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TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO-RECORDED  
HEARING OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL  
REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 2, 2021

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1 REP. SIROIS: Good afternoon. The Congressional  
2 redistricting subcommittee will come to order. DJ,  
3 please call the role.

4 CLERK: Chair Sirois?

5 REP. SIROIS: Here.

6 CLERK: Vice Chair Tuck?

7 REP. TUCK: Here.

8 CLERK: Ranking member Skidmore?

9 REP. SKIDMORE: Here.

10 CLERK: Representative Beltran?

11 REP. BELTRAN: Here.

12 CLERK: Benjamin?

13 REP. BENJAMIN: Here.

14 CLERK: Brown has been excused. Fabricio?

15 REP. FABRICIO: Here.

16 CLERK: Fetterhof?

17 REP. FETTERHOF: Here.

18 CLERK: Fisher has been excused. Giallombardo?

19 REP. GIALLOMBARDO Here.

20 CLERK: Harding has been excused. Hunschofsky?

21 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: Here.

22 CLERK: Joseph has been excused. Massullo has  
23 been excused. Morales?

24 REP. MORALES: Here.

25 CLERK: Perez has been excused. Plakon?

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1 REP. PLAKON: Here.

2 CLERK: Silvers?

3 REP. SILVERS: Here.

4 CLERK: Toledo?

5 REP. TOLEDO: Here.

6 CLERK: Trabulsy?

7 REP. TRABULSY: Here.

8 CLERK: Williamson?

9 REP. WILLIAMSON: Here.

10 CLERK: Ex-officio Lauren?

11 REP. LAUREN: Here.

12 CLERK: A quorum is present, Mr. Chair.

13 REP. SIROIS: Thank you, DJ. Members, a few  
14 reminders before we begin. Please silence all  
15 electronic devices. And if you wish to make a public  
16 comment please fill out a form and turn it in to the  
17 sergeant's staff.

18 Also as a reminder for our members and  
19 presenters, please ensure that you turn off your  
20 microphone. Um, I'm sorry, that you turn on your  
21 microphone when you're speaking and you turn it off  
22 when you're finished. Members, we're going to get  
23 through this.

24 Welcome to our last interim committee week of the  
25 year. I'm excited for today's presentation. But before

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1 we jump in I want to take a moment to set the tone for  
2 today's meeting. On Monday, the House released two  
3 workshop maps that we will be walking through today's  
4 meeting.

5 As you may have guessed, once our maps were  
6 released, the self-anointed patrician political class  
7 jumped to the headlines to give their commentary as  
8 soon as possible without even reserving the  
9 opportunity for explanation or to observe this  
10 committee meeting today.

11 As I have said before and I will say it again  
12 now, the patrician narratives and rhetoric will not  
13 have a place in this committee process. As  
14 legislatures and constitutional officers, we are held  
15 to a high standard and I do not intend on letting us  
16 waver from that high bar.

17 With all the political rhetoric that is  
18 constantly being tossed around in the media, very  
19 little of it speaks the constitutional standards that  
20 apply to our maps. That irony is not lost on me or  
21 should it be on you either. External groups are  
22 judging us on the very thing we cannot evaluate,  
23 consider, or even know.

24 I ask you to diverse yourself from those external  
25 groups and their partisan narratives which are aimed

1 at imputing their political ambitions into your  
2 decision-making. On a more positive note I do want to  
3 commend the members of this committee and our  
4 colleagues throughout the House, for I have learned --  
5 for I have heard similar commentary.

6 I believe that is a testament to the  
7 understanding of how complicated, technical and  
8 specific Florida's rules are that govern  
9 redistricting. Everyone here understands this process  
10 is not cut and dry, and I encourage our members to  
11 continue taking the high road as we keep moving  
12 through this process.

13 On our agenda today we have two Congressional  
14 maps that we will workshop and walk through. I want to  
15 be clear. Opposite of what you may have heard in the  
16 media, these are not final maps. These are not bills.  
17 These are not a PCB. These are exactly what we called  
18 them -- workshop maps.

19 The House has been deliberate in taking steps to  
20 educate members on the foundations and legal framework  
21 for redistricting and this is the next step in that  
22 process. As we move through the explanation of each  
23 region of the state, you will see very different  
24 district configurations.

25 These are not slide variations on a single base



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1 map but are instead meant to illustrate the policy  
2 concepts before this committee. And between these two  
3 workshops there is no preferred map and both options  
4 have b- -- b- -- been prepared in consultation with  
5 legal counsel to ensure that applicable state and  
6 federal law are being followed.

7 As we all know, there are many ways you can draw  
8 district lines and today is a starting point for our  
9 deliberations. Members, let me be clear once again.  
10 There is no single constitutionally perfect map.

11 There are a multitude of options reflecting  
12 varying map drawing policy decisions at our disposal  
13 that fall within the constitutional standards. Today  
14 is about members asking questions, understanding the  
15 policy decisions that are before us as a committee and  
16 giving feedback for future work product. As has been  
17 excussed -- ed- -- I'm sorry, excuse me.

18 As has been discussed extensively during all  
19 three de- -- redistricting committees, Tier-One and  
20 Tier-Two of Florida's constitutional standards and  
21 that applicable caselaw has guided our discussions and  
22 educational efforts during committee meetings and  
23 serve as the same threshold for our committee staff in  
24 the drafting of these workshop maps.

25 This can include but is not limited to observing

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1 political boundaries such as county and city boundary  
2 lines, or geographically boundaries such as roadways,  
3 rivers, or railways while creating district boundary  
4 lines. Members, as we work through these options  
5 you'll see the tangible examples of how often our  
6 Tier-Two standards create tension among one another  
7 and the appropriate ways to resolve that tension.

8 Now with all of that being said, let's talk about  
9 some of the guard rails for today's discussion,  
10 starting with our Tier-One requirement to not favor or  
11 disfavor an incumbent.

12 I addressed this during a previous committee  
13 meetings and I want to take a moment to discuss it  
14 again here.

15 Redistricting means change for all members. The  
16 movement of district lines may have the effect of  
17 pairing a member with a fellow incumbent or if  
18 changing your district where you no longer reside  
19 within the new boundaries. I understand that such  
20 things can impact members individually.

21 However, it will not be part of the process or  
22 conversation here today. When we deliberate our lines,  
23 when we deliberate where our lines are placed, our  
24 intent and decision making cannot be based on current  
25 incumbent -- on a current incumbent or a potential

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1 challenger.

2 Similarly, our committee staff does not know  
3 where you live and did not use your address or anyone  
4 else's as a consideration point while preparing these  
5 workshop maps. I will not let this committee consider  
6 matters that violate the constitution.

7 Secondly, for a variety of reasons we have  
8 already reviewed today, consideration of the partisan  
9 impacts of a map or of an indiv- -- individual  
10 district will not be allowed. We did not take partisan  
11 impacts into consideration in preparing the workshop  
12 options being presented today, except to the extent  
13 necessary to review elections data to complete the  
14 functional analysis where legal precedent dictates it  
15 is required to appropriately protect minority groups'  
16 ability to elect a candidate of their choice.

17 Additionally as we move through today's  
18 presentation, I highly encourage members to ask  
19 questions or offer comments in alignment with our  
20 constitutional standards. In today's meeting  
21 materials, you will find familiar slides outlining the  
22 constitutional standards, in case anyone needs a quick  
23 reference as to what we must follow.

24 My vision for today's meeting is for staff to  
25 walk us through the two workshop options that were



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1 rolled out on Monday. We will be using the live map  
2 drawing application to view these districts.

3 I encourage you to take notes as we move  
4 throughout the presentation as we will run through an  
5 explanation of the entire state before taking  
6 questions. This will ensure we don't spend too much  
7 time on a single region, limiting the amount of time  
8 we have for other regions in this state or questions.

9 We will take questions from members. After we  
10 take questions from members, we will move to public  
11 testimony.

12 Members, I feel confident in the workshop  
13 products we have before us today and as we walk  
14 through them I believe you will be able to see first-  
15 hand the constitutional standards and framework that  
16 we have been discussing over the last handful of  
17 meetings, as well as our educational efforts really  
18 come to life.

19 And with that, I would like to hand it over to  
20 our staff director, Leda Kelly, to begin the  
21 presentation. Ms. Kelly, you are recognized.

22 MS. KELLY: Thank you Mr. Chair. The first thing  
23 members I'd like to point out, um, obviously with the  
24 release of maps today we assume maybe getting  
25 questions from constituents or perhaps your own team

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1 members as well.

2 I wanted to take a moment and show on  
3 FloridaRedistricting.gov which is our joint website we  
4 produced with the Senate where you can find the  
5 workshop products we are going to be walking through  
6 today and their associated data reports.

7 So if you, uh, you know, showed on the screen  
8 here's FloridaRedistricting.gov I have this submitted  
9 plans page pulled up, uh, I would encourage you to use  
10 this first filter option here to pull up House-  
11 specific maps that have been submitted. And as you see  
12 the first two here are, uh, uh, workshop products 8005  
13 and 8007, which are the two we'll be walking through  
14 today.

15 So again, I just wanted to take a second and show  
16 where your constituents can find that or again, if  
17 your team needs references as well.

18 REP. SIROIS: I'm sorry. Representative  
19 Fetterhof, we're going to hold questions for the end  
20 of staff presentations. Thank you.

21 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Chair. Um, the other thing  
22 before we dive into the substance of the meeting, um,  
23 I wanted to talk you through the meeting packet you  
24 guys have before you today.

25 Um, so we presented -- we prepared a PowerPoint

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1 presentation in case our live map drawing software is  
2 a little too far away to see. You guys have the  
3 ability to not only take notes on it but we have the  
4 same snapshot regions of the state that we will walk  
5 through in our presentation.

6 Um, also found in that PowerPoint packet are two,  
7 um, slides that deal with Article 3 section 16 of the  
8 constitution as well as 16 -- sections 20 and 21 will  
9 speak to our constitutional standards specific to  
10 redistricting. So again, just wanted to prepare you  
11 with a qu- -- uh, quick reference there.

12 At the end of the PowerPoint um, uh, in the  
13 meeting materials, uh, there is also an over-under  
14 map, which shows our, uh, our counties as well as our  
15 Congressional districts and how that population has  
16 changed from 2010, uh, compared to 2020. So again,  
17 just helping to understand how population shifted  
18 across the state over the last decade.

19 The last item I'd like to walk through, um, is  
20 the large meeting packet that was found, uh, in front  
21 of you on your desk here whenever you arrived here  
22 today.

23 These are what we called our statewide snapshot  
24 packets and they have -- the first sheet is a, um,  
25 actual snapshot of the maps so you can see it in its

1 entirety.

