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Common Cause, et al.	)	
	)	
v.	)	4:22-cv-109
	)	
Cord Byrd	)	
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TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO RECORDING  
HOUSE SESSION  
FEBRUARY 2, 2022  
2:32 P.M.

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

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1 FEBRUARY 2, 2022

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members will please take  
3 their seats. Members and visitors in the gallery,  
4 please rise for the prayer. We are pleased to have  
5 with us today Father Ryan Saunders from the Church  
6 of the Epiphany in Miami at the invitation of  
7 Representative LaMarca.

8 Father Saunders, please approach the well.

9 FATHER SAUNDERS: Let us pray.

10 Oh God, source of all justice, you have  
11 summoned all who work in this chamber to walk the  
12 path of righteousness, to foster life and liberty,  
13 to care especially for the poorest and most  
14 vulnerable of our society.

15 As this House comes into session this  
16 afternoon, we ask your guidance for these  
17 legislators. Pour into their hearts and into their  
18 mind's wisdom, knowledge, prudence, courage,  
19 understanding, and compassion.

20 Lord, we ask you to anoint their ears and  
21 their lips so that they will listen well to one  
22 another, that they will speak words of truth and of  
23 mercy. We ask you to bless these elected -- these  
24 leaders elected to public office to be shining  
25 examples of working together for the service of the

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1 common good for which they were elected to serve.

2 Lord, bless and guide them in their work  
3 and help them to accomplish great things for the  
4 people of Florida. In your name we pray, amen.

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Father.

6 For what purpose does Representative Valdes  
7 rise?

8 REPRESENTATIVE VALDES: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker.

10 I ask that we take a moment of silence in  
11 remembrance of -- Representative Hart is not here  
12 this week because she had a death in her family.  
13 Wanted to see about taking a moment of silence in  
14 recognizing Minister James Hart, Junior.

15 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, join us in a  
16 moment of silence for Representative Hart's family  
17 and for the Reverend Hart.

18 (Moment of silence)

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, members.

20 For what purpose does Representative Brown  
21 rise?

22 REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 A husband, father, grandfather, educator,  
25 mentor, coach, a community man, a legend. Coach

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1 Bobby Lang was an exceptional man and a Rattler down  
2 to his core.

3 His career at Florida A&M extended a number  
4 of 33 years. Among as many awards and  
5 accomplishments, he became the first coach in the  
6 MEAC conference to achieve a triple crown, which --  
7 which are winning conference titles and cross-  
8 country, indoor track, and outdoor track.

9 He exemplified excellence with caring as a  
10 family man and a coach, as well as exemplified what  
11 it really means to be a Rattler. His legacy lives  
12 on, not only here in Tallahassee and at Florida A&M,  
13 but also within the nation, and especially within  
14 the hearts and minds of all of his students that he  
15 mentored, coached, and inspired. Mr. Speaker, on  
16 January 6, the Rattlers lost an exceptional member  
17 of our family.

18 Today we say thank you to Coach Lang and we  
19 send our deepest condolences to Dr. Gladys Lang,  
20 Angela, Ronnie, Marlott. And we ask that the House  
21 today join the Rattle caucus in celebrating his life  
22 and legacy, but saying thank you and taking a moment  
23 of silence to honor Coach Bobby Mad Dog Lang.

24 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, join us in a  
25 moment of silence for FAMU Hall of Famer, Coach



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1 Bobby Lang, and his family.

2 (Moment of silence)

3 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Representative  
4 Brown.

5 Thank you, members.

6 The clerk will unlock the machine and  
7 members will record their presence. Have all  
8 members recorded their presence?

9 Have all members recorded their presence?

10 The clerk will lock the machine and  
11 announce the presence of a quorum.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: 114 members voting. A  
13 quorum is present, Mr. Speaker.

14 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members and visitors in  
15 the gallery, please remain standing for the pledge  
16 of allegiance to the flag. The pledge today will be  
17 read -- will be said by Wyatt Preshovsky (phonetic)  
18 from Tallahassee at the invitation of Representative  
19 Duggan; Taylor Schulte from Pace at the invitation  
20 of Representative Williamson; Adrian Schwinghammer  
21 from Miami Lakes at the invitation of Representative  
22 -- or Speaker Pro Temp Avila; Victoria Swain from  
23 Tallahassee at the invitation of Representative  
24 Rodriguez; and Alice Wenrich (phonetic) from Orlando  
25 at the invitation of Representative Nixon.

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1 (Pledge of Allegiance)

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you. Members, we  
3 are pleased to have with us as doctor of the day,  
4 Dr. Antonio Mesa from Miami at the invitation of  
5 Representative Rodriguez. Welcome to the Florida  
6 House.

7 Members, we are also honored today to be  
8 joined by law enforcement officer of the day,  
9 Officer Darren Chiaputti with the Treasure Island  
10 Police Department at the invitation of  
11 Representative Chaney.

12 Officer Chiaputti is the community outreach  
13 officer and interacts with the homeless and the  
14 vulnerable population. He is known for the time he  
15 takes in the community checking in on residents and  
16 businesses to see how he can be assistance to them.

17 He also works with the local VA hospitals  
18 coordinating outreach to veterans and making sure  
19 they receive care. His tenacity in coordinating  
20 mental health and substance abuse resources for  
21 those at risk was one of the factors most mentioned  
22 when he was awarded employee of the year for the  
23 City of Treasure Island in 2019.

24 He also served his country in the United  
25 States Army serving in South Korea, as well as in

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1 Kuwait. Officer Chiaputti, we are grateful for your  
2 service to the United States military, to all of us,  
3 to the City of Treasure Island that you've committed  
4 your career, and your lifetime to serving the people  
5 of Florida. We're grateful to have you, and welcome  
6 to the Florida House.

7 Are there questions for the journal?

8 Hearing none, show the journal approved.

9 Are there reports of standing committees  
10 and subcommittees?

11 Are there --

12 THE CLERK: No motions --

13 SPEAKER SPROWLS: -- motions relating to  
14 committees and subcommittee references?

15 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

16 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there matters on  
17 reconsideration?

18 Are there bills or joint resolutions on  
19 third reading?

20 THE CLERK: On the desk, Mr. Speaker.

21 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Read the first bill.

22 THE CLERK: By Representative Trumbull,  
23 House Bill 539, a bill to be entitled, "An Act  
24 Relating to Nursing Home Financial Reporting."

25 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Trumbull,

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1 you're recognized to explain the bill.

2 REPRESENTATIVE TRUMBULL: Thank you very  
3 much, Mr. Speaker. This is the audited financial  
4 bills for the nursing homes we talked about  
5 yesterday.

6 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there amendments?

7 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

8 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Is there debate?

9 Members wish to be recognized in debate?

10 Representative C. Smith, recognized in  
11 debate.

12 REPRESENTATIVE C. SMITH: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker.

14 Members, I'd like to thank Chair Trumbull  
15 for his leadership on bringing this really, really  
16 important bill forward. This is a bill about  
17 nursing home transparency.

18 Folks, we have a \$4,000,000,000 fiscal on  
19 the amount of taxpayer monies that we provide to a  
20 mostly for-profit nursing home industry in the state  
21 of Florida. And it's important that we have not  
22 only transparency, which we're getting from this  
23 bill, but also that we have accountability.

24 And members, while we don't yet have the  
25 accountability, I know that as a result of this bill



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1 requiring audited financials of our nursing homes  
2 that accept taxpayer money, that we will be able in  
3 future legislative sessions to move towards real  
4 accountability in the state of Florida. Four-  
5 billion dollars a year in taxpayer money they  
6 receive from us.

7 So I want to say thank you to Chair  
8 Trumbull for his leadership. I also want to thank  
9 Chair Avila and Chair Burton for their leadership in  
10 making sure that we came together on this important  
11 proposal. And I urge you to vote yes on this very  
12 good bill.

13 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Representative  
14 Smith.

15 Is there additional debate on the bill?  
16 Additional debate on the bill?

17 Seeing none, Representative Trumbull,  
18 you're recognized to close.

19 REPRESENTATIVE TRUMBULL: Thank you very  
20 much, Mr. Speaker. I'll be incredibly brief.

21 Appreciate the comments, Representative  
22 Smith.

23 My father says in our businesses that you  
24 cannot manage what you do not measure. And this  
25 will allow us to measure success as it relates to

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1 the state's resources. And I would ask your  
2 favorable support.

3 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, the question  
4 hour occurs on final passage of House Bill 539. The  
5 clerk will unlock the machine, and members will  
6 proceed to vote. Have all members voted?

7 Have all members voted? The clerk will  
8 lock the machine and announce the vote.

9 THE CLERK: 114 yeas, zero nays,  
10 Mr. Speaker.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.  
12 Congratulations, Representative Trumbull.

13 Read the next bill.

14 THE CLERK: By State Affairs Committee and  
15 Representative Persons-Mulicka, CS/House Bill 1079,  
16 a bill to be entitled, "An Act Relating to Fiscal  
17 Accountability for Nongovernmental Entities."

18 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, it's getting  
19 really loud up here. Can't even -- can't hear  
20 people speak.

21 Representative Persons-Mulicka, we're going  
22 to come to you in a second.

23 Briefly, Representative Brown, you are  
24 recognized for a recognition.

25 Don't know if I see her. She here? Oh.

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1 Representative Brown, you're recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you,

3 Mr. Speaker. My apologies.

4 But today, we have -- in honor of Coach  
5 Lang, today we have been joined by staff and members  
6 of Florida A&M University. Today we have Dr.  
7 Robinson, the President of Florida Agriculture and  
8 Mechanical University joining us, along with our  
9 football coach, Coach Simmons.

10 Thank you all for being here. And we also  
11 have national champion -- football champions of  
12 Florida A&M University. Thank you all for being  
13 here with us.

14 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to Florida House.

15 Representative Persons-Mulicka, you're  
16 recognized to explain your bill.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19 Members, this is the bill that I presented  
20 yesterday regarding fiscal accountability of  
21 nongovernmental entities.

22 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there amendments?

23 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

24 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Is there debate?

25 Is there debate?

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1           Seeing none, you're recognized to close.

2           REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Speaker.

4           Members, there are numerous nonprofit  
5 entities who receive public funds to provide a  
6 public purpose, and the majority of these entities  
7 are good actors, and valuable community members, and  
8 great government partners. However, there are  
9 entities who engage in wasteful spending of our  
10 taxpayer dollars and entities whose executives  
11 pocket excessive amounts.

12           This bill provides needed accountability  
13 and transparency to ensure the public that their  
14 taxpayer dollars are going towards the intended  
15 purpose. And I ask for you to join with me today in  
16 favorable support of this bill as we continue our  
17 focus in the Florida House on increasing  
18 accountability and transparency.

19           Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

20           SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Persons-  
21 Mulicka having closed on her bill. The question  
22 hour occurs on final passage of CS for House Bill  
23 1079. The clerk will unlock the machine and members  
24 will proceed to vote. Have all members voted?

25           Have all members voted? Clerk will lock



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1 the machine and announce the vote.

2 THE CLERK: 115 yeas, zero nays,  
3 Mr. Speaker.

4 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.  
5 Read the next bill.

6 THE CLERK: By reapportionment and Senator  
7 Rodrigues, CS Senate Joint Resolution 100, a joint  
8 resolution of apportionment.

9 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, we're going to  
10 start the redistricting bill here in a moment. So  
11 I'd ask that you take your conversations back to the  
12 bubble or back to the lounge so that members can  
13 hear the debate that's going to transpire here on  
14 the floor.

15 Representative Leek, you're recognized to  
16 explain the bill.

17 REPRESENTATIVE LEEK: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19 Members, this is a joint resolution on  
20 apportionment that we discussed yesterday.

21 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there any amendments?

22 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

23 SPEAKER SPROWLS: All right. Having no  
24 amendments, members, we're going to go into  
25 structured debate on CS for SJR 100. The debate

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1 will be limited to 90 minutes per side in 15-minute  
2 blocks. Total debate time will not exceed 180  
3 minutes.

4 Representative Willhite, you are recognized  
5 to begin the debate. And the clerk will begin the  
6 debate clock.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker.

9 I'd like to yield the floor to  
10 Representative Geller.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Geller,  
12 you're recognized.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GELLER: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker. And thank you for personally presiding  
15 over these -- this very important bill. We  
16 appreciate that.

17 I want to preface my remarks today by  
18 saying that I have affection for every member of  
19 this chamber, and I respect each and every one of  
20 you. And I want it understood that my remarks are  
21 directed to the substance of this bill and not  
22 directed at any individual member of this House, all  
23 of whom I respect.

24 Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with many of  
25 my colleagues, are going to be voting no on this

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1 bill, and there are a lot of reasons for that.

