UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PRESS ROBINSON, et al., *Plaintiffs,* v. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for Louisiana, *Defendant.*	Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00211-SDD-SDJ Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick Magistrate Judge Scott D. Johnson
EDWARD GALMON, SR., et al., *Plaintiffs,* v. R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for Louisiana, *Defendant.*	Consolidated with Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00214-SDD-SDJ

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DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' JOINT PROPOSED REMEDIAL PLAN

Plaintiffs' proposed remedy fails to satisfy governing legal standards and cannot be imposed on Louisiana's citizens. The remedy was obviously drawn with predominantly racial intent under the governing legal standard, as its districts' lines exhibit astounding precision in including majority-Black voting districts (VTDs) in majority-Black districts and excluding majority-white VTDs. Plaintiffs' expert, Mr. Fairfax, did not use anything like that level of precision in tracking other data, which he claimed at the liability phase caused the stark racial sorting of his plans. The plan is therefore presumptively unconstitutional and cannot supplement the enacted plan which is not even *alleged* to be unconstitutional. Further, the plan united areas overwhelmingly established on the legislative record to be distinct regions that do not belong in

the same district. It therefore fails to satisfy Section 2 under its own terms, and the plan intrudes far more on Louisiana redistricting policy than is necessary. The proposed remedial districts are not narrowly tailored because there is insufficient evidence that 50% Black voting-age population ("BVAP") floors are necessary to ensure equal electoral opportunity. These districts, like the rest of the plan, fall short of the legal mark.[1]

LEGAL STANDARD

When crafting a judicial remedial plan, "equitable considerations demand a close scrutiny and mandate the fashioning of a near-optimal apportionment plan." *Seastrunk v. Burns*, 772 F.2d 143, 151 (5th Cir. 1985). *See also McGhee v. Granville Cnty., N.C.*, 860 F.2d 110, 115 (4th Cir. 1988). The remedial plan must remedy the Section 2 violation, but the plan should be "narrowly tailored" to the violation and "should not 'intrude on state policy any more than is necessary' to uphold the requirements of the Constitution." *Bone Shirt v. Hazeltine*, 461 F.3d 1011, 1023 (8th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Upham v. Seaman*, 456 U.S. 37, 41–42 (1982) (per curiam)). *See also, e.g., United States v. City of Euclid*, 523 F. Supp. 2d 641, 644 (N.D. Ohio 2007); *United States v. Carleston Cnty.*, No. 2:01-cv-0155-23, 2003 WL 23525360, *1 (D.S.C. Aug. 14, 2003). For all the following reasons, Plaintiffs' proposed remedial plan fails this test.

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ARGUMENT

A. Race Predominated

Plaintiffs' proposed remedial districts were drawn with predominantly racial intent. The plan is therefore presumptively unconstitutional and cannot supplant the enacted plan. At the

[1] Defendants submit this joint brief assuming the validity of the Court's preliminary-injunction ruling for the sake of argument only. They continue to disagree respectfully with it and prosecute their appeal, as is their right. Any language assuming the validity of the ruling in this or any other remedial presentation must be understood as directed to the remedial proceeding *arguendo* and not as conceding liability in any way. Defendants deny liability and deny that any remedy is needed.

liability phase, this Court declined to apply constitutional scrutiny to Plaintiffs' illustrative proposals, reasoning "illustrative maps drawn by demographers for litigation are not state action and thus the Equal Protection Clause is not triggered." Doc. 173 at 114. But the Court recognized that "a Court-imposed or legislatively enacted map would be squarely subject to Equal Protection review." *Id.* Fifth Circuit precedent holds the same. *Clark v. Calhoun Cnty., Miss.*, 88 F.3d 1393, 1407–08 (5th Cir. 1996). At the remedy phase, then, this Court must apply constitutional scrutiny.

The question under that standard is whether "race was the predominant factor motivating" behind the "decision to place a significant number of voters within or without a particular district." *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections*, 137 S. Ct. 788, 797 (2017) (citation omitted). This standard is satisfied if "race was the criterion that…could not be compromised," *id.* at 798 (citation omitted; alterations accepted), which occurs when (1) a mapmaker "purposefully established a racial target," such as that "African-Americans should make up no less than a majority of the voting-age population," and (2) the racial target "had a direct and significant impact" on the district's "configuration." *Cooper v. Harris*, 137 S. Ct. 1455, 1468–69 (2017). Predominance can be shown through circumstantial or direct evidence. *Bethune-Hill*, 137 S. Ct. at 797. Because "the constitutional violation in racial gerrymandering cases stems from the racial purpose of state action, not its stark manifestation," a showing of predominance does not depend on a showing that district lines departed from traditional districting principles. *Id.* at 798 (quotation marks omitted). Overriding evidence of predominance includes "stark splits in the racial composition of populations moved into and out of disparate parts of the district, or the use of an express racial target." *Id.* at 800.

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1. The evidence of predominance here is undeniable. To begin, the "direct evidence" establishes beyond any doubt that Mr. Fairfax employed "an express racial target." *Id.* at 797, 800.

Mr. Fairfax's remedial plan is but a slight variation on his previously submitted Illustrative Plan 2A, and it maintains majority-Black district CD5 in precisely the form presented in that plan. Doc. 225-1 ¶¶ 10–14. Mr. Fairfax previously attested that he configured CD2 and CD5 in the illustrative plan to achieve 50% BVAP targets, 5/9 Tr. 208:2–4, 218:18–22, 206:25–207:4, 210:12–212:4, and this Court found that Mr. Fairfax used racial data as necessary to achieve the *Gingles* "numerosity" requirement. Doc. 173 at 36; *see also id.* at 31. This, on its own, compels a predominance finding under Supreme Court precedent. *See Cooper*, 137 S. Ct. at 1469 (holding that lower court "could hardly have concluded anything but" predominance where mapmaker attested to intent to draw a majority-minority district).

2. And there is more. The remedial record shows "stark splits in the racial composition of populations moved into and out of" the majority-Black districts, which confirms predominance. *Bethune-Hill*, 137 S. Ct. at 800. Dr. Douglas Johnson, a demographic expert who has prepared hundreds of redistricting plans, examined the lines of Mr. Fairfax's remedial districts and discerned stark evidence of racial predominance. Ex. A, Johnson Rep. Dr. Johnson focused on nine Parishes that the proposed remedy map divides in CD2 or CD5: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, Ouachita, Rapides, and Tangipahoa. Johnson Rep. ¶ 9. Dr. Johnson examined the number of VTDs in each parish, the number of parish VTDs with Black majorities of Voting Age Population (VAP) using the "percentage any part Black" data from the 2020 Census, and the number of VTDs that were drawn into or out of CD2 or CD5. *Id.* ¶ 12. Dr. Johnson also prepared thematic maps showing the BVAP percentage of each VTD with the congressional district lines overlaid. *Id.*

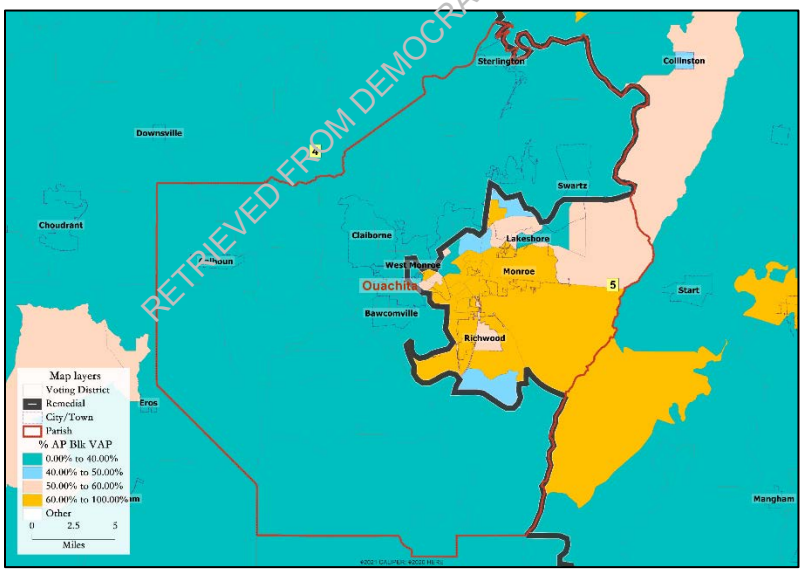
This analysis shows that Mr. Fairfax employed a surgical focus on race. In four of the examined parishes, *every single* majority-Black VTD was drawn into a majority-minority district,

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and in *each* examined parish the overriding majority of majority-Black VTDs were drawn into majority-minority districts. *Id.* ¶ 45. On the whole, more than 96% of majority-Black VTDs in the examined parishes were drawn into CD2 or CD5. *Id.* ¶ 13. Further, although only 33.1% of the VTDs in these split parishes are majority-Black (444 of 1,341), 59.6% of the VTDs from these split parishes assigned to CD2 are majority-Black, and 69.8% of the VTDs from these split parishes assigned to CD5 are majority-Black. *Id.* ¶ 46. These stark splits were essential to achieve the 50% BVAP target in both CD2 and CD5: without the majority-Back VTDs from split parishes, each district would fall below 40% BVAP. *Id.* ¶¶ 47–48.

Dr. Johnson's report shows with meticulous detail how precise Mr. Fairfax was in segregating the races. For example, Dr. Johnson demonstrates that the line dividing Ouachita between majority-white CD4 and majority-Black CD5 tracks the Black population inerrantly:

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Id. ¶ 15. Dr. Johnson shows similar precision in every split examined. "The visual depictions of racial sorting . . . are telling." *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Bd. of Elections*, 326 F. Supp. 3d 128, 146 (E.D. Va. 2018) (three-judge court).

So are the raw numbers. Dr. Johnson finds that "every VTD that is 40% Black or higher is drawn into CD5. There is almost a perfect match between the racial demographics of the VTDs and where the district line is drawn." *Id.* ¶ 18. Dr. Johnson shows the same predominant racial line-drawing in every over parish examined, where nearly all the 40%-plus Black VAP VTDs are drawn into the majority-Black district, a number far higher than the overall total Parish VTDs drawn into that district:

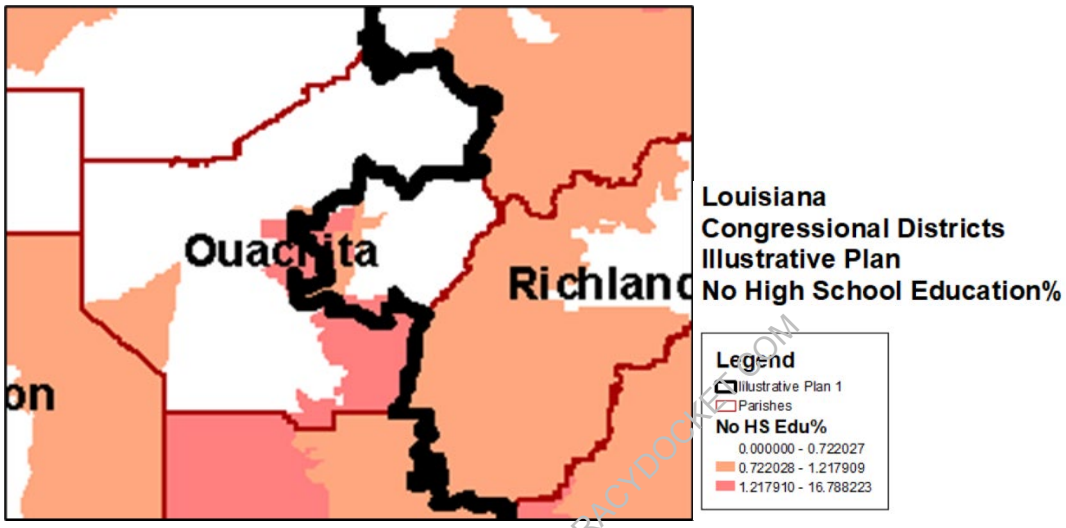
Parish	Majority-Black District	% of Parish VTDs over 40% drawn into majority-Black district	% of total Parish VTDs drawn into majority-Black district
Rapides	CD5	~100% (all but one VTD)	46.1%
Lafayette	CD5	100%	40.9%
Iberia	CD2	80%	48.6%
Jefferson	CD2	100%	40.9%
Orleans	CD2	98.9%	73.3%
Ascension	CD2	100%	28.1%
East Baton Rouge	CD5	94.7%	53.5%
Tangipahoa	CD5	57.9%	24.7%

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Id. at ¶ 21, 23-25, 26-28, 29-32, 33-35, 36-38, 39-41, 42-44. All of this amounts to "substantial evidence that race was the predominant factor in the manner that VTDs, cities, and other places were split between" majority-white and majority-Black districts. *Bethune-Hill*, 326 F. Supp. 3d at 147. That type of racial sorting does not happen by accident; it happens when a map-maker "purposefully established a racial target" and the target has a "direct and significant impact" on lines. *Cooper*, 137 S. Ct. at 1469.

3. Mr. Fairfax cannot credibly pin this stark racial sorting on other demographics. The Court previously believed Mr. Fairfax's testimony that other demographics, like education and "risk factors" (e.g., "low income, communication barriers, number of persons per room in the house, lack of health insurance, and others"), actually drove the line drawing. *E.g.*, Doc. 173 at 35–36. Dr. Johnson debunks that theory—or, at a minimum, shows that "those factors were

subordinated to racial objectives," *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 919 (1995). Dr. Johnson shows that in every parish analyzed, Mr. Fairfax's lines have little correlation to that data. Johnson Rep. ¶¶ 15–45. For example, there is nothing surgical about this demographic map from Mr. Fairfax depicting education levels throughout Ouachita:



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Id. ¶ 16. There is no credibility in Mr. Fairfax's assertions that he was tracking demographic data, when his lines track racial data with precision and demographic data hardly at all. *See Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952, 970 (1996); *Bethune-Hill*, 326 F. Supp. 3d at 160.

4. This evidence compels a finding of racial predominance. Importantly, the Court owes Plaintiffs no deference on this question. Although a court must "exercise extraordinary caution in adjudicating claims that a *State* has drawn district lines on the basis of race," that is because of "the sensitive nature of redistricting and the presumption of good faith that must be accorded legislative enactments." *Miller*, 515 U.S. at 916. Mr. Fairfax is no legislature, his work enjoys no presumption of good faith, and this Court is duty-bound to scrutinize Plaintiffs' work in an impartial and robust manner.

