

**House State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee  
October 20, 2021**

Transcript of video recording available at:  
<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-20-21-house-state-legislative-redistricting-subcommittee/>

EXHIBIT

**J64**

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1 Cord Byrd: The state legislative redistricting subcommittee will come to order. DJ, please  
2 call the roll.

3 DJ: Chair Byrd.

4 Cord Byrd: Here.

5 DJ: Vice-Chair Robinson.

6 William Robinson: Here.

7 DJ: Ranking Member Daley.

8 Dan Daley: Here

9 DJ: Representatives Arrington.

10 Kristen Arrington: Here.

11 DJ: Barnaby.

12 Webster Barnaby: Here.

13 DJ: Bell.

14 Melony Bell: Here

15 DJ: Brannan.

16 Chuck Brannan: Here.

17 DJ: Chambliss.

18 Kevin Chambliss: Here.

19 DJ: Garrison.

20 Sam Garrison: Here.

21 DJ: Hart.

22 Dianne Hart: Here.

23 DJ: Hawkins.

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1 Fred Hawkins: Here.

2 DJ: Maney.

3 Thomas Maney: Here.

4 DJ: McClain? McClain?

5 Stan McClain: Here.

6 DJ: Melo.

7 Lauren Melo: Here.

8 DJ: Mooney.

9 Jim Mooney: Here.

10 DJ: Persons-Mulicka.

11 Jenna Persons-Mulicka: Here.

12 DJ: Salzman:

13 Michelle Salzman: Here.

14 DJ: Snyder.

15 John Snyder: Here.

16 DJ: Tant.

17 Allison Tant: Here.

18 DJ: Valdes.

19 Susan Valdes: Present.

20 DJ: Woodson.

21 Marie Woodson: Here.

22 DJ: A quorum is present Mr. Chair.

23 Cord Byrd: Thank you, DJ. Members, a few reminders before we begin. Please silence all

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1 electronic devices. To the members of the public, if you wish to comment please fill out a form  
2 and submit it to the sergeant's staff. Members, and presenters, and members of the public please  
3 ensure that your microphone is on when you are speaking and off when you are finished.

4       Members, welcome back to week three. So far in our committee process, we have  
5 benefitted from a redistricting primer, a legislator university course on how to use the map  
6 drawing application, many more advanced training on the map drawing tools available to help us  
7 analyze maps in alignment with our constitutional standards. Today, we will take the next step in  
8 our efforts by reviewing the concepts we've been learning about and applying them while  
9 looking at the currently enacted House map. Our goal is to view more tangible examples to  
10 concepts we've been discussing, such as compactness and using county boundaries. Seeing how  
11 these concepts can potentially interact with one another will help us understand some of the  
12 future decision points we may encounter as we deliberate maps. It will also enable us to apply a  
13 consistent methodology for maps as we continue to move through our process. During the last  
14 redistricting cycle, the Florida Supreme Court supported the House's ability to consistently apply  
15 methodology for drawing districts across the entire state. From the Court's own words, quote, the  
16 majority decision today reflects that while a variety of different rationales and concepts may be  
17 available for application in redistricting, the rationales or concepts actually used must be applied  
18 consistently. Applying a particular rationale in one part of Florida but a completely different  
19 rationale in another part of the state creates legitimate constitutional questions as to the  
20 boundaries drawn and the justifications for those boundaries as asserted by the drafters.

21       I'd also like to take the opportunity to point out that the same concepts we'll review today  
22 can additionally be used when members are viewing the publicly submitted maps on our website.  
23 These same concepts will help to provide a framework through which you can review a map or

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1 even help find trends that may appear throughout public submissions.

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

12 Leda Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chair. DJ, if you could assist me with the PowerPoint.  
13 Thank you. Members, also as well as that, you have placed in front of you is just a printout of the  
14 current House map. We know sometimes that the TVs are a little hard to see. We wanted you to  
15 have something a little easier to reference. As the Chair mentioned today, we're going to walk  
16 through some more tangible examples that take place surrounding our constitutional standards  
17 and the existing House map. Again, just to reiterate, we are walking through the existing,  
18 currently enacted House map that was passed in 2012. Don't want there to be any confusion on  
19 that point.

