

**Senate Committee on Reapportionment  
January 13, 2022**

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1	Ray Rodrigues: The Committee on Reapportionment will now come to order.
2	Dana: Chair Rodrigues.
3	Ray Rodrigues: Here.
4	Dana: Vice-Chair Broxson.
5	Doug Broxson: Here.
6	Dana: Senator Bean.
7	Aaron Bean: Here.
8	Dana: Senator Bracy.
9	Randolph Bracy: Here.
10	Dana: Senator Bradley.
11	Jennifer Bradley: Here.
12	Dana: Senator Burgess.
13	Danny Burgess: Here.
14	Dana: Senator Gibson.
15	Audrey Gibson: Here.
16	Dana: Senator Harrell
17	Gayle Harrell: Here.
18	Dana: Senator Rodriguez.
19	Ana Maria Rodriguez: Here.
20	Dana: Senator Rouson.
21	Darryl Rouson: Here.
22	Dana: Senator Stargel.
23	Kelli Stargel: Here.

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1 Dana: Senator Stewart.

2 Linda Stewart: Here.

3 Dana: A quorum is present Mr. Chair.

4 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you, I would bring to the members' attention and those in the  
5 audience a request to silence all of your electrical devices. We wouldn't want those going off  
6 while we are in the meeting here today. Anyone wishing to speak before the committee should  
7 complete an appearance card and hand it to a member of the sergeant's office. Should you elect  
8 to waive your speaking time, your position will be included in the committee records.

9 I'd like to commend the members of the Select Subcommittees on Congressional and  
10 Legislative Reapportionment for their hard work and their efforts in recommending plans that are  
11 consistent with all legal requirements and with the directives issued to staff by the full committee  
12 after reviewing the recommendations of the Select Subcommittees with staff and counsel. I have  
13 filed amendments to SJR 100 and Senate Bill 102. The substance of my amendments are  
14 Congressional Plan S000C8040 and Senate Plan S000S8046, which I believe most consistently  
15 adhere to the directives issued to staff by the full committee.

16 Today, the committee will take up amendments, questions, debate, and public testimony  
17 on both the Congressional and the State Senate maps. The Congressional map will be considered  
18 first before we move on to consideration of the Senate map. For the Senate map, I have proposed  
19 to the committee that we follow the Supreme Court precedent of numbering districts in an  
20 incumbent-neutral manor. The Court has accepted a random numbering process as compliant  
21 with its precedent. Accordingly, once we have concluded our consideration on the geographical  
22 makeup of the Senate map, we will randomly number the Senate map. As a reminder, the Florida  
23 Constitution specifies that odd numbered districts run for elections in years that are multiples of

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1 four. So after this one the next one would be 2024. Even numbered districts run for election in  
2 years that are not. So the next election after this one that an even one would appear would be  
3 2026.

4 As we all know, all Senate districts will be up for election this year in 2022. To facilitate  
5 the numbering process, 40 cards have been produced. Each card is the same size and weight.  
6 There are 20 cards labeled 'even' and 20 cards labeled 'odd.' Each of those cards have been  
7 placed into an envelope. There are no distinguishing features on any envelope. No card is visible  
8 in any way from the outside of the envelope. The Secretary of the Senate has placed the  
9 envelopes in a glass container with a lid and mixed the cards both before and after placing them  
10 in the container to ensure that there was no possibility of an intentional pattern with which the  
11 cards were put in the container. The Secretary is here to present the closed container to the  
12 committee, Secretary Debbie Brown. Thank you, Secretary, and she has given us the process by  
13 which the cards were created, placed in the envelopes, sealed and attested to the chain of custody  
14 up to the point that we have received them. I will hand that over to the Staff Director to be  
15 entered into the record. Prior to the committee's final vote on the Senate map, each district will  
16 have a card drawn from the container to designate as an odd- or even-number district. After the  
17 random numbering has been completed, the committee will then take an informal recess so that  
18 the committee staff can prepare an amendment to overlay the new district numbers on the map.

19 From a process standpoint, the numbering overlay will take the form of a late-filed  
20 substitute amendment. Please be prepared for an informal recess of approximately one hour  
21 before the committee's final procedural vote on the Senate map as it's been randomly  
22 renumbered. Do we have any questions on the process that I've just described?

23 Aaron Bean: Mr. Chairman.

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1 Ray Rodrigues: Yes, sir. President Pro Tem Bean, you are recognized.

2 Aaron Bean: Chairman, thank you so much for very illustriously laying out the  
3 randomness of the selection of districts, and I know it's going to be random. Here's my question  
4 and we have – and maybe it's not an issue at all. But we have – you know, our districts have all  
5 been laid out where they're close to being a number and they are easily followed. Are we worried  
6 if we get five or six evens in a row or something? Are we worrying about clusters of even  
7 numbers in a certain area or have we anticipated that or is that just due to the randomness or the  
8 way it will be drawn out of the jar? Is that a valid concern, or it's not a concern at all?

9 Ray Rodrigues: What I would say is what we've seen from the court is that the random  
10 method has been blessed as a method for renumbering the districts. If that were to happen that  
11 would be definitely a statistical anomaly, but it is a possibility that could occur. We will proceed  
12 bringing up each district so that everybody knows the number we are pulling and then going  
13 through this process to make the determination of whether that is odd or even.

14 Aaron Bean: Very good so with a follow-up question. So we will identify what is now  
15 known as, say, District 1, which typically always starts in the Panhandle. That's just traditionally  
16 the way – the easiest way to understand a numbered map, but under the circumstances of which  
17 you've outlined that district. So this is the first district of which we are drawing the card will be  
18 drawn and then opened and then whatever that is odd or even, if it's an odd it will then again be  
19 assigned the number 1 and then an even would then we would start with number 2.

20 Ray Rodrigues: That is correct.

21 Aaron Bean: Then if, traditionally, if the number two district which we will draw for, if  
22 that's an even, that would not be labeled 2, but it would be labeled then 4?

23 Ray Rodrigues: The second district, assuming the first one was odd, the one next to it if it

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1 was even that would probably be 2. Then we would proceed on –

2 Aaron Bean: Okay.

3 Ray Rodrigues: – to the district that's currently known as 3 to make a determination of  
4 whether it would be odd or even.

5 Aaron Bean: Odd or even. And again if we get six in a row or whatever, because it's  
6 going to be random, it's like a coin flip. But if there's six in a row It could be 2, 4, 6, 8, across the  
7 top before we get to our first odd number, and you and Jay the Staff Director is nodding that  
8 could be it and that's the way the ping-pong bounce or the cards are drawn. Thank you.

9 Ray Rodrigues: That is a possibility indeed. Do we have any other questions? Senator  
10 Gibson?

11 Audrey Gibson: Thank you Mr. Chair. I don't think I heard how the years are going to  
12 work. I think there's four, two. I'm pretty sure that's correct. Where is that in the process?

13 Ray Rodrigues: That's dictated by the Constitution. So in the Florida Constitution it says  
14 that odd-number districts run for election in years that are multiples of four. And even-numbered  
15 districts run in years that are not. We are in 2022 now, which is a redistricting year. Every race  
16 will be on the ballot. In 2024, which is a multiple of four, the odd numbers would be on the  
17 ballot. Then in 2026 is when the even numbers would first appear on the ballot after this  
18 election.

19 Audrey Gibson: Thank you. Can I understand the card process again. So, we are going to  
20 randomly draw the cards that are stacked up in the jar. And then the cards are going to be placed  
21 on a map?

22 Ray Rodrigues: So we will identify the district we are drawing for. So let's use the  
23 example that President Bean mentioned and we start in the Panhandle with District 1. We

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1 announce we are drawing for District 1, we will pull a card out open it up, and it will either say  
2 odd or even. If it says odd, we will write on the map odd for that district. We will do that for all  
3 40 districts and identify whether their card is indicated that they will have an odd number or an  
4 even number. Once we have completed that, we will then take an informal recess. Committee  
5 staff will go back and re-number the map either odd or even based upon how the cards were  
6 drawn.

7 Audrey Gibson: Mm-hm. Okay. Thank you.

8 Ray Rodrigues: Senator Stewart do you have a question?

9 Linda Stewart: No, but I did want to point out that when these were drawn in the last ten  
10 years, four of the Central Florida area all had odd numbers.

11 Ray Rodrigues: So those anomalies can occur in a random process. And have in the past.  
12 Thank you. Do we have any other questions on the process. Seeing none we will move forward  
13 unless – Senator Gibson you are recognized for a question.

14 Audrey Gibson: Is this more random than – when I was at Reapportionment, we had like  
15 the – I called it Senate lotto. Is this more random or equally as random as that process?

16 Ray Rodrigues: Although not a mathematician, I believe what we would be told is that  
17 they were equally random. Okay seeing no more questions, we will move to the agenda. Let's  
18 take up Tab One, Senate Bill 102, on establishing the congressional districts of the state,  
19 sponsored by the Chair, Senator Rodrigues. There is one amendment so let's take up the  
20 amendment, which is barcode 652836. That is the amendment that I filed that is based upon the  
21 map that I received from the Select Subcommittee, and Mr. Ferrin can you please walk us  
22 through that map.

23 Jay Ferrin: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So pursuant to the directives given to staff, this

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1 plan was drawn to be consistent with the plain language of the Florida Constitution, federal law,  
2 and existing judicial precedent. The balance is the co-equal criteria outlined in the Tier Two  
3 standards of Article III, Section 20 of the Florida Constitution, except where doing so conflicts  
4 with the Tier One standards. A functional analysis of the minority districts in the plan confirms  
5 that it does not diminish the ability of racial and language minorities to elect candidates of their  
6 choice.