The evidence directs the Court to conclude that imposing Mr. Fairfax's plan would work a profound constitutional violation on the rights of millions of Louisiana voters. "Under the Equal

Protection Clause, districting maps that sort voters on the basis of race 'are by their very nature odious.'" *Wis. Legislature v. Wis. Elections Comm'n*, 142 S. Ct. 1245, 1248 (2022) (citation omitted). It would be profoundly wrong for this Court to impose such a plan "no matter what the consequences of race-blind districting would be." *Gonzalez v. City of Aurora, Illinois*, 535 F.3d 594, 600 (7th Cir. 2008). This is particularly problematic at this *provisional* phase, where the Court does not enjoy the benefit of a full record, and the parties have not had a fulsome opportunity for discovery and trial. To read Section 2 as compelling the replacement of a plan *not challenged under the Constitution* with a plan that is the product of *stark racial sorting* would render Section 2 unconstitutional as applied. Just as "Congress does not enforce a constitutional right by changing what the right is," *City of Boerne v. Flores*, 521 U.S. 507, 508 (1997), it would be an absurd result to read that statute as enforcing these Amendments *by compelling states to violate them*. "Racial classifications are antithetical to the Fourteenth Amendment, whose central purpose was to eliminate racial discrimination emanating from official sources in the States." *Shaw v. Hunt*, 517 U.S. 899, 907 (1996). In all events, Plaintiffs' plan cannot satisfy strict scrutiny for reasons explained below.

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B. The Proposed Remedy Does Not Satisfy Section 2

Plaintiffs' proposed remedy does not satisfy the Section 2 compactness requirement. "[T]here is no basis to believe a district that combines two farflung segments of a racial group with disparate interests provides the opportunity that § 2 requires or that the first *Gingles* condition contemplates." *League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Perry*, 548 U.S. 399, 433 (2006) (*LULAC*). A district is not a §2 remedy when "the only common index" between the combined territories "is race." *Id.* at 435. Thus, "the § 2 compactness inquiry should take into account 'traditional districting principles such as maintaining communities of interest and traditional boundaries.'"

Abrams v. Johnson, 521 U.S. 74, 92 (1997) (citation omitted). Plaintiffs' proposed remedy does not satisfy this standard.

1. As an initial matter, the clear fact that race was the predominant factor behind the configuration of CD2 and CD5 confirms that the proposed remedy does not satisfy Section 2. A court must not choose as a "remedy" a plan in which racial goals "predominate over other traditional and neutral districting principles, principles which were a valid expression of legislative policy." *Abrams*, 521 U.S. at 88. This alone defeats the proposal.

2. The remedial record, which incorporates the legislative record,[2] further confirms that the proposed remedy is not viable. Like the illustrative plans at the liability phase, the remedy combines "farflung segments of a racial group with disparate interests." *LULAC*, 548 U.S. at 433.

To begin, Plaintiffs' proposed remedial plan combines territory in and around Baton Rouge with the Delta Parishes on the northeastern border of Louisiana, 180 miles away. The legislative record shows that these communities have nothing in common but race. Members of the public from the Delta Parishes have appeared before the Legislature and spoken of the agricultural, rural nature of CD5 as maintained in the enacted plan:

> Louisiana's fifth congressional district is comprised of nothing but communities of the same interest. We are comprised of agriculture in Northeast Louisiana, soybeans, cotton, corn. And the central Louisiana of our district it's timber and the Florida parishes it's cattle and strawberries, peaches.
>
> The fifth congressional district…is one of the largest exporters of agriculture. And we are the largest district that runs parallel to the Mississippi River prime for economic development and economic growth. Our now Congresswoman Julia Letlow sits on the appropriations committee up in Washington, DC, a very powerful committee in Washington, DC.

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[2] Transcripts of the proceedings from the 2022 Second Extraordinary Session are attached as Exs. B through L.

Ex. B, Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 177:6-21; *see also id.* at 178:4-5 ("We are a very rural district."); *id*. at 183:7-8 ("[W]e are an agriculture state and much of that comes from the fifth district."); *id*. at 183:20-184:1 ("Congresswoman Letlow has been an advocate for higher education. She's been an…advocate for agriculture and she's been an advocate for all the people of the fifth congressional district."); *id*. at 190:13-16 ("We are the agricultural district of Louisiana…nearly 50 percent of all agricultural sales from Louisiana comes from the fifth district."); Ex. C, Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 32:6-7, 32:16-19 (stating that LaSalle Parish "belongs in District 5" as a rural, farming, agriculture kind of a parish.").

Life-long residents of the district, public officials, and business leaders requested that CD5 maintain its current configuration and opposed plans that combined their region with urban areas like Baton Rouge. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 179:5-17 ("[W]e are the agriculture district, but we don't have similarities with East Baton Rouge Parish."); *id*. at 184:2-5 (urging the Legislature "to keep the fifth district the way it is"); *id*. at 181:2-6 (explaining that concentrating the district in Baton Rouge would bring our voices away."); *id*. at 183:4-6 (opposing a plan that "minimizes the importance of agriculture in our state."); Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 40:18-41:2 (disagreeing that the Delta Parishes and parishes like St. Landry should be joined because "any good farmer will tell you that…there's no sugar cane north of -- of Rapides Parish."); *id*. at 38:10-16 (opposing a map that "would make Baton Rouge the population center," "shifting away from our current configuration" and "dividing the representation from Monroe and Alexandria."); *see also id*. at 32:6-7.

These concerns reiterated what the Legislature heard throughout the roadshows. *See e.g.*, PR-38 at 50:24-51:1, 51:15-15 ("[I]n North Louisiana, particularly Northeast Louisiana, we're not getting the resources the South gets," and recognizing that "rural concerns are not the same as

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urban or suburban concerns"); PR-41 at 64:9-66:7 (requesting preservation of CD5 as a "rural" and "agricultural" district). The enacted plan maintained the Delta region's rural communities as the "backbone" of CD5 to ensure "that their shared agriculture economies have a strong advocate in congress who can provide the focus and develop the expertise needed to effectively represent and advocate for the agricultural needs of our state." PR-54 at 8:23-11:3. Plaintiffs' plan does not.

3. In the quest to increase the BVAP for CD5, Plaintiffs' remedial plan divides Rapides, Ouachita, and Lafayette Parishes and their surrounding areas, Ex. M, Hood Rep. at Figs. 2, 4, 8, in blatant disregard of the Legislature's stated goals and extensive public testimony supporting preservation of these areas. *See* Joint Rule 21(H).

First, Plaintiffs' proposed remedial plan divides communities of interest in Rapides Parish. During the 2022 Second Extraordinary Session, residents of Rapides Parish spoke of the common "geography, commerce, culture, and character" shared within the parish and highlighted the importance of the agricultural and timber sectors to the area. Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 39:9-20; Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 190:13-16. They also explained how Alexandria and the surrounding areas—including Pineville, Ball, and Pollock (in Grant Parish)—are a community of interest. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 188:19-22, 189:2-16, 191:12-13, 193:7-194:6; Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 46:1-14. They opposed "cutting into these communities of interest," Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 191:10-19, 190:1-6, by dividing Rapides Parish and the Alexandria area between CD3 and CD5. Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 39:16-19 ("[T]o place a big swath of Rapides Parish in the 3rd Congressional District with Lake Charles and Lafayette is problematic for us relative to those communities of interest"); *see also* Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at Tr. 47:1-2. These concerned citizens warned of the impact of dividing Rapides. *See* Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 190:22-191:7; *see also* Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 41:17-

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21 (stating that a proposal nearly identical to Plaintiffs' would "pit cities against the rural areas" and "rural interests such as agriculture and broadband and that access plays second fiddle to the urban interests.").

Plaintiffs ignored this testimony in drafting their remedial plan, which not only splits Rapides Parish, but also splits the cities of Alexandria and Pineville, between CD3 and CD5. Hood Rep. at 10, Fig. 4.

Second, Plaintiffs' remedial plan disregards communities of interest in Ouachita Parish. Just two weeks ago, members of the public explained how West Monroe and its surrounding areas, including Brownsville and Claiborne, view themselves as "one community of interest." Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 186:6-22; *see also id*. at 184:18-22; 187:5-19 ("We are one, we are a whole, we are very family oriented, community based, and we all support each other."). They opposed proposals that divided these communities and transferred representation away from North Louisiana. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 185:1-15; *see also* Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 214:11-15 (opposing proposals that would "make Baton Rouge the population center of a new district" because they "would shift away from our current configuration and most likely divide representation for Monroe and Alexandria."); Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 216:7-8.

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Yet Plaintiffs' remedial plan splits Ouachita Parish between CD4 and CD5. Hood Rep. at 8, Fig. 2. Within the parish, Monroe, West Monroe, and Brownsville are also split between the two districts. Hood Rep. at 8, Fig. 2.

Finally, members of the public and members of the Legislature advocated for Lafayette to remain in one district—as it is in the enacted plan—and opposed proposals that divided the parish and the cities of Lafayette and Scott. *See* Hood Rep. at 13-14, Figs. 7 & 8. During the 2022 Extraordinary Session, the Mayor-President of Lafayette Parish and others spoke of the shared

culture and community of the parish. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 134:17-135:7 ("We share culture, we share values, our heritage is unique...We're majority Catholic, Cajun and Creole roots, Cajun zydeco music, our economies, our – the spirit of our economy, the spirit of our initiatives on tourism is very, very closely related, specifically in our parish."); Ex. D, Tr. 6/17/22 House Committee at 217:10-16 (explaining that Lafayette is "the heart of Acadiana" and a "very well-defined community of interest."); Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 141:1-5 (Scott City Councilman); *id.* at 133:16-134:2; Tr. 6/17/22 House Committee at 218:10-15 ("I[t]'s very important to keep that community of interest together.").

They opposed plans that separated the northern part of Lafayette from the rest of the parish. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 135:16-136:2; Tr. 6/17/22 Senate Committee at 77:21-78:1, 109:19-110:7. These requests were nothing new. During the roadshows, community leaders and residents formed an Acadiana-Southwest Louisiana "Super Region" requesting preservation of CD3 with Lafayette and Lake Charles in the same district. PR-40 at 56:21-59:10, 73:19-74:20. The Legislature heeded these calls in preserving CD3 and keeping Lafayette whole in the enacted plan. PR-54 at 11:3-12:8.

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Plaintiffs disregarded this evidence. Their proposed remedial plan splits Lafayette Parish, including the cities of Lafayette and Scott, between CD3 and CD5. Hood Rep. at 14, Fig. 8.

4. Beyond CD5, the remedial plan disrupts important communities of interest across the state in contravention of the extensive evidence in the legislative record. Two communities are relevant here.

First, Plaintiffs' proposed remedial plan destroys the community of interest of Fort Polk and its surrounding areas in Vernon Parish. Members of these communities, including the Mayor of Leesville, repeatedly spoke of the importance of Fort Polk remaining in same district as the rest

of Vernon Parish because of the strong connection between the base and the surrounding community. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 143:3-159:12; *see also id*. at 43:2-21, 46:18-47:6.

Fort Polk owns fifty percent of Vernon Parish, Tr. 6/16/22 Senate at 146:18-147:1, is the largest economic generator in Vernon Parish, and the second largest employer in the whole state of Louisiana. *Id*. at 148:4-7. Forty percent of the Fort Polk military lives off base in the community. *Id*. at 150:6-18. Congress appropriates federal funds to the local school districts in Vernon Parish attended by military children through "Impact Aid." *Id*. at 144:3-146:4; *see also id*. at 146:9-17. Leesville has "the largest intergovernmental service agreement in the world with Fort Polk" that provides the community with millions of dollars to continue to provide services to the base. *Id*. at 152:9-153:2. A recent economic impact study showed there is no other parish that is as dependent on a nearby military installation as Vernon Parish is to Fort Polk. *Id*. at 148:8-13.

Dividing Fort Polk and Leesville between two different congressional districts puts this connection, and the accompanying support and funding they provide to each other, in jeopardy. *Id*. at 146:1-4, 151:11-17, 155:15-20, 154:11-22. Removing Fort Polk from CD4 also separates it from Barksdale Air Force Base, weakening the state's influence in Congress. *Id*. at 153:3-154:9. Maintaining both military installations in the same congressional district has given Louisiana "leverage historically" and "the opportunity to be on the influential committees that make a difference in terms of appropriations, and in terms of military policy..." *Id.* at 156:15-159:6. The Legislature understood the importance of keeping Barksdale and Fort Polk in the same district to allow Louisiana "to compete for vital funding that's essential to [the] state's economy," including a recent award of almost "a billion dollars in funding, which includes more military construction dollars for the air force and army than anywhere else in the world." PR-74 at 7:10-8:9; PR-55 at 36:8-15; PR-54 at 5:17-20; PR-69 at 12:4-16.

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Not only are Fort Polk and Leesville divided between CD3 and CD 4 in Plaintiffs' proposed remedial plan, but Fort Polk itself is split. Hood Rep. Fig. 6. These divisions would destroy the "nexus" between the base and the parish and "could cause harm to the parish and to the army." Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 151:11-12; *see also id* at 148:14-149:14 (explaining the importance of the connection between a base and its surrounding community for Base Realignment and Closure ("BRAC") determinations).

Second, Plaintiffs' proposed remedial plan destroys communities of interest in St. Tammany Parish. Members of these communities advocated for the parish to remain whole and to remain in a district connected with Jefferson and Orleans. Tr. 6/16/22 Senate Committee at 169:6-12 (Parish President explaining that "St. Tammany is naturally included within the New Orleans economic region" and "whether it is our infrastructure projects, flood protection issues, our economic priorities, or our cultural way of life, our priorities in St. Tammany are united and stretch across our entire parish"); *id*. at 170:7-13, 171:7-16. They spoke of the shared interests between St. Tammany and Jefferson and Orleans on issues like flood protection, Tr. 6/17/22 House Committee at 220:1-10, 221:4-22, 223:1-224:9, and opposed maps that split the parish and grouped it with Baton Rouge. *Id*. at 220:11-22, 223:17-22, 224:10-18, 219:16-18 ("putting St. Tammany Parish in a district anchored by East Baton Rouge does not work."); *id*. at 226:9-12 (Councilman explaining that splitting St. Tammany would be "detrimental").

