[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: I want to call this Joint House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committee to order. I want to first of all welcome everybody here. I want to thank Nicholls for hosting us in this great venue tonight. This is the ninth road show that we have done. So, a lot of traveling across the state, a lot of public testimony. I've enjoyed every step of it, and it has been very enlightening for both myself, the vice chairman, and the committee, and I know Chairwoman Hewitt will say the same thing for her side as well. So, I will go ahead and read the house role. Madam Secretary, if you can read the house. Get her mic turned on.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chairman Stefanski?

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Vice Chairman Duplessis.

VICE CHAIRMAN DUPLESSIS: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Beaullieu.

REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Wilford Carter. Representative Deshotel. Representative Farnum.

Hearing Exhibit
PR-46
3:22-cv-00211-SDD-RLB

REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I'm here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Gadberry.

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: I'm here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Hodges. Representative Horton.

REPRESENTATIVE HORTON: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Ivey. Representative Jenkins. Representative Mike Johnson.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative LaCombe. Representative Lyons.

REPRESENTATIVE LYONS: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Magee. Representative Newell.

REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Thomas.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative White.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITE: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: The house has eleven members in a quorum.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: And the Senate now, please.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chairwoman Hewitt.

CHAIRWOMAN HEWITT: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Vice Chairman Milligan.

VICE CHAIRMAN MILLIGAN: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Allain.

SENATOR ALLAIN: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Foil. Senator Harris. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Reese.

SENATOR REESE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver. Senator Womack.

SENATOR WOMACK: Present. The Senate has six members in a quorum.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. During this road show, we also have a number of staff who comes along with us to help make this all happen, and so, I'm going to introduce from the house side or house staff, we have Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, our Senior Legislative Analyst, we have our H&G A Attorney Lorrianne Lucas, we have our committee administrative assistant, Rosalie Ammersbach, and we have our committee clerk, John Harrington. With the house sergeant at arms, we also have our assistant sergeant at arms, Daniel Leming. We also have our legislative

communications office that creates this sound you're hearing here and the video display, we have Guillermo Cordon, we have Jeremy Hall, we have Anthony Long, we have Stephen Moe, we have Eric Shield, we have our chief communications officer, Corey Stewart, and we have Jason Young. Thank you all for your hard work during this road show. With that said, I will turn it over to my counterpart on the Senate side, Chairwoman Hewitt.

CHAIRWOMAN HEWITT: Thank you so much, chairman, and thank you all for being here. We really appreciate it. As I was driving in and seeing all the destruction and the blue tarps, I was kind of having a Katrina flashbacks, and so, I know a little bit about what you're going through, and I know FEMA is never fast enough. The contractors are never fast enough. The insurance guys aren't fast enough. I know you're going through a lot, but I want you to know the legislators and the local officials in this area are doing a great job of making sure that your voices are heard and they're working to help get you all the resources that you need, and so, again, thank you for being here. I know redistricting is kind of like the last thing on your mind right now because you've got

much more important things to do. But thanks for taking time to be here. We really do appreciate that.

[00:05:03]

We have a few other members that are here that are not on the committee. Senator Gary Smith down here to my left, and Senator Big Mike Fesi, here to my right. So, I appreciate you all being here. We also have a former Senator Norby Shaver with us in the audience. So, it's great to see you, Norby. I'd like to also introduce our Senate staff. I mean, as you can see, it's quite an operation that we brought from Baton Rouge here to hear your feedback today, and so, I'd like to introduce our staff, Yolanda Dickson, our secretary of the Senate, our second assistant secretary, Sue Moran, our committee attorney, Matt Deville, and we have our acting committee secretary, Angela Bazette is with us. She was, I think, helping us with the roll call, and I think that's it. Mr. Chairman from my side. Thank you very much, and thank you all for being here.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: And we also have a number of house members who are present here, some of your local reps who are trickling in, and I'll announce them as they come. But we do have Representative Beryl Amedee, we have Representative Jo Orgeron, we

have Representative Ken Brass, we have Representative Greg Miller. I don't know if Representative Tanner Magee is here yet, but he's a member of our committee, and I did see Representative Zee Zeringue in the back. So, thank those members for being here. Again, this has been a long process. We as the joint committees have been tried to be as transparent as possible and also as welcoming to the public comments and the public participation as part of this process, and so, we welcome your comments today. There's going to be an opportunity where you're going to be able to come up and give testimony. We ask that if you would like to do that, please fill out a card. We're going to limit your testimony at that time to five minutes, and that's in an effort to allow everyone an opportunity to be able to speak today. So, we look forward to hearing what you have to say. We're listening to what you have to say, and also, there is additionally a process to where you can submit public comment and a written record. We have all of those in our folders but the ones that have been submitted today, and they're all stored online on our website under Redistricting. If you go to legis.la.gov., click on Redistricting. All of the information on all of these meetings, all of the video, all of the

1 PowerPoints, everything that has been submitted is
2 available there. If you would like to see it. At this
3 time, before we begin our presentation, I am going to
4 invite the Nicholls President, Jay Clune up to give a
5 few statements.
6 JAY CLUNE: Thank you, Chairman Stefanski,
7 Chairwoman Hewitt, all House and Senate members. I
8 know I speak for the Nicholls Community and my wife,
9 Alison, who is in the audience when I say welcome to
10 our University. We're very proud to host one of the
11 many informational sessions as part of the State's
12 redistricting process. We aim at Nicholls to be the
13 hub of the Bayou region and do so through hosting
14 opportunities such as these. When I think about
15 redistricting, I'm reminded of our University values
16 of civic responsibility, diversity, excellence,
17 integrity, leadership, respectfulness and
18 responsibility. Each of these will play a role in
19 redistricting. The lines drawn through this process
20 will give each community a voice. More than 6,000
21 students call the campus home each semester. Most of
22 them, probably 95% come from the Bayou region and
23 nearly all come from Louisiana. Our graduates are
24 nurses, are teachers, are chefs, are accountants,
25 there are artists and are scientists, and this

1 process will affect every one of them. I have faith
2 in our legislators and the process. I have faith in
3 our people who make up our community, so welcome to
4 Nicholls State University and thank you for all you
5 do.
6 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. I also do want to
7 note Representative Fontenot was going to be here. He
8 is feeling under the weather and so unfortunately,
9 he's not able to be here. But he sends his regrets
10 and lets you know that he is listening, and
11 Chairwoman Hewitt, I believe has a few extra
12 comments.
13 CHAIRWOMAN HEWITT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. I failed to recognize some of our security
15 that are here with us today. Our sergeant at arms,
16 John Keller and our assistant sergeant at arms, Lewis
17 Caroline. So, thank you all for that. As well as the
18 men in blue in the back, our state police, thank you
19 all. You're always with us in all of our events and
20 so, we appreciate you very much and thank you for
21 what you do for us.
22 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: With all of that said, we
23 will get the show started. Like I discussed the first
24 part of this is going to be a presentation made by
25 staff.

