

**House Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
October 20, 2021**

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1 Rep. Sirois: Good afternoon members. The Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
2 will come to order. Sam, please call the roll.

3 Sam: Chair Sirois?

4 Rep. Sirois: Here.

5 Sam: Vice Chair Tuck? Ranking Member Skidmore?

6 Rep. Skidmore: Here.

7 Sam: Representative Beltran?

8 Rep. Beltran: Here.

9 Sam: Benjamin? Benjamin? Brown? Fabricio?

10 Rep. Fabricio: Here.

11 Sam: Fetterhoff?

12 Rep. Fetterhoff: Here.

13 Sam: Fischer?

14 Rep. Fischer: Here.

15 Sam: Giallombardo?

16 Rep. Giallombardo: Here.

17 Sam: Harding?

18 Rep. Harding: Here.

19 Sam: Hunschofsky?

20 Rep. Hunschofsky: Here.

21 Sam: Joseph?

22 Rep. Joseph: Here.

23 Sam: Massullo?

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1 Rep. Massullo: Here.

2 Sam: Morales?

3 Rep. Morales: Here.

4 Sam: Perez?

5 Rep. Perez: Here.

6 Sam: Plakon? Silvers, excused. Toledo? Trabulsy? Trabulsy? Williamson?

7 Rep. Williamson: Here.

8 Sam: A quorum is present, Mr. Chair.

9 Rep. Sirois: Thank you Sam. Members, a few reminders before we begin. Please silence
10 all electronic devices, and if you wish to make public comment, please fill out a speaker form
11 and turn into the sergeant's staff. Also a reminder for our members and presenters today, please
12 ensure that you turn microphone on when you are speaking and off when you are finished.

13 Members, welcome back to week three. So far in our committee process, we benefitted
14 from a redistricting primer, a Legislature University course on how to use the map drawing
15 application, and then a more advanced training on the map drawing tool available to help us
16 analyze maps in alignment with our constitutional standards. Today, we will take the next step in
17 our efforts by reviewing the concepts that we've learned about and apply them looking at the
18 currently enacted congressional maps. Our goal is to view more tangible examples of concepts
19 that we've been discussing, such as compactness and using county boundaries. Seeing how these
20 concepts can potentially interact with one another will help us understand some of the future
21 decision points we may encounter as we deliberate now, and it will also enable us to apply a
22 consistent methodology for our maps as we continue to move through our process.

23 I'd also like to take a moment to point out the same concepts we'll review today can

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1 additionally be used when members are viewing the publicly submitted maps on our website.
2 The same concepts will help to provide a framework through which you can review a map or
3 even help find trends that appear throughout public submissions.

4 Now as we move through today's presentation, there's something that I'd like for all of
5 you to keep in the back of your mind, and it's actually something that we touched on during our
6 last meeting last week. It's very important and it warrants repeating. There is no single correct
7 map. There is no such thing as a best map. Even as we see within the tiers of our standards,
8 decisions must be weighed among one another with the goal of drawing a legally compliant map,
9 and as I think we will come to appreciate more each day, Florida is a unique shape and it has a
10 unique geography. We have an abundance of waterways and coastlines across the state. We have
11 counties that don't always have smooth boundary lines either, as well as cities with their unique
12 boundary lines. As we work to create new district boundaries, all of these considerations will
13 come into play. Now I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Poreda to present on the current Congressional
14 Map. Mr. Poreda, you're recognized.

15 Jason Poreda: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So as the Chairman said we're going to be
16 looking closer at the currently enacted congressional map that was first used in the 2016 election.
17 So you see here, we're gonna look through some examples of how we can apply the standards
18 that we talked about in the last several meetings and look to some concrete examples throughout
19 the map to kind of show you where some decision points may come up during the map and to
20 help outline some of the concepts that were used to draw it, but also as we start to evaluate other
21 maps, where as we begin the drawing process for this coming cycle, we can apply those same
22 concepts and to the new map. We'll also take a little closer look at Florida's geography and some
23 of the uniqueness that the Chairman just referred to.