Yet that is exactly what Plaintiffs' proposed remedial map does by dividing St. Tammany, and Mandeville and Lewisburg, in half, with the northern part of the parish grouped with Baton Rouge in CD5 and the southern with CD1. Hood Rep. at 16, Fig. 10.

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C. The Proposed Remedy Is Neither Narrowly Tailored Nor Shown to Remedy Any Putative Violation

Plaintiffs' proposed remedy is remarkable in that it has not been shown to be either narrowly tailored under Section 2 nor even to be a meaningful improvement over the enacted plan. The narrow-tailoring question is whether there are "'good reasons' to believe a [50]% BVAP floor [is] necessary to avoid liability under § [2]." *Bethune-Hill*, 137 S. Ct. at 802. To serve as an appropriate remedy for a putative violation, a proposed remedial district must "enhance the ability of minority voters to elect the candidates of their choice." *Abbott v. Perez*, 138 S. Ct. 2305, 2332 (2018). Both of Plaintiffs' remedial districts, CD2 and CD5, fail both tests.

1. CD2

There is no record evidence establishing that race-based maneuvers to achieve a 50% BVAP target in CD2 were narrowly tailored. *See Cooper*, 137 S. Ct. at 1470; *Bethune-Hill*, 326 F. Supp. 3d at 176–77. In particular, Plaintiffs offer no evidence at all that the BVAP of CD2 needs to fall above 50% in order to ensure that Black residents within its footprint have an equal opportunity to elect their preferred candidates. This is after Plaintiffs dropped the BVAP of CD2 down more than 7% so that the remedial version of CD2 rests at just above the 50% threshold. Doc. 225-1 at ¶20. Plaintiffs rely on the supplemental report of Dr. Handley to support their remedial plan, but Dr. Handley made no analysis to ascertain whether 50% BVAP is necessary or whether a lower target, with less race-based maneuvering, would suffice. *See* Doc. 225-2 at 3–9 (examining only whether a 50% BVAP target is necessary in CD5). However, Dr. Handley did testify that her analysis revealed that CD2 is likely more effective than CD5 possibly due to the fact that "voting was less polarized in District 2" than other districts. Handley Dep. at 11:4-18.[3]

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[3] Attached as Ex. N is the deposition transcript of Dr. Handley. Because the deposition was taken earlier today, only a rough copy is available. The page numbers in the exhibit correspond to the pages in the top right hand corner of the deposition transcript.

This case, then, is like *Wisconsin Legislature*, where the narrow-tailoring inquiry was plainly unmet because both the court that adopted the plan and the party who presented it had "no . . . evidence or analysis" to justify the BVAP target selected. 142 S. Ct. at 1249; *see also Cooper v. Harris,* 137 S.Ct. 1455, 1459 (2017) (requiring a district-specific analysis to determine whether race predominated in the mapdrawers' choices). Nor is CD2 shown to be a meaningful improvement for voters within its footprint, who *already* were afforded an equal opportunity to elect their preferred candidates in a district *not alleged to be drawn with predominantly racial intent*.

2. CD5

Plaintiffs also fail either to justify a 50% BVAP target in CD5 or to establish it as a viable Section 2 remedy. Plaintiffs rely on a percent-needed-to-win analysis performed by Dr. Lisa Handley, which purports to show that a district of 50% BVAP is needed to create a performing Section 2 district in the disparate regions at issue. *See* Doc. 225-2 at 3–9. But Dr. Handley's analysis is (a) unreliable and (b) if taken at face value, shows a BVAP under 50% will allow the Black-preferred candidate to win a majority of the two-candidate races Dr. Handley studies, which Dr. Handley defines as making the district "effective." Handley Dep. at 25:18-26:18. Dr. Handley also opined that when a district, such as CD5 and likely CD2 would elect the Black-preferred candidate with less than 50% BVAP this indicated that there is significant white crossover voting in the district. Handley Dep. at 21:18-24.

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First, Dr. Handley's analysis is unreliable because it improperly excludes probative elections, relies heavily on elections that lack probative value, and fails to distinguish those having more value from those with less. Dr. Handley first wrongfully excludes from consideration two elections—U.S. Senate November 2020 and Attorney General October 2015—in which she

concluded the Black community was not cohesive around a single candidate, because there were two Black candidates. But, far from being *irrelevant*, these contests are probative of the highly relevant question of *Black cohesion*, which is an essential factor in assessing the percent needed to win—as Dr. Handley *acknowledges*, *see* Handley Rep. 225-2 at 6 (explaining that the analysis considers "the turnout rates of Black and white eligible voters and the degree of *Black cohesion* and white crossover voting for each of these candidates" (emphasis added)). Dr. Handley then further improperly excluded elections that lacked a Black candidate on the ballot, despite conceding that a white Democrat could be a Black-preferred candidate. Handley Dep. at 8:15-9:9. Accordingly, Dr. Handley discarded highly visible elections like the 2016 Presidential and 2015 and 2019 Gubernatorial elections, an exclusion she concedes could impact her analysis. Handley Dep. at 34:7-24. It is improper for an expert to discard *probative* data on the ground that it *hurts* the litigant who hired the expert.

Dr. Handley then included a series of odd-numbered year elections in which only state and local candidates, and not federal candidates, are on the ballot. But as Dr. Handley conceded at the liability phase, it is better to use more highly visible political races to calculate racial polarization in voting. 5/10 Tr. 68:16–21. Yet, in at least three of her off-year elections where she asserts a 50% BVAP district is needed in order for the Black-preferred candidate to prevail, including Nov. 2017 Treasurer (7.7% Black VAP turnout), Oct. 2015 Secretary of State (34.3% Black VAP turnout), and Oct. 2015 Lieut. Governor (34.3% Black VAP turnout), Black turnout was below 35%. *See* Handley Remedial Rep. at 8, Tbl. 2. By contrast, in the even-numbered year elections she considered, when the congressional elections at issue will occur, Black VAP turnout usually was much higher—58.8% in Nov. 2020 U.S. President and U.S. Senate, and 42.8% in Nov. 2018 Secretary of State. (The one exception, Dec. 2018 Secretary of State, had a 17.4% Black VAP

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turnout, a turnout greater than the 17.0% non-Black VAP turnout in that race.) The result is that Dr. Handley is comparing apples to oranges in order to make her math work.

When one excludes the odd-numbered year elections, the total number of probative elections drops from 15 to four, as follows:

- U.S. President Nov. 2020, at 50% BVAP, **53.4**% support for b-p candidate
- U.S. Senate, Nov. 2020, at 50% BVAP, 25.0% support for b-p candidate[4]
- SOS Dec. 2018, at 50% BVAP, **55.9**% support for b-p candidate
- SOS Nov. 2018, at 50% BVAP, 29.7% support for b-p candidate

See Handley Remedial Rep. at 8, Tbl. 2.

In this scenario, assuming that CD5 is drawn to 50% BVAP, a white-bloc voting majority defeats a Black-preferred candidate in *none* of Dr. Handley's 4 probative even-numbered year elections. In two of the races, the Black-preferred candidate prevailed, and in the other two, the Black community did not have a candidate of choice. If CD5 is drawn to 45% BVAP, then a white-bloc voting majority defeats the Black-preferred candidate in only *one* of four elections—the November 2020 presidential election—and only by razor-thin margin (49.6% vote for the Black-preferred candidate). This, of course, strongly suggests that CD5 could be drawn to some value between 45 and 50% BVAP and the Black-preferred candidate would prevail in that race, too. Dr. Handley conceded this point in her deposition today, when she admitted that a district with 46% BVAP would be equally as likely to be effective as a district at 50% BVAP. Handley Dep. at 43:24-44:3 (conceding such a district would "win the same [for Black-preferred candidates] as if it were 50 percent").

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[4] As Dr. Handley notes in her Report, for this election there were more than two Black candidates, and the Black vote was split between the two, making the Black vote non-cohesive. Handley Dep. at 32:10-14.

The point is that nothing in Dr. Handley's analysis negates Dr. Handley's liability-stage concession that a district drawn under 50% BVAP could still provide the Black community an opportunity to elect their candidate of choice. 5/10 Tr. 63:1–12. Nor does her remedial report explain that two of Plaintiffs' other experts, Dr. Palmer and Dr. Lichtman, concluded that it was likely that minorities in districts nearly identical to Plaintiffs' remedial map could elect their candidate of choice in districts with below 50% BVAP. Consistent with his report, Dr. Lichtman testified at the PI hearing that Black candidates of choice could win CD2 or CD5 with a BVAP "[i]n the 40 percent range." 5/10 Tr. 156:23-157:3; Doc. 169-107, at p 62. Dr. Palmer came to the same conclusion: that based on Table 4 of his report, CD2 and CD5 could be drawn below 50% BVAP and still be likely to elect Black-preferred candidates. Doc. 169-106, at p 11; 5/10 Tr. 268:6-9. Similarly, the Amicus also found that Black candidates of choice could likely win in a New Orleans-based district with 41.5% BVAP (in 19 out of 19 key statewide elections) and a Baton Rouge-based district with 42.9% BVAP (in 14 out of 19 key statewide elections). Amicus Curiae Br., Doc. 220, at 22-24, 26-27. Dr. Handley simply proves that the remedial map plainly "ramped up" the necessary BVAP of CD5 from 40-46% to 51.98%, in clear contravention of *Cooper v. Harris*. 137 S. Ct. at 147.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should reject Plaintiffs' remedial plan.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on June 27, 2022, this document was filed electronically on the Court's electronic case filing system. Notice of the filing will be served on all counsel of record through the Court's system. Copies of the filing are available on the Court's system.

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Exhibit A

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PRESS ROBINSON, EDGAR CAGE, DOROTHY NAIRNE, EDWIN RENÉ SOULÉ, ALICE WASHINGTON, CLEE EARNEST LOWE, DAVANTE LEWIS, MARTHA DAVIS, AMBROSE SIMS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ("NAACP") LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE, and POWER COALITION FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE, Plaintiffs, v. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for Louisiana, Defendant.	Case No. 3:22-cv-00211
EDWARD GALMON, SR., CIARA HART, NORRIS HENDERSON, and TRAMELLE HOWARD, Plaintiffs, v. R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Louisiana Secretary of State, Defendant.	Civil Action: 3:22-cv-00214

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REPORT OF DR. DOUGLAS JOHNSON

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein. The following is true of my own personal knowledge and I otherwise believe it to be true.

2. I am the President of National Demographics corporation and have consulted on redistricting nationally. A copy of my CV is attached to this report as Appendix A.

3. I was hired by the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana on June 23, 2022.

4. I was asked to review the anticipated plaintiff's proposed remedial Congressional map for Louisiana to identify whether race appears to be the predominate consideration used in drawing that map.

5. For my analysis I acquired and loaded into my computer the Louisiana state redistricting geography and data from Caliper Corporation, the Enacted Congressional map geographic shapefile from the state's redistricting data website, and the Proposed Remedial Plan from plaintiff's submission in this case.

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6. I am aware that the state has a census block equivalency file for adjusted Vote Tabulation Districts (VTDs) on its website, but in the interests of time I relied on Mr. Fairfax's statement in his report that there are no differences in Proposed Remedial Congressional Districts 2 and 5 between that file and the VTD layer provided by Caliper Corporation (which is the original file from the Census Bureau's 2020 Census geography).

7. I imported the Enacted Congressional map and the Proposed Remedial Congressional Districts map into Maptitude for Redistricting software from Caliper Corporation.

8. The core of my analysis was the identification of Louisiana Parishes split by Congressional Districts 2 and 5 of the Proposed Remedial Congressional Districts map, and the

analysis of whether the divisions of those parishes closely follow racial lines. Mr. Fairfax reported that he drew the Proposed Remedial Congressional map focused on grouping VTDs into districts, so for this analysis I used racial and ethnic data compiled at the VTD level of geography.

9. I identified nine Parishes that the Proposed Remedial Congressional map divided in Congressional Districts 2 or 5: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, Ouachita, Rapides, and Tangipahoa. (An additional two Parishes, Vernon and St. Tammany, are divided in the map, but those neither CD2 nor CD5 has any part of those two Parishes so they are not relevant to this analysis).

10. For each of those nine Parishes, I identified the number of VTDs in the Parish, the number of Parish VTDs that have Black majorities of Voting Age Population (VAP) using the "percentage any part Black" data from the 2020 Census, and the number of VTDs that were drawn into an out of CD 2 or CD 5 by each Parish dividing line. I also prepared thematic maps showing the Black VAP Percentage of each VTD with the Congressional Districts lines overlaid.