20 Moving on to the next slide. Again, you've seen this slide and will probably continue to  
21 see it several times throughout the course of this process. It outlines our constitutional standards  
22 through which we are required to produce and approve maps. Real quickly, I'll run through the  
23 tiers just to make sure everyone has a refresher. Our Tier One standards prohibit favoring or

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1 disfavoring any political party or incumbent, along with protecting racial and language minority  
2 groups' ability to elect candidates of their choice and using similar language to that of what is in  
3 the Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Tier One also says that districts that shall be continuous  
4 territory.

5 Moving on to Tier Two, Tier Two states that our districts shall be nearly as equal in  
6 population as practicable, be compact and shall follow existing political and geographical  
7 boundaries where feasible. As I'm sure you are aware, Tier One takes precedence over Tier Two.  
8 However, when you're moving and evaluating the standards amongst the tiers, they are  
9 considered co-equals.

10 Moving on to our next slide. These are some statistics we haven't covered yet in any of  
11 our committee meetings. They will be concepts that we cover throughout the rest of the  
12 presentation, so I want to take a second to stop and look at those. Here are some of the statistics  
13 that surround the 2012 House map and different ways of analyzing, again, the standards by  
14 which we are required to draw. The first one here, luckily for us, back in 2012 and still today,  
15 Florida has 67 counties. The number of counties that were kept whole in the 2012 House map is  
16 37. There were 30 county splits that occurred in the House map. There were 410 cities back in  
17 the 2012 House map. Later today, we'll find out that this decade there are 412. The number of  
18 cities that were kept whole is 335. The number of cities split was 75. The overall map deviation  
19 was 4% and that's another one we'll dive into and make sure that the committee understands  
20 how that deviation is calculated. Our overall compactness scores, which we kind of dug into and  
21 explored last time, for the overall State House map, our Reock score was .43. Convex Hull was  
22 .8 and our Polsby-Popper score was also .43. This slide will serve as a good point of reference as  
23 we go through the different buckets of today's presentation. Feel free to reference it if you need.

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1 The first item that I'd like to get into and talk about is related to population. Two of the  
2 standards really focus on this concept of ideal population, even how you can use existing  
3 geographical and political boundaries to help achieve the deviations and ideal population that  
4 we're looking for. In the 2012 House map, the ideal population was 156,678 people. Obviously,  
5 with Florida having grown this decade, our ideal population is larger. The next couple slides that  
6 we're going to go through, that 156,678 number will be a good point of reference for you.

7 Let's talk about ideal population and deviation. State legislative districts are typically  
8 allowed a larger deviation percentage than the congressional districts. The courts have generally  
9 said that 10% deviation is acceptable. Now there are some court rulings out there that give some  
10 leeway on that threshold both above the 10% and below 10%. Historically, Florida has always  
11 been well within that threshold and again, last decade's map was right at 4% for our State House  
12 map. You may be asking how do we calculate ideal population. It's very simple. You can see in  
13 this graph here, we have a row that indicates Florida's total population both from 2010 and 2020  
14 and it's a simple basic math function. You take your total population, divide it by the number of  
15 districts you're aiming for and that equates to your ideal, in this case, House district population.  
16 Again, you can see we were right over 156,000 for 2010, in 2020 it will be closer to 179,000.

17 While we're talking about ideal population and deviation just for your point of reference,  
18 the congressional districts that will be drawn have a much stricter population threshold. It's  
19 generally accepted that it generally will require that they are plus or minus one person. However,  
20 there are court rulings out there that have allowed deviations in very specific circumstances as it  
21 relates to the congressional map. I just wanted to provide that context for you as well. It should  
22 also be noted that I think for the Florida House map, I do not believe that we have ever gone  
23 above the 4% deviation and with regards to the congressional map; we've always been within

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1 that plus or minus one person as well.

