

# EXHIBIT D

**GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Reapportionment and Redistricting on 11/29/2023**

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REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 29, 2023

Video Runtime: 1:53:52

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1 (Beginning of Video Recording.)

2 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Good afternoon,  
3 everyone. If you'll go ahead and take your  
4 seat, we'll try to get started. Sorry. We're  
5 running a little late here.

6 If everyone will do me a favor and just  
7 silence your phone as I'm checking to make  
8 sure I've silenced mine, just so we don't have  
9 that distraction.

10 I want to welcome everybody here. My  
11 name is Rob Leverett. I'm chairman of the  
12 Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee,  
13 and I'm pleased to have you all here. This is  
14 a meeting of the Reapportionment and  
15 Redistricting Committee, so as they do on the  
16 airplanes, if you're planning to attend  
17 another committee meeting today, you may want  
18 to deplane at this time.

19 I have just a couple of quick  
20 announcements before we kind of talk a little  
21 bit what we're going to do. There is an  
22 overflow room in 415 CLOB, if things get too  
23 crowded in here and you want to get some -- a  
24 little more space. I think they've got a live  
25 feed set up in there, don't they?

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1 And just to make sure everyone knows  
2 too, I think given the number of folks who  
3 have signed up, we should have a chance to get  
4 to everybody today. But there is a public  
5 comment portal at legis.ga.gov, that's the  
6 General Assembly website, and you can go on  
7 there, and a number of people have already  
8 gone on there and made public comment on that  
9 website, as well.

10 We're meeting here today, but the  
11 remainder of our meetings are going to be up  
12 just one floor above us in 506 CLOB. So if  
13 you show up here, in subsequent days, you may  
14 see a different committee meeting, so just  
15 make sure of that.

16 So I think I've covered some of the  
17 general -- one or two other housekeeping, if  
18 you -- as I mentioned before, if you would  
19 like to address the committee, and we  
20 certainly want to hear from you, just please  
21 hit the sign-up sheet. We still have one back  
22 there?

23 FEMALE VOICE: Um-hum.

24 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: So we just know how  
25 many people want to speak. We try to make

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1 sure we try to get to everybody who wants to  
2 talk, but we can't always let you talk as long  
3 as you might like to. So we may -- that'll  
4 help us determine what kind of time limits, if  
5 any, we need to impose.

6 And the front row here is reserved for  
7 legislators, so if you'll just respect that  
8 rule for us, to let them have a seat, and if  
9 they want to address this, of course, that's  
10 great, too.

11 So today is primarily just for a public  
12 hearing. It's a chance for us just to hear  
13 from you with respect to the proposed maps. I  
14 have filed a bill earlier this morning that  
15 would, if passed, enact basically the changes  
16 shown on this map.

17 The bill adopts an entire map for the  
18 whole state, but what we've done here is just  
19 try to print something graphically so you can  
20 see what the proposed changes are, and I'm  
21 going to try to go through those in a little  
22 bit just so everybody can kind of follow that,  
23 and then, we'll just have a public hearing on  
24 that map.

25 I would like to -- before we get

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1 started, and I'm actually a little late doing  
2 this, if I could call on Representative Mac  
3 Jackson just to, not actually return thanks,  
4 but just to invoke his presence in this  
5 meeting today.

6 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 Shall we pray? Heavenly father, we thank you  
8 for this time. We thank you that you are here  
9 with us, Lord, and you'll give us wisdom as we  
10 do the business of this great State of  
11 Georgia, Lord. Father, we thank you that  
12 you've given us this opportunity. So we  
13 invoke your blessings right now. In Jesus'  
14 name, amen.

15 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you,  
16 Representative Jackson. We're -- we  
17 appreciate you. We're calling on you an awful  
18 lot today. You're returning thanks on the  
19 floor, and now, you're returning thanks in  
20 committee meeting. And so you can -- you can  
21 submit your extra per diem request to the  
22 fiscal office, so they can take care. We  
23 always appreciate --

24 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: -- you so much.

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1           So if I -- let me put my glasses on  
2 here, so I can kind of keep up. So we are --  
3 we're going to do primarily public hearing,  
4 and I've allotted this room. I've reserved it  
5 until 6 o'clock. So I hope we get to hear  
6 from everybody that wants to speak, but I do  
7 want to do a few things.

8           We'll have to do a few -- sort of tend  
9 to a few matters of business. One, I'd like  
10 to -- I'm going to go around in a minute here  
11 and ask our members on the committee to  
12 introduce themselves, and then, I've -- we've  
13 submitted to the members some proposed rules  
14 and guidelines that I'll kind of go through in  
15 a minute and just sort of describe, so you can  
16 understand.

17           And then, I'd like us to go ahead and  
18 at least get those adopted because we have not  
19 had to meet as a committee until today, during  
20 this -- the two-year session. So we'll try to  
21 get that done as well.

22           But I do want just everybody know who  
23 else on the committee. So first, if I can  
24 start way down here in the Central Time Zone,  
25 if Leader Efstration would sort of lead us off

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1 with the introductions.

2 MR. EFSTRATION: Well, thank you, Mr.

3 Chairman. My name is Chuck Efstration I

4 represent House District 104, which is

5 Gwinnett and Barrow County. Thank you.

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

7 My name is Barry Fleming, and I represent

8 House District 125, Columbia County, which is

9 suburbs of Augusta.

10 MR. REEVES: Matt Reeves, House

11 District 99, Suwanee, Sugar Hill, and Duluth

12 in Gwinnett County.

13 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: I'm going to hit

14 myself as we as we run by here and just say

15 I'm Rob Leverett. I'm from District 123. I'm

16 from Elberton, live in Elbert County, and that

17 district includes Elbert, part of Madison, all

18 of Wilkes and Lincoln, and a little bit at the

19 top of Columbia.

20 MS. HONG: Thank you, Chairman. I'm

21 Sue Hong. I represent North Gwinnett and

22 South Hall Counties.

23 MS. TAYLOR: Hi. I'm Darlene Taylor.

24 I represent District 173. I live in

25 Thomasville and represent most of Thomas and a

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1 good part of Grady County in Southwest

2 Georgia.

3 MR. JACKSON: My name is Representative

4 Mac Jackson. I represent District 128, which

5 is in East Central Georgia, which includes

6 Washington County, a portion of Baldwin

7 County, Hancock County, Glascock County, a

8 portion of McDuffie County.

9 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr.

10 Chairman. My name is Kimberly Alexander, and

11 I represent District 66, which is Douglas

12 County.

13 MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 My name is Sandra G Scott, the Chief Deputy

15 Whip for the House Democratic Caucus. I

16 represent District 76, Clayton County, parts

17 of Morrow, Forest Park, Lake City, and

18 Ellenwood.

19 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, Chief

20 Deputy Whip Scott. I'm glad you mentioned

21 that. I was going to point that out if you

22 didn't. We Chief Deputy Whip's got to stick

23 together.

24 MR. SMITH: I'm representative Richard

25 Smith. I represent House District 139, which

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1 is part of Columbus and Harris County.

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

3 Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Representative

4 Lynn Smith. I represent House District 70,

5 which is Coweta, part of Coweta, part of

6 Carroll, the cities of Whitesburg and

7 Sharpsburg, and Newnan.

8 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, Madam

9 Pro-Tempore. If you'll -- we're just going

10 around introducing ourselves to everybody.

11 MS. JONES: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

12 Chairman. I'm Jan Jones. I represent House

13 District 47, which includes parts of City of

14 Milton, Roswell, Alpharetta, Mountain Park,

15 and part of Southeast Cherokee County.

16 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, Madam

17 Pro-Tempore. And thank you to all members of

18 the committee. I appreciate -- oh, Brian

19 Prince. I'm sorry.

20 MR. PRINCE: Thank you. I'm Brian

21 Prince. I represent parts of Richmond County,

22 which is Augusta, and all of Jefferson County,

23 House District 132.

24 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, my

25 friend. Thank you to all members of the

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1 committee. This is my -- this is my dream  
2 team. So we have a horn I blow like in  
3 Anchorman that says the team assemble, so I  
4 look forward to getting you all here. We're  
5 going to be meeting quite a bit, I guess, over  
6 the next few days.

7 So, I do want to mention we've -- of  
8 course, we're subject to a court order that  
9 requires that we redraw all the districts, and  
10 I'll talk a little more about that later. And  
11 I filed the one bill that seeks to comply with  
12 that order. But first, we need to talk about  
13 our rules and guidelines.

14 So it's customary for the Redistricting  
15 Committee not only to adopt rules like every  
16 committee does, but also to adopt guidelines.  
17 And we have sent those out to the members of  
18 the committee early this week. They're  
19 basically based on the rules and guidelines  
20 we've used in past years.

21 We've made the rules a little more  
22 consistent with some of the additional changes  
23 that we've added to all committees during the  
24 last -- during this session. And then, we  
25 did -- on the guidelines, I can walk through

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1 those changes with you all if you'd like,  
2 briefly, if I can get them pulled up here.

3       So look into the what I would propose  
4 to do is talk about the rules and get those  
5 adopted first, and then go on to the  
6 guidelines. So on the rules, we basically, of  
7 course, we provide for the quorum.

8       I've tried to use gender-neutral  
9 pronouns on most of these items. We have the  
10 provision about convening, recessing, and  
11 adjourning upon order of the chair. Unless  
12 ordered by the chair, matters will be  
13 considered only have to be presenting by  
14 principal sponsor, and no bill will get placed  
15 on the calendar, unless the request is made to  
16 me writing.

17       I'll establish the agenda as chair,  
18 determine measures to be considered, and  
19 motions are basically not in order until I  
20 state that I'm -- that they'll be entertained.  
21 Action be taken on a bill of resolution at  
22 first presentation in my discretion. And, of  
23 course, I can appoint subcommittees and  
24 officers. I would not assume that that's  
25 likely to be done during the special session.