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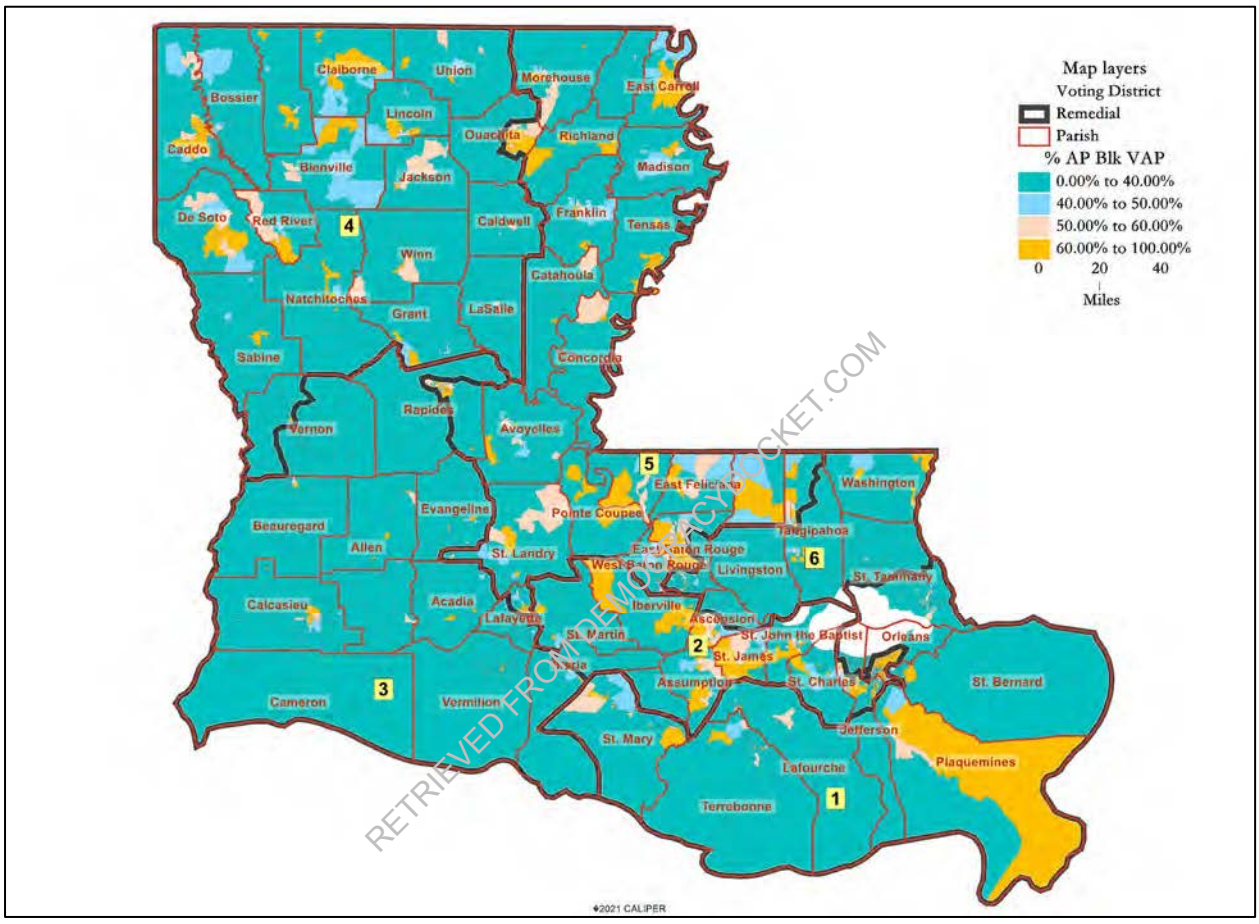
11. Whenever this report refers to "majority Black" demographics, I am referring to where the "Any part Black" Voting Age Population count is a majority of the Total Voting Age Population.

12. In four of the nine Parishes divided by CD2 and CD5, the dividing line was precisely drawn to ensure that 100% -- every single majority-Black VTD – was drawn into CD2 or CD5, while only picking up an average of 37.4% of all VTDs in those four Parishes (Ascension, Jefferson, Lafayette, and Ouachita).

13. Parish by Parish details are provided below, but the conclusion is that where the Proposed Remedial Congressional map drew CD2 or CD5 in a way that divided a Parish, CD2 and CD5 were drawn to pick up 50.0% of the total number the VTDs in those Parishes. And in so doing

CD2 and CD5 picked up 96.2% of the majority-Black VTDs in those Parishes. Individual Parish maps follow, but here is the statewide map:

Statewide Percentage Black VAP by VTD

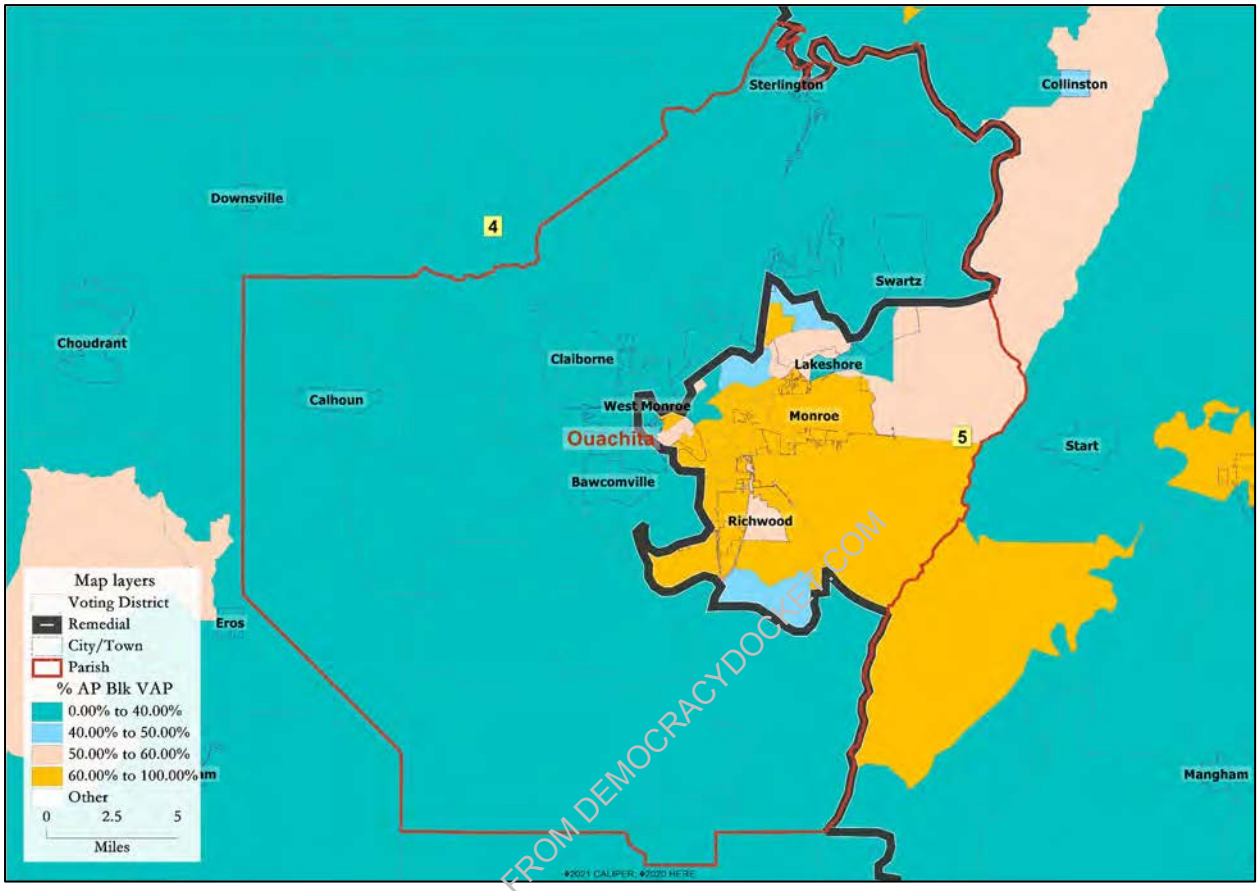


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14. Full-page versions of each of the Black VAP maps are included in Appendix B to this report.

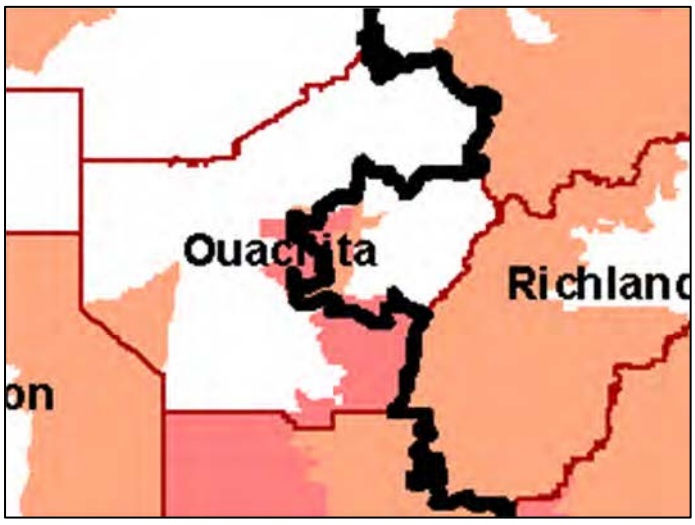
15. The maps cited below as "Mr. Fairfax's Education and Risk Factor Maps" are zoomed-in versions of the maps provided by Mr. Fairfax in Appendix C to his report, on pages 103 (for Education) and 104 (for CRE Risk Factors). These maps show the illustrative map boundaries rather than the official proposed Remedial Congressional District boundaries, as Mr. Fairfax did not provide updated maps with the new plan.

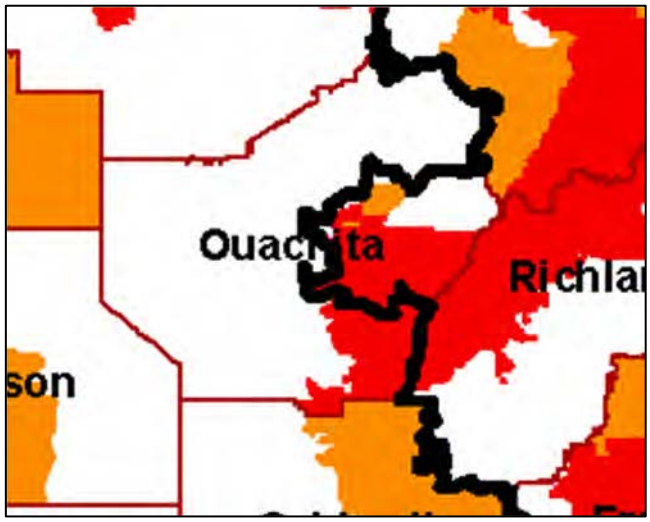
Ouachita Black VAP



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Mr. Fairfax's Ouachita Education and Risk Factor Maps





16. In the "Black VAP" map above, the red line indicates the boundary of the Ouachita Parish. The black line indicates the division of Ouachita between CD4 in the west, north and south, and CD5 in the center-east.

17. The teal-colored areas are VTDs that are less than 40% Black. The light blue areas are 40% to 50% Black. The peach-colored areas are 50% to 60% Black, and the orange areas are 60% Black or higher.

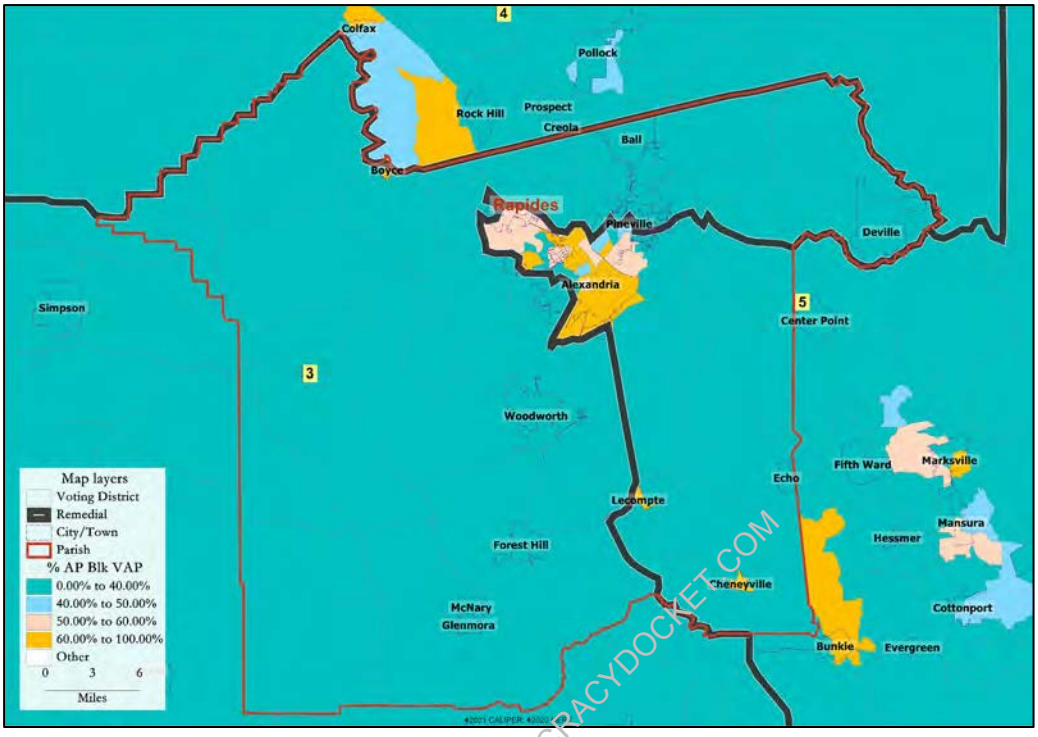
18. This map shows how precisely the drawing of the CD5 boundary followed the race of the VTDs: every VTD that is 40% Black or higher is drawn into CD5. There is almost a perfect match between the racial demographics of the VTDs and where the district line is drawn.

19. The Congressional District line matches much closer with the racial data than with the "No HS Edu%" map and the "% with >3 Risk Factors" map provided by Mr. Fairfax. The red shading on both of those maps does not include the area north of Monroe, but proposed Congressional District 5 does include that area. And the area south of where the CD5 boundary is drawn is clearly included in the red portions of both of the maps provided by Mr. Fairfax, but it is not included in CD5. In contrast, the area shown in red in Mr. Fairfax's maps but not included in CD5 is less than 40% Black, which indicates race predominated over the factors shown in Mr. Fairfax's "Education" and "Risk Factors" maps in decisions regarding where to draw the Congressional District lines.