2 Now that we've talked about population, let's talk about the concept of keeping counties  
3 whole. Based on the graphic that was shown a couple pages back, there are 38 counties within  
4 the state of Florida that were too small to fit within a single House district or be a district by  
5 itself. These counties had to be combined with other whole counties or parts of counties to create  
6 an entire district. Just for your point of reference, the graphic that I'm referencing is on slide six.

7 If we move on, we'll show two good examples in the current House map that illustrate  
8 this principle. The first one here shown on the left is current House District 22. As indicated by  
9 the blue lines, those are our county boundaries. The left portion of the district, you can see, is  
10 comprised of the entirety of Levy County. Levy County wasn't quite big enough to constitute an  
11 entire House district. It goes outside and kind of to the southeast portion of that district, reaches  
12 over into Marion County to grab the remaining population that was needed to create an entire  
13 House district. The district on the right is House District 76 and this is actually comprised  
14 entirely of Charlotte County. We'll come back to this in a little bit because this was a unique  
15 circumstance that occurred last decade. The population of Charlotte County was within an  
16 acceptable threshold to actually be an entire district in and of itself. It is the only district in the  
17 current House map that is made up of just one county.

18 We talked about keeping counties whole. Let's talk about the flip side of the coin, which  
19 is keeping districts wholly within a county. These are the areas of which in the 2010 Census,  
20 2012 House map, there were 29 counties that were too large to meet ideal population thresholds,  
21 and therefore had to go and reach outside of counties. You can actually go to the next slide,  
22 thanks, DJ. For this example, I'd like to look at Lee County. Lee County's population was  
23 618,754. When you do the simple math, you can realize that there are approximately four House



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1 districts that fit within the sheer population of Lee County. This is a really good example for this  
2 one. You can see that it is comprised of the green district on the side, the red district, the orange  
3 district in the northeast corner, as well as the district here that kind of appears as a light purple  
4 color. So given the overall population of Lee County, we were able to fit four entire House  
5 districts within that county very succinctly.

6 Now let's talk about overall deviation and this deviation can be applied whether it's to a  
7 specific district or to the overall House map, which is the example we're going to walk  
8 through. Now Charlotte County, the brown county that appears here on the top, and Lee County,  
9 the green county on the bottom, we've kind of already touched on. But in the 2012 House map,  
10 both of these had very unique situations that allowed Florida to dictate the upper and lower  
11 bounds of our deviation for our statewide map. You can see here Charlotte County on the top had  
12 a population of 159,978 people. This is 3,300 people over the ideal population of the House  
13 district. If you can break that to percentages, it's +2.1% deviation.

14 Moving on to Lee County. And DJ, I'll have you go to the next slide, please. Lee  
15 County's population as we just touched on was 618,754 people, which did allow for four districts  
16 within that county. As the team back a decade ago was drawing this map, their goal of keeping  
17 Cape Coral whole within Lee County allowed them to produce a district, 77 – which I apologize,  
18 that is a typo on the slide. It should say 77. District 77 was formed with a population of 173,745  
19 people. This district was 2,933 people under the ideal population of the state House districts, or  
20 converted into percentages, –1.9% deviation.

21 With that being said, on the next slide, you can see here that with Charlotte County  
22 encompassing .1% of a, we'll call it a high-water-mark district, Lee County – District 76 within  
23 Lee County comprised the low-water-mark district of –1.9%. If you take those two benchmarks

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1 and subtract them from one another, you get an overall deviation of 4%. That is where I  
2 referenced earlier the current state House map has an overall deviation of 4%. Those results,  
3 obviously, for this decade, our population has shifted and grown. Those may not be the exact  
4 examples or situations that we are evaluating this decade, but the concept of calculating overall  
5 deviation that will be a similar process and the math behind it will be similar.