2 There are reasons that are related to the  
3 substance of this bill. There are reasons that are  
4 related to the failure to take what I and other  
5 members of my caucus consider adequate steps to  
6 protect the Creole speaking citizens from that  
7 language minority in the state of Florida.

8 There are substantive reasons related to  
9 the way districts were drawn for Hispanic speakers.  
10 And there are substantive reasons to oppose this  
11 bill related to the failure to address our African-  
12 American citizens here in the state of Florida.  
13 There are other substantive reasons to oppose this  
14 bill, but most of those I'm going to leave to other  
15 speakers.

16 Because today I want to focus more on the  
17 process. Yesterday, I raised, along with a lot of  
18 other members of my caucus, a lot of process  
19 questions. By our count, 36 times we didn't get  
20 answers. Some of that was because we were told our  
21 questions could only relate to the maps.

22 Some of that was because we were told that  
23 the question had been asked and answered. And I  
24 agree on almost all of those that the question had  
25 been asked. Answered is kind of another story.

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1 Some --

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Geller,  
3 you got to keep your debate to the substance of the  
4 bill, just like the question. Substance of the  
5 bill. You're recognized.

6 REPRESENTATIVE GELLER: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Speaker.

8 And let me say that the process by which we  
9 arrived at the bill does impact the substance of the  
10 bill, and that's my focus today. In the process  
11 leading up to this, we were told on the committee  
12 where I'm a ranking democrat, that certain things  
13 were premature.

14 We were told that we couldn't really do  
15 much with the workshop maps that were in front of  
16 us. Maps dropped. In short order after they  
17 dropped, there was an amendment, and then we had a  
18 vote. Less than a week for both. And we were told  
19 at that time, and we were told on the floor, those  
20 are process issues. That opportunity has passed.

21 Members, I have to tell you, there is an  
22 old routine by an idol of mine, Groucho Marx. And  
23 he was the leader in that movie of a place called  
24 Freedonia. If that sounds a little bit like the  
25 free state of Florida, or the Orange free state if



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1 you're a history buff like me, then you're not  
2 wrong.

3 And at a meeting someone tried to raise an  
4 issue, and he said sorry, this is old business,  
5 that's new business. And they came back, and he  
6 said, okay, we'll move onto new business. And the  
7 same person tried to raise the same issue, and he  
8 said oh, that's old business already. And I feel  
9 like we got a little bit of that treatment  
10 yesterday.

11 That there were things that it was  
12 premature to bring up, and then all of a sudden, it  
13 was too late to bring up. We did not adequately  
14 solicit the input of the citizens of Florida. And  
15 with new Zoom technology, that would have been easy.  
16 It really would have been a no-brainer to do it.  
17 But we didn't do it.

18 We were told oh, as an individual member,  
19 you can solicit that, even though we only had  
20 workshop maps and no comment on them was worth  
21 bringing. We were told that the maps were drawn by  
22 somebody. I stand here today and I still don't know  
23 who was in the room.

24 We're told that counsel is shown on the  
25 House website. And yes, it is. Three sets of law

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1 firms. That's a fact. It's there. Which of them  
2 and who from them was substantively in the room when  
3 the policy decisions were made, I'm not clear on. I  
4 was told well, staff drew them. Oh, but something  
5 was too complicated for staff. Were members present  
6 at that point?

7 Which attorneys were present who weighed in  
8 on those policy decisions? I don't know. I'm  
9 troubled by that. I'm troubled by the fact that the  
10 chamber never took a position that we would accept  
11 the Florida Senate map as drawn.

12 I understand there's some tradition. I'm a  
13 great respecter of tradition. But I'm troubled  
14 because I'm asked to vote on a senate map with no  
15 idea if that map is constitutionally compliant. And  
16 I don't want to vote for any map that is not  
17 constitutionally compliant.

18 So with that said, I'm also asked to vote  
19 today on our House map, even though I have all these  
20 unanswered questions. I don't choose to vote for a  
21 map that I don't know is constitutionally compliant.  
22 That is my sworn duty.

23 And why we could not address the technical  
24 end of where Haitian Creole speakers reside and how  
25 to protect them, and why, despite growth in both the

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1 Hispanic community and the African-American  
2 community, the number of protected districts,  
3 benchmark districts, the language varies from time  
4 to time, why that number was unchanged even when a  
5 district was lost in South Florida and somehow  
6 gained in Central Florida, so the bottom line  
7 numbers are the same.

8 I don't know what methodology was used. I  
9 don't know who decided. I asked some questions  
10 about Esri, and we didn't get answers. What was  
11 turned off in Esri?

12 What functionality did it have that we told  
13 them not to use?

14 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, Representative  
15 Geller, I'll remind you that Rule 8.2 of the House  
16 rules, membership confine all remarks to the  
17 questions under debate.

18 Representative Geller, I understand you  
19 have lots of opinions about the process. You've  
20 confined some of your comments to the issues that  
21 were brought up yesterday about language speakers.  
22 Of course, that's relevant to the substance of the  
23 bill.

24 I'll ask you again to keep your comments to  
25 the substance under debate today, which is the bill

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1 in front of us. You're recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE GELLER: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Speaker.

4 The result of the process that was followed  
5 is the bill before us today. And the bill before us  
6 today must be compliant with our constitution, and  
7 mandatory, is adherence to the tier one standards.

8 So I'll just, to try to conclude my remarks  
9 today, say to you that since I don't know how we got  
10 there, since I don't know why we got to where we  
11 did, since I don't know if the process we followed  
12 resulted in a constitutionally compliant map, I feel  
13 I have no choice in honoring my oath to uphold the  
14 Constitution of the State of Florida, to uphold the  
15 Constitution of the United States upon which the  
16 Voting Rights Act that we're mandated to follow,  
17 since I don't know that what we're voting on, this  
18 very map is in compliance with those constitutional  
19 standards, I have no choice but to withhold my vote  
20 along with many other members of my caucus. Because  
21 I will not violate my oaths to the Federal and  
22 Florida Constitution.

23 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

24 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
25 you're recognized.



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1 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
3 members of the 59th district, Representative  
4 Learned.

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Learned,  
6 you're recognized.

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEARNED: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker.

9 I rise today to talk about maps, of course,  
10 but also about baseball. Because one of the things  
11 that everybody from Tampa Bay knows is that  
12 Tropicana Field has one of the worst attendance  
13 records in modern baseball. The reason we almost  
14 lost our major league baseball team to Canada was  
15 because we can't get enough people to show up at the  
16 stadium for games.

17 And the reason that is true is because it  
18 takes an hour and 45 minutes to drive from my  
19 eastern suburbs of Tampa all the way through Tampa's  
20 downtown traffic, past MacDill Air Force Base's  
21 traffic, across Tampa Bay, over into St. Pete. It  
22 can take three hours at rush hour if you try to make  
23 it to a game.

24 My problem with the map before is that it  
25 is splitting part of eastern Hillsborough County and

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1 putting it in with downtown St. Petersburg,  
2 retirement communities in eastern Hillsborough with  
3 downtown districts two hours away. We're doing it  
4 because we're saying it's contiguous across water,  
5 which is a concept that I understand makes sense  
6 mathematically in a formula, but it doesn't make  
7 sense to anybody who actually lives there.

8 Crossing the bay at 7 p.m. to get to -- I  
9 mean, all of us have done house parties in our  
10 districts. All of us have gone out and gone to  
11 speak to the local Chamber of Commerce. All of us  
12 have talked to a local club or a Sons or Daughters  
13 of the American Revolution or a Boy Scout troop.

14 Every meeting I think I've ever gone to all  
15 starts at 7 o'clock, which is right in the middle of  
16 rush hour traffic when you'd need to leave your  
17 district office three hours away just to talk to  
18 your constituents.

19 Crossing the bay is a problem. It means  
20 that people will be under-represented. It is not --  
21 I would stand before any court and say it is not  
22 constitutionally contiguous to say that those two  
23 communities have anything to do with each other,  
24 other than manatees in the middle.

25 Brandon, Florida, which is the town that I

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1 represent, is not incorporated. We're not a city.  
2 We're just an unincorporated county, 200,000  
3 residents, one of the largest unincorporated towns  
4 in America. And we don't have a voice because of  
5 that, and that -- this map splits Brandon four ways  
6 because we don't count to the mathematical formulas  
7 that are used to generate these maps.

8 But anybody from Brandon says they're from  
9 Brandon. Everybody knows where Brandon is. It's  
10 Tampa's eastern suburb. It's a very clear --  
11 clearly understood area. Yet, because we don't hit  
12 -- because we didn't check that constitutional box,  
13 we're going to get it split four ways. And I know  
14 every chamber of commerce, every small business  
15 owner, everybody that I know in Brandon is going to  
16 have less of a seat at the table because of it.

17 And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'll just talk  
18 about time. You know, we got these districts a week  
19 ago. The people back home are probably seeing this  
20 for the first time now. They probably haven't even  
21 been on the website. They don't know who their new  
22 representative is. They haven't had their voice in  
23 this process.

24 And I know that it's taken us a lot of  
25 time, but the people back home haven't had the same

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1 amount of time. This map was finalized a week ago,  
2 and now we had it amended onto a senate map, which  
3 is something that -- even fewer people understand  
4 the logistics of how that all happened, and they  
5 deserve a seat in this chamber too.

6 This is a map that will decide their  
7 representative for the next 10 years. We talk about  
8 people choosing their representative, not  
9 representatives choosing their people. But the  
10 reality is in this process, we have been choosing  
11 the people. We wrote the map. The people back home  
12 haven't had the same opportunity, but for a week.

13 So I am against this map for those reasons,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Representative  
16 Learned. The time having expired, you don't get  
17 your two seconds.

18 Leader Grant, you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE GRANT: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Speaker. I yield time to Representative Tuck.

21 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Tuck,  
22 you're recognized.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TUCK: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 Members, I want to take a minute to discuss



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1 the population deviations we see before us on this  
2 map and the consistent methodology that has been  
3 applied to every district throughout the state in  
4 order to reach the results we are considering today.

5 When maps were created last decade, the  
6 House balanced the population deviations with other  
7 Tier 2 standards of compactness and following  
8 existing political and geographical boundaries in  
9 order to create the prior maps we used as the  
10 benchmark plan.

11 Balancing these Tier 2 standards was the  
12 rationale for establishing the overall population  
13 deviation for the benchmark plan. And it's  
14 important to recognize that the Florida Supreme  
15 Court specifically endorsed this methodology.

16 Similar to the Supreme Court's endorsement  
17 of this methodology, courts throughout the country  
18 have held that legislative redistricting plans have  
19 an overall population deviation of 10 percent, which  
20 is considered acceptable and legally compliant.

21 Members, we should all be proud that our  
22 maps go above and beyond. Despite an acceptable  
23 overall population deviation of 10 percent, the map  
24 before us today has an overall population deviation  
25 of only 4.75 percent with District 6 being at the

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1 low end at -2.38 percent, and District 4 on the high  
2 end at +2.37 percent.

3 Even with going above and beyond the  
4 population range for this map, we are still able to  
5 balance the additional Tier 2 standards. For  
6 example, District 6, we were able to keep Bay County  
7 whole, and in District 4, we were able to keep the  
8 City of Crestview whole. This concept is indicative  
9 of the consistent methodology and reasoned approach  
10 of applying the constitutional standards throughout  
11 the map.

12 So when it comes to the population  
13 deviation and the methodology used in this map, we  
14 can rest assured that our methodology has been  
15 blessed by the Florida Supreme Court and was  
16 consistently applied across the state. As a result,  
17 we have before us a constitutionally compliant map  
18 ready for a vote. So I would encourage everybody's  
19 favorable support.

20 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

21 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Representative  
22 Tuck.

23 Leader Grant, you're recognized.

24 REPRESENTATIVE GRANT: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker. We yield the remainder of our time

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1 back to the chair.

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Having yield back,  
3 members, we have some former members with us today.  
4 First, I'd like to welcome back to the Florida House  
5 Senator Ray Rodrigues.

6 We'd also like to welcome back former  
7 members, David Richardson and Bob Cortes. Welcome  
8 back, gentlemen.

9 Representative Willhite, you're recognized.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
12 member from the 44th District, Senator Thompson.

13 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Thompson,  
14 you're recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 Members, when I look at the map that has  
18 been presented to us, it reflects what, in my  
19 opinion, is a quota mentality. And a quota  
20 mentality suggests that the minimum is enough.

21 In 2012, after the 2010 census, there were  
22 maps drawn that provided an opportunity for 30  
23 minority individuals to be a part of this process.  
24 And today in 2022, after the 2020 census, we still  
25 have only 30, the minimum that is required. If you

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1 believe that a quota is what we have to do. If you  
2 believe that a quota is what's appropriate.