2 The map itself has a couple callout boxes that  
3 focus on some of the more populated areas where  
4 districts may be a little smaller so you can see that  
5 with more detail.

6 If you flip to the second page this is what we  
7 call our statewide snap shot and it has a lot of the  
8 high-level statistics, some of which you'll hear us  
9 talk about today and they follow a lot of our  
10 constitutional standards as well.

11 I'll come back to that top box in a second but if  
12 you segue down to the second portion a on the page  
13 two. This actually is a district-by-district  
14 breakdown. And so it goes through all 28 Congressional  
15 districts, um, highlighting our, uh, population for  
16 those respective districts, the percentage of the  
17 black voting age population, the Hispanic voting age  
18 population, as well as the respective, uh, compactness  
19 scores for each district.

20 So again, as we move through the state everyone  
21 can conceptually understand how these districts relate  
22 to one another.

23 Um, going back up to the top item, uh, before we  
24 segue into, uh, what I have pulled up on the screen  
25 here, um, a couple things I just want to point out



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1 which are unique to our Congressional maps. So you can  
2 see the first couple boxes talk about population as  
3 well as population deviation.

4 As I know you all are aware, but just to point  
5 out to anyone following along as well, our  
6 Congressional standard is plus- or minus-one person.  
7 And so as you can see and you see it in the -- the box  
8 on the bottom as well, um, 27 of our 28 districts are  
9 exactly the same, um, population in every district.

10 Um, if you're looking at map one, the district  
11 that deviates from that is District 22 which is minus-  
12 one person; and in, uh, option A if you're looking at  
13 that packet its District 21 which is also minus-one  
14 person.

15 The other, uh, statistics I'd like to call, uh,  
16 your attention to just for a point of reference as we  
17 move throughout our presentation, uh, is back in that  
18 statewide snapshot on the top and it's our county and  
19 city splits.

20 Um, so between the two maps if you're kind of,  
21 you know, doing a side-by-side comparison, um, both of  
22 these maps have, uh, uh, split 20 counties which  
23 implies they keep 47 counties whole.

24 In option A we have a total of 33 cities that are  
25 split and then option B we have a total of 40 cities

1 that are split.

2 And, um, as our team walks through that  
3 presentation, you'll kind of understand where, you  
4 know, for this starting deliberation we've made some  
5 of those decisions and what that looks like in context  
6 with the, um, the impactness scores and keeping  
7 counties whole, other decisions along those lines.

8 Um, so with that being said, I just wanted to  
9 make sure we walk folks through the materials. The  
10 other two items that are found in the -- the, again,  
11 the larger-sized meeting packet, um, continue on, uh,  
12 the next page on page three is the county sheriff  
13 population breakdown.

14 So for every county, um, it is indicated which  
15 districts it may be split between; and then if you  
16 look to the statistics on the side it tells  
17 respectively what percentage of that population  
18 resides within the respective district that it may be  
19 split amongst.

20 Similarly if you continue on to page five, um, we  
21 have a city split list which is again goes through the  
22 cities that may have been split on the map and again  
23 their respective sheriff population that appear in  
24 each of those districts.

25 So with that being said, um, I'd like to hand it

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1 now over to our team members, um, Kyle and Jason who  
2 are also, um, staff members with the redistricting  
3 committee.

4 They're going to walk us through a district-by-  
5 district comparison of our two workshop options.

6 Um, what I have up here on the screen that I'll  
7 be navigating through simultaneously are both of our  
8 workshop options. And what we, uh, you know, would  
9 like to be able to demonstrate to the members on this  
10 committee is -- is being able to -- to see some of  
11 those differences side by side.

12 Um, so if you are able to see the items on the  
13 screen or again -- again, members similarly in that  
14 PowerPoint packet, um, the option here on the left is  
15 workshop A and on the right is workshop B. With that,  
16 I'll turn it over to Jason -- Kyle. Thank you.

17 MR. MORGAN: All right. Starting in District 1,  
18 um, and where both workshop A and B Districts 1, 2, 3,  
19 and 4 are the same in both options. District 1 begins  
20 with keeping three whole counties, Escambia, Santa  
21 Rosa and Okaloosa, and then splits Walton County for  
22 equal population.

23 The boundary District 1 uses with District 2  
24 primarily follows State Road 83 and follows the  
25 municipal lines of Freeport and DeFuniak Springs in

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1 order to keep both cities whole. Freeport is kept  
2 whole within District 1 and DeFuniak Springs within  
3 District 2.

4 Um, next jumping to District 3, which is a  
5 protected district in this region, um, and im- --  
6 impacts both District 2 and District 4, CD 3 is a  
7 protected black district that was drawn to protect the  
8 black population's ability to elect a candidate of  
9 their choice.

10 A functional analysis conducted by staff ensures  
11 District 3, the minority groups' ability, is not  
12 diminished to elect a candidate of their choice.

13 It includes four whole counties, Madison,  
14 Hamilton, Baker and Gadsden County -- Gadsden County  
15 being Florida's only majority minority black county in  
16 the state. It also includes parts of four others,  
17 Leon, Duval, Jefferson, and Columbia Counties.

18 District 2 takes their remaining population in  
19 Walton County and the parts of Leon, Jefferson, and  
20 Columbia County that are not in District 3 and  
21 encompasses 15 more whole counties in order to create  
22 District 2. It achieves equal population within ye- --  
23 within Leon County in order to keep the county lines  
24 whole on its eastern boundary of Columbia, Levy and  
25 Gilcrest.



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1 By achieving this popu- -- the equal population  
2 within Leon County, we are able to not break those  
3 count lines and split into another county such as  
4 Alachua or Marion.

5 Moving over to CD 4, CD 4 encompasses all of  
6 Nassau County and takes the remaining part of Duval  
7 County that is not included in District 3. These two  
8 areas, uh, leave the district approximately 213,000  
9 people short of the populatin- -- population needed  
10 for a Congressional district, so the district drops  
11 into St. Johns County for its remainder of its  
12 population and keeps the city of St. Augustine within  
13 wholly of District 4. The other cities in St. Johns  
14 County are kept whole in the remaining part of the  
15 county.

16 As an alternatives, instead of going into St.  
17 Johns, if District 4 was to, say go into Clay County  
18 for its remaining population, it would have created a  
19 wraparound, irregular, and non-compact shape; and  
20 therefore which is why it grabs the remaining  
21 population to the south.

22 And now I'm going to turn it over to Jason to go  
23 over the next region.

24 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Kyle. Um, so moving south  
25 from District 4 in St. Johns County, this is where the

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1 two options A and B start to diverge.

2 This was done to demonstrate a policy choice that  
3 can be made, uh, what to do with the rest of St. Johns  
4 County and how even a small decision about how to  
5 change what you do with the population and, uh, just  
6 half of St. Johns County, whether you attach it to  
7 counties on the west or whether you go south, how that  
8 can have a ripple effect through the map and change  
9 what the districts look like.

10 So that was purposefully done to illustrate to  
11 the committee members, uh, how a small decision like  
12 that can impact the greater region. So with that, we  
13 will start with District 5.

14 Well, I'm sorry. We'll start -- we will start  
15 with District 6 in option A which takes that section  
16 of St. Johns County and combines it with all of  
17 Flagler County and further goes south into Volusia  
18 County.

19 That leaves District 5 to be encompassed of,  
20 um, five whole counties which is Alachua, Union,  
21 Bradford, Clay, and Putnam Counties. It then splits  
22 Marion County and to get the remaining part of this  
23 population including the entire city of Ocala, that's  
24 what that bump is, uh, what you can see highlighted  
25 right there.

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1 It uses a lot of state roads, um, on yeah on  
2 opposites sides of the city, um, including, um -- my  
3 apologies -- State Road 19 and US Highway 441 except  
4 where it achieves equal population and some other  
5 county roads in the area.

6 District 6, now moving back over there, um,  
7 because District 5, uh, in option A, um, keeps those  
8 five counties together and goes into Marion County,  
9 District 6 again takes that portion of St. Johns  
10 County, combining it with Flagler County, and goes  
11 into Volusia County and then a little bit of the flag  
12 on top of Lake County to fill out the remainder part  
13 of its population.

14 Volusia County is not kept whole. It is split by  
15 two district in the south that we'll go through a  
16 little more later.

17 In option B, uh, because District 5, uh, is the  
18 one that takes that population in St. Johns County  
19 combined with Flagler County and combines it with  
20 Putnam County, Union, Bradford and part of Alachua  
21 County to extend that district east connecting St.  
22 Johns County to the west, it then, uh, changes the  
23 configuration of that district.

24 It also moves the county split from Marion County  
25 into Alachua County, demonstrating another policy

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1 choice that can be made simply by including different  
2 populations into different district. We move a county  
3 split from Ma- -- Marion County into Alachua County.  
4 So small decisions like that can have a ripple effect  
5 throughout the map.

6 Now, because District 5 goes east and takes that  
7 portion of St. Johns and Flagler County, District 6,  
8 then can obviously cannot encompass the same are so it  
9 begins -- it -- uh, getting its population solely in  
10 Volusia County.

11 Volusia County is a very interesting county. It's  
12 one of the few counties in the state that has a dense  
13 population center both on the coastal side -- keeping  
14 a lot of the cities there you can see highlighted --  
15 along with cities like, uh, DeBary, uh, or Or- -- or  
16 Orange City and Deltona that are closer to the center  
17 part of the state and has a large area in the middle  
18 that does not have a lot of population.

19 So District 6 takes a lot of those coastal  
20 communities, starts to connect through Deltona, and  
21 then actually able to include the entire county of  
22 Seminole in that district.

23 Now District 11, um, similarly impacted by the  
24 decisions about whether or not to split Alachua County  
25 or Marion County, in option A you see that it takes



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1 the remaining portion of Marion County, connects it  
2 with the entire county of Sumter, and then the portion  
3 of Lake County that is not in District 6, um, going  
4 around the city of Eustis there in Umatella along with  
5 some of the other county roads in the area in Lake  
6 County.

7 It then gets the remaining portion of its  
8 population in Citrus County; Citrus County being  
9 another county like Walton County that Kyle talked  
10 about earlier, that has to be split for equal  
11 population purposes. District 11 has about 95,000  
12 people in Citrus County.

13 And it, uh, uses mostly the Lecanto Highway and  
14 other major roadways, uh, in the area to achieve this.

15 In option B, District 11, uh, keeps Marion County  
16 whole so it does not split Marion County. It takes the  
17 remaining portion of Alachua County, uh, including a  
18 lot of major roadways around the city of Gainesville;  
19 does happen to split the city of Gainesville in this  
20 particular configuration.

