

Exhibit 8

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING
OCTOBER 21, 2025

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1 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: ...order. Welcome
2 to this House Select Committee on Redistricting.
3 I want to begin by introducing the
4 sergeants-at-arms who are here today to help us.

5 Marvin Lee. Marvin, if you'll raise
6 your hand. Marvin is over here. Terry McCraw
7 over here. Reggie, Reginald Seals is -- he
8 walked outside. Thomas Terry back at the back
9 door. John Gilbert over here. And Stafford
10 Young is back at the back door. Thank you,
11 gentlemen.

12 Let me also say to members of the
13 committee, if there is a member of the committee
14 who has an amendment that they propose to offer
15 in this committee, that I need you to turn that
16 in to the clerk for Chair Jones and I to take a
17 look at while we are otherwise proceeding.

18 Let me also at this point take just a
19 moment to outline the procedure. I'm going to
20 recognize Representative Jones to begin with
21 some remarks. Following that, Senator Hise will
22 present the bill as it comes over from the
23 Senate. We'll have questions and comments for
24 them from members of the committee.

25 At that point, we will take public

1 comments. It's my intention to take those
2 public comments for up to an hour, assuming we
3 have sufficient time, which I think we will, but
4 we're asking that members commenting -- members
5 of the public who are commenting limit their
6 remarks to a minute so we can get through them
7 all.

8 The sergeant-at-arms, one of them will
9 be back there, and they'll have a little placard
10 or sign that says 30 seconds to let you know
11 you're halfway through and then a sign when your
12 minute is up.

13 Beyond that, when we complete the
14 public comments, we'll come back and we will
15 take a motion on the bill and have committee
16 debate. If there are amendments, we would take
17 those up during that period of time, but we will
18 be taking a vote on the final bill no later than
19 ten minutes to 4:00, or 3:50, unless we get
20 through earlier.

21 So any questions from members of the
22 committee?

23 Great. So that being said, the Chair
24 recognizes Chair Jones for his remarks on this
25 bill.

1 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you, Chairman.

2 It is a pleasure to be with you here
3 today. I'm going to paint a roadmap and walk
4 each of you through the House's process
5 regarding redistricting.

6 On Friday, October 10th, I alone with
7 Co-Chair Blackwell emailed our consultant asking
8 him to begin work on Monday, October 13th, here
9 in Raleigh. The House consultant is Mr. Blake
10 Springhetti who is based in Columbus, Ohio. He
11 previously worked for the Ohio legislature and
12 has prior experience redistricting Ohio and also
13 as a consultant for North Carolina House during
14 the 2023 redistricting process.

15 In that email to our consultant, we
16 provided instructions for Mr. Springhetti to
17 adhere to in constructing the map. Those
18 instructions are as follows:

19 Number 1. Data identifying the race of
20 individuals of voters shall not be used in the
21 construction or consideration of districts in
22 the 2025 congressional plan.

23 Number 2. Draw Congressional
24 District 1, known as CD 1, to increase the
25 Republican vote share of CD 1 in the 2023

1 congressional plan codified in Senate Bill 757
2 on October 25, 2023. Unless otherwise directed,
3 you may consider any of the election results
4 referenced in Number 8 below, but you may only
5 adjust the boundaries of CD 1 and Congressional
6 District 3 known as CD 3.

7 Number 3. Draw congressional districts
8 to comply with federal standards for equal
9 population.

10 Number 4. Draw congressional districts
11 that are contiguous. Contiguity by a point is
12 not permitted, but contiguity by water is
13 permissible.

14 Number 5. To extent feasible, draw
15 districts that are visually reasonably compact.
16 No mathematical test are required.

17 Number 6. Take reasonable measures to
18 draw districts that respect and follow
19 contiguous municipal boundaries.

20 Number 7. Take reasonable measures to
21 draw districts that do not split VTDs.

22 Number 8. Political data should be
23 considered. You may use any election or
24 political data that is loaded onto the computer
25 provided to you by the North Carolina General

1 Assembly.

2 Number 9. An incumbent state House's
3 member's local knowledge of communities of
4 interest may be considered.

5 Number 10. All work is to be completed
6 at the legislative complex here in Raleigh on
7 equipment provided by the North Carolina General
8 Assembly.

9 The election contest data in the stat
10 pack before you and that is also available on
11 the committee website was considered in the
12 creation of the plan, but the primary focus was
13 on the election contest data from the 2024
14 presidential race.

15 So as stated, in the drawing process
16 that began here at the General Assembly on
17 Monday, October 13th, let me be clear and let me
18 emphasize, racial data was not used.
19 Ultimately, we decided to proceed with a map put
20 forward by Senator Hise who you're going to hear
21 from regarding the details of this map. The map
22 was then publicly released last Thursday,
23 October 16th, and the public comment portal was
24 open giving the general public time to submit
25 public comments for our review.

1 We will vote this bill out of committee
2 today, and it will be on the House floor for a
3 final vote tomorrow.

4 To everyone listening, the House is
5 here today because California and the radical
6 left launched a full-fledged coordinated
7 attack -- Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Up until now we've
9 been doing pretty well. I don't want to have to
10 ask the sergeants-at-arms to remove people, but
11 we will have to contain those outbursts, please.

12 So let's go back to being under control
13 so we can get through this meeting and everybody
14 can get their say. We don't need your reactions
15 to what others are saying.

16 Chair Jones, would you continue.

17 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 And again, we'll try it one more time.

19 To everyone listening, the House is
20 here today because of California and the radical
21 left launched a full-fledged coordinated attack
22 not only on North Carolina but on the integrity
23 of democracy itself.

24 I've got bad news for Gavin Newsom and
25 the radical left: North Carolina will not stand

1 by while tried to be undermine the will of the
2 voters and stack the deck in DC.

3 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: The Chair
5 recognizes Senator Hise to come forward.

6 Welcome, Senator Hise. We love having
7 you over here, especially when you're agreeable.

8 SENATOR HISE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Thank you members of the committee.
10 Members, before you is the proposed 2025
11 congressional map. We had a robust discussion
12 in the Senate committee, heard public comment
13 from everyone who signed up to speak yesterday,
14 had hours of debate on the Senate floor
15 yesterday and earlier today.

16 I will not repeat everything I said,
17 but I will say a few things about this
18 redistricting plan.

19 The motivation behind this draw was to
20 produce a new map that will bring an additional
21 Republican seat to North Carolina's
22 congressional delegation.

23 Republicans hold a razor-thin margin in
24 the United States House of Representatives. If
25 Democrats flip four seats in the upcoming

1 midterm elections, they will take control of the
2 House and torpedo President Trump's agenda.

3 President Trump has called on
4 Republican-controlled states across the country
5 to redraw congressional maps, and this map
6 answers that call.

7 On the issue of race, to be clear,
8 consistent with our practices this decade, in
9 2023 and in 2021, absolutely no racial data was
10 used in the creation of this map.

11 Past decisions and court records
12 demonstrate there is no evidence of the three
13 Gingles preconditions in North Carolina. In
14 fact, just weeks ago, a federal court told us in
15 a case concerning Senate districts in the
16 northeastern part of the state there was no
17 evidence of legally significant racially
18 polarized voting that would require a
19 majority-minority district.

20 In the absence of any evidence of the
21 three Gingles preconditions, the chairs, myself
22 and the Senate elected not to use race in
23 drawing these proposed districts strictly to
24 predict -- protect the state from lawsuits
25 alleging illegal racial gerrymandering.

1 The chairs do not believe the use of
2 racial data would have been helpful in reaching
3 any political or other legislative redistricting
4 goal. Any political consideration in line
5 drawings have been influenced by political data,
6 not racial data.

7 Now, to the plan before you. The new
8 congressional plan makes no changes to 12 of the
9 14 districts. The only districts that were
10 changed in the new map are NC 1 and NC 3. These
11 changes in the new congressional plan consist of
12 the following: Greene, Lenoir, Wayne, and
13 Wilson counties are moved from NC 1 to NC 3.

14 Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Hyde,
15 and Pamlico counties are moved from NC 3 to
16 NC 1.

17 To balance the population of the two
18 districts, 4,853 people, by the 2020 census
19 numbers, out of 204,576 in Onslow county,
20 2.4 percent of the population, are moved from
21 NC 3 to NC 1.

22 This split occurs in Swansboro
23 precinct, leaving as much of the town in one
24 district, NC 1, as possible, minimizing the
25 municipal split.

1 As I stated previously, the motivation
2 behind this new plan is straightforward: The
3 new congressional map improves Republican
4 political strength in eastern North Carolina.
5 It moves NC 1 from a district where
6 President Trump earned 51 percent of the vote in
7 2024 to a district that would have produced
8 55 percent of the vote, an increase of 4 points.