[00:10:02]
We're going to talk about the 2020 census population and population trends. We're going to talk about redistricting terms, concepts and the law. We're going to talk about redistricting criteria. We're going to talk about the malapportionment statistics and illustrative maps, and finally, we're going to talk about the timeline, which we've almost reached the end. So, with that said, I will turn it over to Patricia Lowrey-Dufour to get us started.

PATRICIA LOWREY-DUFOUR: Welcome and thank you so much for your interest in our revision team process. I'm going to give you a brief introduction on census data and let you know some of the key facts about the census data. One of the important things that you need to know is that the census usually has two releases. One is the apportionment data, which is typically released to the President at the end of the year following the federal decennial census. That is the statewide population data used to apportion the number of Congressman that each state is authorized under the method of equal proportions. The second set of data, which the state of Louisiana would normally receive in February following the census, is the redistricting level data. This data is the data that

1 includes not just the state population, but
2 populations at the Parish, at the city or
3 municipality level, as well as precinct and census
4 block data, and this is the data that your
5 legislature and your local governing authorities need
6 in order to begin the redistricting process. The
7 other thing that you need to understand is this data
8 was very late this decade. The apportionment data was
9 delayed by more than five months, and the
10 redistricting data has been delayed by more than
11 seven months, which is now why we're with you today
12 as opposed to earlier this year which we normally
13 would have been if the data had been timely. So,
14 Louisiana's apportionment data. Again, this is the
15 data that was released on April 26, 2021. It
16 indicated that the apportionment population allocated
17 to the State of Louisiana for the purpose of
18 allocating Congressman to the state was 4,661,468.
19 That number includes 3,711 overseas military and
20 civilian personnel and their family members who are
21 attributable to the State of Louisiana, but who do
22 not reside in Louisiana. The other figure that we got
23 at that time was the State's resident population, and
24 that population is 4,657,757. That is the number that
25 we used to determine the ideal district population

for each district in a statewide redistricting plan. The other thing that you need to understand about the state's population data is that the state is still exhibiting a trend that has existed for more than 40 years, and that our growth rate is slower than the rest of the nation and certainly the rest of the Southern region of which we are a part of. Louisiana's growth rate was only at 2.74%, while the nation grew at 7.35% this past decade. The other thing that you need to understand is that the nation is growing at the slowest growth rate in 40 years. I'm sorry since 1940, so over 80 years. The Southern regional growth rate is at 10.22%, and so, as you can see, Louisiana's growth is not only not keeping pace with the nation but it is not keeping pace with the Southern region. As I discussed earlier, this data was released in August and September. One in August which was in a legacy format which really required a lot of data, familiarity and really a GIS program to use. It was released again on September 16 in an easier to use format and is available on the census primary data site at data.census.gov and is available and easy to understand tables. You can download all the data for your parishes, your state, your regions and your municipalities. So, what does the interstate

population trends tell us about the population growth within the state? As you can see here, this map indicates that generally almost the entirety of North Louisiana has lost population.

[00:14:57]

You can see here the continuing trend that we've experienced over the past 40 years of growth along the I-10, I-12 Corridor from Lake Charles through Lafayette into Baton Rouge and St. Tammany as well as the Orleans and Jefferson and St. Bernard Plaquemine Region. Population declines have continued in the Northeast and Northwest, and population gains have begun to show up in urban and suburban areas, while you'll also see serious population declines along our coastal areas as well as our rural areas, and again, as we stated, this is not a new trend. You can see here, this is something that has been happening since 1980, and while there have been some unique factors that have influenced the trends in individual decades such as the Hurricane Katrina effect that decimated the population in the Southeast of Louisiana in the 2000s, which you'll see there on your bottom left, along with higher growth rates during the 1990s, which you'll see at the top right. Generally, the overall patterns exist, which is growth that if it

has occurred in North Louisiana, it has been less than the growth rate and along the I-10-12 Corridor and then growth again in Southeast Louisiana as well as the urban areas. Here is a list of the parishes that have lost the most population in the past decade, and what you see here in these twelve parishes is kind of scattered throughout the whole state. You'll see an even distribution from Northwest Louisiana along with Central Louisiana including some areas in South Louisiana, but what you will not see are parishes that are in the Southeastern portion of the State of Louisiana. You will find those parishes listed here in the top twelve population growth areas, and again, what you see is the population growth in Orleans, St. Tammany, Calcasieu, Lafayette, Ascension, Baton Rouge, Livingston, Tangipahoa which are again, those parishes along the I-10-12 Corridor. And here are the top census municipalities by population within the state. So, let's talk about the demographic changes that have occurred in the state, and one of the things that you need to understand about the census that occurred this time is that the Census Bureau made changes to their questionnaire. They were trying to garner an additional information about the diversity of the state, and they believe

that the census questionnaire garnered more accurate self-responses among the populations of the country and particularly in Louisiana. When you responded to the census, you are allowed to state that you are either White, Black, Asian, American-Indian, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander or some other race. You could also respond that you were any combination of those racial categories. You could also respond that you were either Hispanic or Latino or not Hispanic or Latino. The ability to so self-respond could lead to hundreds of categories of population responses. And so, in order to aggregate this population in a way that's easily understood, the legislature has adopted a population allocation and aggregation document, which you will find on our Redistricting website which indicates that the State of Louisiana for the White responses when you see here in this chart, White equals White alone, Black is Black plus any other race. Asian is Asian plus any other race. American-Indian is American-Indian plus any other race, and the other category includes Hawaiian and Pacific Islander as well as people who responded as any combination of some other race that was not either White alone, Black alone plus Black or any other race, Asian alone or Asian plus any other race,

American-Indian alone plus American-Indian alone plus any other race. So, that category includes a lot of people who responded as white plus some other race that was not one of those other racial categories that I discussed.

[00:20:04]

So, one of the things that you can see here is that the state of Louisiana has experienced a decline in its white population and an increase in the a Black-Asian, American-Indian and some of the race as well as an increase in people who responded that they were either Hispanic or Latino origin. And now, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Michelle Fontenot, the clerk of the House, to discuss redistricting, terms, concepts and the law.