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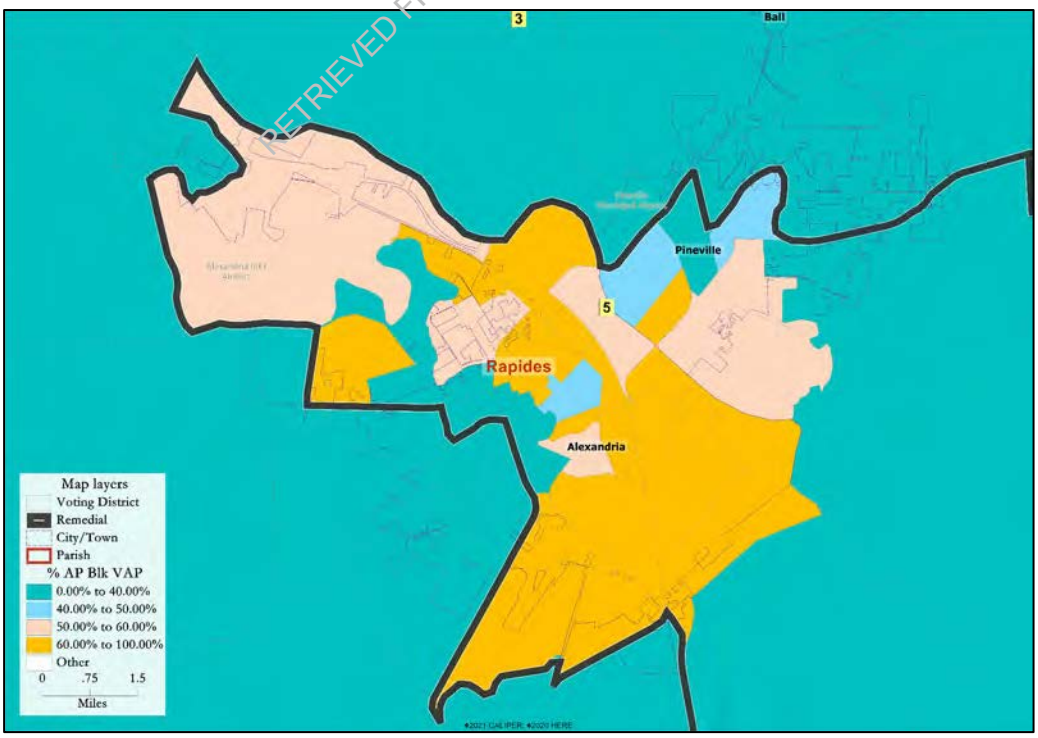
20. Even though it is not a majority-Black VTD, a 40 to 50% Black VTD is often useful to include in a majority-Black district, if it means a "less than 40% Black" VTD somewhere else can be excluded. Thus, the inclusion of nearly-majority Black VTDs increases the concern that race was the predominate factor in drawing the lines, rather than reducing that concern.

Rapides Black VAP (all)

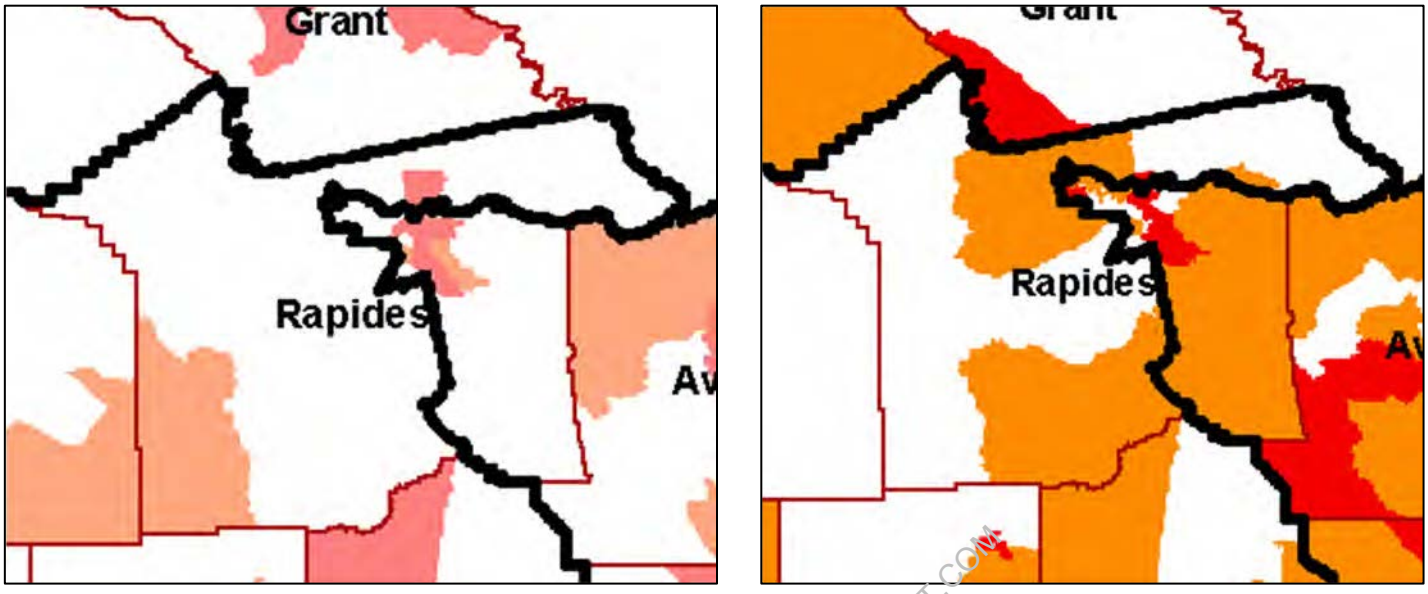


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Rapides Black VAP (detail)



Mr. Fairfax's Rapides Education and Risk Factor Maps

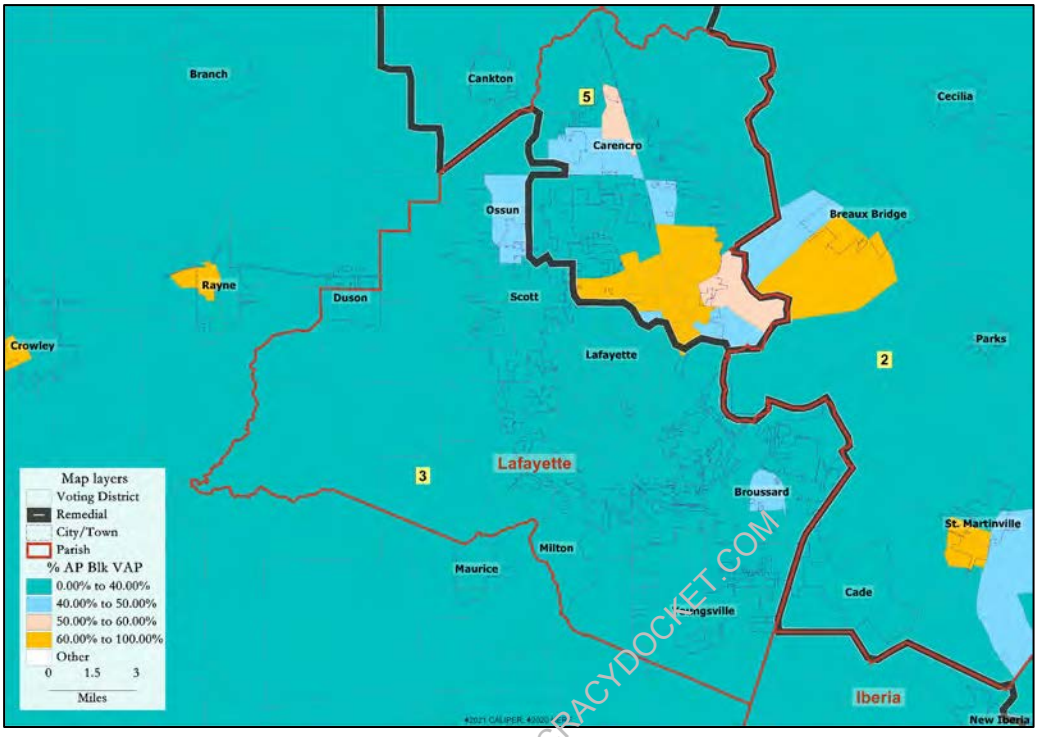


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21. The portion of Rapides Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 5 includes every majority-Black (and every 40% Black) VTD except one VTD way up in Boyce, while including only 46.1% of all VTDs in the Parish.

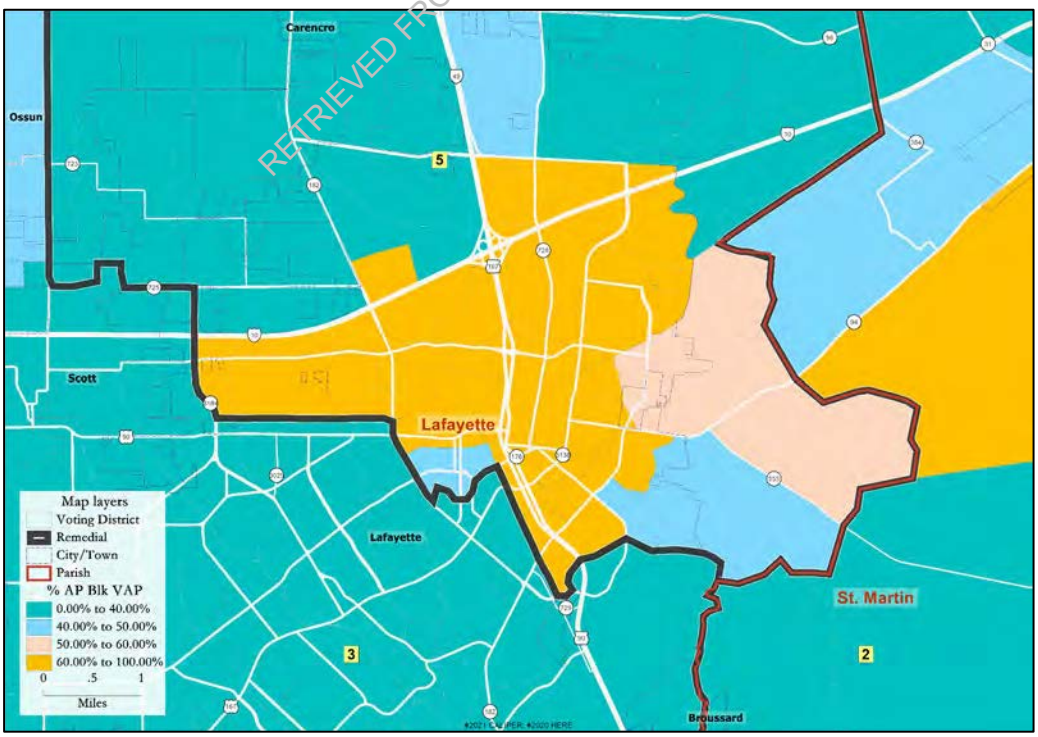
22. The VTDs pulled into CD5 in Rapides Parish match much more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps, both of which show areas with either high rates of less than a high school education or areas with more than 3 CRE Risk factors immediately adjacent to, but not included in, proposed Remedial CD5.

Lafayette Black VAP (all)

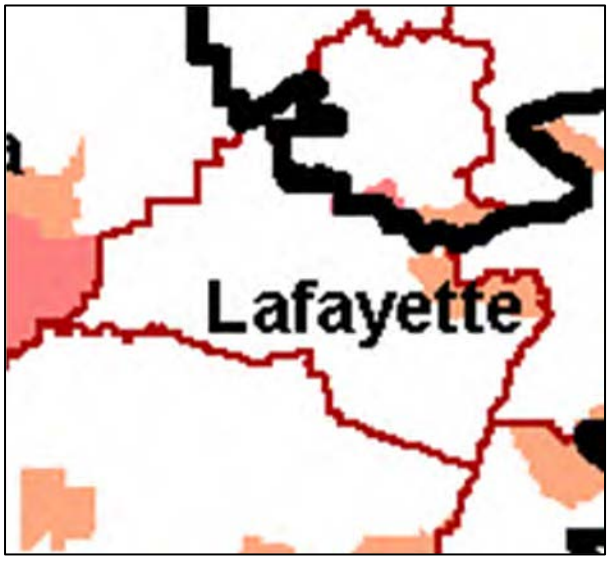


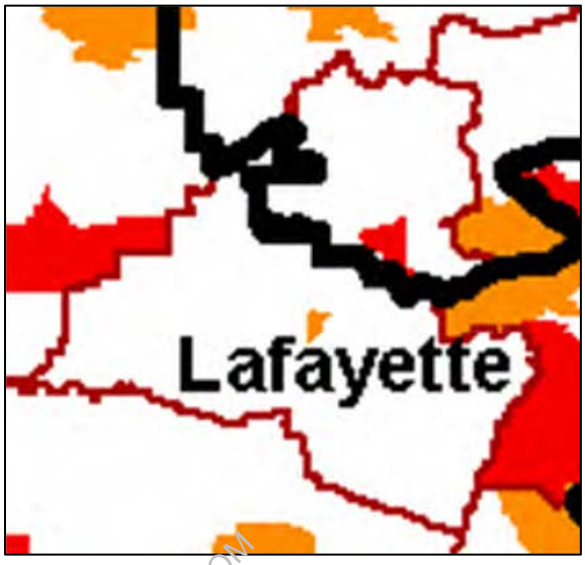
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Lafayette Black VAP (detail)



Mr. Fairfax's Lafayette Education and Risk Factor Maps





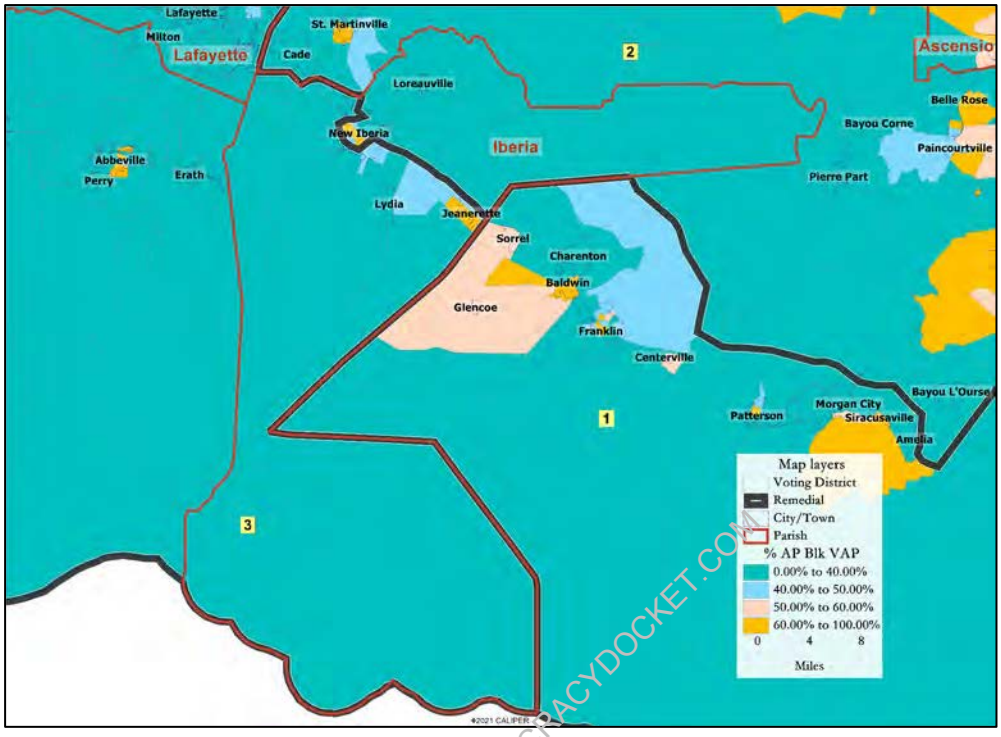
23. As the images above show, the portion of Lafayette Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 5 includes every majority-Black (and every 40% Black) VTD in the Parish, while including just 40.9% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

24. None of the VTDs pulled from Lafayette Parish into CD5 show up in either the red or the orange categories shown on Mr. Fairfax's "No High School education %" map. And only one tiny area shows up with any shading on the ">3 CRE Risk Factors" map.

