

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 1

Common Cause, et al.)
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v.) 4:22-cv-109
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Cord Byrd)
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TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO FILE
Senate Committee on Reapportionment
The Florida Channel
September 20, 2021

DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP
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(202) 232-0646

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 2

1 (Beginning of Video Recording.)

2 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Senate Committee on
3 Reapportionment will now come to the order.
4 Dana, please call the roll.

5 MS. IVEY: Chair Rodrigues.

6 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Here.

7 MS. IVEY: Vice Chair Broxson.

8 MR. BROXSON: Here.

9 MS. IVEY: Senator Bean.

10 MR. BEAN: Here.

11 MS. IVEY: Senator Bracy.

12 MR. BRACY: Here.

13 MS. IVEY: Senator Bradley.

14 MS. BRADLEY: Here.

15 MS. IVEY: Senator Burgess.

16 MR. BURGESS: Here.

17 MS. IVEY: Senator Gibson.

18 MS. GIBSON: Here.

19 MS. IVEY: Senator Harrell.

20 MS. HARRELL: Here.

21 MS. IVEY: Senator Rodriguez.

22 MS. RODRIQUEZ: Here.

23 MS. IVEY: Senator Rouson.

24 MR. ROUSON: Here.

25 MS. IVEY: Senator Stargel.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 3

1 MS. STARGEL: Here.

2 MS. IVEY: Senator Stewart.

3 MS. STEWART: Here.

4 MS. IVEY: The quorum is present, Mr.
5 Chair.

6 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you. And let
7 the record show that Senator Bracy is excused
8 from today's meeting. Before we begin, please
9 silence your cellphones and all electronic
10 devices so that those don't go off during the
11 meeting.

12 And let me begin by saying, this is the
13 first time the senate committee has met with
14 an audience since the conclusion of the 2020
15 session. And I, for one, am happy to see you
16 back. Welcome back to the Florida State
17 Senate. With that, I'll start with --

18 (Applause)

19 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you, President.

20 Start with the observation that COVID-
21 19 precautions, where applicable, are being
22 taken. Anyone wishing to testify before the
23 committee must fill out an appearance card and
24 hand it to a member of the sergeant's office.
25 Should you waive your speaking time, your

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 4

1 position will be read into the record.

2 Since this is our first meeting, I'd
3 like to start with the first agenda item and
4 introduce our committee staff. Then I'd like
5 to go to the members of our committee for them
6 to introduce themselves and say a few words,
7 if they would like.

8 So with our staff, I'll start with
9 staff director, who is sitting on my left,
10 your right, Jay Ferrin. And then on my right,
11 your left, is Jason Rojas, who is our special
12 counsel to our committee. Danna Ivey -- wave,
13 Dana -- is our committee administrative
14 assistant.

15 Yin Li (phonetic) -- wave, Yin -- and
16 Justin Ichromueler (phonetic) are our policy
17 analysts. And Megan Magnole is our committee
18 legislative research assistant. And that is
19 our staff. We are blessed that Jay and Jason
20 have some experience in redistricting, and so
21 we're going to learn from their experience,
22 and their wisdom will help guide us on this
23 process.

24 Now let's move over to our members and
25 have our members introduce themselves. I'd

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 5

1 like to start with President Bean at the end
2 and work our way down the row, if we could do
3 so.

4 MR. BEAN: Mr. Chairman, thank you so
5 much. I was trying not to make eye contact
6 with you so you would start on the other end,
7 but we did, and so I am pleased to start by
8 introducing myself. It's Aaron Bean. I
9 represent Jacksonville. It's good to see you
10 all, and it's good to see you in audience. It
11 is an historic day, and we are excited to have
12 you back and looking forward to working with
13 you in the chair -- the Chair and the
14 committee, Mr. Chairman.

15 MR. ROUSON: Good afternoon. Thank
16 you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity. I'm
17 Darryl Rouson, representing District 19,
18 portions of Hillsborough and Pinellas
19 Counties. Very proud to be here, very happy
20 to be here and be a part of this committee and
21 the whole reapportionment/redistricting
22 process.

23 Some of you know I served on
24 redistricting in 2010 when we traveled the
25 state to make sure that we got input of

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 6

1 citizens, residents, and voters. I look
2 forward to working with the staff to develop
3 constitutional maps that are fair to
4 everybody. Thank you.

5 MS. STEWART: Good afternoon. I'm
6 Senator Linda Stewart. I'm from Orlando,
7 Orange County, and I am pleased to have been
8 chosen to serve on this very notable
9 committee. I know that we all are going to
10 strive to make it a fair and open process.
11 And I know everyone here is interested in
12 making sure that happens.

13 I did, too, also serve on a
14 redistricting committee when I was in the
15 County Commission. It's a very tough job.
16 It's not something that is particularly easy.
17 But you can in the end come to a resolution
18 that everybody could be pleased with, and I'm
19 hoping that will happen with this committee.
20 So thanks -- thank you very much.

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good
22 afternoon to everyone and all of my Senate
23 colleagues. It's exciting to see you back for
24 committees. And this is not my first -- how
25 should I say -- redistricting, and so I'm

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 7

1 excited to be a part of this committee again
2 this year and certainly glad to see that Jay
3 is our leading staff. I burned the carpet ten
4 years ago going back and forth to his office.
5 So I'm looking forward to -- hopefully, I
6 won't have to do it as much.

7 Looking forward, of course, to our
8 constitutional duty, certainly, on behalf of
9 the citizens of the State of Florida in terms
10 of reapportionment and using that data which
11 has phenomenally increased our population and
12 certainly gives us the opportunity.

13 And I expect that we will do the right
14 thing on behalf of the people of State of
15 Florida and their representation. And I'm
16 ready to rock and roll. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 MR. BROXSON: Mr. Chair, Doug Broxson
18 in District 1. And frankly, when I heard you
19 were appointed to be chair, my heart jumped
20 because I think all the members on both sides
21 of the aisle saw your performance over the
22 last couple years, how fair and deliberate and
23 how you invest in every issue. And I think
24 you positioned yourself to deliver very
25 deliberate constitutional maps.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 8

1 I would have to say, being from
2 District 1 that my district was part of the
3 first redistricting in which there were two
4 counties, St. Johns and Escambia, so we've got
5 a little bit more work to do than then, but
6 I'm looking forward to your leadership, sir,
7 and serving under you is an honor.

8 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you. I'm Ray
9 Rodrigues. I represent District 27 in the
10 Florida State Senate, which is Lee County in
11 southwest Florida. I'm excited for this
12 opportunity.

13 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and
14 happy -- happy Monday, everybody. It's good
15 to be back in the capital and see all your
16 smiling faces. Nobody better could have been
17 picked to lead this once-in-a-decade process,
18 Chairman Rodrigues, and very excited to have
19 the honor and the massive responsibility to be
20 able to endeavor on this with you. Thank you.

21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, Mr.
22 Chairman, and thank you for having me on this
23 committee. My name is Ana Marie Rodriguez,
24 and I'm the state senator for District 39,
25 which includes portions of West Miami-Dade

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 9

1 County and all of Monroe County, so it is the
2 southern-most district in the State of Florida
3 and in the United States, and it's an honor to
4 be here on this committee. Thank you.

5 MS. HARRELL: Thank you very much, Mr.
6 Chairman. I'm Senator Gayle Harrell. I
7 represent District 25, which is Martin, St.
8 Lucie, and parts of Palm Beach County. And I
9 am so delighted to be on this
10 redistricting/reapportionment committee. This
11 is my third time around redistricting. Maybe
12 Senator Bean and I share that, whether you
13 were here in 2010, I don't remember.

14 But we -- this is the third time
15 around. I am excited to be a part of this
16 amazing committee and the wonderful people on
17 it.

18 This will be a very fair, open process.
19 I have every confidence that we will come up
20 with constitutional maps that meet every
21 requirement we have under Fair Districts, and
22 I have full confidence in the committee and
23 our wonderful staff. And I look forward to
24 working with you, Mr. Chairman, and our
25 various vice chairs and subcommittee chairs to

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 10

1 make this the best ever. Thank you.

2 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 My name is Jennifer Bradley. I am the state

4 senator for District 5, which is -- includes

5 11 rural counties across north Florida calling

6 Clay County home. It is a tremendous honor to

7 be a part of this committee. It is, as

8 Senator Burgess said, it's a once-in-a-decade

9 process, and it's constitutionally required,

10 and it's a weighty responsibility that we take

11 on. And it's one that we take very, very

12 seriously. And I just couldn't think of a

13 better group to be thoughtful and to be led by

14 just very capable staff. And I look forward

15 to a great process with great dialogue and

16 input, so look forward to it. Thank you.

17 MS. STARGEL: Good afternoon. I'm

18 Kelli Stargel. I represent District 22, which

19 is North Polk/South Lake County. Also had the

20 honor of serving on the redistricting

21 committee back in 2010. Looking forward to

22 the process this time, looking forward to your

23 leadership, Chairman, and -- and so let's get

24 to work.

25 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you, members,

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 11

1 and since they were too humble to say so, I
2 will say this: Senator Bradley will be
3 chairing our Select Subcommittee on
4 Congressional Reapportionment, and Senator
5 Burgess will be chairing our Select
6 Subcommittee on Legislative Reapportionment.
7 And I look forward to working with both of
8 you. And I am very excited for the makeup of
9 this committee.

10 I think the President has done a
11 tremendous job of ensuring that the entire
12 state has representation. If you look, we've
13 got representation from northwest Florida,
14 northeast Florida, southeast Florida,
15 southwest Florida, I-4 Corridor, and the
16 heartland of Florida.

17 We've got urban districts represented;
18 we've got rural districts represented. I
19 really feel like if you take the cross section
20 of Florida, the President's done a good job of
21 putting together a committee that represents
22 citizens in every one of those sections.

23 So the job in front of us is going to
24 be a tremendous one, and before we begin, I'd
25 like to just take a moment and talk about the

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 12

1 task that we are going to be embarking on. As
2 senators appointed to this committee, we have
3 the responsibility of guiding our chamber
4 through the process of fulfilling our
5 constitutional obligation to redraw
6 legislative and congressional district
7 boundaries.

8 The last time the legislature embarked
9 on this task, it was the first time since the
10 adoption of the amendments governing the
11 standards for redrawing of legislative and
12 congressional districts, which have since been
13 codified in Article III, Sections 20 and 21 of
14 the Florida Constitution.

15 Those that came before us did not have
16 the benefit of how the Florida Supreme Court
17 would interpret those standards or a true
18 understanding of the role the judiciary would
19 play. Some hard lessons were learned through
20 that previous cycle, and I believe we will
21 learn from those lessons.

22 The Florida Supreme Court's
23 interpretation of the then brand-new
24 amendments fundamentally altered the way we do
25 redistricting here in the State of Florida.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 13

1 The Court relied on geometric compactness,
2 consistent use of political and geographic
3 boundaries, equal population, and functional
4 analysis of minority districts to serve as
5 objective indicators of intent when reviewing
6 a plan or district. The Court summarily
7 rejected the use of subjective principles,
8 such as communities of interest, partisan
9 favoritism, partisan proportionality, and
10 incumbent protection.

11 The Court, also, expanded the role of
12 the judiciary in the redistricting process.
13 The Court limited legislative privilege to
14 allow for the deposition of sitting
15 legislators and compelled evidence and
16 testimony from nonparty political consultants
17 not directly involved in the legislative
18 decision-making process.

19 Ultimately, after considering both
20 direct and circumstantial evidence obtained
21 through discovery and depositions of
22 legislators, staff, and nonparty political
23 consultants, the State Supreme Court of
24 Florida ruled that the legislatures, senate,
25 and congressional plans had been drawn with

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 14

1 improper intent.

2 The concurred with a trial court's
3 finding, and I'm quoting from the trial court
4 in the Apportionment 7 decision when it wrote,
5 "Political consultants or operatives did, in
6 fact, conspire to manipulate and influence the
7 redistricting process. They accomplished this
8 by writing scripts and organizing groups of
9 people to attend public hearings to advocate
10 for adoption of certain component or
11 characteristics in the maps and by submitting
12 maps, impartial maps, through the public
13 process. They made a mockery of the
14 legislature's proclaimed transparent and open
15 process of redistricting by doing all of this
16 in the shadow of that process."

17 After finding the plans to have been
18 drawn with unconstitutional and improper
19 intent, the Court flipped the burden of proof.
20 Legislative deference was lost, and the
21 presumption of constitutionality of the
22 legislature's redistricting plans was gone.

23 Fortunately, we now have the insight
24 into both the judiciary's expanded scope of
25 review and how courts have interpreted and

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 15

1 applied the constitutional standards related
2 to redistricting.

3 I intend for this committee to conduct
4 the process in a manner that is consistent
5 with case law that developed during the last
6 decade is beyond reproach and free from any
7 hint of constitutional -- excuse me -- free
8 from any hint of unconstitutional intent. I
9 agree with the Florida Supreme Court when it
10 said, "Legislative apportionment is primarily
11 a matter for legislative consideration and
12 determination."

13 The Court has indicated that it will
14 defer to the legislature's decision to draw a
15 district in a certain way, so long as that
16 decision does not violate the constitutional
17 requirements, and it is my intention to
18 strictly adhere to the constitutional
19 requirements so that our legislative
20 discretion is preserved.

21 When we've talked about the issues of
22 communication and record retention, it is
23 important moving forward that all senators
24 should be aware that in prior redistricting
25 cycles, significant litigation has followed

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 16

1 passage of new maps. Sitting legislators may
2 be compelled to produced records or to be
3 subject to questioning under oath about
4 conversations with colleagues, about
5 conversations with legislative staff, or with
6 outside parties who may attempt to persuade
7 the legislature to pass maps or disfavor --
8 that favor or disfavor a political party or an
9 incumbent.

10 Senators should take care to insulate
11 themselves from interests that may
12 intentionally or unintentionally attempt to
13 inappropriately influence the redistricting
14 process. Senators should continue to adhere
15 to the Records Retention Policy as directed by
16 Article I, Section 24 of the Florida
17 Constitution, Section 11.0431 of the Florida
18 Statutes, and Senate Rule 1.48.

19 Senators and staff should, also, be
20 mindful that correspondence, emails, texts,
21 and other electronic communications related to
22 the enactment of new districts, whether sent
23 or received, on official senate accounts or
24 devices or personal email accounts or devices,
25 may be a permanent or archival value, and

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 17

1 those records should be preserved accordingly.

2 If you have questions about record
3 retention, I encourage you to contact our
4 Senator General Counsel for guidance.

5 As we move forward, we're going to look
6 at what the approach to this process will be.
7 While remaining to committed to having an
8 open, transparent, and interactive process, we
9 are taking steps to safeguard against the kind
10 of shadow process that occurred in the last
11 cycle. We will protect our process against
12 the astroturfing that occurred in the past
13 where partisan, political operatives from both
14 parties wrote scripts and recruited speakers
15 to advocate for certain plans or district
16 configurations to create a false impression of
17 a wide-spread grassroots movement.

18 Anyone testifying before our committee
19 or select subcommittees must disclose certain
20 information. In addition to stating whether
21 or not they are a registered lobbyist,
22 speakers must disclosed whether or not they
23 received compensation or anything of value --
24 travels, meals, lodgings, et cetera -- as part
25 of or exchange for their testimony. This

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 18

1 policy is being adopted senate-wide in the
2 form of revised appearance cards.

3 To prevent secretive submissions by
4 partisan operatives, we are requiring publicly
5 submitted written comments, suggestions, and
6 maps with a signed form. This form must
7 contain the identity of the submitter.
8 Submitters must state whether or not they have
9 received any compensation or anything of value
10 from any groups or organizations that have an
11 interest in redistricting as part of or in
12 exchange for their comments, suggestions, or
13 map.

14 Submitter must list every person,
15 group, or organization they have collaborated
16 with on their comment, suggestion, or map.
17 And finally, submitters must acknowledge that
18 their communications and submissions may be
19 included, reviewed, and examined in all steps
20 of the legislative process until and even
21 after new district maps are enacted into law.

22 Additionally, our staff will not review
23 or consider publicly submitted comments,
24 suggestions, or maps for inclusion in their
25 work product unless and until a senator asks

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 19

1 them to do so in writing. Publicly submitted
2 maps will be available on the joint website
3 the Senate is doing with the House,
4 www.floridaredistricting.gov, for members to
5 review.

6 Any member who requests staff to review
7 and consider such a submission should be
8 prepared to appear before a committee or its
9 select subcommittees and explain their
10 intentions for doing so. This is consistent
11 with all other aspects of our legislative
12 process and is akin to advocating for
13 inclusion of a policy in a proposed committee
14 bill.

15 My encouragement to each of you as
16 committee members is to make yourself
17 accessible to the public who wishes to have
18 their maps considered so that you meet with
19 them, listen to them, and give them that
20 access.

21 Are there any questions before we
22 proceed to the presentations on our agenda?
23 Senator Gibson, you're recognized.

24 MS. GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 During the last redistricting cycle, there was

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 20

1 a particular email address that we used to
2 send any emails or -- that we received related
3 to redistricting. There was this one
4 depository for forwarding those emails. Is
5 that -- will that be the case this time, or --
6 can you clarify how such emails get sent?
7 Clarify, please. Sorry.

8 CHAIR RODRIGUES: And thank you for the
9 question. That is a good question. What we
10 have had staff do is prepare a response that
11 can be given to those who contact us directly
12 on the subject of redistricting. The response
13 will direct the contactor to the
14 www.floridaredistricting.gov website and ask
15 them to place their idea onto that website.

16 That website will serve as the official
17 repository of all our redistricting data.
18 What I have done as an individual senator is
19 created a redistricting file, and each person
20 who contacts me gets that response, and then
21 their email goes into my redistricting file so
22 that it is archived and available in the
23 future.

24 MS. GIBSON: Thank you.

25 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Sure.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 21

1 MS. GIBSON: May I have a follow-up for
2 clarity, please?

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Yeah.

4 MS. GIBSON: Thank you. And I
5 didn't -- I forgot to say my district when I
6 first introduced myself. I want to make sure
7 everyone knows Duval is in the house. Senator
8 Bean has a portion of Jacksonville, and I have
9 the other.

10 On the -- I talked about burning the
11 carpet in the last cycle, but it was for
12 amendments that I wanted to make with staff,
13 and so in your -- in your explanation, that is
14 still a legal process as a part of this
15 committee for any -- any senator, actually,
16 this committee or not, correct?