MICHELLE FONTENOT: Good evening. So, when we talk about redistricting, it's important to know how we define redistricting. So sometimes the terms apportionment and districting are used interchangeably, but these are two distinct terms. Re-apportionment or apportionment is a process of allocating seats in the Legislature, and, for example, in the U.S. House of Representatives, the State of Louisiana is currently entitled to six congressmen in accordance with the U.S. Constitution

1 and a formula established in Federal Law called the
2 Method of Equal Proportions. So, we have been
3 apportioned six seats following the 2020 census, and
4 now the Legislature must redraw those congressional
5 lines or redistrict in accordance with the 2020
6 census. So, again, districting is the process of
7 drawing those lines of each district, with districts
8 being the geographical territories from which elected
9 officials are elected. So, why do we redistrict? We
10 do so because the constitution requires us to do so.
11 Article three section six, Louisiana Constitution
12 includes those duties and deadlines for legislative
13 redistricting, and there are also various other
14 provisions of law that involve local districting
15 bodies containing redistricting duties and deadlines,
16 and those other governmental bodies include parish
17 governing authority, school boards, and municipal
18 governing bodies. Further, there are two general
19 legal requirements that must be taken in
20 consideration, and those are the Equal Protection and
21 Voting Rights Act of 1965, which will be discussed
22 later in part by myself and my colleagues. So, who is
23 redistricted? By the State Legislature, the House and
24 the Senate are redistricted, Congress, Public Service
25 Commission, State Board of Elementary and Secondary

1 Education often referred to as BESE and the Courts.
2 How is it happening? How does redistricting take
3 place? It happens through legislation. So, like any
4 other legislation, that begins with a bill that can
5 be either introduced in the House or the Senate.
6 Generally speaking, that bill follows the same
7 constitutional procedures and requirements like any
8 other bills that come before the Legislature. So,
9 your local governing entities such as parish
10 governing authorities, municipal governing
11 authorities, and school boards are not redistricted
12 by the Legislature, and each of those bodies are
13 responsible for redistricting themselves. There are
14 other provisions in the Constitution of Louisiana
15 that contain requirements relative to redistricting,
16 and those include Article III Section 1 which
17 requires single member districts. Article III Section
18 3 which provides a maximum number of members. So, our
19 Constitution sets the number of Senate districts at
20 39 and the number of House districts at 105. Article
21 III Section 6 provides a deadline for which the
22 Legislature must complete legislative redistricting
23 and for this census cycle that deadline is December
24 31 of 2022. It also requires the use of census
25 population data to do that work, and as Ms. Lowrey-

1 Dufour alluded to you earlier that is the PL 94-171
2 data. The next issue that I will discuss with you is
3 equal population. So, the concept of one person, one
4 vote. The starting point of this one person, one vote
5 concept is the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th
6 Amendment which states that no state shall deny to
7 any person equal protection of the laws, and this
8 concept was further developed through a series of
9 court cases in the 1960's in which the court held
10 that there must be substantially equal legislative
11 representation for all citizens of a state.
12 Therefore, state must have legislative districts of
13 roughly equal population. How is population equality
14 measured? It's measured by determining the ideal
15 population which is calculated by dividing the total
16 population of an area being redistrict by the number
17 of districts.
18 [00:25:00]
19 Deviation is that term which refers to the amount of
20 the districts population that differs from the ideal.
21 With respect to equal population, there are different
22 standards for Congress and for State Legislative
23 Districts, so for Congress the standard is as nearly
24 equal as practicable, which means that the deviation
25 must be as close to zero as possible. If there is a

1 deviation, there must be a good faith effort to avoid
2 deviation and must be able to provide a legally
3 acceptable nondiscriminatory justification for that
4 deviation, and the standard is based on again,
5 Article I Section 2 in the 14th Amendment, which
6 states that representative shall be apportioned among
7 the States according to their respective numbers.
8 With respect to state and local legislative
9 districts, the standard for deviation is different.
10 The standard is as substantially equal in population
11 as possible. An overall deviation of 10% or less is
12 generally not enough to make a prima facie case of
13 discrimination, but it is not a safe harbor, and
14 States must be able to show the support for the need
15 for the deviation with justification showing
16 significant State interest. In Louisiana, we try to
17 keep that deviation to plus or minus 5%. So, again,
18 equality of population must be the overriding
19 objective of districting, and deviations from this
20 principle are permissible only if incidental to the
21 effectuation of a rational state policy, and courts
22 have referenced these state policies that we've
23 included on this slide, including allowing
24 representation to political subdivisions,
25 compactness, preserving cores of prior districts, and

avoiding contests between incumbents. It's important to note that the one person, one vote standard does not apply to courts, so it does not apply to judicial districts, and although it doesn't apply to the courts, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act does still apply. And now, I'll turn it over to my colleague Lorrianne Lucas to discuss the Voting Rights Act.

LORRIANNE LUCAS: Good evening. In discussing discrimination against minorities, there are several legal considerations that one must be aware of. The 14th Amendment, the 15th Amendment, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and vote evolution issues in regards to racial gerrymandering. I will first discuss some of the background leading up to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits states from purposefully discriminating between individuals on the basis of race. The 15th Amendment, adopted in 1870, declares that the right of a citizen to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or the States on the account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. The amendment was ineffectual after adoption in eliminating the problem of voting discrimination, and the Voting Rights Act was enacted in 1965 as a means to ensure that all citizens have

the right to vote regardless of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. A language minority group is considered American-Indian, Asian-American, Alaskan Native or persons of Hispanic heritage. Specifically, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any state or political subdivision from imposing any voting qualification, standard, practice or procedure that results in the denial or abridgement of any U.S. citizens right to vote on account of race, color, or status. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act was amended in 1982 to clarify that a violation of Section 2 is established if based on the totality of circumstances. It has shown that the election processes are not equally open to participation by members of a protected class, and that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and select representation of their choice. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected to office is one circumstance which may be considered. However, nothing establishes the right members have over protected class to elect in numbers equal to their proportion in the population. In 1986, those

amendments were reviewed by the Supreme Court in Thornburg versus Gingles.

[00:30:00]

The court imposed three pre-conditions that a plaintiff must prove before the court can proceed to a detailed analysis of a redistricting plan and to establish a prima facie case. Those three pre-conditions are the minority in population is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district. The minority population is politically cohesive and that the absence of special circumstances block voting by the majority defeats the minority's preferred candidate. Once the preconditions are established, the court will then proceed to consider several other objective factors in determining the totality of circumstances, including, but not limited to, the extent of the history of official discrimination, touching on the class participation in the democratic process. Racially polarized voting, the extent to which the state or political subdivision has used unusually large election districts, majority vote requirements and other voting practices that enhance the opportunity for discrimination. Denounce of access to the candidates

