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Common Cause, et al.)
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v.) 4:22-cv-109
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Cord Byrd)

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TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO RECORDING
SENATE SESSION
JANUARY 20, 2022

DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP
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2 THE CLERK: -- President.

3 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: The Senate will be in
4 order.

5 Senators and guests in the gallery will
6 please rise for the opening prayer to be given this
7 afternoon by Gary Alston (phonetic), the pastor of
8 Faith Fellowship Church in Crawfordville. Gary is
9 also an employee of the Senate and the Sergeant's
10 Office.

11 GARY ALSTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

12 Let's bow our heads please. Our Heavenly
13 Father, thank you for this day and the blessings we
14 have already received today and will continue to
15 receive. We are not guaranteed a tomorrow, which is
16 and has been vividly displayed before us all and to
17 those around the world.

18 Many in this chamber have been touched by
19 the loss of life in some capacity or another. We
20 want to lift them up to you this afternoon and ask
21 that you bring comfort and healing to their hearts.
22 Let us be willing participants to bring
23 encouragement and support to those we know.

24 As for today and the following days of
25 session, you have brought this group of Senators and

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1 supporting staff to come together to bring forth
2 legislation and ultimately laws that we will follow
3 for many years to come.

4 Much thought and planning has gone into
5 every process, which brings bills into this chamber
6 to be debated and voted on. Your word in Romans
7 13:1 tells us you have placed each member behind
8 these desks to fulfill your purpose and will.

9 I ask, Lord, that you would give each
10 Senator clarity of thought as they enact their
11 responsibilities they were elected by their
12 constituents to perform. Bless every person who has
13 a part in this institution and keep us all safe as
14 we move forward.

15 I also ask that you would protect each
16 family represented, as many are away from home to
17 fulfill their calling. Thank you for giving us this
18 opportunity to be in this place and to serve the
19 good people of Florida in every capacity bestowed
20 upon us in this institution.

21 May what is done in this chamber, which
22 will impact up and coming generations, be done with
23 your blessing and guidance. Thank you, Lord, for
24 all that you do. For in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

25 MEMBERS: Amen.

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1 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Please remain standing
2 for the Pledge of Allegiance to be led this
3 afternoon by Senate pages, Maria Louise Devally
4 (phonetic) of Miami, sponsored by the Senator of the
5 37th District, Senator Garcia; Ryan Bower (phonetic)
6 of Tallahassee, sponsored by the Senator of the 3rd
7 District, Senator Ausley; Finna Gabriella Simmons
8 (phonetic) of Tampa, sponsored by the Senator of the
9 19th District, Senator Rouson.

10 (Pledge of Allegiance recited)

11 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: We will now continue
12 with the order of business. Are there any reports
13 of Committees?

14 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

15 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Are there motions
16 relating to Committee reference?

17 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

18 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Are there messages from
19 the Governor or other executive communications?

20 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

21 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Are there messages from
22 the House of Representatives?

23 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

24 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Are there matters on
25 reconsideration?

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1 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

2 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Take up the bills on
3 third reading. Read the first bill.

4 THE CLERK: Committee substitute for Senate
5 Bill 102, a bill to be entitled an act establishing
6 the congressional districts of the state.

7 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Senator Rodrigues of
8 the 27th District, you are recognized to explain the
9 bill.

10 SENATOR RODRIGUES: Thank you,
11 Mr. President.

12 This is the reapportionment bill that we
13 discussed yesterday that takes in the additional
14 congressional district that Florida was awarded
15 based upon our population growth and then
16 redistricts the remaining districts.

17 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Are there any
18 amendments?

19 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

20 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Is there any debate on
21 the bill? Any debate?

22 Senator Stewart, you are recognized in
23 debate.

24 SENATOR STEWART: Thank you, Mr. President.
25 I am rising because I feel that this

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1 process has been open and fair, and this is an
2 attribute to the staff, who has worked so diligently
3 with Senator Rodrigues. And he has been attentive
4 to every detail, to all the maps that have been
5 presented by the public and by others. And I do
6 want to thank you for that open process, and I want
7 to thank you very much for a wonderful product. And
8 I think we should all be supportive of it. It's
9 just a great end of the Redistricting Committee.