17 CHAIR RODRIGUES: That is correct.

18 MS. GIBSON: All right. Thank you very
19 much.

20 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Senator Stewart,
21 you're recognize for a question.

22 MS. STEWART: For clarification, so a
23 grassroots organization comes to me and asks
24 would I submit a map on their behalf, is that
25 form something that would have to be filled

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 22

1 out as -- and come with the map that I -- they
2 ask me to submit?

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: The grassroots
4 organization would need to submit that map
5 through the Florida Redistricting.gov website,
6 and then they would need to ask you to be the
7 sponsor of it.

8 And so they would need to complete
9 whatever is required to submit it on the
10 website, and there's -- as you go onto the
11 website, there are cues that will guide you
12 through the process. And once they've
13 completed that, then they can meet with you
14 and lobby you to champion their map, in which
15 case you can move forward, bring that map
16 forward, and say, I wish to sponsor this as
17 either a part of the process or as an
18 amendment, whatever the case may be.

19 Senator Rouson, you look like you may
20 have a question.

21 MR. ROUSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 You indicated in your introductory remarks
23 that this would be an open and interactive
24 process. Could you expound upon interactive?
25 I expect that means the public will be able to

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 23

1 participate both through comments, testimony,
2 and submission of maps. But is there any
3 other opportunity for public participation?

4 CHAIR RODRIGUES: The examples that
5 you've given are what has been contemplated
6 and agreed upon so far between the Florida
7 Senate and the Florida House.

8 So to begin with, we've agreed -- and
9 what's different in this cycle than in the
10 previous cycle is that the Senate and the
11 House are using the same vendor; we're using
12 the same software. As a result of that, we
13 can do a joint website to receive all of the
14 public submissions.

15 We will have committee meetings, which
16 will -- as all committee meetings are -- be
17 publicly noticed and have the opportunity for
18 public comment. So the public will have that
19 opportunity. And of course, the public can
20 reach out to any of us as individual senators
21 to meet with us and ask us to champion their
22 ideas that they have submitted through the
23 website.

24 MR. ROUSON: And -- thank you, Mr.
25 Chair for that explanation. Is there any

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 24

1 guidance on how to handle media inquiries or
2 citizen inquiries of individual senators?

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: The only guidance
4 that I've seen put together so far is the
5 guidance that directs them to put their ideas
6 into the interactive website. If we need
7 additional guidance, I'm sure we can work with
8 staff to come up with it.

9 MR. ROUSON: And do you anticipate
10 that -- you know, last time when we did this,
11 we took this show on the road, to borrow a
12 term, and people were able to come to their
13 local arena or venue to testify. Is there any
14 thought to virtual appearances by members of
15 the public?

16 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Both of those
17 concepts are still under consideration at this
18 time.

19 Do we have any questions on this side?
20 Seeing none, we'll move on to Agenda Item 2,
21 Tab 2. We'll actually go ahead and do Tabs 2,
22 3, and 4. And I'm going to recognize our
23 staff director, Mr. Ferrin, for presentations
24 on our committee's jurisdiction, redistricting
25 terminology, timeline, and on the census and

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 25

1 census data. Mr. Ferrin, you're recognized.

2 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
3 and good afternoon, members. Happy to be here
4 or back here.

5 I wanted to -- we wanted to start out
6 today with a general overview of the committee
7 process, committee jurisdiction. Get -- make
8 sure everyone's familiar with a lot of the
9 terminology we'll use throughout this process.
10 I know a lot of you have been involved in it
11 in different capacities in the past, but this
12 is probably a good opportunity for a refresher
13 and review of the basic subject matter.

14 So today's presentations are a high-
15 level orientation of what redistricting is and
16 why we do it. I anticipate that in subsequent
17 meetings we'll have opportunities to delve a
18 little further into more detail on the legal
19 environment, the way that we measure the
20 criteria that we'll be using and talking about
21 today, and the methodology that we'll use to
22 draw districts.

23 So to begin with the committee's
24 jurisdiction, the Senate Committee on
25 Reapportionment creates redistricting plans

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 26

1 for the Florida -- for Florida's congressional
2 and state legislative districts to account for
3 population shifts revealed by data from the
4 2020 census. As you know, we do this every
5 ten years, as directed by the Florida
6 Constitution, which states that the
7 legislature, at its regular session in the
8 second year following each decennial census,
9 shall apportion the state in accordance with
10 the constitution of the state and of the
11 United States.

12 This cycle of our regular session will
13 begin on January 11th, 2022, and as the census
14 data that was released in a Legacy format on
15 August 12th and formally delivered on
16 September 16th revealed, Florida grew by about
17 2.7 million people and gained one additional
18 seat in Congress. For various reasons that
19 we'll discuss later today, this data was
20 delivered more than four months after the
21 April 1st, 2021, deadline prescribed in
22 federal law.

23 The data that was released in August
24 was the same data that was delivered last
25 week. The difference between a Legacy format

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 27

1 data and the formal release that we got last
2 week is that the Legacy data is coded in a
3 series of tables. They're unformatted,
4 without clear field labels, and so they have
5 to be processed in order to be useful. The
6 formal data release is a much more pre-
7 formatted and user-friendly format that's
8 currently available on data.census.gov and is
9 being added to our redistricting software.

10 We can jump to the constitutional
11 authority for redistricting. The legislature
12 and its committees drive the authority to
13 redraw congressional districts from the
14 elections clause of the United States
15 Constitution. It directs state legislatures
16 to regulate the times, places, and manner of
17 conducting elections for Congress.

18 We derive our authority to redraw state
19 legislative districts from Article III,
20 Section 16 of the Florida Constitution, which
21 directs the legislature to adopt a
22 redistricting plan for state legislative
23 districts in the second year after each
24 census. In this case, that would be 2022.

25 As I previously mentioned, the regular

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 28

1 session will begin on January 11th. In
2 redistricting years, the regular session has
3 always started in January rather than March,
4 and this is to afford the greatest amount of
5 time possible for adoption and implementation
6 of redistricting plans.

7 One of the questions that usually pops
8 up at some point during this process is, what
9 is the difference between reapportionment and
10 redistricting. They're frequently used
11 interchangeably, and for all intents and
12 purposes mean the drawing of new district
13 boundaries for the purposes of representation.
14 The term redistricting refers to the process
15 by which boundaries of electoral districts are
16 redrawn to adjust for uneven population growth
17 revealed by the latest decennial census.
18 State legislatures, county commissions, and
19 city commissions redistrict.

20 Reapportionment is the process of
21 assigning seats in a legislative body amongst
22 preexisting political subdivisions such as
23 states or counties. Following each census,
24 the 435 seats in the United States House of
25 Representatives are apportioned to each state

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 29

1 based on state population. Each state gets at
2 least one seat, but the larger the state
3 population, the more congressional
4 representation the state will receive.

5 As I mentioned, based on the 2020
6 census, Florida received an additional seat to
7 bring the total number to 28, and that's in
8 the U.S. House. We have two United States
9 Senate representatives, as well.

10 The term reapportionment gets used in
11 Florida because it's used to assign -- because
12 Florida used to assign districts based on
13 county boundaries. Article III, Section 16 of
14 the Florida Constitution, also, refers to the
15 process of redrawing State House and State
16 Senate districts as legislative apportionment.

17 So aside from the constitutional
18 requirements to redraw boundaries every ten
19 years, why do we do this? The primary reason
20 is to comply with the equal population
21 requirements of the United States and Florida
22 Constitutions. The equal population standard
23 for the congressional districts is based on
24 Article I, Section 2 of the United States
25 Constitution, as interpreted by the U.S.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 30

1 Supreme Court in Wesberry v. Sanders in 1964.

2 The Court stated that representatives
3 be chosen by the people of the several states
4 means that, as nearly as is practicable, one
5 person's vote in a congressional election is
6 to be worth as much as another's. This has
7 come to be known as the one-person, one-vote
8 principle and compels us to draw congressional
9 districts that have a population variance of
10 plus or minus one person.

11 The equal population standard for state
12 legislative districts is based on the 14th
13 Amendment's equal protection clause, as
14 interpreted by the United States Supreme Court
15 in Reynolds v. Sims in 1964.

16 The Court stated that because there is
17 a significantly larger number of seats in
18 state legislative bodies to be distributed
19 within a state than congressional seats, it
20 may be feasible to use the political
21 subdivision lines while still affording
22 adequate representation to all parts of the
23 state.

24 The Court, also, stated that
25 mathematical nicety is not a constitutional

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 31

1 requisite but nevertheless, states that the
2 overriding objective must be substantial
3 equality of the population amongst the various
4 districts. This has been interpreted and
5 applied to mean that districts should have no
6 more than a 10 percent difference in their
7 population.

8 Florida's Constitution also contains
9 provisions regarding equal population in
10 Article III, Section 20 and 21, which states
11 in Subsection B, the district shall be as
12 nearly equal in population as is practicable.

13 The equal population criteria contained
14 in the United States Constitution is contained
15 in Article I, Section 2, and in the Fourteenth
16 Amendment, but other redistricting criteria
17 exists in the Florida Constitution, the
18 Federal Voting Rights Act, and in Florida
19 statutes.

20 Protections against diminishment or
21 reduction in the ability of racial or language
22 minorities to elect representatives of their
23 choice are in the Florida Constitution and in
24 the Federal Voting Rights Act.

25 Prohibitions on drawing a plan or

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 32

1 district with intent to favor or just favor a
2 political party or incumbent are in the
3 Florida Constitution. Requirements for
4 districts to be contiguous are in -- contained
5 in the Florida Constitution.

6 Requests for districts to be compact
7 are in the Florida Constitution, and
8 requirement for district boundaries to, where
9 feasible, utilize existing political and
10 geographic features are in the Florida
11 Constitution.

12 The requirement to use data from the
13 most recent decennial census is contained in
14 Section 11.031 of Florida Statutes and in
15 Article X, Section 8 of the Florida
16 Constitution.

17 The minority voting right -- excuse me.
18 The minority protections of the Voting Rights
19 Act are applied in the redistricting context.
20 The Voting Rights Act prohibits any state or
21 political subdivision from enacting a map that
22 results in the denial or abridgment of any
23 U.S. citizen's right to vote on account of
24 race, color, or status as a member of a racial
25 or language minority group. And it prohibits

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 33

1 purposeful discrimination and protects against
2 retrogression or backsliding in the ability of
3 racial minorities to elect representatives of
4 their choice.

5 The Voting Rights Act contains a couple
6 of pertinent sections. Section 2 compels the
7 drawing of a majority/minority district -- or
8 excuse me -- compels the drawing of a district
9 that performs for racial and language minority
10 where what are known as the Gingles Conditions
11 are met. These conditions come from Thornburg
12 v. Gingles, a 1986 case out of North Carolina.

13 They require us to draw a performing
14 minority district where, one, a minority
15 population is geographically compact, and it's
16 sufficiently numerous to be a majority in a
17 single district; two, the minority population
18 is politically cohesive; three, the majority
19 votes sufficiently as a block to enable it to
20 usually defeat the minority-preferred
21 candidate; and four, under all of the
22 circumstances, minority population has less
23 opportunity than others to participate in the
24 political process and elect representatives of
25 its choice.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 34

1 The other pertinent section is Section
2 5, and Section 5 differs somewhat from Section
3 2 in that it doesn't necessarily compel the
4 creation of minority -- minority districts.
5 Rather, it prohibits purposeful discrimination
6 and protects against retrogression or
7 backsliding in the existing ability of racial
8 and language minorities to elect
9 representatives of their choice. It contains
10 a coverage formula that was applied to
11 determine if there was a history of
12 discrimination against racial or language
13 minorities in a particular jurisdiction.

14 In Florida, Hardee, Henry,
15 Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties were
16 coverage jurisdictions until the coverage
17 formula was invalidated by the United States
18 Supreme Court in 2013 in a case called Shelby
19 County v. Holder. It's worth noting that the
20 Shelby decision means that the pre-clearance
21 process established by the Voting Rights Act
22 is no longer in effect, but it does not affect
23 the validity of the diminishment standard in
24 the Florida Constitution.

25 The Florida Constitution contains

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 35

1 several other provisions related to
2 redistricting. Article III, Section 16 is our
3 guidance to the -- the general rationale for
4 dividing House and Senate districts. It
5 requires the state to be divided in 30 or --
6 30 to 40 contiguous and consequently-numbered
7 senatorial districts and into between 80 and
8 120 contiguous and consequently-numbered house
9 districts. A district is considered to be
10 contiguous if all of its territories in actual
11 contact and are uninterrupted by the territory
12 of another district. The courts have ruled
13 that contact at a corner or a right-angle is
14 insufficient, but territory may cross bodies
15 of water.

16 Consequently-numbered districts have
17 been interpreted to mean that districts cannot
18 skip numbers. We cannot, for example, number
19 all the Senate Districts with odd numbers. It
20 does not mean that District 1 has to share a
21 boundary with District 2 and District 2 has to
22 share a boundary with District 3 and so on and
23 so forth. And one other note on this is
24 provision in the constitution is that -- that
25 it technically does allow the state

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 36

1 legislative districts to overlap, either
2 partially or entirely. However, this has not
3 been done since the state switched to single-
4 member districts.

5 Moving on to Article III, Sections 20
6 and 21. These were added to the constitution
7 by the voters in 2010. Article III, Section
8 20, which deals with congressional, and
9 Section 21, which deals with legislative
10 provisions, prohibit line drawing that
11 intentionally favors or disfavors a political
12 party or incumbent. The sections, also,
13 afford protection to racial and language
14 minorities and provide additional standards
15 for the drawing of plans and districts.

16 Subsection A states that no
17 apportionment plan or district shall be drawn
18 with the intent to favor or disfavor a
19 political part of incumbent. Districts shall
20 not be drawn with the intent or a result of
21 denying or abridging the equal opportunity of
22 racial or language minorities to participate
23 in a pollical process or to diminish their
24 ability to elect representatives of their
25 choice. And then finally, districts shall

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 37

1 be -- of -- consist of contiguous territory.

2 Subsection B states that unless
3 compliance with the standards of the
4 section -- subsection conflict with the
5 standards in Subsection A or with federal law,
6 districts shall be nearly equal in population
7 that is practicable. Districts shall be
8 compact, and districts shall, where feasible,
9 utilize existing political geographic
10 boundaries.

11 Subsection C clarifies that the order
12 in which the standards within Subsections A
13 and B are set forth shall not be read to
14 establish any priority of one standard over
15 the other within that subsection.

16 The criteria that we just went over has
17 been broken out into two tiers by the Florida
18 Supreme Court in Apportionment 1. Tier one
19 consists of the provisions contained in
20 Subsection A relating to diminishment and
21 intent to favor/disfavor a political party or
22 incumbent, as well as the contiguity
23 provision.

24 Tier two apply, unless these -- unless
25 they conflict with tier one or federal law,

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 38

1 and these are dealing with the equal
2 population, district compactness, and
3 utilization of political and geographic
4 boundaries. And as I've already noted, as
5 long as they don't -- they cannot be read to
6 establish any one priority over another within
7 that tier.

8 We can take a breather or move on to
9 terminology.

10 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Do we have any -- do
11 the members have any questions? Yes, let's go
12 ahead and do questions before we move on.
13 Senator Gibson, you're recognized for a
14 question.

15 MS. GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
16 the districts shall be compact in tier two, I
17 know previously we used Reock scores, I think,
18 and Convex Hull scores ad nauseum, those
19 words. And so since it's not -- there's no
20 real definition in the materials that we have
21 that speaks to compactness, is there some
22 anticipation that -- or why did we use Convex
23 Hull and Reock scores?

24 And then, if you could talk about the
25 appropriateness of following that same method

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 39

1 in this cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIR RODRIGUES: You're recognized.

3 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
4 and Senator Gibson. We -- you're correct. We
5 used a score called a Reock score, a Convex
6 Hull score, and then a Polsby-Popper score.
7 And those three scores are all on a -- they're
8 scored on a range of zero to one, so it's a
9 proportional measurement. They measure
10 different things.

11 Generally speaking, a Reock is going to
12 measure how much a district resembles a
13 circle. A Convex Hull is a test for,
14 basically, indentations. So a star would
15 score very poorly on a Convex Hull, but a
16 square or a rectangle would score highly. And
17 then Polsby-Popper is a perimeter ratio so
18 that -- that kind of tests for jagged edges,
19 so to speak. And so the smoother the edges of
20 a district, the higher the score would be
21 there.

22 Those are the three that I would
23 anticipate using in addition to, as the
24 Supreme Court stated, the Intraocular Test,
25 which is just a visual review for compactness.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 40

1 I believe that you will see those three
2 available in the software very soon.

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Any further
4 questions? Okay. Let's move on to the next
5 tab.

6 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 So the terminology, a lot of this I've already
8 kind of mentioned, and some of you may be
9 familiar with. We've talked about equal
10 population and the requirements in the U.S.
11 Constitution for equally-weighted votes.

12 The equal population, as I've
13 mentioned, for congressional districts is plus
14 or minus one person. It's generally higher in
15 terms of legislative districts. The courts
16 have allowed in the past in different
17 circumstances up to a 10 percent overall
18 range. The legislature here in Florida has
19 typically drawn Senate and House districts
20 with deviations of less than 1 or 2 percent.

21 The ideal population is the total state
22 population divided by the number of districts,
23 and so that's our target population as we're
24 drawing districts in terms of what we're
25 trying to get to. Ideal populations based on

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 41

1 the 2020 census are as follows:

2 For congressional, it's 769,221. For
3 Florida Senate districts, it's going to be
4 538,455. And for the House, it'll be 4 -- or
5 excuse me -- 179,485.

6 Voting age population refers to the
7 number of --

8 MR. BEAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to
9 interrupt. Can you give those numbers one
10 more time? I was writing them down. I
11 missed -- missed them. Starting with the
12 congressional.

13 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
14 and Senator Bean. So congressional is 7-6-9-
15 2-2-1. The Senate districts will be 5-3-8-4-
16 5-5. The House districts will be 1-7-9-4-8-5,
17 and I believe I've got a slide later on that's
18 going to have those numbers on it and compare
19 them to the old numbers.

20 And so back to the voting age
21 population, that's the number of people in a
22 district or a plan that are -- excuse me -- in
23 a district that are over 18 years of age and
24 represents the potential electorate in a
25 district.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 42

1 And then population deviation is the
2 difference between the ideal population and
3 the population of a district or plan. It's
4 calculated for individual districts and the
5 redistricting plan as a whole. We often
6 express this as a percentage, and that's
7 calculated by dividing the deviation of a
8 district by the ideal population.