7 When drawing visually compact districts, county boundaries were used where it was  
8 feasible. When the county was split, static geographic features such as major roads, railroads,  
9 and water bodies were used in a manner that sought to keep cities whole, where feasible. In cases  
10 where a municipality was split, static geographic features were used to do so. Where none were  
11 available, a municipal boundary may have been used, consistent with the committee's directives  
12 to prepare congressional plans with population deviations of plus or minus one person from the  
13 ideal population. Boundaries may deviate – may deviate slightly from political and geographic  
14 boundaries.

15 Like the benchmark plan, this plan has four African American districts and four Hispanic  
16 districts. Starting in the Panhandle, District 1 was drawn eastward until it reached the ideal  
17 population in Walton County. The boundary uses State Road 83 for its entirety except where  
18 necessary to balance population in and around the City of DeFuniak Springs, which is consistent  
19 with the committee's directives to utilize easily recognizable and readily ascertainable  
20 boundaries while considering the impermanent and changing nature of municipal boundaries.  
21 This also results in a visually and mathematically compact configuration.

22 District 2 comprises fifteen whole counties, which is consistent with the committee's  
23 directives to, where feasible, explore configurations consisting of whole counties in less-



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1 populated areas. Its configuration is affected by the neighboring District 5, a Tier One protected  
2 district. As directed by the committee, the boundary utilizes easily recognizable and readily  
3 ascertainable boundaries while also considering municipal boundaries' impermanent and  
4 changing nature. This results in a 4% use of non-political and geographic boundaries.

5 District 3 is composed of Union, Bradford, Clay, Alachua, Putnam Counties, and part of  
6 Marion County. Its extensive use of county boundaries and keeps the City of Ocala whole within  
7 the district.

8 District 4 comprises all of Nassau County and part of Duval and St. Johns. Its district  
9 uses extensively political and geographic boundaries, with a 3% use of non-political and  
10 geographic features. Departures from these features were necessary to maintain the ability-to-  
11 elect in a neighboring Tier One protected district, and to equalize population.

12 District 5 is an effective minority district. Functional analysis confirms that this  
13 configuration does not deny or abridge the opportunity for African Americans to participate in  
14 the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice.  
15 District 5 follows county lines and major roadways for a substantial portion of its boundaries.  
16 The 2% following non-political and geographic boundaries. Where it splits Jefferson County,  
17 District 5 follows I-10 in its entirety. And in Columbia County, it follows I-75 and State Road  
18 100, except where necessary to equalize population. In Leon County, the boundary primarily  
19 follows major geographic boundaries such as State Road 261, which is better known as Capital  
20 Circle, U.S. Highway 27, and Apalachee Parkway and Monroe Street, and uses part of I-10.

21 In Central Florida, the southern boundary of Volusia County is used in District 6 and it  
22 gains its remaining population from Lake County, which already contains a county split. And  
23 reflects a consistent application of methodology relative to the other areas of the state where

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counties were kept whole by moving a split to a neighboring county that is already split. Its configuration is affected by districts to the south, which are drawn to respect county boundaries as directed by the committee.

District 11 contains all of Citrus and Sumter Counties and parts of Marion and Lake. This follows the committee's directives to examine the use of county boundaries where feasible and its configuration is affected by respecting the county boundaries of Hernando and Sumter.

District 8 uses the Brevard-Volusia County line as its northern boundary and gains the remainder of its population in Orange County.

District 9 is a Hispanic opportunity district protected from diminishment under Tier One. Due to an increase in the Hispanic population in the area, the district becomes a majority-minority District. A functional analysis confirms that this configuration does not deny or abridge the opportunity for Hispanics to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice. District 9 is configured to respect the county boundaries of Osceola, Polk, and Brevard, meaning that it gains its remaining population from Orange County, which is already split. This is another example of the consistent application and methodology concerning the placement of county splits.

District 12 follows the committee's directive to examine the use of county boundaries where feasible and keeps all of Hernando and Pasco Counties whole. Because Polk, Sumter, and Citrus are also kept whole, District 12 regains its remaining population in Pinellas County.

District 28 is configured to respect county boundaries to its east, south, and west. It includes all of Polk County, and given that the population of Polk County is over 700,000, or excuse me, only 725,000 people, it extends into Lake County to balance the population. Taking District 28 into Lake County allows counties into the south to be kept whole and is consistent

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1 with the committee's directive to explore concepts that, where feasible, keep districts entirely  
2 within a county in the more densely populated areas, and use county boundaries.

3 District 7's configuration is affected by the neighboring Districts 9 and 10, which are Tier  
4 One protected districts. Because Osceola and Polk Counties are kept whole, District 9 goes into  
5 Orange County to balance its population. This causes District 7 to gain its remaining population  
6 from Volusia County, and is consistent with the committee's directives to use county boundaries  
7 where feasible and draw districts which are visually and mathematically compact, which keeps  
8 both Osceola and Polk Counties whole.

9 District 10 is also wholly contained within western Orange County. It's an African  
10 American opportunity district protected from diminishment under Tier One of Article III, Section  
11 20 of the Florida Constitution. Functional analysis confirms that this configuration of the district  
12 does not deny or abridge the opportunity for African Americans to participate in the political  
13 process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice. The district utilizes  
14 Orange County's western border in addition to easily recognizable and readily ascertainable  
15 geographic features, using only 2% of non-political and geographic boundaries.

16 Looking over at Pinellas, this county has a population of 959,000 people, which is more  
17 than the ideal population of one district. Therefore, the county must accommodate more than one  
18 district to balance population. And District 13 is wholly contained within Pinellas County. There,  
19 the boundary primarily follows major roadways, departing only from these geographic features  
20 when necessary to equalize population. This is consistent with the committee's directives to keep  
21 districts wholly within a county in the more densely populated areas and to use easily  
22 recognizable and readily ascertainable boundaries while considering the impermanent and  
23 changing nature of municipal boundaries and drawing districts which are visually and

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1 mathematically compact.

2 District 14 is made up of parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas County. Placing District 14 in  
3 Pinellas while primarily using geographic boundaries allows District 15 to be wholly contained  
4 within Hillsborough. It also allows for Pasco County to be kept whole, which results in a more  
5 compact configuration of the region that utilizes political and geographic boundaries, as was  
6 directed by the committee.

7 District 15 is wholly contained within Hillsborough County and is consistent with the  
8 committee's directives to keep districts entirely within a county in the more densely populated  
9 areas. Its western and southern boundary primarily follows interstates and major roadways and  
10 railroads, departing only from these geographic features when necessary to equalize population.

11 District 16 contains the remainder of Hillsborough County, all of Manatee County, and  
12 part of Sarasota. It has a high usage of political and geographic boundaries, with only 5% of the  
13 boundary falling on non-political and geographic features in order to balance population.

14 District 17 contains all of Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Glades, and  
15 Okeechobee Counties and parts of Lee and Sarasota Counties. This is consistent with the  
16 committee's directives to explore concepts that consist of whole counties in less-populated areas  
17 that result in districts which are visually and mathematically compact. In both Lee and Sarasota  
18 Counties, political and geographic boundaries are highly utilized, resulting in a 2% non-political  
19 and geographic boundary usage score.

20 To the east, District 18 is comprised of all St. Lucie and Martin Counties and part of  
21 Indian River and Palm Beach. Its configuration is affected by District 20, which is a neighboring  
22 Tier One protected district.

23 District 19 is located within Lee and Collier Counties and is affected by the neighboring

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District 25, which is a Tier One protected district. The district uses political and geographic boundaries, with only 8% falling on non-qualifying boundaries.

District 25 is a majority-minority district protected from diminishment under Tier One. Functional analysis confirms that the district does not deny or abridge the opportunity for Hispanics to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice. Comprised of all of Hendry County and part of Collier and Miami-Dade Counties. Its configuration is affected by adjacent Tier One protected districts.

Moving into South Florida, this region contains five Tier One protected districts. They are 20, 24, 25, 26, and 27. This has a significant impact on the configuration of the region. District 20 is a majority-minority district protected from diminishment under Tier One. A functional analysis confirms that the district does not deny or abridge the opportunity for African Americans to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice.

Districts 21 and 22 are both affected by the configuration of District 20. 21 is wholly contained within Palm Beach County and is consistent with the committee's directive to explore concepts that, where feasible, keep districts within a county in the more densely populated areas.

District 22 is contained within Palm Beach and Broward and the district makes extensive use of political and geographic boundaries in addition to being visually and mathematically compact, given its proximity to a Tier One protected district.

District 23 is also affected by District 20 to the north and District 24 to the south. Both of those are Tier One protected districts. Consistent with the committee's directives, the district is wholly contained within Broward County. It utilizes political and geographic boundaries where feasible, and is visually and mathematically compact.

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District 24 is an effective African American minority district protected from diminishment under Tier One. The functional analysis of this district confirms that the district does not deny or abridge the opportunity for African Americans to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice.

Districts 26 and 27 are both majority-minority Hispanic districts that are protected from diminishment under Tier One. The functional analysis of both of these districts also confirms that they did not deny or abridge the opportunity for Hispanics to participate in the political process and did not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice.

District 26 contains all of Monroe County and part of Miami-Dade County, makes extensive use of political and geographic boundaries, with only 1% falling on non-qualifying boundaries.

District 27 is wholly contained within Miami-Dade, makes extensive use of political and geographic boundaries, and it both visually and mathematically compact.

Overall, this plan has a deviation of one person. The average compactness score of the plan is .80 for Convex-Hull, .43 for Polsby-Popper, and .46 for Reock. The average use of non-political and geographic boundaries for the districts in this plan is 8%, which means that 92% of the district boundaries are falling on features that have been identified by the United States Census Bureau's geographic layers as city boundaries, county boundaries, interstates, U.S. highways, state roads, contiguous water bodies larger than ten acres, or railroads.

There are eleven districts with less than or equal to 5% non-political and geographic boundary usage. And 27 districts with less than or equal to 20% non-political and geographic boundary usage. There are 48 whole counties, 6 districts wholly contained within a county, 367 cities with all of their boundaries contained within a single district, and 372 cities with all of their

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1 population contained within a single district. That, Mr. Chairman, is the plan before us today.