21 It then, uh, takes similar portions of, uh,  
22 northern part of Lake County that District 6 does in  
23 option A and then actually goes into Volusia County to  
24 fill out the remainder of its population, creating  
25 more of a rectangular horizontal effect as opposed to

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1 what the option looks like in option A.

2 Again, these are different configurations for  
3 these districts, governed mostly by a simple decisions  
4 about what to do with the remaining portion of St.  
5 Johns County and Flagler County to the north and how  
6 that impacts other districts.

7 Now moving south into the, uh, Orlando area, that  
8 decision we had earlier in St. Johns County impacted  
9 even these districts, but I'm going to jump really  
10 quick to District 8, 9 and 16.

11 District 8, 9 and 16 are both, uh, are very  
12 similar in both options, uh, both to keep counties  
13 whole; another principal or methodology that we used  
14 to assemble our districts. District 8 along the Space  
15 Coast is the same in both options. It includes all of  
16 Brevard County and Indian River County; it keeps them  
17 together. It then becomes 2,800 people approximately  
18 short of tha- -- that is needed for a Congressional  
19 district.

20 Um, we chose to go north into Volusia County to  
21 get that remaining 2,800 people. Um, by doing so we  
22 were able to keep the city of Oak Hill whole which is  
23 about 1,900 people along with going up I-95 and taking  
24 some of the surrounding areas we were able to achieve  
25 that population in a very compact way and then not

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1 split, uh, Orange County another time or go east.

2 So we were able to keep that district the same in  
3 both options. District 9 encompassed the entirety of  
4 Osceola County. Um, it then -- which Osceola happens  
5 to be about half the population of an entire  
6 Congressional district. It's about 380,000, a little  
7 bit more than that, people.

8 Remaining portion of its district, the other half  
9 of its population comes from the north, in Orange  
10 County, and it gets that population in slightly  
11 different ways in option A and option B but in both  
12 instances, uses a lot of the major roadways in the  
13 county such as I-4, the Beachline Expressway, um, uh,  
14 State Road 50, the East-West Expressway, the Central  
15 Florida Greenway, among other roads -- Curry Ferry  
16 Road and the Econ River in option B.

17 Option B actually takes the Econ River all the  
18 way to the northern Orange County line following that  
19 all the way back down. Both options are very Tier-Two-  
20 compliant using a lot of those major roadways wi- --  
21 within Orange County and keeps the county of Osceola  
22 whole.

23 Option or District 9 in both options also happen  
24 to be in a majority minority Hispanic district, um,  
25 which we'll -- which is a potential opportunity for

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1 the Hispanic population that has grown over this last  
2 decade.

3 District 16 is the same in both options. Um, uh,  
4 this decade were able to keep Polk County entirely  
5 whole in its own district.

6 However, keeping Polk County whole, it's about  
7 44,000 people short of what is needed for a  
8 Congressional district. In our options we then go into  
9 Hillsborough County, um, in a very compact way, able  
10 to use state roads and County Road 39 creating a very  
11 flat, um, uh, compact line along its eastern border.

12 We do happen to split the city of -- DePlant city  
13 line in order to achieve equal population that is  
14 necessary for a Congressional district.

15 Now, these three counties kind of form that  
16 county line that goes all the way across the state,  
17 um, forcing all the remaining decisions to go, uh,  
18 east and around down through Tampa that we'll get to  
19 shortly.

20 But getting back into the Orange County area,  
21 after we, um, take 380,000 people necessary to fill  
22 out Congressional District 9, what do we do with  
23 Congressional 7 and 10?

24 Now that's a little bit different based on what  
25 we did with the population and that little tiny piece



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1 of St. Johns and Flagler County up to the north.

2 And option A, because District 6 starts getting  
3 its population up in the northern part of the state,  
4 uh, with the remainder of St. Johns County and Flagler  
5 County, it does not have to go into Seminole County to  
6 get populations.

7 So it leaves a little bit extra population in  
8 Volusia County that District 7 takes along with the  
9 entire, uh, county of Seminole County and then goes  
10 into Orange County, uh, to get the remaining about  
11 280,000 people it needed to fill out its Congressional  
12 lines.

13 Now, in option B because district 6 is the one  
14 that keeps Seminole County whole within it, District 7  
15 becomes entirely within Orange County; very similar to  
16 option A's District 10 which is also wholly within  
17 Orange County.

18 It may look a little different. They start in  
19 different places in the county but they have very  
20 similar makeups and are both wholly within Orange  
21 County.

22 District 10 in option B takes the remaining  
23 280,000 people of Orange County and connects it with  
24 the remainder of Lake County, all of Sumter County,  
25 and splits Citrus County in exactly the same way that

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1 District 11 does in option A using the Lecanto  
2 Highway, before we start to move south in into Tampa  
3 Bay.

4 And to get into Tampa Bay, I'm going to turn it  
5 over to Kyle.

6 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Jason. So moving into the  
7 greater Tampa Bay region, um, we can see this area is  
8 made up primarily of four Congressional districts and  
9 parts of three others that move into the Hillsborough  
10 area.

11 In these two options, there are tradeoffs coequal  
12 to criteria and were going to explore these now  
13 between the two options. Starting at option A, we'll  
14 start with CD 12 which contains part of Pinellas,  
15 Hillsborough and Pasco Counties; primarily utilizes  
16 major roadways, State Road 52 which makes up its  
17 northern border in Pasco County; follows along the  
18 Suncoast Parkway for its eastern border and down into  
19 Hillsborough County and follows Dale Mabry Highway,  
20 Gunn Highway and Linebaugh Avenue.

21 Um, moving in Pinellas County, CD 12 primarily  
22 follows the Courtney Campbell Causeway, the Bayside  
23 Bridge, and Ulmerton Road or State Road 688 to  
24 complete its boundary line.

25 CD 15 borders CD 12 and Pasco and Hillsborough

1 Counties in addition to keeping the entirety of  
2 Hernando County whole within its district as well as  
3 taking the remainder of Citrus County.

4 It shares a border with CD 14 and 1- -- and 16 in  
5 Hillsborough and follows Fletcher Avenue, I-4 and  
6 State Road 39 as well as some other roadways to  
7 achieve equal population.

8 CD 14 and option A is kept entirely within  
9 Hillsborough County. It borders five other districts  
10 following as many primary roadways as possible, such  
11 as Dale Mabry Highway on the west side, Fletcher  
12 Avenue and I-4 on the northern side, State and County  
13 Road 39 on the east side; and County Road 672, Baum  
14 Road, and Big Bend Road on the southern side.

15 Following these roads help us create a very  
16 visually compact district within -- wholly kept within  
17 Hillsborough County. CD 13 takes the remainder of  
18 Pinellas County and connects it with the remaindering  
19 population in Hillsborough County.

20 So in option A, three of the four districts -- CD  
21 12, 15 and 14 -- all have, um, better mathematical  
22 compactness scores than in option B. Option B however,  
23 provides other Tier-Two metrics to consider as a  
24 tradeoff and a policy choice, um, before this  
25 committee. So moving into option B, we will start will



1 CD 12.

2 In this version CD 12 takes the remainder of  
3 Citrus County, all of Hernando County, and moves into  
4 Pasco and part of Pinellas County. Um, it follows some  
5 of the similar roads along with US Highway 41, State  
6 Road 54 and again follows the Suncoast Parkway.

7 In option B, moving to District 13 this district  
8 is kept wholly within Pinellas County and keeps as  
9 many cities whole as possible. It primarily follows on  
10 the northern boundary, the city lines of Dunedin,  
11 Clearwater, Safety Harbor, and Oldsmar along that  
12 northern border and is bordered by the Pinellas County  
13 boundary line on its east, west, and south sides.

14 CD 14, again located wholly within Hillsborough  
15 County as in option A, this time it's in more of a  
16 rectangular orientation. Um, it utilizes primary  
17 roadways, Hillsborough Avenue, Bush Boulevard and I-4  
18 along its northern border with CD 15.

19 State and County Road 39 again is the border  
20 between CD 14 and District 16, and then follows the  
21 same roads to the south -- Baum Road, Big Bend Road,  
22 and County Road 672.

23 CD 15 then connects the remaining, uh,  
24 populations of Pasco and Hillsborough counties to  
25 complete the remaining district in this area.



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1 Um, some Tier-Two, um, options that option B  
2 explores is it reduces the number of times  
3 Hillsborough County is split, from six times to  
4 options A to only four times in option B. It also  
5 keeps CD 13 wholly within Pinellas County and keeps  
6 the district wholly within Hillsborough County.

7 And these are some of -- and all the -- and the  
8 main difference is keeping those district whole  
9 sacrifice some of those mathematical compactness  
10 scores that are better in option A.

11 And then moving south, um, there are three  
12 districts, District 17, 18 and 19. Um, they're the  
13 same as workshops A and B. Um, CD 17 takes the  
14 remainder portion of Hillsborough County and combines  
15 it with all of Manatee County and Sarasota -- and part  
16 of Sarasota County.

17 So if we examine that line that Jason mentioned  
18 earlier, that -- the county lines that kind of travel  
19 across the state, um, across District 8, 9 and 16, if  
20 we take into account all the county populations south  
21 of that, um, there -- all of those counties combine  
22 come up around 112,722 people short of a full 12  
23 Congressional districts.

24 So at some point a district will have to go north  
25 to grab some population, which is what is done in

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1 District 17 and it crosses into Hillsborough County.

2 Moving down to CD 18, um, CD 18 takes the  
3 remining part of Sarasota County and includes seven  
4 whole counties: Hardy, DeSoto, Charlotte, Highlands,  
5 Glades, Okeechobee, and Hendry Counties; and then goes  
6 into Lee County to achieve to equal population.

7 Um, it follows primarily roads along the Hancock  
8 Bridge Parkway, Pine Island Road and County Roads 765  
9 and also follows the Able Canal and the Caloosahatchee  
10 River.

11 CD 19 takes the rest of Lee County and gets its  
12 remaining population south into Collier County, um,  
13 keeping both the cities of Naples and Marco Island  
14 whole. It follows -- it goes south into Collier County  
15 along I-75, US 41 and Collier Boulevard and, uh, only  
16 deviates to achieve equal population.

17 There is a slight difference in option A and B  
18 and that's just where equal population was achieved  
19 but they are effectively the same districts. And I'm  
20 going to turn it back over to Jason to go over  
21 southeast Florida.

22 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Kyle. Um, so now we will,  
23 uh, jump, uh, over to southeast Florida.

24 Now, Districts 21, 22, 23 and 25 in the Palm  
25 Beach and Broward County areas are largely impacted by

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1 the shape of Congressional District 20; um, after  
2 which, performing a functional analysis, Congressional  
3 District 20 is a protected black district and has been  
4 created to ensure minority groups have the ability to  
5 elect candidate of their choice in both options, even  
6 though they look very different in both options.