6 This slide, just to be able to draw a contrast to the slide we saw previously. This is a map  
7 based on the 2020 census geography, so our current population. As we mentioned, our current  
8 ideal population for our House district will be 179,485 people. The counties indicated the green,  
9 of which there are 29 of them, are counties that are over ideal population. The counties indicated  
10 in the orange, of which there are 38 of them, are under our ideal population for this  
11 decade. What's interesting is, even though they are different counties, we actually have the same  
12 exact number of over/under-population counties as last decade. Thought that was a fun fact.

13 Moving on, we're now going to move on and talk about Florida's municipalities. A lot of  
14 the concepts we're going to talk about here also apply to that similar Tier Two standard of,  
15 where feasible, being able to use existing political and geographical boundaries. Based on our  
16 2020 population, Florida now has 412 incorporated municipalities. I actually want to pause for a  
17 second. This image here on the right, I know it may be a little difficult to see. DJ, if you don't  
18 mind just kind of slowly clicking through the next handful of slides? What we have here is we've  
19 gone in and all of the formally incorporated municipalities across the state, we've highlighted  
20 them in the color purple. What I think is just truly fascinating when you look at how large our  
21 state is, there's a large chunk of territory that is either unincorporated territory, perhaps it's the  
22 Everglades, perhaps it's farmland, but it is not formally confined within a defined legal  
23 municipality boundary. I think just given the size of Florida as a state, I found this very

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1 interesting whenever we put it together graphically. DJ, if you'd like to move on to slide 20  
2 please?

3 So again, just to show, these are our current municipality populations that are over our  
4 ideal population for this decade. These are all, generally speaking, the larger cities across  
5 Florida. I don't think anything on this map will surprise anyone. One fun fact is that Cape Coral  
6 this decade has made our top ten list. Last decade, it was actually number 11 in terms of  
7 population. Earlier we illustrated that when the drawers were creating House District 76, they  
8 had a goal of keeping Cape Coral whole. However, now it is clocking in at 194,000 people, too  
9 large to be kept whole within a House district. That just really is a good point to illustrate how  
10 large Florida has grown over the last decade.

11 Continuing to talk about municipalities, one of the considerations that the Florida  
12 Supreme Court has outlined is whenever you're considering political boundaries, they're  
13 generally accepted as county boundaries and also the city and municipality boundaries. What's  
14 interesting whenever you start to dive into this, is that a lot of Florida's municipalities have some  
15 very unique boundary lines. As we go through the map drawing process, should the decision  
16 point come before us of whether or not we'd like to keep a city whole or perhaps a county whole,  
17 we wanted to point out some of the things that should be considered for keeping cities whole,  
18 particular in this instance. The example that's on the slide here is actually down in Southeast  
19 Florida. It's how three municipalities have very intertwined municipal boundaries. The blue  
20 district shown here is the city of Davie. The red is Southwest Ranches and the green is Pembroke  
21 Pines. You can see with the geography that's shown here on the screen, there's some sections of  
22 the Southwest Ranches community that are actually inside of the Pembroke Pines boundary.  
23 Likewise, with Davie. I think it goes to show as we look at Florida cities across the entire state,

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1 we'll see a lot of intertwining geography. Also, geography that has holes in it. You can see there  
2 is territory between Davie in the blue and Pembroke Pines in the green, where it is just  
3 unincorporated area. However, it's fully encompassed by two municipalities.

4 The next slide here, I think this is another fun Florida fact. There are actually four  
5 incorporated municipalities in the state of Florida that cross county boundaries. As we go to  
6 weigh decision points about whether to split cities or to split counties, there's actually some that  
7 could come into direct contradiction with each other. The first one here is Longboat Key, which  
8 actually crosses the county boundaries of Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Marineland, which is  
9 one of Florida's smallest cities, is between the St. Johns and Flagler County boundaries. Flagler  
10 Beach falls between Flagler and Volusia Counties and Fanning Springs is over on the west coast  
11 between Levy and Gilchrist Counties. The county lines here just for your point of reference are  
12 indicated by those blue lines.