9 At the district level, population
10 deviation is measured as the amount of a
11 district's total population minus its ideal
12 population, and that can be positive or
13 negative. At the plan level, population
14 deviation is the numeric range between the
15 smallest total population and the largest
16 total population of a district.

17 This slide contains some redistricting
18 terms related to map drawing and the criteria
19 found in the Florida Constitution. A
20 benchmark plan is the last legally-enforceable
21 redistricting plan enforcer effect. A
22 proposed redistricting plan is compared to a
23 benchmark plan to analyze its compliance with
24 protections for racial and language minorities
25 under federal and state law. In Florida, the

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 43

1 benchmark plans will be named and referred to
2 as follows:

3 For the congressional plan, you'll see
4 that as FLCD 2016 for 2016 in its date of
5 adoption. FLHD 2012 would be the House
6 benchmark, and FLSD 2016 would be the Senate
7 benchmark. And those are your current
8 districts today.

9 Retrogression occurs when a
10 redistricting plan reduces the opportunity of
11 a racial or language minority to participate
12 in the political process or elect
13 representatives of their choice when compared
14 to the benchmark plan. Retrogression can
15 apply to a whole redistricting plan or to an
16 individual district.

17 Diminishment is similar in that it
18 occurs when a redistricting plan eliminates a
19 majority minority district or potentially
20 weakens a historically-performing minority
21 district where doing so would actually reduce
22 the ability of racial or language minority
23 groups to elect candidates of their choice, as
24 compared to the benchmark plan.

25 Geographic boundaries. For geographic

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 44

1 boundaries, we use easily ascertainable and
2 commonly understood features, such as rivers,
3 railways, and primary and secondary roads.
4 Primary and secondary roads are actually
5 defined by the United States Census Bureau in
6 their -- their data -- geographical dataset.
7 They include interstates, U.S. highways, and
8 state highways. County roads are not included
9 in that as -- as some of the roads in those
10 categories can range from a six-lane highway
11 to a dirt road.

12 And then finally, political boundaries
13 in the redistricting context has been defined
14 by the courts as county or incorporated
15 municipality boundaries, so your cities, town,
16 villages, et cetera. We have 412 of those
17 here in Florida for this cycle.

18 This slide here has an image for the
19 geographical hierarchy that's used by the
20 census. So the smallest feature that we'll
21 use is the census block. Blocks are formed by
22 streets, roads, bodies of water, and other
23 physical features and legal boundaries that
24 are shown on U.S. Census Bureau maps.

25 Census block groups are clusters of

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 45

1 census blocks within a census tract. Tracts
2 are small, relatively-permanent statical
3 subdivisions of a county and are delineated by
4 the local participants as part of the U.S.
5 Census Bureau's Participants Statistical Areas
6 Program.

7 Counties are the primary legal
8 subdivisions of the state and are used for
9 reporting census -- decennial census data. So
10 each of those nests within each other.

11 Here we have some definitions and terms
12 related to the different kinds of districts
13 that can be drawn for racial or language
14 minority opportunities. The -- these are kind
15 of listed in the order of significance. So a
16 majority minority district is a district in
17 which racial or language minority groups
18 comprise a majority, which is 50 percent plus
19 1 or more of the voting age population of the
20 district.

21 An effective minority district is a
22 district that contains sufficient voting age
23 population to provide the minority community
24 with an opportunity to elect a candidate of
25 choice but falls short of a majority.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 46

1 A crossover district is a district in
2 which a racial or language minority group is
3 not a numerical majority but is potentially
4 large enough to elect its preferred candidate
5 by persuading enough majority voters to cross
6 over to support the minorities' preferred
7 candidate.

8 A coalition district is a district in
9 which more than one racial or language
10 minority group working together can form a
11 majority to elect their candidates of choice.

12 And then lastly is an influence
13 district, which is a district in which the
14 racial or language minority community,
15 although not sufficiently large enough to
16 elect a candidate of its choice, is able to
17 influence the outcome of an election and elect
18 a candidate who will be responsive to the
19 interests and concerns of the minority
20 community.

21 That would conclude that portion of the
22 presentation, sir, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Do we have any
24 questions on this tab?

25 Seeing none, let's move on to Tab 4,

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 47

1 Census -- Census Data Explanation.

2 MALE VOICE: (Inaudible).

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Oh, I'm sorry. I
4 missed the timeline. Let's go back and
5 complete the timeline.

6 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 So the beginning of this -- this
8 process starts with April 1st, 2020, which is
9 the census day. And the census responses,
10 although they're collected over a period of
11 time, are used -- are tied to April 1st. So
12 if you're filling out a response later on in
13 the summer, the question that the Census
14 Bureau is asking you as a respondent is where
15 were you residing on April 1st, 2020.

16 April 26th was the day that the Census
17 Bureau released the state-wide population
18 totals for apportioning the seats in the
19 United States House of Representatives. That
20 was originally scheduled under the kind of
21 normal cycle to have been December 31st, 2020.

22 On August 12th, 2021, the Census Bureau
23 published tabular population demographic and
24 housing data for all 50 states. That was the
25 delivery and availability of the Legacy format

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 48

1 census data. That should have been available
2 on April 1st, 2021.

3 Last week, on September 16th, we
4 received the formal delivery of the formatted,
5 P.L. 94-171 redistricting data, which is the
6 same data that was delivered as -- in the
7 Legacy format. That was delivered to the
8 states last week. That date should have,
9 also, been April 1st.

10 Typically, in a cycle, that data is
11 released together. It was broken up this
12 cycle. Due to the delays, the Census Bureau
13 opted to get the Legacy format data out there
14 as soon as possible and then continue working
15 to deliver the formatted data by the end of
16 September.

17 And then lastly there, you see in --
18 later this month or within the month, we plan
19 on launching the joint website and the free
20 publicly-available map-drawing application.

21 Here we have a list of the interim
22 committee weeks and the prospective dates for
23 interim committee meetings. So our next week
24 that we would be available to meet would be
25 October 11th, followed by October 18th to

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 49

1 22nd, November 1st through 5th, November 15th
2 through 19th, and November 29th through
3 December 3rd. Because we're kind of going
4 full-blast here and operating at full speed, I
5 would expect at this time, unless told
6 differently, that we would plan on meeting
7 each of those weeks.

8 This slide has some of the important
9 session and post-session dates on it. So we
10 will -- as I mentioned, we'll convene on
11 January 11th, 2022, for regular session. The
12 60th day of that session would be March 11th,
13 2022.

14 June 13th to 17th is qualifying for
15 state and federal offices. The mailing of the
16 overseas ballots, which is the first sort of
17 ballot delivery and -- and everything would
18 have to be finalized, not only in advance of
19 qualifying, but the date for supervisors to
20 mail the first ballots overseas is July 9th,
21 2022.

22 August 23rd is the primary election.
23 The supervisors will, also, have to send out
24 ballots on September 24th for the general
25 election, and then we have the general

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 50

1 election date of November 8th, 2022.

2 Part of the timeline process is
3 governed by Article III, Section 16 of the
4 Florida Constitution, which includes the
5 provisions for the automatic facial review of
6 the state legislative redistricting plans.
7 Article III, Section 16 states that within 15
8 days after the passage of the joint resolution
9 of apportionment, the attorney general shall
10 petition the Supreme Court of the state for a
11 declaratory judgment determining the validity
12 of the apportionment.

13 The Supreme Court shall permit
14 adversary interests to present their views and
15 within 30 days from the filing of the petition
16 shall enter its judgment. A judgment of the
17 Supreme Court of the state determining that
18 the apportionment to be -- is -- to -- excuse
19 me -- determining the apportionment to be
20 valid, shall be binding upon all the citizens
21 of the state.

22 Should the Supreme Court determine that
23 the apportionment made by the legislature is
24 invalid, the governor by proclamation shall
25 reconvene the legislature within five days

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 51

1 thereafter in extraordinary apportionment
2 session, during which the legislature shall
3 adopt a joint resolution of apportionment
4 conforming to the judgment of the Florida
5 Supreme Court.

6 Within 15 days after the adjournment of
7 an extraordinary apportionment session, the
8 attorney general is again required to file a
9 petition to the Supreme Court setting forth
10 the apportionment resolution adopted by the
11 legislature.

12 If none was adopted during the
13 extraordinary apportionment session, the
14 attorney general is required to report that
15 fact to the court. Otherwise, consideration
16 of the validity of the joint resolution shall
17 be -- had -- as provided in -- for in cases of
18 such joint resolution being adopted at a
19 regular or special apportionment session.

20 And then lastly, if the legislature
21 fails to adopt a resolution of apportionment
22 or if the Supreme Court finds the
23 apportionment to be invalid again, the court
24 has 60 days after receiving the petition from
25 the attorney general to file with the

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 52

1 secretary of state an order making the
2 apportionment.

3 The next slide that we have here is a
4 bit of a flow chart that shows the path for
5 the state legislative redistricting plans that
6 we just walked through. The color coding here
7 indicates which paths were followed for which
8 decade. This will be available on the website
9 when we launch it, and so I won't walk through
10 the particulars of the past history. I think
11 we may have an opportunity to do that at
12 subsequent meetings, as well.

13 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Do we have any
14 questions on the timeline?

15 Seeing none, now we can move forward to
16 the Census/Census Data Explanation.

17 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Established by the U.S. Constitution,
19 the census has been conducted every ten years
20 since 1790 to determine the number of people
21 living in the United States. Article I,
22 Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires
23 this to be an actual enumeration of all people
24 in the United States. Actual enumeration
25 means a physical count, and the Constitution

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 53

1 has been determined to not allow for the use
2 of sampling in lieu of an actual count.

3 For redistricting, Florida is one of 21
4 states that explicitly requires the use of
5 census data for redistricting. As I mentioned
6 in Article X, Section 8, states that -- each
7 decennial census of the state taken by the
8 United States shall be an official census of
9 the state. The fourth statute -- the
10 statutory provision in Florida, also,
11 designates the most recently federally
12 conducted federal census as the official
13 census for redistricting.

14 I've already touched a little bit on
15 the hierarchy that's used by the census, but
16 it's worth noting that the geography comes
17 from a different source than the actual
18 demographic and population data. The
19 geographic data that we use for redistricting
20 comes in the form of TIGER/Line shape files
21 that are released by the Census Bureau.

22 And these are extracts of selected
23 geographic information from the United States
24 Census Bureau's database. It includes polygon
25 boundaries with geographic areas and features,

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 54

1 linear features, including roads and
2 hydrography, and point features, such as
3 landmarks.

4 The state does not contain any
5 sensitive or -- information or data on
6 population on demographics. That's linked to
7 later from censuses and other surveys through
8 a standard geographic identifier that we refer
9 to as the geo ID. And one other note is that
10 Census Bureau is constantly updating this. We
11 use the 2020 version that was released earlier
12 this year.

13 We can talk a little bit about the race
14 and ethnicity categories in the census data,
15 so since 1980, the Census Bureau has asked
16 each person counted to identify their race and
17 whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino
18 origin. An individual's response to the race
19 and ethnicity questions are based on self-
20 identification. The United States Office of
21 Management and Budget established these
22 standards in 1997, and they are as follows:

23 For racial categories, it's American
24 Indian or Native Alaskan. And these are
25 person having origins in any of the original

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 55

1 peoples of North and South America, including
2 Centra America, and who maintains -- excuse
3 me -- maintains tribal affiliation or
4 community attachment.

5 Asian means a person having origins in
6 any of the original peoples of the Far East,
7 Southeast Asia or the Indian Subcontinent,
8 including for example Cambodia, China, India,
9 Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the
10 Philippine Islands.

11 Black or African American means a
12 person having origins in any of the Black
13 racial groups of Africa.

14 Native or Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
15 is a person having origins of any of the
16 original people of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or
17 other Pacific Islands.

18 And then White is a person having
19 origins in any of the original peoples of
20 Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

21 The ethnicity question on the Census
22 Bureau or census forms asks whether or not a
23 respondent is of Hispanic or Latino origin or
24 if they are not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanic
25 or Latino has traditionally meant a person of

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 56

1 Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South America --
2 South or Central American, or other Spanish
3 culture origin, regardless of race.

4 So it's important to note that the
5 categories of race include the national origin
6 and sociocultural groups. People can chose to
7 report more than one race to indicate their
8 racial mixture, and in fact, race alone can
9 result in up to 63 different combinations.
10 And people who identify their origin as
11 Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish may be of any
12 race.

13 Talk briefly about group quarters. So
14 in 2020, the census continued -- Census Bureau
15 continued to count prisoners, college
16 students, and people in other resident
17 situations, such as nursing homes, at the
18 group location where they lived and slept most
19 of the time. This is the way it's been done
20 in the past, and by far, the majority of
21 states use population and residence data
22 reported in the census as is.

23 A handful of states have changed their
24 procedures for allocating incarcerated --
25 incarcerated persons for redistricting

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 57

1 purposes. And these states, whenever it's
2 possible, they reallocate prisoners from the
3 prison location to their residence prior to
4 incarceration. To date, eight states, which
5 includes California, Colorado, Delaware,
6 Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York,
7 Virginia, and Washington, have passed laws
8 about how incarcerated persons are counted and
9 allocated during the redistricting process.

10 Personal -- protecting privacy within
11 census data. So since 2000, the Bureau has
12 used a practice called data swapping between
13 census blocks as its main disclosure avoidance
14 technique. And for an example of data
15 swapping, we can consider a census block with
16 just 20 people in it, including one Filipino
17 American without any disclosure of
18 (inaudible), it might be possible to figure
19 out the identity of that individual.

20 With the data swapping applied, that
21 person's data might be swapped with that of an
22 Anglo-American from a nearby census block
23 where other Filipino Americans reside. The
24 details for that person would be aggregated
25 with the others, and therefore, it would be

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 58

1 not be identifiable. Yet the total population
2 would remain accurate.

3 Since recent developments and the
4 advent of big data and technical advancement
5 make it theoretically possible to take the
6 many data products that the Census Bureau
7 produces and cross-reference them with each
8 other or with outside data sources to the
9 point that (inaudible) could be compromised,
10 the Census Bureau chose to review their
11 disclosure avoidance techniques and reconsider
12 other methods. In 2018, they selected
13 differential privacy for use during the 2020
14 census.

15 With differential privacy, the total
16 population in each state is as enumerated.
17 But all other levels of geography -- so tract,
18 counties, census block group -- have some
19 variance from the raw data. And the Census
20 Bureau refers to this as noise. And noise
21 would not be injected into the state
22 population, but the smaller units it can be
23 expected.

24 And it's important to note here that
25 when reaggregated, that level of noise is --

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 59

1 is -- goes away and results in a usable and
2 accurate count.

3 I mentioned the TIGER geometry that we
4 use in the geographical data. It's worth
5 noting that during the 2020 legislative
6 session, Florida -- the legislature passed two
7 bills that made changes to its political
8 subdivisions. Senate Bill 616 adjusted the
9 boundary lines of Indian River County and St.
10 Lucie County. That bill was signed into law
11 by Governor DeSantis on June 9th, 2020. And
12 Committee Substitute for House Bill 1215
13 abolished the City of Weeki Wachee, which was
14 one square mile and a population of nine.
15 That, also, took effect -- was signed and took
16 effect on June 9th, 2020.

17 Because we used the January 1, 2020,
18 data from the Census Bureau rather than the
19 census day -- or in addition to the fact that
20 these became law after census day, these
21 changes are not reflected in our geographical
22 population and demographic data, so we'll
23 still have the City of Weeki Wachee in our
24 dataset.

25 I've mentioned this a little bit before

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 60

1 already related to the census delays, and this
2 slide is taken from a presentation that the
3 Census Bureau delivered to us back in, I
4 believe it was, May. But these are some of
5 the factors that the Bureau has cited for the
6 delay and the reasons the data was delivered
7 late.

8 This includes COVID-19, four tropical
9 systems that made landfall, wildfires on the
10 West Coast, civil unrest, and legal
11 challenges. And most of those occurred during
12 the door-to-door follow-up -- nonresponse
13 follow-up count portion of the census, which
14 did disrupt the collection and then,
15 subsequently, the processing of the data.

16 And we can go -- we can break there or
17 go right into same additional data points.

18 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Do we have questions
19 on what's been presented? Senator Gibson,
20 you're recognized for a question.

21 MS. GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Going back to the race and ethnicity in the
23 census data, I thought there were questions of
24 race that were not represented in the handout.
25 For example, I think there were individual --

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 61

1 do you know if these are all the categories
2 that were questions on the census, by any
3 chance? And if not, if we can make sure that
4 we have that for the next time because I
5 thought there were -- there was some biracial
6 or other questions, even an "other" that was
7 reported when it came to race and ethnicity.

8 And I'm asking that in light of -- as
9 we begin to look at districts and minority
10 districts and how those -- how those
11 categories of race play into any potential
12 diminishment or -- if you understand what I'm
13 saying.

14 CHAIR RODRIGUES: You're recognized.

15 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
16 and Senator Gibson. That's, actually, an
17 excellent point. I did neglect to mention
18 that there is a field for other race. It's
19 available on the -- where respondents can
20 write in whatever they want, and the Census
21 Bureau will tabulate them that way.

22 But it's important to remember that for
23 redistricting purposes, we can -- we can
24 cross-tabulate. So -- so if a person can mark
25 multiple races -- and in fact, they can select

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 62

1 all of them. And when they do that, we, in
2 the redistricting dataset that we compile and
3 use in our software, we will count every
4 person that has indicated that race as part of
5 that group.

6 So for example, with African -- Black
7 or African American population, we count
8 anyone who responded that they were any
9 combination of race that included Black or
10 African American, and we also include whether
11 or not they were Hispanic. And so all that's
12 accounted for, and when we do the functional
13 analysis and we review that, we're looking at
14 the categories of anyone who would have
15 responded that they were that race in any
16 combination. Hopefully, that answers your
17 question.

18 MS. GIBSON: So a -- sorry, Mr. --

19 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Go ahead. You're
20 recognized.

21 MS. GIBSON: A combination leans
22 towards a particular race, so if -- if someone
23 put that they were African American and White
24 or African American and Hispanic, what's the
25 dominant race that we're counting them as --

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 63

1 CHAIR RODRIGUES: You're recognized.

2 MS. GIBSON: -- because, obviously,
3 they're not counting themselves that way.

4 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 So we follow the OMB guidance, which I didn't
6 go into in great detail, but provides that for
7 the purposes of analyzing against,
8 essentially, discriminatory behavior and
9 Department of Justice review for things like
10 redistricting plans, we are supposed to count
11 all available population.