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1 Ask everybody to keep your phones on  
2 silent mode or turn them off, and then, we've  
3 got a provision on amendments. And I think we  
4 do require that those be presented in a number  
5 of hours in advance. And witnesses, of  
6 course, will testify or speak when recognized  
7 by the chair. Let's see. We mentioned that  
8 the officers of the committee are ex officio  
9 members of subcommittees.

10 And then we've got a standard rule on  
11 germaneness, that, of course, as chair, I  
12 determine that. Sponsors must require  
13 amendments at least two hours for a committee  
14 meeting or substitutes to a bill, and then, we  
15 apply the rules of decorum of the House, and  
16 those House rules govern any matter not  
17 specifically addressed by the rules.

18 So it's fairly standard. I just -- I  
19 did want to go through there just so you all  
20 would know, and the public would sort of know  
21 generally what we're talking about. So I got  
22 some lights lit up. I'll entertain a motion,  
23 I guess, and then we'll go to any discussion.  
24 But for a -- who was up first?

25 FEMALE VOICE: (Inaudible).

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1 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Okay. And he's 18.

2 FEMALE VOICE: 18, um-hum.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: All right. I'll

4 recognize Representative Fleming.

5 MR. FLEMING: I move we adopt the

6 rules.

7 MALE VOICE: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: All right. We got

9 a motion and a second. We have any

10 discussion? All right. There being no

11 discussion, I'll go ahead and call for a vote.

12 All those in favor of the motion?

13 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: All those opposed?

15 All right. Thank you. So we've got our

16 rules.

17 Now let's go on to the guidelines. On

18 those, we made some changes from the ones

19 last -- during the previous reapportionment

20 special session because since we're responding

21 to a court order, we haven't really had the

22 timeline to have a lot of public hearings.

23 This is sort of our first one.

24 So there was a provision in the old

25 guidelines that talked about having held

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1 public hearings, and so I didn't think that

2 was necessary. Oh, do I have --

3 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Okay. And then, we

5 just -- it's pretty much the same as it was.

6 The committee meetings are, of course, open to

7 the public, you know, the provisions for

8 noticing meetings, keeping of minutes.

9 There's provisions on public access to

10 data, redistricting data and materials, which

11 I'm going to go through just so the general

12 public will know that copies of census

13 information databases on any medium created at

14 public expense and held by the committee or

15 legislative and congressional reapportionment

16 will be made available to the public in

17 accordance with the rules of the House and

18 over there in the senate, subject to

19 reasonable charges for search and retrieval

20 and that sort of thing.

21 Copies of the records can be obtained

22 by members of the public upon payment of those

23 costs. Those costs of reproduction include

24 not only the media that they're put on, but

25 also the labor cost involved.

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1 And these guidelines do not apply to  
2 plans or other related materials that are  
3 prepared by or on behalf of individual members  
4 using legislative congressional  
5 reapportionment office where they've not been  
6 made public through introduction of  
7 legislation.

8 Then, with respect to plans, it's got  
9 of the usual standard principles on drafting  
10 plans, which sort of come from just  
11 traditional redistricting criteria. These are  
12 the same ones we've observed in the past, but  
13 we did add one about considering -- since  
14 we're doing a remedial plan, considering the  
15 boundaries of the existing plan, which we're  
16 making changes to.

17 And then, there are some rules here  
18 about if plans are produced through  
19 legislative and congressional reapportionment  
20 office, the staff are available, of course, to  
21 members of the General Assembly to prepare  
22 those plans.

23 Census data and registering work maps  
24 are made available to all members of the  
25 General Assembly upon request, subject to some

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1 conditions set up there. And then, plans and  
2 records relating to provision of staff  
3 services remain confidential unless the  
4 confidentiality is waived by the member.

5 As far as plans that are produced  
6 outside of the legislative and congressional  
7 report office, we do need to get those -- if  
8 you're going to present them to the committee,  
9 we need to get those a little bit in advance  
10 so the staff can review them and try to put  
11 them in a format where we can generate them  
12 and distribute them to members of the  
13 committee.

14 So all plans submitted to committee are  
15 made part of the record and available in the  
16 same manner as committee records are made  
17 available. Plans prepared outside the  
18 reapportionment office must be submitted, and  
19 I believe we ended it, landing on one day  
20 since we're kind of on a tight time frame  
21 here, so they can be technically verified and  
22 a bill can be prepared.

23 Pieces of census geography must be  
24 accounted for in some in some districts, so  
25 you can't leave gaps out. Electronic

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1 submission must be made in courts with certain  
2 requirements which we set up there in the  
3 guidelines, like as to formatting and  
4 description of the district or block districts  
5 and precincts. And if you can't submit  
6 electronically, there are some requirements  
7 that you have to follow.

8       And then, we've got just guidelines for  
9 presentation of all plans, generally have to  
10 be sponsored by a member, and then, drafts and  
11 amendments can be presented at any committee  
12 meeting. They have to be on clearly depicted  
13 maps to follow the 2020 census boundaries.

14       No plan can be submitted unless it  
15 makes accommodations for and fits into  
16 specific identified statewide maps, and then,  
17 plans at committee meetings will be made  
18 available for inspection by the public, either  
19 electronically or by hard copy.

20       And so these guidelines can be  
21 reconsidered or amended by the committee only  
22 in the manner provided for amendments to the  
23 rules, as well. So I see I've got a light  
24 flashing.

25       Representative Fleming?

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1 MR. FLEMING: I move we adopt these  
2 guidelines, Mr. Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Do I have a second?

4 MALE VOICE: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Do we have any  
6 discussion? All right. There being no  
7 discussion, I'll call to question. All those  
8 in favor, signify by saying aye.

9 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

10 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. So  
11 we have our plans and our guidelines. All  
12 right. Now, I've -- what I'd like to do is  
13 move to just submission to the committee of  
14 the plan that we have drawn, and I've filed  
15 the bill to adopt today, and then we'll  
16 consider some public comment on it.

17 I see Leader Beverly here. Did you  
18 want to wait until tomorrow to present your  
19 plan? Okay. So we're going to present your  
20 plan tomorrow, but you're here if you care to  
21 comment on the one we do.

22 So I've got a map here that shows the  
23 changes that are being proposed in the  
24 remedial plan. So if you recall from the  
25 court order, Judge Jones, and I've got the

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1 order up here just to show everybody, it's 526  
2 pages, so most court orders are sort of an  
3 exercise in mental stamina, this one was  
4 mental and physical, I would say.

5 Judge Jones has really been very, very  
6 thorough and has really done a very  
7 professional, just top rate job. Don't agree  
8 with everything he says in there, but I cannot  
9 at all question his diligence and his  
10 attention to detail and thoroughness. He and  
11 his clerk really put a lot of work in that,  
12 clearly.

13 But he's ordered that we draw five new  
14 majority Black districts throughout the state.  
15 One of them is in the west metro area, two of  
16 them are in the south metro area, and 2 of  
17 them are in the Macon-Bibb area.

18 So we've -- this plan does comply with  
19 this order. We have one -- the West Metro  
20 Area 64, which is sort of the brown -- let's  
21 see. I've got a -- I think this is either --  
22 it either cuts the sprinkler on or it's a  
23 laser pointer, one of the other.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah.

25 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Let's see. Does it

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1 work?

2 FEMALE VOICE: If you hold it down.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Oh, you have to

4 hold it down. I see. You can see I'm not --

5 knew to this. All right. So it's that one

6 right there. So that's entirely in Douglas

7 County. Then, there's two districts in South

8 Metro, which are here and here. So 74 and

9 117 down there.

10 74 is in entirely -- let's see -- let

11 me get my notes. It is entirely -- well, it's

12 in Clayton and Henry County. It's almost

13 identical to the version that the plaintiff's

14 expert submitted in court. It would be an

15 open seat. Just almost all of these are open

16 seats, and would be majority Black at

17 approximately 66 percent.

18 District 64, I didn't mention it, but

19 it, likewise, is majority Black, and it's

20 56.31, and it also would be an open seat. So

21 all three of these seats would be open seats.

22 Then, we also have House -- let's see,

23 House District 117, which is still one of the

24 ones in South Metro. It's wholly in Henry

25 County, and it also is from the design on Mr.

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1 Esselstyn, who was one of the plaintiff's  
2 experts. It's only Hart County precincts. It  
3 is also an open seat and will have a Black  
4 population of approximately 60 percent.

5 So that includes almost all of  
6 McDonough, portions of Locust Grove, and we  
7 use I-75 as a boundary, and it minimizes  
8 precinct splits.

9 House District 145 is in the Macon  
10 area, and it's -- so I can reach this one;  
11 it's down here. And so that would also be an  
12 open seat, and it's majority Black, drawn  
13 primarily from Mr. Esselstyn's version of the  
14 district. It includes the county seat of  
15 Forsyth County and uses -- utilizes primarily  
16 whole precincts in Bibb County, so that  
17 extends down here. So again, that's another  
18 open seat.

19 And so with that configuration, all the  
20 incumbents in Macon would have a district to  
21 run in, which is different from the  
22 plaintiff's version.

23 And then we also have District 149,  
24 which is right here. That's currently 133,  
25 and that runs from Macon to Milledgeville,

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1 which is a similar configuration to Mr.  
2 Esselstyn's map, but we think this is a little  
3 better because it avoids additional splits of  
4 Baldwin County.

5 So it includes portions of Bibb and  
6 Jones, kind of linking those two communities,  
7 and we do a split of Jones County along -- I  
8 think that's Highway 49. And so that includes  
9 Representative Ken Vance, so he would be the  
10 incumbent there. It avoids a split of or  
11 changing the split of Baldwin County. That's  
12 the current split that we have on the current  
13 state maps.