13 This next example is just to additionally illustrate some very unique municipal  
14 boundaries that exist within the state. Again, we talked about with the Southeast Florida example  
15 some areas where they're intertwined or perhaps have holes. If you look really closely, because it  
16 is kind of hard to see, on the northern part of New Smyrna Beach, there's actually some  
17 completely discontinuous territory. That is part of the formal municipality boundary. There's  
18 some little specks of red up there. Likewise, down in the southern city of Edgewater, there's a lot  
19 of areas that are compacted just by thin territory and also there's some unincorporated area  
20 between both of those two cities. This next example is of Northport, which resides in Sarasota  
21 County. This one is interesting because the city of Northport actually is completely  
22 discontinuous and it's split by the Myakka River. Again, as we go to consider what is a  
23 geographical boundary, such as a waterway like the Myakka River, or keeping city boundaries

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1 whole, which would be the city of Northport in the green. Those are two instances that occur in  
2 the same tier of our constitutional standards that we'll have to weigh should that come before us.

3 Now let's talk about keeping cities whole. We've talked about keeping counties whole;  
4 now let's talk about keeping cities whole. This is an image here in the Panhandle of Florida. As  
5 you can see between District 3 and District 4, a lot of the boundaries follow whether it's I-10 or  
6 perhaps some municipal boundaries. However, there's this little bump in District 4 that I believe  
7 we got questions about last decade. DJ, if you could go to the next slide, we'll actually zoom in  
8 so we can see it clearer. This territory was added into District 3 to allow the city of Crestview to  
9 be kept whole as part of that district. Now what's interesting, if you are able to zoom, oh well, I  
10 know you can't, but if you're able to look at your presentation the very northern city boundaries  
11 of Crestview as they appear on this map with this decade's geography actually are now outside  
12 of current House District 3. I think that is a really good example of how municipalities can and  
13 oftentimes do change their boundaries throughout the decade, as well as how the Census Bureau  
14 works with the local entities to make sure that their census block geography aligns to the best  
15 possible of the local municipal geography. This is a good example of an attempt to keep a city  
16 whole and then additionally use surrounding waterways to finish off that boundary.

17 Let's talk about roadways. This is a really great example. As we demonstrated in the  
18 program during our last committee meeting, these really bold red lines can be turned on within  
19 our map drawing application. They indicate primary and secondary roads. This is an image of  
20 House District 91 in Southeast Florida that does use a lot of primary and secondary roads to  
21 create their boundaries, whether it's the north-south boundaries or even the east-west boundaries  
22 and only does it deviate to account for some of the other districts that are surrounding it.

23 This next example is of using railroads or railways to be able to define boundaries. This

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1 is a series of districts found in Pinellas County. We're looking here within the red box and DJ, if  
2 you actually go to the next slide, it'll zoom in. The center connecting point between these four  
3 districts is actually a local railway in Pinellas County. Railroads are another acceptable  
4 geographical feature that the Supreme Court identified that are also quite frankly good for  
5 drawing lines. They create nice clean crisp lines. Where it was able to be done, it was used here  
6 in Pinellas County to differentiate the boundaries between these four districts.

7 Let's move on to waterways. The image on the screen is of Northeast Florida, and the St.  
8 Johns River is a prominent river in Northeast Florida. DJ, if you go to the next slide, it will zoom  
9 in. As you can see here, the districts that reside in Duval County as well as two other districts in  
10 Clay County all use that riverway as, obviously some of them are county boundaries, but as a  
11 waterway to create that district boundary as well. When you first look at this, perhaps it's twists  
12 and turns with the river, but again when we are charged where feasible to use these existing  
13 geographical and political boundaries, they were able to do that in this instance for these House  
14 districts in Northeast Florida.