9 To balance the strength, NC 3 would
10 lose the same amount that NC 1 gains, 4 points,
11 moving it from a district which Trump performed
12 at 60 percent of the vote in the previous map to
13 56 percent in the new map.

14 The end result is a congressional plan
15 that should perform to elect 11 Republicans.

16 Not only does the new congressional map
17 better improve Republican political strength in
18 eastern North Carolina, giving Republican
19 candidates a better opportunity to win NC 1, the
20 new map adheres to traditional redistricting
21 principles.

22 Y'all can review the compactness
23 reports, but the bottom line is that this map is
24 more compact than the '23 map in all recognized
25 measures.

1 I would urge your support.

2 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
3 Senator Hise.

4 Are there questions or comments at this
5 point from members of the committee?

6 Representative Harrison is ready to go.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Yes,
8 Mr. Chair. Thank you.

9 And I have a question for Chair Jones
10 and a question for Chair Hise, and then I'm
11 going to make my comments, if I may. Is that
12 okay?

13 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: I think that
14 sounds reasonable.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Great. Thank
16 you.

17 Chair Jones, you -- I was surprised to
18 hear you describe y'all's -- y'all's efforts at
19 drawing your own map. I just had heard
20 Senator Hise talk about the process in the
21 Senate, and I just assumed that y'all weren't
22 working together on that.

23 So you all, the House, worked
24 separately to develop your own map with the
25 criteria that you gave to Mr. Springhetti and

1 then you decided that you preferred the map?
2 Were they similar? I'm just trying to figure
3 out how you reached the conclusion to go with
4 the --

5 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Chair Jones is
6 recognized to respond.

7 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you, Chairman.
8 Thank you, Representative.

9 Yes, we chose Senator Hise's map
10 over -- yes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Thank you.

12 And, Senator Hise, I listened to the
13 Senate committee, and I listened to the floor
14 debate, and I don't want to waste the chamber's
15 time readjudicating all the questions, but I did
16 have one that I did not hear asked, and I'm
17 wondering because I didn't hear Chair Jones
18 mention it either.

19 Were communities of interest taken into
20 account for the drawing of this map?

21 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise,
22 you're recognized.

23 SENATOR HISE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Communities of interest are always
25 considered in maps. We have predominantly

1 divided those by what are voter tabulation
2 districts or often referred to as precincts. We
3 continued to keep counties as whole as possible.
4 As I mentioned with Swansboro, we kept it as
5 whole as possible. In making that division, we
6 divided one additional county in this map, and
7 those are things we could always consider as
8 communities of interest. There was no formal
9 definition establishing a new community of
10 interest that had not been part of our
11 redistricting up to this point.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chair. I might dispute that communities of
14 interest sometimes exceed the boundaries of
15 VTDs. But thank you for that.

16 So I just want to respond to some of
17 the points that --

18 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: You're recognized
19 for your comments.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Thank you,
21 and I will try and be as brief as possible, but
22 there's a lot to say.

23 So I have to dispute the claim that
24 California started this. Texas started it at
25 the behest of President Trump who saw his

1 potential for losing control of the House in
2 2026 elections as slipping away and is asking
3 states. And it's not just Texas. It's also
4 Missouri, Indiana, other states are looking at
5 redistricting to provide more Republican-drawn
6 districts.

7 And why is this wrong? President Trump
8 is not very popular in North Carolina right now,
9 as I think his approval rating is below
10 40 percent. Many of his actions are meeting
11 with great disapproval and also blocked by the
12 courts because they're illegal or
13 unconstitutional. So I'm not sure that we
14 should be drawing maps at the behest of
15 President Trump that are in clear conflict with
16 what the citizens of North Carolina want. So
17 there's that.

18 The Duke study found that this map is
19 the most gerrymandered and least responsive in
20 North Carolina history. That's really saying
21 something because we've had some bad maps
22 before, and this is really -- this is bad.

23 The process others are going to speak
24 to, but the fact that we crunched this down
25 into, what, it's been a week, but the public's

1 only known about it since Thursday afternoon,
2 and we've had -- unlike 2011 when we had 65
3 public hearings around the state, 14 in 2021,
4 and several in the 2023 redraw, this is it for
5 public participation and in the Senate
6 committee.

7 But we do have over 11,000 comments in
8 the public portal, which I just found out only
9 us on the committee are receiving those. Our
10 colleagues don't have them if you're not on the
11 committee, but that's -- that's really
12 something.

13 And the themes have been pretty
14 consistent: Unhappy with President Trump,
15 really unhappy with gerrymandering, very much
16 want fair maps and independent redistricting.
17 And this is -- you know, I don't know that
18 that's what this -- I don't know that that's
19 what this map reflects. In fact, I'm pretty
20 sure, because I listened to the Senate debate,
21 that the Senate didn't take into account any
22 public input when they were drawing the map. I
23 hope this committee will, but I don't know how
24 that is going to happen.

25 So we've got the first redrawn

1 congressional district mid decadal in
2 North Carolina history that wasn't at the
3 request of the courts. So there's
4 another -- there's another record for us.

5 There is no competitiveness. We no
6 longer have a district that is competitive.
7 It's a 12/2 map in a 50/50 state. We've got a
8 12/2 map without one competitive congressional
9 district.

10 We've got a president, as I said, he's
11 got a very unpopular agenda, historically low
12 approval ratings, yet we are drawing a map for
13 him to maintain control of a congress when we
14 have severe cuts in Medicaid coming to our
15 districts. We have SNAP benefits cut. We have
16 environmental justice programs ended. We have
17 environmental protections removed. We have the
18 entire clean energy investments withdrawn. The
19 list is really long, and it's all very
20 unpopular.

21 I will say that y'all are sick of
22 hearing me talk about it, but while we still
23 have a Voting Rights Act Section 2, this map
24 clearly violates that section. There is
25 a -- and I disagree respectfully with

1 Senator Hise that -- about that court ruling on
2 the Senate districts because I think maybe the
3 plaintiffs didn't make their case, but it's
4 pretty clear that there is evidence that
5 majority black populations can choose a
6 candidate of their choice given the opportunity,
7 but this is not giving them the opportunity
8 because they're shifting the districts between
9 Representative Murphy and Representative Davis
10 in a way that we will not have a black Democrat
11 representing that section of the state.

12 And I'm really excited that Eva Clayton
13 is here who was the first black woman elected to
14 the House since 1901, elected to the US House
15 for North Carolina since 1901.

16 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Representative
17 Harrison, excuse me for interrupting you, and I
18 don't mean to be unreasonable. We've got other
19 members of the committee, and my biggest concern
20 is that we've sort of intended to give an hour
21 for public comment. And if we -- there will be
22 an opportunity for debate on the motion itself.
23 If you might finish up.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: I'm wrapping
25 up. I'm almost done. I don't think I'll speak

1 again, so thank you Chair Blackwell.

2 I just want to comment that everything
3 about this process is wrong, and I know we're
4 going to hear that from the public who has come
5 to speak. Out of the 11,000 plus comments, my
6 wonderful legislative assistant found three who
7 favored the maps.

8 So anyway, I appreciate your
9 indulgence. I'm just so angry about what we're
10 doing to our democracy today that I'm having a
11 hard time containing myself. And thank you all
12 for coming to speak.

13 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Do other members
14 of the committee have questions or comments at
15 this point?

16 Again, as I just said, we are going to
17 have debate available, but, Representative Ball,
18 you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair.

21 Question for Senator Hise.

22 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise,
23 you're recognized for an answer.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Senator Hise, I
25 listened to the Senate presentation yesterday

1 and the questions that you were asked and recall
2 that you were asked if anyone else had anything
3 to do with drawing this map, and you indicated
4 that they did not, that no one else was
5 involved, it was just you.

6 Can you explain the difference between
7 what you said yesterday and what Chair Jones
8 told us just a bit ago.

9 SENATOR HISE: So first, let me clear
10 up the inaccuracies on that. I did indicate
11 that I was accompanied by legal staff and others
12 as well as central staff and pro tem staff that
13 were involved in that, in both the mechanics and
14 the others of drawing the map.

15 There were no other members present
16 when I drew these maps. I think
17 Representative Jones can say what he was saying,
18 something else was going on somewhere else in
19 the House, but we completed the map, we sent the
20 map out, decisions were made. No input was
21 given back to us on changes to the map after it
22 was -- after I had completed the drawing. And
23 so the development and drawing of the map was
24 completely done by me as the only member that
25 was available there.

1 I don't know how -- what else you're
2 looking for, but it was the sole decision. The
3 House made the decision to proceed with that
4 map. And as Representative Jones has said, they
5 were looking at other things as well.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Just a quick
7 follow-up.

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: You're recognized
9 for a follow-up.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you,
11 Senator Hise. That clarifies it a bit for me.