12 So -- so essentially, if you marked
13 that you were a -- a Black or African American
14 and White, you would be counted in the Black
15 population because you would, theoretically,
16 have standing to bring a discriminatory claim
17 in that circumstance.

18 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Senator Rouson,
19 you're recognized for a question.

20 MR. ROUSON: Thank you very much, Mr.
21 Chairman. And I think you mentioned it, but I
22 just want to be clear, and I want the public
23 to be clear. On group quarters, Florida
24 continues to count prisoners and college
25 students at the location where they were on

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 64

1 April 1st of 2020, as opposed to their home or
2 before they were incarcerated?

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: You're recognized.

4 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
5 and Senator Rouson. The Census Bureau counts
6 them there. We do not edit the census data
7 and reassign them to another geographic
8 location.

9 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Any further
10 questions? Senator Bradley, you're
11 recognized.

12 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 In the previous slide, you outlined what the
14 census delays. And I just wondered if you
15 could give a sense of the overall
16 participation rate, even with those delays, of
17 the 2020 census, maybe compared to prior years
18 or whether it was a -- what the participation
19 rate was in 2020.

20 CHAIR RODRIGUES: You're recognized.

21 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
22 and Senator Bradley. This -- Florida had a
23 99.9 percent enumeration rate, so -- so the
24 Census Bureau calculates the total number of
25 households that they have on record, and 99.9

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 65

1 percent of those households responded to the
2 census in 2020. I don't know the 2010 number
3 off the top of my head.

4 MS. BRADLEY: (Inaudible).

5 MR. FERRIN: But I know the 2021 was
6 99.9.

7 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Any further
8 questions?

9 Seeing none, let's move on to Census
10 Data.

11 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 And so to speak a little bit about some of the
13 trends that we've seen in the census data, one
14 of the underlying themes is the shift in -- or
15 continued trend towards population
16 congregation in metropolitan areas.

17 So the population of the U.S. metro
18 areas grew by 9 percent from 2010 to 2020,
19 resulting in 86. -- 80 -- excuse me -- 86
20 percent of the population living in the United
21 States metro areas, as compared to 85 in 2010.

22 Around 52 percent of the counties in
23 the United States saw their 2020 census
24 populations decrease from the 2010 census.
25 The largest county remains Los Angeles County.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 66

1 The largest city remains New York. But across
2 the United States, 312 of the 384 metro areas
3 gained population. Only a few lost. But one
4 of the fastest growing ones in the United
5 States was, actually, The Villages. It grew
6 39 percent from about 93,000 people to 130,000
7 or so.

8 Here we have some of the Florida-
9 specific facts. So we did surpass New York,
10 become the third-largest state officially. As
11 we just discussed, 99.9 percent of the housing
12 units were counted in the 2020 census. Our
13 total growth was 2,736,877 people from 2010 to
14 2020, and that's almost 15 percent. As I
15 mentioned earlier, The Villages was the
16 fastest-growing metro area in the country and
17 also in the State of Florida.

18 Talking about the self-response rate,
19 which was for the first time this year
20 available online -- so in the past, self-
21 response meant that you received your Census
22 Bureau questionnaire in the mail, you filled
23 it out and responded. It didn't require a
24 door-to-door visit or a nonresponse follow-up.
25 We did improve that a little bit this -- this

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 67

1 cycle and went from 63 percent to 63.8.

2 Additionally, Jacksonville remains the
3 largest incorporated place in Florida, and
4 it's got 9 million -- or excuse me -- 949,611
5 people. And Jacksonville, as many of you
6 know, is also -- coincide with the county
7 boundaries of Duval.

8 Osceola County had the largest county
9 growth rate at 45 percent and growing by about
10 120,000 people. Not surprisingly, then,
11 Florida State Senate District 15 had a similar
12 growth rate, 51 percent, growing 241,000
13 people, which is nearly half of what a senate
14 district used to be.

15 And in the same general area, Florida
16 House District 44 grew 51 percent, and that's
17 by about 80,000, and I believe an ideal
18 district last cycle was somewhere in the
19 neighborhood of 150,000. Congressional
20 District 9, similarly, grew by about a third.
21 So 259,000 people from 2010 to 2020.

22 One of the other things that's been
23 noted in the -- the census data across the
24 country has been that we've had some shifts in
25 how people identify themselves racially.

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 68

1 So that being said, the White
2 population still remains the largest race or
3 ethnicity group in the United States, over 204
4 million people identifying as White alone.
5 Another 35 million bring the total to 235.4
6 million reported being either White alone or
7 in combination with another group. But
8 specifically, the White alone population
9 decreased, and what that means is that we're
10 seeing a trend in which more people are
11 identifying as being White in combination with
12 some other race.

13 Likewise, the multiracial or two or
14 more race population changed. The multiracial
15 population was measured at 9 million people
16 across the country in 2010, and that's now at
17 33.8 million people, which is a 276 percent
18 increase. In Florida, I believe, it exceeded
19 that.

20 The in-combination multiracial
21 populations for all race groups accounted for
22 most of the overall changes within each racial
23 categories, so it wasn't necessarily people
24 identifying as a single race African American
25 or single race Asian; it was people combining

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 69

1 them across different races.

2 And then the next largest races --
3 racial populations were Asian alone or in
4 combination. They're up to 24 million
5 nationwide, and they exceed the American
6 Indian and Alaskan Native alone or in
7 combination group, followed by the Native
8 Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Group.

9 Not surprisingly, as I'm sure many
10 people expected, the Hispanic or Latino
11 population, which includes people of any race,
12 was 61 -- 62.1 million in 2020. This is a
13 growth of 23 percent. The population that has
14 identify itself of not being Hispanic or
15 Latino origin grew 4.3 percent since 2010.

16 A lot of this data is currently visible
17 and available via the Census website. They've
18 provided some demographic map viewers, as well
19 as access to the tabular data and now the
20 interactive tables that you can select which
21 types of information you would like to see in
22 which geographical level. That, also,
23 includes current state legislative and
24 congressional districts. That's all available
25 on data.census.gov. And that would conclude

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 70

1 this portion. We can pause or keep going, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Do we have any
4 questions on this portion?

5 Seeing no questions, let's continue on.

6 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 So the last thing we have for you today is
8 some maps to look at. So these -- these
9 display the over/under populations for the
10 different districts we have here in Florida,
11 so these are the current congressional
12 district boundaries.

13 Here you can see where we have listed
14 the 2010 population versus the state, as well
15 as the difference, the ideal population of the
16 old congressional districts, which was
17 696,000, and the new one, 769,000. So almost
18 a 73,000-person change there, as well as the
19 number of districts that we have.

20 One of the things to kind of note about
21 this map is that because we are gaining a
22 congressional district, the color coding there
23 is going to look a little different. It's --
24 it's -- these districts are going to trend --
25 show to be slightly more over-populated than

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 71

1 they should, if we would to divide and color
2 them by 28 districts -- or excuse me -- 27
3 instead of 28.

4 Here we have the same map and same data
5 points for the State Senate districts, so you
6 can see here that a lot of the districts in
7 North Florida or currently underpopulated, as
8 are the districts in South Florida, as well as
9 some in the Tampa Bay area. Most of the
10 growth in the state, as is displayed by this,
11 occurred along the I-4 Corridor and up along
12 the First Coast in St. Johns and Flagler
13 Counties. Other districts that are
14 overpopulated include in Lee County, District
15 27, but the -- the one that's far and away the
16 most is District 15.

17 Lastly, we have the same kind of slide
18 for the Florida House and their current
19 districts, so looking at this at a more
20 granular level, smaller districts, is going to
21 display some of the population trends in a
22 little more detail. So you can see here,
23 really, the underpopulation and the
24 significance of it in the Big Bend area. You
25 can see the dark blue colors show the

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 72

1 overpopulation, particularly in Central
2 Florida and along the I-4 Corridor, and then
3 you can see the bright red and shading and
4 colors down there in South Florida, as well.

5 All of these will be visible on our
6 website, when it launches in an interactive
7 manner that will allow users to click around
8 and get some more data on the specific
9 districts, including the population numbers
10 from 2010, 2020, and the percent differences,
11 as well. And that would include the
12 presentations, Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Do we have any
14 questions on the map showing the under and
15 over populations of our various chambers?
16 Okay. Senator Rouson, you are recognized.

17 MR. ROUSON: Thank you very much. This
18 may go back to an earlier slide, but the
19 boundaries were adjusted in St. -- in St.
20 Lucie and Martin Counties. Did that
21 significantly add or shed population because
22 of the boundary adjustment?

23 CHAIR RODRIGUES: You're recognized.

24 MR. FERRIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Let me -- the answer is no. The boundary

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 73

1 shift between Indian River County and St.
2 Lucie County was one parcel that was six-
3 tenths of an acre that went from St. Lucie to
4 Indian River, and then Indian River -- excuse
5 me, five and a half acres of land were
6 transferred from Indian River to St. Lucie
7 County.

8 The land -- it's my understanding and
9 recollection was -- those five and a half
10 acres were vacant. There was one house that
11 had a piece of property. Their parcel was
12 divided by the counties, and so they took the
13 one parcel that had a house on it, moved it
14 all to one county, and the other one took some
15 vacant land in exchange, and it was -- should
16 have had little to no -- I mean, the residents
17 of that one house, but other than that, no
18 changes in population would have -- would have
19 occurred.

20 MR. ROUSON: Thank you.

21 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Any other questions?

22 Seeing none, that includes Tab 4.

23 We'll now move on to Tab 5, which is public
24 comment. We'll start with Jonathan Webber
25 with Florida Conservation Voters. Jonathan,

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 74

1 you're recognized.

2 MR. WEBBER: Thank you, Chair. Good
3 morning -- afternoon. My name is Jonathan
4 Webber. I'm the deputy director of Florida
5 Conservation Voters. It's wonderful to be
6 back in the same room with all of you and
7 seeing your faces. We have a lot of important
8 work to do ahead of us, although I will say I
9 will miss the basketball buzzer, which did
10 happen in the civic center in the beginning
11 there. I'll miss that.

12 Fair political districts are the most
13 important aspect of our democratic republic.
14 The integrity -- integrity of our entire
15 system is in those little lines on the map,
16 which are now completely in your hands.

17 Eleven years ago, 63 percent of Florida
18 voters approved the two amendments related to
19 the redistricting process. Thank you so much
20 for reviewing them. These amendments are now
21 part of the state constitution, and like you,
22 I will be referring to these words in the
23 constitution regularly as we engage over the
24 coming weeks and months.

25 But the words in the constitution are

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 75

1 only part of the story, and I strongly and
2 respectfully encourage you -- encourage the
3 following:

4 So please ensure that all map drafts
5 become visible in real time and that all
6 actual work of map-making is livestreamed with
7 audio and video. Preserve all communications
8 about redistricting and make them available as
9 public records.

10 Make all mapping data available in the
11 public -- to the public in a common, usable
12 format.

13 Solicit extensive input from the
14 public.

15 Seek out and work to understand
16 opposing perspectives and points of view.

17 Provide ample notice of all proceedings
18 and public comment opportunities.

19 Find ways to get the people of Florida
20 involved in a meaningful way, even if they do
21 not have the means to travel to Tallahassee,
22 which includes virtual verbal input
23 opportunities. Input and committee meetings
24 is not just enough, especially when Floridians
25 who want to comment on multiple maps sometimes

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 76

1 cannot make it to multiple meetings.

2 And ensure language accessibility for
3 our rich and diverse population. Translation
4 services is a must.

5 And I know that each and every one of
6 you is taking this process seriously, and I
7 want you to know that so are the people of
8 Florida. I'll close by saying the
9 redistricting process demands your best. It
10 demands our best. Future generations are
11 watching, and current generations are counting
12 on you. Thank you all so much. Best of luck.

13 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you for your
14 comments. Next we have Rich Templin with the
15 Florida AFL-CIO. Mr. Templin, you're
16 recognized.

17 MR. TEMPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 What an awesome new space you guys have to
19 work in. This is my first time being in it,
20 so pretty cool.

21 I represent the Florida AFL-CIO. The
22 Florida AFL-CIO, we represent 1.3 million
23 union members, their families, and retirees in
24 every area of the state. We have ten central
25 labor councils in every single geographic

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 77

1 region of Florida, and we have members in all
2 67 counties. And like Leader Gibson, I was
3 here ten years ago, participated in the
4 process, and I can tell you that our members
5 get very engaged in this. It's something that
6 they care a lot about. I actually think that
7 they enjoy it as much as it was interactive in
8 the past and I know will be again in the
9 future.

10 So I'm really just here to avail my
11 organization to you because in so much as
12 getting the word out about how the public can
13 participate and how the public can watch the
14 process and to get to the goals that you all
15 have set for transparency and clarity, we're
16 going to be doing that.

17 And we're going to be taking all of the
18 rules and procedures that you establish and
19 working within those to engage as much of our
20 members as possible, and so we really look
21 forward to watching this process move forward.

22 It was very encouraging what we heard
23 today, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. And we're --
24 we're here, and our members want to be a part
25 of the process. We're a very bipartisan

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 78

1 group, and so we just want to be here to help.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you. Next we
4 have Cecile Scoon with the Florida League of
5 Women Voters. She is the new president. Is
6 she in the room? Thank you. You're
7 recognized.

8 MS. SCOON: Thank you so much for this
9 opportunity. My name is Cecile Scoon, and as
10 stated, I'm the new president of the League of
11 Women Voters of Florida, and I'm coming here
12 as a citizen, I'm coming here as the
13 president, as a member of the league, and as
14 a -- or the league is a member of the Fair
15 Districts Coalition that was, also -- many of
16 these organizations were involved in the
17 redistricting in 2010 and everything that
18 transpired.

19 It's been really very good feeling to
20 hear the recounting of the actual history and
21 the problems that, you know, our state ran
22 into and the waste of time and energy and
23 upset in the, you know, creation of distrust
24 with the people when people in the past
25 represented to promise to follow the law and

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 79

1 then they didn't. They kind of, you know,
2 went around the back door and did all those
3 things.

4 So one of the things that we came up
5 with to try to win back the trust of the
6 people is to ask for representatives and
7 senators to sign a pledge.

8 And the pledge is found on the Fair
9 Districts website, which is
10 fairdistrictscoalition.org, and essentially,
11 it's a -- it's a paragraph, and it's basically
12 just reiterating everything -- many of the
13 things that you already said to being
14 transparent, following the law, you know,
15 adhering to the rules of fairness and
16 everybody getting their equal say, no harm to
17 minority, language, or racial groups, no
18 political gerrymandering, and things of that
19 nature.

20 So it's basically just saying, would
21 you pledge to follow the law that the citizens
22 voted on over 63 percent in the Citizens'
23 Initiative that led to the Fair District
24 Amendments.

25 So I would ask you all, since we're all

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 80

1 here and we're starting anew, to consider
2 signing that pledge and look it over, and if
3 there are any questions, please let us know.
4 So we're very excited about this opportunity.
5 We're looking forward to the continued
6 interaction and for public input.

7 We would ask that the public input be
8 interactionable, in other words the public
9 would have a question or statement and then
10 you would hear it in real time and then
11 respond. I know there are many avenues
12 available with digital and email and all the
13 other things, but it really lights a fire in
14 the citizens' heart to feel excited that they
15 spoke to their representative, they were heard
16 by the elected officials, and that there was a
17 response of some kind to their -- to a
18 question. So we really, really ask you for
19 that.

20 And the other thing I'd like to say is,
21 on the issue of -- I think Senator Rouson had
22 the question about how was the different
23 committees to interact with the media, and I'm
24 not sure I heard a specific answer to that
25 because we just want to know how we're going

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 81

1 to hear from you. Are you going to be
2 accessible to the media, also? Or you know,
3 how is that going to work out? Thank you.

4 CHAIR RODRIGUES: I just have one
5 question before you go.

6 MS. SCOON: Yes.

7 CHAIR RODRIGUES: The language in the
8 Fair Districts pledge -- is the language in
9 the Fair Districts pledge the exact language
10 that is in the Fair Districts Amendment that
11 was adopted into the constitution?

12 MS. SCOON: I don't think it's exact.
13 I've got it right here. It's like a paragraph
14 and a half. Would you like me to read it?

15 CHAIR RODRIGUES: No, ma'am.

16 MS. SCOON: Okay.

17 CHAIR RODRIGUES: I'm just going to
18 share with you my particular position --

19 MS. SCOON: Sure.

20 CHAIR RODRIGUES: -- which is, if the
21 language is not exact, I can't pledge to it.
22 When I took my oath of office, I pledged to
23 uphold the Constitution of the State of
24 Florida, which includes the language that was
25 adopted by the voters in that Fair Districts

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 82

1 Amendment. So if you're asking me to pledge
2 to do something that is outside of that
3 amendment, you're putting me in a position
4 where I would be violating my oath of office,
5 and I just can't do that.

6 MS. SCOON: Yes, I -- I --

7 CHAIR RODRIGUES: But I appreciate your
8 participation.

9 MS. SCOON: yes.

10 CHAIR RODRIGUES: And I appreciate your
11 enthusiasm.

12 MS. SCOON: Thank you. I understand
13 your analysis. I don't think it's outside.
14 It's not -- it doesn't mirror the exact words,
15 but I think -- it's certainly well within the
16 intent, but I -- I respect what you're saying.
17 Thank you, sir.

18 CHAIR RODRIGUES: Thank you.
19 Appreciate it. Do we have any other public
20 comment?

21 Seeing none, do we have any comments
22 from the members before we conclude? Is there
23 any other business to appear before the
24 committee?

25 Seeing none, Senator Stargel moves that

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 83

1 we adjourn. Without objection, we'll show
2 that motion's been adopted. We are adjourned.

3 (End of Video Recording.)

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9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 84

1
2
3
4
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CERTIFICATE

I, Wendy Sawyer, do hereby certify that I was
authorized to and transcribed the foregoing recorded
proceedings, and that the transcript is a true record, to
the best of my ability.

DATED this 15th day of March, 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy Sawyer", is written over a horizontal line.