15 This next item is just another example of waterways. I think it can't be understated,  
16 Florida has a lot of waterways. We're going to talk through several of them because they do  
17 create very unique boundaries. However, they are very easily identifiable and oftentimes  
18 coincide with our existing county boundaries as well, which is an example we have up of the  
19 Suwannee River here in North Florida. The counties of Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee,  
20 Lafayette, Levy, Gilchrist, and Dixie Counties all share part of these boundaries, as well as a  
21 couple House districts. DJ, if you go to the next slide, you can see here how this is a prominent  
22 well-known river throughout Florida and it creates some very interesting geography whenever  
23 you look at how the river twists and turns.

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1 The next one, we'd like to take a second and talk about Lake Okeechobee. This is a very  
2 prominent feature that we have here in the state of Florida in a very large water body relative to  
3 other lakes that are found across the state. What I'd like to point out and I find interesting about  
4 this is the Census Bureau and respectively the county boundaries have all worked to create  
5 ownership amongst the five counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee. You can see these blue lines  
6 come to a point in the middle of Lake Okeechobee. What that does is, at a local level, give each  
7 individual county perhaps ownership of the lake. Likewise, the Census Bureau has census blocks  
8 that go throughout the lake as well. As we're drawing and as we're making considerations in this  
9 region of the state, understanding that Okeechobee, Martin, Palm Beach, Hendry, and Glades  
10 County are all affected by the decisions we make surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

11 Now moving over to the other coast of the state. The other thing we wanted to be able to  
12 demonstrate for the committee are this concept of water blocks. Water blocks are a type of  
13 census block. They are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. However, they go off the coast of  
14 Florida. As I mentioned in our last meeting, if you're on the east coast of Florida, the water  
15 blocks go out three miles. If you're on the west coast or the Gulf coast of Florida, they go out  
16 nine miles. You can see here the blue lines indicated are your county boundaries, whereas the  
17 lighter gray lines are the water blocks or census blocks that are dictated by the U.S. Census  
18 Bureau. I think whenever we're considering things like compactness scores or perhaps where our  
19 lines are drawn, being able to understand where those census blocks split and how that could  
20 affect whether it's compactness scores or actual boundary lines is really important given the  
21 amount of coastline that Florida has.

22 The next item is Florida Everglades. This is a very large portion of our state in the  
23 southern region. What is fascinating about this in my personal opinion is that it is such a large

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1 area of our state with such little population. If you can see whether on your presentations or here  
2 on the screen, the lines that are drawn across the southern part of Florida are individual census  
3 blocks. You can see in Southeast Florida, Miami-Dade, and the Broward area, they're very  
4 densely packed, highly populated. However, as you go towards the middle of the state, they  
5 become much, much larger and have very little population in them. I think whenever we're going  
6 through our map drawing exercises, being able to understand that even if you're grabbing a large  
7 piece of geography, it may not affect the population counts that are being pulled into that district.  
8 It's a good point of reference for areas like the Everglades. If you can see close enough, there's  
9 even some census blocks across the Everglades that have zero population in them.

10 The next bucket of items I'd like to talk about is, bringing this back to our Tier Two  
11 standard of compactness. We talked about these last time. However, in the context of looking at  
12 the currently enacted House map, we wanted to give some tangible examples that speak to the  
13 different types of scores that we have. Here we're looking at District 23. As you may remember,  
14 the Reock score measures, generally speaking, how circular in nature a district is. The Convex  
15 Hull measures similar concepts but with a polygon shape. The Polsby-Popper test really helps  
16 look at some of the indentations and jaggedness of districts. This district, when you visually  
17 inspect it, is fairly circular in nature. You can see it scores a .62 on the Reock score. This one  
18 also happens to score fairly well on Convex Hull as well as Polsby-Popper. Just a reminder, these  
19 scores are done on a scale of zero to one. All three of them are scored in that same fashion.  
20 Moving on to District 42, just as another point of reference for an example. This district has a  
21 more squared-off shape in nature. You can see here it scores very high on the Convex Hull score.  
22 However, it also scores fairly well on the Reock score in comparison to our other districts.