3 A quota is the floor, not the ceiling. So  
4 if we had 30 in 2012, we're on the floor when we had  
5 an opportunity to reach for the ceiling. We have  
6 had tremendous growth in our minority population.

7 The census data shows 500,000 more black  
8 residents in the state of Florida. The census data  
9 shows 1.5 million more Hispanic residents in the  
10 state of Florida. Despite this growth, we're still  
11 at 30. A quota mentality.

12 Members, the maps that we vote on, the maps  
13 that we put forward, should reflect Florida's  
14 population and Florida's electorate. It should  
15 reflect our Haitian Creole speakers, our Hispanic  
16 population, our African-American population. And we  
17 should not be bound by a quota.

18 When the maps go forward after they're  
19 voted on, we will be bound to these maps for 10  
20 years. And it won't be until the 2030 census, after  
21 the 2030 census that we will have an opportunity, or  
22 someone will have an opportunity, to draw other  
23 maps. So we have to be deliberate because we are  
24 bound to these maps for 10 years.

25 And while we won't show retrogression in



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1 terms of fewer minority seats, at the same time,  
2 unfortunately, we won't show progression. We  
3 haven't made any progress in terms of the  
4 participation of minority populations in this  
5 chamber.

6 We had an opportunity to reach for the  
7 ceiling. Instead, we are reclining and stuck on the  
8 floor. A functional analysis was performed on only  
9 the 30 seats that we already have, rather than 120  
10 seats that offer a possibility of maximizing the  
11 participation of minority individuals in this  
12 process.

13 So we have squandered an opportunity to  
14 bring divergent voices, divergent experiences,  
15 divergent perspectives --

16 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Apologize for  
17 interrupting you, Representative Thompson, but I'm  
18 struggling to hear you.

19 Members, if you could take your  
20 conversations to the back of the bubble. There's  
21 obviously going to be a lot of debate today, both  
22 sides 15-minute blocks. So it's going to continue  
23 to get loud in here. Just take your conversations  
24 to the back so we can hear everybody.

25 Representative Thompson, you're recognized.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Speaker.

3 We had an opportunity to bring diversity,  
4 greater diversity to this chamber. We did not take  
5 that opportunity. We looked at the 30 as the  
6 ceiling, while it is actually the floor. Members,  
7 please vote no on this map.

8 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

9 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Representative  
10 Thompson.

11 Representative Willhite, you're recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
14 member of the 97th District, Representative Daley.

15 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Daley,  
16 you're recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE DALEY: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19 And I rise today with several concerns for  
20 many different reasons. But the two I want to touch  
21 on at this time are the lack of minority  
22 representation or the verification of minority  
23 representation in these maps, and, candidly, the  
24 process that got us here today.

25 I do not believe that we've been given all

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1 the data, particularly the data that would enable us  
2 to perform a functional analysis, as my esteemed  
3 colleague just mentioned, on all districts. We were  
4 provided data for 30 districts and told to trust us.

5 Well, folks, when you look at the numbers,  
6 and over the last 10 years you've seen an increase  
7 of 2,000,000 Floridians who happen to be in the  
8 minority, 1.5 million Hispanics, and 500,000 black  
9 Floridians, that, to me, shouldn't equate to the  
10 same number of minority districts, protected  
11 districts, that we have today. It doesn't make  
12 sense. It doesn't add up.

13 Process-wise, just because we say again and  
14 again and again that something has been open and  
15 transparent doesn't make it open and transparent.  
16 There's been a lack of access to data and  
17 information.

18 There's been a lack of adequate notice. I  
19 don't know about you folks, but this is the most  
20 important thing we do as a body. We only do it  
21 every decade. Two days, two days, does not make  
22 adequate notice.

23 We've had overlapping meetings. As many of  
24 you know who sit on the State Redistricting  
25 Committee, I mentioned it again and again because we

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1 were meeting at the same time as the congressional  
2 meeting. How are members of the public supposed to  
3 adequately weigh in when they can't be two places at  
4 once.

5 There's been no meaningful access for the  
6 public. Ten years ago, there was a statewide tour.  
7 We've all heard about it. Heck, Representative  
8 Jenne was here for it, right? We actually went and  
9 toured the state. Now, everything going on with  
10 COVID, I understand we couldn't do an in-person  
11 tour. That's fine. But if my 93-year-old  
12 grandmother can figure out how to use Zoom, I bet  
13 most Floridians can do the same. And you mean to  
14 tell me we couldn't have done that to some degree  
15 across the state to solicit public input? I take  
16 offense to that.

17 Now, I want to mention one other thing on  
18 the process. In our committee, I asked the question  
19 when are we going to make the policy decisions.  
20 When you talk about policy decisions, I mean what do  
21 we do with the prison population. Are we  
22 prioritizing keeping cities whole, keeping counties  
23 whole. Those are all policy decisions.

24 I was told at that time, well, we need to  
25 draw the maps first. Then we can decide the policy



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1 decisions. Somewhere in between there and two  
2 committee meetings later, we had the maps. All the  
3 policy decisions had been made by the admission of  
4 the chair by him and other chairs. And we had never  
5 actually had the opportunity to weigh in and have an  
6 actual conversation about those policy decisions  
7 that impact all Floridians.

8 I want to talk for just a second. Because  
9 some members of the majority party mentioned  
10 yesterday, well, listen, you could have proposed  
11 your own amendment, why didn't the democrats propose  
12 an amendment. Well, here's part of why we chose not  
13 propose an amendment.

14 We lack the data. We lack the data. And  
15 that, in particular, is the data that is being  
16 housed at Florida State University. Now, when we  
17 asked for that data, we were told that we couldn't  
18 have it for constitutional reasons because it was  
19 partisan data. But that's incorrect.

20 Members, the Florida Supreme Court has  
21 already said that mere access to partisan data does  
22 not equal partisan intent. In fact, that data is  
23 necessary to make sure that a minority group has the  
24 opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice.  
25 It's the only way to do it, members. So there was

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1 no way for us to even propose a constitutional map  
2 without that data.

3 Members, in closing, this is the most  
4 important thing we do as a government. It is the  
5 very foundation of our democracy. It is who our  
6 residents, all 22,000,000 of them across this state,  
7 it's who they're going to have their option to elect  
8 for the next 10 years.

9 For these reasons and so many more, I'm  
10 asking you to vote no. Let's start over. Let's do  
11 this right. We still have time. Because our  
12 democracy depends on it.

13 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

14 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
15 you're recognized.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Speaker. I yield the floor to the member from  
18 the 92nd District, Representative Williams.

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Williams,  
20 you're recognized in debate.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 I rise because on yesterday, we heard  
24 several times that any information or question that  
25 we ask was in the packages. Several of us did not

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1 have the opportunity to serve on the redistricting  
2 committee. And if any information that was needed  
3 was in the packages, why did we receive the packages  
4 just on yesterday.

5 That did not give us enough time to look in  
6 the package and go over the package. It did not  
7 give us enough time to contact the district that we  
8 serve. It did not give us enough time to question  
9 the person that put the map on the packages  
10 together.

11 Receiving the information at such short  
12 notice, we, as a body, did not have enough time to  
13 discuss with each other, to debate our concerns,  
14 because of the short notices of receiving the  
15 packages.

16 I heard several times on yesterday, rest  
17 assure me that certain things was not taken in  
18 consideration, or rest assure me that certain things  
19 was taken in consideration. It's not that I don't  
20 trust the one that put the maps together. It's not  
21 that I don't trust the one that put the packages  
22 together. It's that I trust myself more.

23 You had heard the numbers of additional  
24 blacks being added to the state of Florida. You  
25 have heard additional numbers of Hispanic being

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1 added to the state of Florida. But what we have not  
2 heard, any additional seats added for the minority  
3 party.

4 And with that, those reasons, I will be  
5 voting down. And I ask my colleagues to do so.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
8 you're recognized.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Mr. Speaker, I  
10 yield back the remaining balance at this time.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Leader Grant, you're  
12 recognized.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GRANT: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker. If you would, sir, please recognize  
15 Representative Fine.

16 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, before -- please  
17 pause the debate clock. Before we go to  
18 Representative Fine, let's just pause for a quick  
19 recognition.

20 Representative Rizo, you're recognized for  
21 a recognition.

22 REPRESENTATIVE RIZO: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 Members, if I could ask you to turn your  
25 attention to the west gallery. We have visitors



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1 here from the great city of Hialeah. We have the  
2 Council President, Carl Zogby. We have Councilman  
3 Bryan Calvo. And we have Hialeah Housing Authority  
4 Director and former Councilman, Julio Ponce. And we  
5 also have Community Leader, George Gonzalez.

6 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
7 House.

8 Representative Fabricio, from  
9 Representative Rizo's desk, you're recognized for a  
10 recognition.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FABRICIO: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 And from the town of Miami Lakes, here in  
14 the gallery we have Councilman Josh Dieguez;  
15 Councilman Tony Fernandez; Town Attorney, Lorenzo  
16 Cobiella; and former Vice-Mayor, Mr. Frank Mingo.

17 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
18 House.

19 Representative C. Smith, you're recognized  
20 for a recognition.

21 REPRESENTATIVE C. SMITH: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 Members, in the east gallery we have Teens  
24 Advocating Together. I'm hoping that they can stand  
25 up. Teens Advocating Together is a partnership

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1 between the Jewish Community Relations Council, the  
2 JCRC of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and the  
3 Miami-Dade branch of the NAACP.

4 They bring together high school teens from  
5 the African-American and Jewish communities to get  
6 to know one another, learn issues affecting each  
7 other's communities, and strengthen the teens  
8 advocacy and coalition building skills.

9 And they are here in Tallahassee to put  
10 those skills to good use advocating for issues and  
11 talking about issues like their identities;  
12 leadership development; black Jewish relations;  
13 storytelling; legislative process and advocacy; and  
14 service learning. Now they're here in the capitol  
15 to put those skills to good use.

16 So please join me in welcoming Teens  
17 Advocating Together.

18 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
19 House.

20 Members, we're back in debate.

21 Representative Fine, you're recognized in  
22 debate.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 This morning at 6:00, I was up working with

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1 my son who's taking Algebra II, tutoring him and  
2 thinking through math. And since I was up that  
3 early, I couldn't go back to sleep so it prompted me  
4 to take a look at our maps in general and to think  
5 about some of the arguments that were made  
6 yesterday.

7 We have heard the argument from some  
8 already today that somehow minority population has  
9 not been thought through in this map. And the  
10 argument that is made -- I'd like to make it for  
11 them. I think I can do that. The argument that is  
12 made is that there are 16 percent more black people  
13 living in Florida today than there were 10 years  
14 ago. Why aren't there 16 percent more seats that  
15 reflect that?

16 And by the way, there are 35 percent more  
17 Hispanics in Florida than there were 10 years ago.  
18 Well, why are there not 35 percent more seats that  
19 are primarily Hispanic?

20 By the way, if you add them together, you  
21 get to 51 percent more seats. Hopefully, I've  
22 delivered that argument with a little bit of  
23 enthusiasm. The problem with it is it belies a  
24 basic understanding of math.

25 Because it does not matter how much your

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1 population increases. It matters how your  
2 percentage of the population increases. Ten years  
3 ago, 17 percent of this state was made up of black  
4 residents, 2010 census data. You know what it is in  
5 the 2020 census data? Seventeen percent. Hasn't  
6 changed.

7           Actually, it changed a little bit. It went  
8 from -- I wrote it down. If you want to go to the  
9 hundredths of a decimal place, it went from 17.02  
10 percent to 17.25 percent. Did go up a little bit.

11           The population of our state increased 15  
12 percent over the last 10 years. Hispanic  
13 population, 23 percent, 10 years ago. Twenty-six  
14 percent today. So the fact that it went up by 35  
15 percent overall is irrelevant to the discussion is  
16 the percentage of the overall population, which has  
17 not changed that much.

18           Now, one could argue, wait, it did go from  
19 23 to 26 percent. Well, that's a little more so why  
20 hasn't it changed? Well, it also matters where you  
21 move and where you live. See, it's not the same 30  
22 seats today. We've talked about that before.

23           There was a primarily Hispanic seat down  
24 there in Dade County. It went away. You want to  
25 know why? Because while the state grew by 15



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1 percent, Dade County only grew by eight. See, we've  
2 got to allocate these seats based on population.  
3 They just have fewer people as a percentage of the  
4 state as they did 10 years ago.