1 leading process for members of the class, extent to
2 which members of the minority group bears the effects
3 of discrimination in areas such as education,
4 employment, and health. Whether political campaigns
5 have been characterized by racial appeals, the extent
6 to which members of a protected class have been
7 elected, whether there are significant lacks of
8 responsiveness by elected officials to the
9 particularized needs of the group, and whether the
10 policy underlying the use of voting qualifications,
11 standards, procedures, or practices is tenuous. The
12 plaintiff must show that a totality of circumstances
13 will support the court's finding that the contested
14 voting scheme is dilutive of the minority's electoral
15 power. When drawing a minority district, one must
16 avoid a violation of Section 2. The line draw must
17 take care to not create a racial gerrymander that
18 runs a file of the equal protection clause of the
19 14th Amendment. As stated earlier, the equal
20 protection clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits
21 States from purposefully discriminating between
22 individuals on a basis of race. A racial gerrymander
23 is the deliberate and arbitrary distortion of
24 district boundaries for racial purposes. A
25 redistricting plan that expressly distinguishes among

because of race must be narrowly tailored to further a compelling governmental interest. That means that the plan or individual districts drawn were drawn to narrowly satisfy the compelling governmental interest. What would be considered a compelling governmental interest? It would be remedying past discrimination, avoiding retrogression, or avoiding a violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. These interests must be strongly supported in evidence. This applies not only to plans that expressly distinguish citizens because of race, but also plans that, although race-neutral are on their face inexplicable on any other grounds other than race. Courts have said that the Legislature is always aware of race when drawing district lines, just as it is aware of age, economic status, religion and a variety of other demographic factors. That sort of race consciousness or race awareness does not inevitably lead to impermissible race discrimination. So, race can be considered. However, race cannot be a predominant factor in drawing a district. Critical to determine the factors involved would be the shape of the district, the regard given to traditional districting principles, and the motivations that drive the line drawing decisions. When a majority-

minority district is created, it must be created given due regard to traditional districting principles. Otherwise, the district will be subject to strict scrutiny. To avoid pitfalls of gerrymandering, one must be aware of bizarre shapes drawing districts that are reasonably compact, not making race the dominant motivation, and following traditional districting principles. Principles mentioned in previous court cases include compactness, continuity, respect for political subdivisions, respect for communities of interest, maintaining traditional boundaries, maintaining core districts and protecting incumbents from races with each other. I will now hand it over to my colleague, Matt Deville, Secretary of Senate and Governmental Affairs. I'm sorry, Attorney of Senate and Governmental Affairs.

[00:35:19]

MATTHEW DEVILLE: Hi, good evening. My name is Matthew Deville and I am the staff attorney for the Senate Government Affairs Committee. I'm going to be discussing the criteria for all redistricting plans submitted to the Legislature for consideration. These criteria were adopted by the Legislature last year during the 2021 regular session, and it's contained

1 in Joint Rule No. 21, and that establishes the
2 parameters for any submitted plan. Some of these
3 criteria we will apply to all plan types, whether it
4 be for the State House or Senate, Congress, the Board
5 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Public
6 Service Commission, or the courts. Other criteria are
7 plan specific, and I'm going to point those out as we
8 go. We'll start off by looking at the requirements
9 that every plan has to meet. All redistricting plans
10 shall comply with all applicable federal and state
11 laws, including the Equal Protection Clause of the
12 14th Amendment and the 15th Amendment of the U.S.
13 Constitution, as well as Section 2 of the Voting
14 Rights Act of 1965 which we just discussed. All
15 redistricting plans have to be composed of contiguous
16 geography within the district, and by contiguous that
17 means that if you were to trace it with a pencil, if
18 you started at one end, you wouldn't pick your pencil
19 backup until you got to the other end. You can't have
20 an island over here and a mainland over here, so to
21 speak. All plans have to contain whole election
22 precincts to the extent practicable. If a precinct
23 does have to be divided and must be divided into as
24 few districts as practicable, using a visible census
25 tabulation boundary or boundaries which can be

1 geographic, like a river or something smaller. If you
2 drill down to the granular level in what's known as
3 the census block, which is the smallest redistricting
4 building block contained in the census data set. All
5 plans have to respect established boundaries of
6 existing political subdivisions, which include
7 parishes and municipalities, and the natural
8 geography of the state to the extent practicable.
9 However, this criterion is subordinate to, and shall
10 not be used to undermine maintenance of communities
11 of interest that were within the same district to the
12 extent practicable. Continuing with requirements that
13 all plans must meet; all redistricting plans shall
14 utilize the most recent PL 94-171 data released by
15 the U.S. Census Bureau as validated through the Data
16 Verification Program of the House and the Senate.
17 That validated data can be accessed by the public on
18 the redistricting website. Anyone is free to use that
19 data to submit a proposed plan, but it must be
20 submitted electronically in a specific format what's
21 known as a comma-delimited block equivalency file,
22 which is a typical export format on publicly
23 available redistricting websites. If you do choose to
24 submit a plan, we encourage you to include any
25 additional information that could assist in

consideration of that plan including rationale or decisions made in the plan of the maps, the shape files, things of that nature. As for some plan specific criteria, each State Houses and Senate, Public Service Commission, BESE Board and Supreme Court plan has to be a whole plan that assigns all the geography of the state. It's easy to draw a single perfect district. The challenge comes in when you have to assign all the surrounding districts to accommodate that perfect one. So, the plan has to consider the whole geography of the state. If you think of Louisiana as a puzzle, if you change the borders of one piece, then all those bordering pieces near it also have to shift as well. Continuing to focus on some specifics. Each redistricting plan for the House and Senate, the Public Service Commission and the BESE Board shall contain single-member districts that are substantially equal in population which for our purposes means they must fall within at least plus or minus 5% of the ideal district population figure. They also must give due consideration to traditional district alignments to the extent practicable. Now we can talk about Congress, which is subject to a different standard. All redistricting plans for Congress must also

contain single-member districts, but those districts must have as nearly equal population to the ideal district population figure as practical as opposed to that substantially equal standard. This is a much more stringent standard than for State plans. We're talking about fractions of a percent as opposed to that plus or minus five number. You have to get as close to zero as possible and with that I will turn things over to my colleague Yolanda Dixon, Secretary of the Senate.

YOLANDA DIXON: Good evening. I'm going to first discuss some malapportionment data for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education also known as BESE.

[00:40:05]

The first map will show the configuration of the eight BESE districts as they exist today. These districts were enacted by the Legislature and precleared by the Justice Department after the 2010 census. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal population was 566,671. Today, after the 2020 census, the ideal population is 582,219, reflecting a change of 15,548 due to the population growth of the state. This next chart shows the current population in each BESE district and the difference from the

ideal population. As you can see, Districts 3 and 8 are underpopulated and Districts 6 and 7 are overpopulated. This will be the first of many color-coded maps that you will see tonight that illustrates the population deviations of the districts, with the dark red and dark orange colors representing population below the acceptable range. The orange representing the low side of the acceptable range, the light yellow representing the high side of the acceptable range, and the light and dark green colors representing districts that are overpopulated. Now we will discuss the Public Service Commission, also known as the PSC. This map shows the current configuration of the five PSC districts and these districts were enacted by the Legislature after the 2010 census and precleared by the Department of Justice. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal population of the PSC district was 906,674. The new ideal population for each PSC district following the 2020 Census is 931,551, reflecting an increase of 24,877 due to the population growth in the state. This chart shows the current population in each PSC district and the difference from the ideal. As you can see, district one is overpopulated and outside the acceptable range of deviation. This is the color-

coded map showing the PSC districts, with the orange representing the low side of the acceptable range, the light yellow representing the high side of the acceptable range, and the light green representing overpopulation. And now I will turn it over to my colleague Patricia Lowrey Dufour, Senior Analyst for the House and Governmental Affairs Committee.