14 So just a little quick background, and  
15 just some sort of overall summary. I  
16 mentioned the requirements of the order, and  
17 so we've consulted with legal counsel to get  
18 these drawn. And I've mentioned the areas.

19 So on the West Metro, of course, when  
20 you add a new district, you've got to change  
21 all -- a lot of the others in the area. It  
22 causes sort of ripple effects. So on the --  
23 well, one on 64, where you can see we kind of  
24 loop-de-loop around, up through Paulding, and  
25 into Cobb, and then come back down to Fulton,

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1 adjacent to Douglas County.

2 And on the South Metro, that kind of  
3 tended to push things north, so the districts  
4 had to kind of all move north.

5 And it Has sort of three different  
6 lines. One going up in DeKalb, one going up  
7 into Gwinnett, and one kind of coming out here  
8 over into Rockdale and into Walton and Morgan.  
9 Okay.

10 FEMALE VOICE: (Inaudible) Gina is here  
11 whenever.

12 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Okay. And I see  
13 Gina Wright -- where did Gina go? There's  
14 Gina. So that's our map draw extraordinaire,  
15 Gina Wright. And Gina, if you've got any --  
16 you've got your computer. I don't know if you  
17 can put anything up on the screen that might  
18 help folks see it a little better than here.  
19 That would be wonderful, and please feel free  
20 to interrupt me if I leave something out.

21 But the primary goal here is to comply  
22 with Judge Jones's order. So we followed  
23 traditional redistricting guidelines, maintain  
24 the populations to within 1 percent deviation,  
25 limit additional split counties by only adding

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1 one single county split. We drew them using  
2 the most recent precincts from the county  
3 governments because we thought that will make  
4 the maps most useful to them.

5 All the districts are contiguous. We  
6 try to keep them reasonably compact in shape  
7 and try to preserve communities of interest  
8 instead of pairing disparate communities. It  
9 does involve a number of incumbent pairings,  
10 which I suppose to some extent was unavoidable  
11 because we had to create five new seats.

12 But we do pair Representative Stoner  
13 and Nelowitz (phonetic) in Cobb County,  
14 Representative Evans and Draper in DeKalb,  
15 Representative Park and Kennard in Gwinnett,  
16 and then, Chairman Mathiak I'm sorry, Chairman  
17 Kemp and Knight in the Griffin area down here,  
18 and Representative Vance is basically being  
19 placed in a majority Black district, which is  
20 predominantly Democratic.

21 So -- but we're trying to maintain  
22 continuity representation as much as possible,  
23 so we did consider partisan considerations,  
24 and we used a good bit of that data as well as  
25 other just demographic data.

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1       So I've kind of gone through the new  
2 seats, and then just sort of discuss some of  
3 the changes. So we add -- added 64, that's  
4 all in Douglas County, so we had to start  
5 adding some precincts to our existing Douglas  
6 County districts.

7       So kind of using Ms. Wright's extensive  
8 knowledge of Georgia and her -- not only  
9 geography, but demographic information, we  
10 believe this plan is better than what was  
11 proposed by the plaintiffs in the litigation,  
12 and it complies with the order.

13       But the ripple effect in any plan is  
14 real, and when we put these new districts, we  
15 have to adjust going out. So we do touch a  
16 lot of districts. We touch 56 districts here.

17       One of the plans changed more than 90  
18 of them, so one of them changed significantly  
19 less than that, but we're sort of in the  
20 middle of those two. We took in account work  
21 on county election officials who've got to  
22 update the voter registration base. So we're  
23 trying to minimize the amount of work required  
24 before the 2024 elections.

25       It does not eliminate any existing

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1 minority opportunity district, so we've  
2 retained all of those in this plan. And then,  
3 we have, just for benefit, we have appealed  
4 Judge Jones's order, and so the bill that I  
5 filed has a reverter. If the appeal is  
6 upheld, then, we would revert to the 2021  
7 maps, but for now, we are complying.

8       We are trying to comply with the  
9 judge's order, and this -- these would be  
10 effective at least for the next election cycle  
11 and probably more, and potentially would stay  
12 in places if the appeal is unsuccessful.

13       So going back, we have the District 64  
14 in Douglas, that stays; that's all in Douglas  
15 County. District 66, one of my members here,  
16 her district also stays wholly in Douglas,  
17 takes in a little bit to the north of the  
18 county, and, I guess, the northeast part  
19 there.

20       65 and 61 both exit Douglas and take up  
21 some of Fulton to make up the difference that  
22 they have. So, 61 shifts north and into Cobb  
23 County. It goes up Fulton and into Cobb,  
24 touching several districts along the way,  
25 which are adjusted to address population

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1 issues. We also did make some changes to 56  
2 at the request of that member. T

3 Then, when we get into Cobb District  
4 40, which has been a majority White district,  
5 it collapses to accommodate new 64, and that's  
6 where we pair Representatives Nelowitz and  
7 Stoner. The changes from the -- there we  
8 go -- the collapsing District 40 work up  
9 through Cobb County as the district shift  
10 north to address the population there.

11 District 37 shifts slightly south, but  
12 keeps its core in Marietta. 35 shifts south,  
13 leaving some areas of Acworth as it moves into  
14 Marietta. 34 shifts south as well, taking a  
15 portion of 36's population, and then, 36  
16 adjusts up to the north, with District 35.

17 District 19 moves into Cobb County to  
18 create room for District 40 to take some of  
19 the additional districts out of Paulding, so  
20 we can, level that one out. And then, we  
21 renamed what was District 64 as District 80,  
22 I'm -- boy -- or is it 40? District 40. Let  
23 me give this (inaudible) on there. District  
24 40. District 40. I'm sorry. That becomes  
25 District 40.

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1 Now going to Macon, I've talked about  
2 the two new districts down here that we're  
3 creating, and then, the remaining changes  
4 result from that, we kind of tend to flow a  
5 little north. District 142 stays wholly in  
6 Bibb County. It maintains its prior core in  
7 the existing (inaudible), and that's an  
8 existing minority opportunity district and is  
9 maintained.

10 143 is our minority leader, and it's  
11 maintained. It extends a little more down in  
12 the House, and he loses some at the north end  
13 to create the new district. And then, so 143  
14 then shifts. Yeah. 143 shifts into Houston.

15 147 accommodates the entry of 143 into  
16 Houston by moving into Peach County a few  
17 precincts, and then the remaining, I would say  
18 the distance between 35 is filled by rural  
19 District 134, which includes all the other  
20 portions of North Peach along with Upson and  
21 Crawford there, and even goes into the  
22 southern part of Lamar.

23 So go back to these -- District 144,  
24 which is where? Over here. It pushes up  
25 north, and goes into the rest of Jones, and

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1 takes part of Jasper and Putnam. So that  
2 maintains the district for Representative  
3 Washburn, enables elimination of a county  
4 split in Jasper County, as well. Now it's  
5 totally whole.

6 135 takes in all of Pike and portions  
7 of nearby Lamar and Griffin, and that  
8 combination pairs Representatives Knight and  
9 Kemp, Chairman Knight and Kemp, in the same  
10 district, but it was necessary because  
11 population's been moving north after adding  
12 those districts in Macon-Bibb.

13 District 118 is significantly changed.  
14 It was primarily east west. It now would be a  
15 north-south district, maintains the Butts  
16 County core and then has some portions of  
17 Monroe and Newton. It leaves Henry County to  
18 make room for the new districts up there,  
19 which we'll get to in just a minute.

20 And then, on the southern part of the  
21 metro, the new District 82 has moved from  
22 DeKalb and now encompasses population that was  
23 previously the core of 74.

24 And then, so looking at the Clayton and  
25 Henry Districts which are up here, those are

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1 the -- two of the new majority Black seats.  
2 They pushed the remaining districts north. So  
3 District 78 shifts to the east, matching some  
4 of the requests of Representative Douglas from  
5 that area, and we were able, fortunately, to  
6 accommodate him while still complying with the  
7 order.

8       And then we didn't have to make any  
9 further changes in Clayton County, which  
10 would -- should be easier for the election  
11 officials there. District 116 and 15 shift  
12 north into South Dekalb.

13       That's similar to the prior  
14 configuration of the Dekalb districts, and  
15 then 81 takes the remaining population to  
16 Henry County and gives Representative Daniel a  
17 district that represents voters on that side  
18 of the county.

19       Then, we'll go into DeKalb and Gwinnett  
20 in a minute, but let's go back to the east.  
21 114 maintains much of its existing footprint  
22 in Morgan and Newton, and then the change in  
23 118 to the south shifts 114 north into Walton  
24 and a little more Newton county.

25       113, up in here now, it stays wholly in

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1 Newton County, even with those changes in the  
2 adjoining districts. 92 is now placed wholly  
3 in Rockdale, so I'm kind of coming up this  
4 way, instead of stretching east west like it  
5 did previously. So that's -- we think that's  
6 a more compact setup.

7 The area covered by 91 previously ran  
8 from Rockdale into DeKalb, and so we're kind  
9 of addressing some of that. And the Walton  
10 County districts will move a little more into  
11 Gwinnett, but that's generally ripple effects  
12 from 114.

13 In DeKalb and Gwinnett, so the  
14 districts in DeKalb ran a stripes from north  
15 to south. That pattern is generally  
16 maintained here. They shift north but  
17 maintain their overall shape. 82 moves from  
18 the DeKalb area south along with 81. That  
19 makes some room for the shifts here.

20 Each incumbent maintains a seat with  
21 the exception of Representative Becky Evans  
22 and Syrah Draper, who are paired in the new  
23 District 90. District 88 is untouched, and  
24 93, 94, and 95 turn and move north into  
25 Gwinnett. They were headed in that direction,

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1 but they just go further now.

2 And so these -- the shapes in these are  
3 dictated by incumbent locations and allows us  
4 to maintain an incumbent in each district.