2 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you for walking us through the plan. Members, are there any  
3 questions on the amendment? Seeing no questions, we are going to hold the appearance cards  
4 until we dispose of the amendment and have the appearance cards appear on the bill. So we'll  
5 move forward. Is there any debate on the amendment? Seeing no debate on the amendment, I  
6 will waive close on the amendment. All in favor of the amendment say yea.

7 All Members: Yea.

8 Ray Rodrigues: All opposed say nay. We will show that the amendment has been  
9 adopted. Now we are back on the bill as it's been amended. Are there any questions on the bill as  
10 it's been amended? Seeing none, we'll move to public appearance cards and we do have two. The  
11 first one is Steven Mangual, you are recognized.

12 Steven Mangual: Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to offer this written  
13 testimony on the concerns of LatinoJustice PRLDEF regarding the current state of the  
14 redistricting process and its impact on the Latino population and the Latino community. In short,  
15 we oppose the proposed maps because they dilute Latino political power. My name is Steven  
16 Mangual, I am Justice Advocate Coordinator with Latino Justice PRLDEF out of the Southeast  
17 Regional Office. Our organization has a long history of participating in Florida's redistricting  
18 process and our organization is closely monitoring the work of the Florida Legislature to ensure  
19 protection of Latino Floridians' rights in the redistricting process under the protections of the  
20 Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Constitutional norms. Latino Floridians must have an equal  
21 opportunity to elect their candidates of choice and remain politically unified in communities of  
22 interest. The Florida Legislature's proposed maps ignore dramatic Latino population growth after  
23 the last decade. The process has been inaccessible for public comment by limited English

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1 proficient Floridians and the many members of the public impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.  
2 The end result has been the dilution of Latino political power. Regarding Latino population  
3 growth, Florida's Latino population growth has increased 34% since the 2010 census, adding  
4 almost one and a half million people to the state and now comprising over 26% of Florida's total  
5 population. This incredible demographic growth has benefited the entire state. Turning to mean  
6 public participation, language access, Spanish-dominant Floridians deserve to have their voices  
7 heard in meaningful ways and participate in this redistricting process without English-only  
8 barriers. The Legislature should ensure that public hearing notifications, information on the  
9 floridaredistricting.gov website, forms to submit public comment and review proposed maps, are  
10 fully accessible to limited English proficient Floridians who have an equal right to participate in  
11 defining the political boundaries that will endure for the next decade. Existing Google translate  
12 options online are inadequate. For example, links to historical redistricting plans in the  
13 "resources" section and memorandums in the Senate committee sections of the  
14 www.floridaredistricting.gov websites are only available in English. The Legislature should take  
15 all reasonable steps to provide translators at public hearings and provide double time for  
16 individuals using a translator to provide public comment at hearings. LatinoJustice PRLDEF has  
17 been monitoring Florida's compliance with federal and state language access guarantees in the  
18 area of voting rights access for decades. We urge this legislature to make public participation  
19 equally accessible to all Floridians. Regarding the need for public participation virtual option, on  
20 September 8, 2021, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, NALEO Education Fund, and Hispanic Federation  
21 submitted a request for virtual public hearings in light of the grave health risks of in-person  
22 testimony during COVID-19 pandemic. Our requests went unheeded. Today, two of my  
23 colleagues who were supposed to be here today to testify, asked me to fill in because they are in



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1 quarantine under CDC guidelines. Turning to congressional maps, the proposed congressional  
2 maps from both the Senate and House fail to provide a sufficient level of Latino-majority  
3 districts proportionate to Latino population growth. For example, in the Senate proposed  
4 congressional maps, the Senate across all of its plans creates four Latino-majority districts,  
5 majority in total population and majority in Hispanic voting-age population. However, these four  
6 districts were already majority districts at the end of the decade. For example, District 9 on the  
7 Senate proposals is now a slim majority district, CD 9, despite massive Latino population  
8 growth. While the Senate adds the new congressional seat in Central Florida, all configurations  
9 of the district proposed it as a white-majority district, despite the fact that the population growth  
10 has overwhelmingly been driven by Latinos. Any main influence, sorry, seats, and instead boasts  
11 as white political power despite their relative stagnant demographics. The House-proposed  
12 congressional maps, House plan H8003 removes the Latino majority –

13 Ray Rodrigues: Sir, sir.

14 Steven Mangual: Yes.

15 Ray Rodrigues: We're not going to discuss the House maps.

16 Steven Mangual: Okay. All right. I will skip to – Senate maps.

17 Ray Rodrigues: The bill you are speaking on is the Senate bill for the congressional map.

18 Steven Mangual: Okay. Thank you so much. I'll jump to then regarding Senate maps,  
19 yes?

20 Ray Rodrigues: The congressional map is before us. The Senate maps will be –

21 Steven Mangual: Okay and I already spoke the congressional map then. Okay then. In  
22 conclusion. Thank you. Every indication in this process points to redistricting proposals that do  
23 nothing more than provide Latino Floridians with the same number of majority districts at the

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1 end of the decade under existing ten-year-old districts. Both houses of this Legislature seek to  
2 cap that growth when every demographic indicator shows clearly that Latino population growth  
3 requires more, not the same. It is clear to LatinoJustice PRLDEF that Section 2 of the Voting  
4 Rights Act requires that where Latino-majority districts can be drawn feasibly, they must be  
5 drawn even in spite of the countervailing state mandates. We call on this commission to draw  
6 districts that protect communities of interest, provide the growing Latino community an equal  
7 opportunity to elect candidates of its choice, and ensure that they are conducting the necessary  
8 performance analysis to ensure these proposed districts are not diluting the Latino vote. Share  
9 such work products to the general public. Thank you very much and if there are any questions I  
10 will gladly take them down and I will apologize if I won't be able to answer them today. But my  
11 colleagues, if it's okay, will respond, via email. Are there any?

12 Ray Rodrigues: Seeing no questions. Thank you for your comments.

13 Steven Mangual: Okay, thank you very much, have a good day.

14 Ray Rodrigues: You too. Next up, Cecile Scoon with the Florida League of Women  
15 Voters, President.

16 Cecil Scoon: Good afternoon, thank you for this opportunity. Cecil Scoon, President of  
17 the League of Women Voters of Florida. The gentlemen that was just speaking for LatinoJustice,  
18 I think, gave an example of the problem that the League has been raising when the testing, the  
19 functional analysis, data analysis, testing has only been done on the benchmark districts that  
20 were determined in 2015 and through caselaw. Because that's what we've been saying, it doesn't  
21 take into account the population growth, it doesn't take into account all these other things, so if  
22 you're going to be sure that the Tier One guidelines are protected, has been done with regards to  
23 the benchmark. You have to look beyond the benchmark. Certainly, the indications of population

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1 growth would be one indication of where we know where different groups have settles and things  
2 of that nature. Review of the Census information would give the Senate and the Legislatures an  
3 opportunity to dig past what was established in 2015. This issue has been raised by others in  
4 regards to the Haitian Creole language protections that they are seeking and again has been  
5 demonstrated as a concern with the Hispanic community. And has certainly been raised as a  
6 concern with the African American communities because both the Fair Districts and the Voting  
7 Rights Act require that protection of the minority groups. So that if there is an opportunity for the  
8 lines to be drawn in a way where the language minorities or the racial minorities have an  
9 opportunity to select a representative of their choice, then it is our understanding that is the way  
10 the line should be drawn. And the problem is that the analysis to determine that has only been  
11 done looking backwards. Taking the benchmark districts that were determined based on 2010  
12 census, the caselaw from 2015 was looking at 2010 and we have not heard or seen either in the  
13 portal or through any of the testimony or the discussion about the process any of the Senate's  
14 effort to look forward and in the present to take into account all the population changes. Thank  
15 you.

16 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you for your comments. That concludes public testimony. Now we  
17 are back on the bill as amended. Is there debate? Seeing no debate, Dana please call the roll on  
18 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 102.

19 Dana: Senator Bean.

20 Aaron Bean: Yes.

21 Dana: Senator Bracy.

22 Randolph Bracy: Yes.

23 Dana: Senator Bradley.

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1 Jennifer Bradley: Yes.

2 Dana: Senator Burgess.

3 Danny Burgess: Yes.

4 Dana: Senator Gibson.

5 Audrey Gibson: Yes.

6 Dana: Senator Harrell

7 Gayle Harrell: Yes.

8 Dana: Senator Rodriguez.

9 Ray Rodrigues: Yes.

10 Ana Maria Rodriguez: Yes.

11 Ray Rodrigues: Sorry.

12 Dana: Senator Rouson.

13 Darryl Rouson: Yes.

14 Dana: Senator Stargel.

15 Kelli Stargel: Yes.

16 Dana: Senator Stewart.

17 Linda Stewart: Yes.

18 Dana: Vice-Chair Broxson.

19 Doug Broxson: Yes.

20 Dana: Chair Rodrigues.

21 Ray Rodrigues: Yes. By your vote, we will show that Committee Substitute for Senate  
22 Bill 102 has been reported favorably. Now Senators, we are going to move to Tab 2, Senate Joint  
23 Resolution 100, on joint resolution of apportionment, filed by me. There is – we do have

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1 amendments on this bill, so let's take up the first amendment, which is barcode 360368. Mr.  
2 Ferrin, will you walk us through the map.

3 Jay Ferrin: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. So, the Senate plan that's filed as the  
4 amendment barcode 360368 is Plan S8046. This plan was drawn pursuant to the directives given  
5 to staff, consistent with the plain language of the Florida Constitution, federal law, and existing  
6 judicial precedent. It balances the co-equal criteria outlined in the Tier Two standards of Article  
7 III, Section 21 of the Florida Constitution, except where doing so conflicts with the Tier One  
8 standards. Functional analysis of the minority districts in the plan confirms that it does not  
9 diminish the ability of racial and language minorities to elect candidates of their choice.