10 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you.

11 Is there any additional debate?

12 Senator Jones, you are recognized in
13 debate.

14 SENATOR JONES: Thank you so much,
15 Mr. President.

16 I do want to echo my colleague, Senator
17 Stewart. Chair Rodrigues and to the staff, thank
18 you all so much for the process that you all
19 (indiscernible) for.

20 And to President Simpson, you make it clear
21 in the beginning what type of process you wanted to
22 operate in when it came to the maps. You held to
23 that. Gave full autonomy to Senator Rodriguez. So
24 I really want to thank you for the open door policy
25 that you committed to in the -- in your initial

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1 email that you sent to all of us and gave full
2 leverage for us to ask any questions to you and the
3 staff and even accepting the amendment yesterday to
4 the entire body for my district. So I really
5 appreciate you.

6 And congratulations to you, Senator.

7 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you.

8 Senator Cruz, you are recognized in debate.

9 SENATOR CRUZ: Thank you, Mr. President.

10 And contrary to public belief, I have much
11 respect and very much like Senator Rodrigues, and I
12 appreciate the monumental task that is
13 redistricting. I personally have a difference of
14 opinion when it comes to the Congressional maps. I
15 think the Senate maps look really good, and I think
16 that they were done with much fairness and
17 considering the explosive growth here in Florida.

18 But I am concerned relative to the
19 Congressional maps whether adequate analysis -- and
20 I don't mean that -- I really do not mean that to
21 disparage anyone. But when I look at it and I see
22 the importance -- and you'll understand more was
23 done to determine if the population growth in
24 Central Florida over the past 10 years supports a
25 second Hispanic access seat in Central Florida. We

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1 talked forever about the explosive growth of the
2 Hispanic population in Central Florida, yet they
3 won't be represented.

4 We know that the Florida Constitution
5 directs us to consider as a Tier 1 standard the
6 equal opportunity of racial or language minorities
7 to elect representatives of their choice. We also
8 know that the federal Voting Rights Act requires us
9 to take into account similar considerations.

10 A decade ago, Hispanics made up 1 in 6
11 Floridians, and now, we are 1 in 4. We are also the
12 largest minority in the state. This growth occurred
13 across Florida but was particularly explosive in
14 Osceola County, where almost 75 percent of the new
15 residents in the areas were Hispanic. Given these
16 numbers, I'm not confident that we did everything we
17 could to ensure Hispanic representation and access.

18 I know that this map is headed to the House
19 and that it could be back here in a few weeks for
20 voting again. If that's the case, I'm hopeful that
21 we'll be able to take a closer look at the number
22 and carefully consider whether we can or should
23 create another Hispanic access seat in Central
24 Florida. Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Senator Torres, you are

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1 recognized in debate.

2 SENATOR TORRES: Thank you, Mr. President.

3 Also, thank you, Senator Rodrigues, for
4 your work in your Committee.

5 According to the 2020 census, Hispanics
6 compromise more than 25 percent of the total state
7 population. Unfortunately, under the proposed
8 district map, there are only four major Hispanic
9 seats out of twenty-eight, which is the same number
10 of seats we had in the prior decade, despite the
11 fact that the Hispanic population increased by
12 nearly 40 percent.

13 Without performing a functional analysis,
14 it is clear -- it is unclear if other districts
15 would rely (sic) perform for a Hispanic or Latino
16 candidate. I do not believe we took the concerns of
17 the Hispanic community seriously when drawing these
18 proposed maps, even though many Hispanic groups and
19 organizations requested the inclusion of an
20 additional Hispanic opportunity Congressional seat.

21 I also do not believe we did not -- we did
22 -- I also do not believe we did everything we could
23 to verify whether or not an additional Hispanic seat
24 is warranted, especially in Central Florida. As a
25 result of these concerns, I believe these maps may

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1 not pass muster under the Tier 1 standards required
2 by the Florida Constitution and also -- and could
3 also be challenged under protections afforded by the
4 federal Voting Rights.

5 For these reasons, I am not able to support
6 this bill today.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you.