7 In option A, Congressional District 20 is kept  
8 wholly within Broward County. It connects the black  
9 populations in central and northern Broward County and  
10 cities such as but not limits to Fort Lauderdale,  
11 Pompano Beach, Deerfield Beach, Tamarack, Lauderhill,  
12 Margate, and others, with the black population in  
13 southern Broward County including the entire city of  
14 Miramar and parts of Pembroke Pines and Westpark.

15 In addition to using the Broward County line, uh,  
16 on its north, west, and eastern -- or southern  
17 boundaries, um, it, uh, also uses a lot of major roads  
18 throughout the area and a lot of other city lines in  
19 the area, including the city of Weston and other  
20 municipal lines in the area.

21 And option B, um, the black population in north  
22 Broward County, in a very similar manner as in option  
23 A, this time is connected with the Palm Beach County  
24 black population and in a very similar way to the  
25 current Congressional District 20 does.



1 But in this option, uh, now, it does it in a way  
2 that respect more major roadways in the area such as  
3 441, I-95, the Florida Turnpike, including city  
4 boundaries including keeping the entire city of Lake  
5 Park within it and using the Inner Coastal Waterway as  
6 a boundary along the, um, eastern side of it.

7 These are two different ways of drawing a legally  
8 compliant protected district in this area.  
9 Congressional District 20 in option A respects the  
10 principal of county boundaries and keeping districts  
11 wholly within counties, uh, when possible; while  
12 Congressional District 20 in option B is actually more  
13 mathematically compact, scoring, uh, better in two of  
14 the three compactness scores. Its React score in  
15 option B is .50 compared to .44 in option A.

16 Polsby-Popper is .28 in option B compared to .22  
17 in option A. So these are just different tradeoffs  
18 with these Tier-Two, um, standards that can be married  
19 with the Tier-One protection of a district.

20 Congressional District 21 includes all of St.  
21 Lucie and Martin Counties in both options, and in both  
22 options includes just over 280,000 in Palm Beach  
23 Counties but they do so in different ways based on how  
24 Congressional District 20, uh, interacts with Palm  
25 Beach County. In option A, Congressional District 21



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1 includes the area in western Palm Beach Counties  
2 including the cities of Belle Glade and Pahokee, but  
3 also keeps the cities of Palm Beach Gardens, Riviera  
4 Beach, Jupiter and others wholly within it and uses  
5 the city boundary lines for most of its southern  
6 border, um, along District 22; um, before also using  
7 the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, uh, which is  
8 kind of that, um, uh, bell shape that you see at the  
9 bottom there.

10 That's actually not something -- that's not a,  
11 um, geographic area that is technically apart of what  
12 we can consider but because it is such a large  
13 consideration there in Palm Beach County it often  
14 serves as the boundary between districts where the  
15 population, uh, center ends on Palm Beach and the less  
16 populated area of Palm Beach starts.

17 We are limited by the geographies in the, uh,  
18 census blocks and in this area they can be very large  
19 and complicated so we including them all in the same  
20 districts is generally the better solution, but that  
21 is something that we can explore.

22 Um, it also uses the Palm Beach and Broward  
23 County line along with the Palm Beach County line to  
24 the east to finish out its boundary.

25 In option B, uh, this district stays in northern

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1 Palm Beach County primarily using a railway to come  
2 diagonally down from the county line to where it meets  
3 Congressional District 20, uh, using Okochobee  
4 Boulevard and the rest of the Congressional District  
5 20 line, using a lot of the same streets and roads we  
6 talked about previously before going out to the coast  
7 using the inner, uh, the Palm Beach, uh, inlet.

8 In option A, Congressional District 22 which is  
9 the red district, uh, includes all of West Palm Beach,  
10 Wellington -- which is why the district goes kind of  
11 bows out to the west side.

12 Um, I lost my place. Uh, Wellington and other  
13 cities moving south to get all of the necessary  
14 population for the district, uh, while remaining  
15 entirely within Palm Beach County in a very compact  
16 shape while respecting as many of the city boundaries  
17 as possible; while equalizing population in the city  
18 of Boynton Beach, which is the only city in option A  
19 that seems to be split.

20 In option B Congressional District 22 extends  
21 north to the inlet to meet District 21, uh, before  
22 coming south to US 441 and includes the entire city of  
23 Wellington. That is the point that you see that goes  
24 out there. That is why, uh, the district has, uh, that  
25 configuration.

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1 Um, it also uses the national wildlife refuges we  
2 talked about before to create that bell shape, uh,  
3 until it goes south to get the remaining population  
4 necessary for the district.

5 Uh, and in option B Congressional District 22  
6 southern border uses the Boca Raton and Highlands  
7 Beach municipal lines for much of its boundary and  
8 achieves equal population in a little west of that.

9 In option 23 [sic] Congressional District 23  
10 takes the remaining part of Palm Beach County and then  
11 takes the northern part of Broward County that is not  
12 within Congressional District 20, including the entire  
13 city of Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Parkland while  
14 using the Loxahatchee and Everglades National Wildlife  
15 Refuges for its western border, simply again because  
16 we're limited by the geography we are limited to us.

17 And it meets Congressional District 25 along the  
18 south -- along Atlantic Boulevard and the Lake -- uh,  
19 Lake Santa Barbara and Pompano Canals.

20 In option B Congressional District 23 takes in  
21 much of the same area but goes all the way down to the  
22 Broward County line actually, uh, along the primarily  
23 using Route 1 as the western border between 25 and 23.

24 In option B the border between 20 and 23 uses as  
25 many city lines for its boundaries as possible except

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1 for where it needs to deviate for population. It keeps  
2 the city of Coral Springs, Margate, and Coconut Creek  
3 whole.

4 In both options, Congressional District 25 is  
5 wholly within Broward County. In option A District 25  
6 shares the northern border with -- with the protected  
7 district of District 20 but also includes the whole  
8 cities of Weston, Southwest Ranches, Davie, Cooper  
9 City, and parts of others while extending north to  
10 meet the southern border of Congressional District 23  
11 and then to the south on the Broward County line and  
12 the Miramar city line.

13 In option B Congressional District 25 is more  
14 mathematically compact and uses, uh, many more major  
15 roadways than in the other version, um, including I-  
16 75, the Sawgrass Expressway, the Florida Turnpike, I-  
17 95, Davie Boulevard, Sunrise Boulevard, Broward  
18 Boulevard and US 441.

19 Uh, a lot of these same roadways are used in both  
20 options but in slightly different manner. Um, on the  
21 eastside Route 1 is the primary boundary with  
22 Congressional District 23 and the Broward County line  
23 at the south.

24 Along with the municipal lines of Weston,  
25 Southwest Ranches, Pembroke Pines, and Miramar to west



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1 before you go out into the unpopulated Everglades  
2 territory.

3 There are many cities in Broward County, many of  
4 which are actually interlocked with each other as we  
5 demonstrate some of the, uh, previous committee  
6 meetings, um, and because of the other Tier-One  
7 protected districts that are in the area, uh,  
8 sometimes it becomes more difficult to keep cities  
9 whole in this area.

10 We have done the best we can to show the  
11 committee different options and how that can be  
12 achieved.

13 Uh, now moving south into the Broward County  
14 area, we'll first kind of -- or I'm sorry, into the  
15 Belle Glade and, uh, Monroe area, we'll kind of zoom  
16 out and show, uh, all these districts, uh, just  
17 because they encompass a large area before we zoom in  
18 to the area in Miami-Dade County where the all these  
19 districts really come together.

20 So here you can see District 26 encompasses the  
21 northern part of Miami-Dade County and goes into  
22 Collier County to get its remaining population.  
23 District 28 extends in Miami-Dade County to the south  
24 and includes all of Monroe County include our  
25 including our favorite, um, Florida fun fact, the Dry

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1 Tortugas Islands. Uh, and if we zoom in we can get a  
2 better look at how all of these districts here  
3 interact.

4 So, uh, after prolonged analysis, Congressional  
5 District 24 is a protected black district that has  
6 been created to make ensure minority groups have the  
7 ability to elect a candidate of their choice in both  
8 options even though they look slightly different.

9 Um, they are slightly different because of how  
10 Congressional District 20 interacts with south Broward  
11 County in, um, option A. Uh, but they have, uh -- but  
12 they both ensure that the minority groups have the  
13 ability to elect the candidate of their choice in both  
14 options.

15 Congressional districts 20 to 24 include many  
16 whole cities along the coast of Miami-Dade, including  
17 Aventura, North Miami, Biscayne Park, North Miami,  
18 Miami Shores, Opa-Locka among others, and along its  
19 northern side it uses the Miami-Dade County line  
20 except for it crosses into Broward County.

21 Um, I should say in both options, Congressional  
22 District 4 crosses the Broward and Miami-Dade County  
23 line. Um, that has to be done for equal population  
24 reasons but we've ensured that this is actually the  
25 only district across the Broward/Miami-Dade County

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1 line.

2 Um, within Miami-Dade County, Congressional  
3 District 24 uses many major roadways in the area  
4 including I-95, 27th Avenue, 47th Avenue, among  
5 others, um, including some municipal lines.

6 In option B there's a little extension that  
7 sticks out from the western boundary of Congressional  
8 District 24. That is actually the municipal lines of  
9 Opa-Locka. So you can see we've -- we've tried to use  
10 those boundaries where possible.

11 Congressional District 26, 27 and 28 are all  
12 protected Hispanic majority minority districts and  
13 with the functional analysis that staff conducted  
14 ensuring the minority groups can elect candidate of  
15 their choice in each of these three districts,  
16 Congressional 26 is very similar in both options with  
17 only slight difference based on how 24 has to interact  
18 with Broward County and, uh, as the ripple effect kind  
19 of moves throughout the whole region as you do  
20 different things with Congressional District 20.

21 In both options, Congressional District 26  
22 connects part of the Collier County, not in CD 19 with  
23 population of Miami-Dade County using the Collier,  
24 Broward and Miami-Dade County lines primarily along  
25 the I-75 and US 441 which is the Tamiami Trail, uh, as

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1 well as the Dolphin Expressways moves further into  
2 Miami-Dade County before meeting up with Congressional  
3 District 24 line, uh, and going north using the same  
4 boundary line backed up to the Miami-Dade County line,  
5 um, while including the entire city of Hialeah,  
6 Hialeah Gardens, Medley, Doral, Miami Lakes among  
7 others.

8 Congressional District 27, uh, primarily uses the  
9 Dolphin Expressway along its northern border in both  
10 options and then uses the Florida Turnpike along its,  
11 uh, western border in both options.