25. The VTDs pulled into CD5 in Lafayette Parish match much more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps.

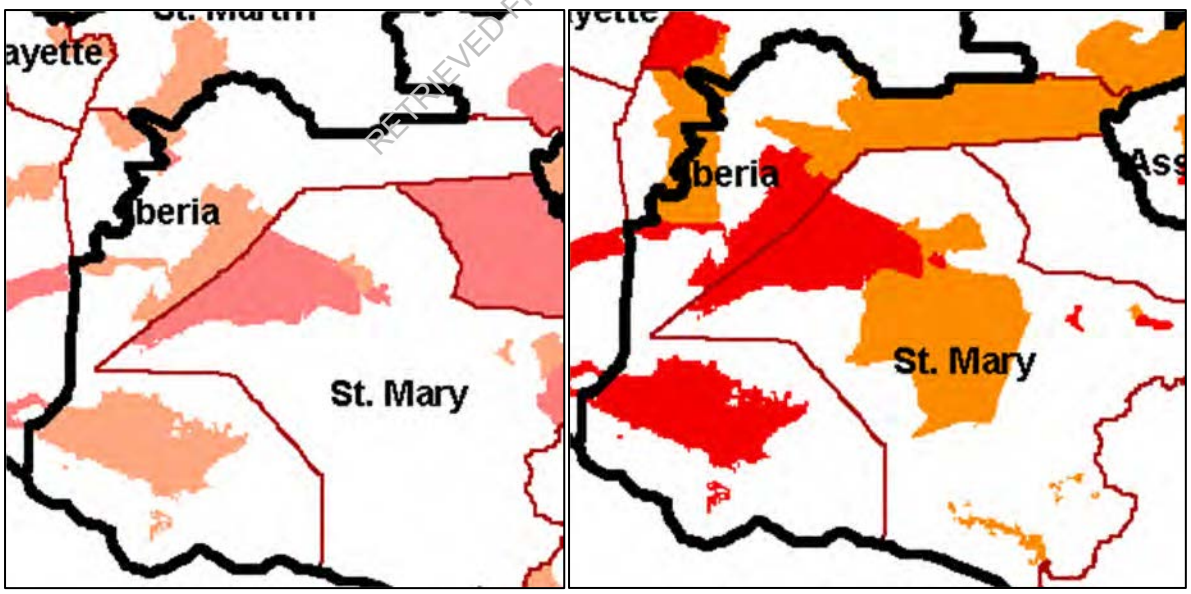
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Iberia Black VAP (all)



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Mr. Fairfax's Iberia Education and Risk Factor Maps



Iberia Black VAP (detail)



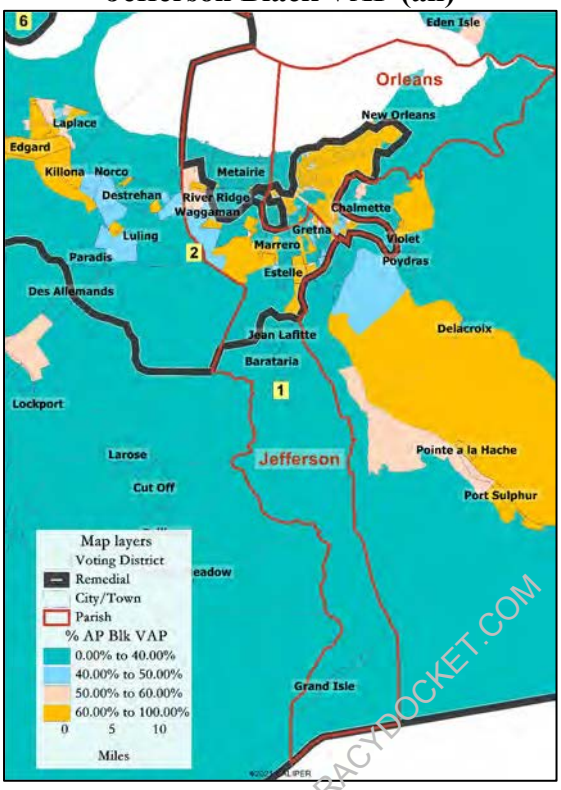
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26. As the images above show, the portion of Iberia Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 2 includes 80.0% of the majority-Black VTDs in the Parish, while including just 48.6% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

27. None of the VTDs pulled from Iberia Parish into CD2 show up in either the red or the orange categories shown on Mr. Fairfax's "No High School education %" map. The area pulled into CD2 does show up as orange on the ">3 CRE Risk Factors" map, but the orange area on that map extends much farther west than CD2, whose western border stops precisely at the western edge of the majority-Black VTDs in New Iberia.

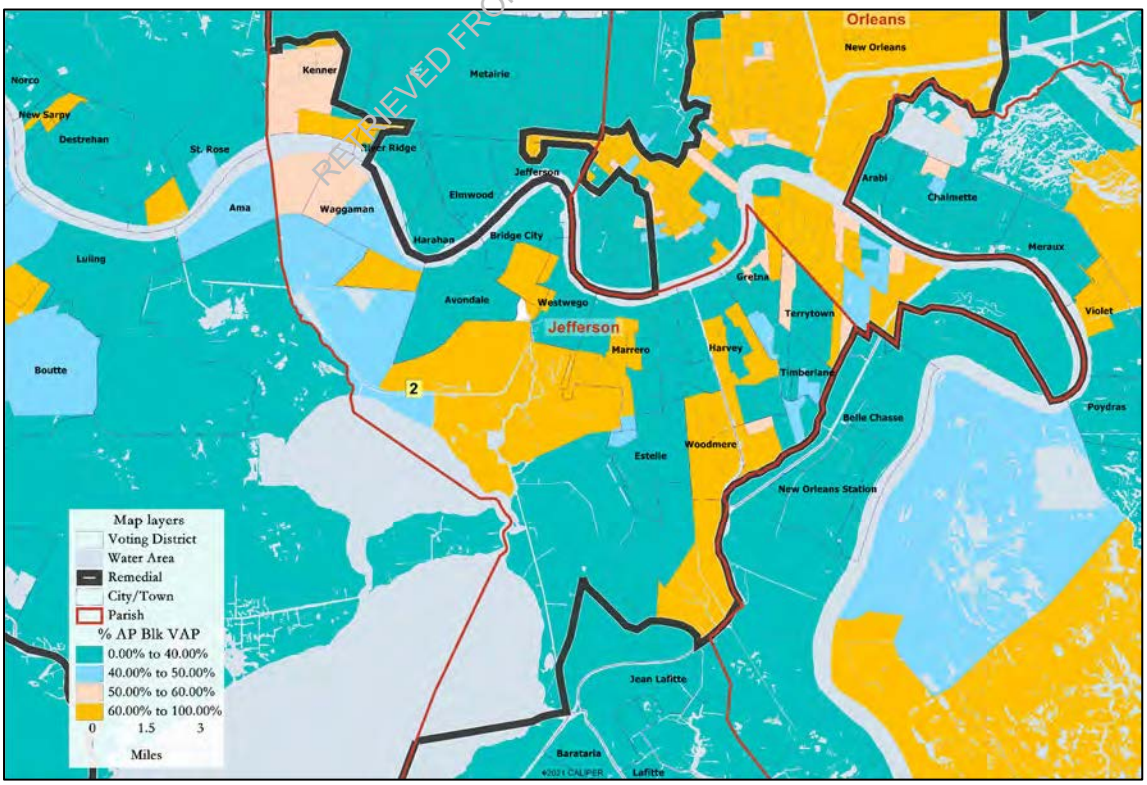
28. The VTDs pulled into CD2 in Iberia Parish match much more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps.

Jefferson Black VAP (all)

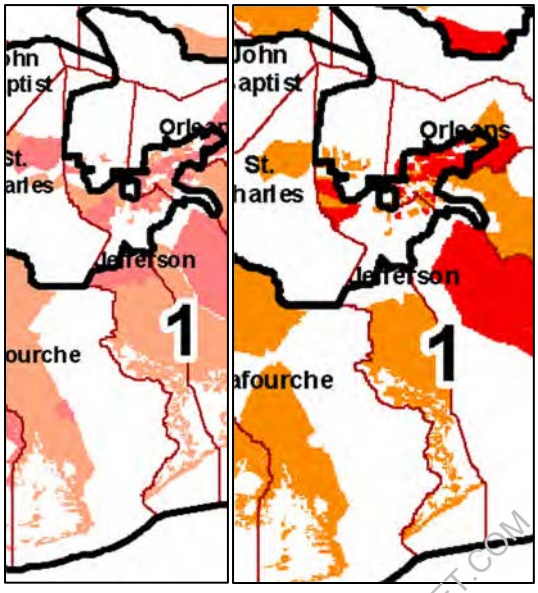


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Jefferson Black VAP (detail)



Mr. Fairfax's Jefferson Education and Risk Factor Maps



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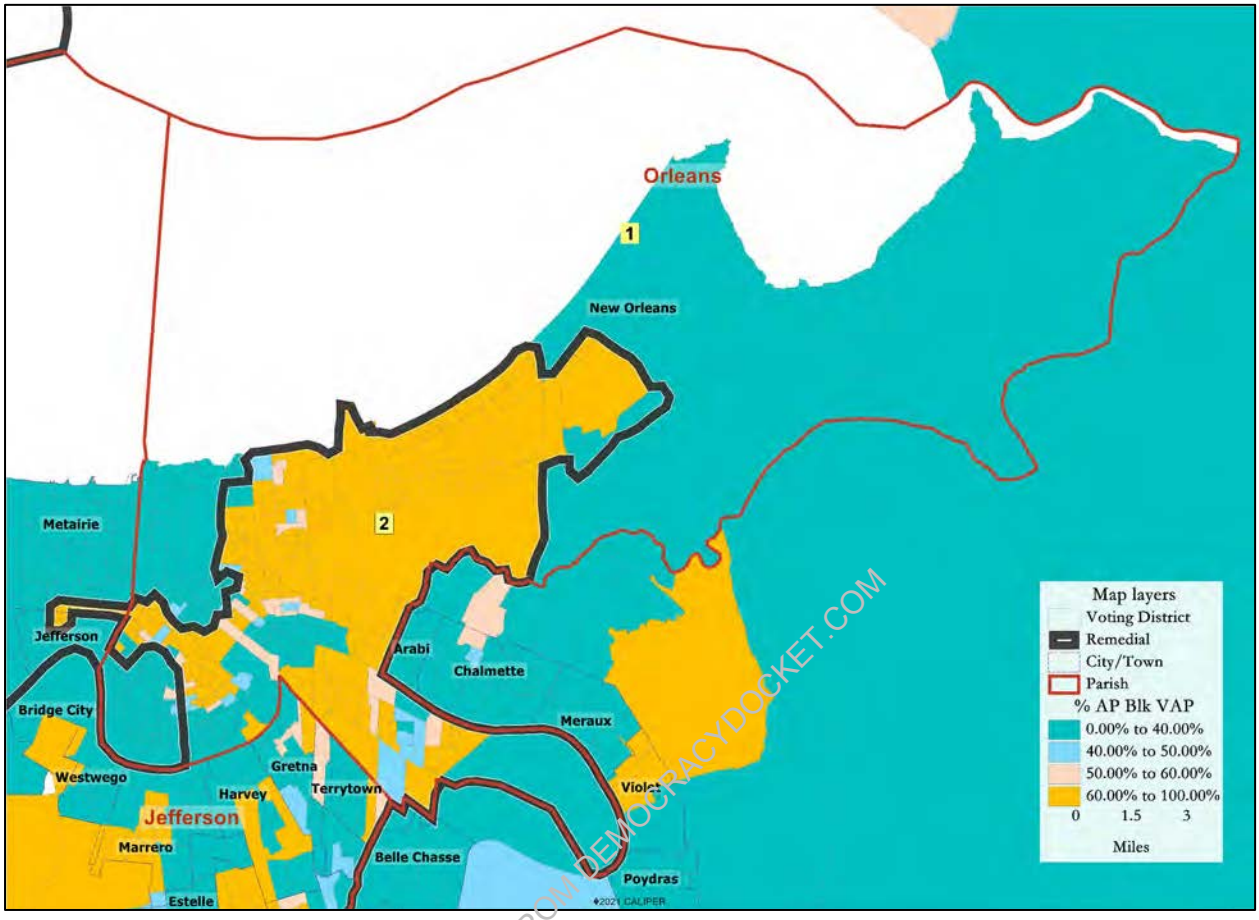
29. As the images above show, the portion of Jefferson Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 2 includes 100% of the majority-Black VTDs in the Parish, while including just 40.9% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

30. Areas immediately south of the proposed Remedial CD 2 southern border in Jefferson Parish show up in the highest (red) category of the "No High School Education" map, but those areas are not majority-Black and were not included in proposed Remedial CD 2.

31. Areas north and south of the proposed Remedial CD 2 southern border in Jefferson Parish show up in the highest (red) category of the ">3 CRE Risk Factors" map, but those areas are not majority-Black and were not included in proposed Remedial CD 2.