9 Is there any additional debate? Any
10 additional?

11 Chair Rodrigues, you are recognized to
12 close.

13 SENATOR RODRIGUES: Thank you, Mr.
14 President.

15 I'm going to touch briefly on process, and
16 then I'm going to wrap up with some specific
17 observations about the map we're about to vote on.

18 The process began when you appointed the
19 Reapportionment Committee. You gave us a charge.
20 The charge was to not repeat the mistakes of the
21 past and to make sure that we proposed and passed a
22 map that would be fully compliant with the Florida
23 Constitution, all federal acts, and all state
24 statutory requirements.

25 To aid in that process, you appointed two

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1 standing select Committees, a Congressional
2 Reapportionment Standing Select Committee chaired by
3 Senator Bradley and a Legislative Districting Select
4 Committee chaired by Senator Burgess.

5 The Committee as a whole gave the criteria
6 to staff to use in the drawing of the districts. We
7 then split, and the subcommittees began meeting.
8 The heavy lifting was done by staff in the
9 subcommittees as they went through the various
10 iterations of the map that staff brought to them.

11 The subcommittees narrowed the maps down
12 and recommended two to be sent to the full
13 Committee, and working with staff and counsel, I
14 chose the map that was presented to the full
15 Committee, where it was approved with a bipartisan
16 vote.

17 This map complies with all provisions of
18 the Fair Districts Amendment to the Florida
19 Constitution. It complies with all federal
20 requirements, and it complies with all state
21 statutory requirements.

22 The benchmark plan ordered by the Court
23 provided one majority-minority district and two
24 effective minority districts and one opportunity
25 district for African Americans. This plan provides

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1 one majority-minority district, two effective
2 minority districts, and one opportunity district for
3 African American voters.

4 The benchmark plan provided three majority-
5 minority districts and one opportunity district for
6 Hispanic voters. This plan provides four majority-
7 minority districts for Hispanic voters. A
8 functional analysis for each of these districts has
9 been conducted, and the data is available on the
10 back of these maps for your review.

11 For those who question about a functional
12 analysis on other districts, the software that we
13 provided gave anyone the opportunity to choose any
14 district and then on the back end run that data and
15 see what it shows for themselves.

16 The Tier 1 metrics for compactness have
17 been improved in the convex hull, Polsby-Popper, and
18 Reock ratio when this map is compared to the
19 benchmark map, which was ordered by the Court.
20 Regardless of which metric you look at when it comes
21 to compactness, this map is more compact than the
22 map the Court ordered the state of Florida to take
23 on its congressional districts previously.

24 This map improves Tier 2 metrics by keeping
25 six more cities whole than are currently whole under

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1 our benchmark map ordered by the Court. Three
2 hundred and seventy-three of four hundred and twelve
3 Florida cities are wholly contained in a single
4 congressional district.

5 This map reduces the usage of nonpolitical
6 or geographical boundaries from 15 percent in the
7 benchmark map ordered by the Court down to 8 percent
8 in the map in front of you that you will be voting
9 on today.

10 Staff drew maps that followed the
11 directives unanimously approved by the
12 Reapportionment Committee, and I have been assured
13 by counsel that they comply with all applicable
14 state and federal law.

15 But let me be clear. I am not saying today
16 that this is the only map that can be drawn to be
17 compliant. The courts themselves recognized that a
18 skilled map drawer can always improve on a given map
19 on Tier 2 metrics if given enough time, but what I
20 am saying is that the map before us today fulfills
21 the charge that the President gave the Committee to
22 the -- and delivered to the Reapportionment
23 Committee, to deliver a map designed to be compliant
24 with our Florida Constitution, with all federal and
25 state statutes. And based upon that compliance, I

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1 ask for your favorable support.

2 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you,
3 Chair Rodrigues.

4 And before we open the board, I want to
5 thank you and the Committee's work and Senator
6 Bradley for her work on this particular map. I
7 think you did a very good job and thank you for the
8 professional and pulling this together as you and
9 your staff did in Committee.

10 So the secretary will unlock the board, and
11 Senators will proceed to vote.

12 Lock the board and record the vote.

13 THE CLERK: Thirty-one yeas, four nays,
14 Mr. President.

15 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Show the bill passes.
16 Read the next bill.