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1 Really quick, these are the standards which we have shown now several times. We're
2 gonna be focusing or starting on the Tier Two standards and going from there. So our next slide,
3 really quick, something that we haven't really shared yet. These are some of the topline statistics
4 for the 2016 congressional map. Obviously we still have 67 counties in the congressional map,
5 49 of them were kept whole and not split by a district. There were 18 counties that were split. Of
6 the 410 incorporated municipalities within the 2010 census geography when the map was drawn,
7 397 of them were kept whole and 13 were split, and as we discussed previously and as we'll talk
8 a little bit more about today, the population deviation between the 27 congressional districts and
9 the current map was plus or minus one person using the 2010 census population data.

10 Below, you'll see the average for the three mathematical compactness scores that are
11 primarily used in drawing the maps, so that's an aggregate average of the 27 districts and
12 remember, those are ratios between zero and one. So, when you look at the overall average of
13 compactness test for a map, it can give you a reference point on whether a particular district is
14 above or below that particular average.

15 So moving on real quick, where do you start when you're looking at a map? Well, one of
16 the easiest and best places to start is simply looking at the county population totals, and for the
17 2016 congressional map, you can see there were 7 counties that over the ideal population of a
18 congressional district at the time, which was 696,354 people. So, those 7 counties had to be split
19 purely based on population within the state. 60 of the 67 counties were under the ideal
20 population of the district, and you can see that we'll be focusing on the population inequality
21 standard in reference to specifically the congressional districts as well as the utilizing political
22 and geographical boundaries, which county lines fall into, and later we'll talk about incorporated
23 municipalities.

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1 So, the ideal population and the deviation for congressional districts. So the ideal
2 population of a district is calculated by taking the state total population and dividing it by the
3 number of districts in that particular map. So in 2010, our population was a little bit over 18.8
4 million people divided by 27, comes out to that number of 696,345. You can see in now the 2022
5 census population numbers, we have 21,538,187 people divided now by 28 congressional
6 districts comes up with our ideal population of 769,221 people. Now with congressional districts,
7 there is that population equality of plus or minus one standard. Legislative districts have a
8 different standard that's usually considered about 10%, which is plus or minus 5%. That's
9 generally the accepted range where the burden of proof will shift. So if things are under 10%, it's
10 generally considered acceptable when talking about state legislative lines. Over that, it's up to
11 the map drawer to prove that they had to deviate more than 10% to achieve whatever the state
12 goals happen to be at the time, but for congressional districts, the standard of plus or minus one
13 person, which has become known as the one person, one vote principle. That was established in
14 1964 with the *Wesberry versus Sanders* case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Since then, that has
15 been the standard that has been generally accepted for the drawing of congressional districts
16 nationwide.

17 Now there have been some exceptions made to that particular standard throughout the
18 decades. As you'll learn with most things with redistricting, there's usually a set standard and
19 exceptions that can be made throughout it in different specific circumstances, the most recent of
20 which is in West Virginia where in the *Tennant versus Jefferson County, West Virginia*, there
21 was a Supreme Court case where the Supreme Court allowed a slight deviation in West
22 Virginia's congressional districts. The state was able to keep all their counties whole within the
23 state of West Virginia. All three of their congressional districts followed this principle and that

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1 specific exception that the Supreme Court made for West Virginia was because the state was
2 able to apply that principle statewide to all three of their congressional districts. To this point, the
3 Supreme Court has not put in a minimum standard that is allowable deviation for congressional
4 districts. It's called the de minimis standard. No such standard exists for congressional districts,
5 any exception that has been made throughout the decades for deviations and population for
6 congressional districts are usually very specific to that state, to that district, and to that
7 redistricting cycle. So just because West Virginia had that exception made last time, it doesn't
8 mean it will be allowed to have that same exception made in the future. Florida has never
9 deviated from that plus or minus one person standard since the principle was put into effect and
10 that's it for that slide.

11 So now we're gonna move on to the principle of keeping counties whole. So we looked
12 briefly before at the total population counts throughout map and the counties that could be kept
13 whole or not kept whole. So that can be looked at in two different ways and we'll talk about
14 them both. The first is keeping counties whole. So, 60 counties were too small to fit a
15 congressional district into, so they could in theory be kept whole by adding the populations of
16 those counties together with other whole counties or other parts of a county to create an entire
17 district. Some examples of that are Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 3. So you
18 can see since we're using the principle of keeping counties whole in the Panhandle, it's generally
19 an easy place to come up with an example like this because you have to start in Escambia
20 County. You can't go north into Alabama. You can't go into the Gulf and you can't go west. So,
21 you have to just add whole counties together until you achieve the population of a congressional
22 district. So District 1 is the populations of Escambia County, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton
23 Counties. And then there is a county split made in Holmes County to achieve equal population

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1 with the congressional district. And the decision was made to do that all within one county rather
2 than putting a split into two counties and dividing that population.