WENDY SAWYER, CDLT

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 1

A	address 20:1	24:20	Angeles 65:25	47:11,15,16
Aaron 5:8	adequate 30:22	aggregated 57:24	Anglo-American	48:2,9 64:1
ability 31:21 33:2	adhere 15:18	ago 7:4 74:17	57:22	archival 16:25
34:7 36:24	16:14	77:3	another's 30:6	archived 20:22
43:22 84:5	adhering 79:15	agree 15:9	answer 72:25	area 66:16 67:15
able 8:20 22:25	adjourn 83:1	agreed 23:6,8	80:24	71:9,24 76:24
24:12 46:16	adjourned 83:2	ahead 24:21	answers 62:16	areas 45:5 53:25
abolished 59:13	adjournment	38:12 62:19	anticipate 24:9	65:16,18,21
abridging 36:21	51:6	74:8	25:16 39:23	66:2
abridgment	adjust 28:16	aisle 7:21	anticipation	arena 24:13
32:22	adjusted 59:8	akin 19:12	38:22	Article 12:13
access 19:20	72:19	al 1:2	appear 19:8	16:16 27:19
69:19	adjustment	Alaskan 54:24	82:23	29:13,24 31:10
accessibility 76:2	72:22	69:6	appearance 3:23	31:15 32:15
accessible 19:17	administrative	allocated 57:9	18:2	35:2 36:5,7
81:2	4:13	allocating 56:24	appearances	50:3,7 52:21
accomplished	adopt 27:21 51:3	allow 13:14 35:25	24:14	53:6
14:7	51:21	53:1 72:7	Applause 3:18	ascertainable
account 26:2	adopted 18:1	allowed 40:16	applicable 3:21	44:1
32:23	51:10,12,18	altered 12:24	application 48:20	Asia 55:7
accounted 62:12	81:11,25 83:2	amazing 9:16	applied 15:1 31:5	Asian 55:5 68:25
68:21	adoption 12:10	amendment	32:19 34:10	69:3
accounts 16:23	14:10 28:5 43:5	22:18 31:16	57:20	aside 29:17
16:24	advance 49:18	81:10 82:1,3	apply 37:24	asked 54:15
accurate 58:2	advancement	Amendment's	43:15	asking 47:14
59:2	58:4	30:13	appointed 7:19	61:8 82:1
acknowledge	advent 58:4	amendments	12:2	asks 18:25 21:23
18:17	adversary 50:14	12:10,24 21:12	apportion 26:9	55:22
acre 73:3	advocate 14:9	74:18,20 79:24	apportioned	aspect 74:13
acres 73:5,10	17:15	America 55:1,2	28:25	aspects 19:11
Act 31:18,24	advocating 19:12	56:1	apportioning	assign 29:11,12
32:19,20 33:5	affect 34:22	American 54:23	47:18	assigning 28:21
34:21	affiliation 55:3	55:11 56:2	apportionment	assistant 4:14,18
actual 35:10	afford 28:4 36:13	57:17 62:7,10	14:4 15:10	astroturfing
52:23,24 53:2	affording 30:21	62:23,24 63:13	29:16 36:17	17:12
53:17 75:6	AFL-CIO 76:15	68:24 69:5	37:18 50:9,12	attachment 55:4
78:20	76:21,22	Americans 57:23	50:18,19,23	attempt 16:6,12
ad 38:18	Africa 55:13,20	amount 28:4	51:1,3,7,10,13	attend 14:9
add 72:21	African 55:11	42:10	51:19,21,23	attorney 50:9
added 27:9 36:6	62:6,7,10,23,24	ample 75:17	52:2	51:8,14,25
addition 17:20	63:13 68:24	Ana 8:23	appreciate 82:7	audience 3:14
39:23 59:19	afternoon 5:15	analysis 13:4	82:10,19	5:10
additional 24:7	6:5,22 8:21	62:13 82:13	approach 17:6	audio 1:12 75:7
26:17 29:6	10:17 25:3 74:3	analysts 4:17	appropriateness	August 26:15,23
36:14 60:17	age 41:6,20,23	analyze 42:23	38:25	47:22 49:22
Additionally	45:19,22	analyzing 63:7	approved 74:18	authority 27:11
18:22 67:2	agenda 4:3 19:22	anew 80:1	April 26:21 47:8	27:12,18

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 2

authorized 84:3	40:1 41:17 60:4	Bradley 2:13,14	45:24 46:4,7,16	Census/Census
automatic 50:5	67:17 68:18	10:2,3 11:2	46:18	52:16
avail 77:10	benchmark	64:10,12,22	candidates 43:23	censuses 54:7
availability 47:25	42:20,23 43:1,6	65:4	46:11	center 74:10
available 19:2	43:7,14,24	brand-new 12:23	capable 10:14	Centra 55:2
20:22 27:8 40:2	Bend 71:24	break 60:16	capacities 25:11	central 56:2 72:1
48:1,24 52:8	benefit 12:16	breather 38:8	capital 8:15	76:24
61:19 63:11	best 10:1 76:9,10	briefly 56:13	card 3:23	certain 14:10
66:20 69:17,24	76:12 84:5	bright 72:3	cards 18:2	15:15 17:15,19
75:8,10 80:12	better 8:16 10:13	bring 22:15 29:7	care 16:10 77:6	certainly 7:2,8,12
avenues 80:11	beyond 15:6	63:16 68:5	Carolina 33:12	82:15
avoidance 57:13	big 58:4 71:24	broken 37:17	carpet 7:3 21:11	CERTIFICATE
58:11	bill 19:14 59:8,10	48:11	case 15:5 20:5	84:1
aware 15:24	59:12	Broxson 2:7,8	22:15,18 27:24	certify 84:2
awesome 76:18	bills 59:7	7:17,17	33:12 34:18	cetera 17:24
<hr/>	binding 50:20	Budget 54:21	cases 51:17	44:16
B	bipartisan 77:25	burden 14:19	categories 44:10	chair 2:2,5,6,7
B 31:11 37:2,13	biracial 61:5	Bureau 44:5,24	54:14,23 56:5	3:5,6,19 5:13
back 3:16,16	bit 8:5 52:4 53:14	47:14,17,22	61:1,11 62:14	5:13 6:21 7:16
5:12 6:23 7:4	54:13 59:25	48:12 53:21	68:23	7:17,19 8:8,13
8:15 10:21 25:4	65:12 66:25	54:10,15 55:22	Cause 1:2	10:25 19:24
41:20 47:4 60:3	Black 55:11,12	56:14 57:11	CDLT 84:24	20:8,25 21:3,17
60:22 72:18	62:6,9 63:13,14	58:6,10,20	Cecile 78:4,9	21:20 22:3,21
74:6 79:2,5	blessed 4:19	59:18 60:3,5	cellphones 3:9	23:4,25 24:3,16
backsliding 33:2	block 33:19	61:21 64:5,24	census 24:25	38:10,15 39:1,2
34:7	44:21,25 57:15	66:22	25:1 26:4,8,13	40:3 46:23 47:3
ballot 49:17	57:22 58:18	Bureau's 45:5	27:24 28:17,23	52:13 60:18,21
ballots 49:16,20	blocks 44:21 45:1	53:24	29:6 32:13 41:1	61:14 62:19
49:24	57:13	Burgess 2:15,16	44:5,20,21,24	63:1,18 64:3,9
based 29:1,5,12	blue 71:25	10:8 11:5	44:25 45:1,1,5	64:20 65:7 70:3
29:23 30:12	bodies 30:18	burned 7:3	45:9,9 47:1,1,9	72:13,23 73:21
40:25 54:19	35:14 44:22	burning 21:10	47:9,13,16,22	74:2 76:13 78:3
basic 25:13	body 28:21	business 82:23	48:1,12 52:19	81:4,7,15,17,20
basically 39:14	borrow 24:11	buzzer 74:9	53:5,7,8,12,13	82:7,10,18
79:11,20	boundaries 12:7	Byrd 1:6	53:15,21,24	chairing 11:3,5
basketball 74:9	13:3 28:13,15	<hr/>	54:10,14,15	Chairman 5:4,14
Bay 71:9	29:13,18 32:8	C	55:21,22 56:14	5:16 8:18,22
Beach 9:8	37:10 38:4	C 37:11	56:14,22 57:11	9:6,24 10:2,23
Bean 2:9,10 5:1,4	43:25 44:1,12	calculated 42:4,7	57:13,15,22	25:2 39:3 40:6
5:8 9:12 21:8	44:15,23 53:25	calculates 64:24	58:6,10,14,18	41:8,13 46:22
41:8,14	67:7 70:12	California 57:5	58:19 59:18,19	47:6 52:17
beginning 2:1	72:19	call 2:4	59:20 60:1,3,13	61:15 63:4,21
47:7 74:10	boundary 35:21	called 34:18 39:5	60:23 61:2,20	64:4,12,21
behalf 7:8,14	35:22 59:9	57:12	64:5,6,14,17,24	65:11 70:2,6
21:24	72:22,25	calling 10:5	65:2,9,13,23,24	72:12,24 76:17
behavior 63:8	Bracy 2:11,12	Cambodia 55:8	66:12,21 67:23	77:23
believe 12:20	3:7	candidate 33:21	69:17	chairs 9:25,25

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 3

challenges 60:11	clarity 21:2	23:18 73:24	43:13,24 64:17	30:5,8,19 36:8
chamber 12:3	77:15	75:18,25 82:20	65:21	40:13 41:2,12
chambers 72:15	clause 27:14	comments 18:5	compel 34:3	41:14 43:3
champion 22:14	30:13	18:12,23 23:1	compelled 13:15	67:19 69:24
23:21	Clay 10:6	76:14 82:21	16:2	70:11,16,22
chance 61:3	clear 27:4 63:22	Commission 6:15	compels 30:8	consequently-n...
change 70:18	63:23	commissions	33:6,8	35:6,8,16
changed 56:23	click 72:7	28:18,19	compensation	Conservation
68:14	close 76:8	committed 17:7	17:23 18:9	73:25 74:5
changes 59:7,21	clusters 44:25	committee 1:13	compile 62:2	consider 18:23
68:22 73:18	coalition 46:8	2:2 3:13,23 4:4	complete 22:8	19:7 57:15 80:1
Channel 1:14	78:15	4:5,12,13,17	47:5	consideration
characteristics	Coast 60:10	5:14,20 6:9,14	completed 22:13	15:11 24:17
14:11	71:12	6:19 7:1 8:23	completely 74:16	51:15
chart 52:4	coded 27:2	9:4,10,16,22	compliance 37:3	considered 19:18
China 55:8	codified 12:13	10:7,21 11:9,21	42:23	35:9
choice 31:23 33:4	coding 52:6	12:2 15:3 17:18	comply 29:20	considering
33:25 34:9	70:22	19:8,13,16	component 14:10	13:19
36:25 43:13,23	cohesive 33:18	21:15,16 23:15	comprise 45:18	consist 37:1
45:25 46:11,16	coincide 67:6	23:16 25:6,7,24	compromised	consistent 13:2
chose 56:6 58:10	collaborated	48:22,23 59:12	58:9	15:4 19:10
chosen 6:8 30:3	18:15	75:23 82:24	concepts 24:17	consists 37:19
circle 39:13	colleagues 6:23	committee's	concerns 46:19	conspire 14:6
circumstance	16:4	24:24 25:23	conclude 46:21	constantly 54:10
63:17	collected 47:10	committees 6:24	69:25 82:22	constitution
circumstances	collection 60:14	27:12 80:23	conclusion 3:14	12:14 16:17
33:22 40:17	college 56:15	common 1:2	concurred 14:2	26:6,10 27:15
circumstantial	63:24	75:11	conditions 33:10	27:20 29:14,25
13:20	color 32:24 52:6	commonly 44:2	33:11	31:8,14,17,23
cited 60:5	70:22 71:1	communication	conduct 15:3	32:3,5,7,11,16
cities 44:15	Colorado 57:5	15:22	conducted 52:19	34:24,25 35:24
citizen 24:2 78:12	colors 71:25 72:4	communications	53:12	36:6 40:11
citizen's 32:23	combination	16:21 18:18	conducting 27:17	42:19 50:4
citizens 6:1 7:9	62:9,16,21 68:7	75:7	confidence 9:19	52:18,22,25
11:22 50:20	68:11 69:4,7	communities	9:22	74:21,23,25
79:21	combinations	13:8	configurations	81:11,23
citizens' 79:22	56:9	community	17:16	constitutional
80:14	combining 68:25	45:23 46:14,20	conflict 37:4,25	6:3 7:8,25 9:20
city 28:19 59:13	come 2:3 6:17	55:4	conforming 51:4	12:5 15:1,7,16
59:23 66:1	9:19 22:1 24:8	compact 32:6	congregation	15:18 27:10
civic 74:10	24:12 30:7	33:15 37:8	65:16	29:17 30:25
civil 60:10	33:11	38:16	Congress 26:18	constitutionality
claim 63:16	comes 21:23	compactness	27:17	14:21
clarification	53:16,20	13:1 38:2,21	congressional	constitutionally
21:22	coming 74:24	39:25	11:4 12:6,12	10:9
clarifies 37:11	78:11,12	compare 41:18	13:25 26:1	Constitutions
clarify 20:6,7	comment 18:16	compared 42:22	27:13 29:3,23	29:22

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 4

consultants 13:16,23 14:5	57:8 63:14 66:12	31:13,16 37:16 42:18	data.census.gov 27:8 69:25	48:15
contact 5:5 17:3 20:11 35:11,13	counties 5:19 8:4 10:5 28:23	cross 11:19 35:14 46:5	database 53:24	delivered 26:15 26:20,24 48:6,7 60:3,6
contactor 20:13	34:15 45:7	cross-reference 58:7	dataset 44:6 59:24 62:2	delivery 47:25 48:4 49:17
contacts 20:20	58:18 65:22	cross-tabulate 61:24	date 43:4 44:6 48:8 49:19 50:1 57:4	delve 25:17
contain 18:7 54:4	71:13 72:20	crossover 46:1	DATED 84:6	demands 76:9,10
contained 31:13 31:14 32:4,13 37:19	73:12 77:2	Cuban 56:1	dates 48:22 49:9	democratic 74:13
contains 31:8 33:5 34:9,25 42:17 45:22	counting 62:25 63:3 76:11	cues 22:11	day 5:11 47:9,16 49:12 59:19,20 84:6	demographic 47:23 53:18 59:22 69:18
contemplated 23:5	country 66:16 67:24 68:16	culture 56:3	days 50:8,15,25 51:6,24	demographics 54:6
context 32:19 44:13	counts 64:5	current 43:7 69:23 70:11 71:18 76:11	deadline 26:21	denial 32:22
contiguity 37:22	county 6:7,15 8:10 9:1,1,8 10:6,19 28:18 29:13 34:19 44:8,14 45:3 59:9,10 65:25 65:25 67:6,8,8 71:14 73:1,2,7 73:14	currently 27:8 69:16 71:7	dealing 38:1	denying 36:21
contiguous 32:4 35:6,8,10 37:1	couple 7:22 33:5	cycle 12:20 17:11 19:25 21:11 23:9,10 26:12 39:1 44:17 47:21 48:10,12 67:1,18	deals 36:8,9	Department 63:9
continue 16:14 48:14 70:5	course 7:7 23:19	cycles 15:25	decade 15:6 52:8	deposition 13:14
continued 56:14 56:15 65:15 80:5	court 12:16 13:1 13:6,11,13,23 14:3,19 15:9,13 30:1,2,14,16,24 34:18 37:18 39:24 50:10,13 50:17,22 51:5,9 51:15,22,23	D	December 47:21 49:3	depositions 13:21
continues 63:24	court's 12:22 14:2	D.C 1:24	decennial 26:8 28:17 32:13 45:9 53:7	depository 20:4
convene 49:10	courts 14:25 35:12 40:15 44:14	Dana 2:4 4:13	decision 14:4 15:14,16 34:20	deputy 74:4
conversations 16:4,5	coverage 34:10 34:16,16	Danna 4:12	decision-making 13:18	derive 27:18
Convex 38:18,22 39:5,13,15	COVID- 3:20	dark 71:25	declaratory 50:11	DeSantis 59:11
cool 76:20	COVID-19 60:8	Darryl 5:17	decrease 65:24	designates 53:11
Cord 1:6	create 17:16	data 7:10 20:17 25:1 26:3,14,19 26:23,24 27:1,2 27:6 32:12 45:9 47:1,24 48:1,5 48:6,10,13,15 52:16 53:5,18 53:19 54:5,14 56:21 57:11,12 57:14,20,21 58:4,6,8,19 59:4,18,22 60:6 60:15,17,23 64:6 65:10,13 67:23 69:16,19 71:4 72:8 75:10	decreased 68:9	detail 25:18 63:6 71:22
corner 35:13	created 20:19		defeat 33:20	details 57:24
correct 21:16,17 39:4	creates 25:25		defer 15:14	determination 15:12
correspondence 16:20	creation 34:4 78:23		deference 14:20	determine 34:11 50:22 52:20
Corridor 11:15 71:11 72:2	criteria 25:20		defined 44:5,13	determined 53:1
councils 76:25			definition 38:20	determining 50:11,17,19
counsel 4:12 17:4			definitions 45:11	develop 6:2
count 52:25 53:2 56:15 59:2 60:13 62:3,7 63:10,24			Delaware 57:5	developed 15:5
counted 54:16			delay 60:6	developments 58:3
			delays 48:12 60:1 64:14,16	deviation 42:1,7 42:10,14
			deliberate 7:22 7:25	deviations 40:20
			delighted 9:9	devices 3:10 16:24,24
			delineated 45:3	dialogue 10:15
			deliver 7:24	difference 26:25 28:9 31:6 42:2 70:15