10 When drawing visually compact districts, county boundaries were used wherever it was  
11 feasible to do those. When a county was split, static geographic features such as major roads,  
12 railroads, and water bodies were used in a manner that sought to keep cities whole where  
13 feasible. In cases where a municipality was split, a static geographic feature was used. Where  
14 none were available, a municipal boundary may have been used. Like the benchmark plan, this  
15 plan has five African American districts and five Hispanic districts.

16 As is the case with the congressional plan, District 1 was drawn eastward until it reached  
17 its ideal population and in the Senate plan that's in Okaloosa County. The configuration of  
18 Districts 1 and 2 is fully contained within Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes,  
19 Washington, Bay, Calhoun, and Jackson Counties. Because the total population of these nine  
20 counties is roughly 1,100 people over the ideal population for two districts, each district must be  
21 overpopulated by 550 people. This configuration respects the static nature of county boundaries  
22 while configuring districts consisting of whole counties in less populated areas, and results in  
23 districts which are visually and mathematically compact. The boundary of Districts 1 and 2

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1 utilizes State Road 85 for a significant portion of its boundary, which results in the splitting of  
2 Crestview and Laurel Hill. For a 0% non-political or geographic boundary usage in both Districts  
3 1 and 2. This is consistent with the committee's directives to utilize easily recognizable and  
4 readily ascertainable features, while also considering the impermanent and changing nature of  
5 municipal boundaries.

6 District 3 contains all of Gadsden, Liberty, Gulf, Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, Jefferson,  
7 Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, and Dixie Counties in their entirety. This is  
8 consistent with the committee's directives to examine the use of county boundaries and where  
9 feasible draw districts that consist of whole counties in less-populated areas.

10 Districts 4 and 6 are fully contained within Duval and Nassau Counties. Because the total  
11 population of these two counties is roughly 9,000 over the ideal population for two districts, each  
12 district must be roughly overpopulated by 4,500 people. This configuration keeps District 6 fully  
13 within Duval County, since its population is greater than the ideal population for one district.  
14 Static political and geographic features were used for the entire boundary for District 6, which  
15 was a Tier One protected district. This is consistent with the directives to use easily recognizable  
16 and readily ascertainable boundaries where feasible, to explore concepts that keep districts  
17 wholly within a county in more densely populated areas, and results in visually and  
18 mathematically compact districts.

19 The configuration of Districts 5 and 8 is fully contained within Columbia, Baker, Union,  
20 Bradford, Clay, Gilchrist, Alachua, Levy, and Marion Counties. Because the total population of  
21 these nine counties is about 1,100 people over the ideal population for two districts, each must be  
22 roughly underpopulated by 550 people. This configuration respects the static nature of county  
23 boundaries, as directed by the committee. It results in visually and mathematically compact

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1 districts. For population balancing, District 5 includes part of Alachua County and uses easily  
2 ascertainable and commonly understood geographic features. District 8 takes the remainder of  
3 Alachua County and all of Marion and Levy Counties. This results in Districts 5 and 8 having 0%  
4 non-political and geographic boundary usage score.

5 In Central Florida, District 7 consists of all of St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler Counties  
6 and part of northern Volusia. In Volusia, the boundary utilizes static geographic features  
7 throughout the entire county. This results in 0% non-political and geographic usage for the  
8 district.

9 Directly below District 7, District 14 takes the remainder of Volusia County and part of  
10 Brevard County. To utilize political and geographic boundaries in coastal Brevard County, the  
11 boundary of Districts 14 and 17 follow State Road 50 and 405 to the Kennedy Space Center.

12 District 10 consists of all of Citrus, Sumter, and Hernando Counties and part of Pasco.  
13 Within Pasco, District 10 follows State Road 52 and State Road 589, which is the Suncoast  
14 Parkway, for the entirety of its boarder. It results in a 0% non-political and geographic boundary  
15 usage score and visual and mathematically compact districts.

16 Elsewhere in the I-4 Corridor, District 17 is fully contained within Brevard County,  
17 which is consistent with the committee's directives to keep districts wholly within a county in  
18 more densely populated areas. And as previously stated, the boundary between District 17 and 14  
19 falls entirely on geographic boundaries.

20 Districts 9, 11, 12, 13, and 15 are fully contained within Lake, Seminole, Orange, and  
21 Osceola Counties. Because the total population in these counties is 18,889 under the ideal  
22 population for five districts, each district must be roughly underpopulated by 3,780.

23 District 15 is a Hispanic opportunity district protected from diminishment under Tier

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1 One. It contains all of Osceola County and part of Orange County. Due to an increase in the  
2 area's Hispanic population, this district becomes a majority-minority district. A functional  
3 analysis of the district confirms that the district does not deny or abridge the opportunity for  
4 Hispanics to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect  
5 candidates of their choice.

6 Districts 11 and 13 are fully contained within Orange County, which follows the  
7 committee's directive to examine configuration that keep districts wholly within a county in the  
8 more densely populated areas. District 13 is affected by the configurations of the two  
9 neighboring Tier One districts in Districts 15 and 11, and makes extensive use of county  
10 boundaries on its north, east, and southern boundaries.

11 District 11 is an effective minority district protected from diminishment under Tier One.  
12 A functional analysis confirms that the district does not deny or abridge the opportunity for  
13 African Americans to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to  
14 elect candidates of their choice.

15 District 12 contains all of Lake County and the remainder of Orange County. The district  
16 gains its remaining population from Orange, which already includes a split, and is consistent in  
17 its application of the methodology relative to other areas of the state where counties were kept  
18 whole by moving a split to a neighboring county with multiple districts in it.

19 In the Tampa area, Districts 10, 16, and 20 split Pasco County entirely along State Road  
20 52 and the Suncoast Parkway. District 16 is contained within Pasco and Pinellas Counties. It has  
21 a 1% non-political and geographic boundaries score, which is consistent with the committee's  
22 directives to use existing political and geographic boundaries where feasible.

23 District 18 is fully contained within Hillsborough, while substantially utilizing political



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1 and geographical boundaries. Its configuration is affected by a neighboring Tier One protected  
2 district.

3 District 20 is contained within Hillsborough and the remainder of Pasco. It makes  
4 substantial use of political and geographic boundaries and is affected by the shape of the  
5 neighboring Tier One protected district.

6 District 24 is fully contained within Pinellas County, its shape is affected by the  
7 neighboring Tier One District 19, which is an effective minority district protected from  
8 diminishment under Tier One. The functional analysis confirms that this district does not deny or  
9 abridge the opportunity for African Americans to participate in the political process and does not  
10 diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice. To ensure this configuration does not  
11 result in the denial or abridgement of the equal opportunity to participate in the political process,  
12 District 19 includes the minority populations of St. Petersburg and Tampa, as historically drawn  
13 since 1992.

14 District 21 contains the remainder of Hillsborough County and part of Manatee County.  
15 Within Manatee, the boundary consists entirely of State Road 70, except to balance population  
16 near the coast. Utilizing the Manatee and Sarasota County boundary does result in a splitting of  
17 the city of Longboat Key, which is split by the two counties.

18 Polk County's population allows one district to be fully contained within the county,  
19 consistent with the committees directives. Polk County's municipalities contain numerous  
20 discontinuities and irregular boundaries. Due to this, the boundary of District 22 relies  
21 extensively on geographic boundaries, primarily utilizing three major roadways and a railroad.  
22 This results in a 2% usage of non-political or geographic boundaries, which is consistent with the  
23 committee's directives to use easily recognizable and readily ascertainable boundaries while also

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1 considering the impermanent and changing nature of municipal lines.

2 Moving to the southern half of Florida, District 26 consists of all of Hardee, DeSoto, and  
3 Charlotte Counties, and part of Polk and Lee. It's configured to respect county boundaries on its  
4 east and west borders and contains three whole counties: Charlotte, DeSoto and Hardee. It has  
5 the remainder of Polk and Lee as well. This is consistent with the committee's directive to  
6 explore concepts that, where feasible, result in districts consisting of whole counties in less-  
7 populated areas.

8 District 27 is drawn in a manner consistent with the committee's directive to explore  
9 concepts that, where feasible, keep wholly within a county in the more densely populated areas.  
10 In Lee County, District 27 splits the Cities of Fort Myers, Estero, and Bonita Springs by  
11 following the Interstate 75 for the majority of its eastern border. This is consistent with the  
12 committee's directive to draw compact districts and to consider municipal boundaries'  
13 impermanent and changing nature. Results in a 0% non-political and geographic boundary  
14 usage.

15 District 28 makes high usage of county boundaries and contains all of Collier and Hendry  
16 Counties and the remainder of Lee. Within Lee, its boundary falls entirely geographic features.

17 District 25 uses county boundaries by keeping four counties wholly within the district  
18 and taking part of Saint Lucie County, resulting in the configuration consistent with the  
19 committee's directive to explore concepts that, where feasible, result in districts consisting of  
20 whole counties in less populated areas and utilization of county boundaries. Within Saint Lucie,  
21 Districts 25 and 29 make substantial use of static geographic boundaries. To the south, District  
22 29 contains the remainder of Saint Lucie, all of Martin County, and part of Palm Beach. Its  
23 configuration is impacted by the use of county boundaries to the south.

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Districts 30 and 31 are contained wholly within Palm Beach County and are consistent with the committee's directives to keep districts entirely within a county in the more densely populated areas. These result in districts which are visually and mathematically compact and utilize political and geographic boundaries.

District 32's configuration is affected by a neighboring Tier One protected district, and is wholly located within Broward County. As directed by the committee, the boundary utilizes easily recognizable and readily ascertainable boundaries while also considering the impermanent and changing nature of municipal lines. This results in a non-political and geographic score of 1%.