3 With Congressional District 3 you can see that five-county combination of Union,
4 Bradford, Clay, Alachua, and Putnam Counties were combined together with the populations,
5 some population in Marion County including the entire incorporated municipality boundary of
6 the city of Ocala. That's the kind of bump at the bottom of the district. These are both examples
7 of keeping counties whole and combining them with a portion of another county to achieve equal
8 population in the congressional districts.

9 The next kind of flipside of that, keeping counties whole, is keeping districts wholly
10 within a county. In a congressional district context looking at the 2010 population, there were
11 seven counties that were too big to be kept whole. So, where it was feasible, districts were kept
12 within those counties. If you look throughout the map, you can see that in five of those seven
13 counties. This is an example in Orange County. Congressional District 10 was kept wholly
14 within Orange County and that is an example of the Orange County being too big for one
15 congressional district, so this was an opportunity to keep a district entirely within the county.

16 You can see here there's two examples side-by-side in Hillsborough County and Pinellas
17 County. If you look at Congressional District 13 and Congressional District 14, both are wholly
18 within their respective counties. Congressional District 13 is also a good example to look at, kind
19 of like with the Panhandle, where if you wanna try to minimize county splits, keep districts
20 wholly within county, when looking at a county like Pinellas County, which is almost entirely a
21 peninsula, you have to start at the bottom and work your way up. Otherwise, you'll end up with a
22 district that's in the middle and some population that's in the bottom that would then have to be
23 connected across whatever body of water that peninsula is attached to get the remaining portion

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1 of the population. So in this particular case, it was started in the south and worked its way north.
2 It actually did end up splitting the city of Clearwater but because congressional districts have to
3 achieve that population equality, that was just a mathematical decision as you work your way up
4 and achieve that equal population, it mathematically had to split the city of Clearwater. In
5 Congressional District 14, the City of Tampa was actually kept wholly within that district. That
6 actually accounts for the kind of diamond-shaped flag coming off the top of Congressional
7 District 14. That actually follows the municipal lines of the City of Tampa. So looking real quick
8 in our current situation. So if we look at the county population totals using the 2020 census data,
9 you can see that it's actually the same seven counties that are over the new ideal population of a
10 congressional district, which are 769,221.

11 We're gonna move past counties and move onto the other part of political boundaries
12 when we start in map-drawing context. This is actually a map of Florida's 412 incorporated
13 municipalities throughout the state. It's kind of a big statewide image and you can kinda see how
14 it all breaks down. You can also get a pretty good sense for how much of the state is within an
15 incorporated municipality and how much of the state is not. But where we can, we do try to
16 utilize these boundary lines, though maybe not as often as county lines, and we'll get into some
17 examples of why Florida municipalities present different challenges when drawing a map or
18 when evaluating a map.

19 Here's kind of a zoomed in look. The next couple slides are kinda more zoomed in of that
20 statewide image. You can kinda get a better sense of the area within the counties that are
21 incorporated municipalities and how much of our state is not incorporated. Down in Central
22 Florida, and then the next slide even seeing south Florida. So you can see in South Florida, a
23 little bit more of a population is condensed to the coastlines and a little bit more incorporated

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1 municipalities, but they're still a lot of very in between that's not. It should be noted that the area
2 in pink that we've been looking at, those are the 412 incorporated municipalities. The Census
3 Bureau does have another designation called census-designated places and other types of places.
4 There's 955 of them in the state of Florida, but we only look at the incorporated municipalities,
5 because they have legally defined boundaries by their local governments. Census-designated
6 places and other places of that nature don't have a legally defined boundary that we can use for
7 the purpose of redistricting.

8 So looking in the context of that ideal population for a congressional district, there's
9 actually only one incorporated municipality that is more than that 769,221 person number that
10 you'll hear a lot – hear in this particular committee. That is the city of Jacksonville. So
11 incorporated municipal lines actually present interesting challenges when you're looking at the
12 map. Here's an example of the city of Davie, Southwest Ranches and Pembroke Pines in
13 Broward County, and you can see that those three cities essentially intertwine with each other.
14 There are discontinuous portions of each of those cities. There's holes within the cities. So in
15 order to keep one of those cities whole, you might have to split another or have to keep all three
16 of them together in the same district. Actually in the current congressional map, Congressional
17 District 23 actually does keep all three of them together within a single congressional district, but
18 that may not be possible based on how the map breaks down in this current decade, but these are
19 just an example of kind of the uniqueness of Florida municipal boundary lines we have to take
20 into account. So it may not be possible to keep every city whole just based on their geography.