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 5

differences 72:10	district 5:17 7:18	40:22 73:12	46:17 49:22,25	equal 13:3 29:20
different 23:9	8:2,2,9,24 9:2,7	dividing 35:4	50:1	29:22 30:11,13
25:11 39:10	10:4,18 12:6	42:7	elections 27:14	31:9,12,13
40:16 45:12	13:6 15:15	doing 14:15 19:3	27:17	36:21 37:6 38:1
53:17 56:9 69:1	17:15 18:21	19:10 43:21	electoral 28:15	40:9,12 79:16
70:10,23 80:22	21:5 28:12	77:16	electorate 41:24	equality 31:3
differential 58:13	31:11 32:1,8	dominant 62:25	electronic 3:9	equally-weight...
58:15	33:7,8,14,17	door 79:2	16:21	40:11
differently 49:6	35:9,12,20,21	door-to-door	Eleven 74:17	Escambia 8:4
differs 34:2	35:21,22 36:17	60:12 66:24	eliminates 43:18	especially 75:24
digital 1:23 80:12	38:2 39:12,20	Doug 7:17	email 16:24 20:1	essentially 63:8
diminish 36:23	41:22,23,25	drafts 75:4	20:21 80:12	63:12 79:10
diminishment	42:3,8,9,16	draw 15:14 25:22	emails 16:20 20:2	establish 37:14
31:20 34:23	43:16,19,21	30:8 33:13	20:4,6	38:6 77:18
37:20 43:17	45:16,16,20,21	drawing 28:12	embarked 12:8	established 34:21
61:12	45:22 46:1,1,8	31:25 33:7,8	embarking 12:1	52:18 54:21
direct 13:20	46:8,13,13	36:10,15 40:24	enable 33:19	et 1:2 17:24
20:13	67:11,14,16,18	42:18	enacted 18:21	44:16
directed 16:15	67:20 70:12,22	drawn 13:25	enacting 32:21	ethnicity 54:14
26:5	71:14,16 79:23	14:18 36:17,20	enactment 16:22	54:19 55:21
directly 13:17	district's 42:11	40:19 45:13	encourage 17:3	60:22 61:7 68:3
20:11	districts 9:21	drive 27:12	75:2,2	Europe 55:20
director 4:9	11:17,18 12:12	Due 48:12	encouragement	everybody 6:4,18
24:23 74:4	13:4 16:22	duty 7:8	19:15	8:14 79:16
directs 24:5	25:22 26:2	Duval 21:7 67:7	encouraging	everyone's 25:8
27:15,21	27:13,19,23		77:22	evidence 1:23
dirt 44:11	28:15 29:12,16	E	endeavor 8:20	13:15,20
disclose 17:19	29:23 30:9,12	earlier 54:11	energy 78:22	exact 81:9,12,21
disclosed 17:22	31:4,5 32:4,6	66:15 72:18	enforcer 42:21	82:14
disclosure 57:13	34:4 35:4,7,9	easily 44:1	engage 74:23	examined 18:19
57:17 58:11	35:16,17,19	East 55:6,20	77:19	example 35:18
discovery 13:21	36:1,4,15,19,25	easy 6:16	engaged 77:5	55:8 57:14
discretion 15:20	37:6,7,8 38:16	edges 39:18,19	enjoy 77:7	60:25 62:6
discrimination	40:13,15,19,22	edit 64:6	ensure 75:4 76:2	examples 23:4
33:1 34:5,12	40:24 41:3,15	effect 34:22	ensuring 11:11	exceed 69:5
discriminatory	41:16 42:4 43:8	42:21 59:15,16	enter 50:16	exceeded 68:18
63:8,16	45:12 61:9,10	effective 45:21	enthusiasm	excellent 61:17
discuss 26:19	69:24 70:10,16	eight 57:4	82:11	exchange 17:25
discussed 66:11	70:19,24 71:2,5	either 22:17 36:1	entire 11:11	18:12 73:15
disfavor 16:7,8	71:6,8,13,19,20	68:6	74:14	excited 5:11 7:1
36:18	72:9 74:12	elect 31:22 33:3	entirely 36:2	8:11,18 9:15
disfavors 36:11	78:15 79:9 81:8	33:24 34:8	enumerated	11:8 80:4,14
display 70:9	81:9,10,25	36:24 43:12,23	58:16	exciting 6:23
71:21	distrust 78:23	45:24 46:4,11	enumeration	excuse 15:7
displayed 71:10	diverse 76:3	46:16,17	52:23,24 64:23	32:17 33:8 41:5
disrupt 60:14	divide 71:1	elected 80:16	environment	41:22 50:18
distributed 30:18	divided 35:5	election 30:5	25:19	55:2 65:19 67:4

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 6

71:2 73:4 excused 3:7 existing 32:9 34:7 37:9 exists 31:17 expanded 13:11 14:24 expect 7:13 22:25 49:5 expected 58:23 69:10 experience 4:20 4:21 explain 19:9 explanation 21:13 23:25 47:1 52:16 explicitly 53:4 expound 22:24 express 42:6 extensive 75:13 extracts 53:22 extraordinary 51:1,7,13 eye 5:5	far 23:6 24:4 55:6 56:20 71:15 fastest 66:4 fastest-growing 66:16 favor 16:8 32:1,1 36:18 favor/disfavor 37:21 favoritism 13:9 favors 36:11 feasible 30:20 32:9 37:8 feature 44:20 features 32:10 44:2,23 53:25 54:1,2 federal 26:22 31:18,24 37:5 37:25 42:25 49:15 53:12 federally 53:11 feel 11:19 80:14 feeling 78:19 Ferrin 4:10 24:23 25:1,2 39:3 40:6 41:13 47:6 52:17 61:15 63:4 64:4 64:21 65:5,11 70:6 72:24 field 27:4 61:18 figure 57:18 file 1:12 20:19,21 51:8,25 files 53:20 filing 50:15 Filipino 57:16,23 fill 3:23 filled 21:25 66:22 filling 47:12 finalized 49:18 finally 18:17 36:25 44:12 Find 75:19 finding 14:3,17	finds 51:22 fire 80:13 first 3:13 4:2,3 6:24 8:3 12:9 21:6 49:16,20 66:19 71:12 76:19 five 50:25 73:5,9 Flagler 71:12 FLCD 43:4 FLHD 43:5 flipped 14:19 Florida 1:14 3:16 7:9,15 8:10,11 9:2 10:5 11:13 11:14,14,15,16 11:20 12:14,16 12:22,25 13:24 15:9 16:16,17 22:5 23:6,7 26:1,5,16 27:20 29:6,11,12,14 29:21 31:17,18 31:23 32:3,5,7 32:10,14,15 34:14,24,25 37:17 40:18 41:3 42:19,25 44:17 50:4 51:4 53:3,10 59:6 63:23 64:22 66:17 67:3,11 67:15 68:18 70:10 71:7,8,18 72:2,4 73:25 74:4,17 75:19 76:8,15,21,22 77:1 78:4,11 81:24 Florida's 26:1 31:8 Florida- 66:8 Floridians 75:24 flow 52:4 FLSD 43:6 follow 63:5 78:25 79:21	follow-up 21:1 60:12,13 66:24 followed 15:25 48:25 52:7 69:7 following 26:8 28:23 38:25 75:3 79:14 follows 41:1 43:2 54:22 foregoing 84:3 forgot 21:5 form 18:2,6,6 21:25 46:10 53:20 formal 27:1,6 48:4 formally 26:15 format 26:14,25 27:7 47:25 48:7 48:13 75:12 formatted 27:7 48:4,15 formed 44:21 forms 55:22 formula 34:10,17 forth 7:4 35:23 37:13 51:9 Fortunately 14:23 forward 5:12 6:2 7:5,7 8:6 9:23 10:14,16,21,22 11:7 15:23 17:5 22:15,16 52:15 77:21,21 80:5 forwarding 20:4 found 42:19 79:8 four 26:20 33:21 60:8 Fourteenth 31:15 fourth 53:9 frankly 7:18 free 15:6,7 48:19 frequently 28:10 front 11:23 fulfilling 12:4 full 9:22 49:4	full-blast 49:4 functional 13:3 62:12 fundamentally 12:24 further 25:18 40:3 64:9 65:7 future 20:23 76:10 77:9
F				G
faces 8:16 74:7 facial 50:5 fact 14:6 51:15 56:8 59:19 61:25 factors 60:5 facts 66:9 fails 51:21 fair 6:3,10 7:22 9:18,21 74:12 78:14 79:8,23 81:8,9,10,25 fairdistrictscoa... 79:10 fairness 79:15 falls 45:25 false 17:16 familiar 25:8 40:9 families 76:23				gained 26:17 66:3 gaining 70:21 Gayle 9:6 general 17:4 25:6 35:3 49:24,25 50:9 51:8,14,25 67:15 generally 39:11 40:14 generations 76:10,11 geo 54:9 geographic 13:2 32:10 37:9 38:3 43:25,25 53:19 53:23,25 54:8 64:7 76:25 geographical 44:6,19 59:4,21 69:22 geographically 33:15 geography 53:16 58:17 geometric 13:1 geometry 59:3 gerrymandering 79:18 getting 77:12 79:16 Gibson 2:17,18 19:23,24 20:24 21:1,4,18 38:13 38:15 39:4 60:19,21 61:16

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 7

62:18,21 63:2 77:2 Gingles 33:10,12 give 19:19 41:9 64:15 given 20:11 23:5 gives 7:12 glad 7:2 go 3:10 4:5 22:10 24:21 38:11 47:4 60:16,17 62:19 63:6 72:18 81:5 goals 77:14 goes 20:21 59:1 going 4:21 6:9 7:4 11:23 12:1 17:5 24:22 39:11 41:3,18 49:3 60:22 70:1 70:23,24 71:20 77:16,17 80:25 81:1,3,17 good 5:9,10,15 6:5,21 8:14,21 10:17 11:20 20:9 25:3,12 74:2 78:19 governed 50:3 governing 12:10 governor 50:24 59:11 granular 71:20 grassroots 17:17 21:23 22:3 great 10:15,15 63:6 greatest 28:4 grew 26:16 65:18 66:5 67:16,20 69:15 group 1:23 10:13 18:15 32:25 46:2,10 56:13 56:18 58:18 62:5 63:23 68:3 68:7 69:7,8	78:1 groups 14:8 18:10 43:23 44:25 45:17 55:13 56:6 68:21 79:17 growing 66:4 67:9,12 growth 28:16 66:13 67:9,12 69:13 71:10 Guam 55:16 guidance 17:4 24:1,3,5,7 35:3 63:5 guide 4:22 22:11 guiding 12:3 guys 76:18 <hr/> H half 67:13 73:5,9 81:14 hand 3:24 handful 56:23 handle 24:1 handout 60:24 hands 74:16 happen 6:19 74:10 happens 6:12 happy 3:15 5:19 8:14,14 25:3 hard 12:19 Hardee 34:14 harm 79:16 Harrell 2:19,20 9:5,6 Hawaii 55:16 Hawaiian 55:14 69:8 head 65:3 hear 78:20 80:10 81:1 heard 7:18 77:22 80:15,24 hearings 14:9 heart 7:19 80:14	heartland 11:16 help 4:22 78:1 Henry 34:14 hierarchy 44:19 53:15 high- 25:14 higher 39:20 40:14 highly 39:16 highway 44:10 highways 44:7,8 Hillsborough 5:18 34:15 hint 15:7,8 Hispanic 54:17 55:23,24,24 56:11 62:11,24 69:10,14 historic 5:11 historically-pe... 43:20 history 34:11 52:10 78:20 Holder 34:19 home 10:6 64:1 homes 56:17 honor 8:7,19 9:3 10:6,20 hopefully 7:5 62:16 hoping 6:19 house 19:3 21:7 23:7,11 28:24 29:8,15 35:4,8 40:19 41:4,16 43:5 47:19 59:12 67:16 71:18 73:10,13 73:17 households 64:25 65:1 housing 47:24 66:11 Hull 38:18,23 39:6,13,15 humble 11:1 hydrography	54:2 <hr/> I I-4 11:15 71:11 72:2 Icromueler 4:16 ID 54:9 idea 20:15 ideal 40:21,25 42:2,8,11 67:17 70:15 ideas 23:22 24:5 identifiable 58:1 identification 54:20 identifier 54:8 identify 54:16 56:10 67:25 69:14 identifying 68:4 68:11,24 identity 18:7 57:19 III 12:13 27:19 29:13 31:10 35:2 36:5,7 50:3,7 image 44:18 impartial 14:12 implementation 28:5 important 15:23 49:8 56:4 58:24 61:22 74:7,13 impression 17:16 improper 14:1 14:18 improve 66:25 in-combination 68:20 inappropriately 16:13 inaudible 47:2 57:18 58:9 65:4 incarcerated 56:24,25 57:8 64:2	incarceration 57:4 include 44:7 56:5 62:10 71:14 72:11 included 18:19 44:8 62:9 includes 8:25 10:4 50:4 53:24 57:5 60:8 69:11 69:23 73:22 75:22 81:24 including 54:1 55:1,8 57:16 72:9 inclusion 18:24 19:13 incorporated 44:14 67:3 increase 68:18 increased 7:11 incumbent 13:10 16:9 32:2 36:12 36:19 37:22 indentations 39:14 India 55:8 Indian 54:24 55:7 59:9 69:6 73:1,4,4,6 indicate 56:7 indicated 15:13 22:22 62:4 indicates 52:7 indicators 13:5 individual 20:18 23:20 24:2 42:4 43:16 57:19 60:25 individual's 54:18 influence 14:6 16:13 46:12,17 information 17:20 53:23 54:5 69:21 Initiative 79:23
--	---	--	--	---

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 8

injected 58:21	4:25	13:12	42:24 43:11,22	legislative 4:18
input 5:25 10:16	introduced 21:6	judiciary's 14:24	45:13,17 46:2,9	11:6 12:6,11
75:13,22,23	introducing 5:8	July 49:20	46:14 76:2	13:13,17 14:20
80:6,7	introductory	jump 27:10	79:17 81:7,8,9	15:10,11,19
inquiries 24:1,2	22:22	jumped 7:19	81:21,24	16:5 18:20
insight 14:23	invalid 50:24	June 49:14 59:11	large 46:4,15	19:11 26:2
insufficient 35:14	51:23	59:16	larger 29:2 30:17	27:19,22 28:21
insulate 16:10	invalidated 34:17	jurisdiction	largest 42:15	29:16 30:12,18
integrity 74:14	invest 7:23	24:24 25:7,24	65:25 66:1 67:3	36:1,9 40:15
74:14	involved 13:17	34:13	67:8 68:2 69:2	50:6 52:5 59:5
intend 15:3	25:10 75:20	jurisdictions	lastly 46:12	69:23
intent 13:5 14:1	78:16	34:16	48:17 51:20	legislators 13:15
14:19 15:8 32:1	Islander 55:14	Justice 63:9	71:17	13:22 16:1
36:18,20 37:21	69:8	Justin 4:16	late 60:7	legislature 12:8
82:16	Islands 55:10,17		latest 28:17	16:7 26:7 27:11
intention 15:17	issue 7:23 80:21	K	Latino 54:17	27:21 40:18
intentionally	issues 15:21	keep 70:1	55:23,24,25	50:23,25 51:2
16:12 36:11	it'll 41:4	Kelli 10:18	56:11 69:10,15	51:11,20 59:6
intentions 19:10	item 4:3 24:20	kind 17:9 39:18	launch 52:9	legislature's
intents 28:11	Ivey 2:5,7,9,11	40:8 45:14	launches 72:6	14:14,22 15:14
interact 80:23	2:13,15,17,19	47:20 49:3	launching 48:19	legislatures
interaction 80:6	2:21,23,25 3:2	70:20 71:17	law 15:5 18:21	13:24 27:15
interactionable	3:4 4:12	79:1 80:17	26:22 37:5,25	28:18
80:8		kinds 45:12	42:25 59:10,20	lessons 12:19,21
interactive 17:8	J	know 5:23 6:9,11	78:25 79:14,21	let's 4:24 10:23
22:23,24 24:6	Jacksonville 5:9	24:10 25:10	laws 57:7	38:11 40:4
69:20 72:6 77:7	21:8 67:2,5	26:4 38:17 61:1	lead 8:17	46:25 47:4 65:9
interchangeably	jagged 39:18	65:2,5 67:6	Leader 77:2	70:5
28:11	January 26:13	76:5,7 77:8	leadership 8:6	level 25:15 42:9
interest 13:8	28:1,3 49:11	78:21,23 79:1	10:23	42:13 58:25
18:11	59:17	79:14 80:3,11	leading 7:3	69:22 71:20
interested 6:11	Japan 55:9	80:25 81:2	league 78:4,10,13	levels 58:17
interests 16:11	Jason 4:11,19	known 30:7	78:14	Li 4:15
46:19 50:14	Jay 4:10,19 7:2	33:10	leans 62:21	lieu 53:2
interim 48:21,23	Jennifer 10:3	knows 21:7	learn 4:21 12:21	light 61:8
interpret 12:17	Jersey 57:6	Korea 55:9	learned 12:19	lights 80:13
interpretation	job 6:15 11:11,20		led 10:13 79:23	Likewise 68:13
12:23	11:23	L	Lee 8:10 71:14	limited 13:13
interpreted	Johns 8:4 71:12	labels 27:4	left 4:9,11	Linda 6:6
14:25 29:25	joint 19:2 23:13	labor 76:25	Legacy 26:14,25	line 36:10
30:14 31:4	48:19 50:8 51:3	Lake 10:19	27:2 47:25 48:7	linear 54:1
35:17	51:16,18	land 73:5,8,15	48:13	lines 30:21 59:9
interrupt 41:9	Jonathan 73:24	landfall 60:9	legal 21:14 25:18	74:15
interstates 44:7	73:25 74:3	landmarks 54:3	44:23 45:7	linked 54:6
Intraocular	judgment 50:11	language 31:21	60:10	list 18:14 48:21
39:24	50:16,16 51:4	32:25 33:9 34:8	legally-enforce...	listed 45:15
introduce 4:4,6	judiciary 12:18	34:12 36:13,22	42:20	70:13

