that  
9 question. So, members, once they go into the  
10 pro-- to the application, you know, they will  
11 have created their profile and constructed  
12 whatever map they would like to share there's  
13 an actual submit button within the  
14 application. So, they will submit that. In  
15 turn, that comes to the Committee it, actually  
16 comes through the joint e-mail account that we  
17 have, we get a notification.

18 From there, we work with them to fill  
19 out their submission form that accompanies it,  
20 and then on the back end, we're actually able  
21 to pull that map.

22 So, it's an image of the map, as well  
23 as what's called a shape file -- it's the  
24 actual drawing file for it -- and all the  
25 associated reports with that map. Those in

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1 turn will be posted on a new tab, that will be  
2 debuting in the future, available on the  
3 website. So, everything that the public  
4 submits for map purposes, drawing purposes,  
5 and the reports will be hosted there in a  
6 sortable format so everyone can go and see  
7 what the public's posted. Thank you.

8 CHAIR BYRD: Representative Woodson,  
9 you're recognized.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member. My  
12 question has to do with -- with us being in  
13 the Committee, we are going to be bombarded  
14 with questions from other people who would  
15 want to know, are there any specific questions  
16 that we are forbidden from answering or not?

17 CHAIR BYRD: Leda, I will let you take  
18 that one as well.

19 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Chair. Thank  
20 you, Representative. As far as forbidden from  
21 answering, I -- I would say no. I think one  
22 word of caution that Chair Byrd touched on is.  
23 being able to make sure that conversations are  
24 in alignment with the constitutional  
25 standards. I think the -- especially the



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1 responsibility to not favor or disfavor  
2 political parties or incumbents, you know,  
3 weighs very heavily as we kind of move  
4 forward. So, I would -- if your conversations  
5 and alignment with that, but obviously you  
6 guys have a responsibility to help and  
7 instruct your constituents as well. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIR BYRD: Follow up?

10 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair. On page where -- okay, the page is  
12 not -- oh, 16, I believe. It's listing a non-  
13 response follow-up, which is 36.1 percent, and  
14 that's for the Florida average. For the  
15 national average it's 32.9 percent, which  
16 shows a closeness between the two percentages.

17 Are those the one who were not -- did  
18 we do a follow up on those, or what was the  
19 conclusion based on those people who did not  
20 respond? And also, do we have anything in  
21 there to do better in the next 10 years, or  
22 put some recommendations on us to how we're  
23 going to reach those people in order to make  
24 sure our response rate is a little bit higher?

25 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 Thank you, Representative. So, this is part  
2 of the process that the U.S. Census Bureau  
3 conducts. So, this is outside the scope of  
4 this committee, or even the Florida  
5 Legislature.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Um-hum.

7 MS. KELLY: I do want to -- I want to  
8 put two puzzle pieces together. So, the first  
9 step of the Census Bureau's collection process  
10 is a self-response rate. So, this is when  
11 they mail out the census questionnaire.

12 As Chair Byrd mentioned, this is the  
13 first time it was ever offered online, and so  
14 individuals have the ability to fill out their  
15 questionnaire or complete the census online,  
16 that's the self-response portion. The Census  
17 Bureau then looks at who didn't respond to it,  
18 and they say hey, you know, we have to make  
19 sure these folks are counted.

20 So, they will sometimes send census  
21 takers back into the field or use  
22 administrative records to kind of help piece  
23 together the puzzle pieces. So, when we're  
24 looking at that non-response follow-up rate,  
25 that's in coordination with the self-response

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1 follow-up rate. That's what leads us to that  
2 99.9 percent of Floridians were counted, which  
3 is extraordinarily high. Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Wait. No, --  
5 more follow up.

6 CHAIR BYRD: Sure.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Yeah. So, I  
8 was referring to the Florida one being so  
9 close, compared to the national average. So,  
10 I wanted to know is there anything in place  
11 for just the Florida census (inaudible) so  
12 close to national. That's where I was going.  
13 Yeah.

14 CHAIR BYRD: So, Representative, what's  
15 in -- it's the -- it's the Census Bureau, the  
16 federal government, that does this. So,  
17 that's not something that we as the state  
18 conduct, they do that. But once again, that  
19 that 99.9 percent accuracy, so those people  
20 are not being missed.

21 And I don't know what the historical  
22 non-responsive rate on the first request is, I  
23 mean, we could probably get that but, you  
24 know, I think the takeaway is that 99.9  
25 percent of the people in Florida at the time



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1 the census was taken were included, and we  
2 didn't miss anybody. And that follows the  
3 national average.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Thank you,  
5 Chair.

6 CHAIR BYRD: Okay.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WOODSON: Thank you.

8 CHAIR BYRD: Representative Chambliss,  
9 you're recognized for question.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Yes, sir,  
11 thank you. Again, as people do present us  
12 with different things, whether it be e-mail,  
13 text, phone, mail and we're maybe unsure of  
14 whether or not we should even acknowledge  
15 receipt of it, -- like for example, similar to  
16 like ethics with our bills or things like that  
17 -- is there an -- who should we contact? Who  
18 is our clearinghouse before we entertain the  
19 conversation? Just to make sure that we're  
20 safe.