21 Here's another example of that in Volusia County, where you can see the city of
22 Edgewater and New Smyrna Beach have a lot of very small discontinuous portions of their
23 municipal lines. Another example showing how irregular some of those boundary lines can be

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1 and how much of the other territory in North Port, which is actually split by the Myakka River,
2 so there's actually two completely separate parts of that city, but they're all the city of North
3 Port. Interestingly enough, kind of a Florida fun fact. We actually do have four municipalities in
4 the state based on the 2020 census geography that actually cross county lines. So, the city of
5 Longboat Key is both in Manatee and Sarasota County. Marineland is Flagler and St. Johns
6 County. Flagler Beach is in Flagler and Volusia County and Fanning Springs is split between
7 Gilchrist and Levy County. So this just presents another example in Florida's uniqueness where
8 if we chose to keep particular counties whole, it may split one of these cities or if we have to
9 keep those two counties together in order to keep the city whole or maybe parts of those counties
10 together to keep the cities whole. So that's just another interesting nugget of Florida's
11 geography.

12 This is an example of a district where there was an effort made to keep a city whole. If
13 you look at Congressional District 15, the boundary between 15 and 11, there appears to be this
14 kinda bump on top of Congressional District 15. That bump was actually done so in the context
15 of the 2010 geography to keep the city of Groveland whole within a particular congressional
16 district, because the city itself divides the highway that kind of goes right through this in Lake
17 County. And if you see the next slide, it's a kind of zoomed-in version of that so you can kind of
18 see that's the city of Groveland. Now what's interesting about this is that this is also an example
19 of how city boundaries can actually change decade form decade. The Census Bureau in between
20 the decades does do an effort to update and improve its block lines and its municipal lines that it
21 has on file. Cities also go through more changes than county lines do typically throughout the
22 decade. So you can see here, this is the current boundary of the city of Groveland and how it is
23 actually expanded beyond the bump that was drawn in to allow for the city of Groveland, but in

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1 the 2010 municipal line geography is the city of Groveland was kept whole within a
2 congressional district.

3 Here is an example of using waterways, moving more into the geographic boundaries that
4 congressional districts and other districts can use throughout the city or throughout the state of
5 Florida. This is an example of between Congressional District 3 and 4 where actually the county-
6 line political geography also corresponds with the actual physical geography of the river, St.
7 Johns River that happens to be right here. Zoom in to the next slide, you can see a more zoomed-
8 in version of that. So, unlike some states out west that are mostly rectangular in shape and have
9 square county lines, because we have so much water in our state, we have so much uniqueness
10 through our geography, even our county lines can have squiggly shapes to them and when we try
11 to keep counties whole and abide those constitutional standards, it's gonna lend itself to some
12 odd-shaped lines or odd-shaped geography throughout it. This is an example.

13 This is actually an example of using some more geographic boundaries that don't happen
14 to coincide with a county line. If you look at Congressional District 17 and Congressional
15 District 9, you'll see this boundary line right there that mostly divides those two districts uses
16 mostly municipal boundaries in addition to major roadways and railways. On this next slide here,
17 you can see the pink areas that are highlighted. Those are actually the major roads, kind of
18 county roads, that are in Polk County. That green section, that is a railway that runs through there
19 and the highlighted yellow portion at the top is the city of Frostproof. That boundary between
20 those two districts utilizes all of those boundaries.

21 This is an example again of using waterways, but waterways that don't happen to
22 coincide with a county line. You here you see the Alafia River which divides Congressional
23 District 15 and Congressional District 16 in Hillsborough, and if you move to the next slide there

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1 you can the division there. I'm sorry if I mispronounced that. My apologies. Here you can see
2 that throughout the entirety of those two districts within Hillsborough County, the river is the
3 boundary line there. It does not deviate off that entirely.