5 But you know what the number one growing  
6 county in the state of Florida was over the last 10  
7 years? It was Osceola County. County near me. It  
8 increased by 45 percent. And that is where a new  
9 minority seat exists because it grew faster than the  
10 state as an average. So the math works.

11 I'd like to address one other -- one other  
12 point as well. We've heard discussions about data  
13 that doesn't exist. Data that we wanted, it didn't  
14 exist. It was just referenced as FSU data, that we  
15 can't have it, it doesn't exist. This is not  
16 correct.

17 For starters, there is no FSU data. It is  
18 state elections data. And not only does it exist,  
19 it has been in the software available to us since  
20 October of last year. Which begs the question, I've  
21 heard it over and over again, why did we not run the  
22 functional analysis for the other 90 seats?

23 First off, the data existed to do it. Any  
24 member of this chamber with, I guess, adequate math  
25 background, which most of us I would hope have,

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1 could have run that analysis themselves. You didn't  
2 have to go through some committee. If you wanted to  
3 do a functional analysis on a district, you had all  
4 of the data. You could have done it yourself.

5 The choice not to do so does not impugn the  
6 good work of Chair Leek and his team. But more  
7 importantly, the question is why did we not do it?  
8 There's a reason. A, it's not required. It's not  
9 the law. But a functional analysis requires the  
10 importation of partisan data, of elections data.  
11 And we are supposed to do this process without  
12 paying attention to that, except in those 30  
13 districts where we are.

14 These maps were drawn without consideration  
15 of that. And to do that in those other 90 districts  
16 would have brought that effort in. This is a great  
17 work product that many people have worked hard on.  
18 I want to congratulate Chair Leek for the great job  
19 that he's done, as well as his team. These are  
20 legally compliant maps. And with that, I ask for  
21 your favorable support on those maps.

22 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Leader Grant, you're  
23 recognized.

24 REPRESENTATIVE GRANT: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker. Yield the remainder of our time to the

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1 chair.

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
3 you're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
6 member from the 99th District, Representative Jenne.

7 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Leader Jenne, you're  
8 recognized in debate.

9 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Speaker.

11 Members, I'd like to talk to you a bit  
12 about what Floridians deserve and what they got. I  
13 personally believe that every single Floridian,  
14 irrespective of where they're from, irrespective of  
15 their political affiliation, deserves to have their  
16 voices heard. They deserve the right and the  
17 freedom to speak to relevant committees. But what  
18 did they get?

19 They got public input, if you can drop  
20 everything, travel to one of the most inaccessible  
21 state capitols in the entire nation, and that is the  
22 same public that can barely afford affordable  
23 housing at this point. The same public that we  
24 ignore when they come up asking for relief on their  
25 rent.

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1 Now, I'm very thankful that the citizens of  
2 Tallahassee had the opportunity to come to the  
3 capitol and speak. I love Tallahassee. I think it  
4 gets a bad rap. I think it's one of the most lovely  
5 cities in all of Florida. So I'm happy for them.

6 But what about the folks in Pensacola?

7 What about the folks in Tampa?

8 What about the folks in Broward County?

9 What about the folks in Miami-Dade and  
10 everywhere else in between all the way down to Key  
11 West?

12 What about them?

13 They don't have that same right to come and  
14 petition their government?

15 So let's talk about what Floridians deserve  
16 again. Because I think they deserve a website that  
17 accommodates millions of language minorities in the  
18 state of Florida. And I believe that that website  
19 should be easy to use and functional. But what they  
20 got, a website nearly devoid of any language other  
21 than English.

22 I mean, the actual redistricting suggestion  
23 form PDF was still only in English like a week-and-  
24 a-half, two weeks ago, when the process has already  
25 been done. The cake is already in the oven. It's



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1 being baked at that point. And it was only in  
2 English. Have you actually taken a second to look  
3 at it? I know I have. I know probably a lot of you  
4 have. I think it probably falls somewhere between  
5 Byzantine and impossible.

6 So what do Floridians deserve? I believe  
7 they deserve a collaborative process to drawing this  
8 map and the policy making that follows. But what we  
9 gave them, a map drawn in the dark. We don't know  
10 who was directing it. We've heard commentary early  
11 -- or excuse me, yesterday that some attorneys made  
12 some changes, but they can't be explained on the  
13 floor. Can't be explained. Just have to trust us.  
14 Just that's the right thing to do.

15 And I heard that 10 years ago when two out  
16 of three maps were roundly rejected by the Supreme  
17 Court. So what do Floridians deserve? How about  
18 more than two or three days to review a map that is  
19 foundational to the very concept of democracy in the  
20 state of Florida.

21 We had in committee last week part of this  
22 bill. That bill and that map was three days old  
23 when it reached committee. Today, members, it's 10  
24 days old, 10 days old on data that covers the entire  
25 Floridian peninsula and the panhandle, the entire

1 thing, and we had 10 days to review all of those  
2 numbers.

3 We had 10 years to get this right, 10  
4 years. And now we're dealing with a map that was  
5 created 10 days ago. How do you expect anyone to be  
6 able to filter through all of that information?

7 What do you expect to happen? Because I've  
8 been in this process (audio cuts out) you expect.  
9 Or actually two, ignorance and acquiescence. You'll  
10 find neither of those in the back rows.

11 So what do Floridians deserve? They  
12 deserve to know what data was and was not used in  
13 the creation of these maps.

14 Why wasn't readily available data used to  
15 determine where Haitian Floridians lived in this  
16 state? That same question, except overlay Hispanic  
17 Latino Floridians. That same question, overlay  
18 African-American Floridians.

19 We have that data. So why not use the  
20 American Community survey? We used it 10 years ago.  
21 The data is good. And it helps identify and make  
22 sure that we have representation for all communities  
23 in this state. There was nothing to stop anyone  
24 from using it, except, except, poor marching orders.

25 Not using it has allowed what I believe to

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1 be an unconstitutional map to arrive on this floor  
2 once again. And why do I believe it's  
3 unconstitutional? Because I believe that it is an  
4 easy provable violation of the Voting Rights Act. I  
5 believe it is an easily provable violation of the  
6 tier system in place within the Fair Districts  
7 Amendment in Florida's Constitution.

8 Both of those documents have very clear  
9 vote dilution prohibitions that prevent the packing  
10 and cracking of minority voters. Under certain  
11 conditions mandated by those documents, they must  
12 create new minority access seats. There is no  
13 evidence that the House has followed these mandates.

14 Now, we just heard a little bit earlier  
15 about how Hispanic Floridians have only jumped three  
16 percent when you look at the overall. Well, here's  
17 the news. Let's do a little more math. Let's  
18 continue down that path that there was only a three  
19 percent increase.

20 Three percent of 120 is 3.6. That means  
21 somewhere between three and four Hispanic accesses  
22 should have been created using the same math that we  
23 just heard moments ago. 3.6. And how many do we  
24 get? Zero. Zero. So I appreciate math. And I'll  
25 just follow it to its ultimate end.

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1           So we look at that. And what do they get?  
2   Not a single additional protected Hispanic seat.  
3   Not a one. The same thing is happening to African-  
4   Americans on a smaller scale. And the complete, and  
5   it is admitted and unnecessary, overlooking of our  
6   Haitian Floridians, completely overlooked in this  
7   entire process.

8           Members, I get tired of standing up here  
9   and saying don't vote for this, don't vote for that.  
10   I really wish I could just vote for this. I really  
11   do. I wish there was a map in front of me I could  
12   vote for. But as I review the multitude of process  
13   abnormalities that have occurred over the last  
14   month, it shows me that I cannot.

15           And when I review the growth of minority  
16   populations and the lack of proper representation  
17   evidenced in the maps, that demands that I cannot  
18   vote in favor of this bill.

19           And I would urge every member on this floor  
20   to reject this map and begin the work on creating  
21   new maps. And when they're done with that, creating  
22   an independent redistricting commission. Because I  
23   believe that is the only true path to fair  
24   districts.

25           Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.



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1           SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
2     you're recognized.

3           REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
4     Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
5     member from the 47th District, Representative  
6     Eskamani.

7           SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Eskamani,  
8     you're recognized in debate.

9           REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you so  
10    much, Mr. Speaker.

11           And believe it or not, members, I will be  
12    brief. So I appreciate the opportunity to speak on  
13    my opposition to these maps we're going to be voting  
14    on in just a little while.

15           So I'm going to take you back in history a  
16    little bit to last decade where little Anna Eskamani  
17    was a college student at the University of Central  
18    Florida. Go Knights! And actually it was that  
19    space where I first got engaged in the redistricting  
20    process as an advocate.

21           I was attending what were back then the  
22    public hearings in district about the maps. And I  
23    remember being given the opportunity as a 20-year-  
24    old to speak on behalf of the communities that I  
25    cared about, and continue to care about, and what my

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1 recommendations were of how to craft the maps that  
2 govern us for the next 10 years.

3 And so, you know, one of my biggest pieces  
4 of advocacy in this process has been why was public  
5 access limited throughout this endeavor. I know the  
6 feedback from committee staff and committee leaders  
7 is there's a website. There's all these tools of  
8 engagement. But I won't repeat what my colleagues  
9 have already said when it comes to concerns around  
10 what we made available this go-around.

11 And the emphasis on how important it is to  
12 make sure that this once every 10 years process is  
13 one that every person can have clear engagement and  
14 access and have it be available in multiple  
15 languages and ensure that we are taking that  
16 feedback into consideration, but we're bringing  
17 government to you versus the assumption that folks  
18 will just find us.

19 Because in my now short four years of  
20 service, one of the lessons I've learned is I can't  
21 expect people to know what they don't know. And if  
22 folks don't realize this is happening, they don't  
23 understand what the process is, it's up to us as  
24 public servants to unpack that and bring it to them.

25 And so I don't think that was a job well

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1 done here in this process. Now, to the heart of my  
2 concerns, I'm going to echo Representative and  
3 Senator Geraldine Thompson along the fact that with  
4 population growth in Florida in more diverse  
5 directions, we don't see that reflected in the maps.

6 And my understanding too is that a decade  
7 ago we did consider racial minorities and language  
8 minorities to be protected, integrated those  
9 elements into the drawing of maps 10 years ago. The  
10 Legislature even provided percentages of the Haitian  
11 population in each district, something that I have  
12 not seen this session.

13 And so this is such a beautiful state, such  
14 a diverse state. And other points that have been  
15 made by the courts speak to the fact that you don't  
16 necessarily have to have, for example, a majority  
17 black district for those electorates to choose a  
18 candidate of their choice.

19 But unfortunately, what ends up happening  
20 in this process at times is those voters are  
21 intentionally put into one district so that they  
22 don't have voting power in surrounding districts.

23 And so it is my belief that with the  
24 population shifts in Florida, we should have seen  
25 more minority access districts. This state has

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1 transformed in its diversity. It doesn't make sense  
2 that we still have the same number 10 years later.

3 And again, it's not required, and the court  
4 said this, if a minority population can elect a  
5 candidate of their choice without a majority voting  
6 age population, there's no need to maintain or  
7 create a majority minority district.

8 So I am concerned about packing in these  
9 maps. And for those reasons and the ones I already  
10 listed, I'll be voting against the maps today.

11 Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

12 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
13 you're recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the balance of this  
16 block.

17 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, before we go to  
18 Leader Grant, let's take a pause for recognitions.

19 Representative Clemons, you're recognized  
20 for a recognition.

21 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMONS: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 Members, I believe one of the hardest  
24 elected jobs is to be a member of a school board, a  
25 local school board, where you have to face mothers



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1 and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers.

2 We have a member of the Dixie County School  
3 Board here today from District 1. Would you please  
4 help me welcome to the Florida Capitol, Cheryl  
5 Pridgeon?

6 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
7 House.

8 Representative Mooney, you're recognized  
9 for a recognition.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MOONEY: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Speaker.

12 In the west gallery, I'd like to recognize  
13 a group from Florida International University.  
14 These students have done research on plastic free  
15 lifestyle, basically, the Plastics-Free Initiative,  
16 and they're here for Dade's Day.

17 Because of their research -- because of  
18 their research, it led me to file HB 1145, which  
19 helped start the state to deal with the mounting  
20 problems of single-use plastics and packing in  
21 health and economy.

22 I'd like to recognize their mentor, Laura  
23 Reynolds; FIU student, Amanda De Perna; Nayla  
24 Alcocer; and Danielle Howler.

25 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida

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1 House.

2 Representative LaMarca, you're recognized  
3 for a recognition.

4 REPRESENTATIVE LAMARCA: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Speaker.

6 Earlier on when we opened session today,  
7 you heard from Father Daniel Ryan Saunders, who  
8 shares something in common with three gentlemen in  
9 the -- or two gentlemen in the gallery, and a young  
10 lady. They were all county commission aides for me  
11 or former state legislative aides. Corey Staniscia,  
12 Ryan Ryder, Ryan Saunders, and Kate Wesner is here  
13 somewhere. She is now with the American Flood  
14 Coalition.