12 But I'm also wondering and actually
13 want to express my concern, which I'll debate a
14 little bit later, that you indicated that the
15 map was sent out. It was not sent out to the
16 members of the House of Representatives who are
17 Democrats, at least -- and on this committee.
18 At least I did not receive it, and I don't think
19 any of my colleagues did.

20 So what you mean is that you sent it
21 out to the Republicans in the House and there
22 was no change to yours; is that right?

23 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise.

24 SENATOR HISE: It depends on your
25 timeline for that. On Thursday, the map was

1 released publicly to everyone without any
2 changes from where it was going. In that
3 interim time, it went to both legal counsel and
4 other people who were making those decisions,
5 that's correct.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: That's it. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Other questions or
9 comments at this time from members of the
10 committee?

11 Representative Carney.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: I guess you saw
13 the hesitation in my hand.

14 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Well, you can take
15 it back if you'd like.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: No. No. I
17 would like a question of the chair.

18 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: So when we come
20 back for discussion from the committee, we can
21 ask questions then? I would rather hear from
22 the public so we can move forward after that,
23 whatever your schedule is, if you'll clarify.

24 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Here's my thought.
25 I'm not sure if Senator Hise is going to hang

1 around for the next hour and a half, so if you
2 have questions for him, I would encourage you to
3 go ahead and ask those now. Otherwise, we can
4 deal with things during the debate after -- and
5 the motion after the public comments.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: So then I do
7 have a question for Senator Hise.

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Yes. Please
9 proceed.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: So,
11 Senator Hise, we've both been here for a long
12 time. I know I've been here for -- I'm in my
13 12th term. And I have a question. And by
14 public admission from our leadership that this
15 map was drawn at the request of the president,
16 that's a quote from leadership, and it's been
17 all over the news.

18 My question to you is have we ever
19 drawn a map in North Carolina that was requested
20 by the president of the United States?

21 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise,
22 you're recognized for a response.

23 SENATOR HISE: I am -- I have
24 received -- I will say this first. I'm not
25 aware of any map which the president has made

1 comments on before. That does not mean I'm
2 aware of all 50 states and how many times the
3 president has historically involved themselves
4 in the drawing of maps. I couldn't comment on
5 that.

6 I will say that I received no direct
7 communication from the president, from the
8 White House staff or directives to draw a map.

9 This is something I very much support
10 doing individually and improving the direction
11 of this map.

12 What I have seen is there are social
13 media posts and other things out there that are
14 publicly available of the president calling on
15 all states, Republican-controlled states across
16 the nation to undo the challenges we've seen
17 from so many other states, California being the
18 most recent, but New York, New Mexico,
19 Connecticut, Massachusetts who maximize their
20 maps in order to put Democrats into congress,
21 and it's necessary for the State of
22 North Carolina to respond.

23 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Thank you. So
24 I take that in my opinion that has not happened
25 in North Carolina I'm questioning about, that a

1 president has never -- a seated president has
2 never requested a map to be drawn specifically
3 for them in North Carolina.

4 I would just --

5 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Do you have a
6 further question or comment?

7 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Thank you.
8 Further question.

9 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: How much money
11 has the state of North Carolina spent to -- if
12 you know the answer or staff -- to defend the
13 current congressional map that's in court now?
14 And that's a question coming from the public
15 too. How much money --

16 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise, do
17 you --

18 SENATOR HISE: The specific current
19 congressional map we've only been on for two
20 years. I'm aware of two cases that may
21 involve -- one was a Senate case so maybe it's
22 just one case on the congressional map.

23 What our legal fees are to date, I'm
24 sure somebody can get them an answer, but I
25 don't know anybody that keeps that on the cuff.

1 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: We can probably
2 get staff to get you an answer on that. I'm not
3 sure how quickly --

4 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: That's fine.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Mr. Chair, I
6 have that number right here. I promise I will
7 just --

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: I will let you
9 send it out to the members of the committee or
10 you can tell us in debate. How about that.

11 Other questions or comments from the
12 members of the committee at this point?

13 Representative Jackson, you're
14 recognized.

15 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: Yes, sir.
16 Thank you.

17 My question to Senator Hise is just a
18 question. You just said that the president
19 wasn't the reason the lines were drawn.

20 What happened in 2024 in the population
21 or in the changes in the community that would
22 prompt us to have the maps changed before the
23 census is -- before the next census?

24 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise,
25 you're recognized.

1 SENATOR HISE: The most recent incident
2 is that California redrew its maps to add four
3 Democrats to congress, and we do not intend to
4 let that go unanswered.

5 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further questions
6 or comments at this point from members of the
7 committee?

8 Representative Reives is recognized.

9 REPRESENTATIVE REIVES: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 I know we've talked about California a
12 lot, but I'm trying to look at what has
13 happened. And the way I'm seeing it is Texas
14 draws their map. Texas nets, it looks like,
15 five seats. California has drawn a map that's
16 going to the voters which may or may not pass
17 which gets five seats. Missouri then redrew at
18 the request of the administration their maps
19 that netted one seat.

20 So right now, if everybody stopped
21 today, then you're at a one seat gain as a
22 total.

23 So I don't know if you were or were not
24 aware of that, but since Republicans have
25 already gotten one more seat in the House and

1 you were doing this I guess thinking that
2 California had somehow changed the balance, is
3 it something that we can just withdraw until we
4 see some other blue state do it?

5 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise,
6 you're recognized to answer.

7 SENATOR HISE: Thank you.

8 I think that's a really convenient
9 place to kind of put your line and where you
10 want to draw and not look at the results of what
11 was drawn for the '22 congressional maps where
12 states like New Mexico, Connecticut,
13 Massachusetts drew their maps to not elect any
14 Republicans within their state and have done so.

15 Illinois, only 3 of 17 Republicans in
16 their state even though Trump carried
17 43.5 percent of the vote. New York which was
18 part of the lawsuits that was there as well
19 where more than 40 percent of the vote for
20 Trump, only 19 out of the 26 congressional seats
21 are -- 19 of the 26 congressional seats are held
22 by Democrats.

23 It is obvious this began with the 2022
24 redistricting with the Democrat optimization
25 while when the laws changed and Texas was under

1 new standards for drawing their districts to
2 rebalance this, I felt like that was a movement
3 that came more towards a balance and then
4 California is the latest to throw their chips in
5 the hat and try to add for Democrats. We can
6 adjust one of those seats by moving in
7 North Carolina.

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further comments
9 or questions from members?

10 Representatives Reives.

11 REPRESENTATIVE REIVES: Yes. And I
12 apologize for seeming like I was trying to draw
13 a convenient line, and I may have misunderstood
14 what both folks have said as to why we were
15 doing this.

16 What I heard when you initially talked
17 and when Chair Jones talked was that you were
18 doing this in response to California, not into
19 something that happened in '22. So if I
20 misheard that, I apologize.

21 So if this is a response then to what
22 happened in 2022, why didn't you draw this map
23 in 2024 when you had the chance to draw a map?

24 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise.

25 SENATOR HISE: As you're aware, in

1 2022, we did not draw the congressional maps
2 that's with coming out, so the results of how
3 the maps would perform, we didn't have 2024
4 election data either in that process, but it was
5 California adding the five congressional seats
6 to the Senate which made us optimize our maps.

7 We actually did put out a proposal for
8 a 12/2 map in the previous draw of 2024 that's
9 coming out, that was not adopted, but when the
10 environment changes, the opportunity to make
11 changes come to light.

12 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further comments
13 or questions from members of the committee at
14 this point?

15 Representative Reives.

16 REPRESENTATIVE REIVES: Yes. Thank
17 you.

18 So the House drew a congressional map
19 and the Senate drew a congressional map, and if
20 I'm hearing you correctly, what's been adopted
21 is the Senate congressional map. So there were
22 no compromises made for the House map.

23 So for instance, the House didn't have
24 parts in it that you said, hey, I will change my
25 map for, or is this the original Senate map that

1 the House was asked to look at?

2 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise.

3 SENATOR HISE: I have never seen the
4 map drawn by the House or produced by the House.
5 I don't even know that a full map was produced.
6 I was just informed that the House was willing
7 to accept the map that I drew.

8 REPRESENTATIVE REIVES: All right.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further questions,
11 comments, members of the committee.

12 Representative Carney, our recognized.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Thank you. I
14 wasn't quite through before, but I was okay with
15 that.

16 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: So,
18 Senator Hise -- and I'm going to read from this.
19 The Tenth Amendment simply means that any powers
20 not specifically given to the federal government
21 by the constitution are automatically reserved
22 to the states or the people.

23 From the question earlier, it appears
24 that -- and that the president we know has asked
25 for this request of North Carolina.

1 So can you -- if the following
2 instructions that I read, aren't we violating
3 the Tenth Amendment by moving forward as a state
4 on a federal government, the president's
5 request?

6 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise.