PATRICIA LOWREY DUFOUR: Hi everyone. We're now going to discuss the malapportionment of the State's Congressional Districts. Before you, is a map showing the current six Congressional Districts as they were enacted by the Legislature and precleared by the Department of Justice following the 2010 Census. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal Congressional District population was 755,562. Under the 2020 census, it reveals that the new ideal population for congressional district is 776,292 a difference of 20,730. This chart shows the difference by Congressional District of each of them from the new ideal population for a Congressional District. As you can see, even though it's not color-coded, none of the Congressional Districts achieve that near perfect to zero population difference from the ideal as was discussed earlier by my colleagues relative to the population standards for Congress. There is a

difference of over 88,120 between Congressional District No. 4 and the most populated Congressional District, Congressional District No. 6. This is the color -coded map showing the difference from each Congressional District and their population from the ideal, with the dark orange color representing population, the furthest below that ideal population, the lighter orange representing population below the ideal, the light yellow representing population above the ideal, and the light green representing population. The furthest above the ideal. As you can see in your immediate area, Congressional Districts 1, 3, 6, and 2 are all out of the population ideals for the area, with District No. 2 being the furthest away from the ideal Districts No. 1 and 3 being above the ideal, and District No. 6 being the most populated Congressional District in the State.

[00:45:16]

Now we're going to briefly discuss the malapportionment of the Supreme Court. Before you are the current seven Supreme Court Districts. Unlike the other districts we've discussed this evening, these districts were last drawn in 1997 using the 1990 census, and I will remind you that these are the districts, judicial districts are not subject to that

1 equal protection one man, one vote clause of the
2 United States Constitution and the 14th Amendment.
3 However, when these districts were drawn by the
4 Legislature in 1997, the ideal Supreme Court district
5 would have been 602,853, and when the Legislature did
6 draw those districts, they did draw them
7 substantially equal in population with the relative
8 mean deviation of less than 2% among those districts.
9 If the Legislature would have redrawn them following
10 the 2010 census, it would have drawn the districts
11 close to that 647,624 if it applied that
12 substantially equal population standard to them.
13 Following the 2020 census, the ideal first Supreme
14 Court district would be 665,393. This is the chart
15 showing the difference of the current seven Supreme
16 Court Districts from that new ideal district
17 population. As you can see here, from this chart,
18 there is a substantial deviation among the Supreme
19 Court Districts with a low of 476,554 in District 7,
20 which is based New Orleans and Jefferson, to a high
21 of 838,610, and District 5, which is based in the
22 Baton Rouge Metropolitan area. This is a difference
23 of more than 362,000 people between those districts.
24 This map again color-coded to show you the deviation
25 of those Supreme Court Districts from the ideal

population, with the dark red and the dark orange colors representing populations furthest below the ideal. The orange representing population below the ideal, but within a 5% range, and the dark green representing population, the furthest above the ideal. Now I'll move to a discussion of the malapportionment of Louisiana House of Representatives. Before you, is a map of the current 105 House of Representatives districts as they were drawn following the 2010 census, and they were precleared by the U.S. Department of Justice. When these districts were drawn in 2010 or actually, they were drawn in 2011 following the 2010 census, the ideal for House District was 43,174. According to the 2020 census, the new ideal of a House District will be 44,359, a difference of 1,185. So, for no changes to occur in the House Districts, all of the House Districts would had to have grown equally by that 1,185. As you can see here from this chart that did not happen. The Louisiana House of Representatives currently has 29 districts that has population that is above the acceptable plus or minus 5% from that ideal district population we discussed. It has 39 districts that fall within that plus or minus 5% range and then it has 37 districts that have a

population that are below the 5% from the ideal. This is a map, again, the color coding showing the deviations of each of the 105 House Representative Districts from the ideal with the dark red and the dark orange colors representing population below the acceptable range. The orange representing the low side of the acceptable range, the light yellow representing the high side of the acceptable range and the light and dark green representing population above the acceptable range. Now, I'll move specifically to the districts that are within the river in Bayou area of the House of Representatives. This is a map showing the current districts in the immediately surrounding area in the Bayou River region. Of the 12 districts in this chart, you will see that 6 districts are seriously underpopulated including districts 46,49,50,53,58 and 63 of the districts.

[00:50:01]

Three of the districts, Districts 51, 54, and 57 are underpopulated but within the 5% range. District 56, based in St. Charles Parish is slightly overpopulated, while Districts 52 based in Houma, and District 55 based here in Thibodaux are overpopulated above the acceptable range. And this is a map showing

again the color-coded map showing the deviations of those districts we just discussed from the ideal district population for House district. And again, you can see the green House District 52 and 55 indicating overpopulation, with all of the surrounding districts in red and orange indicating population in those districts that are below the ideal district population. And again, the light yellow, which is only district 56 in the immediate area in St. Charles showing population slightly above the ideal but within the acceptable range. And now I'm going to turn it back to my colleague Yolanda Dixon, Secretary of the Senate, to discuss the malapportionment of the Senate districts.

YOLANDA DIXON: Thank you. This is a map illustrating the current configuration of Senate districts enacted by the Legislature after the 2010 census and precleared by the U.S. Department of Justice. When these districts were drawn in 2011, the ideal population of a Senate District was 116,240. The new ideal population for each Senate District following the 2020 census is 119,429 reflecting an increase of 3,189. This chart shows that there are ten Senate districts in which the current population exceeds 5% above the ideal population. There are 14

1 Senate Districts whose current population is within
2 the plus or minus 5% of the ideal population, and
3 there are 15 Senate Districts that are below the
4 ideal population. This color-coded map illustrates
5 the population deviations with the dark red and dark
6 orange colors representing the population below the
7 acceptable range, orange representing the population
8 on the low side of the acceptable range, the light-
9 yellow representing population on the high side of
10 the acceptable range, and the light and dark green
11 representing population above the acceptable range.
12 Now getting to the River Bayou area of the state.
13 Here, we have the Senate Districts composing the
14 River Bayou region and these Districts
15 2,17,18,19,20,21 and 22 in this area. And here are
16 the population numbers for the district just shown on
17 the map. As you can see, District 18 is overpopulated
18 by over 18,000 people and it's outside the acceptable
19 deviation. Districts 21 and 22 had minimal population
20 change and are within the acceptable range of
21 deviation. While Districts 2,17,19 and 20 all lost
22 population and are outside of the acceptable
23 deviation and will need to gain population. And
24 here's a closer view of the districts on a color-
25 coded map. The districts again in the dark orange