15 So I don't know if that's a blessing or a  
16 curse to work for me, but we still stay friends and  
17 we had a nice dinner last night. So I want to  
18 welcome to the Florida House.

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
20 House.

21 Representative Sirois, you're recognized  
22 for a recognition.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SIROIS: Thank you very  
24 much, Mr. Speaker.

25 Good afternoon, members. It's my pleasure

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1 to welcome Brevard County Supervisor of Elections,  
2 Lori Scott, to the chamber with us. She's in the  
3 east gallery.

4 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
5 House.

6 Representative Eskamani, you're recognized  
7 for a recognition.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ESKAMANI: Thank you so  
9 much, Mr. Speaker.

10 Members, in the east gallery we're joined  
11 from some incredible advocates and providers of  
12 reproductive health. And so please join me in  
13 celebrating Dr. Sujatha Prabhakaran, Dr. Samantha  
14 Dean, Dr. Rachel Rankin, and Dr. Melissa Schacter,  
15 who are here today in the Florida House.

16 These are folks who are offering compassion  
17 and care to patients across Florida. We're so proud  
18 to have you here. Thank you for your incredible  
19 work.

20 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
21 House.

22 Representative Grieco, you're recognized  
23 for a recognition.

24 REPRESENTATIVE GRIECO: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

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1 If I can direct your attention to the east  
2 gallery. One of my friends, Miami Beach  
3 Commissioner, Alex Fernandez, is here. So Alex not  
4 only served as an aide to a former Miami Beach  
5 commissioner, but he also served as an aide in the  
6 Miami-Dade commission.

7 And as a former Miami Beach commissioner, I  
8 will tell you that's one of the hardest jobs in  
9 Florida. And with that, I want to welcome my friend  
10 Alex Fernandez to the Florida House.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
12 House.

13 Members, we're back in debate.

14 Leader Grant, you're recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GRANT: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 Would you please recognize Representative  
18 Sirois in debate?

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Sirois,  
20 you're recognized in debate.

21 REPRESENTATIVE SIROIS: Thank you very  
22 much, Mr. Speaker.

23 Thank you, Leader Grant.

24 I appreciate a few minutes of your time  
25 this afternoon, members, to speak in support of the



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1 joint resolution establishing state legislative  
2 districts and, specifically, the house maps that we  
3 discussed yesterday.

4 But there are a few things that I've heard  
5 in debate that I feel compelled to comment on. The  
6 first is this question of accessibility. And I  
7 think it's important to point out that in terms of  
8 public participation, we launched a joint website  
9 with the Florida Senate, floridaredistricting.gov --  
10 floridaredistricting.gov, which has the data and the  
11 software that is used and available to us and the  
12 members of the public to produce maps.

13 And our fellow Floridians did take the  
14 opportunity and the time to go onto that website and  
15 to provide comment and to produce maps of their own.  
16 So I think for anybody to suggest that they couldn't  
17 have used the same tools to produce amendments as a  
18 part of this process, to say that, frankly, is  
19 misleading.

20 The other thing that I would point out in  
21 the same vein of accessibility and public input,  
22 with the website, we have the testimony available as  
23 a part of the committee process, but each of us as  
24 120 members of this body have a role and  
25 responsibility in terms of representing our

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1 constituents.

2 And I seem to recall every committee  
3 meeting that I participated in, members were invited  
4 to share questions, to bring comments forward, to  
5 share their concerns, to voice it in committee.  
6 Every memorandum that went out related to  
7 redistricting encouraged members to bring their  
8 concerns, comments, and questions, not only to Chair  
9 Leek, but to committee staff.

10 I'd also like to take a moment to talk  
11 about the substance of the bill here before us  
12 today, which I think has gotten a little bit lost in  
13 the weeds. It should be said more than once that  
14 the benchmark map includes 30 protected minority  
15 districts. And compliant with the law, the map  
16 before us today has 30 protected minority districts.  
17 Eighteen of these districts are protected black  
18 performing districts. Twelve are protected Hispanic  
19 performing districts.

20 In addition to maintaining these  
21 protections, the map before us today improves the  
22 visual and mathematical compactness of many of these  
23 protected districts to further balance Tier 2  
24 standards and, of course, to maintain tier one  
25 compliance.

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1           For example, I'd like to point to District  
2   88, a protected majority minority black performing  
3   district in Palm Beach. In the benchmark map, the  
4   district was long and skinny district running from  
5   Palm Beach Gardens and the north end of the county  
6   all the way to Delray Beach in the south end of the  
7   county. This had the effect of splitting numerous  
8   cities along the way.

9           Members, the map before us today not only  
10   reconfigures and improves the protected District 88,  
11   but also improves the other districts in the county.  
12   And as a result, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach are  
13   now kept wholly within District 90. Lantana is  
14   wholly within District 87. And Boca Raton, wholly  
15   within District 91.

16           This is just one of the many, many ways the  
17   map before us today is an improvement from the  
18   benchmark map. I want to thank Chair Leek and Chair  
19   Byrd for their leadership and efforts over the past  
20   several months. And I encourage all members to vote  
21   in support of this map.

22           Thank you, Leader Grant.

23           SPEAKER SPROWLS: Leader Grant, you're  
24   recognized.

25           REPRESENTATIVE GRANT: Thank you,

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1 Mr. Speaker. We remand the remainder of the time  
2 back to the chair.

3 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, before we go to  
4 Representative Willhite, let me recognize a few  
5 members for recognitions.

6 Representative Geller, you're recognized  
7 for a recognition.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GELLER: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker.

10 All of us are aware of the terrible tragedy  
11 that occurred in the town of Surfside last year. As  
12 you may know, the town of Surfside is in my  
13 legislative district. One of the warriors in the  
14 aftermath of that for the survivors, for the  
15 families, for the victims of that terrible tragedy  
16 was the Vice-Mayor of the town of Surfside, my  
17 friend, Tina Paul.

18 With us today in the west gallery is the  
19 Vice-Mayor of the town of Surfside, somebody who  
20 worked tirelessly to help as best as we could to  
21 ameliorate the terrible tragedy in the town of  
22 Surfside. Please join me in welcoming Surfside  
23 Vice-Mayor, Tina Paul.

24 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
25 House.



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1 Representative Borrero, you're recognized  
2 for a recognition.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BORRERO: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5 Members, I would like to invite you to  
6 please join me with a warm welcome to some members  
7 from Miami-Dade County who are zealously advocating  
8 for our county here during Dade Days.

9 We have the President of the Miami Young  
10 Republicans, Armando Ibarra; his wife, Jessica  
11 Ibarra, the national board member for the National  
12 Federation of Young Republicans; as well as Brandon  
13 Diaz; and Barbara Balmaseda up in the east gallery.

14 And in the west gallery, we have from my  
15 favorite city, the City of Sweetwater, Councilman  
16 Commissioner Ian Vallecillo; as well as the Chief of  
17 Staff for the city, Robert Herrada; and Josh Rios.  
18 Please give them a warm welcome.

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
20 House.

21 Representative Joseph, you're recognized  
22 for a recognition.

23 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 As we continue to celebrate Miami-Dade

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1 Days, we have one of our incredible villages here  
2 joining us today. We have the Village of El Portal.  
3 And I would like to recognize Mayor Omarr Nickerson  
4 in the east gallery. We have Vice-Mayor, Anders  
5 Urbom; Council Person, Luis Perea; Clerk -- the  
6 Village Clerk, Mr. Colby; and the Village Manager,  
7 Christia Alou. Welcome to the Florida House.

8 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
9 House.

10 Representative Willhite, you're recognized.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
13 member from the 49th District, Representative C.  
14 Smith.

15 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative C. Smith,  
16 you're recognized in debate.

17 REPRESENTATIVE C. SMITH: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker.

19 Members, I'd like to start by talking about  
20 the process. This has not been an open and  
21 transparent process. We needed robust public input.  
22 There has been virtually no public access to how  
23 these maps were put together.

24 Ten years ago, state legislators hosted  
25 public meetings across Florida seeking public input.

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1 The Legislature went from Pensacola to Tallahassee  
2 all the way east to Jacksonville. They went down to  
3 Central Florida, Tampa, Miami, Palm Beach County,  
4 the Florida Keys. Members, we were everywhere 10  
5 years ago holding public meetings, asking for input.

6 Ten years later, zero public meetings  
7 outside of the Florida Capitol. Zero. So we've  
8 deviated from the standard legislative process. But  
9 the Legislature said don't worry, trust us, we're  
10 going to put these maps together fairly.

11 I want to speak to the State House map and  
12 address minority representation and the tremendous  
13 growth of the Hispanic and Latino community. We had  
14 12 Hispanic performing districts 10 years ago, and  
15 12 Hispanic performing districts now in this map.  
16 Yet, our community, Nuestra Comunidad, El Pueblo,  
17 grew more than any other. One-and-a-half million  
18 new Hispanic and Latino Floridians.

19 Floridians who are driving our state's  
20 economic growth, who are leaders and entrepreneurs,  
21 and leaders in business and educators, and leaders  
22 in healthcare. Where are our new Hispanic and  
23 Latino districts?

24 Are they in all 12 of the currently drawn  
25 Hispanic performing districts?

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1 Are they all packed in there?

2 Where did they go?

3 Where is the data that shows us where they  
4 went? Data on where Latinos grew the most in our  
5 state.

6 Where's the data on how the Latino  
7 community is voting?

8 So we had 12 Hispanic performing districts  
9 10 years ago, and 12 again 10 years later, despite  
10 leading every other group in growth over the past 10  
11 years. And as Representative Thompson mentioned  
12 before me, the minimum is not enough.

13 The absence of retrogression doesn't mean  
14 we have progression or progress. We can do better  
15 than the bare minimum, members. We need fair  
16 districts. And I cannot vote for a map like this  
17 one, especially a map that leaves my community, the  
18 Latino community, behind.

19 And that's why I urge you, members, to vote  
20 down on this bill and pass a fair map. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
22 you're recognized.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Speaker. I yield the floor to the member from  
25 the 108th District, Representative Joseph.



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1           SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Joseph,  
2     you're recognized in debate.

3           REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH: Thank you,  
4     Mr. Speaker.

5           So I heard one of my colleagues talking  
6     about math. And, you know, the funny thing is most  
7     lawyers don't like math. And generally, I tend to  
8     be one of them except for the fact that in high  
9     school I was a member of Mu Alpha Theta, which is  
10    the math -- that's it, the National Math Honor  
11    Society. So I know how to play with my numbers. It  
12    might take me a little bit longer than other folks,  
13    but I'll get there.

14          So he talked about numbers. So let's talk  
15    about some of the numbers that he posited.  
16    Specifically referring to the Hispanic population,  
17    he pointed out -- let's just assume his numbers are  
18    correct -- that we went from 22 percent to 26  
19    percent of the population overall in Florida. And  
20    while that might seem like a small percentage, that  
21    percentage can equate to millions of people.

22          For every house district, the estimation is  
23    about 180,000 people. Multiply that by 120  
24    districts, that's a good like at least, going by his  
25    calculation, over 2,000,000 additional people. All

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1 right. Fine. Let's put that aside.

2 I agree with him that what matters more is  
3 where those people live. And you know what,  
4 wouldn't it be great to know where those people  
5 live? That's the data that we've been asking for.  
6 When I asked about how some of these numbers came  
7 about, I was told that those numbers were evaluated  
8 only in the areas that were protected previously.

9 That still doesn't get us to where are we  
10 now. When I say previously, benchmark numbers 2010.  
11 That still doesn't get us to where we are now in  
12 2022. We have newer census data so we should be  
13 able to use it.

14 So if I wanted -- another thing was if you  
15 wanted to do a functional analysis yourself, you  
16 could have done it yourself. But Chair Leek  
17 yesterday talked about how nobody in this room was  
18 qualified to do a functional analysis, not even the  
19 staff.

20 And there were some elements that not even  
21 the staff, the redistricting staff who we're relying  
22 on with these maps, had to rely on outside counsel  
23 with these maps. So it's very flippant to be like  
24 well, if you wanted to do it, you could do it. But  
25 none of y'all could do it either. I mean, anyway.

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1 Before even getting to a functional  
2 analysis, part of the questions we were directing to  
3 yesterday was that you need to do a threshold  
4 analysis on a couple of things. And I'll just pause  
5 at three - racially polarized voting, racial block  
6 voting, and minority voter cohesion. That's where  
7 you know where the analysis needs to be done.