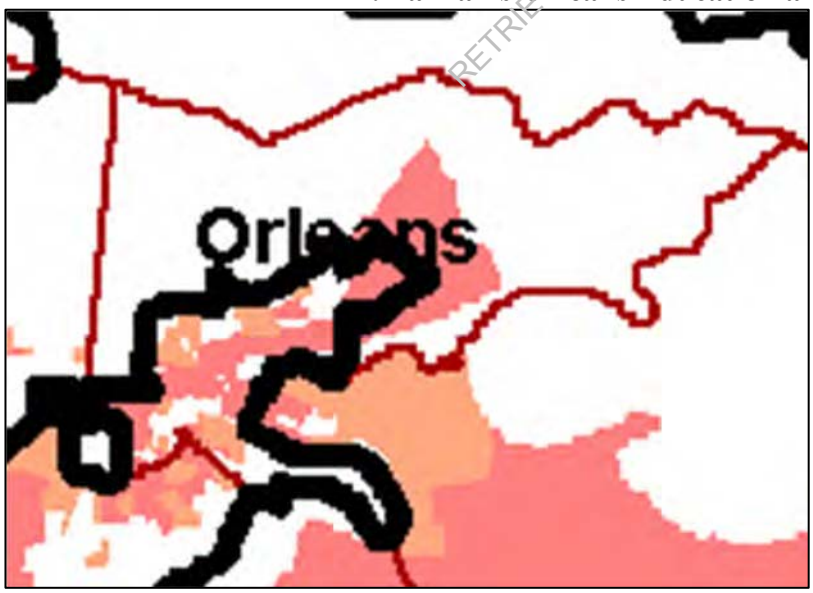
32. The VTDs pulled into CD 2 in Jefferson Parish match much more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps.

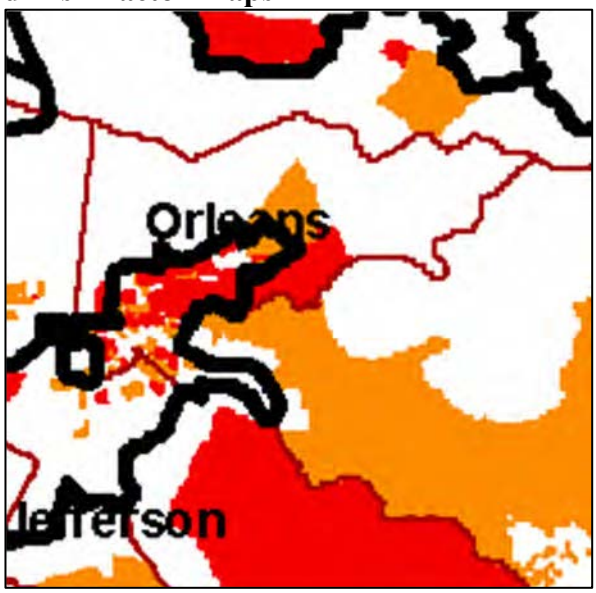
Orleans Black VAP



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Mr. Fairfax's Orleans Education and Risk Factor Maps





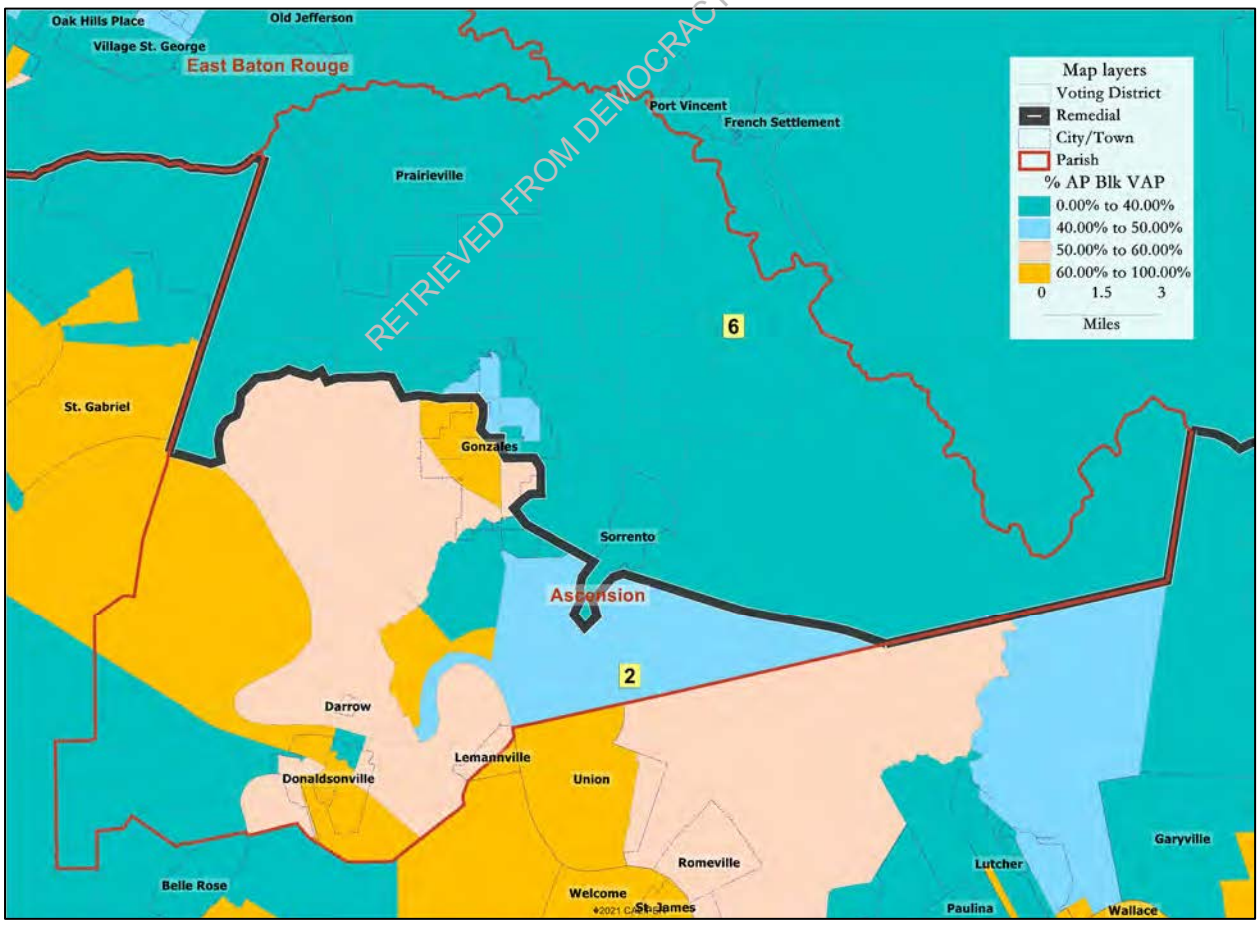
33. As the images above show, the portion of Orleans Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 2 includes 98.9% of the majority-Black VTDs in the Parish, while including just 73.3% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

34. Areas immediately east of the proposed Remedial CD 2 border show up in the highest red categories of both Mr. Fairfax's "No High School education %" map and his CRE Risk Factors map, but those areas are not majority-Black and were not included in the proposed Remedial CD 2.

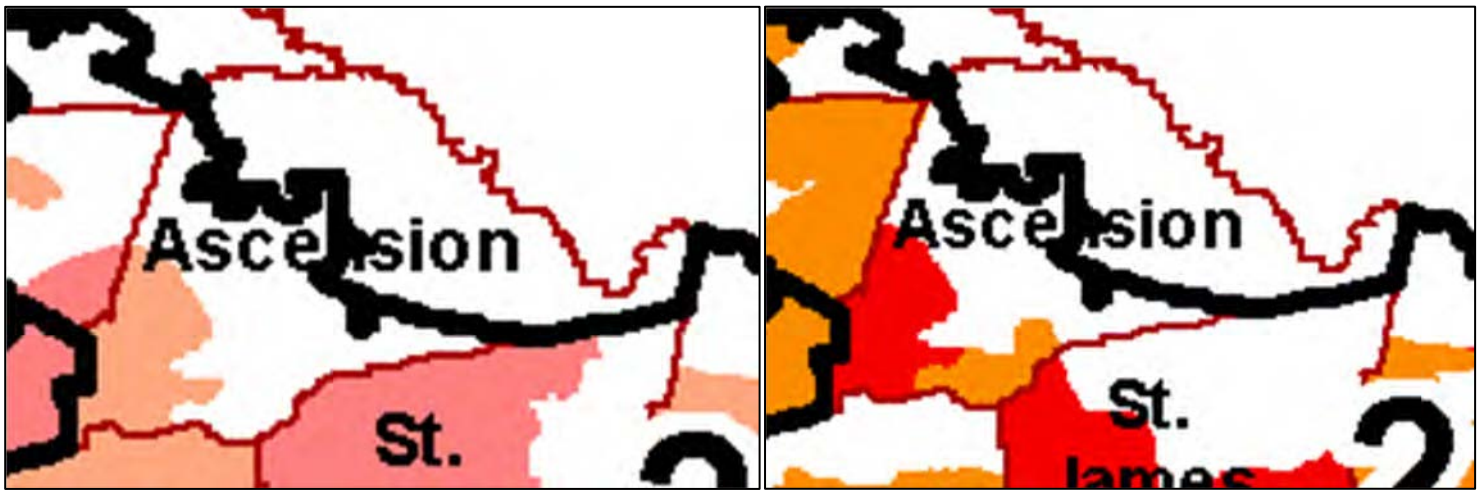
35. The VTDs pulled into CD 2 in Orleans Parish match much more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps.

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Ascension Black VAP



Mr. Fairfax's Ascension Education and Risk Factor Maps



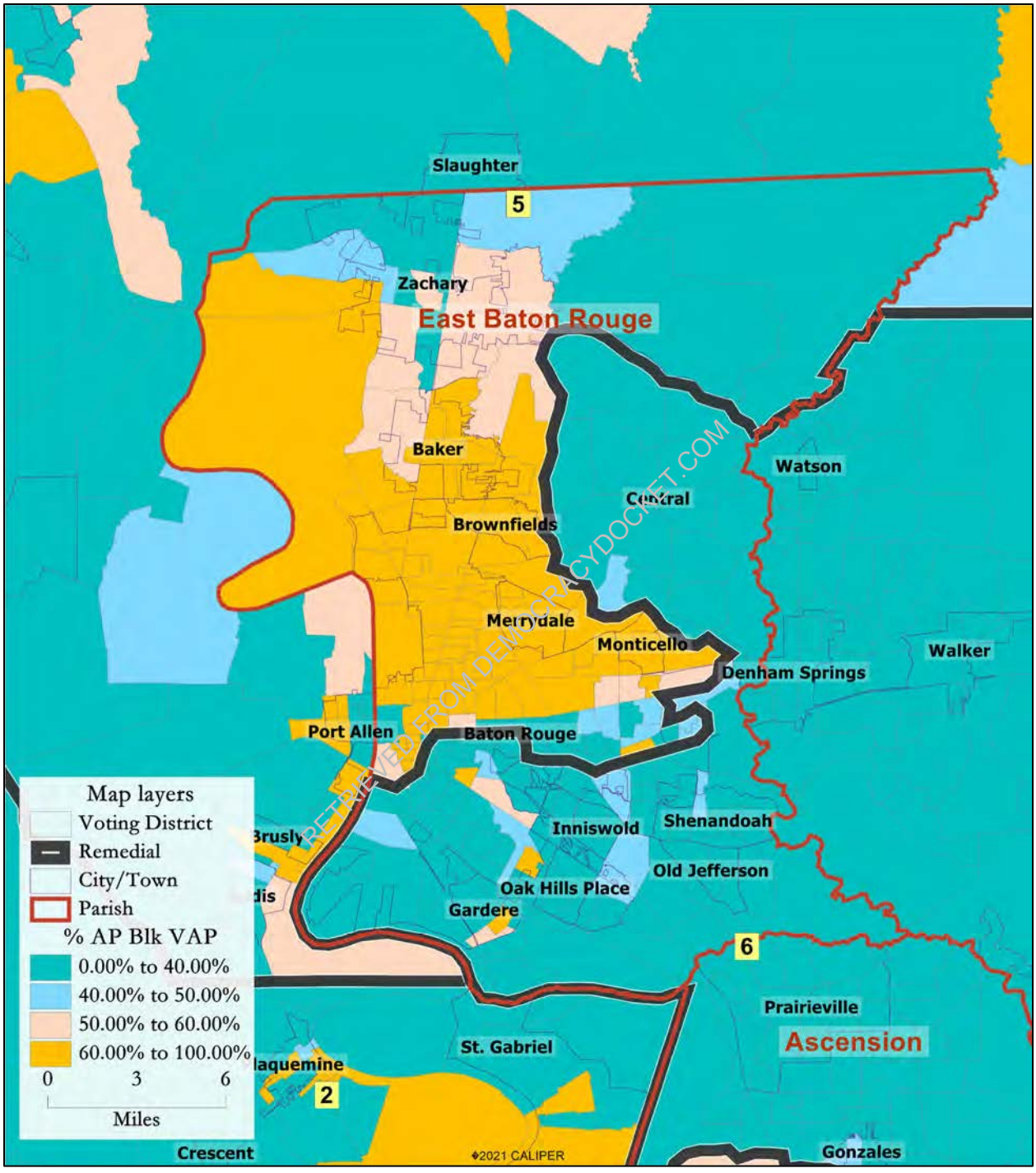
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36. As the images above show, the portion of Ascension Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 2 includes 100% of the majority-Black VTDs in the Parish, while including just 28.1% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

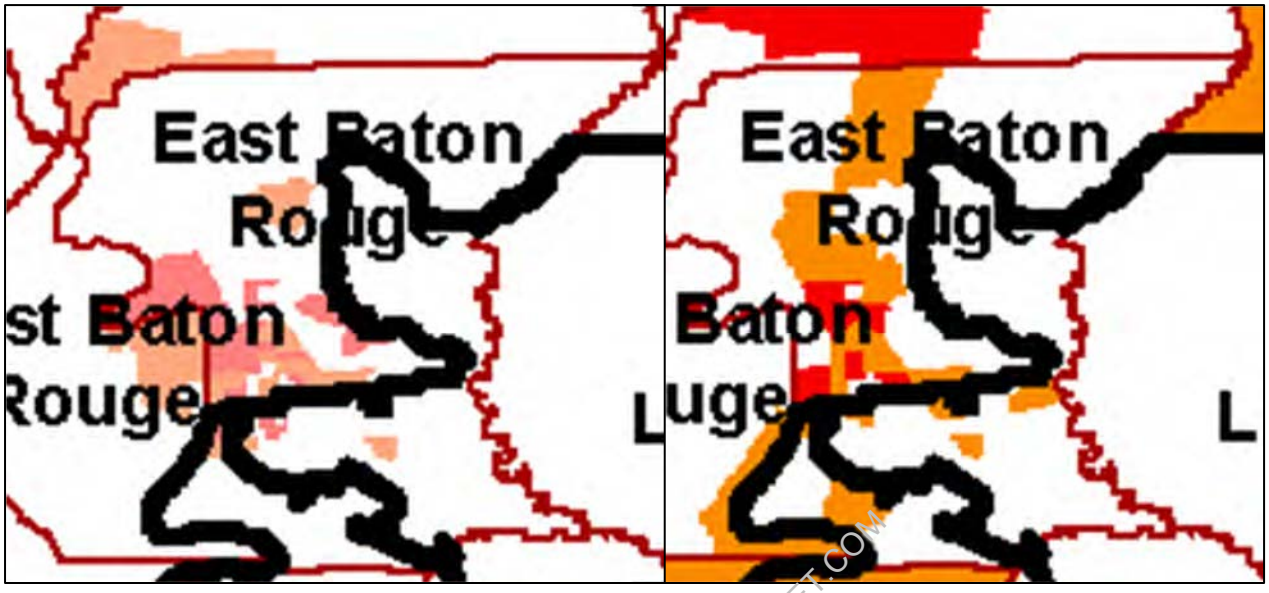
37. The VTDs pulled from Ascension Parish into CD 2 extend much farther northeast than those that show up as either the red or the orange categories shown on Mr. Fairfax's "No High School education %" and ">3 CRE Risk Factors" maps. But the proposed CD2 boundary stops precisely at the end of the majority-Black VTDs in Gonzales.