7 SENATOR HISE: Multiple challenges to
8 that. First of all, the right to draw
9 congressional districts is given to the federal
10 government. If you read the US Constitution, it
11 also authorizes congress to make changes to the
12 districts as well as the state legislature.

13 This is a decision -- there is no
14 requirement or others that the state do it.
15 This is a choice we are making that the
16 president approves in that process, and this is
17 a decision of the state legislature to redraw
18 its districts at this time.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: So one
20 follow-up --

21 SENATOR HISE: As evidenced by the fact
22 that you're getting ready to vote on this
23 process.

24 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Mr. Chair, a
25 follow-up.

1 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Okay. So my
3 question would be, after your statement, then,
4 would we have -- would you have moved forward or
5 we been requested to move forward -- had this
6 request not come from the president, would we be
7 here today moving forward with this as a General
8 Assembly?

9 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Senator Hise.

10 SENATOR HISE: Given the opportunity to
11 move forward and rebalance after California, I
12 would have taken any opportunity available to
13 bring this body here to maximize our
14 congressional representation.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Thank you. I
16 just want to be on the record as saying I
17 disagree that this started in California. It
18 really originated back in Texas.

19 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further questions
20 or comments from members of the committee before
21 we go to public comments?

22 Representative Ball.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Just a question
24 for the Chair, please. I want clarification.

25 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: So we will have
2 an opportunity to debate after the public has
3 comment; in other words, we are not -- you do
4 not want us to debate now, you want us to wait
5 until the public has completed, and we will
6 extend as long as we need to because we are not
7 going into session, I understand, at 4:00, so
8 our calendar can be moved to allow the public to
9 have as much opportunity to speak and the
10 members of this committee as much opportunity to
11 voice their thoughts as well. So if you would
12 clarify that for me.

13 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: It's the intention
14 of the Chair that we would take a vote at 3:50.
15 If we get some revised indication that they are
16 going give us more time or want us to take more
17 time, that could change, but as of now, the
18 expectation is we will go into public comments,
19 and after the public comments, we will come
20 back, have a motion and a debate on the bill
21 itself. How much time we will have may depend
22 on how much time we end up with on public
23 comment. The idea originally was to have an
24 hour for public comment. We are now at 2:42, so
25 we may -- I think -- unless -- I don't know how

1 many additional sign-ups we've got at the back,
2 but we may have fewer public comments than we
3 need for a full hour.

4 So we're going to have to play it a
5 little bit by ear, Representative Ball. I can't
6 promise exactly how much time is, but we will
7 have debate.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair. I was just -- I offered a solution
10 that will make sure we have plenty time to
11 debate, members of this committee, and that the
12 public has plenty of time to offer their
13 comments because we have been told that the
14 Republicans will caucus at 4:00, therefore we
15 are caucusing at 4:00. So we don't have to
16 take -- we don't have to go into session which
17 was the original plan to have session at 4:00.
18 So anything can be moved a bit to accommodate
19 the necessary debate on this bill.

20 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Well, as I said,
21 we'll have to see how that develops.

22 Presently, my instructions, if you
23 will, for the committee are for us to finish at
24 ten of 4:00. If that changes, then I certainly
25 am willing to stay here personally, but we'll

1 see how that goes.

2 At this point, we're going to go to
3 public comment. I'll remind you of the rules,
4 if you will, that one minute. The
5 sergeant-at-arm has a card that he'll hold up
6 after 30 seconds to let you know you've used
7 half of your time, and then he's got a separate
8 one to hold up when you have reached the
9 one-minute time limit. I know that's not a lot
10 of time, but we've got a lot of folks that we
11 are going to try to hear from.

12 I'm going to call these in the
13 name -- the names in the order that they've been
14 given to me, and I'm going to call several to
15 start with, and I'll call them in order. If the
16 person second and third and fourth in line would
17 go ahead and come up to the mic and stand at the
18 back or to the side and wait for your turn, that
19 might help us move through this promptly.

20 The first -- and when you're speaking
21 to us, if you'll identify clearly your name, if
22 you are with an organization or representing a
23 group, if you'll let us know that.

24 The first four speakers that have
25 signed up: Vicki Boyer, then former

1 Congresswoman Eva Clayton, Clinton Wright. I
2 think this is Khalil D. Thomas. Apologize if I
3 didn't get that correctly. Tameka Walter
4 Kelly -- Walker Kelly. That's five.

5 But we'll start with Ms. Boyer, if
6 she's here. And if you'll come up to the mic.
7 And, Ms. Clayton, if you can get in position.

8 Yes, Ms. Boyer.

9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you
10 very much. I'm Vicki Boyer. I am from Orange
11 county representing myself. I want you to know
12 I'm a North Carolina native, and I can trace my
13 ancestors here back to the 1730s.

14 I'm going to tell you that this is one
15 of those days that will live in infamy in
16 North Carolina history. Today, North Carolina
17 Republicans show their true face. They have
18 lost all sense of honor. They have lost their
19 Christian values. They've become completely
20 absorbed into the American fascist party. Their
21 oath of office, sworn to with their hand on a
22 bible means nothing to them. It was only a
23 means to an end.

24 Their actions today prove that their
25 plans for North Carolina are so unpopular that

1 they have to cheat to win. They don't want to
2 govern, they want to rule. I hope they will
3 remember that old adage that cheaters never
4 prosper.

5 The best sign I saw Saturday at a
6 No Kings rally was this: Yo papa didn't run
7 moonshine through North Carolina hollers just so
8 you could be a boot licker.

9 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
10 Ms. Boyer.

11 Representative Eva Clayton.
12 Ms. Clayton, welcome to the House.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you. I wish to
14 speak on the House bill regarding North Carolina
15 congressional district. I rise to speak against
16 the House bill that redraws North Carolina first
17 congressional district.

18 Shame on this General Assembly. Shame
19 on North Carolina for silencing the will of the
20 people in northeastern North Carolina, a true
21 swing district that reflects the diversity value
22 of the state.

23 For 91 years, after 1901, no black
24 citizens represented North Carolina. I broke
25 that banner. I was that person who was elected

1 in 1992. I represented teachers. I represented
2 farmers. In 2024, voters in this district chose
3 a Republican president and a Democrat black
4 representative. Although I did not vote for
5 that president, that is democracy.

6 What you're doing today means that you
7 are against democracy, but this redistricting
8 strips indeed the majority black counties from
9 the first congressional district and bury them
10 in a heavily Republican area. That is an act of
11 gerrymandering.

12 You also -- you also remove one of the
13 three black representatives. Shame on you for
14 saying you didn't consider that.

15 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

16 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Did you not know that
17 Donald Davis was black? Well, I'm here to
18 inform you. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
20 Representative Clayton.

21 Our next speaker is Clinton Wright.

22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon. I'm
23 Clinton Wright, and I've come here today to talk
24 about Senate Bill 249 as a recovering Republican
25 turned registered independent.

1 Like many of you, I'm from a rural
2 country town where most people vote Republican
3 because that's how my father, my papa, and my
4 granddaddy and generations of my family voted.

5 The GOP is a party of people who allow
6 the social movements of their day to push them
7 to do great things. I know what you're feeling
8 in these confusing times. I know you're a
9 Republican politician because you too want to do
10 great things, and you're confused by the men and
11 women around you who aren't living up to the
12 principles of the party that you were raised in.

13 So I've come here today to say leave
14 your church and your lying abusive pastor, burn
15 your hoods instead of your crosses, open your
16 closet doors instead of hiding your truth, and I
17 promise you that when you do, what you'll find
18 is a huge, gigantic family that loves you just
19 the way you are. And you don't need to stay on
20 your knees worshiping the men who bully,
21 belittle, harass, and rape you with their golden
22 phalluses of lies and hatred.

23 I know that deep down inside of you,
24 you know that these maps are racist, immoral,
25 and wrong. Vote no -- state budget. In doing

1 so, you will do something great --

2 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Mr. Wright, your
3 time has expired.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Your freedom and your
5 truth.

6 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: The next speaker,
7 if I'm reading this truth is Khalil D. Thomas.
8 I apologize if that's not correctly pronounced.

9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is
10 difficult. It is Khalil D. Thomas. I am with
11 Democracy Out Loud.

12 I asked Representative Pricey for the
13 amount of taxpayer money spent on redistricting
14 litigation. 22,512,000 redistricting litigation
15 since GOP took over in 2011.

16 It's ironic to me that the party for
17 states' rights is abdicating their own power to
18 Trump, to give a convicted felon with an
19 incredibly dangerous and unpopular agenda your
20 power. And you Republicans are willing to kneel
21 to fascism for Berger's desperation not to be
22 primaried.

23 It's a misdirected claim that this is
24 not race targeted when you're targeting the
25 district that's known as the Black Belt. This

1 is the southern agenda. You will be on the
2 wrong side of history.