8 By all accounts, outside of the benchmark  
9 districts from 2010, that additional analysis may or  
10 may not have been done. If it was done, it was not  
11 shared with us, and that was the decision that was  
12 made. If it was not done, then that's problematic  
13 in and of itself.

14 Lastly, I wanted to just address this  
15 information -- these references to the ACS data as  
16 it pertains to identifying Haitian Creole speakers  
17 as a language minority as required by the Florida  
18 Constitution.

19 And at some point yesterday, the bill  
20 sponsor mentioned that it wasn't preferable --  
21 mentioned that at some point the minority caucus or  
22 the democratic caucus objected to the usage of that  
23 data.

24 And at the time, the objection to the usage  
25 of that data was because there was superior census

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1 data that tracked that information in a more  
2 accurate way than what the ACS data did. This go-  
3 around, the census data that we are talking about is  
4 not yet available, therefore, that superior data  
5 cannot be relied on.

6 In court, we have something called best  
7 evidence. If you have superior information, you use  
8 that superior information. If you do not have that  
9 superior information, and that information is  
10 valuable in the thing that you're trying to assess,  
11 like a tier one criteria under the Florida  
12 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, then you use  
13 what you have.

14 The closest data that we have is the ACS  
15 data in the context that we're sitting here today.  
16 In fact, if we're going beyond the 2010 analysis,  
17 which is the last time we had this, we have ACS data  
18 that is done down to the census tract level as late  
19 as 2019. So that's nine years updated from 2010.  
20 Sure, it's not 2022, but it's the best we've got.

21 When I asked questions about were there any  
22 attempts to look at what other states may have done  
23 where they also have language minorities, I got a  
24 vague answer that basically said no. Or if there  
25 was an attempt, it just wasn't shared with me. I



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1 don't know. The bill sponsor may or may not address  
2 that in his closing. But to the extent that we can  
3 address required criteria in a way with data that is  
4 available, it would behoove us to do that.

5 And while the bill sponsor said that  
6 Haitian language minorities are included in this map  
7 in two particular districts, 107 and 108, it gives  
8 us no information about how, if at all, they were  
9 addressed beyond those two districts out of 120. We  
10 just don't know. We don't know where the black  
11 people are. We don't know where the Hispanic people  
12 are. We don't know where the Haitians are. Maybe  
13 we don't want to know.

14 But the Tier 1 criteria, which is the  
15 starting point, not the Tier 2, requires us to  
16 examine where our minority populations are to ensure  
17 that they can elect the representative of their  
18 choice. Thank you.

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Before we go to  
20 Representative Willhite, let's recognize -- I want  
21 to pause for some recognitions.

22 Representative Chambliss, you're recognized  
23 for a recognition.

24 REPRESENTATIVE CHAMBLISS: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

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1 Colleagues, I ask that you help me to  
2 acknowledge all the way from Miami-Dade County in  
3 the west gallery, Councilman Joe Brown from Coconut  
4 Grove; Community Councilwoman Christina Farias; and  
5 former Community Councilperson, Johnny Farias, all  
6 the way from Miami-Dade County. Welcome to the  
7 Florida House.

8 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
9 House.

10 Representative Aloupis, you're recognized  
11 for a recognition.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ALOUPIS: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

14 Members, in the east gallery we have some  
15 of the finest people in the land. From Miami-Dade  
16 College, we have President Madeline Pumariega. Can  
17 we get a round of applause for President Pumariega?

18 And with President Pumariega, we have a  
19 number of campus presidents. We have President  
20 Vazquez; President Loynaz; President Gonzalez;  
21 President Stewart; and President Moore-Garcia. We  
22 also have Trustee Robert Alonzo; as well as Provost  
23 Malou Harrison; Mauricio Montiel; and we have the  
24 new head of the foundation, Nelson Hincapie.  
25 Everyone, welcome to the Florida House.

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1 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
2 House.

3 Representative Willhite, you're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield back the balance of  
6 this block.

7 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Clemons  
8 from Representative Grant's desk, you're recognized.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMONS: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Speaker. At this time, we'd like to yield the  
11 floor to Representative Robinson from the 71st  
12 District.

13 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Robinson,  
14 you're recognized in debate.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROBINSON: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Speaker.

17 I rise in strong support of CS for CJR 100  
18 related at the joint resolution of apportionment  
19 because I'm pleased with both our process and our  
20 product.

21 First, quickly, our process. We  
22 established an extremely effective and user-friendly  
23 website that provided valuable feedback and resulted  
24 in 19 folks drafting house maps. I reviewed all 19,  
25 by the way, and one actually came from one of my

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1 constituents in my district.

2 We held seven subcommittee meetings  
3 totaling over 16 hours of scheduled meeting time  
4 where we learned about federal and state districting  
5 law, census information, and other relevant workshop  
6 draft maps. We devoted an entire meeting to public  
7 testimony and input.

8 For the main redistricting committee, we  
9 basically did the same process, held five meetings  
10 and conducted a thorough process. In this once in a  
11 decade process, the public for the very first time  
12 could create and submit a map from their living  
13 room, and many did.

14 Because of our exceptional process, we have  
15 an exceptional product, one that is constitutionally  
16 compliant. As members of the Florida House of  
17 Representatives, we all raised our hands to support  
18 and defend the Florida and Federal Constitutions.

19 I think it's important maybe to take a  
20 couple seconds to remind ourselves what Section 21  
21 of Article III provides, and in quote, I quote, "In  
22 establishing legislative district boundaries, no  
23 apportionment plan or individual district shall be  
24 drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a  
25 political party or an incumbent; and the districts



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1 shall not be drawn with the intent or result of  
2 denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial  
3 or language minorities to participate in the  
4 political process or to diminish their ability to  
5 elect representatives of their choice; and the  
6 districts shall consist of contiguous territory."

7 This is called Tier 1.

8 And then subsection (b), "these districts  
9 shall be nearly equal in population as practicable;  
10 compact; and where feasible, utilize political and  
11 geographical boundaries," or what's called Tier 2.

12 I personally take my responsibility very,  
13 very important to defend all portions of our  
14 constitution. And in my view, there are three  
15 critical improvements on this map than the base mark  
16 map.

17 First, with this plan before you, there are  
18 half fewer Florida cities split than there were in  
19 2012. And if we look at the compactness measures,  
20 and terms I had never heard of before, by the way,  
21 in all three categories, compactness improved from  
22 the base mark map. You look at boundary analysis up  
23 and down the board from the base map in 2012,  
24 massive improvements.

25 But there's one district that actually

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1 sticks out to me most particularly, and it's in the  
2 Tampa Bay region. And I'm going to have to disagree  
3 with my friend from Brandon on this district. This  
4 district is the current District 70. And it's a  
5 protected black district that currently crosses four  
6 counties in a very noncompact manner that, frankly,  
7 snakes its way through Manatee and Sarasota  
8 Counties, splitting three cities in the process.

9 The proposed House District 62 is a vast  
10 improvement over the current configuration, as it  
11 includes two counties as opposed to four; eliminates  
12 that snake portion of the district; and keeps those  
13 -- and keeps three cities entirely whole. All this,  
14 while maintaining its protected black district as  
15 required by Tier 1 of the Florida Constitution.

16 Members, I am proud of both our process and  
17 our product. Our charge was to produce a legally-  
18 compliant and constitutional map, all while  
19 navigating and adhering to Federal and State  
20 Constitutions and federal and state law.

21 I rise in strong support of this map  
22 because we met our constitutional charge. After our  
23 vote and approval of this map, I'll actually be  
24 proud to visit with the folks of the new House  
25 District 62 and tell them that we did our job. We

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1 followed the constitution, and we approved on your  
2 ability to be better represented in your district  
3 and in your neighborhoods because of our process and  
4 our product.

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Clemons  
6 from Representative Grant's desk, you're recognized.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMONS: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker. Next in the lineup to yield the floor  
9 to Representative Persons-Mulicka from the 78th  
10 District.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Persons-  
12 Mulicka, you're recognized in debate.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 Members, I also rise today in support of  
16 the maps before you. And I want to spend some time  
17 talking about the substance, since that's why we're  
18 here, and I'm going to talk about how the process  
19 made the substance better.

20 I'll build on what Representative Robinson  
21 stated before me, and what others have debated  
22 today, and talk a little bit about that process and  
23 the substance. We've heard claims from across the  
24 aisle that the process was somehow flawed or there  
25 wasn't enough time or data to thoroughly vet the

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1 maps before you. And I'll submit to you that those  
2 claims are unsupported by any facts.

3 And even more importantly, there's been no  
4 connection made between those claims and the  
5 substance of the maps before you. And for the  
6 public watching, I want to point out that the  
7 chairs, Chair Leek, and the subcommittee chairs and  
8 their entire team and staff, were available to all  
9 members from day one to answer any and all questions  
10 and have discussions on districts and the maps.

11 I called up the staff. I met with them on  
12 Webex. I had questions, and I got answers. I had  
13 the pleasure of serving on the State Legislative  
14 Redistricting Subcommittee. It was a true honor. I  
15 learned a lot in every one of our meetings. And I  
16 was able to witness firsthand the excellent feedback  
17 that we had from committee members across the aisle  
18 on both sides of the aisle.

19 And I witnessed how that feedback was taken  
20 into consideration to make our maps, which are  
21 already better than the benchmark as we heard from  
22 Rep. Robinson, to make these maps even better. As  
23 an example, we had a committee member who brought up  
24 concerns regarding Miami Gardens. The question was:  
25 can we keep Miami Gardens whole, or can we split it



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1 fewer times? It was a very compelling argument.  
2 And at that time, the map would split Miami Gardens  
3 into four districts.

4 With the next stop, changes were able to be  
5 incorporated, and when the map went to the full  
6 redistricting committee, Miami Gardens was only  
7 split into two districts. Went from four to two  
8 based on comment in the subcommittee.

9 That feedback not only improved Miami  
10 Gardens' situation, but added additional benefits.  
11 Because of that feedback, in the map we were able to  
12 keep another district, District 105, entirely within  
13 Broward County.

14 So that now the map before you has only one  
15 district that crosses the Miami-Dade/Broward County  
16 line. The benchmark, in comparison, has four such  
17 districts; one of which spanned coast to coast  
18 connecting Collier, Miami-Dade, and Broward.

19 In the map before you, we don't have that  
20 coast to coast district, but rather only two  
21 districts in the map before you cross the Miami-Dade  
22 County line, being 104 and 120. And 120 has to  
23 cross the line because it's made entirely of Monroe  
24 County, which is too small for a single district.

25 So members, I present before you today that

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1 the maps are not only constitutional and legally  
2 compliant, and not only an improvement upon the  
3 benchmark maps that we started with, but were made  
4 better throughout the process based on member  
5 feedback.

6 And I'm proud of the process that we went  
7 through. I'm proud of the maps before us. I  
8 congratulate the chairs and their entire teams for  
9 their hard work. And I ask you to join with me  
10 today to vote in favor of these great maps. Thank  
11 you.

12 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Clemons  
13 from Representative Grant's desk, you're recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMONS: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker. For the benefit of the House, we will  
16 yield back five minutes and 20 seconds.

17 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, before we go to  
18 Representative Willhite, I will recognize  
19 Representative Rizo for a recognition.

20 You're recognized.

21 REPRESENTATIVE RIZO: Thank you,  
22 Mr. Speaker.

23 Members, up in the east gallery, we do have  
24 more visitors up for Miami-Dade Days. Would you  
25 please welcome former Council President, Vivian

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1 Casals-Munoz. We also have Firefighter  
2 Extraordinaire, Bobby Williams; and we have the  
3 Chief of the very distinguished Hialeah Fire  
4 Department, Will Guerra.

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
6 House.

7 Representative Willhite, you're recognized.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield the floor to the  
10 distinguished representative from the 63rd District,  
11 Representative Driskell.

12 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Driskell,  
13 you're recognized in debate.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DRISKELL: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Speaker.

16 Members, good afternoon. It's been stated  
17 that this is the most important thing that we do.  
18 In fact, we only do it once every decade. And I've  
19 had the honor of working with many of you now for  
20 going on four years, and so you know that I take my  
21 job very seriously and I take the work that we do in  
22 this chamber very seriously.

23 And it is out of that spirit that I just  
24 want to see us get this right. And because I don't  
25 believe that we've actually done everything that we

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1 could do or should do to get this right, I'll be  
2 down on these maps today.

3 We talked a lot about, or you heard a lot  
4 about, in questions yesterday and then also in  
5 debate today that there was more data that we wish  
6 we had. And I wanted to put a finer point on that.