District 33 is an effective minority district protected from diminishment under Tier One. A functional analysis confirms that the district does not deny or abridge the opportunity for African Americans to participate in the political process and does not diminish their ability to elect candidates of their choice. Its boundaries rely heavily on political and geographic features with 3% falling on non-political and geographic features. This also results in a visually and mathematically compact District 33 and surrounding districts.

District 34 contains the remaining population of Broward County and must go into Palm Beach County to balance its population. It does this while utilizing political and geographic boundaries and remaining visually and mathematically compact.

Turning to Miami-Dade and Monroe, the population of these counties allows five districts to be fully encapsulated within their borders with a remainder of 92,000 people. To stay within the 1% population deviation directive, a district from southern Broward County must come into northern Miami-Dade and assign the remaining population to a district. This is District 38, which is also affected by the two surrounding Tier One districts. It accomplishes this with 100%

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1 utilization of geographic and political boundaries and keeps three districts wholly within Miami-  
2 Dade.

3 Within Miami-Dade, Districts 35, 36, 37, 39, and 40 are majority-minority districts that  
4 are protected from diminishment under Tier One of Article III, Section 21 of the Florida  
5 Constitution. The functional analysis for each district confirms that these districts do not deny or  
6 abridge the opportunity for minorities to participate in the political process and does not diminish  
7 their ability to elect candidates of their choice. These districts were drawn to also be compliant  
8 with the Tier Two constitutional criteria and the committee's directives. They are visually and  
9 mathematically compact and utilize easily ascertainable and commonly understood geographic  
10 features where feasible.

11 Overall, this plan has a deviation of 10,362, which is 1.92%. The average compactness  
12 scores for this plan are .82 Convex Hull, .43 Polsby-Popper, .46 Reock. The average use of non-  
13 political or geographic boundaries is 4%, which means that on average, 96% of the district  
14 boundaries fall on features identified by the U.S. Census Bureau's geographic layers as city  
15 boundaries, county boundaries, interstates, U.S. highways, state roads, contiguous waterbodies  
16 larger than ten acres, or railroads. There are 14 districts with 0% non-political or geographic  
17 boundary usage and 37 with less than or equal to 10%. There are 51 whole counties, 16 districts  
18 wholly contained within a county, 360 cities with all of their boundaries contained within a  
19 single district, and 368 cities with all of their population contained within a single district. And  
20 that, Mr. Chairman, is the Senate map.

21 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you. We do have two amendments to the amendment. We will  
22 take those up now. We will start – and we will take those up in the order that they were filed. So  
23 we will start with amendment to the amendment barcode 212004 by Senator Gibson. Senator

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1 Gibson, you are recognized to explain your amendment.

2 Audrey Gibson: Thank you Mr. Chair. This amendment is specific only to Districts 4 and  
3 6 and meets the constitutional requirement. The district actually incorporates so that African  
4 American communities, I call it “the duck” on the other side of the – I’m sorry, of the current  
5 configuration on this map. Will include African Americans who are disenfranchised outside of  
6 the area that doesn’t continue like it does on my amendment, which looked similar to this, the  
7 way it is on this 8026 just prior to 2012. Also, there is no diminishment in African Americans to  
8 elect the candidate of their choice. Actually, the BVAP increases in, amazingly enough, the lines  
9 actually follow pretty much the lines that are drawn in the congressional district. And also adds  
10 African Americans who are disenfranchised in both on both the east and the west and the north  
11 side of the district, actually. Based on increase in population and where individuals have moved  
12 even with the numbers that are on the map in consideration right now, it doesn’t take into  
13 consideration the movement. And I mentioned this in our last committee. It doesn’t take into  
14 consideration the population shift its supposed to, but it really does not do that. There is no  
15 unconstitutional movement of any lines or population, and the difference in the deviation in the  
16 numbers is minimal. I believe this map follows the law and enfranchises more voters without  
17 packing the district. And I don’t know any other way to put it. Except it’s constitutional and it  
18 enfranchises voters who are disenfranchised as we sit here today.

19 Ray Rodrigues: Are there any questions of the sponsor? Any questions? President Bean  
20 you are recognized.

21 Aaron Bean: Maybe the word that you are using, I don’t understand. But when you – and  
22 thank you for the amendment Senator Gibson – you use the word disenfranchised. I mean that’s a  
23 powerful word. That means we’ve taken away their vote or somebody has taken away their vote.

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1 So I want you to clarify that word, disenfranchise. That's a very powerful word. And that is a  
2 very – we all, whether in Florida or America, take our vote very seriously. Would you clarify the  
3 word disenfranchise?

4 Ray Rodrigues: Y'all can go back and forth if you need to.

5 Audrey Gibson: Mr. Chair. In terms of the ability for African Americans to elect the  
6 candidate of their choice, the map as it currently is leaves several swaths of African American  
7 voters outside of the district. The BVAP can be increased without any diminishment and the map  
8 remains constitutional. Thank you Mr. Chair.

9 Aaron Bean: Just to clarify, maybe we're splitting hairs, but outside the district is one  
10 thing but they've always – everybody, everybody has always had the right to vote regardless of  
11 the district they are in. They can still vote, everybody can vote regardless of my Senate district.  
12 But you want to put others in a specific district, is that not correct Senator Gibson?

13 Ray Rodrigues: You are recognized.

14 Audrey Gibson: Thank you Mr. Chair. Everyone is in a specific district.

15 Ray Rodrigues: Are there any other questions of the sponsor? I just have one. Do we  
16 know what the impact of the metrics would be? You gave us what the increase in the BVAP  
17 would be, but how does that impact the remainder of the Tier One or the Tier Two metrics?  
18 Specifically, do you know what the impact would be on Reock, Polsby-Popper, or Convex Hull?

19 Audrey Gibson: Thank you Mr. Chair. I do have that information here. And as far as I  
20 understood it. The dimensions are negligible.

21 Ray Rodrigues: Very good. Any other questions?

22 Audrey Gibson: And still constitutional.

23 Ray Rodrigues: Any other questions? Seeing no more questions, we had a couple of

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comment cards but I think they are for the actual bill itself, not for the amendment to the amendments. So we are going to move forward and we are going to move into debate. Is there debate on the amendment? Chair Burgess you are recognized.

Danny Burgess: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you Senator Gibson. I am glad that you brought this forward, I know we had some discussion on this in our subcommittee. Appreciate the opportunity to talk about this further. I certainly don't think there is any bad faith in the measurements that you are bringing forward, but in every iteration that we worked on in the twelve. And I think the reason we ended up with 8046, and the other ways that District 6 ended up being configured in the finality of the last four maps, was we always move towards better metric improvement each and every time. The staff-drawn maps had always sought to improve upon those metrics and build upon them, and understanding what you are saying, District 6 under the 8046 configuration before us is by metrics and by those standards that Chair Rodrigues has brought up a more compact, better use of political and geographic boundaries. In fact, I think it registers at 100% use, which shows that we truly adhered to the directives from the committee that we are on now. Most importantly though, in my mind, of course, is that there is no diminishment, and it performs exactly the same. And so understanding that it adheres to those requirements under Tier One and Tier Two, I feel that it's important that we ensure that we have adhered to all directives to the best of our ability and that's why the map that we put forward in 8046 since it better complies should be the one that we continue to push.

Ray Rodrigues: Any other debate or discussion? President Bean, you are recognized.

Aaron Bean: Thank you, and I'm – to – if I may go to Senator Burgess. Senator Burgess, is it your recommendation this is a friendly amendment or unfriendly amendment? Your opinion on the directives of the Constitution and how it all un–, I was just unclear of your end result.

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1 Ray Rodrigues: And thank you for the question. What I would say is I've conferred with  
2 staff. I believe either option of that district for Tier One purposes complies. So we have full  
3 compliance on Tier One with either option. What we've done, to the point that Chair Burgess has  
4 made, as we move through the process, is once we've satisfied Tier One criteria and made sure  
5 there was no retrogression or diminishment, the goal has been to improve upon the Tier Two  
6 metrics as we've moved forward. And I looked at the metrics that Senator Burgess has  
7 referenced, and I don't believe that this improves the Tier Two metrics. So I would say as an  
8 amendment to the amendment it would be an unfriendly amendment because, while I consider  
9 the Senator very friendly, we've been very consistent, in that every iteration of the map has been  
10 an improvement on, once we've satisfied Tier One, on the Tier Two metrics as we've moved  
11 forward. This would be a step in the direction that we have not gone in. Is there any other debate?  
12 Seeing none, Senator Gibson, you are recognized to close on your amendment to the  
13 amendment.

14 Audrey Gibson: Thank you Mr. Chair. This amendment conforms with constitutional  
15 requirements. The deviation and the changes that you mentioned are negligible and it allows  
16 African Americans on the north, east, and west sides to be in a district where they can help elect  
17 the candidate of their choice. It even fits exactly inside of the congressional district lines as well  
18 rather than the split that is on, what map is this, 8046, where the district is just like an island. And  
19 certainly way more tight than the surrounding district that is District 4 today. The other thing I  
20 was speaking about the other day in terms of square miles and how most of the African American  
21 districts are majority districts, are those that give them the ability to elect the candidate of their  
22 choice. Have not expanded in terms of the square miles since the previous map was drawn and  
23 that's just impossible for that to be true. Most of those are 248 square miles or something and



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1 when they are surrounded by square miles that are much larger, even in the case of Districts 4  
2 and 6. As was mentioned earlier when you look at the census data that those areas in the minority  
3 community don't expand but the others do. And so with that I ask for your favorable support,  
4 thank you.

5 Ray Rodrigues: Having closed on the amendment. All those who are in favor of the  
6 amendment say yea.

7 Some Members: Yea.

8 Ray Rodrigues: All those opposed say nay.

9 Majority Members: Nay.

10 Ray Rodrigues: We will show that the amendment has failed and will not be adopted. At  
11 this point I am going to pass the gavel over to Vice-Chair Broxson.