3 Today is an amazing opportunity for a
4 Republican who has the nerve to be a hero by
5 standing up for equal representation and the
6 rights of black voters.

7 I demand Medicaid funding and a moral
8 budget, not racist maps.

9 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you Ms. D.
10 Thomas.

11 Let me read out some names. I think
12 Ms. Kelly is probably at the podium, but the
13 next speakers after her, if you would come up,
14 would be Greg Flynn, Deb O'Raunsio, Pat Butler,
15 and Catherine O'Malley.

16 Ms. Kelly, you're recognized.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I am Tameka Walker
18 Kelly, an elementary music teacher from
19 Cumberland county and president of NCAE.

20 It has been 113 days since the General
21 Assembly has missed its deadline to pass a state
22 budget, 100 days of missed opportunities for
23 students across the state, 100 days of educators
24 trying to function without the raises that they
25 deserve, and 100 days of uncertainty for schools

1 trying to plan.

2 But instead, you are busy drawing
3 congressional maps once again. And so while
4 teachers are wondering if they can stay in the
5 classroom, you are rigging the system. And
6 instead of students who are thinking of them who
7 are sitting in overcrowded classrooms, you are
8 breaking the rule of law to benefit the powerful
9 few.

10 Education -- public education is the
11 foundation of our democracy and this economy,
12 and yet it is playing second fiddle to people's
13 political ambition and that should not be so.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

16 The next speaker is Greg Flynn.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Greg Flynn, citizen,
18 voter. The map hasn't changed yesterday so my
19 comments will be equally familiar.

20 This president has circulated a video
21 of himself dropping excrement on American
22 people. This is the God you worship, the
23 dictator you appeal to, you appease, the king
24 you pander to, why thousands of North Carolina
25 citizens are on track to lose health insurance,

1 while civil rights guaranteed by the
2 constitution are now daily trampled on. No one
3 is safe from his retribution, not even you.

4 I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
5 United States of America and to the Republic for
6 which it stands, a Republic if you can keep it,
7 not to a felonious monarch in a gilded house on
8 Pennsylvania Avenue.

9 Are you monarchists? Are you not
10 Republicans? Absolute power is corroding the
11 republic. Just because you can legally eat
12 everything at a buffet doesn't mean it's a good
13 idea.

14 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
15 Mr. Flynn.

16 The next speaker is Deb O'Raunsio.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Yes. Good afternoon.
18 Thank you.

19 This action by the legislature is a
20 shameless and deliberate attack on democracy.
21 First, let's be crystal clear about the racist
22 nature of this redraw. You're not just
23 shuffling lines, you're dismantling a
24 historically black opportunity district. The
25 claim of no racial data used is a legal shield

1 to mask a real world tragedy you are effectively
2 silencing the voices of black North Carolinians
3 and erasing their history of representation.

4 This isn't just partisan, this is a
5 moral regression. The sheer arrogance move is
6 just as appalling when we all know that between
7 84 and 87 percent of all North Carolinians
8 believe partisan gerrymandering is wrong.

9 In a moment when our families are
10 struggling with real issues, you are wasting
11 taxpayer time to pick your own voters. This map
12 is a stain on our state. You do not have the
13 right to ignore the voices of your constituents.
14 Shame --

15 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
16 Ms. O'Raunsio.

17 The next speaker is Pat Butler.

18 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Pat Butler. As a
19 mother and grandmother --

20 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Could you just for
21 the record state your name and whether you are
22 with anybody.

23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Pat Butler. I'm here
24 for myself.

25 And as a mother and grandmother, I

1 taught my children not to be a bully, but if
2 they encountered one, to not bow down but to
3 stand up for what they knew was morally and
4 ethically right. And I imagine that many of you
5 did the same thing with your children.

6 So I'm asking you now, how do you
7 explain to your children and rationalize that
8 you're bending the knee to the dictator? How do
9 you do that?

10 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Ms. Butler.

12 The next speaker is Catherine O'Malley.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is
14 Catherine O'Malley. I'm here representing
15 myself. I am, however, a proud member of Red
16 Wine & Blue, League of Women Voters and
17 Indivisible.

18 And apparently you all do not realize
19 you work for us. You do not work for
20 yourselves. You do not work for Trump. You
21 work for We the People.

22 I'm also a proud participant in the No
23 Kings day where we stood 7 million proud to say
24 you represent us. These maps do not represent
25 the state of North Carolina. These maps do not

1 represent your constituents.

2 We've heard you're wasting taxpayer
3 money. We've heard there's 10,997 public
4 comments and us saying we want fair maps. These
5 are not fair maps.

6 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
7 Ms. O'Malley.

8 I think I failed to get some other
9 folks up there on time, so let's get them --
10 four or five more.

11 Gerald Givens Junior, Kathy Martin,
12 Mark Swallow, Anna Ruderman.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Gerald
14 Givens Junior. I proudly served this nation for
15 two decades in the United States Air Force. I
16 defended freedom not for a party but for the
17 principle that every American should have their
18 voice equally counted.

19 I've heard it said that race wasn't
20 used in drawing this map, but I've seen the
21 effect of long-standing black communities in
22 places like northeastern North Carolina,
23 Greensboro and Charlotte have been split apart
24 or packed so tightly together that their voices
25 can't shape outcomes beyond their own district.

1 You don't need to use racial data to
2 see racial impact. When a district that has
3 elected a black representative for decades is
4 redrawn so those voters can no longer elect
5 their candidate of choice, that's not balance,
6 that's silence.

7 I didn't fight for selective freedom.
8 I fought for every North Carolinian to have
9 their voice heard.

10 Do what's right. Defend the people's
11 voice like I defended yours.

12 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
13 Mr. Givens.

14 The next speaker is Kathy Martin.

15 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Kathy
16 Martin. I am a member of Democracy Out Loud.

17 And I spoke also yesterday, so I know
18 you're probably all aware that this is pretty
19 much what happened yesterday and you know what
20 the arguments are.

21 And I am totally -- it's incredulous
22 that that man wants to lie and say we're doing
23 this because what California is doing.
24 California is asking their voters what they
25 want. These folks are not doing that. Shame on

1 you if you don't understand that this is a
2 democracy and that you work for us.

3 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
4 Ms. Martin.

5 The next speaker is Mark Swallow.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Mark
7 Swallow with Democracy Out Loud.

8 So these maps are racist, right. When
9 you take a predominantly black and brown
10 district, you don't need to add race. It's
11 there already. And then you add predominantly
12 white counties to dilute the black and brown
13 votes, you're disenfranchising those votes,
14 right. That's racism.

15 This bill is about Berger, and it's
16 about helping Berger win his primary in March by
17 gaining the support of President Trump. He is
18 giving up a seat in North Carolina for a favor
19 from the president. That's corrupt and it
20 smacks of racketeering.

21 And telling the lies over and over
22 again about California doesn't make it true. It
23 just makes you a liar.

24 Add a referendum on the ballot in
25 North Carolina and see what the people of

1 North Carolina want. That is what you should be
2 doing, not this.

3 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
4 Mr. Swallow.

5 I think Anna Ruderman is next, but
6 before she speaks, if Frank Atkinson can come up
7 next, Daniel Ayers, Eric Willoughby, and Mark
8 McClure.

9 Ms. Ruderman, you have the floor.

10 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Dr. Ruderman. Thank
11 you.

12 Article 1, Section 10 of the
13 North Carolina Constitution known simply as the
14 free elections clause states that all elections
15 shall be free. Merriam-Webster defined free as
16 not determined by anything beyond its nature or
17 being, choosing or capable of choosing for
18 itself.

19 In violation of the concept of free
20 elections, partisan gerrymandering is the form
21 of vote dilution, the devaluing of one citizen's
22 vote as compared to others. That imposes a
23 constraint on a voter's will.

24 A rigged election is not a free
25 election, nor is an election with a voter's

1 voice is worthless because the election results
2 have been preordained by whoever yields
3 political power. The rights that prohibit
4 partisan gerrymandering are the bedrock of our
5 sacred system of democratic government, and this
6 is a shameful manipulation of our principles of
7 democracy and the rule of law.

8 And, Mr. Blackwell, you were 20 years
9 old, just four years younger than the late,
10 great John Lewis when he had his head bashed in
11 to protect voting rights. I know on which side
12 of history I would like to stand.

13 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
14 Ms. Ruderman.

15 Frank Atkinson or is it Ackerson. No.
16 How about Daniel Ayers.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Daniel Ayers, Hometown
18 Holler, North Carolina's number one state
19 politics podcast. Go check us out.

20 Got my bible here today. Don't be
21 nervous. Do unto others as you would have them
22 do unto you. It's that simple. It's that
23 simple.

24 I've heard a lot of excuses for these
25 maps. Gavin Newsom, California. When we get

1 down to it, folks, is this what you would have
2 your neighbor do unto you? Is this what
3 biblical leadership looks like?