7 What we needed to do the job right, data on  
8 where Haitian Creole speakers are; data on where  
9 Haitian communities are; where the communities grew  
10 the most and where people live the most; and data on  
11 how these communities vote; data on where the  
12 Hispanic or Latino communities grew the most; on how  
13 compact Hispanic and Latino communities are; where  
14 the communities grew the most; and data on how these  
15 communities vote; data on where black communities  
16 grew the most; data on how compact black communities  
17 are where the communities grew the most; and data on  
18 how these communities vote.

19 We were told that there was functional  
20 analysis performed on the 30 minority access seats  
21 that were the benchmark. But we were not a part of  
22 the policy decision that was made in terms of what  
23 went into that functional analysis. That is what I  
24 understand to mean policy decision. That's what I  
25 mean when I talk about that. That wasn't my input.



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1 That wasn't my caucus's input. That wasn't the  
2 black caucus's input.

3 One piece of analysis that we did not do is  
4 racial voting pattern analyses or racially polarized  
5 voting analyses. According to Thornburg v. Gingles,  
6 which is the first supreme court to interpret the  
7 1982 amendments to the Voting Rights Act  
8 incorporating the results test, racially polarized  
9 voting is the evidentiary linchpin of a vote  
10 dilution claim. That is why it is so important.

11 A racial block voting analysis was required  
12 to determine if minorities vote cohesively and if  
13 whites block vote to defeat minority preferred  
14 candidates. Two of the three Gingles preconditions  
15 for establishing a legal vote dilution. That is why  
16 such an analysis is so important.

17 And we were given performance analyses on  
18 those 30 districts as they are right now, but the  
19 challenge is that we weren't a part of the policy  
20 decision in terms of what to take into account in  
21 conducting that performance analysis. Well, why  
22 does that matter?

23 That matters because you need that analysis  
24 to understand whether or not the maximum number of  
25 minority access district maps were drawn. We're

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1 sitting -- we're here about to vote these maps out  
2 on the floor, and we still don't know whether or not  
3 there could have been more minority access districts  
4 in this map.

5 Member, that's a problem. How do we know  
6 that we did the best that we could?

7 And how did our redistricting committee  
8 seek input from black communities and Haitian  
9 communities, Latino communities, Jamaican,  
10 Caribbean?

11 How do we do that?

12 Candidly, at the start of the process, I  
13 was very excited about the redistricting website.  
14 Probably like many of you, I pushed it out over  
15 email and social media, and was optimistic that it  
16 could be a useful tool in collecting meaningful  
17 feedback from our communities.

18 But the fact remains that in-person  
19 meetings and us going out into the communities as a  
20 legislature would have been the best tool. That is  
21 how we could have done our best. We could have done  
22 a roadshow, as was mentioned, from the Keys all the  
23 way to the panhandle.

24 We didn't have access. We did not use  
25 software and expertise to use non-census data sets,

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1 such as the American Communities Survey, to gap fill  
2 our missing data. That's also information that was  
3 needed to do the job right.

4 Now, there was a policy decision made not  
5 to use ACS data, but I wasn't a part of that policy  
6 decision. My caucus wasn't a part of that policy  
7 decision. The black caucus was not a part of that  
8 policy decision. The fact remains that there were  
9 policy decisions made before we were ever shown  
10 copies of the actual maps.

11 When you consider that we also needed  
12 language accessibility for all Floridians,  
13 particularly for Haitian Creole and Spanish  
14 speakers, that's also something to take into account  
15 in terms of information we needed to do the job  
16 right.

17 And then we reflect, members, on the fact,  
18 I echo that, that we had 10 years. We only do this  
19 once every 10 years. We owe it to ourselves to do  
20 the job right. And that means if that we don't have  
21 the data that we needed from the census, then we go  
22 out and get the additional data that we need. We're  
23 the Florida Legislature. You mean to tell me we  
24 don't have the resources to do that? I know that we  
25 do, and that we can.

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1           So members, I tried to put a finer point on  
2   it so you could understand better, perhaps, what is  
3   meant when we talk about additional data that was  
4   needed to do the job right. We know that these maps  
5   -- this map will go to the court for review.

6           If past history is any indicator, they  
7   likely will be subject to litigation. I can tell  
8   you as a litigator, I always prefer to put my  
9   clients in the best position so that when they walk  
10  into the courtroom, they can have some confidence in  
11  their claims.

12          Members, do we have enough confidence in  
13  our claims in terms of these maps? It seems that we  
14  have very different perspectives on these maps and  
15  what was needed.

16          Yesterday, you heard me ask a series of  
17  questions regarding some districts in South Florida  
18  around like District 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, I  
19  think, thereabout. And the reason why I honed in on  
20  these districts is because when you look at them  
21  with the eye test with compactness, they don't look  
22  very compact. They look a little irregularly drawn.  
23  Some of them have appendages. And when you look at  
24  their compactness scores under the different -- the  
25  different ways to analyze those, whether it's Reock,



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1 Convex Hull, or Polsby-Popper, these maps look like  
2 outliers.

3 And the questions that I asked specifically  
4 went to compactness and whether or not we took into  
5 consideration if we lopped off an appendage and  
6 tried to make it pass the eye test better and look  
7 more compact, what would that have done to the  
8 performance for minority voters in those districts.  
9 That's just one example of one geographic region in  
10 the state where I believe we could have done a  
11 better job.

12 And the bottom line is that we do have the  
13 time to do a better job. So when we consider the  
14 congressional map that surely is to come, members,  
15 we are going to have another shot at this. We are  
16 going to have the opportunity to take our time to do  
17 a better job to make sure that we access the data  
18 that we need to do our job right.

19 I have the faith and confidence that if we  
20 put our minds together and we're willing to work  
21 together toward that end, that we can accomplish it,  
22 for we are the Florida House.

23 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

24 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Before we go to  
25 Representative Willhite, members, I want to

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1 recognize former Representative, now Senator Bobby  
2 Powell. Welcome back to the Florida House.

3 Members, let's take a brief pause for some  
4 recognitions.

5 We have Representative Grieco. You're  
6 recognized for a recognition.

7 REPRESENTATIVE GRIECO: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Speaker.

9 It ends up there's another Miami Beach  
10 Commissioner here, and, you know, I'm proud. This  
11 is where I came from, guys. If it wasn't for the  
12 Miami Beach Commission, you wouldn't have the  
13 pleasure of working with me.

14 So Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez, also in the  
15 east gallery, made her way over today. She's one of  
16 my former colleagues when I was a local elected  
17 official. She just got reelected to the Miami Beach  
18 Commission. So Kristen, also my dear friend,  
19 welcome to Florida House.

20 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
21 House.

22 Representative Joseph, you're recognized  
23 for a recognition.

24 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.

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1 I want to recognize another Joseph who is  
2 in the house. We have Commissioner Michael Joseph  
3 from the great city of North Miami Beach who is  
4 here. See him waving over there. We're not  
5 actually related. Joseph is like Smith in the  
6 Haitian community, but he rocks, representing the  
7 305 Miami-Dade in the house. Thank you,  
8 Commissioner Joseph.

9 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
10 House.

11 Representative Willhite, you're recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
13 Mr. Speaker. I'd like to yield back the balance of  
14 this block.

15 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Clemons,  
16 you're recognized from Representative Grant's desk.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMONS: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Speaker. We will yield back the balance of our  
19 final block.

20 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Willhite,  
21 you're recognized.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WILLHITE: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 In the interest of fellowship with my  
25 colleagues, we're going to yield back the balance of

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1 our time.

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Clemons  
3 from Representative Grant's desk, you're recognized.

4 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMONS: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Speaker. That is contagious, and we will yield  
6 back the balance of our time as well.

7 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, that concludes  
8 debate.

9 Representative Leek, you're recognized to  
10 close.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEEK: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 Members, I don't frequently give closings  
14 on bills that I have, but as been stated here, this  
15 is the most important thing that we do. It's  
16 important that we engage. It's important that we  
17 discharge our constitutional responsibility to  
18 engage in the redistricting process.

19 I've had the opportunity to reflect on some  
20 of the discussion yesterday, and there are a couple  
21 things that I wanted to point out. These maps and  
22 our process used a consistent methodology, just like  
23 we did a decade ago, applied across the entire map.

24 We observed and protected Tier 1 above all  
25 else. We balanced the co-equal criteria of Tier 2,



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1 whether it was keeping counties whole or cities  
2 whole, improving mathematical and visual compactness  
3 using roadways, waterways, railways, all to find  
4 equal population.

5 It's been asked several times who drew the  
6 map. Let me introduce you. I've been asked that  
7 question from the beginning of this process. It  
8 seems like I've answered it 100 times. Ms. Kelly,  
9 Mr. Perata (phonetic), and Mr. Langan drew the map,  
10 and so did you. Through our normal legislative  
11 committee process, so did you.

12 I think the real question that you wanted  
13 to ask, but you didn't ask, was were there any  
14 outside or political operatives who engaged in the  
15 drawing of these maps. And the answer is an  
16 emphatic no.

17 I want you to think for a minute about our  
18 redistricting process. Because this is not your  
19 father's redistricting process. This is not the  
20 same process we had, you know, 10 years ago, 20  
21 years ago, or 30 years ago. This is a new process.  
22 We have the benefit of our prior history.

23 I want you to think about the rules that we  
24 have. Many states, unlike ours, don't have similar  
25 rules. Some states have a single rule, you must

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1     redistrict. Think about it as an open field and  
2     your uncle saying here's a go-cart, go have fun.  
3     The states with no rules, you can go out and you can  
4     do donuts in this corner. You can do donuts in that  
5     corner. You can race as fast as you want from right  
6     to left or left to right. Florida is not like that.

7             Florida is more like the Tomorrowland  
8     Raceway at Disney. It's a little car, goes really  
9     slow. You can ping a little bit left. You can ping  
10    a little bit right. You can step on the brakes.  
11    But you can't fall off the rails. That's the way  
12    the rules are in Florida.

13            I want to talk about the opportunities to  
14    engage. Because my biggest disappointment is the  
15    lack of engagement in this process by some members.  
16    Now, there are 62 members on the three committees.  
17    Over half of this body sat on a committee in  
18    redistricting.

19            We had teaching sessions where we spent  
20    hours going through how to use the website, how to  
21    access the data. We had our lawyers come in and  
22    walk through the law and teach us how we had to  
23    utilize the data that we had to comply with the law.  
24    And we had hours upon hours of opportunity for  
25    members to ask questions.

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1 Our staff had 46 individual meetings with  
2 members, 46; 29 of which came from the minority  
3 caucus. We had 320 public comments submitted. We  
4 had a total of 91 maps submitted through the website  
5 - 20 on the state maps -- State House maps alone.

6 I want to commend you for the quality of  
7 yesterday's questions. For those of you who chose  
8 to engage, we haven't seen a level of engagement  
9 like that until we got here. And for those of you  
10 who put thoughtfulness and asked deliberate  
11 questions, I want to say thank you.

12 So here we are. Now it's time to vote on  
13 the bill. Some of you will vote yes because you  
14 think the bill or know the bill is legally  
15 compliant. Some will vote no. But you're going to  
16 vote no on this bill. And if you're going to vote  
17 no on this bill, you should at least ask yourself:  
18 why, why are you voting no on this bill?

19 Can you point to anything in this map, any  
20 district, any line, and say that that district, that  
21 line, is unlawful? And if you can't, and you're  
22 still voting no, you need to think long and hard why  
23 you're voting no.

24 And if you can, if you can point to a line  
25 on that map or a district on that map and tell us

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1 what's wrong with it, where you been? Not a single  
2 alternative map was submitted. Oh, we didn't have  
3 the data; we couldn't -- listen, you know who was  
4 able to figure it out, the public. You know who  
5 else was able to figure it out? Your companions in  
6 the senate.

7 What you have -- wait a minute. Let me go  
8 back to a question. I heard someone ask: you know,  
9 what did you deserve; what did you get? I think  
10 that's a great question. And our constituents  
11 should be asking that. What did you deserve; what  
12 did you get?

13 Maybe rather than re-dredge up the sins of  
14 our predecessors and thoughtfully engaging in the  
15 process, maybe rather than point to the ghosts of  
16 alleged wrongdoing that can neither be seen nor  
17 proven, maybe what they deserve was someone to  
18 engage in the process.

19 So now it's time to confront the reality of  
20 the maps that are before you. Because these maps  
21 are good maps. They're legal maps. And they're  
22 constitutionally compliant maps. And members, I  
23 urge you to vote up on the resolution. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Members, Representative  
25 Leek having closed on his bill, the question hour



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1 occurs on final passage of CS for SJR 100. The  
2 clerk will unlock the machine and members will  
3 proceed to vote.