12 Doug Broxson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Taking up amendment to the amendment  
13 barcode 444992, Senator Rodrigues. Senator Rodrigues, you are recognized to explain your  
14 amendment to the amendment.

15 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you Chair. From the outset of this process our goal has been to  
16 follow the example that the House set during the last redistricting process that was specifically  
17 blessed by the court when we went through the litigation and to avoid the mistakes that the  
18 Senate made as the Senate went through redistricting in the last cycle, so that those are not  
19 repeated. I think if you look at the process we followed, we have been true to that. We formed  
20 subcommittees who are legislative and congressional, much like the House did during the cycle.  
21 There were maps that were considered that were publicly workshopped, like the House did  
22 during the last cycle, which the Senate did not.

23 There were different iterations of the map at each of the meetings. In each iteration of the

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1 map was an improvement of the previous iteration of the metrics that were presented that was  
2 different than what the Senate did last time. If you look at the House process, the final step in that  
3 process was when the subcommittee sent their map to the full committee for consideration. The  
4 full committee then looked at the map and said where is there an opportunity for improvement.  
5 So much like the House did a decade ago, the foundation of our map is with keeping counties  
6 whole, because those are stable boundaries and counties are contiguous. We've also used the  
7 geographic boundaries that the House used and the court blessed in the last cycle. Then we used  
8 municipal boundaries where we did not have county boundaries or geographic boundaries.

9 I looked at the cities that were split and worked with staff to come up with an objective  
10 criteria. What I am putting forth is an amendment that would take the cities that were split with  
11 less than 1,000 people, the split is between two districts, the boundary of the municipality is  
12 contiguous, and it does not impact a Tier One district, and I am proposing that we make those  
13 municipalities whole. Municipalities that would be made whole are Laurel Hill, which is split  
14 between Districts 1 and 2, Holly Hill, which is split between Districts 7 and 14, Titusville, which  
15 is split between Districts 14 and 17, Winter Haven, which is split between Districts 22 and 26  
16 and Pembroke Pines, which is split between Districts 32 and 38.

17 If we were to adopt this map, then we would have the result of a map that would yield  
18 only 22 cities in which the entire population is not contained in one district, outside of our Tier  
19 One requirements. When you consider that we have 412 municipalities in the State of Florida,  
20 that would mean more than 95% of our cities, either their population is wholly contained or if  
21 there is a split, it is for a Tier One purpose. Looking at the metrics across the board, it does not  
22 diminish any of our Tier One requirements, because we have excluded the Tier One cities as  
23 we've done this. And if you look at our Tier Two requirements, the metrics are either improved

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1 or remain the same across the board. And with that I'd ask for your favorable support.

2 Doug Broxson: Members are there any questions to the amendment to the amendment?

3 Senator Bracy.

4 Randolph Bracy: Thank you Chairman. Is there a visual that you can give us to see what  
5 this looks like?

6 Ray Rodrigues: Yes we do have the visuals prepared and they are on the back row there.  
7 So each of the cities are there on that.

8 Randolph Bracy: Okay.

9 Ray Rodrigues: Because the split in population was a thousand or less. There is not a  
10 significant movement in the boundaries of the municipalities for contiguous. But there is a blow  
11 up of each of the insets so that you can see.

12 Randolph Bracy: Yeah, if you would just give me a second, I want to look at each of  
13 these cities.

14 Doug Broxson: Senator Bracy, do you mind if we come back to you and let me go to  
15 Senator Stewart with a question.

16 Randolph Bracy: Sure, sure.

17 Doug Broxson: Senator Stewart, you are recognized.

18 Linda Stewart: Yes, thank you. What I understand we are looking at are two maps, 46  
19 and 56. We haven't picked one yet, or we did? We did not. Okay so your suggested amendment  
20 would apply to either one of these maps?

21 Doug Broxson: You are recognized.

22 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you Chair. Yes, because the split on both of those maps in these  
23 districts is the same. It would be equally applicable to either map.

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1 Linda Stewart: Okay thank you. Just trying to keep up.

2 Doug Broxson: Before we go back to Senator Bracy, is there anyone else that has a  
3 question? Senator Bracy, are you ready to continue with your line of questions?

4 Randolph Bracy: I have no more questions. I looked at the maps. I am satisfied with  
5 what I have seen.

6 Doug Broxson: I do not see any appearance forms, is there anyone in the audience that  
7 wishes to speak? Okay. Is there any debate on the amendment to the amendment? Senator  
8 Burgess, you are recognized.

9 Danny Burgess: Thank you, I just want to thank Chair Rodrigues for bringing this  
10 forward for discussion. I think, falling in line with my previous comments – the Chair already  
11 noted this so I think it's just important to highlight consistency where we can. What we are  
12 seeing here as Chair Rodrigues noted was metric improvement, as opposed to even minimal  
13 regression on those metrics in Tier Two. So for those reasons, this amendment I think takes what  
14 we've built upon and continues to improve those metrics. Like we've strived to do in every one  
15 of our three meetings and all twelve of those iterations. So, I would see no reason why, since  
16 there is metric improvement, that we shouldn't put this on our map.

17 Doug Broxson: I want to make sure everyone is good before we move forward to  
18 Senator Rodrigues' closing. Senator Rodrigues, you are recognized to close on the amendment to  
19 the amendment.

20 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you Chair. In the House process, they were able, at the full  
21 committee level, to clean up eleven city splits, with this we will clean up five. But I would point  
22 out we had fewer city splits than they did, which is a natural result of having larger districts than  
23 they had. But where we have an opportunity honor the political boundaries, I think reading the

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1 opinion of the court in *Apportionment I*, we should, this I consider low hanging fruit and we do  
2 improve our metrics by doing that. So I'd ask everyone to support the amendment to the  
3 amendment.

4 Doug Broxson: All those in favor of the amendment to the amendment say yea.

5 All Members: Yea.

6 Doug Broxson: Opposed say nay. The amendment to the amendment is adopted. Back on  
7 the main amendment as amended. Are there any questions on the amendment? One question,  
8 Senator Bracy.

9 Randolph Bracy: Yes, Senator Rodrigues, can you explain for the committee your  
10 decision making on the South Florida district where we talked about the effective majority verses  
11 the minority-majority district and how you came to choose the map with the effective minority  
12 district.

13 Ray Rodrigues: Yes, Senator Bracy and thank you for the question. I sat down with staff  
14 and counsel and we walked through both of the maps. One of the maps, which is the one I put  
15 forth, is an effective minority district and the other would have been a minority-majority district.  
16 If you look at the functional analysis which was performed on both of them, it is clear that in  
17 both maps that is a seat that will be controlled by Democrats. If you look at both maps, the  
18 primary in both seats will be controlled by the African American population. So we went with  
19 the configuration that was effective minority because it provided us full compliance with Tier  
20 One. They were both equally Tier One compliant. But provided better metrics on the Tier Two if  
21 you looked at the compactness scores, Convex Hull, Reock, and Polsby-Popper. So from that  
22 standpoint, we felt being consistent by satisfying Tier One and making improvements on Tier  
23 Two that would be the map to go with.

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1 One of the things I learned as I went through the process was in the last redistricting  
2 cycle – and this is analogous, it's not a complete apples-to-apples because it was on the  
3 congressional map – there was a district where the Senate moved to have a minority-majority  
4 district, which was then Representative Corrine Brown's U.S. congressional seat. And we had  
5 put it just over 50%, which is where the minority-majority option on the map here would have  
6 been, because we took the position that since we could maximize that we should. And it was  
7 litigated, during that litigation the NAACP joined the State Senate in defending that iteration of  
8 the map we did, and ultimately we lost that lawsuit and the court said an effective minority  
9 district was appropriate because it satisfied the Tier One components and it could have been done  
10 in a more compact manner.

11 In that case, instead of running north to south, they directed the Legislature to run east to  
12 west to do that. So that's why it's not a pure apples-to-apples comparison. But the principle is the  
13 same. We had to decide whether to go with an effective minority or with a minority-majority.  
14 Both of them equally comply on Tier One metrics and in both cases the functional analysis show  
15 that it will undoubtedly perform for the minority candidate. So I went with the metric map that  
16 gave us the better overall metrics.

17 Doug Broxson: Follow-up? Any additional questions?

18 Randolph Bracy: No, no. Thank you.

19 Doug Broxson: I see no appearance forms. Is there anyone in the audience that wishes to  
20 speak? Is there any debate on the amendment as amended?

21 Ray Rodrigues: Mr. Chair, I would move to temporarily postpone the amendment at this  
22 point so that we could move into the district numbering process.

23 Doug Broxson: Without objection, show the amendment temporarily postponed. I return

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1 the gavel back to the Chair.

2 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you Chair Broxson. Let's move to Tab 4, members, which is  
3 consideration of district numbering for Senate Joint Resolution 100 as necessary to maintain the  
4 staggered election terms. President Pro-Tem Bean can you please join us up here? I would like  
5 you to be the Master of Ceremonies as we go through this process.

6 Aaron Bean: Very good, good afternoon committee members and good afternoon Florida  
7 Senate. In just a few minutes we are going to be drawing envelopes out of this jar and just so  
8 everybody knows, I discussed the process with Chairman Rodrigues, which I wholeheartedly  
9 agree with to have a process that is open, fair, and transparent. To do this in a committee setting,  
10 I think, is wonderful because not only all of our eyes are upon the drawing of these cards, all of  
11 Florida's eyes. Because with the Florida Channel this will be replayed over and over again to see  
12 the exact process. So hats off to you, Mr. Chairman, in allowing me to participate and, of course,  
13 I love making it as exciting as I possibly can. I don't know how exciting we can make it. But  
14 certainly we will add as much pizzazz as we possibly can. I know we talked about the ping-pong  
15 balls, but staff suggested this was a more logistically easier process, still maintaining the  
16 randomness of a coin flip, of an odd and even flip. So before I begin, and I don't care how hard a  
17 question you want to ask, Chairman Rodrigues, I would welcome that question right now. Is  
18 there any other questions before we begin?