Districts 2,17,19 and 20 will need to gain population and the light-orange, District 21 less population, but it's within the acceptable deviation range. The district in yellow, District 22 gained population and is within the acceptable deviation range. District 18 in the dark green gained population and will need to lose population. This concludes my presentation, and I'll turn it over to the chairman to discuss our timeline.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, Madam Secretary. I want to thank all of our staff for the presentation did an excellent job, and in my haste and effort to pronounce everyone's name correctly, I skipped over our Clerk of the House, Michelle Fontenot, who gave part of that presentation. So, thank her for being here as well. As you can see, we've come to the end of our road show. We have one more meeting in Baton Rouge on the 20th, but the traveling portion of it, this concludes it. Like I said, it's been a great experience for me. I know Chairwoman Hewitt would echo those sentiments, and we appreciate it. Now, we're moving on to the portion where you have an opportunity to give public comment. I do have several cards, but if you would like to give testimony, please find one of these white cards in the back of

the room. Please fill it out, and that's how we will identify you. There's a microphone set up right here, so when I call your name, please come to this microphone to give testimony.

[00:55:04]

Our first person to testify is Ralphon Triggs. I hope I pronounced that correctly. Ralphon?

RALPHON TRIGGS: Good afternoon, members of both House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees. My name is Ralphon Triggs. I'm 16 years old and soon to be turning 17 this year hopefully. I'm Louisiana born and raised in Thibodaux, Louisiana. I attend the Lafourche Parish Public Education System. I have the privilege of being the interim President for the National Organization for Teams for Change, which is a progressive organization led nationwide. I come to speak, number one, on behalf of minority neighborhoods in Congressional District 6. We know that in 2010, the State Legislature, they did play a political game on black and all brown neighborhoods across our State, especially in Congressional Districts 5, Congressional District 6 and Congressional District 2. I really don't need my notes. In Congressional District 2, we know that after 2010, we had a group of African-Americans went

to the Supreme Court, and they leading the case to ask them to relook at congressional districts five and six for cracking minority votes. And then also in Congressional District 6, which was packing that district, putting all black votes, black neighborhoods all in one district. I want to make sure that this committee or this commission can ensure me and black neighborhoods like mine that you won't do that again this year. I don't want to see that again this year. I also want to speak about how the Supreme Court has not changed since 1997. We know that the population in 1997, as you have said on your PowerPoint, the population is very different from 2022. We cannot let another decade go by and that district stays the same. I believe that should change when you all go through this process. I think that is about it at all I have to say. I want to thank you for your time but again, like I said, I don't want to see that neighborhoods like mine is deliberately put into another district. I'm already in the minority concerning when I go vote. I understand that I'm only 16. I do not vote to 2023 but right now I'm giving my voice because in 2023, when you all are up for re-election, you're going to want my vote. So, in 2023,

I want to be ensured by you all that you won't silence my vote. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. We're going to ask no clapping or always give the alternative or booing just to try to keep civility. I know you may agree or strongly disagree with what some people say just to try to keep it moving and flowing. Next, we have Michael Pernick with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

MICHAEL PERNICK: Good evening committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight, my name is Michael Pernick. I'm a Redistricting Council with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. As you know, LDF and a large coalition of civil and human rights organizations, as well as countless Louisianans from across the State have been urging you to adopt a congressional map with two majority Black Districts to ensure that the congressional delegation better reflects the diversity of the State of Louisiana. As we've discussed, the Legislature has an affirmative obligation to ensure compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and that requires you to draw majority Black Districts in certain circumstances. That obligation extends not only to the congressional map, but to every map that you prepare this

redistricting cycle. Yesterday, LDF and a coalition of organizations submitted two illustrative maps for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or BESE, each of which have an additional majority minority district. Louisiana's Black and Latino communities are severely underrepresented on BESE. Louisiana's population is 39.5% Black or Latino and Louisiana's under 18 population. The people who are most directly affected by the decisions of BESE is 47.5% Black or Latino.

[01:00:02]

But as a result of the configuration of the eight BESE Districts, Black and Latino voters only have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in just two or 25% of the BESE Districts. The current BESE map cracks communities of color in Northern Louisiana into two districts, Districts 4 and 5. Our proposed maps unify those communities of color into one majority-minority district and would give Black and Latino voters an additional opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in that third district. These proposals would correct the severe malapportionment in the BESE map. We've confirmed it's easy to do it. One of our two demonstrative maps shows that it's possible to draw a third majority-

1 minority BESE District while also drawing a map that
2 is more compact than the current BESE map and that
3 splits fewer Parish boundaries than the current BESE
4 map. Our second proposal only makes major alterations
5 to the two Northern Louisiana districts and presents
6 an alternate path that allows you to keep the other
7 six districts largely intact. So, it's easy to do and
8 there are different ways that you can achieve this
9 goal of a third majority-minority district. Ensuring
10 that Black and Latino voters are adequately
11 represented on BESE is especially important given the
12 significant racial justice issues that BESE will
13 likely take up in the coming months and years from
14 curriculum standards, graduation requirements, school
15 performance scores, and school funding. So, in
16 conclusion, just like Section 2 likely requires you
17 to draw a second majority-minority congressional
18 district, we believe Section 2 also likely requires
19 you to draw a third majority-minority BESE District.
20 Thank you very much.
21 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have
22 Janea Jamison with Power Coalition.
23 JANEA JAMISON: Good evening, everyone. My name
24 is Janea Jamison with Power Coalition for Equity and
25 Justice. And I want to thank you all for allowing me

the time to speak again. I know you have seen Power Coalition in different advocacy partners here again and again at every single road show advocating on the importance of equity and justice within this overall process. So, I've honed in before on the importance of community involvement in ensuring that everyone's voice is being heard within this process. And I've also mentioned that I've lived in various areas throughout the state, right? Thibodaux does hold significance to me. Being born at Thibodaux Regional Medical Center as it relates to healthcare access throughout my adolescents and adulthood. Even from business investments throughout this area and community as well and Nicholls State University with my father being a graduate from this University. But saying that to say, I've been an active listener at every single road show. And I'd be remiss if I didn't address this false narrative that folks have been pointing out about the redistricting process, that if it's not broke, you shouldn't fix it, right? And historically, we know that some of the most audacious challenges have happened within this process to minority voters and just the overall political participation and the attempts to dilute to limit and undermine minority voters of power has manifested