21 CHAIR BYRD: Sure. Absolutely, great  
22 question. You know, once again, records  
23 retention is critical, so retain everything  
24 that you get. We have an outstanding staff,  
25 they are here to serve you. If you have any

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1 questions on how to respond to any given  
2 inquiry, contact them, and they will be more  
3 than happy to either help craft your response,  
4 or -- you know -- or help you in how to  
5 respond. I know we -- none of us want to  
6 ignore a constituent, we also are mindful of  
7 the ethical considerations and don't want to  
8 say something incorrect. So, that's what  
9 staff is here to help you with. Anything  
10 else? All right, Representative Salzman,  
11 you're recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SALZMAN: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Chair. I was just going to follow up on a  
14 comment from Representative Woodson. I'm a  
15 former census enumerator, and I just was going  
16 to say that that percentage of people that --  
17 where we have to do the follow up, I would  
18 argue that that's the more accurate number  
19 than the initial response rate.

20 Because they actually send people door  
21 to door to the field, and gather that  
22 information, and verify. So, it's -- if you  
23 have questions about the process not related  
24 to here, but that -- I'm happy to answer  
25 anybody's questions if they're wondering how

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1 that works.

2 CHAIR BYRD: Thank you, Representative  
3 Salzman. I never cease to be amazed at the  
4 experience of the members of the Florida  
5 House. So, thank you for that offer of help.  
6 Anyone else with any questions? Anyone else?

7 All right, now we will move to public  
8 comment. And I would remind the public to  
9 keep comments on the presentation and overview  
10 today. And please address your questions  
11 through the Chair. First, we have Jonathan  
12 Weber, Florida Conservation Voters Inc. Mr.  
13 Weber you are recognized.

14 MR. WEBER: Good morning, thank you so  
15 much. My name is Jonathan Weber, I'm the  
16 deputy director of Florida Conservation  
17 Voters. You should be delighted to know that  
18 many of your fellow Floridians are excited for  
19 the work you have ahead of you. There are  
20 many people who are looking forward to  
21 meaningful engagement with this process in the  
22 weeks and the months ahead.

23 We, of course, believe in maximum  
24 public participation in their government.  
25 Unfortunately, true meaningful engagement is



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1 hard when two of the redistricting committees  
2 meet at the exact same time. So, I do  
3 respectfully request that you please ask the  
4 Speaker, or whoever is in charge of the  
5 setting the committee times, to please  
6 schedule the state leg and congressional  
7 redistricting meetings at separate times so  
8 that Floridians can fully engage in this  
9 process.

10 The people of Florida deserve the  
11 opportunity to weigh in on both meetings in  
12 real time and shouldn't have to pick and  
13 choose which meeting to attend. Obviously, I  
14 like you all better, because I picked you guys  
15 first, so please don't tell the congressional  
16 members. But I don't have to make that choice  
17 again. So, thank you so much. That's all I  
18 have.

19 CHAIR BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Weber. And  
20 next, we have Richard Templin, Florida AFL  
21 CIO. And I do not see Mr. Templin, he may  
22 have gone to the Congressional Redistricting  
23 Committee, but we will note his submission of  
24 an -- a comment card. Is there anyone else  
25 from the public wishing to comment? All

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1 right, seeing none.

2 Mr. Weber, once again, thank you for  
3 your comments. And members, thank you for  
4 your comm-- questions and input. I hope you  
5 found today's materials educational and a  
6 solid first step in this journey.

7 A quick housekeeping note regarding the  
8 map drawing application that was launched  
9 yesterday, committee staff will be reaching  
10 out over the next couple of days to provide  
11 you with your pre-registered login  
12 credentials. I encourage you to take time to  
13 explore our new website and familiarize  
14 yourself with our map drawing application.

15 And one word on the committee, they --  
16 in the short time that I have gotten to work  
17 with them, they are all outstanding, highly  
18 educated, knowledgeable individuals on this  
19 process. Use them, reach out to them, you  
20 know, there are no -- you know, bad or -- bad  
21 questions.

22 Make sure that, you know, as this is  
23 one of the most important things that you will  
24 do in your time in the legislature, make sure  
25 that as you move through this process that you

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1 are fully informed and don't hesitate to  
2 utilize the staff that the Speaker has given  
3 us. And also, keep your eyes open for an e-  
4 mail about an upcoming Legislator University  
5 for additional training on the map drawing  
6 application. For those of you traveling home,  
7 safe travels. And thank you. This concludes  
8 our committee agenda for today, and  
9 Representative Maney moves that we rise. We  
10 are concluded.

11 (End of Video Recording.)  
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## CERTIFICATE

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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.



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WENDY SAWYER, CDLT

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