5 And then, we get into Gwinnett, the  
6 wave is starting to dissipate, so there are  
7 minimal changes to 108 and 109. 101 moves  
8 over to DeKalb, and that results in a pairing  
9 of Representative Kennard and Whip Park in  
10 District 106. The remaining districts nearby  
11 take in new territory to address the movement  
12 of 101, and that completes the changes to be  
13 made.

14 So I know that's exciting stuff to hear  
15 in a narrative form, but you can sort of see  
16 that. I've got a copy of the current map  
17 behind this. If anyone wants to see that, you  
18 can look at that afterwards. So that's the  
19 plan that we've submitted.

20 FEMALE VOICE: (Inaudible) access on  
21 their phones, Gina's website.

22 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Oh, yeah. And it's  
23 on the website, isn't it, Gina, so they can  
24 access it if you want to pull it up on your  
25 phone or your laptop, you can get these maps.

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1 I think we've got the current maps and the  
2 proposed maps plus data for them, I think.

3 And in our packet today, I think we've  
4 got -- Molly, what all do we have there?

5 We've got the current --

6 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah, we have the --

7 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yeah. There we go.

8 So we've got the --

9 FEMALE VOICE: The proposed, the  
10 modified districts --

11 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yeah, the proposed  
12 districts, the modified districts, and then,  
13 some additional population breakdown. And I  
14 think some of the population data that we had  
15 is kind of our own, in terms of the type of  
16 statistics shown.

17 But I think there's been an addition  
18 where we've got statistical data that's more  
19 in line with what the court uses, so that can  
20 be compared more directly, so you can review  
21 that if you like.

22 So, Gina, did you have anything to add  
23 to my lengthy soliloquy?

24 MS. WRIGHT: I could clarify a couple  
25 of things. The pairing in Gwinnett is in

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1 District 107 and not 106.

2 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Oh, sorry.

3 MS. WRIGHT: No, it's okay. And in

4 Cobb, it's in 42. I'm not sure what was

5 mentioned, but --

6 FEMALE VOICE: 60.

7 MS. WRIGHT: Yeah. So it's in 42 is

8 the pairing there, and the other pairing is in

9 District 90 up here. The pairing that was in

10 further south was in District 135, just for

11 those who were making sure they got those.

12 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Correct.

13 MS. WRIGHT: Um-hum.

14 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Anything else that

15 you wanted to add, Gina?

16 MS. WRIGHT: I don't think so, but I'll

17 be happy to assist you with any questions if

18 anybody has any.

19 MR. PRINCE: Did I -- this is for you,

20 Mr. Chairman. Did I hear you say that the

21 courts are using a different population number

22 than what we are?

23 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Well, they use a --

24 it's a statistical number.

25 Gina, why don't you take that?

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1 (Crosstalk)

2 MS. WRIGHT: Great. I'll be glad to  
3 help you with (inaudible). The data we  
4 typically produce on our standard reports that  
5 we produced last time and this time is using  
6 the census data that's single-race categories,  
7 non-Hispanic race categories. So what you see  
8 on our standard packets has all of those  
9 standard categories, they add up to a 100  
10 percent because they are single-race  
11 categories, and it's easier for -- to look at  
12 with the math.

13 The court considered other census data  
14 fields. There is a field called "any or part"  
15 for any -- all the race categories. So if  
16 someone fills out their census form and  
17 identifies as multiple races, they can then be  
18 classified into these different categories  
19 based on which ones they select.

20 So the court looked at the AP Black  
21 population figure and especially even more  
22 clarify, the voting age of the AP Black  
23 population on their determination. So we did  
24 a report of AP voting age population racial  
25 breakdowns to add to that so you'll be able to

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1 have that information as well as the single-  
2 race categories.

3 MR. PRINCE: Okay. And I just -- is  
4 there -- would it -- excuse me, Mr. Chairman,  
5 can I follow-up?

6 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yes.

7 MR. PRINCE: And it's to the committee.  
8 Are we going to use the same set of data  
9 they're using or were we going to use what  
10 we --

11 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yes. So I mean, in  
12 drawing this plan, we've used the same set of  
13 data that the court requires and that the  
14 Voting Rights Act requires.

15 MS. WRIGHT: Yes. It's all 2020 census  
16 data, which is what we have printed out.  
17 Typically, I tried to limit confusion for  
18 fields.

19 MR. PRINCE: My bad.

20 MS. WRIGHT: No. Totally fine.

21 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: All right. Let's  
22 see who is next. Chief Deputy Whip Scott.

23 MS. SCOTT: I could thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. Gina, I would like to know what  
25 happened to District 105 and 84? And what

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1 effect does this have on the coalition  
2 districts?

3 MS. WRIGHT: When you say what happened  
4 to them, 105 is still in the same --

5 MS. SCOTT: Same, okay.

6 MS. WRIGHT: -- generic area that it  
7 was now. I don't that it had, but maybe minor  
8 changes as a result of the push around.

9 MS. SCOTT: Okay.

10 MS. WRIGHT: And what was the other  
11 number? I'm sorry.

12 MS. SCOTT: 84.

13 MS. WRIGHT: 84. 84 is located through  
14 here. 84, I think, was typically in some of  
15 this area before. I think it's reshaped as we  
16 had to remove population there to create the  
17 additional districts further south. So  
18 everything pushed up. So in compressing the  
19 loss of one district there, that population  
20 was distributed differently amongst those  
21 districts.

22 MS. SCOTT: Okay. So what effect does  
23 all this have on our coalition districts, on  
24 the coalition districts?

25 MS. WRIGHT: Can you define what you

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1 mean by coalition district?

2 MS. SCOTT: Coalition districts, and  
3 we'll be talking about the Hispanics, African  
4 American, Asian, all those district combined  
5 into one.

6 MS. WRIGHT: Well, all of --

7 MS. SCOTT: We have several of them.

8 MS. WRIGHT: Right. All of these  
9 districts, I know in Gwinnett, there are a lot  
10 of diversity in a lot of the districts there,  
11 and I believe that diversity is still there.  
12 I haven't done a thorough analysis of those  
13 types of figures as we were simply just trying  
14 to comply with what the court requested us to  
15 draw.

16 MS. SCOTT: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Representative  
18 Alexander.

19 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. Can you -- I know there's a lot of  
21 talk about Douglas County. Can you talk about  
22 where the starting point of the maps were  
23 drawn? Like, did you start at the top of West  
24 Metro? Or how did you start and why, like,  
25 the mapping of the whole map?

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1 MS. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I'll let

2 you --

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: I think I can

4 take -- I can try to take that one. We

5 basically are tracking what the court

6 required. You know, there were plans

7 submitted by the plaintiff's experts that were

8 discussed during the court case and that the

9 court referred to in its ruling.

10 So we basically tried to track whatever

11 the court did to the extent we could. So I

12 believe with respect to 64, we're putting it

13 very much in the same area that the court did.

14 MS. ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, follow-

15 up. But did you start with Douglas first?

16 I'm just --

17 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Well --

18 MS. ALEXANDER: -- curious. Where was

19 the starting point? I know it was different

20 things in the ruling. So did -- were there a

21 specific area that you started in, and then,

22 why did you start --

23 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Well, I think we

24 just -- we started in that area because that's

25 where the court instructed us to look to build

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1 a new majority Black district, so --

2 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

3 Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: That's a good

5 question. All right. Well, I'd like -- I

6 think we'd like to have some public comment on

7 the plan now. I don't -- I -- just kind of

8 address some general questions. So once I can

9 get the lady who's really running the meeting

10 back up here to tell me where the list is,

11 I'll go through that. There we go. Okay.

12 All right. So we're going to go

13 through our list here. We've only got about

14 ten folks signed up, and we've got plenty of

15 time, but I would ask you to try to -- don't

16 drone on like I did in my presentation. Be a

17 little more focused and -- but we'll try to

18 give you time to say what you'd like to say.

19 So, is Ben Eskew here? Ben? Come on up.

20 MR. ESKEW: On here or (inaudible)?

21 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Podium is fine.

22 MR. ESKEW: Oh, right here?

23 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yes. That's fine.

24 MR. ESKEW: Okay. My name is Ben

25 Eskew. I do redistricting as a hobby,

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1 actually. It's fun, and I want to share my  
2 proposed map. It sort of cleans up North  
3 Metro Atlanta. It makes the districts for  
4 more community of interest, less city splits.  
5       There are a few precinct splits, but I  
6 guarantee you it's less than the current map.  
7 So if I can do this, let's see. This is -- if  
8 anyone wants to see, I'll put it up for a  
9 minute. This is my proposed and the current  
10 map that I created for fun.

11       I mean, it's a bit too late, but here  
12 it is, if anyone wants to see it, of North  
13 Metro Atlanta. I'll slowly -- or yeah.  
14 Anyways, they're cleaning up. Milton is now  
15 one district. Johns Creek is much more  
16 compact. 51 is more community of interests  
17 oriented.

18       And I just want to say this. My  
19 precinct in Gwinnett County, I'm Precinct 121,  
20 it is a swing classified competitive precinct.  
21 You have a very republican area of my  
22 precinct. Most of it's republican. But you  
23 have a huge democrat apartment complex, and  
24 I'm put in House District 97, which is a  
25 democrat plus, I'd say, 15 district. And, my

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1 neighborhood is generally I mean, it's  
2 competitive, but the rest of the District is  
3 pretty republican, and I think it'd be best if  
4 those -- that part would be moved to House  
5 District 48.

6 I mean, it could be a possible split,  
7 but I think it would be better. Berkeley Lake  
8 is another prime example of that.

9 Major changes, I'll just go -- go  
10 brief. Jan Jones' district is now entirely in  
11 Fulton, now, the complete City of Milton.  
12 Chuck Martin's district is now Alpharetta,  
13 Johns Creek, Roswell.