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 9

listen 19:19	maintains 55:2,3	25:13	methodology	motion's 83:2
litigation 15:25	majority 33:16	meals 17:24	25:21	move 4:24 17:5
little 8:5 25:18	33:18 43:19	mean 28:12 31:5	methods 58:12	22:15 24:20
53:14 54:13	45:16,18,25	35:17,20 73:16	metro 65:17,21	38:8,12 40:4
59:25 65:12	46:3,5,11 56:20	meaningful	66:2,16	46:25 52:15
66:25 70:23	majority/mino...	75:20	metropolitan	65:9 73:23
71:22 73:16	33:7	means 22:25 30:4	65:16	77:21
74:15	makeup 11:8	34:20 52:25	Mexican 56:1	moved 73:13
lived 56:18	making 6:12 52:1	55:5,11 68:9	Miami-Dade	movement 17:17
livestreamed	Malaysia 55:9	75:21	8:25	moves 82:25
75:6	MALE 47:2	meant 55:25	Middle 55:20	moving 15:23
living 52:21	Management	66:21	mile 59:14	36:5
65:20	54:21	measure 25:19	million 26:17	multiple 61:25
lobby 22:14	manipulate 14:6	39:9,12	67:4 68:4,5,6	75:25 76:1
lobbyist 17:21	manner 15:4	measured 42:10	68:15,17 69:4	multiracial 68:13
local 24:13 45:4	27:16 72:7	68:15	69:12 76:22	68:14,20
location 56:18	map 18:13,16	measurement	mindful 16:20	municipality
57:3 63:25 64:8	21:24 22:1,4,14	39:9	minorities 31:22	44:15
lodgings 17:24	22:15 32:21	media 24:1 80:23	33:3 34:8,13	
long 15:15 38:5	42:18 69:18	81:2	36:14,22 42:24	N
longer 34:22	70:21 71:4	meet 9:20 19:18	minorities' 46:6	name 8:23 10:3
look 6:1 9:23	72:14 74:15	22:13 23:21	minority 13:4	74:3 78:9
10:14,16 11:7	75:4	48:24	32:17,18,25	named 43:1
11:12 17:5	map-drawing	meeting 3:8,11	33:9,14,14,17	national 56:5
22:19 61:9 70:8	48:20	4:2 49:6	33:22 34:4,4	nationwide 69:5
70:23 77:20	map-making	meetings 23:15	43:11,19,20,22	Native 54:24
80:2	75:6	23:16 25:17	45:14,16,17,21	55:14 69:6,7
looking 5:12 7:5	mapping 75:10	48:23 52:12	45:23 46:2,10	nature 79:19
7:7 8:6 10:21	maps 6:3 7:25	75:23 76:1	46:14,19 61:9	nauseum 38:18
10:22 62:13	9:20 14:11,12	Megan 4:17	79:17	nearby 57:22
71:19 80:5	14:12 16:1,7	member 3:24	minority-prefe...	nearly 30:4 31:12
Los 65:25	18:6,21,24 19:2	19:6 32:24 36:4	33:20	37:6 67:13
lost 14:20 66:3	19:18 23:2	78:13,14	minus 30:10	necessarily 34:3
lot 25:8,10 40:7	44:24 70:8	members 4:5,24	40:14 42:11	68:23
69:16 71:6 74:7	75:25	4:25 7:20 10:25	mirror 82:14	need 22:4,6,8
77:6	March 28:3	19:4,16 24:14	missed 41:11,11	24:6
Lucie 9:8 59:10	49:12 84:6	25:3 38:11	47:4	negative 42:13
72:20 73:2,3,6	Marie 8:23	76:23 77:1,4,20	mixture 56:8	neglect 61:17
luck 76:12	mark 61:24	77:24 82:22	mockery 14:13	neighborhood
	marked 63:12	mention 61:17	moment 11:25	67:19
M	Martin 9:7 72:20	mentioned 27:25	Monday 8:14	nests 45:10
M 1:24	Maryland 57:6	29:5 40:8,13	Monroe 9:1	Nevada 57:6
ma'am 81:15	massive 8:19	49:10 53:5 59:3	34:15	nevertheless 31:1
Magnole 4:17	materials 38:20	59:25 63:21	month 48:18,18	new 16:1,22
mail 49:20 66:22	mathematical	66:15	months 26:20	18:21 28:12
mailing 49:15	30:25	met 3:13 33:11	74:24	57:6,6 66:1,9
main 57:13	matter 15:11	method 38:25	morning 74:3	70:17 76:18

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 10

78:5,10 nicety 30:25 nine 59:14 noise 58:20,20,25 nonparty 13:16 13:22 nonresponse 60:12 66:24 normal 47:21 north 10:5,19 33:12 55:1,20 71:7 northeast 11:14 northwest 11:13 notable 6:8 note 35:23 54:9 56:4 58:24 70:20 noted 38:4 67:23 notice 75:17 noticed 23:17 noting 34:19 53:16 59:5 November 49:1,1 49:2 50:1 number 29:7 30:17 35:18 40:22 41:7,21 52:20 64:24 65:2 70:19 numbers 35:18 35:19 41:9,18 41:19 72:9 numeric 42:14 numerical 46:3 numerous 33:16 nursing 56:17 NW 1:24	obtained 13:20 obviously 63:2 occurred 17:10 17:12 60:11 71:11 73:19 occurs 43:9,18 October 48:25,25 odd 35:19 office 3:24 7:4 54:20 81:22 82:4 offices 49:15 official 16:23 20:16 53:8,12 officially 66:10 officials 80:16 Oh 47:3 Okay 40:4 72:16 81:16 old 41:19 70:16 OMB 63:5 once 22:12 once-in-a-decade 8:17 10:8 one-person 30:7 one-vote 30:7 ones 66:4 online 66:20 open 6:10 9:18 14:14 17:8 22:23 operating 49:4 operatives 14:5 17:13 18:4 opportunities 25:17 45:14 75:18,23 opportunity 5:16 7:12 8:12 23:3 23:17,19 25:12 33:23 36:21 43:10 45:24 52:11 78:9 80:4 opposed 64:1 opposing 75:16 opted 48:13 Orange 6:7	order 2:3 27:5 37:11 45:15 52:1 organization 18:15 21:23 22:4 77:11 organizations 18:10 78:16 organizing 14:8 orientation 25:15 origin 54:18 55:23 56:3,5,10 69:15 original 54:25 55:6,16,19 originally 47:20 origins 54:25 55:5,12,15,19 Orlando 6:6 Osceola 67:8 outcome 46:17 outlined 64:13 outside 16:6 58:8 82:2,13 over-populated 70:25 over/under 70:9 overall 40:17 64:15 68:22 overlap 36:1 overpopulated 71:14 overpopulation 72:1 overriding 31:2 overseas 49:16 49:20 overview 25:6	parcel 73:2,11,13 part 5:20 7:1 8:2 9:15 10:7 17:24 18:11 21:14 22:17 36:19 45:4 50:2 62:4 74:21 75:1 77:24 partially 36:2 participants 45:4 45:5 participate 23:1 33:23 36:22 43:11 77:13 participated 77:3 participation 23:3 64:16,18 82:8 particular 20:1 34:13 62:22 81:18 particularly 6:16 72:1 particulars 52:10 parties 16:6 17:14 partisan 13:8,9 17:13 18:4 parts 9:8 30:22 party 16:8 32:2 36:12 37:21 pass 16:7 passage 16:1 50:8 passed 57:7 59:6 path 52:4 paths 52:7 pause 70:1 people 7:14 9:16 14:9 24:12 26:17 30:3 41:21 52:20,23 55:16 56:6,10 56:16 57:16 66:6,13 67:5,10 67:13,21,25 68:4,10,15,17	68:23,25 69:10 69:11 75:19 76:7 78:24,24 79:6 peoples 55:1,6,19 percent 31:6 40:17,20 45:18 64:23 65:1,18 65:20,22 66:6 66:11,14 67:1,9 67:12,16 68:17 69:13,15 72:10 74:17 79:22 percentage 42:6 performance 7:21 performing 33:13 performs 33:9 perimeter 39:17 period 47:10 permanent 16:25 permit 50:13 person 18:14 20:19 30:10 40:14 54:16,25 55:5,12,15,18 55:25 57:24 61:24 62:4 person's 30:5 57:21 personal 16:24 57:10 persons 56:25 57:8 perspectives 75:16 persuade 16:6 persuading 46:5 pertinent 33:6 34:1 petition 50:10,15 51:9,24 phenomenally 7:11 Philippine 55:10 phonetic 4:15,16
O oath 16:3 81:22 82:4 objection 83:1 objective 13:5 31:2 obligation 12:5 observation 3:20		P P.L. 48:5 Pacific 55:14,17 69:8 Pakistan 55:9 Palm 9:8 paragraph 79:11 81:13		

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 11

physical 44:23 52:25	Polk/South 10:19	potential 41:24 61:11	38:6	promise 78:25
picked 8:17	pollical 36:23	potentially 43:19 46:3	prison 57:3	proof 14:19
piece 73:11	Polsby-Popper 39:6,17	practicable 30:4 31:12 37:7	prisoners 56:15 57:2 63:24	property 73:11
Pinellas 5:18	polygon 53:24	practice 57:12	privacy 57:10 58:13,15	proportional 39:9
place 20:15 67:3	poorly 39:15	pre- 27:6	privilege 13:13	proportionality 13:9
places 27:16	pops 28:7	pre-clearance 34:20	probably 25:12	proposed 19:13 42:22
plan 13:6 27:22 31:25 36:17 41:22 42:3,5,13 42:20,21,22,23 43:3,10,14,15 43:18,24 48:18 49:6	population 7:11 13:3 26:3 28:16 29:1,3,20,22 30:9,11 31:3,7 31:9,12,13 33:15,17,22 37:6 38:2 40:10 40:12,21,22,23 41:6,21 42:1,2 42:3,8,9,11,12 42:13,15,16 45:19,23 47:17 47:23 53:18 54:6 56:21 58:1 58:16,22 59:14 59:22 62:7 63:11,15 65:15 65:17,20 66:3 68:2,8,14,15 69:11,13 70:14 70:15 71:21 72:9,21 73:18 76:3	precautions 3:21 preexisting 28:22 preferred 46:4,6 prepare 20:10 prepared 19:8 prescribed 26:21 present 3:4 50:14 presentation 46:22 60:2 presentations 19:22 24:23 25:14 72:12 presented 60:19 Preserve 75:7 preserved 15:20 17:1 president 3:19 5:1 11:10 78:5 78:10,13 President's 11:20 presumption 14:21 pretty 76:20 prevent 18:3 previous 12:20 23:10 64:13 previously 27:25 38:17 primarily 15:10 primary 29:19 44:3,4 45:7 49:22 principle 30:8 principles 13:7 prior 15:24 57:3 64:17 priority 37:14	process 4:23 5:22 6:10 8:17 9:18 10:9,15,22 12:4 13:12,18 14:7 14:13,15,16 15:4 16:14 17:6 17:8,10,11 18:20 19:12 21:14 22:12,17 22:24 25:7,9 28:8,14,20 29:15 33:24 34:21 36:23 43:12 47:8 50:2 57:9 74:19 76:6 76:9 77:4,14,21 77:25 processed 27:5 processing 60:15 proclaimed 14:14 proclamation 50:24 produced 16:2 produces 58:7 product 18:25 products 58:6 Program 45:6 prohibit 36:10 Prohibitions 31:25 prohibits 32:20 32:25 34:5	prospective 48:22 protect 17:11 protecting 57:10 protection 13:10 30:13 36:13 protections 31:20 32:18 42:24 protects 33:1 34:6 proud 5:19 provide 36:14 45:23 75:17 provided 51:17 69:18 provides 63:6 provision 35:24 37:23 53:10 provisions 31:9 35:1 36:10 37:19 50:5 public 14:9,12 19:17 22:25 23:3,14,18,18 23:19 24:15 63:22 73:23 75:9,11,11,14 75:18 77:12,13 80:6,7,8 82:19 publicly 18:4,23 19:1 23:17 publicly-availa... 48:20 published 47:23 Puerto 56:1 purposeful 33:1 34:5 purposes 28:12
plans 13:25 14:17,22 17:15 25:25 28:6 36:15 43:1 50:6 52:5 63:10				
play 12:19 61:11				
please 2:4 3:8 20:7 21:2 75:4 80:3				
pleased 5:7 6:7 6:18				
pledge 79:7,8,21 80:2 81:8,9,21 82:1				
pledged 81:22				
plus 30:10 40:13 45:18				
point 28:8 54:2 58:9 61:17				
points 60:17 71:5 75:16				
policy 4:16 16:15 18:1 19:13				
political 13:2,16 13:22 14:5 16:8 17:13 28:22 30:20 32:2,9,21 33:24 36:11,19 37:9,21 38:3 43:12 44:12 59:7 74:12 79:18				
politically 33:18				
	portions 5:18 8:25 position 4:1 81:18 82:3 positioned 7:24 positive 42:12 possible 28:5 48:14 57:2,18 58:5 77:20 post-session 49:9			

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 12

28:13 57:1 61:23 63:7 put 24:4,5 62:23 putting 11:21 82:3	43:11,22 45:13 45:17 46:2,9,14 54:23 55:13 56:8 68:22 69:3 79:17 racially 67:25 railways 44:3 ran 78:21 range 39:8 40:18 42:14 44:10 rate 64:16,19,23 66:18 67:9,12 ratio 39:17 rationale 35:3 raw 58:19 Ray 8:8 reach 23:20 read 4:1 37:13 38:5 81:14 ready 7:16 reaggregated 58:25 real 38:20 75:5 80:10 reallocate 57:2 really 11:19 71:23 77:10,20 78:19 80:13,18 80:18 reapportionme... 1:13 2:3 7:10 11:4,6 25:25 28:9,20 29:10 reapportionme... 5:21 reason 29:19 reasons 26:18 60:6 reassign 64:7 receive 23:13 29:4 received 16:23 17:23 18:9 20:2 29:6 48:4 66:21 receiving 51:24 recognize 21:21 24:22	recognized 19:23 25:1 38:13 39:2 60:20 61:14 62:20 63:1,19 64:3,11,20 72:16,23 74:1 76:16 78:7 recollection 73:9 reconsider 58:11 reconvene 50:25 record 3:7 4:1 15:22 17:2 64:25 84:4 recorded 84:3 Recording 2:1 83:3 records 16:2,15 17:1 75:9 recounting 78:20 recruited 17:14 rectangle 39:16 red 72:3 redistrict 28:19 redistricting 4:20 5:24 6:14,25 8:3 9:11 10:20 12:25 13:12 14:7,15,22 15:2 15:24 16:13 18:11 19:25 20:3,12,17,19 20:21 24:24 25:15,25 27:9 27:11,22 28:2,6 28:10,14 31:16 32:19 35:2 42:5 42:17,21,22 43:10,15,18 44:13 48:5 50:6 52:5 53:3,5,13 53:19 56:25 57:9 61:23 62:2 63:10 74:19 75:8 76:9 78:17 Redistricting.g... 22:5 redistricting/re...	9:10 redraw 12:5 27:13,18 29:18 redrawing 12:11 29:15 redrawn 28:16 reduce 43:21 reduces 43:10 reduction 31:21 refer 54:8 referred 43:1 referring 74:22 refers 28:14 29:14 41:6 58:20 reflected 59:21 refresher 25:12 regarding 31:9 regardless 56:3 region 77:1 registered 17:21 regular 26:7,12 27:25 28:2 49:11 51:19 regularly 74:23 regulate 27:16 reiterating 79:12 rejected 13:7 related 15:1 16:21 20:2 35:1 42:18 45:12 60:1 74:18 relating 37:20 relatively-per... 45:2 release 27:1,6 released 26:14,23 47:17 48:11 53:21 54:11 relied 13:1 remain 58:2 remaining 17:7 remains 65:25 66:1 67:2 68:2 remarks 22:22 remember 9:13 61:22	Reock 38:17,23 39:5,11 report 51:14 56:7 reported 56:22 61:7 68:6 reporting 45:9 repository 20:17 represent 5:9 8:9 9:7 10:18 76:21 76:22 representation 7:15 11:12,13 28:13 29:4 30:22 representative 80:15 representatives 28:25 29:9 30:2 31:22 33:3,24 34:9 36:24 43:13 47:19 79:6 represented 11:17,18 60:24 78:25 representing 5:17 represents 11:21 41:24 reproach 15:6 republic 74:13 Requests 32:6 requests 19:6 require 33:13 66:23 required 10:9 22:9 51:8,14 requirement 9:21 32:8,12 requirements 15:17,19 29:18 29:21 32:3 40:10 requires 35:5 52:22 53:4 requiring 18:4 requisite 31:1
Q				
qualifying 49:14 49:19 quarters 56:13 63:23 question 20:9,9 21:21 22:20 38:14 47:13 55:21 60:20 62:17 63:19 80:9,18,22 81:5 questioning 16:3 questionnaire 66:22 questions 17:2 19:21 24:19 28:7 38:11,12 40:4 46:24 52:14 54:19 60:18,23 61:2,6 64:10 65:8 70:4 70:5 72:14 73:21 80:3 quorum 3:4 quoting 14:3				
R				
race 32:24 54:13 54:16,18 56:3,5 56:7,8,12 60:22 60:24 61:7,11 61:18 62:4,9,15 62:22,25 68:2 68:12,14,21,24 68:25 69:11 races 61:25 69:1 69:2 racial 31:21 32:24 33:3,9 34:7,12 36:13 36:22 42:24				