17 THE CLERK: Committee substitute for Senate
18 Joint Resolution 100, a joint resolution of
19 apportionment.

20 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Senator of the 27th
21 District, Senator Rodrigues, you are recognized to
22 explain the bill.

23 SENATOR RODRIGUES: Thank you, Mr.
24 President.

25 This is the redistricting bill for the

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1 State Senate that we went over yesterday.

2 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Are there any
3 amendments?

4 THE CLERK: Not on the desk, Mr. President.

5 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Is there any debate on
6 the bill, any debate?

7 Leader Gibson, you are recognized in
8 debate.

9 SENATOR GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

10 First of all, I wanted to thank you for the
11 way you set up the Committees for our task here in
12 the Senate. I think I may be the only member of the
13 Senate -- I looked around, and I called my staff to
14 make sure that I was going to be accurate -- the
15 only Senator here that served on the Reapportionment
16 Committee in 2010. Not that that makes me special,
17 but it's a process I've been through once before.

18 You guys were in 2010? In the Senate.

19 MEMBERS: Oh.

20 SENATOR GIBSON: See?

21 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: For the record, one
22 second, Leader Gibson, the rest of you were in the
23 lower chamber.

24 Leader Gibson, please continue with your
25 comments.

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1 SENATOR GIBSON: It was really 2011ish but
2 yeah. Yeah. I was here. I don't know where you
3 guys were but okay. So thank you, Mr. President.
4 The structure, it was -- I really appreciated it.
5 It was a little different, and it helped us I think
6 to work well together and have better conversations
7 about the process itself.

8 I also wanted to thank the Chair, Chair
9 Rodrigues, for your very steady -- your personality
10 and demeanor never changes, and I appreciate that.
11 And I also appreciate you keeping in touch and
12 laying the foundation and answering questions about
13 how we were going to proceed and then checking
14 whether, you know, lotto balls would be better than
15 -- I don't know what that process that the President
16 Bean did.

17 And so I also want to thank the staff in
18 particular. So Jay knows me very well from the last
19 reapportionment cycle. He is ready, willing, and
20 able to take the information that individuals wanted
21 to look at different versions of the map, and I'm
22 very much appreciative of he and all the staff that
23 worked with the maps.

24 As you may have determined by now, I'm not
25 enamored with the Senate map, particularly as it

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1 relates to District 6. I think I pretty much
2 covered most of that -- well, it's now District 5.
3 Let me make sure I get that correct. And I think
4 that when we have an opportunity to keep with the
5 Constitution but also create a map that is
6 constitutional and certainly the numbers match the
7 42 percent from the previous map and the 42 percent,
8 which was in BVAP, which was contained in the map
9 that I talked about yesterday and certainly filed an
10 amendment in the Committee, we should do that.

11 It's not on our behalf but on behalf of the
12 people who have to live within the district for the
13 next 10 years, as time changes, and much of the
14 district didn't really -- this is the funny thing
15 though. Much of the district that -- yes. Today,
16 I'm going to call it a duck again -- is -- it's in
17 the same place. There's not much progression in
18 terms of movement towards the 42 percent, which we
19 had 42 percent in the last decade map as well.

20 And so I just -- I think that is something
21 that we could have taken a little more time to look
22 at, and the other incidental factor is in the
23 congressional district map, it looks very similar to
24 the map that I presented yesterday. And that
25 congressional district incorporates Senate District

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1 5, which is 6 today, and so it just makes sense to
2 connect those dots.

3 And so I just think that particular
4 district is a little flawed, and if we have one area
5 of a map that can be better drawn to certainly give
6 people an opportunity -- that's drawn
7 constitutionally that can give people an opportunity
8 to live better, to have economic growth opportunity,
9 not create a poverty district, and not reduce the
10 percentage to 41 percent when it can be 42 percent,
11 I think we could have taken more time and done that
12 because the numbers do bear that out.

13 And so with that, thank you very much
14 again, Mr. President.

15 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Is there any additional
16 debate?