14 Scott Hilton's district is relatively  
15 the same. Matt Reeves' district right there,  
16 your district is generally the same except  
17 Sugar Hill. The one west near Suwanee is  
18 eliminated, and it's added one more north.  
19 Vice Chairman Hong's district is changed just  
20 a little bit. It's all in Gwinnett County  
21 now, but it mostly changed or just changed a  
22 little bit.

23 Representative Clark's district is now  
24 all in Gwinnett County. I'm, again, I'm  
25 cleaning up. This is less county splits. I

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1 mean, it's a bit too late, but for reference,  
2 District 105 is relatively the same except  
3 Harbin's precincts, south of Highway 316 are  
4 generally added. House District 53 is cleaned  
5 up. House District 43 is a competitive seat  
6 now, and it just goes on and on and on.

7 And I understand it's people here  
8 trying to do a least change plan, and I  
9 understand that. But I think this map would  
10 help clean up and put communities of interest  
11 together.

12 And I think, just for future reference,  
13 maybe in the 2030 cycle, yes, populations will  
14 be different, but I think this is generally a  
15 more cleaned up map, and you also have an  
16 additional, not majority Black, but a majority  
17 minority district in North Fulton County that  
18 runs along Georgia 400.

19 So, I mean, I want to let other people  
20 speak, but this is my general proposal. If  
21 anyone has questions, I gave Chairman Leverett  
22 a copy of this. If you have any questions for  
23 me, I'd be willing to ask them after. Thank  
24 you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, sir.

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1 Thank you for your testimony. We have Octavia  
2 Coleman.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: I think we're doing  
5 a little work on the machinery, Ms. Coleman,  
6 if you're in here, but we're getting ready for  
7 Ms. Coleman. Oh, there you are. Okay. Thank  
8 you.

9 Ms. Coleman, just go on when you're  
10 ready, ma'am. Thank you for being here today.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you to  
12 the committee for having us, and we appreciate  
13 what you've done thus far.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Microphone, please.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Oh, yes. Thank you. My  
16 apologies. Can you hear me? My voice is kind  
17 of soft. Can you hear me well? Okay. Thank  
18 you.

19 So, again, greetings to the House  
20 committee. I am Octavia Coleman, a resident  
21 of Henry County. I am here on behalf of the  
22 Central Georgia Democracy Center and  
23 advocating for the constituents of  
24 Congressional District 13.

25 My district is proportioned or

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1 portioned within Clayton, Cobb, Douglas,  
2 Fayette, Henry, and parts of Fulton County, as  
3 well. Now I am here because the normalization  
4 of Black poverty or the poverty of descendants  
5 of American slavery is running rampant within  
6 this district and has positioned my community  
7 to be inequitably represented and set up to  
8 receive less funding in education, housing,  
9 economic development, agriculture and family  
10 healthcare.

11       Gerrymandering has negatively impacted  
12 the viability of our young voters, okay?  
13 Additionally, the quality of living is being  
14 suppressed as our community is being boxed out  
15 and made a contagion to wealth.

16       And this is going on all throughout the  
17 13th Congressional District because we have  
18 one of the fastest growing counties, but we  
19 are not affording living wages for the people  
20 that are coming in there. So we have a high  
21 or increasing homelessness problem going on,  
22 as well, okay?

23       I am here asking that our hear our  
24 concerns, respectfully urging you to hear our  
25 concerns to eliminate a lot of this

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1 gerrymandering. And, again, I say that I  
2 appreciate what you have done with the  
3 majority Black districts, but these coalition  
4 districts are important to us because it makes  
5 sure that we receive equitable funding.

6 I have posted my testimony in the  
7 public comment portal, and I'll be sending out  
8 my testimony to my State representatives, as  
9 well. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you so much,  
11 Ms. Coleman. We appreciate your coming today  
12 and appreciate your testimony. Cindy Battles?  
13 Ms. Battles, greetings.

14 MS. BATTLES: Hello. Hello. How are  
15 we doing today?

16 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Good.

17 MS. BATTLES: I know y'all miss me.  
18 For those of us who in the room who don't  
19 know, my name is Cindy Battles, and I am the  
20 director of policy and engagement for the  
21 Georgia Coalition For the People's Agenda.  
22 Thank you all so much for this hearing.

23 Chairman, did I hear you correctly?  
24 You said you've already filed a bill with the  
25 proposed maps?

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1 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: (INAUDIBLE).

2 MS. BATTLES: Okay. It's -- we have a  
3 lot to say about the fact that there's been  
4 less than 24 hours between when the maps were  
5 available on the website and the opportunity  
6 for public comment. We appreciate hearings  
7 and all of that good stuff, but I think that  
8 was a little bit surprising.

9 Again, we've had these conversations  
10 back in 2020. We know how important it is for  
11 communities of interest to have a say so. We  
12 know how important it is for the voters to be  
13 able to choose their politicians instead of  
14 the other way around. We haven't had a lot of  
15 time to analyze the proposed maps, but we do  
16 have some things to say about them.

17 I know you'll be surprised. It appears  
18 that eight house members have been drawn into  
19 the same districts. You alluded to that. Six  
20 of them are democrats and two of them are  
21 republicans.

22 One of our biggest concerns about that  
23 is this includes members of color, including  
24 representative Sam Park, which kind of  
25 continues the majority party's targeting of

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1 members of color, such as what we saw with  
2 representative Al, Lucy McBass, and,  
3 currently, the Senate has the proposed maps  
4 draw Senator Estevez out of his district, as  
5 well.

6       Although the proposed maps make  
7 widespread changes to the plan that was passed  
8 in 2020, it continues to perpetuate the racial  
9 gerrymandering from those 2020 plans. HD 80,  
10 HD 49, HD 104, in each of these districts in  
11 North Metro and Gwinnett for HD 104, Black and  
12 Hispanic voters are on the -- are on the verge  
13 of electing their candidate of choice, and  
14 these districts have been cracked.

15       It appears that each of these districts  
16 are unchanged in the -- in this plan, so that  
17 means we still have issues with this current  
18 map.

19       In Southeast Georgia, in Chatham  
20 County, in the Savannah area, there's a  
21 compact Black and Hispanic community in and  
22 around Savannah and Pooler. That could have  
23 been united to form an additional majority  
24 Black and Hispanic district.

25       This proposed plan, like the enacted

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1 plan, continues to split that community up and  
2 therefore dilutes the Black and Hispanic  
3 voters in that area.

4 MALE VOICE: (Inaudible).

5 MS. BATTLES: Yes, sir. In Southwest  
6 Georgia, in the Southwest Georgia areas  
7 covering, among others, the enacted HDs 140,  
8 151, 153, 154, and 171, there is also a  
9 compact Black population that could have  
10 supported at least one additional majority  
11 Black district, but that population also  
12 continues to be divided in the proposed plan,  
13 and thus, the Black vote continues to be  
14 diluted.

15 That's all I've got today. I'm sure I  
16 may have something tomorrow.

17 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Well, we'll look  
18 forward to seeing you again tomorrow.

19 MS. BATTLES: Thank you. Have a good  
20 one.

21 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: I would just say in  
22 response to that on 171, that was an argument  
23 the plaintiffs presented before the court, and  
24 the court said that you could not draw a  
25 compact district in Southwest Georgia. So

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1 that's part of the reason he rejected that  
2 claim, so that's why we're not doing it here.

3 Just --

4 MS. BATTLES: I mean, we would  
5 disagree, but obviously, the court has the  
6 final say so.

7 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Indeed, he does.  
8 Yes, ma'am. All right. Let's see. But thank  
9 you, Ms. Battles, and we'll look forward to  
10 seeing you again tomorrow.

11 Is it Mason Goodwin? When you're  
12 ready, Mr. Goodwin.

13 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you. Thank you.  
14 I'll keep it brief. Thank you, Chairman and  
15 committee for the opportunity to speak, the  
16 opportunity to have public hearing. My name  
17 is Mason Goodwin.

18 I am the advocacy director of the  
19 Georgia Youth Justice Coalition. I know  
20 that's a bit of a mouthful. But we're a group  
21 of students. We make up across the state of  
22 Georgia. We're just here to testify in  
23 support of just fair Maps that are  
24 nonpartisan, that are representative of all of  
25 our populations in the state of Georgia.

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1 I know there's specifics. I know  
2 there's bill filed. We support a lot of Ms.  
3 Battles' changes to those bills so far. I  
4 just want to say that the majority party, I  
5 think, has the opportunity to set a real tone  
6 here for providing fair, nonpartisan maps in  
7 the State of Georgia, and that tone can be set  
8 for the future.

9 So for 2030, let's say, it's a  
10 different makeup of the parties. Let's set a  
11 tone now so no -- despite the party, despite  
12 the makeup of the general assembly, we have  
13 fair, honest maps that are representative of  
14 communities. I think that tone can be set  
15 now.

16 Now I know the House tends to do this,  
17 but the Senate's map currently does not comply  
18 with the judge's order. So we look forward to  
19 y'all cleaning that up as y'all tend to do.  
20 Appreciate y'all's time. Thank you for the  
21 opportunity to speak. Appreciate it.

22 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Goodwin. Appreciate your comments. Let's  
24 see. Is it -- is it Ray? The last name  
25 begins with a W, and I'm sorry.

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1 MS. WUNCH: Hi. It's Ria Wunch.

2 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Wunch?

3 MS. WUNCH: Yes. Wench.

4 MS. WUNCH: Okay. Well, that's what I

5 thought it was. I just wasn't sure. All

6 right. Sorry, Ms. Wench. Thank you for being

7 here.

8 MS. WUNCH: Thank you for the --

9 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Proceed when you're  
10 ready.