4 This is another example, of the Suwannee River, which also happens to coincide with
5 county lines throughout the Big Bend of Florida. You can see Hamilton County, Columbia
6 County, Suwannee County, Lafayette County, Gilchrist County, Levy County, and a few others
7 use the Suwannee River along their county lines respectively, and the Suwannee River is an
8 older river. It has a lot of bends and turns, so if you zoom in on the next slide, you'll see that if
9 we utilize those county boundaries in that river, you're gonna have a lot of little jagged edges,
10 which might negatively impact it on compactness, mathematical compactness.

11 Waterways are something else that we have to use here in Florida a lot when a lot of
12 unique geography here. One of the best examples is Lake Okeechobee, which actually borders
13 five counties. Okeechobee County, Martin County, Palm Beach County, Hendry County, and
14 Glades County all share some of the shore of Lake Okeechobee. The way the Census Bureau
15 divides Lake Okeechobee or these big lake or other water bodies that exist on the map is that it
16 finds a point in the geographic center of the lake and then draws the counties out to the center of
17 that point back to its shoreline. That creates a lot of jagged points that you can see within most of
18 the maps that we have now currently. The best example is Hendry County, kind of on the bottom
19 with that little tiny point that goes right up at the top. It's a very skinny little point. That's just
20 part of some of the uniqueness of our county boundaries that we have to account for when we're
21 drawing the map. You might see some of those points throughout district maps but those are
22 simply following the county line.

23 Water blocks is another thing that we have here, is we have coastline along most of our

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1 state. The coastline along the east coast of Florida goes out three miles. On the Gulf side it
2 actually goes out nine miles, which is the territorial waters of the state of Florida. That was the
3 Supreme Court ruling in 1960 and actually, the Census Bureau just updated those boundary lines
4 back in 2019 in their geographic files. These blocks can be difficult to work with. You can see
5 here the blue line going across, that's the county line between Collier and Lee County. If we
6 were to keep Collier County and Lee County whole in a particular map but on separate districts,
7 it's gonna naturally create a flag sticking off of Collier County. That's just part of Florida's
8 geography that we have to deal with.

9 The Florida Everglades is another interesting unique part of our geography in that it has a
10 lot of very large oddly shaped blocks and generally very low population, if any population at all,
11 but those are all blocks that have to be included into some district somewhere and that we have
12 to account for.

13 This is an example of compactness, another Tier Two standard. District 3 is the district
14 within the congressional map that scores the highest actually in all three mathematical
15 compactness scores. You can see it is generally shaped like a circle, so that's very good for the
16 Reock test. It is also doesn't have a lot of jagged edges and points, would score well on Convex
17 Hull. And even though it does follow the river there a little bit in St. Johns County, there's not a
18 little tiny squiggles and jagged lines following others like the Suwannee River, so it scores pretty
19 well with the Polsby-Popper. This is one of the most compact mathematical districts within the
20 map, but that's when you're looking in and evaluating compactness, beyond the visual
21 compactness, which we all can kind of see whether or not a district, we think, looks compact or
22 not. The mathematical tests give us a senses of where that district is gonna perform and you can
23 compare that to the average in the state map that we looked at the beginning to determine

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1 whether or not that district may fall kind of on the upper end or the lower end of all the districts
2 within the map.

3 Another Florida fun fact is that we are one of six states that actually have valid
4 noncontiguous territory. One of our Tier One standards is contiguous territory, and although you
5 have to draw your districts entirely, there will always be one point in Monroe County that is
6 actually noncontiguous from the other, but that is expected and okay. The others states than have
7 noncontiguous territory are New York, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Alaska, and one other,
8 Washington State, oh and Rhode Island, sorry, not Washington State, Rhode Island and that's it
9 Chair.

10 Rep. Sirois: Thank you very much Mr. Poreda for the presentation. Members, do we have
11 any questions? Any questions on today's presentation? Ranking Member.

12 Rep. Skidmore: Thank you Mr. Chair. I have a couple questions that I wanted to raise.
13 One is on the Senate side, we heard from Chair Rodrigues that the intention is to not begin with
14 the existing districts or the existing district map, and I'm curious at to what position this
15 committee and the House is in terms of the beginning point.