12 In option A District 27 includes more of the city  
13 of Miami and a part of Miami Beach, uh, so to  
14 compensate for this, uh, its western boundary moves  
15 from the Florida Turnpike to US 1 of the western side.  
16 This is also done to ensure in this option, uh, the  
17 city of Cutler Bay, uh, to the south is kept wholly  
18 within it.

19 Um, Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay just beneath that  
20 is, uh, kept wholly within the district in -- in  
21 option A. In option B Cutler Bay is split; uh, not  
22 doing the same deviation off the Florida Turnpike.  
23 This is again done to demonstrate to the committee  
24 that you can make different policy choices in keeping  
25 a city whole or not and how that would affect the rest



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1 of the district lines.

2 In option B, uh, then continue said to not divide  
3 Cutler Bay, uh, District 28 is very similar in both  
4 options using, uh, the Tamiami Trail and the Florida  
5 Turnpike except for where it deviates, uh, to  
6 compensate for the -- what we did with Cutler Bay in  
7 District 27 but otherwise its boundaries are more or  
8 less the same in both options.

9 This is also an example if this is an example if  
10 you look at District 28 and 27 and how they come  
11 together in the water a little differently.

12 How we, um, again are, um, uh, have to use the  
13 census geography that we have and the block lines, the  
14 water block lines are a little bit different.

15 And in this case we used a little bit of the, uh,  
16 Coral Gables city lines rather than just, um, take the  
17 other, um, water block lines but you can see how you  
18 can manipulate the shape of the district by choosing  
19 where to include the water block lines. And this was  
20 just a way to show the committee that you can do this  
21 in different ways.

22 And, uh, that, Mr. Chairman are the two workshop  
23 options.

24 REP. SIROIS: All right. Thank you very much, uh,  
25 Kyle and Jason, Leda, for the presentation. Members

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1 will now move into questions.

2 I would ask, uh, just a reminder of our ground  
3 rules if you would pose one question at a time. You  
4 can, uh, present questions to the chair and we'll  
5 continue that fashion. Members, any questions?  
6 Representative Hunschofsky, you're recognized.

7 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: Thank you, Chair. Um, First of  
8 all, as part of my question I'm just going to say how  
9 excited I am to be on this committee. It's a big honor  
10 I believe it to be a part of this process.

11 Having said that, if you could just explain to  
12 someone like myself whose completely new to this, who  
13 is a little technologically challenged with these  
14 maps, what was the process that you started with?

15 Like, how did you make the decision where to  
16 start in the process and -- and when you were looking  
17 at the Tier-Two standards, I heard compact come up and  
18 then I heard geographical boundaries come up.

19 Where -- where did you prioritize or how did you  
20 make the decision on would you prioritize along the  
21 way? I hope that made sense.

22 REP. SIROIS: Thank you representative. Ms.  
23 Kelly, you're recognized.

24 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Chair, and thank you,  
25 Representative. It -- it's a very good questions and -

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1 - and the reality is there's no one right way to  
2 start. I think a good starting point and you know, one  
3 of the the -- first things we did look at is how the  
4 population has shifted throughout the state.

5 You know, that is kind of the foundation for why  
6 we're required to redistrict is to make sure we  
7 understand, you know, people moving to Florida and  
8 unfortunately they don't just move to one city. They  
9 just disperse amongst the state and obviously the  
10 population shifts within the state as well.

11 Um, so I think that's one, you know, good place  
12 and good consideration for everyone to keep in mind.

13 Um, from there we obviously have, uh, you know,  
14 federal and state legal requirements to make sure that  
15 minority communities where they're protected, uh, have  
16 the ability to continue to elect representative of  
17 their district and then from there you kind of, you  
18 know, start to build them out.

19 And I know that may sound odd but there's no one  
20 right place in this state to start drawing, um,  
21 sometimes you -- you start to draw a configuration and  
22 the math doesn't work out, it doesn't come together  
23 or, you know, you realize maybe there's an opportunity  
24 to, uh, improve your Tier-Two compactness scores of  
25 that nature that you've mentioned.

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1 Um, so you kind of just start exploring.

2 REP. SIROIS: Representative Hunschofsky, did you  
3 have a follow-up?

4 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: Um, yes. Thank you, Chair. Um,  
5 so I guess I wasn't very specific. I -- I don't know  
6 who did these, uh, so I -- I guess part of the  
7 question would be who did these maps?

8 And whoever did the maps, where did that person  
9 begin? I'm trying to understand I guess the process  
10 that was gone through to come up with either option.

11 I know we went through each section, but usually  
12 before you make any decision, I think you said, um,  
13 sort of -- of -- set priorities in your own mind how  
14 you want to approach this, where you want to begin.

15 And so I kind of just like to understand that  
16 whoever the person or people were, what was their  
17 process making?

18 What did they prioritize in the Tier-Two  
19 standards obviously knowing that we have to have the  
20 Tier-One standards before we have to have the Tier-Two  
21 because I paid attention to all the presentations.  
22 Thank you.

23 REP. SIROIS: Thank you, uh, Representative  
24 Hunschofsky for the question. You know, our -- our  
25 House staff has, uh, been with us since the beginning.



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1 This is our fifth or sixth committee meeting.

2 We spend time building the foundational knowledge  
3 together, working through the legal precedent, uh, the  
4 constitutional standards, some of the history of the  
5 redistricting process.

6 And -- and as I said at the beginning of our --  
7 our comments, uh, what we have before us today are  
8 workshop options that staff put together that I think  
9 illustrate for us very well, uh, the different  
10 application of the tiers; uh, some of the options that  
11 we have as policymakers; some of the challenges that  
12 are associated with putting a map together.

13 Uh, so staff presented these, uh, workshop maps  
14 to us in the spirit of providing this committee  
15 something they can take a look at and provides some  
16 very real tangible application of what we've been  
17 learning about the past couple of weeks.

18 And I -- and I think you see some pretty good  
19 examples, uh, where the tiers compete with one another  
20 in terms of maintaining compactness versus keeping,  
21 uh, existing political boundary lines together; try  
22 not to split counties.

23 Uh, so this is very much I think the beginning of  
24 a conversation, and really an exercise that helps us,  
25 uh, see how it all works.

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1 Representative Hunschofsky, do you have another  
2 follow-up?

3 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: And -- and I apologize. Um, I  
4 didn't know when we were getting these and we got them  
5 Monday and it's kind of been a busy week so I didn't  
6 have as -- I thought I had more time this week and it  
7 wasn't as mu- -- um, personally coming from and --  
8 and the reason I'm concentrating on those Tier-Two  
9 standards and where the priorities are, coming from,  
10 uh, local government originally.

11 Obviously cities -- I -- I understand how city  
12 representation and population representation can kind  
13 of get diluted when you're split up in different  
14 areas.

15 So like that's why I was talking about the Tier-  
16 Two standards and trying to understand when a choice  
17 was there between compactness and -- and boundaries,  
18 kind of how those choices were made and why those  
19 choices were made? Because I saw in some areas we have  
20 very small cities that are broken up.

21 Like very small cities and then in other areas we  
22 have large cities that weren't broken up. And -- and  
23 as somebody coming from a small city, I know how that  
24 can impact, um -- uh, the weight that that city has in  
25 the district.

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1 So that's kind of where -- I hope I'm explaining  
2 that well.

3 REP. SIROIS: You are, Representative  
4 Hunschofsky. Can I -- I appreciate the good -- the  
5 good questions. You always bring such great questions  
6 to committee.

7 And what I -- what I think would be appropriate,  
8 is I'm going to ask staff, uh, to revisit some  
9 examples for us that we just saw through our  
10 presentation, kind of walk us through, uh, maybe where  
11 the tiers conflict with one another and what options  
12 we have as the policymakers to sort that out. So Ms.  
13 Kelly, you're recognized.

14 MS. KELLY: Thank you. And I think you touched on  
15 something that's really important as well. You know,  
16 whenever you're looking at, uh, existing whether its  
17 geographical boundaries or -- or political boundaries  
18 or compactness or as all of those fall within a tier  
19 where they are co-equal tradeoffs, right?

20 So I think you bring forth a very very valid  
21 point. Uh, one of the areas I'd like to zoom into and  
22 we'll be able to -- to walk through an example as the  
23 chair has requested, um, is this, uh, in back up in  
24 the -- the north central Florida area between District  
25 5 and 11 and how, you know, splitting Gainesville or,

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1 uh, counteractively splitting Ocala, um, between our  
2 two, uh, districts can impact those compactness.

3 And Jason, I'd drive if you'd like to walk  
4 through the numbers.

5 MR. MORGAN: Uh, sure. So here, uh, is as we  
6 talked about before you have these two different  
7 options of what to do with Congressional District 5.

8 Um, Congressional District 5 as a whole in option  
9 A is more compact than Congressional District 5 when  
10 you look at the mathematical compact scores. Um, you  
11 are also able to keep the city of Ocala whole within  
12 District 5, uh, in Marion County, if you do the split  
13 down there.

14 Um, conversely, in this particular option, uh, in  
15 order to use the a lot of the major roadways that are  
16 there, um, coming up to Gainesville but because of the  
17 way of the population is distributed in Alachua County  
18 and how it's centered in Gainesville, it wasn't really  
19 possible, at least in this initial iteration.

20 It doesn't mean that there isn't a way to keep  
21 Gainesville whole here, but this was a way of -- of  
22 instead of using the municipal lines, using the more  
23 major roadways to create a more visually pleasing, uh,  
24 divide in Alachua County as kind of a tradeoff of all  
25 of those coequal Tier-Two, um, uh, different, uh,



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1 ideas of either following city lines, county lines;  
2 which county is to split off, do you follow more major  
3 roadways in following in creating more pleasing visual  
4 shape?

5 Those were all coequal things. And in our  
6 options, we attempted to demonstrate all of those  
7 things for the committee. So you can see how these  
8 coequal Tier-Two standards can be, uh, done one way or  
9 done a different way but they're all coequal.

10 So there wasn't one priority made over another.  
11 We just went through the map and tried to, uh, find  
12 different ways of demonstrating those different  
13 choices to the committee.

14 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: May I ask one more real quick  
15 --

16 REP. SIROIS: Thank you. Uh, Representative  
17 Hunschofsky, you're recognized.

18 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: Okay. I'm hoping to spend some  
19 time over the holidays to kind of go through all of  
20 this. Um, we have several protected seats.

21 So, do you kind of map those out before when  
22 you're starting in your process or do you hit them as  
23 you come across -- I don't know if I'm explaining --  
24 so like when you start to do the process, do those  
25 kind of get mapped out beforehand and then you start

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1 in one section and you move through or do you just map  
2 them out as you move through the process?

3 REP. SIROIS: Thank you, Representative. I -- I --  
4 -- maybe some time to prioritize -- how do we  
5 prioritize those options. We'll ask, uh -- Ms. Kelly,  
6 if you would respond please.