11 MS. WUNCH: -- opportunity to speak.

12 So my name is Ria Wunch. I have been a

13 Georgia resident my whole life. I grew up in

14 Cobb County, which for most of my life has

15 been split into four different districts. So

16 I grew up in District 11 in Barry Lowdermilk's

17 district, congressionally, and across the

18 street from me was District 6. So my

19 neighbors did live in a different district

20 than I did.

21 I attended South Cobb High School,

22 which was a Title I high school, but since it

23 was a magnet school, we had students from all

24 over the county come to the high school to

25 study science specifically.

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1 And as we reach the age where we were  
2 old enough to vote, I remember having a lot of  
3 confusion on who lived in what district since  
4 even though we were all in one county, none of  
5 us had the same representatives in congress.

6 Now, I'm a student at Georgia State  
7 University, which as a lot of you guys know  
8 graduates more Black students than any other  
9 college in the world.

10 And I'm seeing a lot of the same issues  
11 where a lot of district lines are being drawn  
12 between college campuses and high schools with  
13 majority Black students in low income areas,  
14 and it's really disappointing to see that some  
15 of the same issues that we saw in my high  
16 school are now happening in my college.

17 So as you guys are drawing the maps, I  
18 just want to say on behalf of young people who  
19 are either in high school or college or even  
20 in middle school who are reaching the age  
21 where they can vote, we will be voting on  
22 these maps for the next ten years of our  
23 lives. And even a lot of young students, a  
24 lot of young students who aren't yet able to  
25 vote will have to live with the consequences

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1 of whatever maps are decided this week.

2 So we just want to make sure that you  
3 guys are considering all of the future voters  
4 as well as you guys are drawing these maps.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you so much.

7 Well spoken. There it is. Is it Ms. Nala

8 North?

9 MS. NORTH: Hello. Thank you for this  
10 opportunity today.

11 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you for being  
12 here.

13 MS. NORTH: Absolutely. Thank you. As  
14 you said, my name is Nia North. I am also a  
15 member of the Georgia Youth Justice Coalition  
16 alongside Mason and Ria. I very recently  
17 moved to Georgia.

18 2024 is actually going to be my first  
19 year as a Georgia voter within DeKalb County.  
20 It is extremely important to me as a new  
21 Georgian voter and as a GSU student that the  
22 next 10 years of my life in Georgia offer me  
23 and all other young voters a chance -- a fair  
24 chance at their voices being heard.

25 With where we stand currently, we as

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1 voters are unable to trust in our leaders who  
2 have so -- who have so far presented blatantly  
3 racist and unfair maps. I look forward to  
4 seeing fair maps that represent our young --  
5 the future of our young voters, Especially  
6 young Black voters who are the future in this  
7 state. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, ma'am.  
9 Glad to have you here in Georgia. Melanie, is  
10 it Calhane?

11 MS. CALHOUN: Calhoun.

12 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Calhoun. Sorry,  
13 Ms. Calhoun.

14 MS. CALHOUN: Good afternoon, and thank  
15 you for the opportunity. I'm have a lot to  
16 say, so I'm going to try to read through it  
17 quickly. The importance of drawing fair  
18 districting maps that do not diminish the  
19 power of Black people cannot be overstated.  
20 In the United States, the practice of  
21 redistricting has significant implications for  
22 political representation and the distribution  
23 of power.

24 When redistricting processes are  
25 manipulated by -- in order to dilute the

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1 voting strength of Black communities, it  
2 undermines the democratic principle of equal  
3 representation and perpetuates systemic  
4 different disenfranchisement.

5 Historically, gerrymandering and other  
6 forms of unfair redistricting have been used  
7 to suppress the political influence of  
8 minority communities, including Black  
9 Americans, by dividing and withdrawing  
10 electoral districts in a way that diminishes  
11 the collective voting power of those  
12 communities and the voices and concerns of  
13 Black citizens are effectively marginalized,  
14 and our ability to elect representatives who  
15 truly reflect our interest is compromised.

16 Fair redistricting, on the other hand,  
17 is essential for upholding the principles of  
18 democracy and ensuring that every citizen's  
19 right to meaningful political participation is  
20 respected. When districts are drawn with  
21 fairness and transparency, taking into account  
22 demographic shifts and community boundaries,  
23 it helps to prevent disenfranchisement of  
24 Black voters and promotes the creation of  
25 districts where our voices can be heard and

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1 our votes can make a meaningful impact.

2 Moreover, fair redistricting is a  
3 matter of social and racial justice. It is an  
4 opportunity to rectify historical injustices  
5 and to address the legacy of discriminatory  
6 practices that have suppressed the political  
7 agency of Black communities. By drawing fair  
8 redistricting maps that empower Black voters,  
9 we acknowledge the importance of their -- of  
10 our respective perspectives and lived  
11 experiences in shaping public policy and  
12 decision-making processes.

13 It is a step towards fostering a more  
14 inclusive and equitable political landscape  
15 where diversity of representation is valued  
16 and where all communities have a fair chance  
17 to participate in the democratic process.

18 Now, I will speak lastly on the Black  
19 Belt. The redistricting process in Georgia  
20 represents a critical opportunity to ensure  
21 fair and inclusive representation for all  
22 residents. And this necessitates a  
23 comprehensive approach that goes beyond solely  
24 focusing on metro areas.

25 While metro areas are undeniably

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1 important centers of population and influence,  
2 it is equally essential that we take into  
3 account the unique needs, interest, and  
4 demographics of communities outside of these  
5 urban centers, including the Black Belt and  
6 other rural areas.

7 Georgia's population is characterized  
8 by its diversity, encompassing not only urban  
9 and suburban residents, but also rural and  
10 agricultural and historically marginalized  
11 communities to uphold, to truly uphold, the  
12 principles of fair representation and  
13 democratic governance, the redistricting  
14 efforts must be inclusive and considerate of  
15 the voices and concerns of all Georgians,  
16 regardless of their geographic location.

17 The Black Belt, which is historically  
18 refers to a region of the Southern United  
19 States is a high -- with a high percentage of  
20 African American residents, hold significant  
21 cultural, historical, and demographic  
22 importance.

23 It is critical and crucial that the  
24 redistricting process in Georgia takes into  
25 consideration the needs, and respectives, and

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1 perspectives of residents in these areas and  
2 ensuring that their representation in the  
3 State's political landscape is fair and  
4 equitable. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you so much.  
6 Thank you, Ms. Jim -- Ms. Calhoun. Sorry.  
7 Excuse me. Joey McKinnon.

8 MS. MCKINNON: Good afternoon. And  
9 thank you, Chair Leverett and committee. My  
10 name is Joey McKinnon with Georgia Values  
11 Action. Our organization's focus is with  
12 working families and better policy for kitchen  
13 table issues as well as the importance of  
14 voting to achieve those outcomes.

15 While not limited to, we do a great  
16 deal of work in Gwinnett County. So three  
17 quick points to share. First, we applaud  
18 Judge Jones' ruling that would result in fair  
19 maps and more equal presentation for Black  
20 communities in our state. We also applaud  
21 aspects of the proposed maps that honor this  
22 ruling.

23 However, they are a starting point, not  
24 the finish line. And we still encourage  
25 revisions that ensure more communities of

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1 interest have a voice. Fairness is the simple  
2 part. Judge Jones' ruling lays out adequate  
3 remedies. We are particularly concerned with  
4 proposed disruption in Gwinnett County, which  
5 by our assessment was not suggested or  
6 necessary in these remedies.

7 Political maps are the ties that bind  
8 constituents and lawmakers, and this bond  
9 needs to be more consistent in places like  
10 Gwinnett.

11 Having attended the oral arguments  
12 myself and heard expert witness testimony on  
13 gerrymandering, Judge Jones' ruling is a  
14 victory for democracy and fairness in the  
15 South, where, not limited to Georgia, the maps  
16 over history have often been churned when  
17 communities of interest make political gains.

18 While I am sure the intent is not to do  
19 an end run around the ruling where possible,  
20 what we're hearing in our conversations is  
21 skepticism given the short time frame to  
22 digest these maps and some of the remedies  
23 being puzzling.

24 I encourage you to take a look at the  
25 other suggested maps that will be brought

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1 forward that reflect Judge Jones' remedies.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you so much.

4 Is it Revels Allen or Reverend LS Allen?

5 Sorry, Reverend.

6 REV. ALLEN: That's okay. Good

7 afternoon, committee.

8 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Good afternoon.

9 REV. ALLEN: I'm Reverend Leo Sage

10 Allen with Faith and Public Life Action.

11 Faith and Public Life Action is a network of

12 tens of thousands of progressive clergy across

13 race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion,

14 and ZIP code. Here in Georgia, we have a base

15 of almost 2,000 faith leaders committed to

16 fighting for the moral imperative in the

17 public square.

18 Together, we fight for fair and just

19 policies and legislation that protect and

20 advance our sacred human rights. And I'm here

21 today to express the need of faith leaders

22 across this state who, like myself, want to

23 see our democratic institutions protected and

24 to prevent political violence, including

25 electoral violence.

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1 Fair districts and reapportionment are  
2 at the heart of our democracy, and as such,  
3 the openness, fairness, and equity of  
4 legislative maps must be protected. For  
5 decades in Georgia, politicians have used  
6 gerrymandering to protect their own political  
7 power.

8 As we saw in the federal decision and  
9 subsequent court order, gerrymandered  
10 congressional and state legislative districts  
11 undeniably flunked the fairness test in  
12 Georgia, breaking apart communities and  
13 lumping huge swaths of unrelated small towns  
14 and municipalities together into districts  
15 that are almost impossible to fairly represent  
16 in the Federal Congress and Georgia General  
17 Assembly.

18 Faith and Public Life Action and our  
19 constituents believe that every redistricting  
20 process should prioritize communities' voices,  
21 ensuring representation that reflects the  
22 diverse fabric of our state.