16 Rep. Sirois: Thank you very much Ranking Member for a good question. I think it's
17 important for members to understand and today's exercise is a part of this. We are tasked with
18 drawing 28 new congressional districts. We're going to look at the information that the census
19 provided us. We are in the process now of continuing to build out this foundational knowledge,
20 examining the current map and the different features involved in how the tiers apply as a part of
21 that process. In terms of how we move forward, our committee is tasked with drawing 28 new
22 congressional districts. Now that's not to say that the work product that we reach doesn't in some
23 ways look very similar to the map that we operate under now. As we learn today, there are a lot

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1 of features in our state, rivers, railroads, major highways, county boundaries, municipal
2 boundaries. These are things that have not changed necessarily over time. We're gonna take the
3 new census data that we have, we're gonna apply it to these standards and we're gonna come up
4 with 28 new congressional districts. You're recognized.

5 Rep. Skidmore: Thank you Mr. Chair. My comment would be that we know that the court
6 has approved the existing map and those lines, and so, it would be a good starting point in terms
7 of being able to meet constitutional muster and pass the court process. So, we would be
8 interested in knowing how that beginning point is gonna start.

9 Rep. Sirois: Thank you very much Ranking Member for your comment too. I think we
10 have seen that as we've been moving through this education process that the entire committee
11 has been going through, we've examined the tiers, we've certainly talked about the court
12 precedent, and I think that all of that should be foremost in our minds as we begin our
13 deliberations eventually on our work product. I thank you for raising those good points. Gotta
14 leave that on. Other questions, members? Representative Joseph, you're recognized.

15 Rep Joseph: Thank you Mr. Chair. It's not directly to the presentation. It was just a
16 follow-up on an outstanding question from the last committee we had, at which I asked if there
17 was going to be outside of the website any means contemplated for public participation? I know
18 you said you were going to talk to somebody, I think Chair Leek, but I don't remember who you
19 said you were going to talk to. I was just trying see if there was any update.

20 Rep. Sirois: Thank you Representative Joseph for the question. You know, while I will
21 say that is certainly part of the conversation, we're up against some time constraints now and we
22 have a website. It has a tremendous amount of capability. The residents of our state can submit
23 their own proposals for maps. They can submit comments to us through that website, just like the

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1 budget or any other bill that this Legislature takes up, there's the opportunity for members of the
2 public to provide testimony to us here at the Capitol. We haven't had anybody take us up on that
3 offer yet. Hopefully there's some members of the public here today that would like to speak with
4 us and share their views. The website does have tremendous capability both in terms of
5 submission of proposals and comments. I encourage all Floridians to make good use of that tool.
6 Representative Joseph, you're recognized.

7 Rep. Joseph: Thank you Mr. Chair. While I understand and appreciate the website, the
8 reality is a lot of people do not necessarily have access to a website or to the internet period,
9 especially in particular in rural and certain parts of urban areas, that even though the internet
10 exists there, like they themselves don't have the internet at their house, and that's something that
11 we saw particularly in the pandemic that we had to address with like children for example, who
12 didn't have access, so we got them access. I guess what I'm saying is I hear what you're saying
13 about the bills, but the redistricting process I would target as much more than just a run of the
14 mill bill, and it would be really good if we could figure out a way to contemplate some kind of, if
15 not public hardcore participation, at least some kind of interaction or education, or some kind of
16 component where people who may not have access to a website, might be able to participate in
17 this process. Even if it's just to let them know what's going on. This is just a request, but it
18 would be good. I understand what you're saying with the website. No problem with the website.
19 Just reiterating the request that I believe you said you were gonna talk to Chair Leek or
20 somebody to see what we could do about it. Just in case that fell by the wayside, I'm just
21 bringing it back up again. Please, thank you.

22 Rep. Sirois: Thank you Representative Joseph. I hear you. We will continue those
23 conversations, and I'll keep you posted. I do appreciate you bringing it up. Members, other

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1 questions? We'll go to Representative Massullo. And then to the Ranking Member.

2 Rep. Massullo: Thank you Mr. Chair. Very good presentation Mr. Poreda. Is there any
3 legal precedents to prioritize any of those issues that you said, tried to keep whole like counties
4 cities, etc., when we're actually reviewing these maps?

5 Rep. Sirois: Mr. Poreda, you're recognized.

6 Mr. Poreda: Thank you Chairman. No, so within the context of them all being on the
7 same tier, the political, geographical boundaries, they're all on the same tier of consideration. So
8 one is not put before the other. I will say that county boundaries, the Supreme Court has relied on
9 more. They tend to change less than even municipal lines and they tend to be more recognizable.
10 The Supreme Court has aired to those but no, within the one tier, there shouldn't be a priority
11 made.