17 Senator Torres, you are recognized.

18 SENATOR TORRES: Thank you, Mr. President.

19 As you all know, the Hispanic population in
20 Florida has grown by nearly 40 percent in the past
21 decade. Hispanics are now the largest minority
22 community in the state, and this growth was
23 particularly notable in the Central Florida area,
24 including Orange and Osceola Counties.

25 As I review these proposed Senate maps, I

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1 was disappointed to see we were maintaining the
2 status quo when it came to Hispanic opportunity
3 seats in Central Florida. I have concerns that we
4 do not do enough to satisfy the Constitution's Tier
5 1 standards for racial and minority language
6 representation.

7 It appears that we do not make increasing
8 Hispanic representation in Central Florida a
9 priority. Central Florida had the largest -- let me
10 say it again -- Central Florida had the largest
11 population increase and the third largest growth in
12 the nation.

13 I'm also concerned that when I review the
14 proposed State House legislative maps, they were
15 able to create two new Hispanic seats in this area,
16 while the Senate has no increase for Hispanic
17 representation seat.

18 Due to this failure to address increased
19 minority and particularly Hispanic representation in
20 Central Florida, again, I cannot vote in favor of
21 this proposal today.

22 Thank you, Mr. President.

23 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Is there any additional
24 debate?

25 Leader Farmer, you are recognized in

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1 debate.

2 SENATOR FARMER: Thank you, Mr. President.

3 Very, very brief. You know, we can
4 disagree on issues without being disagreeable, and
5 I'm not attacking the person. We've heard -- I
6 think a lot of it are trying to reemphasize that.
7 Chair Rodrigues has been extremely balanced in this
8 process. We appreciate the way you've handled it.

9 I can't help but note that we're here to
10 vote on these new maps, and we're missing two of the
11 Senators that represent minority districts. Senator
12 Thurston's district has no representation right now.
13 Senator Rouson is out due to the COVID issue. And
14 so I guess I wish we were doing this at a different
15 time.

16 The vacancy in the Thurston district
17 certainly isn't Chair Rodrigues' fault or your
18 fault, Mr. President, but it kind of emphasizes I
19 think the importance of the representation, the
20 reason that we have minority access districts in the
21 first place.

22 And my friend, Senator Torres, you know,
23 highlighted some of the numbers with a 38 percent,
24 almost 39 percent increase in Hispanic population
25 and an increase in African American population. I

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1 just would have liked to have seen a few more
2 minority access seats here. And that coupled with
3 the loss of a seat in South Florida, the most
4 compact populated area of the state, I think sort of
5 devalues the representation for those in South
6 Florida.

7 And so -- but I want to thank you all for
8 the openness of the process for the most part. I am
9 -- I brought up yesterday the fact that we have no
10 communication, emails, correspondence, anything
11 that's been posted on the website. It makes -- you
12 know, I think we know there had to have been
13 communication, but, again, Chair Rodrigues is not
14 operating that website and so certainly no fault of
15 yours.

16 But for those reasons, I won't be
17 supporting this map, but thank you, Mr. President.

18 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Any additional debate?
19 Any additional debate?

20 Chair Rodrigues, you are recognized to
21 close.

22 SENATOR RODRIGUES: Thank you, Mr.
23 President.

24 I want to just briefly talk on the process
25 and then close with the map on this as well. Some

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1 of the process, which I covered earlier, I want to
2 thank Senator Burgess and the work that his
3 subcommittee did in winnowing down the maps and
4 sending us two good options to choose from.

5 We all understand that the Court tossed the
6 last State Senate map that was done through
7 redistricting, but even before it was tossed because
8 it was found that there was a shadow organization
9 led by partisans to influence it, the Court had
10 expressed concern and invalidated parts of the
11 Senate map at the very beginning and that helped
12 guide the decisions we made as we put this map
13 together.

14 What the Court found in the first
15 apportionment case when they looked at the process
16 between the House and the Senate, they said the
17 Senate offered a singular map that was put together
18 after soliciting input from members of the Senate on
19 their preferences for district configurations.