23 Our shared values as a multi-faith  
24 organization compel us to speak out for those  
25 who too often do not get the opportunity to

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1 have a voice in our democratic process.  
2 Transparent and nonpartisan practices are  
3 essential to upholding the most basic and  
4 essential principles of democracy,  
5 safeguarding fair elections, and fostering a  
6 truly inclusive government.

7 I urge you as public servants to engage  
8 in an open, inclusive, and accountable  
9 redistricting process that upholds the rights  
10 of all Georgians, which deserve to be held  
11 sacred.

12 During this special session, you have  
13 an obligation to enact an open, equitable  
14 redistricting process that safeguards our  
15 elections and upholds the most basic  
16 principles of democracy resulting in truly  
17 fair maps.

18 The maps from the 2020 census and years  
19 passed have not done justice for the people of  
20 Georgia. We know this to be true. This is  
21 yet another opportunity for our state to have  
22 fair districts that truly represent the  
23 people. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, Reverend  
25 Al. Janet Grant.

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1 MS. GRANT: Good afternoon, Chair

2 Leverett and members of the committee.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Good afternoon.

4 And Ms. Grant, you've got a handout that we're

5 distributing right now.

6 MS. GRANT: Yes. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: I just want to

8 mention --

9 MS. GRANT: Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: -- that to the

11 members of the committee.

12 MS. GRANT: I was going to --

13 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Sorry to interrupt

14 you.

15 MS. GRANT: Thanks to Molly for that.

16 My name is Janet Grant, and I serve as the

17 chair of Fair Districts Georgia. And we're

18 pleased to have the opportunity to present to

19 you today. Fair Districts Georgia is a

20 grassroots citizen organization that's solely

21 focused on advocating for fair redistricting

22 and redistricting reform.

23 Fair Districts Georgia believes that

24 the maps enacted during this session should

25 first comply with the court's order while

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1 excluding any unrelated and unnecessary  
2 changes for partisan gain. This is in keeping  
3 with our long-held priority of opposing mid-  
4 cycle redistricting. Neither party should be  
5 attempting changes outside of those required  
6 by this court order.

7       You have in front of you our scorecard,  
8 went to print at about 11 o'clock last night.  
9 We would have appreciated a little more time  
10 for review, but these are our initial  
11 thoughts, anyway. If the Democratic House  
12 Caucus also produces a map, we'd be eager to  
13 score that one, as well.

14       In 2021, in partnership with the  
15 Princeton Gerrymandering Project, we evaluated  
16 maps using sophisticated ensemble analytics,  
17 evaluating the map's placement on a normal  
18 bell curve of 1,000,000 randomly generated  
19 maps, along with accurate reflection of the  
20 growing diversity of Georgia and  
21 competitiveness, and we graded each map.

22       The enacted house map fared the best of  
23 any of the maps here in Georgia. It earned a  
24 B. But in this session, we are now assessing  
25 the maps really using a two-part pass-fail

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1 test, and this is kind of the basic entry  
2 level here.  
3 The first is whether the -- first test  
4 is whether the map actually complies with the  
5 court order, and then, secondly, whether the  
6 maps contain, again, unnecessary changes  
7 purely for partisan advantage. For the map  
8 proposed by the committee majority, we find  
9 that it does add five Black majority districts  
10 mandated by the court.

11 However, there is a loss of a minority-  
12 influenced district and -- but we do say  
13 overall that it passes the first test.

14 However, this map attempts to even the  
15 partisan score by literally uprooting, as we  
16 heard earlier, House Districts 40, 81, and 82  
17 and creating new Republican districts in other  
18 areas of the state.

19 As was likely, the new Black districts  
20 probably do lean Democratic, but the changes  
21 to House districts 40, 81, and 82 are  
22 completely unnecessary to comply with the  
23 court order.

24 In addition, House District 105's  
25 partisan lean was changed. So this map really

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1 fails the second part of our test. The map  
2 does change 32 percent of the districts and  
3 moves 15.7 percent of the state's population.  
4 We were hoping for that to be less impact on  
5 movement of voters.

6 Again, Districts 40, 81, and 82 are  
7 nowhere near the court's target areas.  
8 Uprooting 81 and 82 causes extensive changes  
9 then to eight districts in Gwinnett County,  
10 again, nowhere near those target areas. So  
11 these in indicate changes well outside of the  
12 court's directive.

13 We believe that a more surgical  
14 approach would yield a map that complies with  
15 the court order, doesn't attempt to even the  
16 partisan score and disrupts far fewer Georgia  
17 voters.

18 We encourage you to reassess the  
19 committee's proposed maps along these lines.  
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, ma'am,  
22 and thank you for your handout. And we've  
23 got -- on the second sign-up sheet, we have  
24 Anne Gray Herring with Common Cause. Good  
25 afternoon.

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1 MS. GRAY-HERRING: Good afternoon. My  
2 name is Andrea Herring from Common Cause  
3 Georgia. First of all, we just have some  
4 concerns, echoing what Cindy said, that the  
5 maps were released last night, and the public  
6 didn't have ample time to review the changes  
7 made and fully understand the impact of the  
8 proposed changes.

9 But from what we have been able to  
10 review, just a few things to raise. The map  
11 seems to do more than the court remedy  
12 suggests. You know, there are districts that  
13 are modified that aren't addressed in that  
14 court order, and we're a little unclear as to  
15 why.

16 For example, modifying the districts in  
17 Gwinnett, again, outside of the bounds of the  
18 court order, and then, House District 40, a  
19 suburban diverse district, was cracked didn't  
20 move to areas of Douglas and Paulding counties  
21 that also wasn't a target district in the  
22 court order.

23 Another issue with the maps is the  
24 pairing of incumbents. You know, I know some  
25 of this is inevitable with map redrawing, and

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1 it's hard to avoid drawing incumbents into the  
2 same district when changing maps. But nearly  
3 all of the incumbents drawn together in these  
4 maps are not in the target areas for the  
5 remedies in the court order.

6       There's a pairing in Gwinnett, another  
7 in East Atlanta, another in Cobb County, and  
8 one in Central Georgia, outside of the Macon  
9 Bibb area. None of these are within the  
10 target areas proposed by the maps, and the  
11 Gwinnet change is completely on the other side  
12 of town where the remedies were called for.

13       We're concerned that the goal of the  
14 proposed maps is not to increase  
15 representation for Black voters in this state,  
16 which is expressly the point of the judge's  
17 orders. For example, we don't see an increase  
18 in Black majority districts in the Black Belt  
19 region, which was the main issue argued in the  
20 court proceedings. Thank you.

21       CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you so much.  
22 All right. So we've got some representatives  
23 in here that -- does anyone else want to --  
24 did anyone else want to sign up that did not  
25 sign up, that would like to speak? You want

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1 to come on up? If you could just give us your  
2 name for now, and we'll ask you to sign up  
3 after you're finished, if you would just fill  
4 out the form.

5 MS. KILSTRA: Yeah. Absolutely. Thank  
6 you so much. I'm sorry. I missed the sign up  
7 form. Good afternoon, chair Leverett and  
8 members of the committee. My name is Marika  
9 Kilstra, and I'm the redistricting coordinator  
10 for Fair count. We are a nonpartisan  
11 nonprofit organization based here in Georgia.

12 We're committed to building pathways to  
13 civic engagement in Georgia, especially for  
14 rural communities of color and specifically  
15 rural Black communities. We're an  
16 organization focused on equity, access, and  
17 participation in our democracy.

18 I'm here today to ask for fairness and  
19 transparency in this special session and that  
20 these maps be used to counteract the dilution  
21 of Black voting power that the legislature  
22 previously approved and enacted in past maps.

23 I'd also like to submit to the public  
24 record more than 400 community of interests or  
25 COI maps drawn by Georgians that Fair Count

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1 collected alongside other community partners  
2 over the past few years.

3 The maps created are a living record of  
4 how Georgians, particularly in rural  
5 communities of color, are asking to be seen  
6 and heard in this process and how they'd like  
7 to be represented in redistricting.

8 We submitted these maps during the  
9 previous redistricting process and would like  
10 to resubmit them for your consideration.

11 They're available at [representable.org](https://representable.org), and  
12 I'll also submit a link to them through the  
13 online portal.

14 We're in special session today to  
15 redraw maps that were found originally to  
16 dilute Black voting power and ultimately Black  
17 political power in Georgia. It's imperative  
18 that maps not be redrawn solely for political  
19 or partisan ends and instead hold first and  
20 foremost the increase in political  
21 representation that Black Georgians deserve.

22 We ask that you do not make the same  
23 mistakes you did in 2021, mistakes found to be  
24 illegal under the Voting Rights Act, and  
25 ensure that Black Georgians get the

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1 representation that they so deeply deserve.

2 Thank you for your time and consideration.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you. And I'm

4 glad you mentioned the portal. You will put

5 that link up on the portal because I'm sure

6 folks would like to get that. Thank you.

7 All right. So I think we've -- did --

8 do you want to testify? Okay. Come on.

9 MS. DENSON: Good afternoon. My name

10 is Joyce Denson. I was born and raised here

11 in Atlanta, but for the last 42 years, I live

12 in Wilkerson County in a town called

13 Toombsboro, Georgia. And it's a rural county.

14 I know the difference between the city life

15 and what we would call a rural country life,

16 so to speak.

17 I ask each of you today in listening to

18 things that have been presented today that you

19 truly remember why you said that you want to

20 run for office, that you are here to serve the

21 community, not to be served by the community,

22 but that you deep within yourselves and know

23 that what you are doing make it be just.

24 I don't often use the word fair because

25 what I need, you may not need. But if you

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1 offer justice to you and justice to me and  
2 justice to the other, you would do the right  
3 thing. What affects you in Atlanta, what  
4 affects you in a small rural town is going to  
5 affect all of us in Georgia.