4 These maps -- these maps are the wet
5 dream of soft men who won't even look up from
6 their phones to face their voters. These are
7 men who lust for a world where the powerful do
8 what they can and the rest of us suffer what we
9 must. Jesus wept.

10 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Mr. Ayers.

12 Eric Willoughby.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Eric
14 Willoughby. I'm a sophomore at UNC Charlotte,
15 and I just want to highlight what this kangaroo
16 court actually is.

17 This is a sham. This is a blatant,
18 racist attempt to limit the power of minority
19 voters. This is pathetic, it is pitiful, and it
20 is shameful. That is what this is.

21 And you Republicans, you want us to be
22 afraid because voters who are fearful do not
23 show up, they do not come and fight you on
24 everything, but let me tell you, hear us, see
25 us, we are not afraid of you. The arc of the

1 moral universe is long, but it bends towards
2 justice, as Dr. King said, and we will win in
3 the end. Shame on you. Shame.

4 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thanks.

5 Mark McClure is next, but Mr. McClure,
6 before you start, let me call out the next
7 group.

8 Congresswoman Alma Adams, Jennifer
9 Burkins, Kristin -- I think it's Creeson or
10 Grossman. I'm sorry. I can't quite read it.
11 And Elena Ceberio.

12 Mr. McClure.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Mark
14 McClure. I'm a member -- a proud member of
15 Democracy Out Loud.

16 And according to the North Carolina
17 Constitution, all political power originates
18 from the people is founded upon their will only
19 and is instituted solely for the good of the
20 whole.

21 This surgical targeting of the black
22 and brown community in northeast North Carolina
23 is not for the good of the whole.

24 I'm a physician. There's a cancer in
25 Washington, DC, and it has metastasized

1 throughout the Republican Party, and it will
2 kill this party. It will kill the Republican
3 Party, and it will hurt millions of people.
4 Vote against this.

5 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
6 Mr. McClure.

7 Congresswoman Adams. Welcome back,
8 it's good to see your hat.

9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 I'm Congresswoman Alma Adams. I'm a
12 former member of this body, and I'm deeply
13 ashamed of this body for putting the people of
14 North Carolina last. Speaker Hall made it very
15 clear that this attempt to further gerrymander
16 our state has been done at the request of
17 President Trump, not because it's in the best
18 interest of North Carolina citizens.

19 You focus on stealing another
20 congressional seat after you've already stolen
21 three, and in ridding our democracy, then
22 addressing our state's -- not addressing our
23 state's pressing issues.

24 And we're tired of congressional
25 districts being shuffled every election because

1 you'd rather pick your voters than have them
2 pick you. We're tired of being disenfranchised,
3 of being embarrassed because gerrymandering is
4 more important to you.

5 So you're not just targeting a Democrat
6 member, that's obvious, and he is black, you
7 must know that. You're trying to dismantle the
8 district with the largest record of black
9 congressional leadership in North Carolina
10 history, and that's just not right.

11 Your constituents are speaking to you
12 today. I certainly hope you listen. I spent
13 20 years here. I know you. You should know
14 your citizens, and you need to respect our
15 wishes.

16 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
17 Congresswoman Adams.

18 The next speaker is Jennifer Burkins.

19 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. No
20 organization, just a very concerned American
21 citizen.

22 What's happening here right now because
23 PINO, president in name only, asked you, his
24 radical right minions, to steal more seats is an
25 abomination.

1 Chair Jones, your rhetoric and
2 propaganda is astonishing. This started in
3 Texas with Abbott, and California responded
4 using your racist and right-wing tactics, and
5 you don't like it. It's an abomination of our
6 constitution and what we the people want.

7 Tell yourselves there's no racial
8 component to this redistricting or, sorry,
9 gerrymandering, if it helps you sleep at night.
10 This shouldn't even be happening at all, and
11 this legislature isn't even doing its job.
12 Where is our budget, guys? Y'all have your
13 priorities mixed up, and your hunger for
14 maintaining power and control is sickening.

15 It doesn't end here. We the people
16 will continue to fight for justice, diversity,
17 equity, and inclusion and fair maps.
18 We the people's voice will not be stifled and we
19 will persist. The world is watching, and your
20 place in history will not be favorable.

21 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
22 Ms. Burkins.

23 The next speaker is Kristen. And I
24 apologize, I can't read your last name. You
25 may --

1 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Sorry. My name is
2 Kristen Greeson. I'm from Liberty,
3 North Carolina, and I'm here on behalf of
4 myself.

5 I'm here because I'm tired. I'm tired
6 because I'm feeling like my elected officials no
7 longer serve their constituents as they are
8 sworn to do. If you truly care about your
9 constituents, you would be working to pass a
10 budget. You would be working to fully fund
11 Medicaid in the state of North Carolina.
12 Instead, you are redistricting the state again
13 to finagle more power and more money for
14 yourselves.

15 If you truly cared about what your
16 constituents think, then put a referendum on the
17 ballot and ask them across the state. Let them
18 tell you what they want redistricting to look
19 like in the state of North Carolina.

20 Everyone in this room, Democrat or
21 Republican, should be in favor of free and fair
22 elections. You are not doing that right now.

23 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
24 Ms. Greeson.

25 Before we go to Elena Ceberio, next in

1 line would be Landon Anderson, Lisa Mitchell,
2 Ron Osborn, and Larissa Arichkovich.

3 And so Elena Ceberio, if you're here.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I am. My name Elena
5 Ceberio, and I am with Democracy Out Loud.

6 This is a people's proclamation.

7 Whereas, on November 20, 2025, 25
8 members of the North Carolina Senate voted to
9 openly disenfranchise black voters of
10 District 1. We the people call shame.

11 Whereas, Senator Ralph Hise of
12 District 47 was divinely inspired to take it
13 upon himself to violently remove justice from
14 the voting rights of black voters in District 1.
15 The people call shame.

16 Whereas, the Republican Party of this
17 state was -- has decided to get on their knees
18 awaiting their reward from an authoritarian
19 thug, a convicted felon who sees himself as king
20 while defecating on the citizens of this
21 republic. The people call shame.

22 Whereas, the House of Representatives
23 of the state of North Carolina has the
24 opportunity on this date to break the cycle of
25 partisan gerrymandering. The people say do the

1 right thing. Stop hurting black voters as has
2 been the result of every gerrymander in this
3 state's history. Vote no.

4 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
5 Ms. Ceberio. Your time has expired.

6 Landon Anderson. Mr. Anderson, are you
7 in the room?

8 If not, Lisa Mitchell.

9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello and thank you.
10 I appreciate this opportunity to talk.

11 Rather than repeat points that other
12 people have made, I would just like to remind
13 this esteemed committee that 84 percent of
14 voters, including 87 percent of Democrats,
15 78 percent of Republicans, have said they oppose
16 partisan voting maps, and this is September
17 survey.

18 Each of you on this committee and in
19 the House took an oath to defend the state
20 constitution and serve all of the people of
21 North Carolina. If this gerrymander is
22 implemented, at least 6 million people will have
23 lost trust in this House.

24 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, ma'am.
25 Ron Osborn.

1 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm Ron Osborn. I'm
2 from Alamance county, and I want to say that I
3 applaud Representative Jones and Senator Hise
4 for their frankness. It is not easy to
5 represent up front the Republican Party as they
6 did. They did a good job of that. They put
7 their bigotry and their greed front and center,
8 and I appreciate that forthrightness in doing
9 that.

10 I only wish that your honesty,
11 truthfulness would extend to talking about the
12 motives behind these things. And it reminds me
13 of the story about the old quaker farmer who
14 caught a chicken thief. He caught the chicken
15 thief in his barn and he said, friend, I would
16 not shoot thee, but -- I would not harm thee,
17 but I'm about to shoot where you're standing.
18 And that's kind of the way you're looking at
19 saying this is not about racial issues. You can
20 call it what it is, but we know what's going on.

21 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
22 Mr. Osborn.

23 The next speaker is going to be Larissa
24 Arichkovich, but let me say if you could get in
25 line as the following speakers: Hanna Gibbs,

1 Jennifer Speal, and Jazmyne Abney and Carless
2 Stacey or Stacey Carless.

3 But first Larissa Arichkovich.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: First of all, I thank
5 you for attempting to pronounce my last name.
6 It's very courageous of you.

7 My parents were from Ukraine. They
8 came here after World War II, so I was born and
9 raised here, and I know why they came, just as
10 many others come for the better life.

11 I am not here to shame anybody, to talk
12 ill about anybody. All that has been said
13 before me, but I am looking for courage. I am
14 looking for somebody who aspires to be somebody
15 like Abraham Lincoln.