7 MS. KELLY: Perfect. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
8 you, Representative. Um, we're -- we're aware of  
9 those. Obviously we have a you know, legal requirement  
10 under and federal law to make sure that those groups  
11 have the ability to elect.

12 Um, so you know, we look at our benchmark map and  
13 understand where that may be a starting point. Um, but  
14 I would say it's -- it does evolve as you make sure  
15 you move throughout the region and you make sure that  
16 as you go, um, where there may have been population  
17 shifts, you've accounted for that.

18 Um, and you know, as I mentioned earlier, you  
19 kind of adjust as you fill out the entirety of your  
20 map.

21 REP. SIROIS: Thank you very much. Ranking Member  
22 Skidmore?

23 REP. SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Um, before  
24 I ask my question I think I'm -- I'm making more of a  
25 comment.

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1 Um, I'm a little disappointed I think that, um,  
2 we didn't participate more in the creation of the map  
3 or the policy decisions behind or the methodology  
4 behind how all of this was going to be drawn and- --

5 REP. SIROIS: If I can interject in that and I  
6 apologize for interrupting you but I -- I want to  
7 stop you there because I -- I think it's important to  
8 note that that -- what you're describing is exactly  
9 the purpose of this workshop today.

10 Uh we have these workshop maps. Um, like any  
11 other workshop that we have in the House of  
12 Representatives, it's an opportunity to gain -- to  
13 gain information, to gain understanding, to gain some  
14 perspective.

15 So the workshop maps that we have before us today  
16 as I said earlier, they're not bills; they're not  
17 PCBs. They are a real-world application and an  
18 opportunity for the members of this committee to take  
19 a look at how the standards apply, uh, to different  
20 options that -- that we will proceed from here.

21 Um, but again, th- -- this is very much a  
22 starting point of our discussion today. It's a natural  
23 progression of the education process that we have. So  
24 I -- I -- want to be careful to not mislead anybody to  
25 believing that this is somehow a product that is going

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1 to turn into a PCB and we are going to move forward.

2 This is -- this is merely today part of our  
3 continuing education. And I -- I apologize for  
4 interrupting you, but I think it was important to  
5 point that out. So if you have a question on the  
6 process, we can -- we can move on from there.

7 REP. SKIDMORE: So thank you, Mr. Chair. I think,  
8 um, that helps me a lot in -- in understanding. You  
9 know, I'm kind of a -- a person who strives for an A  
10 all the time and I felt coming into this process that  
11 I -- I didn't have all my, um, all my ducks in a row  
12 to be able to fully participate.

13 Um, and so I appreciate that this is the  
14 beginning, um, and that we have, uh, an opportunity to  
15 now, um -- uh, be able to, uh, participate more fully.  
16 I'm also -- and I'll get to a question, I promise you.

17 Also a little disappointed that many of the  
18 members of our, um, black caucus are out of town this  
19 week and are -- are -- are not to be able to be here  
20 to begin this process with us.

21 So, um, uh, to that end, we don't -- we won't be  
22 meeting again until sometime in January. What  
23 opportunities will we have in the intern to be able to  
24 engage really more fully in this process so that we  
25 have an -- a better understanding of what's coming out



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1 at the end?

2 REP. SIROIS: Well, thank you. Thank you very  
3 much for that -- that question. You know, and I -- I  
4 really can't, uh, speak to members' scheduling issues.

5 But will I -- what I will say is, um, I strive  
6 both as an individual member and as chairman of this  
7 committee, uh, to be fully accessible to members that  
8 have any question on any subject matter related to our  
9 process.

10 And while Chair Leek and I have not had a  
11 conversation regarding this specific subject, I -- I  
12 feel safe in speaking for him as well and saying he  
13 shares the belief as I do with regard to our  
14 accessibility and being responsive and open and  
15 hearing the concerns of all 120 members of this House  
16 in terms of this process and how we move forward.

17 So, my door is open. Uh, please, you know, I  
18 would encourage any member, uh, to -- to feel free to  
19 reach out at any time.

20 Uh, in terms of -- of public input, as we move  
21 forward, you know, and this kind of speaks of  
22 Representative Hunschofsky's point earlier.

23 We do have the benefit of the next six weeks  
24 before we come back, to go home, to hear the input  
25 from -- from our constituents and the members of the -

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1 - of the public in our communities and to bring -- to  
2 bring some of that knowledge and perspective back to  
3 Tallahassee.

4 Of course I would ask you to keep it within the  
5 framework of our tiers and our constitutional  
6 requirements; uh, but between the intern period,  
7 before session begins, uh, the extensive capability  
8 that exists on our website; uh, not to mention the  
9 opportunity for the public to join us here in  
10 committee that provides some input.

11 In addition to the duty that all of us have as  
12 representatives to be in touch with the folks in our  
13 district, I feel comfortable that there is enough  
14 opportunity for there to be plenty of public input as  
15 we move forward. Plenty of opportunity for that.

16 Uh, Ranking Member, you're recognized for a  
17 follow-up.

18 REP. SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To that  
19 end, was any of the, um, the public input that was put  
20 posted on the -- the website taken into account when  
21 drawing the maps?

22 I -- I looked at several of the, um -- uh, folks  
23 who had written in and said you know, Gainesville  
24 shouldn't be split and, you know, different -- there  
25 were a lot of different viewpoints. And so was any of

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1 that taken into consideration as the mappers were  
2 drawing or making the lines?

3 REP. SIROIS: Thank you very much, Ranking  
4 Member. Uh, I -- at a conceptual level, yes. But  
5 again, as we talked about it in an earlier meeting,  
6 uh, I think as we move forward and we do begin work on  
7 a -- on a product, uh, members have the opportunity to  
8 go and -- and review those as well. Its open to  
9 everyone.

10 Uh, the members of the public as well as the  
11 members of the committee including the data that is  
12 used to -- to build these materials. It's all  
13 available on the website.

14 So I would encourage members if -- if you, uh,  
15 review that and you see something that you think, uh,  
16 wants further discussion, bring it forward to a  
17 committee meeting. Bringing that forward is part of  
18 the mentor process.

19 And that is something that will unfold as session  
20 begins.

21 Members, other questions? Representative Lauren  
22 [ph].

23 REP. LAUREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just  
24 start by saying this is the first time we've -- I've  
25 been a part of this committee, so thank you. Um, so

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1 the first time I think we've been on the committee  
2 together so thank you for having me.

3 Uh, I might be a little bit behind the group  
4 because I didn't get the same amount of participation  
5 in the prior committee meetings. I just -- I was  
6 hoping I -- my first question could be, I -- I swear  
7 I'm a smart guy. What is the definition of contiguous?

8 REP. SIROIS: Uh, Ms. Kelly, if you -- if you'd  
9 like to take that one.

10 MS. KELLY: So, one of our constitutional  
11 requirements is that districts are contiguous.

12 And so last decade the Supreme Court was able to  
13 define that as you know, whenever a district touches.  
14 They were specific to say that if it touches it just a  
15 point that is -- does not meet the contiguity  
16 requirement.

17 So -- so if you were an instance you know, if  
18 you're looking at the districts here upon the slide,  
19 um, you can see you know, between Districts 5 and 2  
20 where they touch there in those counties that it's a  
21 fully county boundary, um, which would ma -- uh,  
22 satisfy that requirement.

23 REP. SIROIS: Representative, you're recognized.

24 REP. LAUREN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So,  
25 speaking specifically to option A in the Tampa Bay



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1 region, it is -- it sounds to me that you're saying  
2 crossing a body of water counts -- meets the  
3 definition of contiguous. Is that correct?

4 REP. SIROIS: Ms. Kelly, you're recognized.

5 MS. KELLY: Yes, sir.

6 REP. LAUREN: So is any body of water therefore  
7 deemed to be able to be used to satisfy a contiguous  
8 requirement?

9 Like so for an example, could Key West be looped  
10 in with Apalachicola because you can draw a straight  
11 line between those two points?

12 REP. SIROIS: Ms. Kelly, you are recognized.

13 MS. KELLY: Uh, thank you. Um, y- -- ye -- uh, I  
14 wo- -- yes. In theory, yes. That would be, um,  
15 contiguous I would say that would definitely raise  
16 some other Tier-Two issues perhaps.

17 One of the things we did cover in a previous  
18 committee was kind of a fun fact we threw out there.

19 As we mentioned earlier, uh, Monroe County comes  
20 down and there's 70 miles between Key West and the Dry  
21 Tortugas, so obviously that's a substantial amount of  
22 water between those two pieces of geography, but that  
23 is a valid connector.

24 And Florida is one of -- I believe one of the  
25 five or six states across the country that have a

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1 unique situation like that.

2 REP. SIROIS: Representative Lauren, you're  
3 recognized.

4 REP. LAUREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So to  
5 expand on that a little bit. So you were saying that  
6 it would -- that -- that that would -- linking  
7 Apalachicola with Key West would meet the contiguous  
8 requirement but you said there's other Tier-Two  
9 requirements that wouldn't meet.

10 Could you just tell me what the second Tier-Two  
11 requirements that would then violate?

12 REP. SIROIS: Ms. Kelly, you are recognized.

13 MS. KELLY: Um, not that they would violate them.  
14 Um, I would say you know, if you are drawing a  
15 district from Key West up to Pensacola, um, could  
16 potentially raise some compactness issues but not  
17 necessarily if I -- if I said that I apologize, I  
18 misspoke. It's not that it would violate it.

19 REP. SIROIS: Final question, Representative  
20 Lauren.

21 REP. LAUREN: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. So --  
22 is the -- is the reason for the compactness that --  
23 that the communities would have to be similar, or is  
24 the reason for compactness to meet the mathematical  
25 requirement that you're using to score your map?

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1 And I guess my question therefore is, are we  
2 saying that you can't link Key West with Apalachicola  
3 because those communities have little in common with  
4 each other or because of the sheer, like, mileage  
5 between them?

6 REP. SIROIS: Thank you very much, I'll take that  
7 one, uh, Representative Lauren.

8 Compactness is -- is an issue that has been  
9 recognized by the courts as being acceptable in terms  
10 of redistricting and I think its which you're speaking  
11 to and I -- I want to be clear for members.

12 Uh, what you're speaking to is communities of  
13 interest and communities of interest cannot be  
14 substituted for any of the Tier-One or Tier-Two  
15 standards.

16 Communities of interest are -- are an issue that  
17 falls supplemental to the two tier system  
18 constitutional requirements that we have. Thank you.

19 REP. LAUREN: Thank you.

20 REP. SIROIS: Members, other questions?  
21 Representative Hunschofsky.

22 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: Thank you, Chair. Um, what is,  
23 uh, so today we're having this workshop process. Um,  
24 we didn't know from the last meeting what our next  
25 meeting was going to hold. What is -- what does this

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1 look like going forward?