6 I plead with you today. Do not make a  
7 hasty decision. Please remember, you took an  
8 oath that you wanted to serve every citizen of  
9 the State of Georgia. In 2014 and 2017, I ran  
10 for the House of Representative, and in my  
11 running, in my campaigning, I saw a lot that  
12 was going on. And I saw the disparity between  
13 the generations, the disparities between each  
14 race.

15 And I ask you today, all of you that  
16 claim to be -- say that you claim to be a  
17 Christian, not just attending church in the  
18 manner say that you I'm just a good church  
19 goer, but you take that seat and you say that  
20 you want to bless and you want to do what's  
21 right, I'm asking you to search your soul  
22 today and do the right thing and bless the  
23 citizen of the state of Georgia.

24 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, ma'am.  
25 And, ma'am, what was your last name again?

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1 MS. DENSON: Denson. Denson. That's  
2 with a D-E-N-S-O-N.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Denson.

4 MS. DENSON: Denson.

5 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you very  
6 much. All right.

7 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 I'll be real quick. I am Kelly Persons with  
9 the League of Women Voters of Georgia. You've  
10 heard a lot from some of our partner groups,  
11 but I did want to bring up one thing that has  
12 not been spoken about yet in this room. We  
13 acknowledge that y'all have comment portal.  
14 There are other materials out there.

15 We are encouraging the chairs on both  
16 sides to include language equity in your  
17 public-facing documents. So individuals,  
18 Georgia citizens, where English may not be  
19 their first language have the same ability to  
20 come to these meetings, make the public  
21 comment.

22 We just want to make sure that that's  
23 included in these discussions. And I'll be  
24 like my friend, Cindy, You might hear some  
25 more from me tomorrow, but that's what I have

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1 for y'all today.

2 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: all right. Thank  
3 you very much, and we'll look forward to  
4 seeing you tomorrow. Oh, we have -- all  
5 right. Go ahead, sir. If you'll just state  
6 your name so --

7 MR. STEWART: My name is Hank Stewart.  
8 I'm just going to give you a couple of quotes.  
9 One quote is by Dr. King. He says, in the  
10 end, I remember not the voice of my enemies,  
11 but the silence of my friends. I'll say that  
12 again. It's in the end, it's not the voice of  
13 my enemies, but the silence of my friends.

14 When you're looking at the  
15 redistricting of these maps, remember that.  
16 And the last quote I'll leave you, it is  
17 something that I live by. And it says it's  
18 our time, it's our turn, if we don't do our  
19 part, it's our fault.

20 It's our time, And it's our turn. But  
21 if we don't do our part, it's our fault. I'll  
22 be more personal. It's my time. It's my  
23 turn. If I don't do my part, it's my fault.  
24 We have an opportunity to make Georgia better.  
25 It's your time. It's your turn. Do your part

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1 so it won't be your fault.

2 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you, sir.

3 All right. Does that take care of the folks

4 who are not representatives who want to

5 present some testimony to the committee? I

6 think that -- oh, I see a hand up over there.

7 Yeah.

8 UNKNOWN VOICE: (Inaudible).

9 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yeah. That's what

10 that's what I'm offering. Come on up. There

11 or I think we can have you sit there, but

12 podium seems to be the favorite location, but

13 you pick whichever you like. It is fine for

14 you to take the hot seat. And I promise I

15 won't hit the button that causes the electric

16 charge to go through (inaudible).

17 MR. TRAN: Oh, no. Not that. Sorry.

18 My name is (inaudible), and I'm at Georgia

19 State University. Can you guys hear me? Oh,

20 there you go.

21 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Yep. Sorry. I was

22 a little slow on the on the draw there. You

23 said it's Cody.

24 MR. TRAN: Cody Tran. I am a freshman

25 at Georgia State University. I apologize for

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1 my tardiness, by the way. I got here as soon  
2 as class finished, and I was a little late for  
3 the (inaudible).

4 But --

5 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: I know you got a  
6 lot going on. Don't worry. There's someone  
7 who's usually late myself.

8 MR. TRAN: Thank you. Thank you for  
9 the slack. But I came here because I wanted  
10 to testify about the redistricting. And I was  
11 invited here by the Georgia Youth Justice  
12 Coalition and to talk about kind of like  
13 what's been happening.

14 And so, I want to talk about how much  
15 of a danger it was to democracy in general to  
16 follow through with faulty maps and bad  
17 districts because I heard that these maps that  
18 were recently drawn and struck down were they  
19 unfairly represented the youth, and they also  
20 diluted a lot of, you know, minority voters  
21 and a lot of people of color.

22 And as a person of a minority race, I  
23 believe it's my place and I have a stake in  
24 this in general because as someone who's my --  
25 who's racial -- ethnicity, whose group already

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1 participates so little in politics, I feel  
2 that it's important to uphold a form of  
3 democracy where we can actually have a voice  
4 and have districts that actually represent us  
5 adequately and in a form that isn't trying to  
6 disrupt our votes.

7       And, I mean, it's -- I also find that  
8 it's very important to listen to our youth.  
9 And the fact that these maps aren't  
10 adequately, you know, representing us and  
11 allowing us to kind of like -- to use our  
12 voices and our power in a way that's proper,  
13 just -- just isn't -- shouldn't be acceptable.

14       So, I mean, that's all I have, but I  
15 just wanted to urge you guys to please  
16 redistrict this and do it in a way that  
17 doesn't violate a lot of our democracy, but  
18 that's it. I apologize if I'm rambling. I'm  
19 a little nervous.

20       CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: No. You did very  
21 well. Tell how do you spell your last name?

22       MR. TRAN: Tran, T-R-A-N.

23       CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: A-N?

24       MR. TRAN: Yes, sir.

25       CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Okay. Thank you so

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1 much.

2 MR. TRAN: All right.

3 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you for your  
4 testimony.

5 MR. TRAN: Thank you. Have a good day.

6 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: We'll take you  
7 later on here anytime.

8 MR. TRAN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: All right. I see  
10 another gentleman standing.

11 MR. BEACH: I just keep (inaudible).  
12 Sorry. I'm Michael Beach. I'm a proud  
13 resident of DeKalb County. And so I just  
14 wanted to talk -- sorry.

15 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Okay. Got you.

16 MR. BEACH: I'm Michael Beach, proud  
17 resident of DeKalb County. I'm in District  
18 82, which I see dramatically changed.  
19 Actually, I think I'm in South Georgia now.

20 But I really wanted to stress again  
21 what people are saying. Equitable --  
22 equitable representation, openness, and  
23 community participation in this and writing  
24 some of these historical wrongs is what the  
25 court order said.

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1 And so when we start to hear today  
2 about these other peripheral issues going on,  
3 I would really urge you to try and pull back  
4 from some of those and do what the court said,  
5 and follow that, and get that passed through.  
6 I'd hate to see this go to a grand master.

7 I'd hate to see this, basically, become  
8 national news again. We do not want to be  
9 linked again to our neighbor about kind of  
10 blowing off what the court has said. And so  
11 please don't put us through that or the  
12 taxpayer expense of taking care of that -- is  
13 that please listen to what people have said.

14 And you've done some really nice things  
15 here, I see, but take care of some of those  
16 peripheral issues that are really not mandated  
17 and outside of the impacted areas. I think I  
18 would really appreciate that and I love my  
19 district, actually, so thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you very  
21 much, Mr. Beach. I think we have some more  
22 folks.

23 MR. MOYE: Good afternoon to members of  
24 the committee. My name is John Moyer, senior  
25 director for policy for the Urban League of

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1 Greater Atlanta. And Chairman, we just want  
2 to really add to the sentiments of everyone  
3 who spoke today.

4 If you recall, a few years ago, we were  
5 very involved in the census, and I think we  
6 traveled with most of you around the state, I  
7 believe the summer before last, certainly  
8 during the redistricting process. And so here  
9 we are now with the court ruling, and we're  
10 just certainly calling on this committee.

11 I had a chance to attend the senate  
12 side earlier today to really to -- to  
13 really -- to give it some serious thought as  
14 you certainly redraw these maps. You know,  
15 the history of our state has not really been  
16 as fair as we would like when it certainly  
17 comes to voting rights.

18 And so as you -- or you all certainly  
19 review these maps, certainly, please take into  
20 consideration that all of our communities need  
21 to be fairly represented here. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you. Before  
23 you go, what was your last name?

24 MR. MOYE: Yes, sir. My name is John  
25 Moye, M-O-Y-E --

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1 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Well, that's what I  
2 thought.

3 MR. MOYE: -- with the Urban League of  
4 Greater Atlanta.

5 CHAIRMAN LEVERETT: Thank you very much  
6 for your testimony, Mr. Moye. All right. Did  
7 I -- think -- do we have someone else who  
8 wanted to testify? Would any of the -- if the  
9 representatives would like to speak and  
10 address the committee.

11 Any comment from representatives? All  
12 right. Is there anybody else who wants to  
13 address the committee that I haven't got to  
14 you or somebody who walked in? All right. I  
15 don't see any hands up.

16 So we certainly do appreciate  
17 everybody's attendance today. We appreciate  
18 your succinctness and your passion, and we  
19 also appreciate you being so civil and well-  
20 behaved in here. We like to see that. I  
21 will -- so we have a committee meeting  
22 tomorrow at 1:00 in the room right above us,  
23 in 506. We'll have some additional public  
24 comment there.

25 And I understand that, Leader Beverly

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1 will actually have a map he's going to  
2 present, as well, and we'll take comment on  
3 his plan as well as additional comment on this  
4 plan, and I would anticipate we'll take some  
5 votes tomorrow, also, so.

6 All right. Well, if that's it, I'll  
7 declare the meeting adjourned. Thank you,  
8 everybody.

9 (End of Video Recording.)

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CERTIFICATE

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

DATED this 8th day of December, 2023.

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WENDY SAWYER, CDLT

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