23 The last slide I'd like to cover today is another Florida fun fact. As you know, it's stated



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1 several times throughout our constitutional standards, all of our districts must be contiguous.  
2 There is actually one area of Florida that is, by Census Bureau definition, noncontiguous. We're  
3 actually one of only six states that has this noncontiguous territory. As you can see here on the  
4 slide we are talking about down in Monroe County in southern Florida, the Dry Tortugas. It's  
5 technically a noncontiguous piece of geography. However, it is part of our state and has to be  
6 accounted for as we draw our district boundaries. Mr. Chair that concludes my presentation.  
7 Thank you.

8 Cord Byrd: Thank you, Leda. We are now going to hear from the public. Are there any  
9 public comments? No? No one's registered? Anybody wish to speak? No? Okay. Now member  
10 comments. Any member comments or questions? Yes, Ranking Member, you are recognized.

11 Dan Daley: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'll try to be brief. There are a couple comments  
12 and then a couple questions if you don't mind. I'd like to reiterate my call if it's possible to  
13 change our meeting times so it doesn't conflict with the congressional meeting. I know that,  
14 again, the presentation today is likely similar if not the same, or at least in context. But moving  
15 forward, I think that's going to change to allow public the opportunity to participate in both of  
16 those meetings, would like to ask for a time change if at all possible. Also, wanted to mention, I  
17 know things are moving a million miles an hour and the committee's doing a lot of work. It's my  
18 understanding that the committee packet actually dropped today at 10:45. That's only a couple  
19 hours before this meeting. If it's possible in the future to get it out sooner, not just for the benefit  
20 of the committee but of the public. That would be greatly appreciated.

21 Now into my questions and I guess the first one, Mr. Chair, would be how we plan to  
22 deal with the prison population? The reason that I ask is that in previous years in Florida and in  
23 other states, prisons with large populations are counted and the individuals in those prisons are

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1 counted in the areas where they geographically reside. What that can do is increase the voting  
2 strength of the voters in that district while diluting the strength of the districts where those  
3 prisoners will likely return to for that period of ten years. I know that ten years ago, we counted  
4 the prison system and the prisoners where they were geographically located. But it's my  
5 understanding that we aren't required to do it that way. As a matter of fact, we have the census  
6 data from the Census Bureau and I sure hope we know the last known address of all of our  
7 Florida state prisoners. We could go ahead and pull them out of the count for that given district  
8 and either keep them out of the count so we don't artificially increase the power of that district,  
9 or we could also insert them back into the system, into the count based on where their previous  
10 address was located. There's already twelve states that do this. My question and I don't know if  
11 we have an answer today Mr. Chair, and I appreciate your time in talking with me before the  
12 meeting, but if the committee could look at what we're going to do in dealing with the prison  
13 population in terms of the count?

14 Cord Byrd: Thank you for the question. I'm going to let Leda address the issue of the  
15 prison populations.

16 Leda Kelly: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Ranking Member, for the question.  
17 The Census Bureau, as you stated, counts prison populations where they are incarcerated on  
18 census day. That data is then distributed down to all of the states and as its stated in statute, we  
19 use that data as it comes to us from the Census Bureau. We do not alter or manipulate it in any  
20 form or fashion. Thank you.

21 Dan Daley: Follow-up, Mr. Chair and thank you for that answer. I do appreciate it. I  
22 guess my understanding is we are the Legislature. We have the opportunity to change that in the  
23 statute. I don't know if the technical term is the implementing language that will go along with

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1 the maps, but my understanding is while we can utilize the census data, the Census Bureau also  
2 has information relating to how many of those individual counts in that given area were the  
3 prison population. We can combine that with the DOC data and move them back to the district so  
4 we're not disenfranchising their district back home for that period of time. I would just ask that  
5 we take a look at that.