2 Because to be honest, we had presentations for  
3 several weeks. Uh, we didn't know if and when maps  
4 were coming, not coming. We didn't know whether they  
5 were real maps, workshop maps, or whatever we call  
6 them.

7 So, uh, just from a process standpoint, um, are  
8 you going to outline what our next steps are? What  
9 those look like, what that means for us each as  
10 individuals? What our part is in it or not? Just --  
11 general.

12 REP. SIROIS: Thank you. And I appreciate the --  
13 I appreciate your question. You know, I think you've  
14 probably learned that working with me for a little  
15 while, I don't rush. I don't rush into anything.

16 What I think is important here is that we have  
17 the benefit of some times. You have received a  
18 tremendous amount of information today. Uh, we have  
19 gone over a lot during this workshop and there is  
20 certainly a huge amount of information that are  
21 contained in our two workshop maps.

22 Uh, I think that it's appropriate to kind of  
23 digest what we've learned today. Uh, and as we move  
24 forward I think a conversation about what we've  
25 learned, uh, the public input that we've received and



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1 this intern period.

2 You're certainly going to have additional  
3 questions. Uh, you know, for the next few weeks. Know  
4 I'll be thinking about this on the drive home today.

5 But, uh, you know, I think that we're going to  
6 continue moving forward in a way, uh, where we are  
7 diligent, we're answering questions, we're taking a  
8 look at our options because the best thing that we can  
9 do for ourselves as policymakers is to be well  
10 informed, uh, on this -- this task that we have ahead  
11 of us.

12 So my -- my answer to you would be that we are  
13 going to continue to work on this to discuss it and  
14 learn and then apply these lessons through our work of  
15 creating maps.

16 Representative Hunschofsky, you are recognized.

17 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: Sorry, Chair. Thank you very  
18 much. I -- I guess I'm looking for something a little  
19 more. Patience has never been my virtue which I  
20 appreciate that it is one of yours.

21 Um, I just want to get an idea because, uh, when  
22 we get here, I remember last session, I know it was  
23 Covid so maybe it was a little different. But it felt  
24 like it was kind of thrown into something then all of  
25 a sudden it's all over and it's a race against time it

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1 feels like in the 60 days.

2 I guess what I'm looking for it some sort of an  
3 outline of -- and nothing on this day we're doing  
4 this, but just what that timeline could or should look  
5 like for us just from a a -- a preparation standpoint  
6 personally. Thank you.

7 REP. SIROIS: Thank you.

8 REP. HUNSCHOFSKY: And like who submits and what  
9 and just kind of how that works. Thank you.

10 REP. SIROIS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very  
11 much. No. No. No. No. Thank you for your -- your --  
12 your question. I think that moving forward what you  
13 what we ought to be doing as individual committee  
14 members is to continue to review our constitutional  
15 standards.

16 Uh, each of us has a duty to ignore that noise  
17 that's out there on the periphery that I think we're  
18 all going to be subject to. You know, the -- the -- so  
19 it's important for you to create that firewall and to  
20 stay true to our constitutional standards.

21 Uh, in terms of what each member should be tasked  
22 with, I think reviewing these workshop maps, reviewing  
23 the constitutional standards, receiving that public  
24 input from your -- your community, from your  
25 constituents is important.

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1 In terms of a timeline, you know, when we return  
2 to session in January -- which is our constitutionally  
3 mandated period to complete this function -- you know,  
4 I think our first series of meetings are going to be  
5 potentially some wrapup of any lingering questions we  
6 have related to our workshop options.

7 Uh, and then we are going to move forward, you  
8 know, towards completion of the work product.  
9 Representative Benjamin, sir.

10 REP. BENJAMIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And as so  
11 when you say that, uh -- the wrapup of a particular  
12 product are we saying at some point during this  
13 process, we're going to look at changes, proposed  
14 changes that may be requested of, uh, this -- this  
15 process? Is that -- is that what you mean when you say  
16 a final product?

17 REP. SIROIS: Thank you very much. You know, I --  
18 I think what we see today in terms of workshop maps is  
19 -- is a starting point for what we're going to be  
20 moving toward.

21 And I -- I don't say that to specifically mean  
22 that these workshop maps. These maps are not a bill.  
23 They're not a PCB at this point. This is simply  
24 examples of the application of our tier standards.

25 Um, again and I -- I will go back to a comment

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1 earlier. For all committee members, if you have  
2 questions, if you have a policy point that you'd like  
3 to see, uh, displayed in terms of how it affects the  
4 map and how it could potentially do things  
5 differently, don't wait to provide that feedback to  
6 our committee staff.

7 I would encourage you not to wait until session  
8 to make that ask. Let them walk through with you what  
9 the different options look like for all policy  
10 decisions you may be interested in.

11 REP. BENJAMIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 REP. SIROIS: Sorry. Ranking Member?

13 REP. SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Um, I think  
14 Representation Hunschofsky was getting at what I was  
15 trying to get at and in terms of being able to provide  
16 information to our constituents who are interested in  
17 participating publicly, it's not easy for South  
18 Floridians to get up here and plan.

19 And so understanding that, you know, we don't  
20 have a schedule really in advance, is there you know,  
21 mid-session or in the first two weeks we hope to vote  
22 a map out of our committee or anything like that?

23 That we can help our constituents understand in  
24 terms of planning and being able to you know, come  
25 here and participate because there's no other option



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1 for them except, you know, submitting something via  
2 the website.

3 REP. SIROIS: Thank you very much for the  
4 question. I'm not -- I'm not prepared to talk a  
5 specific schedule today. I don't have a vision for  
6 that in mind.

7 What I will tell you though is why our  
8 constitution speaks of the fact that this work is to  
9 be completed during session. Because Floridians have  
10 the expectation that during the 60 day period, their  
11 elected representative are here in Tallahassee  
12 conducted the peoples business.

13 So that makes good sense as for why the  
14 redistricting process is mandated to be completed  
15 during our legislative session. So I -- in terms of  
16 members of the public that are interested in  
17 participating in that process, uh, just like any other  
18 bill, just like the budget, we have a 60 day window  
19 where we come together and we complete that work.

20 Uh, I hope that Floridians take advantage of the  
21 opportunity to share with us wither here in person at  
22 the capitol or through our website, uh, their input  
23 and their thoughts on this process. Are there any  
24 other committee members with questions? Representative  
25 Lauren.

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1 REP. LAUREN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. And, uh, I  
2 want to go back to a question or a comment that you  
3 made about communities of interest -- um, I'm sorry  
4 that the staff made about community of interest.

5 And again, this is a little bit of my education I  
6 guess. So, looking at the map, this is the first time  
7 I've seen these so, it looks like public or our four  
8 largest public universities are on the border of -- of  
9 the various ma- -- districts in the maps, right?

10 So we're -- these college towns are getting split  
11 a couple different ways. Would a university count as a  
12 community of interest?

13 REP. SIROIS: Ms. Kelly, you're recognized.

14 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Chair, and thank you,  
15 Representative. Um, yes. The last -- the Supreme Court  
16 was able to go through and identify the geographical,  
17 the political boundaries and items like what you just  
18 described with universities don't fall under those  
19 definitions and would constitute kind of that, uh,  
20 larger catch-all bucket of community of interest. And  
21 not exclusively limited to those but that an example,  
22 yes.

23 REP. SIROIS: One final follow-up,  
24 Representative.

25 REP. LAUREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I know

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1 that in Hillsborough for an example, and this is like  
2 a philosophical question, I guess. So Hillsborough  
3 under the map of option A I believe is -- is split in  
4 to five different Congressional districts.

5 Um, but I mean just based on the population  
6 formula that you have, you could mathematically draw  
7 Hillsborough into two. Is -- so I -- I guess what I'm  
8 asking is, in order to satisfy that conti- -- or that  
9 requirement to try to keep historical, political  
10 boundaries and all that, somewhat similar, is it  
11 better to do it in fewer districts or are you like  
12 purposely trying to do it in as many as possible?

13 REP. SIROIS: Thank you, Representative. The --  
14 the point that you raise and what you describe is a  
15 policy decision. Its -- it's left up to the work of  
16 the committee members. Uh, you certainly, uh, will  
17 have an opportunity to contribute to that as a member  
18 of the legislature.

19 One of the things that we also have to take into  
20 account in terms of what you just described, is how  
21 those in impacts effect the surrounding counties in  
22 the districts that are -- that are also involved. So  
23 that is something to keep in mind in terms of how it  
24 all works together.

25 Representative Beltran.

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1 REP. BELTRAN: Thank you, Chairman and, um, a --  
2 I do want to ask some questions. I -- I do want to  
3 thank the staff, um, especially for their explanation.  
4 I understand a lot better, um, the process and why the  
5 maps look like they do so I do appreciate and I  
6 appreciate, um, your hard work on that.

7 I do -- I don't want to ask, um, like my  
8 colleague about -- about Hillsborough. Um, I guess  
9 where I -- what I see in once map I think it's  
10 actually split six ways, not five, and the other split  
11 four ways and map A it's split -- two of the three  
12 municipalities are split and the other map and all the  
13 municipalities are split.

14 So I guess what my question is, I understand you  
15 have to split counties. Um, I understand, um, not all  
16 the counties have you know, the same population as a  
17 Congressional district or divide perfectly.

18 Is there any consideration to not splitting one  
19 county so many times and spreading that out, um,  
20 throughout the state because we're split more than  
21 counties with big populations that have to be split,  
22 like, uh, Broward and Miami-Dade.

23 Those are only split four times and we're split  
24 more than them; they have almost double our  
25 populations. So that's -- that's one question that I'd



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1 like to understand a little more.

2 REP. SIROIS: Ms. Kelly, you're recognized. I'm  
3 sorry, Mr. Poreda, you're recognized.

4 MR. POREDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, uh,  
5 first, in option A, splitting Hillsborough County six  
6 times that was partially to demonstrate the different  
7 policy choices that could be made and the different  
8 Tier-Two and, um, that particular orientation the  
9 improvement of the compact scores.

10 So the splits in Hillsborough County were taken  
11 less into consideration. Um, also Hillsborough County  
12 happens to be bordered on all four sides by other  
13 counties. So what happens in the district and the  
14 counties in the north and all four sides and the  
15 leftover population, that needs to be included in some  
16 district.

17 Um, so Hillsborough County is kind of caught in  
18 that particular position. Um, as Kyle when he went  
19 through southwest Florida explained with you all of  
20 the counties south of the Polk, Osceola, and Indian  
21 River County line added up were 12,000 people short of  
22 a Congressional district.