1 during these previous redistricting cycles. So as
2 leaders, you have the opportunity to change what has
3 been done in the past. And if done correctly, the
4 anticipated redistricting process will allow all
5 voters to have an equitable say in how they should be
6 governed. And conversely, if it's not done in a fair
7 and equitable manner, the redistricting process then
8 has that potential opportunity to silence millions of
9 voters throughout the state. And we do believe that
10 redistricting is our North Star for much of the
11 equity work that we do throughout the state. And the
12 entire process again, should be focused on equity and
13 wronging the right that has been done in the past as
14 it relates to racially gerrymandered maps. And we've
15 said time and time again that now Louisiana is more
16 Black and Brown than it's ever been before. And that
17 folks should be able to have those competitive
18 districts and be able to hold their elected officials
19 accountable. So, I challenge you again to look at the
20 rising population shifts throughout the state of
21 Louisiana and the simple math that has been suggested
22 again, with one third of Louisiana's population being
23 majority-minority who should all have an equitable
24 say and an opportunity to elect their candidate of
25

1 choice. Our Legislature should not prioritize
2 partisan strategies over VRA compliance.
3 [01:05:02]
4 So, I hope this message does receive you. And again,
5 thank you for allowing me the time to speak.
6 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have
7 Major Tracy Riley with the U.S. Army, retired.
8 TRACY RILEY: Good evening.
9 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Good evening.
10 TRACY RILEY: I am Major Tracy Riley, U.S. Army,
11 retired of 24 years honorable service, and I have
12 returned to my home of record, Plaquemines Parish,
13 after retiring to become an active member of the
14 community and to serve where there are needs. I have
15 lived at that location the past eight years and
16 volunteered my time and service to the NAACP, where I
17 am the branch President for the Algiers, Gretna, and
18 Plaquemines Parish communities. Just south of my home
19 is the community of Ironton, which is a predominantly
20 Black community. The community was created in the
21 1800s when a group of freed, enslaved people of color
22 came together, shared their resources, shared their
23 talent, and created that community. Over the years,
24 the community has endured challenge after challenge.
25 Plaquemines Parish is the home of the infamous

1 political boss Leander H. Perez, also known as Judge
2 Perez. He ruled with an iron fist. He was the law for
3 that area. And so, communities of color in particular
4 suffered under the Jim Crow rules, corruption,
5 hatred, discrimination, and racism. And over the
6 years, they have struggled to receive basic public
7 services from their government. Their voices did not
8 have the power to be properly represented. And so
9 over the years, basic services were denied to them.
10 Services like access to public water, dependable
11 electricity, and so forth. And so, my home is just
12 two miles north of that community. And as we share
13 the community in 2021 as a volunteer, I find a lot of
14 my time is spent in our council meetings watching,
15 monitoring, being a vanguard for the attempts to
16 weaken our voice through the redistricting process.
17 In the 80s, the federal court ruled that Plaquemines
18 Parish was denying, in fact, adequate representation
19 for the Black vote and required there to be at least
20 two political seats that serves specifically the
21 African-American communities in our districts, I
22 should say. And so it is in that spirit that I also
23 stand before you this evening to support what was
24 said earlier by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and that
25 you honor the federal law that requires Louisiana to

have, at least, at the very least, two districts so that the specific interests of our communities of color are heard and we, too, have access to the laws and the privileges as citizens in this great state. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Thank you for your service. Next, we have Carlton Jones.

[01:10:02]

I apologize --

CARLTON JONES: No, I put a written statement, but I'll try to memorize it.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: I apologize. That is my oversight. You do have one. It will be in the record. I apologize. Thank you so much. That's my fault. Next, we have Marguerite Knight.

MARGUERITE KNIGHT: Hi. Thank you. It's been very informative tonight. And I just wanted to say I'm here as a resident of Thibodaux. And Thibodaux has four senators that actually touch Thibodaux. And some people may differ from us that say the more representatives the better. But with Nicholls, in one of the few areas that are actually growing in the Bayou Region, I believe that someone dedicated to our area. I actually have to go and reach out to three representatives, four senators that touch 700-301.

1 That while you're reviewing and meandering that you
2 consider Nicholls State and Thibodaux and try to
3 reduce our representatives. Thank you.
4 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have
5 Frankie Hires. And I do want to recognize my eyes are
6 getting bad by the day, but I see we have Justice
7 Weimer in the back. Chief Justice Weimer in the back.
8 Just want to recognize him. Thank you for attending,
9 sir.
10 FRANKIE HIRES: One more to go, folks. Hires.
11 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: I was worried that car came
12 in late.
13 FRANKIE HIRES: You know, if I'm going to go make
14 it from Jefferson Parish to Lake Charles, I'm going
15 to make my way down here to Thibodaux. Although it
16 was a risky drive, I'll tell you, that road coming
17 over here. Three girls lost their lives and I didn't
18 know which road I was on. And I'll tell you what, I
19 can tell why they lost their lives in Lafourche
20 Parish. She got too much money. Too much money didn't
21 let that go. I don't want this to be the map, right?
22 My granddaughter requested to be part of Lafourche
23 Parish and that's what it ends up making it look
24 like. This was a campaign joke, right? That's what it
25 looks like. I don't want it to look like that. That's

arbitrary. I got a poem for you all. We're going to do in time, I think. See, it was not before the restoration of our Republican forum that's promised to you by Article IV Section 4 U.S. Constitution, and thou most righteous of profiteers of our neglect, of our neglect to how we're governed, be forewarned. You see, we'll have a confusion of multitudes over a tyranny of you. It would be up by a for as promised and so very long overdue. From the apathetic convinced it is not going to change in my lifetime to the disaffected certain it was flawed from the start. Factiously, divided, zealous, nay lesser Lord is making a peek. Now, except for some simple fools at a fine late into the night pining for some cause to our political strife. You see when the father of this nation he drops the floor by 10k, his foresight was being paid to the sparse populace that day. Each state would have at least one, but none more than one for every 30 not 40 thousand. Article IV, first provided for a well-structured expansion. Two, would raise our advisor yet just twice for growth with proportions and per capita respected for both. But defining per capita, well now that proves quite mature. With regards to our governance, that's one deciding on behalf of more. Well, his first detail

was sustained in a basic divisor that's precedent. And the tricks played on their own numbers TJ he sought to prevent. But this happened so long ago it's probably hard for a lot of people to care. Some days or years even get overwhelming with a sense of despair. A Republic is promised. Are we the land of the free? Trust me, if only we kept it, you all would suffer less from my plea. Louisiana gets purchased as beckons as pioneer state. Free land for the taking. Front expansion would be our fate. With fortunes to be made in westward and open frontier oversight, are you kidding me? It's a wild, wild, west out here. Just look at Jefferson Parish, so many died over a line for gasoline, fractions, disenfranchised, pokes tactics would be revealed. Jefferson gets forsaken for Mr. Webster's ideal, 1840s will go round