4 (Voting by members)

5 Have all members voted? Have all members  
6 voted? Clerk will lock the machine and announce the  
7 vote.

8 THE CLERK: 77 yeas, 39 nays, Mr. Speaker.

9 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.  
10 Congratulations, Chairman Leek.

11 Congratulations Chairman Byrd, to your  
12 committee as well for all your hard work.

13 Representative Brenner, you're recognized.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BRENNER: Mr. Speaker, I  
15 move that CS for HJR 7501 be laid on the table and  
16 that we immediately certify CS for SJR 100 to the  
17 senate.

18 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative moved that  
19 CS for HJR 7501 be laid on the table and that we  
20 immediately certify CS/SJR to the senate. All in  
21 favor say yea.

22 (Multiple yea responses)

23 All opposed, no. Show the motion as  
24 adopted. Read the next bill.

25 THE CLERK: By Representative Davis and

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1 others, House Bill 159, a bill to be entitled, "An  
2 Act Relating to Public Records."

3 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Davis,  
4 you're recognized to explain your bill.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Speaker.

7 Okay. Colleagues, let's change gears for a  
8 minute. The headline read, "Florida Woman Found  
9 Guilty of Murdering Multi-Million Dollar Lottery  
10 Winner in Lakeland, Florida;" "Orlando Lottery  
11 Winner Killed Days After Winning. Deltona Trio  
12 Arrested;" "Lottery Winners Risk Death and Danger  
13 After Going Public;" "Seven Charged in the Killing  
14 of a Georgia Lottery Winner During a Home Invasion."

15 Those are real headlines that we found as  
16 we were putting this bill together. So here we are  
17 to talk about HB 159. At some point in our lives,  
18 we all dream of winning the lottery. I started to  
19 bring some lottery tickets, but for fear someone  
20 would win, and I didn't, I chose not to.

21 But unfortunately, for some people that  
22 dream of winning the lottery, sometimes those dreams  
23 become a nightmare. Currently, the law exists --  
24 exempts from public record the street address and  
25 the telephone number of winners unless they consent

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1 to the release of such information.

2 HB 159, as we talked about yesterday, would  
3 allow a lottery winner of \$250,000 or more to remain  
4 anonymous for a period of time limit of 90 days,  
5 unless they wish to release their name. After the  
6 90-day period, the winner's information, including  
7 their name, would no longer be confidential or  
8 exempt.

9 Many will ask where does the First  
10 Amendment Foundation stand on this bill. And I will  
11 tell you their quote is, "This exemption  
12 thoughtfully and properly balances the privacy  
13 concerns of lottery winners and the public's right  
14 to know."

15 And that is the bill, Mr. Speaker.

16 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Davis  
17 having explained the bill, are there any amendments?

18 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

19 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Is there debate? Seeing  
20 none, Representative Davis, you're recognized to  
21 close.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Speaker.

24 I would just like to add to this,  
25 colleagues, as we you vote for this bill, I want you

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1 to know we're joining the states of Arizona,  
2 Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, North  
3 Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Ohio with ensuring  
4 that lottery winners of such large winnings are  
5 protected and kept safe.

6 And with that, I close, Mr. Speaker.

7 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Davis  
8 having closed on her bill, the question hour occurs  
9 on final passage of House Bill 159. The clerk will  
10 unlock the machine and members will proceed to vote.

11 (Voting by members)

12 Have all members voted? Have all members  
13 voted?

14 The clerk will lock the machine and  
15 announce the vote.

16 THE CLERK: 114 yeas, one nay, Mr. Speaker.

17 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.  
18 Read the next bill.

19 THE CLERK: By health policy, Senate Bill  
20 7002, a bill to be entitled, "An Act Relating to  
21 Review Under the Open Government Sunset Review Act."

22 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Rizo,  
23 you're recognized to explain the bill.

24 REPRESENTATIVE RIZO: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Speaker.



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1 This is the bill that was discussed  
2 yesterday on the floor.

3 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there amendments?

4 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Is there debate?

6 Is there debate?

7 Seeing none, you're recognized to close on  
8 your bill.

9 REPRESENTATIVE RIZO: I waive close,  
10 Mr. Speaker.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Having waived close, the  
12 question hour occurs on final passage of Senate Bill  
13 7002. The clerk will unlock the machine. Members  
14 will proceed to vote.

15 (Voting by members)

16 Have all members voted? Have all members  
17 voted? The clerk will lock the machine and announce  
18 the vote.

19 THE CLERK: 116 yeas, zero nays,  
20 Mr. Speaker.

21 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.  
22 Read the next bill.

23 THE CLERK: By health policy, Senate Bill  
24 7000, a bill to be entitled, "An Act Relating to  
25 Review Under the Open Government Sunset Review Act."

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1 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative  
2 Fetterhoff, you're recognized to explain the bill.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FETTERHOFF: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5 This is the bill that we discussed  
6 yesterday regarding the public record exemption for  
7 non-viable birth certificates.

8 And that is the bill, Mr. Speaker.

9 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there amendments?

10 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Is there debate?

12 Seeing none, you're recognized to close.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FETTERHOFF: Waive close,  
14 Mr. Speaker.

15 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Having waive closed, the  
16 question hour occurs on final passage of Senate Bill  
17 7000. The clerk will unlock the machine and members  
18 will proceed to vote.

19 (Voting by members)

20 Have all members voted? Have all members  
21 voted? The clerk will lock the machine and announce  
22 the vote.

23 THE CLERK: 116 yeas, zero nays,  
24 Mr. Speaker.

25 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.

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1 Read the next bill.

2 THE CLERK: By government operations  
3 subcommittee and Representative Shoaf, House Bill  
4 7009, a bill to be entitled, "An Act Relating to  
5 Review Under the Open Government Sunset Review Act."

6 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Shoaf,  
7 you're recognized to explain the bill.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SHOAF: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Speaker.

10 This is the bill we discussed yesterday for  
11 the Department of Corrections.

12 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there amendments?

13 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

14 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Seeing none, is there  
15 debate?

16 Is there debate?

17 Representative Shoaf, you're recognized to  
18 close on the bill.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SHOAF: Waive close.

20 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Having waived closed, the  
21 question hour occurs on final passage of House Bill  
22 7009. The clerk will unlock the machine. Members  
23 will proceed to vote.

24 (Voting by members)

25 Have all members voted? Have all members

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1 voted? Clerk will lock the machine and announce the  
2 vote.

3 THE CLERK: 116 yeas, zero nays,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.  
6 Read the next bill.

7 THE CLERK: By banking and insurance,  
8 Senate Bill 7018, a bill to be entitled, "An Act  
9 Relating to Review Under the Open Government Sunset  
10 Review Act."

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Fabricio,  
12 you're recognized to explain the bill.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FABRICIO: Discussed  
14 yesterday that saves from repeal public records the  
15 exception regarding workers' compensation law.

16 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Are there amendments?

17 THE CLERK: None on the desk, Mr. Speaker.

18 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Is there debate?

19 Seeing none, you're recognized to close.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FABRICIO: Waive close,  
21 Mr. Speaker.

22 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Having waived close, the  
23 question hour occurs on final passage of Senate Bill  
24 7018. The clerk will unlock the machine. Members  
25 will proceed to vote.



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1 (Voting by members)

2 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Have all members voted?

3 Have all members voted? Clerk will lock

4 the machine and announce the vote.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: 116 yeas, zero nays,

6 Mr. Speaker.

7 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Show the bill passes.

8 Read the next bill.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: None on the desk,

10 Mr. Speaker.

11 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Representative Aloupis,

12 you are recognized for a recognition.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ALOUPIS: Thank you,

14 Mr. Speaker.

15 Members, in the east gallery I just want to

16 recognize two individuals from South Florida here

17 for Dade Days, Shari Kamali, the City Manager of

18 South Miami, and Council Member, Louis Gill.

19 Welcome to the Florida House.

20 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida

21 House.

22 Representative Borrero, you're recognized

23 for a recognition.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BORRERO: Thank you,

25 Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Dariel

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1 Fernandez in the east gallery, whose been a fierce  
2 fighter of communism back home in Miami. Welcome  
3 back, members, Dariel Fernandez. Thank you.

4 (Clapping)

5 SPEAKER SPROWLS: Welcome to the Florida  
6 House.

7 Are there additional announcements?

8 Representative Fine.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FINE: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Speaker.

11 Many of us were horrified over the weekend  
12 to see certain events that happened in Orlando. We  
13 live in a world that's crazy in 2022 where several  
14 dozen of our fellow Floridians unmasked, and not in  
15 a COVID way, just unmasked openly, would stand on a  
16 street corner in Orlando and say all Jews should be  
17 killed, Hitler didn't get the job done, and a bunch  
18 of other horrible things to the point where that  
19 wasn't enough, the next day, several dozen of them  
20 went on an overpass and hung signs that said vax all  
21 the Jews. I think we know what that meant.

22 It's a good thing I wasn't in Orlando. I'd  
23 be calling some of you for bail money right now.  
24 But we live in a world that is like that. And so  
25 because of that, and it is because of that timing, I

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1 wanted to share something that's going to happen  
2 next week.

3           There are about 116 of us here. I looked  
4 at the board -- on the board. And back in 1941,  
5 when Jews were loaded into box cars in Eastern  
6 Europe, they could fit about 116 people in a box  
7 car. Next Thursday, on behalf of myself, the  
8 Governor of our great state, our speaker, and the  
9 president of the senate, at 11:00 a.m., I'd like to  
10 invite all of you to join us on Adams Street where  
11 we are going to have a box car, a replica box car  
12 that is identical to the kind that were used in the  
13 Holocaust. It's a 20-minute experience. We'll be  
14 talking. And you and your staff and anyone else who  
15 would like to see it.

16           Because we've talked a lot about history in  
17 this chamber, and we'll continue to talk about it  
18 this session, clearly, we've got some Floridians  
19 that have some history that they still need to  
20 learn. And we can do our part to learn it ourselves  
21 and to spread it to them.

22           You'll be getting a letter from my office  
23 and the speaker's office and others about it. But  
24 again, next Thursday, I hope you'll join me there.

25           SPEAKER SPROWLS: Thank you, Representative

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1 Fine.

2 Representative C. Smith.

3 REPRESENTATIVE C. SMITH: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Speaker.

5 Members, for the last several years, I  
6 think about five or six years, even actually before  
7 I was a member of the House, Representative Plakon  
8 and I have been participating in an annual  
9 tradition. And that tradition is to attend the Red  
10 Mass of the Holy Spirit, which is happening just  
11 down the street from the capitol tonight at 6  
12 o'clock.

13 I was raised Catholic. It is a beautiful  
14 service. And I know we saw many folks wearing red  
15 in the capitol today in that spirit. And we would  
16 like to invite all of you to join us for this  
17 bipartisan tradition.

18 That is going to be at the Co-Cathedral of  
19 St. Thomas More on 900 West Tennessee Street.  
20 Starts at 6 p.m. It's a beautiful service. If you  
21 would like to join us, we welcome you to do so.

22 Do you want to say anything?

23 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: We're going to  
24 church. Let's do it.

25 SPEAKER SPROWLS: I thought you were going



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1 to sing the whole song, Representative Plakon.

2 Other announcements, members?

3 Other announcements?

4 All right. Members, I have a brief  
5 announcement. The opening day of session, all of  
6 you may recall that there was this box on your desk,  
7 which was the civics curriculum, which is the first  
8 ever created civics curriculum by any state  
9 Legislature in the country for school-aged children.

10 I told you we were going to submit that to  
11 the Department of Education for their proposal to  
12 certify it, that it met the government's standards  
13 for civics and curriculum for fourth grade students.

14 This week the Florida Department of  
15 Education has certified that curriculum, and it will  
16 soon be available to fourth graders throughout the  
17 state of Florida. Congratulations to you.

18 I want to especially thank Clerk Takacs and  
19 his staff. We call them the civics team. We gave  
20 them a poster and everything. But they worked a  
21 long time on this over the summer consulting with  
22 schoolteachers and educators to make sure that we  
23 had absolutely the best civics curriculum for fourth  
24 graders anywhere in the country.

25 Clerk, thank you to you and your team. You

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1 did an awesome job.

2 Representative Brenner, you're recognized  
3 for a motion.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BRENNER: Mr. Speaker, I  
5 move that the House receive and report to adjourn  
6 for the purpose of holding committee and  
7 subcommittee meetings and conducting other house  
8 business to reconvene at 2:30 p.m. on February 9th  
9 or upon call of the chair.

10 SPEAKER SPROWLS: All in favor say yea.

11 (Multiple yea responses)

12 All opposed, no. Show the motion as  
13 adopted.

14 (END OF AUDIO RECORDING)

15

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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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