16 The Republican Party has had great
17 figures in its history, so why are we simply
18 rubber-stamping our commander-in-chief and not
19 exerting our rights as free-thinking people to
20 stand up for the people of North Carolina.

21 To redistrict this in a manner just to
22 gain a vote is dishonest, lacks integrity, and
23 will not serve you well in the future. Thank
24 you.

25 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you, ma'am.

1 I won't try it again.

2 Hanna Gibbs is next. Ms. Gibbs are you
3 in the room still? Apparently not.

4 How about Jennifer Speal. Help me with
5 your last name.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKER: It's Speal, S-P-E-A-L.

7 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: I'm sorry.

8 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My handwriting was not
9 all that great. My name is Jennifer Speal. I
10 am a citizen of this great state and this
11 country.

12 First, I want to say I reiterate uplift
13 and personally agree with every word
14 Representative Harrison spoke earlier. I think
15 she hit all the nails on the head.

16 I'm here to communicate my extreme
17 disappointment in the continual redistricting of
18 our voting districts. I mean, how many times do
19 we have to do this? Really.

20 Gerrymandering is cheating, plain and
21 simple. And I have said for a long time that
22 the Republicans don't have game. They haven't
23 had game in a long time. And when you don't
24 have game, you have to rely upon cheating to get
25 votes.

1 And one last thing I want to say is
2 we the people of North Carolina means fairly and
3 justly representing the people of
4 North Carolina, and that's what you should be
5 doing.

6 And, Representative Jones, I've watched
7 you, and you haven't looked up from your phone
8 the entire time we've been speaking. How
9 disrespectful.

10 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
11 Ms. Spell.

12 Our next speaker is Jazmyne Abney. And
13 she'll be followed by Stacey Carless.

14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi, y'all. I am
15 Jazmyne Abney. I am here with Common Cause
16 North Carolina, but first and foremost, I'm a
17 North Carolina native and a generational
18 North Carolinian.

19 And if you're wondering, no, we should
20 not be redistricting. You should not be
21 gerrymandering an already gerrymandered map.

22 You should be letting your constituents
23 focus on their municipal elections and the early
24 voting plans that their county boards of
25 elections are taking up, but instead they are

1 here.

2 And Senator Hise let us know that he
3 didn't want to read any of those 11,000
4 comments. He said that was partisan mess, but
5 I'm here in front of you because this is not
6 right. Read the comments, listen to your
7 constituents, and act accordingly. Do not vote
8 for these maps.

9 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
10 Ms. Abney.

11 Stacey Carless, and then our final
12 speaker after Ms. Carless is Queen Alyssia
13 Hammond.

14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My
15 name is Stacey Carless, also a North Carolina
16 native, but speaking today on behalf of
17 NC Counts Coalition, a nonpartisan organization
18 that led statewide efforts for complete and
19 accurate 2020 census count.

20 Redistricting like the census should
21 occur once every ten years to ensure fair
22 representation, never to serve partisan
23 interests, yet for the fourth time since 2020
24 and not due to court order, we are here again
25 because North Carolina's redistricting process

1 and the mess before us continue to dilute the
2 political power of black voters while impairing
3 limited -- while limiting meaningful public
4 participation.

5 These maps protect partisan political
6 power, not democracy. Voters should choose
7 their leaders, not the other way around.
8 North Carolinians deserve transparency,
9 inclusion, and fairness in every step of the
10 redistricting process.

11 Elected officials are supposed to serve
12 the people, not partisan power. We will not
13 stand for politics that silence black voters and
14 other voters of color, weaken democracy, or keep
15 control in the hands of a few.
16 North Carolinians deserve better. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
18 Ms. Carless.

19 And then our final speaker, Queen
20 Alyssia Hammond. Ms. Hammond. Not seeing her.

21 The Chair thanks you members of the
22 public for your comments and especially for your
23 decorum and trying to help us keep on schedule.

24 The Chair recognizes Chair Jones for a
25 motion.

1 CHAIRMAN JONES: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman. I move for a favorable report of
3 Senate Bill 249 with a referral to Rules.

4 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: The committee will
5 stand at ease.

6 (At ease.)

7 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: ...you're
8 recognized for a motion.

9 CHAIR JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 I move for a favorable report to
11 Senate Bill 249 with a referral to Rules.

12 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Representative
13 Jones, would you like to speak on your motion or
14 go to other members for debate?

15 CHAIRMAN JONES: We can go to other
16 members for debate.

17 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Okay. Are there
18 members of the committee who want to be heard?

19 Representative Ball, you're recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: I would like to
21 call for a roll call vote.

22 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Glad to do it.

23 Other comments or questions from
24 members of the committee.

25 Representative Harrison, you're

1 recognized.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chair.

4 I know I promised I wasn't going to
5 speak again, but there were a couple of things
6 that I missed, including that financial figure.

7 So Mrs. Thomas said it, but we got the
8 information as the committee was starting up.

9 So I've been checking every time we go
10 through these redistricting litigation
11 processes, and the total now is -- since the
12 2011 redraw, it's been 22,512,000. So that's a
13 lot of money, and I guess I raise it in the
14 context of the fact that this very district
15 that's getting redrawn, 1 and 3, is subject to
16 litigation right now in the federal court. And
17 the trial took place in June, and it looks like
18 we might get a decision imminently. And this
19 seems premature to be drawing this map when it's
20 going to be the same issue.

21 So I wanted to also sort of remind
22 folks what Mr. McClure -- Dr. McClure said.
23 It's Article 1, Section 2, sovereignty of the
24 people, the clause about all the power vesting
25 with the people. This -- so the point is is

1 that what we're supposed to do as an institution
2 is solely for the good of the whole. And I
3 would argue that there is no way that this
4 redraw of this map mid decadal is for --
5 possibly likely in violation of the Voting
6 Rights Act, all kinds of problems, it is for the
7 good of the whole.

8 And I just remind us of our
9 constitutional oath that we all took, and this
10 seems to -- a vote for this map seems to be in
11 direct violation of that oath.

12 And I guess I have a quick question for
13 the Chair. Given that we just heard a bunch of
14 public comment, we had all the online portal
15 comments, are we going to factor any of that
16 into the proposed map, or are we just voting on
17 this map? Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: We're voting on
19 the motion before the committee by 3:50.

20 Are there other questions, comments
21 from members of the committee?

22 Representative Reives.

23 REPRESENTATIVE REIVES: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair. And I recognize that I'll probably
25 comment a couple other times and so I'll try to

1 not be as lengthy as I sometimes am.

2 What I'm hoping would happen in this
3 committee, same thing that I hope that happens,
4 if it passes, this committee and goes to rules,
5 same thing I hope to happen on the floor.

6 And I guess what is important to me
7 right now, sometimes all of us do things and
8 disappointingly for me the country has become
9 completely polarized about party. Everything is
10 what party are you in, and if the party does
11 something, then, you know, a lot of us feel
12 compelled to support it.

13 I have been very clear in my time up
14 here, and I don't think there's a time that
15 somebody can tell me I've done differently, I am
16 in a political party because that is the system
17 that we're in. I vote for myself, my
18 constituents, my God, my faith, and I do what I
19 feel is the right thing to do even if that puts
20 me in disagreement with folks in my party, your
21 party or whoever it is.

22 I bring these things up because one of
23 the things that happens and why it gets so
24 dangerous in this country and really anywhere,
25 it's throughout history, when you start really

1 kind of trying to fit yourself into two boxes is
2 I don't care if you got a population of ten, at
3 some point that five that's in that box, they're
4 going to start disagree about something. And so
5 while we've been concentrating on these maps and
6 things of that sort, I'm looking at other
7 things.

8 And two of the things that have really
9 stayed deeply in my mind are Tom Tillis and John
10 Bolton. When I got here, Tom Tillis was
11 speaker. There were a lot of people here that
12 are in the majority right now that I think if we
13 say it in an honest moment, you're here because
14 of Tom Tillis. Tom Tillis had a vision. He saw
15 an opportunity to take a majority, and I don't
16 think there are many people, when it comes down
17 to the state legislature, that could have done
18 more for Republicans and put Republicans in
19 majority than Tom Tillis, and I really don't.
20 And I know that the president pro tem was also
21 involved, but I remember Tillis's popularity and
22 leadership coming out of Mecklenburg.

23 So why has he been on my mind? He's
24 going home, and he hadn't really done anything
25 wrong. There's not really something you can

1 point to where he's been out of line with the
2 party or he's been some rogue agent. I don't
3 think anybody would ever describe him as a rogue
4 agent, but he fell out of favor with the present
5 leadership of the party.

6 I look at John Bolton. There was not a
7 closer advisor to the present administration
8 than John Bolton. He's under indictment. And
9 why that's concerning is because for those of
10 you who have never been in the federal system,
11 feds don't bring an indictment if they don't
12 think they're getting ready to get a conviction.
13 That guy is going to prison. And again, off the
14 little bit of information I know, I'm not sure
15 why except I know that he has been identified as
16 an enemy of the administration.