[01:15:03]

A chamber of few steals the show. A one-time house reduction, yeah, 17 were made to go. Reps feed to that spent on limiting a mob. They about doubled our advisor and gave moiety for cause. Anybody want to guess what moiety means? Lift service would be defined by the ascendant John Tyler. And a Republic was betrayed to serve its Chief Magistrator. A force was lost for billion trees and shiny objects we all

adore. Just how long might we seed to a house of lesser Lords? Well, fancy you should ask. You see if we just manifest destiny, then who could stand in our way? Brown folks, savages. We'd have a standing army. But to stay. Now, Texas, California, reparations we've adored in New Mexico, Arizona. Oh yeah, the spoils of war. The roaring 20s will go by and you can bet this gets worse. A tap of 435 and now just 218 rule your purse. So, just 218 rule our purse caps to house size. Jefferson himself with a boar looks more a de facto Senate or a house of lesser Lords. Politically, we've acquiesced. How might we approve our favor? A method of equal proportions, anyone? Or demonstrably fallacious labor. Idaho has 1.8 million people. Montana, Rhode Island get a representative ratio of one point or one representative for 540,000 people. Idaho has 800,000 people more than both of them. Politically, we've acquiesce how might we approve our favor? That demonstrates salacious labor through secession abolition and the costly civil war reconstruction Jim Crow. We just keep on settling for either or. From Robert Barons to suffrage the industrial age. My how this pendulum can sway. At one for every 50 thousand, a well framed ceiling was set and saved for promulgation or to put into effect. Or

to put into effect. Why? Compared to the world, we'd be top of the class. But last year we suffer sitting at second to last. Only India has a more distant relationship between themselves. The citizen and their federal representative. At 1.2 .6 million people, we have one for 900,000 in four States. There have been several untrusted servants been failing the roast. It's time for cleaning house. But it'll take a boatload of soap. Reigning with six figure salaries, health care and pensions to boot, we're paying 20 plus staffers to help them make off with our loot. An office of trust. The blind eyes of a few. But if it's going to be up by four, trust me, it's going to take me and a whole lot of you for our posterity. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, sir. Next, we have Cynthia Newman.

CYNTHIA NEWMAN: Good evening. I thank each of you for the opportunity to stand before you and I acknowledge and honor the tier of leadership here in the room. This is my first meeting. I actually saw it online and printed it out. It caught my attention in an email when I saw the word redistricting. And the reason it caught my attention because several years ago, when I say several, I'm talking about maybe 15

or 20 years ago I was at a football game and I heard some people talking and coaches, as a matter of fact, at a game and they were talking about how they were able to [PH 01:19:25] grasshole some diamond athletes in a certain area. And so that's how they were able to beat teams 52 to 0 and 62 to 3. And so, when I saw the word again now on the email, I thought I said, listening to the presentation and the information and the maps, and I thought to myself, I said, you mean to tell me redistricting in layman terms is moving the line so that somebody can get a hold of certain athletes so that they can have a winning team. So, someone can serve in the Senate and so someone can serve as a representative and someone can serve as a judge. And they have political clout and is used for the benefit of their family and their friends and their inner circle but not for the good that it's supposed to be.

[01:20:07]

I read a book. My favorite book is the Bible, and it says, "The greatest among you are the servers." But I'm starting to find out that those who's serving or not serving the public, they're serving their own agenda and their own purpose. I understand that the political leaders in the room, it's not easy to do

your job because you promise one thing. You go in with a good heart and go into the position with a good intention, and you find out of the back deals and things you have to do behind the scenes. But may I say to each of you in the room, God is holding you accountable. He's not going to ask you, did you hold a Senate seat? He wants to know, what did you do with the Senate seat? What did you do with the representative seat that you were given? He's not going to ask you how many political clocks, how much money you made, how many trips you went on. He's going to ask you, what did you do in service of my people. And my people is of all color, and is of all neighborhoods. So, your 401(k), your investment, you have to have stock with God. I understand the job is hard. But if he gave you the opportunity to serve, then serve, but not serve your own agenda. Some of you in the room are serving out of a selfish agenda, and God is not pleased with it. Remember, we have to stand before the righteous does there's judges in the room, there's judges all over. But there's a supreme judge and you have to stand before your master. Whether you believe in him or not, whether you think he's real or not, whether he's a higher power you choose to believe in something else, but let me just

say to each of you, you are responsible for your actions and your decisions. And when you have been given an opportunity to help the least of us to disenfranchise in the indigenous, you don't give us breadcrumbs. You give us a piece of bread. You give us some of the loaf you have. He's not going to ask that. You said this is the real world, Cynthia. This is of political survival. I got to survive to live another day in the Senate. I got to survive today as a representative, as a judge. Remember, there's a plumb line in heaven, too. God draw lines too. I say to each representative and everybody on the side of my voice who's serving in any capacity that it's influencing in the Senate, congressional, educational to move a line so that certain children in certain neighborhoods can go to certain schools and this side can go to this school. Remember, who's in charge of the line? Yes, sir. Don't forget why you got into service when you first joined that passion you had when you first joined the love and the excitement you had. Bring some of that back. Bring that changing thing that you had in the inside when you first started serving. I say to you, each of you, whether you believe in God or not, whether you pray or not, remember these words, God is watching.

CHAIRMAN STEFANKSI: Thank you. We've also had some email testimony that was submitted. We had testimony from Alice Elizabeth Stark, Carmen Ruiz, Henry Lee Tucker, John O'Dell, Julie Becknell, Kimberly Hasney, Lynette Besch, Mark Steven Spencer, Victoria Wigner, a resolution submitted by the Kenner City Council and a resolution submitted by the Town Council of [INDISCERNIBLE 01:26:17]. That concludes the testimony that I have. That concludes all the written submission. I thank everyone for attending tonight. I thank you for coming out. I thank you for your testimony. I say this at every meeting. And I'm going to conclude this roadshow by saying it. I've heard everything you've said. We're taking all of these comments into consideration. I know my vice chair is as well, my committee is. I know chairwoman Hewitt would echo these sentiments we're hearing you. We're taking into consideration and please stay part of this process. Thank you for coming out tonight. Chairwoman Hewitt has made a motion that we adjourned, so we are adjourned.

[01:26:26]

TRANSPERFECT

I, Anders Nelson, hereby certify that the document "F879959-louisiana-redistricting-2021-thibodaux" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate transcription from English to English.

Anders Nelson
Project Manager

April 27, 2022

216 EAST 45TH STREET, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10017 T +1 212.400.8845 F +1.212.867.3106 LEGAL.TRANSPERFECT.COM