20 The Court concluded that the initial Senate
21 Plan was rife with objective indicators of improper
22 intent, which when considered in isolation did not
23 necessarily amount to improper intent, but the Court
24 opined when viewed cumulatively demonstrated a clear
25 pattern.

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1 The Senate Plan numbered districts in a
2 manner to benefit incumbents. They did not use a
3 random selection process the first time around. The
4 Senate Plan did not have incumbents paired against
5 each other at any point. The majority -- and it has
6 70 percent here -- of underpopulated districts in
7 the original Senate Plan were Republican performing
8 districts.

9 The Court ruled that unlike the House, the
10 Senate did not use a mathematical measurement of
11 compactness, nor did the Senate use a consistent
12 definition of political and geographical boundaries.
13 It noted that in some districts the Senate
14 constantly switched between different types of
15 boundaries, often with the span of a few miles.

16 The Court concluded that the Senate's Plan
17 using a "pick and choose" method where boundary
18 utilization was not balanced with the remaining Tier
19 2 requirements and was not applied in a consistent
20 manner.

21 The Court further opined that the use of
22 expansive definitions to the Tier 2 standards,
23 particularly with the definition of geographic
24 boundaries, and the failure to follow a consistent
25 approach in the application of the standards

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1 undermined the purpose of Article III, Section 21 of
2 the Florida Constitution.

3 In contrast, the Court found in
4 apportionment one that the House put forth multiple
5 maps at Committee, publicly workshopped those maps,
6 advanced specific maps, and improved Tier 2 metrics
7 as the maps moved through the process. The House
8 map paired both Democrats and Republican incumbents
9 against each other.

10 The Court ruled that the House plan
11 complied with Tier 2 standards, made improper intent
12 less likely because of its compliance with those
13 Tier 2 standards, and indicated that the purpose of
14 the Tier 2 standards, equal population and
15 compactness in utilizing political and geographical
16 boundaries, is to prohibit political favoritism by
17 placing constraints around legislative discretion.

18 The House explained that in considering the
19 appropriate balance of equal population,
20 compactness, and adherence to the existing
21 boundaries, it emphasized county integrity while
22 adhering to other Tier 2 standards. The House
23 consistently considered municipal boundaries and
24 geographical features where it couldn't use county
25 lines, and the Court ruled that the House approached

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1 the minority voting protection provision by properly
2 undertaking a functional analysis of voting strength
3 in minority districts, something the Senate did not
4 do the first time around.

5 The decisions we made as we went through
6 this process were framed by what the Court blessed
7 in the previous process and avoiding what the Court
8 found issue with. In this process, we followed what
9 the Court blessed. We used an iterative process
10 with subcommittees that publicly workshopped maps.
11 Each of those maps were improved at the next
12 Committee stop to arrive at our final product.

13 The boundaries were drawn using -- after we
14 had complied with Tier 1 requirements, consistently
15 using the Tier 2 metrics that had been blessed by
16 the Court that the House utilized - county
17 boundaries, geographical boundaries, and municipal
18 boundaries.

19 We performed a functional analysis to make
20 sure that there was no retrogression. Every step
21 we've taken has been a step guided by the decision
22 of the Court to present a map to you today that will
23 withstand a Court challenge, and it is my belief
24 that this map will withstand a Court challenge.

25 We have drawn a map with pure intent that

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1 has followed the directives of the Court. We've
2 also improved our compactness measures. We've
3 reduced the number of cities that are split, and
4 we've improved the uses of political and
5 geographical boundaries compared to the benchmark
6 map that was ordered by the Court.

7 If you look at minority districts in the
8 benchmark plan, we had one majority district and
9 four effective minority districts for African
10 Americans, and we had four majority districts and
11 one opportunity district for Hispanics.

12 In this map, we have one majority district
13 and four effective minority districts for African
14 American voters, and we have five majority-minority
15 districts for Hispanic voters. The metrics all show
16 that this map is an improvement over the one that we
17 have today.

18 So Senators, I ask that you favorably
19 support this map and submit to you that it is fully
20 compliant with everything that they President
21 changed the Committee to deliver. Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you. And, again,
23 Chair Rodrigues, I really want to thank you and the
24 Committee and Chair Burgess.