19 Ray Rodrigues: Senator Rouson, I couldn't quite hear it.

20 Aaron Bean: Very good and members I'll remind everyone this random jar of 40 cards  
21 that has been placed in random envelopes was certified by our Secretary with the Florida Senate,  
22 Debbie Brown, who signed over that she has maintained control and she attests to the integrity of  
23 it. So with that, let's deal some cards Florida Senate, are we ready to go? Okay thank you

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1 everything is on top of the board right now.

2 Ray Rodrigues: We don't want any dealing from the bottom of the deck here.

3 Aaron Bean: Yeah, exactly. I will just do it right now. Let's be clear, let's be clear once  
4 again. Mr. Chairman, I am going to reach in and I'm going to draw a random card. This card, the  
5 very first card, will be for the district that we now know as District 1.

6 Ray Rodrigues: That is correct.

7 Aaron Bean: Very good, without objection, Senators, here we go. I am opening the jar.  
8 It's got that fresh card random cardness and look at me I'm going further by just ruffling through  
9 it and I have a card. Here's our first one. Mr. Chairman I'm opening it up now. Yeah, Florida and  
10 the Florida Senate holds its breath. District 1, and we have an odd number. Odd it is.

11 Ray Rodrigues: Yep. I will write the number as it is drawn and put it back in the  
12 envelope. And staff is logging it so we're going to have everything.

13 Aaron Bean: And let's put them in order. We're gonna have 40 of them, they will be  
14 labeled. Once again, if you're just tuning in on the Florida Channel, we're drawing Senate  
15 district numbers for a proposed map and we have a random set of cards. This is item number two.  
16 Formerly known as the district – or currently known as District 2. Let's open it up and see what  
17 District 2 is. It is – yeah they are sealed.

18 Ray Rodrigues: Sealed up tight.

19 Aaron Bean: It is an even number. Even for Number 2, congratulations Number 2.  
20 Number 3, here we go, I'm just rifling through, and we are gonna go, in just a moment we're  
21 gonna start going faster. How about this here we go, Number 3 is odd, odd for Number 3.

22 Ray Rodrigues: What are the odds.

23 Aaron Bean: I am mixing them up as we go. Number 4, and there is some super glue on



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1 these things that are sealed so it takes me a while to open up Number 4. Number 4 is even. Four  
2 is even. If you are asking what are the chances I know what they are they are 50/50 that's the  
3 chances. 50/50, this is number five. The fifth one drawn. The fifth even, even for Number 5.  
4 Number 6, Number 6 is being opened up. Number 6 is odd. Number 6 is odd. Number 7,  
5 Number 7 odd, Number 7 is odd. Number 8, Number 8 is odd, Number 8 is odd. Number 9 is  
6 even, Number 9. Number 10 is odd, we are 25% of the way done. Number 10 is odd. The 11th  
7 card drawn for the 11th currently district is odd, is odd, Number 11. Number 12, Number 12 is  
8 odd. Lucky Number 13 is odd, Number 13 is odd. I'm still shuffling up, this is Number 14,  
9 Number 14 is even. Even for Number 14. Number 15, Number 15 is odd. Odd for Number 15.  
10 We are drawing 16, District 16 is odd. 16 is odd. Number 17 odd, Number 17 odd. Number 18 is  
11 even, 18 is even. Number 19 is even, Number 19 is even. Look at me go shuffling them up. Here  
12 we go, still a 50/50 shot. This is currently our 20th card drawn. The 20th card drawn is odd, odd.  
13 And we are halfway, halfway. The 21st card drawn is even, even for the 21st card drawn. Number  
14 22, Number 22, Number 22 is even. Here is the 23rd card drawn is even, it's even. The 24th card  
15 drawn is even. Card number 25, card number 25 is odd. It's an odd number. The 26th card drawn  
16 is odd it's an odd number. The 27th card drawn it's an odd number. The 28th is even, the 28th is  
17 an even. Look at me still shuffling up, getting a random sampling. This is the 29th card being  
18 drawn and the 29th is an odd district. Number 30, Number 30, 30 is even, 30 is even. 30 was  
19 ripped but it still says even. We have ten left, Senators, ten left. And here we go. And I know  
20 you're saying, 'any time now Bean, you can go fast, any time you want,' is what you're saying.  
21 This is the 31st District, it's even, even. The 32nd card being drawn, it is odd, odd. 33, district  
22 number currently the 33rd District, even, even. Card number 34 is even. The 35th card being  
23 drawn, it's even. 36 odd, 36 is odd. There are four left. This is the 37th, the 37th is even, even.

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1 38th, the 38th card being drawn, it is odd. It has also been ripped but it clearly says odd district.  
2 Two left, two left. 39, District 39, current district, will be labeled even. And your final district, if  
3 you have been playing along at home or here, you already know what's left. There are 20 odds,  
4 20 even. I don't know, I've lost track. But let's be clear, it's even for your final card being drawn.  
5 Thank you for playing, Florida Senate. You now know our future map numbers. Thank you, Mr.  
6 Chairman.

7 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you, President. Okay at this point we are going to stand in  
8 informal recess while the staff goes back and numbers with this odd/even random drawing so  
9 that the map that we do take our vote on will be the final geographic boundaries having been  
10 renumbered randomly. We stand in informal recess. Plan to be back here, please, no later than  
11 4:00.

12 The Senate Committee on Reapportionment will come out of informal recess and come  
13 back to order. Senators, the staff has prepared a late-filed substitute amendment to overlay the  
14 new district numbers on the map that we were considering. That is Senate map S027S8058. And I  
15 am told it is posted online already. So I would say at this point let's take up late-filed substitute  
16 amendment which is barcode 357120, by Senator Rodrigues, me. Are there any questions on the  
17 substitute amendment? Seeing no questions, we do not have appearance forms on the substitute  
18 amendment, the appearance forms we have we will come to when we get to the substance of the  
19 main bill. Is there debate on the substitute amendment? Seeing no debate, in closing, I will say I  
20 want to thank the work of the subcommittees, both of the subcommittees, our congressional and  
21 our Senate subcommittees worked very hard in putting their maps together and I think both of  
22 them sent up good options. This map, which has been overlaid with the numbers that were  
23 randomly drawn, I think is a very strong product and I want to thank President Bean for handling

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1 the random drawing. And taking what could have been a very dry process and making it a little  
2 bit more exciting. With that, I would ask for your favorable support of this substitute amendment.

3 All in favor of the substitute amendment say yea.

4 All members: Yea.

5 Ray Rodrigues: All opposed say nay.

6 Audrey Gibson: Let me get in proper posture for myself. I'm sorry Mr. Chair I  
7 misunderstood where we are right now.

8 Ray Rodrigues: We are voting on whether to adopt late-filed substitute amendment  
9 which is barcode 357120. It is the map that ends in 8058, which is the geographic configuration  
10 that we went through earlier, which has now been overlaid with the numbering that we did with  
11 the random drawing.

12 Audrey Gibson: And then we are going to vote. Okay thank you.

13 Ray Rodrigues: Then we will go back to the bill as a – Okay yes. So I'll call the vote  
14 again just to make sure we are clear. All in favor of the substitute amendment say yea.

15 All members: Yea.

16 Ray Rodrigues: All opposed say nay. The substitute amendment is adopted. So now we  
17 are back on the bill as it has been amended. Are there questions on the bill as it has been  
18 amended? Seeing none, we will move to the appearance cards and we have two. First we will do  
19 Cecile Scoon, who is the President of the Florida League of Women Voters. You are recognized.

20 Cecile Scoon: Thank you, good afternoon. Cecile Scoon with the League of Women  
21 Voters of Florida. Every time I come, I learn something more and something more and that is  
22 much appreciated in the conversation and the questioning and answering that the Senate has put  
23 a lot of effort, and your staff, into bringing as much information to the public as possible and it's

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1 | been helpful to the League. We really appreciate the work that you have done. We can see that  
2 | there have been efforts to comply with the law. We absolutely see that, but we are in the position  
3 | where we believe that more can be done. We believe that the law requires and it's good common  
4 | sense when there has been so many changes with the population to do those additional functional  
5 | analysis than just the ones that were selected based on 2015. We just feel that that makes sense  
6 | and that's something we are asking the Senate to do going forward and just to be sure that all the  
7 | Tier One priority is, in fact, enforced because there has been so much focus on the Tier Two. And  
8 | we will just leave it at that. Thank you very much.

9 | Ray Rodrigues: Thank you for your comments. Next up we have Steven Mangual, you  
10 | are recognized.