12 Rep. Sirois: Representative Massullo, you are recognized for a follow up.

13 Rep. Massullo: Thank you Mr. Chair. So then we won't prioritize them over any other
14 population area, correct or not?

15 Mr. Sirois: You're recognized.

16 Rep. Poreda: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I understand the question.

17 Rep. Massullo: As we look to draw these maps, these new maps to the 28 new
18 congressional districts for our state, will we prioritize the county lines individually above any
19 other aspect of geography?

20 Mr. Poreda: We will prioritize them like the Supreme Court has suggested, so all the
21 political and geographical boundary lines will all be considered among the same, and when
22 you're drawing districts it's all a balancing of all of those standards, particularly the ones along
23 the same tier.

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1 Rep. Massullo: Thank you.

2 Rep. Sirois: Thank you. Ranking Member.

3 Rep. Skidmore: Thank you Mr. Chair. Just a couple of comments at this point if that's
4 appropriate. Just reiterating again the concern that congressional and legislative committees meet
5 at the same time, thereby limiting the ability for people who are interested in both processes to be
6 able to participate fully. I know it's raised but just again, making the point. Also a request if
7 possible. I know things move fast and furiously, but the lateness of the packet that we received
8 for today's meeting was difficult for us to sort of dive into. As it gets a little more complicated,
9 that's gonna be more difficult than obviously as it gets a little more complicated, it might get
10 even later. So just giving us an opportunity to be able to review the packet in advance, and my
11 last comment is in regards to what I would refer to as prison gerrymandering and a request or a
12 question as to how the House is going to approach that subject. I know that other states, twelve
13 other state I believe, apply corrections and either count the person back at their last known
14 address so that they're relocated to where they actually should be counted, thereby changing and
15 correcting the counts. If you look at a map of the prisons, I think there are 108 prison facilities
16 not counting the federal, which we don't have accurate counts of, but certainly we know where
17 all the state prison inmates are. That skews the counts in different districts, right and it changes
18 the numbers, and so as a point of interest for our caucus, where others states have had made the
19 change to count the folks where they live or lived, where they're gonna go back to after they
20 complete their incarceration, curious as to what the process in the House might be. Thank you
21 Mr. Chair.

22 Rep. Sirois: Thank you very much Ranking Member for your comments. I will look into
23 the issue of when the materials is available to members. On the issue related to where inmates

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1 are counted, the Census Bureau counts the inmates where they reside on sentence day pursuant to
2 Florida law. We do not manipulate census data when it arrives. So the data that we are given is
3 the data that we're going to use for this process. You're recognized.

4 Rep. Skidmore: Thank you Mr. Chair. I understand that that's a choice that we are
5 making, but that it is not the rule and understanding that prisons do close, I think three prisons
6 have closed in the state of Florida this year. So, I think that there is opportunity for the House to
7 make the decision and that it is not a mandate in any way that we cannot count them where they
8 live or will live.

9 Rep. Sirois: Thank you very much Ranking Member. I hear what you're saying, and I'd
10 point out that college dormitories, nursing homes, assistant living facilities, are treated in the
11 same respect. So that looks similar in terms of how they're treated with the collection of that data
12 on census day or where those folks reside. Members, any other questions? Thank you very much
13 for your good questions members. Members of the audience, do we have public speakers to
14 provide testimony with us today? Do we have any comment cards? Alright. Members, I wanna
15 thank you once again for your time this afternoon, and I wanna thank you for your comments,
16 Ranking Member, as always thank you for your comments and your input as well. Members, I
17 hope you found today's exercise to be another step in understanding our constitutional standards,
18 as well as little more about our great state, some Florida fun facts as well. I look forward to
19 future meetings where we will dive into Tier One of our constitutional standards. That concludes
20 our meeting agenda for today. Representative Trabulsy moves that we rise. Without objection.
21 Thank you.



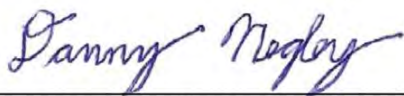
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Vanan Online Services, Inc.
10711 Spotsylvania Ave., Suite A
Fredericksburg VA 22408
Office: (888) 535-5668
Email: support@vananservices.com
Website: www.vananservices.com