23 Hillsborough County is the county that District  
24 17 went up to get that extra population to make  
25 everything equitable.

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1 Um, Broward County, some of those other counties  
2 you describes, um, I know Orange County, Palm Beach  
3 County is a similar population to Hillsborough County.

4 Each of those counties, uh, a district was kept  
5 wholly within it and then the remaining population is  
6 divided among other surrounding district and in all  
7 options. So what you're asking, kind of making  
8 consistent choices for similarly sized counties, that  
9 is a consideration the committee could make.

10 Or there could be a compelling Tier-Two reason to  
11 deviate from that for one reason. Or there could be a  
12 Tier-One consideration in any of those districts, say,  
13 such as Duval County where that type of consideration  
14 is not possible as Tier-One is superior to Tier-Two.

15 REP. SIROIS: Representative Beltran for a  
16 follow-up.

17 REP. BELTRAN: Uh, thank you, uh, thank you  
18 Chairman. And I do -- I do appreciate that  
19 explanation.

20 Um, in -- in terms of the -- the I guess the  
21 overlap from the 16 which is identical on both maps, I  
22 know, I think you needed about 40,000 and I noted that  
23 about the population that Hardee County did. Is there  
24 any consideration on doing that instead overlapping,  
25 um, into -- into east Hillsborough?

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1 MR. POREDA : Um, we did consider several  
2 different options. You can go north into Lake County.  
3 You can go, uh, to Polk County, west into Hillsborough  
4 County or you can go south but that would impact all  
5 the other districts surrounded; compactness, shape all  
6 that kind of start.

7 But that is certainly something we can explore  
8 further. If you want to come by our office, we'd be  
9 happy to work through this different possibilities  
10 with you and see if there are other options out there.

11 REP. SIROIS: Representative Beltran.

12 REP. BELTRAN: Uh, thank you, uh, Chairman. Uh, I  
13 guess similar question that I understand you want to,  
14 uh, try to keep things and I understand how you kind  
15 of arrived at that east-west line in southern  
16 Hillsborough-Polk-Osceola, um, border.

17 Um, you said you needed a little over 100,000  
18 above that border. That's roughly the population in  
19 Indian River County. I guess kind of the same  
20 question, was there any consideration of that in lieu  
21 of overlapping from Manatee into Hillsborough?

22 REP. SIROIS: Mr. Poreda.

23 MR. POREDA: Uh, we did explore several different  
24 things. But some of these, um, situations you're  
25 talking about, so for example taking Polk County south

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1 into DeSoto County or into Hardee County which is just  
2 south of it.

3 Um, the population of Hardee County is only  
4 25,000 people. So if you were to go south to Hardee  
5 County, you would then have to go into another county  
6 and split that count. So -- and then you start to get  
7 into more shapes.

8 So those options were considered and can be  
9 considered in the future if we can find a way to make  
10 everything applicable. Same thing with Indian River  
11 County. Unfortunately, with Congressional districts  
12 close -- is not -- like a district -- the county  
13 population might be close to what you need.

14 But you have to achieve exact population equality  
15 so that what associate going into another county to  
16 even out that population; whereas Hillsborough County  
17 in District 17 we can go with just the one county and  
18 get the necessary population.

19 But these are all options that, um, we would be  
20 happy to explore and see what -- what may come of it.

21 REP. SIROIS: Representative Beltran for a final  
22 question.

23 REP. BELTRAN: Thank you, uh, gentleman. I do  
24 appreciate your indulgence. I might -- in the current  
25 maps we are split several ways as with, um, some of



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1 these proposals and it is an issue been with -- my  
2 constituent have been concerned about for many years.

3 Just -- I guess a final question that you  
4 explained the overlap from Pasco County is essentially  
5 what was left at Hillsborough and I appreciate you  
6 drawing in both maps a Hillsborough seat -- or a seat  
7 that stays inside of Hillsborough.

8 In option A there were two cross overs from  
9 Pinellas, I noticed in option B you limited that to  
10 one or actually that does not, uh, cross over. Can you  
11 just explain those, the -- I guess that cross base  
12 seat if you will, and then that, uh, number 12 in  
13 option A. I appreciate that.

14 REP. SIROIS: Thank you, Representative. Ms.  
15 Kelly, you're recognized.

16 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Chair and thank you,  
17 Representative for that. So just to remind, um, in  
18 option A that we walk through, uh, with the goal being  
19 able to, uh -- option A and option B differentiated  
20 being able to keep cities whole versus keeping the  
21 counties whole.

22 So one of the items you mentioned in -- in option  
23 B. If you see we follow the Pinellas County border  
24 around the east coast of District 13 all the way  
25 through the southern boundaries. So we're, uh -- uh,

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1 working on to keep those, you know, follow those  
2 boundary lines.

3 Um, in option A, uh, we're working towards  
4 improving impactness scores and so again, just a  
5 different way to show it, one is not necessarily  
6 superior to the other, but just trying to illustrate  
7 those different options.

8 REP. BELTRAN: I appreciate it. Thank you.

9 REP. SIROIS: Thank you Representative.  
10 Representative, Trabulsy.

11 REP. TRABULSY: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Um, first  
12 I'd like to thank staff for putting these together and  
13 it's a daunting task. I can't imagine how many hours  
14 you've put into this.

15 Um, but given the fact that these are indeed  
16 workshop maps, as a committee, do we have access with  
17 the technology that we have perhaps over the holidays  
18 to go through, since you've kind of laid some  
19 groundwork for us to go through and manipulate these  
20 maps to create better, you know, maybe some better  
21 scenarios and then present those to staff to see if  
22 they meet the criteria?

23 REP. SIROIS: Thank you, Representative. The  
24 answer to your question is yes. Uh, you can -- you  
25 have that ability through the ESRI application and I'm

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1 sure that staff would be happy to address any  
2 questions that you have, uh, over the interim period  
3 before we come back in January.

4 REP. TRABULSY: Thank you.

5 REP. SIROIS: Thank you. Members, other  
6 questions? Ranking Member for one last question.

7 REP. SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I don't  
8 mean to ask, um, anyone to have a crystal ball. But  
9 I'm -- I'm just thinking, these whatever we  
10 ultimately, um, decide will last for 10 years.

11 So when we're thinking about some of those  
12 decisions about splitting counties versus splitting  
13 cities, do we try to extrapolate any of those  
14 population trends or -- you know, there's a lot of  
15 data in here in terms of where population grew and  
16 where we lost it.

17 So is -- is that sort of factored in to some of  
18 these policy decisions so that we're able to meet the  
19 needs and represent the additional growth?

20 REP. SIROIS: Uh, thank you very much, Ranking  
21 Member. Uh, the answer to your question is -- I think  
22 the short answer is no. Uh, our process is driven by  
23 the census data that we were provided.

24 I would suggest also that over the next decade.  
25 We don't have any control over where population moves

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1 in our state. We don't have any control over changing  
2 municipal boundaries, for example.

3 Members, any other questions? Representative  
4 Lauren?

5 REP. LAUREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and, uh, my  
6 question is going back to 2014 in a -- in 2010 the  
7 House drew maps and they were thrown out by the courts  
8 in 2014 under the League of Women Voters case.

9 The rationale as I understand from that court  
10 decision, as far as, you know, Rep Beltran's point of  
11 districts crossing Tampa Bay, that was -- that was  
12 part of why that map was thrown out. I'm just -- we're  
13 going back -- under these maps that you know, option  
14 A, it looks like we're going back to the same sort of  
15 thing that we tried and failed to do in 2010. So I  
16 guess my question is, why?

17 REP. STROIS: I'm -- I'm going to let, uh -- I'm  
18 going to let Ms. Kelly respond to that but I -- I want  
19 to point out that you know, I'm -- I'm, uh, very much  
20 focused on the here and now.

21 Uh, I feel strongly that the way that we have  
22 approached the educational process for our committee  
23 members is sound. We've spent a lot of time talking  
24 about our constitutional tiers.

25 We've spent a lot of time talking about judicial



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1 precedent. I'm not focused on the past. I'm focused on  
2 what we have in front of us right now.

3 Uh, and I intend to -- to work with this  
4 committee and get our committee members to a final  
5 work product that is constitutionally sound.

6 But Ms. Kelly I'd like to ask you offer, uh, any  
7 insight that you might have.

8 MS. KELLY: Thank you, Chair and thank you,  
9 Representative.

10 Um, I want to draw two distinctions really quick.  
11 Um, the -- the House of Representatives, the House map  
12 was upheld so I know we speak in generalities but I  
13 want to make sure that on the record. The House map  
14 was upheld when it was passed in 2012.

15 I -- I believe and I'd like to work with you more  
16 to make sure that we are citing the correct legal, um,  
17 situation that the district that went across from St.  
18 Pete over into Hillsborough that was thrown out in the  
19 middle of the decade was not necessarily because it  
20 crossed the bay.

21 It's because it hinged on a minority district  
22 consideration that the courts has analyzed and said  
23 that that wasn't necessary anymore. So, that obviously  
24 offers a very different consideration than what we're  
25 dealing with in the current maps. So that is a big

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1 distinction.

2 Again, I'm not an attorney and we have legal  
3 counsel to make sure that we do a- -- analyze those  
4 situations appropriately. So if you would like a  
5 follow-up, I would definitely, uh, offer that up as  
6 well. Thank you.

7 REP. SIROIS: Members, any other committee, any  
8 other questions from committee members? Seeing none.  
9 Do we have any public appearance cards? No public  
10 appearance cards. Thank you very much.

11 Members, thank you all. Staff, uh, thank you very  
12 much for -- for your efforts today. Uh, this has been,  
13 uh, a time well spent, uh, and I want to thank all the  
14 members for engaging today. We had good question.

15 I look forward, uh, we have six weeks until the  
16 beginning of regular session. I would encourage to use  
17 that time to dive into this a little bit more. As you  
18 got everything we just covered today, because I know  
19 it's a lot, I encourage you to reach out to staff,  
20 myself or Chair Leek in the in room.

21 If you have questions, feedback or need technical  
22 assistance, please do not wait until the last minute.  
23 As to help you come to appreciate today, this process  
24 takes a lot of time to be done correctly.

25 For my last piece of parting information, as

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1 Chair Leek and I have made is abundantly clear, the  
2 House strongly encourages members to avoid planned or  
3 unplanned conversations about redistricting with  
4 individuals who seek to improperly influence your  
5 intent and decision making during the redistricting  
6 process.

7 And as always, any materials, emails, texts or  
8 correspondence otherwise related to redistricting  
9 should be absolutely retained.

10 Thank you members. I wish you all a Merry  
11 Christmas. This concludes our meeting agenda for  
12 today.

13 Uh, Ranking Member Skidmore moves that we rise.

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March 13, 2023

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