11 | Steven Mangual: Thank you once again honorable chair and representatives for the  
12 | opportunity to offer this testimony on the concerns of LatinoJustice PRLDEF regarding the  
13 | current state of the redistricting process and its impact on the Latino community. In short, we  
14 | oppose the proposed maps because they dilute Latino political power. My name is Steven  
15 | Mangual, Justice Advocate Coordinator at LatinoJustice PRLDEF's Southeast Regional Office.  
16 | Our organization has a long history of participating in Florida's redistricting process. Our  
17 | organization is closely monitoring the work of Florida legislators to ensure the protection of  
18 | Latino Floridians' rights in the redistricting process under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and  
19 | constitutional norms. Latino Floridians must have an opportunity to elect their candidates of  
20 | choice and remain politically unified in communities of interest. The Florida Legislature's  
21 | proposed maps ignore dramatic Latino population growth after the last decade. The process has  
22 | been inaccessible for public comment by limited-English-proficient Floridians and the many  
23 | members of the public impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. The end result has been the dilution of

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1 Latino political power. Latino population growth. Florida's population has increased 34% since  
2 the 2010 Census, adding almost one and a half million people to the state and now comprising  
3 over 26% of Florida's total population. This incredible demographic growth has benefited the  
4 entire state. Meaningful public participation language access. Spanish-dominant Floridians  
5 deserve their voice heard in meaningful ways and participate in the redistricting process without  
6 English-only barriers. This Legislature should ensure that public hearing notifications,  
7 information on the floridaredistricting.gov website, forms to submit public comment, and review  
8 proposed maps are fully accessible to limited English proficient Floridians who have an equal  
9 right to participate in defining the political boundaries that will endure for the next  
10 decade. Existing Google translate options online are inadequate. For example, links to historical  
11 redistricting plans in the resources section, and the memorandums in the Senate committee  
12 section of the floridaredistricting.gov website are only available in English. The Legislature  
13 should take all reasonable steps to provide translators a public hearings and provide double time  
14 for individuals using a translator to provide public comment at hearings. LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
15 has been monitoring Florida's compliance with federal and state language access guarantees in  
16 the area of voting rights for decades. We urge this Legislature to make public participation  
17 equally accessible to all Floridians. Moving to meaningful public participation, the virtual  
18 option. On September 8, 2021, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, NALEO Educational Fund, and Hispanic  
19 Federation submitted a request for virtual public hearings in light of the grave health risks of in-  
20 person testimony during COVID-19 pandemic. Our request went unheeded and today, two of my  
21 colleagues who were scheduled to testify today asked me to fill in because they are both in  
22 quarantine under the CDC guidelines. House maps. The proposed Florida House maps failed to  
23 provide a sufficient level of Latino-majority districts.

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1 Ray Rodrigues: Sir, sir.

2 Steven Mangual: We're in the House maps, right?

3 Ray Rodrigues: We're not going to discuss House maps in a Senate committee.

4 Steven Mangual: Okay apologies. Senate maps.

5 Ray Rodrigues: We're talking about the Senate maps.

6 Steven Mangual: All right so again, apologies and thank you Chair. So turning to the  
7 Senate maps. The proposed Florida maps similarly fail to provide a sufficient level of Latino-  
8 majority districts proportionate to the Latino population growth. For example, the Senate add no  
9 additional plurality- or majority-Latino districts despite massive growth in the Latino population,  
10 exacerbating the inequality of the status quo. In conclusion, every indication in this process  
11 points to redistricting proposals that do nothing more than provide Latino Floridians with the  
12 same number of majority districts they enjoyed at the end of the decade on the existing ten-year-  
13 old districts. Both houses of this Legislature seeks to cap the growth when every demographic  
14 indicator shows clearly that Latino population growth requires more, not the same. It's clear to  
15 LatinoJustice PRLDEF that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act requires that, where Latino  
16 majority districts can be drawn feasibly, they must be drawn, even in spite of countervailing state  
17 mandates. We call on this commission to draw districts that protect communities of interest,  
18 provide that growing Latino community an equal opportunity to elect candidates of its choice  
19 and ensure that they are conducting the necessary performance analysis to ensure that these  
20 proposed districts are not diluting the Latino vote and share such work products to the general  
21 public. Thank you.

22 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you for your comments. That concludes our public appearance. At  
23 this point we'll move into debate. Is there debate on the bill as it's been amended? Seeing no

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1 debate, I will move into closing and just say it's been a long process. We started this back in  
2 September and I'm glad we've arrived at the final map here that we are considering. I think this  
3 is a strong map and it's clearly compliant with Tier One requirements. I believe it is an  
4 improvement on Tier Two requirements over the base map that we inherited. And with that, I  
5 would ask for your favorable support. Dana, please call the roll on Committee Substitute for  
6 Senate Joint Resolution 100.

7 Dana: Senator Bean

8 Aaron Bean: Yes.

9 Dana: Senator Bracy.

10 Randolph Bracy: Yes.

11 Dana: Senator Bradley.

12 Jennifer Bradley: Yes.

13 Dana: Senator Burgess.

14 Danny Burgess: Yes.

15 Dana: Senator Gibson.

16 Audrey Gibson: No.

17 Dana: Senator Harrell.

18 Gayle Harrell: Yes.

19 Dana: Senator Rodriguez.

20 Ana Maria Rodriguez: Yes.

21 Dana: Senator Rouson.

22 Darryl Rouson: Yes.

23 Dana: Senator Stargel.

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1 Kelli Stargel: Yes.

2 Dana: Senator Stewart.

3 Linda Stewart: Yes.

4 Dana: Vice-Chair Broxson.

5 Doug Broxson: Yes.

6 Dana: Chair Rodrigues.

7 Ray Rodrigues: Yes, and by your vote, we show Committee Substitute for Senate Joint  
8 Resolution 100 is reported favorably. Let me begin by asking, in closing, does any senator wish  
9 to be recorded as voting on bills that were before the committee today? Senator Rouson, you are  
10 recognized.

11 Darryl Rouson: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. And I had a little stomach burn as I  
12 voted in the affirmative for map 8040, I would respectfully like to change that vote to a nay. My  
13 rationale is that I have never filed an amendment that I didn't like. And the amendment that was  
14 not taken, I think the amendment splits the City of Tampa, draws Pinellas voters into an  
15 historically Tampa seat, and although this process has been mostly cordial along the way, and I  
16 compliment you, Mr. Chairman, for the way you handled this, I would appreciate the opportunity  
17 to record a different vote. On the congressional.

18 Ray Rodrigues: On the congressional. Is there any objection to that? Seeing none, that  
19 will be recorded. Do we have any other members wanting to record any other votes? Senator  
20 Gibson you are recognized.

21 Audrey Gibson: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm going to be consistent and would like to be  
22 recorded as a no on the congressional maps as well.

23 Ray Rodrigues: Any objection? Seeing none, we'll have the record reflect that as well.



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1 As we wrap up, I want to begin by making a couple of points in closing that I think are  
2 important. At the very beginning, we announced that we were doing a joint website with our  
3 House counterparts, which would serve as a mechanism for the public to submit maps and to  
4 submit comments, and I encouraged everyone on the committee to review those maps and review  
5 those comments. It was brought to my attention that we have it put on the record whether that's  
6 been done or not. So I want to make sure that I'm clear. I reviewed every map that was a Senate  
7 map or a congressional map that was submitted via the joint website. I also read every comment  
8 that was posted. Particularly paying close attention to comments on the Senate map and the  
9 congressional map. On the maps, it's very clear whether it's a House, Congress, or Senate map.  
10 On the comments, you actually got to get into them to see whether they are commenting on the  
11 House, Senate, or Congressional map. But everything that was submitted by the public was at  
12 least reviewed by the Chair, and having had informal conversations with members over the  
13 months, I've been told by many of you that you have been looking at them as well. So to the  
14 public that participated, thank you for participating and thank you for submitting your  
15 submissions.

16 The next thing I would like to do is thank first my subcommittee chairs, Senator Burgess  
17 and Senator Bradley. Y'all worked very diligently and I think your committees gave the full  
18 committee two good options to consider today, which made this expedited process. And a  
19 process that has yielded, I believe, strong maps that we can take forward. Thank you for your  
20 efforts and your leadership. They are very appreciated.

21 The next thing I would say to the committee members is thank you. I would venture that  
22 our committee and subcommittees have been working very hard from the very first committee  
23 week. I know not all committees were meeting during every committee week, but some version

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1 of the Reapportionment Committee was. Whether it was the full committee or the  
2 subcommittees. And many of us were meeting early in the week when it's not the most  
3 convenient time because that's the way the committee blocks worked out. Thank you for your  
4 diligence and participating and being here and in working so hard for us to accomplish this. So  
5 that we could get this done as quickly as possible.

6 The final thing I would like to do is thank our staff. For those that are on the outside, I  
7 don't think they understand just how herculean the task in front of our staff was. The Census was  
8 delayed. The data from the Census was delayed by eight months, we received in August what we  
9 would have gotten much sooner in a normal basis. And they accomplished in weeks, what, if you  
10 went back and looked at the last redistricting cycle, staff took months to accomplish. And that  
11 happened because they were working every day, including weekends, including holidays, and  
12 working at night. So your efforts are noted and they are appreciated. And I want to say on behalf  
13 of the full committee, thank you for your hard work. I'm proud of our product and I'm very  
14 proud of the job that our staff has done to get us into this position. And with that, I will turn the  
15 floor over to Vice-Chair Broxson who has some comments.

16 Doug Broxson: Mr. Chair, when we first learned that you were going to be our  
17 Chairman, and we knew your body of work as a senator and how thorough you are, I want to tell  
18 you how much I appreciate the way you handled yourself during this process. You almost  
19 sequestered yourself from the rest of the Senate process. You did not file any bills until this was  
20 resolved. And frankly, my anticipation of how well you would do was surpassed by your  
21 performance. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for your dedication, your isolation, and  
22 all the things that you brought to this process, and I think along with the other members, I  
23 certainly appreciate your leadership in this regard.

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1 Ray Rodrigues: Thank you for your kind words. I think a lot of people are thanking me  
2 for my isolation. But it's been a very enjoyable process. I've enjoyed working with all of you. Is  
3 there any other business to appear before the committee today? Senator Bracy you are  
4 recognized.

5 Randolph Bracy: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I would. I've been thinking about the Senate vote. I  
6 would like to change my vote also to a no. And I hate to have to do it after such a great speech  
7 you gave. But I'll echo the comments that were made about your leadership and how you  
8 handled this whole process. I think it was done in a transparent way, and I know staff has been  
9 available to talk to and answer questions, so I'd like to thank everyone involved here. With that  
10 that will conclude my comments.

11 Ray Rodrigues: Is there any objection to the vote change? Seeing none, we will have the  
12 record reflect that you have changed your vote on the Senate map.

13 Randolph Bracy: Correct.

14 Ray Rodrigues: Any other business before the committee? Thank you, Senator Gibson.  
15 And with that, Senator Gibson moves that we adjourn. Any objections? Seeing none, we'll show  
16 that motion adopted and we are adjourned.



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