25 Would you like to be -- you are recognized

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1 again, Chair Rodriguez.

2 SENATOR RODRIGUES: Thank you,
3 Mr. President.

4 And I can't put the mic down without making
5 this observation. I said this in Committee, but
6 everyone needs to know this. The work that our
7 staff did, Staff Director Jay Ferrin, our counsel,
8 Staff Counsel Jason Rojas, and our General Counsel
9 Dan Nordby, should not be overlooked.

10 In any other redistricting year, they would
11 have gotten their data in April and had six months
12 to crunch that data, analyze it, and put out a first
13 series set of maps. Because of the delays from the
14 U.S. Census Bureau, our early session, and our
15 aggressive timeline, they did in 60 days what had
16 previously been done in 6 months, and they did that
17 by working 7 days a week, 12 hours a day.

18 Thank you for your work, and I want to make
19 sure everyone recognizes that.

20 Thank you, Mr. President.

21 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you.

22 And with that close, Senator Rodriguez, I
23 want to thank you and Chair Burgess for the great
24 work you all did with your staff and with the
25 Committees, and I think you've had a lot of

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1 integrity and genuinely a great product that we're
2 going to vote here for today. And I'll reiterate
3 that we really are thankful for our staff for all
4 the work we've done so far and work yet to come.

5 And so the secretary will unlock the board,
6 and Senators will proceed to vote.

7 Lock the board and record the vote.

8 THE CLERK: Thirty-four yeas, three nays,
9 Mr. President.

10 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Show the bill passes.

11 Before we move to closing, Leader Book, you
12 are recognized for recognition.

13 SENATOR BOOK: Thank you so much,
14 Mr. President.

15 I just want to take a moment to recognize
16 Dr. Rosalind Osgood from Broward County, a school
17 board member and hopefully will be joining us with
18 three days left in the legislative session.

19 Thank you, Mr. President.

20 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Very good. Welcome to
21 the Senate.

22 Senator of the 28th District, Rules Chair
23 Passidomo, for what purpose do you rise?

24 SENATOR PASSIDOMO: For a motion,
25 Mr. President.

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1 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: You are recognized.

2 SENATOR PASSIDOMO: I move that the rules
3 be waived, and the bills passed today be immediately
4 certified to the House.

5 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Without objection, show
6 that motion adopted.

7 Before I recognize the Rules Chair for any
8 -- are there any other announcements?

9 Senator Powell, you are recognized for an
10 announcement.

11 SENATOR POWELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

12 I forgot to do this yesterday, but I want
13 to remind everybody and invite everybody to -- it's
14 pretty quick, the second week of session, the
15 Florida Legislative Black Caucus, of which I am the
16 chair, will be hosting its annual scholarship gala,
17 which is tomorrow, tomorrow, and it starts tonight
18 with the reception. I think the VIP reception
19 starts at 5:00 at the DoubleTree and downstairs for
20 the ordinary part of the reception. Everyone is
21 involved. Come one, come all, free and open to the
22 public.

23 But the gala is not free and open to the
24 public. The luncheon starts tomorrow at noon at the
25 Civic Center and then the gala tomorrow night at

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1 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. We would love to
2 have each and every one of you. Welcome to the
3 Florida Senate and the Florida Legislative Black
4 Caucus.

5 Thank you, Mr. President.

6 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Thank you.

7 Are there any other announcements? Any
8 other announcements?

9 Seeing none, Madam Rules Chair, you are
10 recognized.

11 SENATOR PASSIDOMO: Thank you,
12 Mr. President.

13 I move that the Senate adjourn until 2:30
14 p.m. on Thursday, January 27th or upon the call of
15 the President for the purpose of holding Committee
16 meetings and conducting other Senate business.

17 PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Without objection, the
18 Senate is now adjourned for the day.

19 (END OF VIDEO FILE)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

2 I certify that the foregoing is a true and
3 accurate transcript of the digital recording
4 provided to me in this matter.

5 I do further certify that I am neither a
6 relative, nor employee, nor attorney of any of the
7 parties to this action, and that I am not
8 financially interested in the action.

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Julie Thompson, CET-1036

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