17 So why do I bring these things up?
18 With these maps, the maps that were drawn in '24
19 were allowed to be drawn for partisan advantage.
20 That ship sailed. That's it. So I think those
21 maps were the maps that folks in this chamber
22 that voted on it believed were the best
23 Republican maps you could get, and now we're
24 back again. And we're doing it again to curry
25 favor with the administration, but what we're

1 really doing is consolidating power.

2 So the warning I would give the folks
3 is this: It's all well and good as long as you
4 stay in favor, but one day you're John Bolton,
5 one day you're Tom Tillis, one day you're
6 like -- but the most important thing for my
7 constituents, which is what I believe all 120 of
8 us are here for. The most important thing with
9 my constituents is actually out of line with
10 what this particular administration wants, not
11 the party but what this administration wants.

12 And when we start doing things to make
13 a person happy -- this is something I feel
14 strongly about, and I don't mind bringing up in
15 church. You don't follow a pastor, you support
16 your church. And I bring that up because I
17 think all great organizations, that's what you
18 do. It's not about the person who's at top.
19 It's about what ultimately helps all of the
20 people we're supposed to be serving.

21 I will give it to you, there's been no
22 pretense that this is doing something to make
23 things better for North Carolinians. This is
24 something to gain power and to hold power. I
25 would just warn all of us that when we do things

1 for that reason, it's going to come back to
2 bite. I know how many people I've watched get
3 walked out of here not physically but
4 figuratively when they fall out of line with
5 something that leadership wants which again is
6 nothing that is violative of the party.

7 I would hope we'd vote these maps down
8 simply for this reason: One, I will never
9 believe in so and so did something so I'm going
10 to do something back. Somebody hits you, you
11 got to hit them back. Somebody attacks you, you
12 got to attack them back, but bad behavior
13 politically, whoever started it, does not ever
14 merit bad behavior politically here. Because
15 you know what's going to happen with
16 North Carolina -- it doesn't matter how this
17 congressional stuff goes. Ultimately,
18 North Carolina is going to be all right because
19 we are here as North Carolina's leadership.

20 So I ask you to vote no on this not to
21 be insulting, not to talk about anybody, not to
22 say one idea is better than the idea, not to say
23 one party or one leadership is better than
24 another. I'm not even saying if this was the
25 greatest president we had ever had in our lives,

1 I would say the same thing. It's not about
2 who's in leadership now, it's about starting the
3 habit of doing things for a person and not for
4 the folks that we serve and not for the folks
5 that you serve with. And I don't want to see us
6 become that, so I ask that you vote no.

7 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further comments
8 or questions from members of the committee.

9 Seeing none, the question -- I'm sorry.
10 Representative Dew.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DEW: Sorry. I will say
12 I actually served as the redistricting chair for
13 the county commission or for the county which
14 was appointed by the county commission in 2011.

15 And so at that point our maps were
16 actually pulled back here during the middle of
17 the process which circumvented the opportunity
18 for the community to actually comment on the
19 maps.

20 And I think that it's really
21 unfortunate that in this situation, for those
22 who are being affected who may not be able to
23 make it here from my folks in Mecklenburg, of
24 course there are a lot of people who could make
25 it here today, but there was not an opportunity

1 for the folks affected to be able to speak to
2 these maps in a public forum that wasn't here.

3 And also, I don't think an hour and
4 40 minutes is adequate. And also, with the way
5 this process was set up, there's no real
6 opportunity to change. And so that's
7 unfortunate. I expected more of us.

8 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Representative
9 Ball.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair. Just a few thoughts.

12 The old map is bad and is a
13 gerrymander. The new map is really, really bad.
14 I don't want us to forget that. The current map
15 and the new map are illegal partisan
16 gerrymanders. Even if the US Supreme Court and
17 the North Carolina Supreme Court do not agree, I
18 will not shy away from calling it that. Sorry.
19 Excuse me.

20 The current map and the new map are
21 illegal racial gerrymanders that violate the
22 Voting Rights Act reauthorized by congress and
23 signed by President Bush in 2006. This is true
24 even if the US Supreme Court does not agree.

25 In the long, sorted history of

1 North Carolina gerrymandering, we are breaking
2 new ground, and I am outraged about that as I
3 know many people who have reached out to me from
4 my district and all over this state. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further comments
6 or questions from members of the committee.

7 Representative Carney.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair.

10 I'm trying to gather my thoughts. I
11 have been a North Carolinian, born and bread
12 here. My children have been raised here. My
13 grandchildren, some of them have been raised
14 here. I've had the distinct honor and privilege
15 to serve Mecklenburg county, my district, in
16 Raleigh for the last 23 years. I've been in the
17 majority, I've been in the minority.

18 I can't believe that I'm sitting here
19 today that we are now moving forward because
20 someone, one man in Washington, the president --
21 and you heard my questioning earlier. This has
22 never been done in North Carolina. That we have
23 taken from the president of the country and
24 saying I need for you to redistrict and give me
25 one more congressional seat. That is just so

1 out of the realm of the democracy that I have
2 been raised in.

3 My father was a World War II veteran,
4 and if he were alive today, he would be 105. I
5 cannot believe that he is sitting where he is in
6 heaven, proud of what his daughter has been
7 asked to do today, and that is to not stand up
8 for the constitution in this bill, in this
9 redistricting, not because the constitution
10 requires it, not because the people have
11 demanded it, but because one man in Washington
12 asked us to do it.

13 I just can't believe that I'm sitting
14 here -- it's surreal to me. We just went
15 through this three years ago, and now we're
16 doing it again to the people for what reason?
17 It makes no sense to me except it's just -- I
18 hate clichs. I don't like them. I've worked
19 with you all on both sides of the road, and I
20 hope I can continue to do that and have your
21 respect, but I can't keep quiet at this moment
22 because I hear from the people you've heard from
23 here today and online, and I do encourage you to
24 read them. I think some of you may have read
25 them or read some of them or someone's told you

1 what's in there.

2 I get it that power comes with the
3 party in power. It comes from your leadership.
4 I get it. I've been there. I just ask us all
5 to pause, think why we're doing it because it
6 truly is, as the speaker said -- and my
7 children, my adult children, my in-laws, they've
8 been calling me, texting me, you can't be quiet,
9 mom. They know I don't speak a lot, but when I
10 do, it's from my heart and my disappointment.

11 My state is better than that, than
12 this. Our state is better than this. And I
13 know you don't want to hear half of what people
14 are saying, but I hope at some point that when
15 you put your head down on the pillow, as my
16 daddy told me at night, and you can fall asleep,
17 you know you're in a good position. I hope you
18 all sleep well. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Further comments
20 or questions from members of the committee.

21 Seeing none, the motion before the
22 committee is that we give Senate Bill 249 a
23 favorable report with a referral to rules.

24 If you are in favor of the motion, vote
25 aye or yes, and if you're opposed vote no. And

1 the clerk will call the roll.

2 THE CLERK: Representative Ball.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: No.

4 THE CLERK: Ball, no.

5 Representative Carney.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CARNEY: No.

7 THE CLERK: Representative Carney, no.

8 Representative Dew.

9 REPRESENTATIVE DEW: No.

10 THE CLERK: Representative Dew, no.

11 Dixon.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DIXON: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Dixon, yes.

14 Echevarria.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ECHEVARRIA: Yes.

16 THE CLERK: Echevarria, yes.

17 Gillespie.

18 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Gillespie, yes.

20 Harrison.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON: No.

22 THE CLERK: Harrison, no.

23 Humphrey.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUMPHREY: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Humphrey, yes.

1 Frances Jackson.

2 REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON: No.

3 THE CLERK: Frances Jackson, no.

4 Neal Jackson.

5 REPRESENTATIVE N. JACKSON: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Neal Jackson, yes.

7 Miller.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Miller, yes.

10 Reives.

11 REPRESENTATIVE REIVES: No.

12 THE CLERK: Reives, no.

13 Rhyne.

14 REPRESENTATIVE RHYNE: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: Rhyne, yes.

16 Carson Smith.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Carson Smith yes, aye.

19 Willingham.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WILLINGHAM: No.

21 THE CLERK: Willingham, no.

22 Bell.

23 Setzer.

24 Tyson.

25 Chairman Jones.

1 CHAIRMAN JONES: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Chairman Jones, yes.

3 Do you wish to vote Blackwell?

4 CHAIRMAN BLACKWELL: Chair votes yes.

5 What is the count, madam

6 chair -- Madam Clerk?

7 The votes on the motion are 10 in
8 favor, 7 against. That completes the work of
9 this committee, and the committee is adjourned.

10 (Adjourned.)

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Denise Myers Byrd, CSR 8340