6 Cord Byrd: Questions?

7 Dan Daley: Actually, I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. That was awkward. I should have just  
8 continued. I have one additional question. I guess that comes to when we're discussing the actual  
9 drawing of the maps. I know that there was some conversation in the Senate the other day. I  
10 don't know if they voted as a committee or what, but there was conversation in there about  
11 starting with the existing maps as they exist today as the starting point or starting fresh and  
12 ignoring everything from the past ten years. I think my concern is if we're starting fresh, it's an  
13 opportunity to start in an unconstitutional direction. The maps that we have today, both the  
14 congressional and the Senate maps, were drawn by the court. They've been deemed  
15 constitutional and obviously, the House maps weren't challenged last time around so those are  
16 constitutional. I would ask has there been any decision made in this committee or in the larger  
17 committee on how we're going to start when it comes to the actual drawing of the maps?

18 Cord Byrd: Thank you for the question and it's important for the committee to know and  
19 for the public, map-drawing has not begun. We have not drawn any maps. We're in the  
20 educational process now. It's also important to remember that Florida's much different in 2021  
21 than it was when the last census was done in 2010, we've grown by two and half million people.  
22 While some of the districts based upon the Tier One and Tier Two standards may look similar as  
23 we begin drawing maps, they could look radically different based upon where that population in

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1 the state has grown and where it has shrunk. It's kind of a combination question where some of it  
2 may look the same, which would be we have the standard from the last map versus starting fresh  
3 based upon that population. But map-drawing has not begun.

4 Dan Daley: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

5 Cord Byrd: Yep. Representative Valdes, question?

6 Susan Valdes: Thank you very much, Chair Byrd. It's not so much of a question but more  
7 so of a reflection back from this morning's Education Committee, where we talked about  
8 dropout prevention as well as the DJJ and different programs that we have out there for our  
9 youth at risk. One of the things that resonated with me as we were discussing, listening to staff  
10 go through the presentation as well as following up on Ranking Member Daley's question on the  
11 prison population. We did something very similar in the educational system where the students  
12 that either drop out from high school and/or fall into the DJJ program that those children are  
13 charged back to their district, if you will, so, if we can do it in the educational system, I'm sure  
14 that there's a way that we can do that with the prison population as well. Then we can at least put  
15 them back to where they may be going home to afterwards.

16 Cord Byrd: Thank you for the comment. Anyone else? Anyone else? Alright. Members, I  
17 hope you found today's exercise to be another step in understanding our constitutional standards.  
18 What's that? Did you have a question? Oh, okay. Rep. Woodson has a question. You're  
19 recognized.

20 Marie Woodson: Thank you, Chair Byrd. Actually, mine is more of a comment but kind  
21 of a question as well. To piggyback on both of my colleagues what they said if the prison  
22 population is not counted and the geographic area where they reside, that can impact major  
23 fundings as well, when we look at fundings that come down to the community for the various

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1 services that are being provided. I think that's something that we might need to keep in mind,  
2 because this population would come back to the community that they come from. This is just  
3 some food for thought that we need to keep in mind in the sense that we should look at how  
4 we're counting them in the area that they reside. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 Cord Byrd: Thank you, Representative Woodson. Anyone else? Going once, going twice,  
6 alright. I hope you found today's exercise to be another step in understanding our constitutional  
7 standards as well as a little more about our great state. In our future meetings, I look forward to  
8 delving into Tier One of our constitutional standards. I would encourage all of you to take a look  
9 at the map and the presentation and you will start to see in the current districts how these tiers are  
10 applied and how these standards are applied. I've started to look at the map in a different way as  
11 I see geographic boundaries, railroads, rivers, and other factors. It'll start to make sense if you  
12 spend some time looking at the current map. This concludes our agenda for today.  
13 Representative Brannan moves we rise. Unless there's objection, upon the motion of  
14 Representative Brannan, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.



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