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 13

research 4:18	62:13 63:9	Rouson 2:23,24	33:6 34:1,1,2,2	60:19 61:16
resembles 39:12	reviewed 18:19	5:15,17 22:19	35:2 36:7,9	63:18 64:5,10
reside 57:23	reviewing 13:5	22:21 23:24	37:4 50:3,7	64:22 72:16
residence 56:21	74:20	24:9 63:18,20	52:22 53:6	80:21 82:25
57:3	revised 18:2	64:5 72:16,17	sections 11:22	senatorial 35:7
resident 56:16	Reynolds 30:15	73:20 80:21	12:13 33:6 36:5	senators 12:2
residents 6:1	Rican 56:1	row 5:2	36:12	15:23 16:10,14
73:16	rich 76:3,14	Rule 16:18	see 3:15 5:9,10	16:19 23:20
residing 47:15	right 4:10,10	ruled 13:24	6:23 7:2 8:15	24:2 79:7
resolution 6:17	7:13 21:18	35:12	40:1 43:3 48:17	send 20:2 49:23
50:8 51:3,10,16	32:17,23 60:17	rules 77:18 79:15	69:21 70:13	sense 64:15
51:18,21	81:13	rural 10:5 11:18	71:6,22,25 72:3	sensitive 54:5
respect 82:16	right-angle 35:13		seeing 24:20	sent 16:22 20:6
respectfully 75:2	Rights 31:18,24	S	46:25 52:15	September 1:15
respond 80:11	32:18,20 33:5	safeguard 17:9	65:9 68:10 70:5	26:16 48:3,16
responded 62:8	34:21	Samoa 55:16	73:22 74:7	49:24
62:15 65:1	River 59:9 73:1,4	sampling 53:2	82:21,25	sergeant's 3:24
66:23	73:4,6	Sanders 30:1	Seek 75:15	series 27:3
respondent 47:14	rivers 44:2	saw 7:21 65:23	seen 24:4 65:13	seriously 10:12
55:23	road 24:11 44:11	Sawyer 84:2,24	select 11:3,5	76:6
respondents	roads 44:3,4,8,9	saying 3:12 61:13	17:19 19:9	serve 6:8,13 13:4
61:19	44:22 54:1	76:8 79:20	61:25 69:20	20:16
response 20:10	rock 7:16	82:16	selected 53:22	served 5:23
20:12,20 47:12	Rodrigues 2:2,5	scheduled 47:20	58:12	services 76:4
54:18 66:21	2:6 3:6,19 8:8,9	Scoon 78:4,8,9	self- 54:19 66:20	serving 8:7 10:20
80:17	10:25 20:8,25	81:6,12,16,19	self-response	session 3:15 26:7
responses 47:9	21:3,17,20 22:3	82:6,9,12	66:18	26:12 28:1,2
responsibility	23:4 24:3,16	scope 14:24	senate 1:13 2:2	49:9,11,12 51:2
8:19 10:10 12:3	38:10 39:2 40:3	score 39:5,5,6,6	3:13,17 6:22	51:7,13,19 59:6
responsive 46:18	46:23 47:3	39:15,16,20	8:10 13:24	set 37:13 77:15
result 23:12	52:13 60:18	scored 39:8	16:18,23 19:3	setting 51:9
36:20 56:9	61:14 62:19	scores 38:17,18	23:7,10 25:24	shading 72:3
resulting 65:19	63:1,18 64:3,9	38:23 39:7	29:9,16 35:4,19	shadow 14:16
results 32:22	64:20 65:7 70:3	scripts 14:8	40:19 41:3,15	17:10
59:1	72:13,23 73:21	17:14	43:6 59:8 67:11	shape 53:20
retention 15:22	76:13 78:3 81:4	seat 26:18 29:2,6	67:13 71:5	share 9:12 35:20
16:15 17:3	81:7,15,17,20	seats 28:21,24	senate-wide 18:1	35:22 81:18
retirees 76:23	82:7,10,18	30:17,19 47:18	senator 2:9,11,13	shed 72:21
retrogression	Rodriguez 8:21	second 26:8	2:15,17,19,21	Shelby 34:18,20
33:2 34:6 43:9	8:23	27:23	2:23,25 3:2,7	shift 65:14 73:1
43:14	Rodriques 8:18	secondary 44:3,4	6:6 8:24 9:6,12	shifts 26:3 67:24
revealed 26:3,16	Rodriquez 2:21	secretary 52:1	10:4,8 11:2,4	short 45:25
28:17	2:22	secretive 18:3	17:4 18:25	show 3:7 24:11
review 14:25	Rojas 4:11	section 11:19	19:23 20:18	70:25 71:25
18:22 19:5,6	role 12:18 13:11	16:16,17 27:20	21:7,15,20	83:1
25:13 39:25	roll 2:4 7:16	29:13,24 31:10	22:19 38:13	showing 72:14
50:5 58:10	room 74:6 78:6	31:15 32:14,15	39:4 41:14	shown 44:24

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 14

shows 52:4	soon 40:2 48:14	36:14 37:3,5,12	54:20 56:21,23	submitters 18:8
side 24:19	sorry 20:7 41:8	54:22	57:1,4 65:21,23	18:17
sides 7:20	47:3 62:18	standing 63:16	66:2,5 68:3	submitting 14:11
sign 79:7	sort 49:16	star 39:14	statical 45:2	subsection 31:11
signed 18:6 59:10	source 53:17	Stargel 2:25 3:1	stating 17:20	36:16 37:2,4,5
59:15	sources 58:8	10:17,18 82:25	Statistical 45:5	37:11,15,20
significance	South 55:1 56:1,2	start 3:17,20 4:3	status 32:24	Subsections
45:15 71:24	71:8 72:4	4:8 5:1,6,7 25:5	statute 53:9	37:12
significant 15:25	southeast 11:14	73:24	statutes 16:18	subsequent 25:16
significantly	55:7	started 28:3	31:19 32:14	52:12
30:17 72:21	southern-most	starting 41:11	statutory 53:10	subsequently
signing 80:2	9:2	80:1	steps 17:9 18:19	60:15
silence 3:9	southwest 8:11	starts 47:8	Stewart 3:2,3 6:5	substantial 31:2
similar 43:17	11:15	state 3:16 5:25	6:6 21:20,22	Substitute 59:12
67:11	space 76:18	7:9,14 8:10,24	story 75:1	sufficient 45:22
similarly 67:20	Spanish 56:2,11	9:2 10:3 11:12	Street 1:24	sufficiently 33:16
Sims 30:15	speak 39:19	12:25 13:23	streets 44:22	33:19 46:15
single 33:17	65:12	18:8 26:2,9,10	strictly 15:18	suggestion 18:16
68:24,25 76:25	speakers 17:14	27:15,18,22	strive 6:10	suggestions 18:5
single- 36:3	17:22	28:18,25 29:1,1	strongly 75:1	18:12,24
sir 8:6 46:22	speaking 3:25	29:2,4,15,15	students 56:16	Suite 1:24
82:17	39:11	30:11,18,19,23	63:25	summarily 13:6
sitting 4:9 13:14	speaks 38:21	32:20 35:5,25	subcommittee	summer 47:13
16:1	special 4:11	36:3 40:21	9:25 11:3,6	supervisors
situations 56:17	51:19	42:25 44:8 45:8	subcommittees	49:19,23
six- 73:2	specific 66:9 72:8	49:15 50:6,10	17:19 19:9	support 46:6
six-lane 44:10	80:24	50:17,21 52:1,5	Subcontinent	supposed 63:10
skip 35:18	specifically 68:8	53:7,9 54:4	55:7	Supreme 12:16
slept 56:18	speed 49:4	58:16,21 66:10	subdivision	12:22 13:23
slide 41:17 42:17	spoke 80:15	66:17 67:11	30:21 32:21	15:9 30:1,14
44:18 49:8 52:3	sponsor 22:7,16	69:23 70:14	subdivisions	34:18 37:18
60:2 64:13	square 39:16	71:5,10 74:21	28:22 45:3,8	39:24 50:10,13
71:17 72:18	59:14	76:24 78:21	59:8	50:17,22 51:5,9
slightly 70:25	St 8:4 9:7 59:9	81:23	subject 16:3	51:22
small 45:2	71:12 72:19,19	state-wide 47:17	20:12 25:13	sure 5:25 6:12
smaller 58:22	73:1,3,6	stated 30:2,16,24	subjective 13:7	20:25 21:6 24:7
71:20	staff 4:4,8,9,19	39:24 78:10	submission 19:7	25:8 61:3 69:9
smallest 42:15	6:2 7:3 9:23	statement 80:9	23:2	80:24 81:19
44:20	10:14 13:22	states 9:3 26:6,11	submissions 18:3	surpass 66:9
smiling 8:16	16:5,19 18:22	27:14 28:23,24	18:18 23:14	surprisingly
smoother 39:19	19:6 20:10	29:8,21,24 30:3	submit 21:24	67:10 69:9
sociocultural	21:12 24:8,23	30:14 31:1,10	22:2,4,9	surveys 54:7
56:6	standard 29:22	31:14 34:17	submitted 18:5	swapped 57:21
software 23:12	30:11 34:23	36:16 37:2 44:5	18:23 19:1	swapping 57:12
27:9 40:2 62:3	37:14 54:8	47:19,24 48:8	23:22	57:15,20
Solicit 75:13	standards 12:11	50:7 52:21,24	submitter 18:7	switched 36:3
somewhat 34:2	12:17 15:1	53:4,6,8,23	18:14	system 74:15

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 15

systems 60:9	territory 35:11	66:10	TRANSCRIPT...	understand
T	35:14 37:1	Thornburg 33:11	1:12	61:12 75:15
tab 24:21 40:5	test 39:13,24	thought 24:14	transferred 73:6	82:12
46:24,25 73:22	testify 3:22 24:13	60:23 61:5	Translation 76:3	understanding
73:23	testifying 17:18	thoughtful 10:13	transparency	12:18 73:8
tables 27:3 69:20	testimony 13:16	three 33:18 39:7	77:15	understood 44:2
Tabs 24:21	17:25 23:1	39:22 40:1	transparent	uneven 28:16
tabular 47:23	tests 39:18	tied 47:11	14:14 17:8	unformatted
69:19	texts 16:20	tier 37:18,24,25	79:14	27:3
tabulate 61:21	thank 3:6,19 5:4	38:7,16	transpired 78:18	unintentionally
take 10:10,11	5:15 6:4,20,21	tiers 37:17	travel 75:21	16:12
11:19,25 16:10	7:16 8:8,13,20	TIGER 59:3	traveled 5:24	uninterrupted
38:8 58:5	8:22 9:4,5 10:1	TIGER/Line	travels 17:24	35:11
taken 3:22 53:7	10:2,16,25	53:20	tremendous 10:6	union 76:23
60:2	19:24 20:8,24	time 3:13,25 9:11	11:11,24	United 9:3 26:11
talk 11:25 38:24	21:4,18 22:21	9:14 10:22 12:8	trend 65:15	27:14 28:24
54:13 56:13	23:24 25:2	12:9 20:5 24:10	68:10 70:24	29:8,21,24
talked 15:21	38:15 39:1,3	24:18 28:5	trends 65:13	30:14 31:14
21:10 40:9	40:6 41:13 47:6	41:10 47:11	71:21	34:17 44:5
talking 25:20	52:17 60:21	49:5 56:19 61:4	trial 14:2,3	47:19 52:21,24
66:18	61:15 63:4,20	66:19 75:5	tribal 55:3	53:8,23 54:20
Tallahassee	64:4,12,21	76:19 78:22	tropical 60:8	65:20,23 66:2,4
75:21	65:11 70:6	80:10	true 12:17 84:4	68:3
Tampa 71:9	72:17,24 73:20	timeline 24:25	trust 79:5	units 58:22 66:12
target 40:23	74:2,19 76:12	47:4,5 50:2	try 79:5	unrest 60:10
task 12:1,9	76:13,17 77:23	52:14	trying 5:5 40:25	updating 54:10
technical 58:4	78:2,3,6,8 81:3	times 27:16	two 8:3 29:8	uphold 81:23
technically 35:25	82:12,17,18	today 25:6,21	33:17 37:17,24	upset 78:23
technique 57:14	thanks 6:20	26:19 43:8 70:7	38:16 59:6	urban 11:17
techniques 58:11	themes 65:14	77:23	68:13 74:18	usable 59:1 75:11
tell 77:4	theoretically	today's 3:8 25:14	types 69:21	use 13:2,7 25:9
Templin 76:14	58:5 63:15	told 49:5	typically 40:19	25:21 30:20
76:15,17	thing 7:14 70:7	top 65:3	48:10	32:12 38:22
ten 7:3 26:5	80:20	total 29:7 40:21	U	44:1,21 53:1,4
29:18 52:19	things 39:10 63:9	42:11,15,16	U.S 29:8,25 32:23	53:19 54:11
76:24 77:3	67:22 70:20	58:1,15 64:24	40:10 44:7,24	56:21 58:13
tenths 73:3	79:3,4,13,18	66:13 68:5	45:4 52:18,22	59:4 62:3
term 24:12 28:14	80:13	totals 47:18	65:17	useful 27:5
29:10	think 7:20,23	touched 53:14	Ultimately 13:19	user-friendly
terminology	10:12 11:10	tough 6:15	unconstitutional	27:7
24:25 25:9 38:9	38:17 52:10	town 44:15	14:18 15:8	users 72:7
40:7	60:25 63:21	tract 45:1 58:17	underlying 65:14	usually 28:7
terms 7:9 40:15	77:6 80:21	Tracts 45:1	underpopulated	33:20
40:24 42:18	81:12 82:13,15	traditionally	71:7	utilization 38:3
45:11	third 9:11,14	55:25	underpopulation	utilize 32:9 37:9
territories 35:10	67:20	transcribed 84:3	71:23	V
	third-largest	transcript 84:4		

9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 16

v 1:4 30:1,15 33:12 34:19 vacant 73:10,15 valid 50:20 validity 34:23 50:11 51:16 value 16:25 17:23 18:9 variance 30:9 58:19 various 9:25 26:18 31:3 72:15 vendor 23:11 venue 24:13 verbal 75:22 version 54:11 versus 70:14 vice 2:7 9:25 video 2:1 75:7 83:3 view 75:16 viewers 69:18 views 50:14 villages 44:16 66:5,15 violate 15:16 violating 82:4 Virginia 57:7 virtual 24:14 75:22 visible 69:16 72:5 75:5 visit 66:24 visual 39:25 VOICE 47:2 vote 30:5 32:23 voted 79:22 voters 6:1 36:7 46:5 73:25 74:5 74:18 78:5,11 81:25 votes 33:19 40:11 voting 31:18,24 32:17,18,20 33:5 34:21 41:6 41:20 45:19,22	W Wachee 59:13,23 waive 3:25 walk 52:9 walked 52:6 want 21:6 61:20 63:22,22 75:25 76:7 77:24 78:1 80:25 wanted 21:12 25:5,5 Washington 1:24 57:7 wasn't 68:23 waste 78:22 watch 77:13 watching 76:11 77:21 water 35:15 44:22 wave 4:12,15 way 5:2 12:24 15:15 25:19 56:19 61:21 63:3 75:20 ways 75:19 we'll 24:20,21 25:9,17,20,21 26:19 44:20 49:10 59:22 73:23,24 83:1 we're 4:21 17:5 23:11 40:23,24 49:3 62:13,25 68:9 77:15,17 77:23,24,25 79:25 80:1,4,5 80:25 we've 8:4 11:12 11:17,18 15:21 23:8 40:9 65:13 67:24 weakens 43:20 Webber 73:24 74:2,4 website 19:2 20:14,15,16	22:5,10,11 23:13,23 24:6 48:19 52:8 69:17 72:6 79:9 week 26:25 27:2 48:3,8,23 Weeki 59:13,23 weeks 48:22 49:7 74:24 weighty 10:10 Welcome 3:16 Wendy 84:2,24 went 37:16 67:1 73:3 79:2 Wesberry 30:1 West 8:25 60:10 White 55:18 62:23 63:14 68:1,4,6,8,11 wide-spread 17:17 wildfires 60:9 win 79:5 wisdom 4:22 wish 22:16 wishes 19:17 wishing 3:22 Women 78:5,11 wondered 64:14 wonderful 9:16 9:23 74:5 word 77:12 words 4:6 38:19 74:22,25 80:8 82:14 work 5:2 8:5 10:24 18:25 24:7 74:8 75:6 75:15 76:19 81:3 working 5:12 6:2 9:24 11:7 46:10 48:14 77:19 worth 30:6 34:19 53:16 59:4 write 61:20 writing 14:8 19:1	41:10 written 18:5 wrote 14:4 17:14 www.floridare... 19:4 20:14 X X 32:15 53:6 Y Yeah 21:3 year 7:2 26:8 27:23 54:12 66:19 years 7:4,22 26:5 28:2 29:19 41:23 52:19 64:17 74:17 77:3 Yin 4:15,15 York 57:6 66:1,9 Z zero 39:8 0 1 1 7:18 8:2 35:20 37:18 40:20 45:19 59:17 1-7-9-4-8-5 41:16 1.3 76:22 1.48 16:18 10 31:6 40:17 11 10:5 11.031 32:14 11.0431 16:17 11th 26:13 28:1 48:25 49:11,12 120 35:8 120,000 67:10 1215 59:12 12th 26:15 47:22 130,000 66:6 13th 49:14 14th 30:12 15 50:7 51:6	66:14 67:11 71:16 150,000 67:19 15th 49:1 84:6 16 27:20 29:13 35:2 50:3,7 16th 26:16 48:3 1730 1:24 179,485 41:5 1790 52:20 17th 49:14 18 41:23 18th 48:25 19 3:21 5:17 1964 30:1,15 1980 54:15 1986 33:12 1997 54:22 19th 49:2 1st 26:21 47:8,11 47:15 48:2,9 49:1 64:1 2 2 24:20,21,21 29:24 31:15 33:6 34:3 35:21 35:21 40:20 52:22 2-2-1 41:15 2,736,877 66:13 2.7 26:17 20 1:15 12:13 31:10 36:5,8 57:16 2000 57:11 20036 1:24 2010 5:24 9:13 10:21 36:7 65:2 65:18,21,24 66:13 67:21 68:16 69:15 70:14 72:10 78:17 2012 43:5 2013 34:18 2016 43:4,4,6
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9/20/2021

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

Page 17

2018 58:12	4	85 65:21		
202 1:25	4 24:22 41:4	86 65:19,19		
2020 3:14 26:4	46:25 73:22	8th 50:1		
29:5 41:1 47:8	4.3 69:15			
47:15,21 54:11	4:22-cv-109 1:4	9		
56:14 58:13	40 35:6	9 65:18 67:4,20		
59:5,11,16,17	412 44:16	68:15		
64:1,17,19 65:2	435 28:24	93,000 66:6		
65:18,23 66:12	44 67:16	94-171 48:5		
66:14 67:21	45 67:9	949,611 67:4		
69:12 72:10		99.9 64:23,25		
2021 1:15 26:21	5	65:6 66:11		
47:22 48:2 65:5	5 10:4 34:2,2	9th 49:20 59:11		
2022 26:13 27:24	73:23	59:16		
49:11,13,21	5-3-8-4- 41:15			
50:1	5-5 41:16			
2023 84:6	50 45:18 47:24			
204 68:3	51 67:12,16			
21 12:13 31:10	52 65:22			
36:6,9 53:3	538,455 41:4			
22 10:18	5th 49:1			
22nd 49:1				
23 69:13	6			
232-0646 1:25	60 51:24			
235.4 68:5	60th 49:12			
23rd 49:22	61 69:12			
24 16:16 69:4	616 59:8			
241,000 67:12	62.1 69:12			
24th 49:24	63 56:9 67:1			
25 9:7	74:17 79:22			
259,000 67:21	63.8 67:1			
26th 47:16	67 77:2			
27 8:9 71:2,15	696,000 70:17			
276 68:17				
28 29:7 71:2,3	7			
29th 49:2	7 14:4			
	7-6-9- 41:14			
3	73,000-person			
3 24:22 35:22	70:18			
30 35:5,6 50:15	769,000 70:17			
312 66:2	769,221 41:2			
31st 47:21				
33.8 68:17	8			
35 68:5	8 32:15 53:6			
384 66:2	80 35:7 65:19			
39 8:24 66:6	80,000 67:17			
3rd 49:3	812 1:24			