38. The VTDs pulled into CD 2 in Ascension Parish match much more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps.

East Baton Rouge Black VAP



Mr. Fairfax's East Baton Rouge Education and Risk Factor Maps



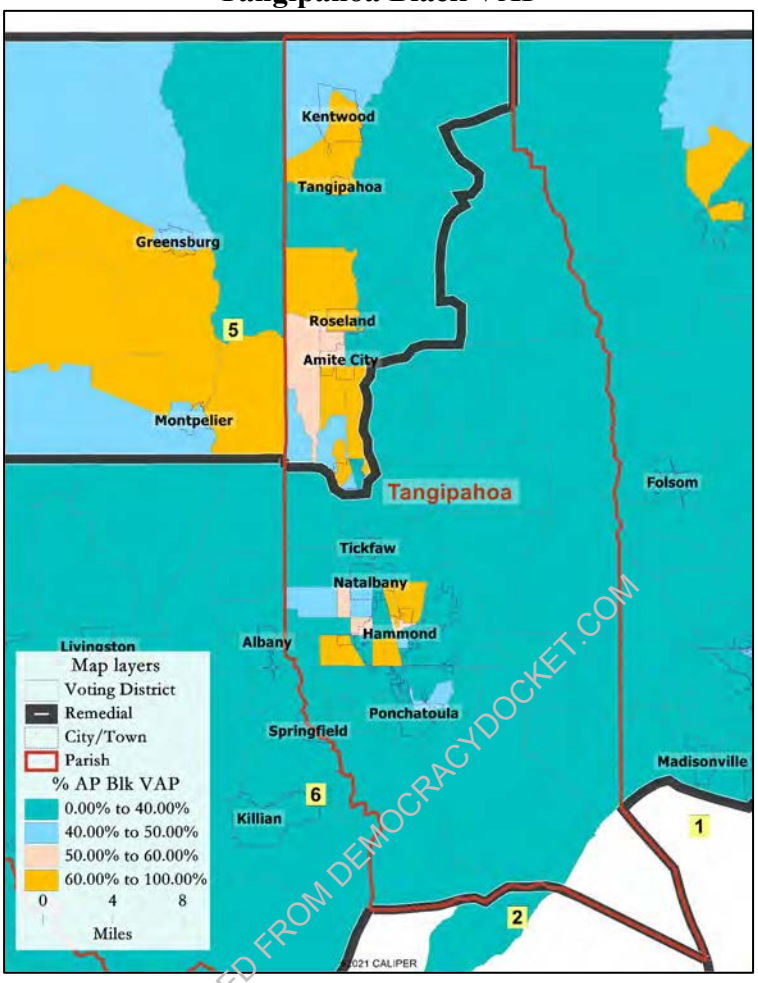
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39. As the images above show, the portion of East Baton Rouge Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 5 includes 94.7% of the majority-Black VTDs in the Parish, while including just 53.5% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

40. The VTDs pulled from East Baton Rouge Parish into CD 5 extend much farther east and southeast than those that show up as either the red or the orange categories shown on Mr. Fairfax's "No High School education %" and ">3 CRE Risk Factors" maps. But the proposed CD 5 boundary stops precisely at the end of the majority-Black VTDs along the border between Central and Brownfields and its surrounding communities.

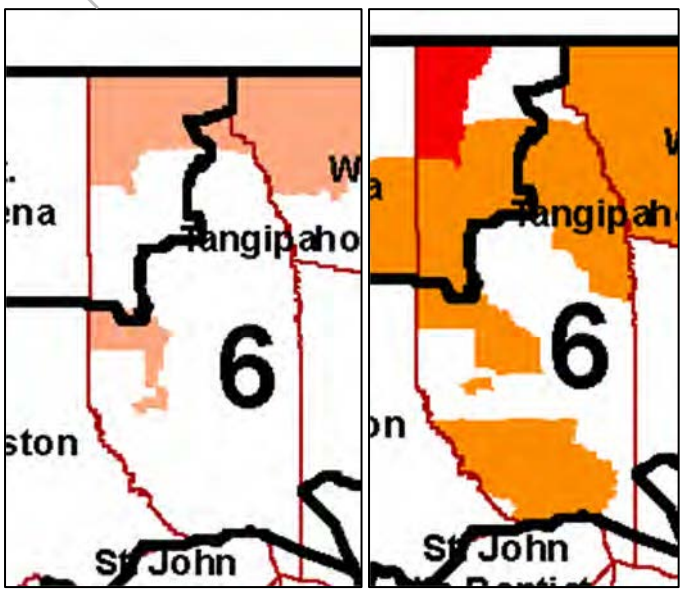
41. While the correlation is not as close as it is in the other divided parishes, the VTDs pulled into CD 5 in East Baton Rouge Parish match more precisely with race than they do with the Education and CRE Risk Factor maps.

Tangipahoa Black VAP



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Mr. Fairfax's Tangipahoa Education and Risk Factor Maps



42. As the images above show, the portion of Tangipahoa Parish carved out for inclusion in proposed Remedial Congressional District 5 includes 57.9% of the majority-Black VTDs in the Parish, while including just 24.7% of the total VTDs in the Parish.

43. Curiously, the northeastern portion of Tangipahoa Parish pulled into CD 5 does not appear with any shading on the ">3 CRE Risk Factors" map, while the southern portion pulled into CD 5 does not appear with any shading on the "No High School Education %" map.

44. With the exception of just one VTD, the southern boundary of the portion of Tangipahoa Parish pulled into CD 5 follows the boundaries of the VTDs that are 40% Black or higher.

45. The following table summarizes the number of VTDs, the number of majority-Black VTDs, and the shares of each pulled into CD2 or CD5 in each Parish divided by CD2 or CD5 in the proposed Remedial Congressional District Map:

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	Parish Totals		Share of All Parish VTDs			Share of APMajBlkVAP VTDs		
County	Parish VTDs	Maj-APBlkVAP	D2	D5	Pct	D2	D5	Pct
Ascension	64	14	18		28.1%	14		100.0%
East Baton Rouge	213	94		114	53.5%		89	94.7%
Iberia	37	5	18		48.6%	4		80.0%
Jefferson	274	42	112		40.9%	42		100.0%
Lafayette	127	23		41	32.3%		23	100.0%
Orleans	352	184	258		73.3%	182		98.9%
Ouachita	87	33		42	48.3%		33	100.0%
Rapides	102	30		47	46.1%		29	96.7%
Tangipahoa	85	19		21	24.7%		11	57.9%
Total	1341	444		Overall	50.0%		Overall	96.2%
APBlkVAP = "Any Part Black Voting Age Population"								

46. In total, only 33.1% of the VTDs in these split parishes are majority-Black (444 of 1,341). But 59.6% of the VTDs from these split parishes assigned to CD2 are majority-Black, and 69.8% of the VTDs from these split parishes assigned to CD5 are majority-Black.

47. As drawn, the Remedial CD2 is 51% Any Part Black VAP. Without the VTDs from the split parishes, it is only 37%.

48. As drawn, the Remedial CD5 is 52 % Any Part Black VAP. Without the VTDs from the split parishes, it is only 38%.

49. My hourly rate is $350 per hour. My fee is not contingent on my opinions and analysis for this case.

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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on the 27th day of June, 2022, at Glendale, California.

By: 

Dr. Douglas Johnson

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Douglas Johnson, Ph.D.

APPENDIX A – Resume

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Resume of Douglas Johnson, Ph.D.

P.O. Box 5271
Glendale, CA 91221
djohnson@NDCresearch.com

phone: (310) 200-2058
fax: (818) 254-1221

Employment

President, National Demographics Corporation, 2006 – present.
Research Affiliate, Rose Institute of State and Local Government, 2001 – present.
Senior Analyst, National Demographics Corporation, 2001 – 2006.
Project Manager and Senior Manager at three internet startup companies, 1999 - 2001.
U.S. Representative Stephen Horn, Legislative Director and System Manager. 1993 – 1997.
Coro Foundation, Fellowship in Public Affairs. 1992 – 1993.
Rose Institute for State and Local Government, Student Manager. 1989 – 1992.

Education

Claremont Graduate University, Ph.D. in Political Science, 2015.
Dissertation: "Independent Redistricting Commissions: Hopes and Lessons Learned."
UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management, MBA, 1999.
Claremont McKenna College, BA in Government (Political Science), 1992.

Academic Honors

Graduated Cum Laude from Claremont McKenna College.
Phi Beta Kappa. Philip Roland Prize for Excellence in Public Policy.

Publications and Articles

The CVRA [California Voting Rights Act] Tsunami Rolls Across California, with Dr. Justin Levitt. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association 2018 conference as part of the August 31, 2018, panel entitled "California Election Reform: Has It Improved Representation and Participation?"
Quiet Revolution in California Local Government Gains Momentum, Rose Institute of State and Local Government White Paper on California Voting Rights Act, November 3, 2016.
Visalia Times, "How to draw new city council districts," September 19, 2014.
Christian Science Monitor, "Let the public help draw voting districts," October 25, 2013.
New York Times, "The Case for Open Primaries," February 19, 2009.
Los Angeles Times Opinion Articles:
"A neighbor's help on redistricting" June 24, 2007.
"A Trojan horse primary for the GOP" February 25, 2007.
"Where a porn palace stood" (article on redevelopment), July 30, 2006.
Fresno Bee Opinion Article: "The Poison Handshake" June 15, 2004.
Redistricting in America. Rose Institute of State and Local Government, 2010.
Restoring the Competitive Edge: California's Need for Redistricting Reform and the Likely Impact of Proposition 77. Rose Institute of State and Local Government, 2005.
"Competitive Districts in California" Rose Institute of State and Local Government, 2005.
Latinos and Redistricting: "Californios For Fair Representation" and California Redistricting in the 1980s. Rose Institute of State and Local Government, 1991.

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Douglas M. Johnson, Ph.D.

Independent and Advisory Commission Redistricting Projects

Ohio Redistricting Commission, "Independent Map-Drawer," 2022
Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, lead Subject Matter Expert consultant, 2021
Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission, technical consultant, 2021
City of Menlo Park Advisory Districting Commission, lead technical consultant, 2018
Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, lead technical consultant, 2001-2008
San Diego City Council Independent Redistricting Commission, lead technical consultant, 2011
City of Surprise Advisory Commission on Redistricting, 2011
Pasadena City Council Advisory Commission on Redistricting, co-lead technical consultant, 2011
Pasadena Unified School Board Advisory Commission on Redistricting, co-lead technical consultant, 2011
City of Modesto Independent Redistricting Commission, lead technical consultant, 2011
City of Modesto Independent Districting Commission, lead technical consultant, 2008

Litigation Experience

"Independent Mapmaker," State of Ohio 2022 redistricting. Appointed by Ohio Redistricting Commission under order of the State Supreme Court, *League of Women Voters of Ohio et al vs Ohio Redistricting Commission et al*, Case No. 2022-0303.
After the "Independent Mapmaker" named by the Democratic members of the Commission had to leave the project early, both sides agreed my acting as sole "Independent Mapmaker" to continue working on State House and State Senate redistricting maps.

Expert witness declaration for the City of Redondo Beach, California, in *City of Redondo Beach vs State of California*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case Case No. BS172218 litigation regarding the California Voter Participation Act (currently pending).

Expert witness declaration for West Contra Costa Unified School District in *Ruiz-Lozito vs West Contra Costa Unified School District* litigation under the California Voting Rights Act, Contra Costa Superior Court Case Number C18-00570 (currently pending).

Expert witness declaration, deposition and testimony for Kern County, California, in *Luna v County of Kern* litigation under the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Expert witness declaration and testimony for North Carolina in *Covington v State of North Carolina* litigation under the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Expert witness declaration for City of Fullerton in *Jamarillo v City of Fullerton* litigation under the California Voting Rights Act.

Expert witness declaration for City of Whittier in *Diego v City of Whittier* litigation under the California Voting Rights Act.

Expert witness declaration and deposition for plaintiff in *Harris vs Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission* litigation.

Expert witness declaration and deposition for Santa Clarita Community College District in *Solis v Santa Clarita Community College District* litigation under the California Voting Rights Act.

Expert witness declaration for the Ohio Redistricting Commission in *League of Women Voters of Ohio, et al., v. Ohio Redistricting Commission*, combined Case Numbers Case 2021-1193, 2021-1198 and 2021-1210.

Expert witness declaration, deposition and testimony for City of Highland in *Garrett v City of Highland* litigation under the California Voting Rights Act.

Expert witness declaration, deposition and testimony for City of Palmdale in *Jauregui et al vs City of Palmdale* and *Garrett v City of Highland* litigation under the California Voting Rights Act.

Testified as 30(b)(6) "Most Knowledgeable" witness for Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission in *Arizona Minority Coalition v Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, including seven days of direct testimony and cross-examination in the state court case. Also testified in the related federal court case.

Consulting expert for the following jurisdictions on their California Voting Rights Act-related cases, including preparing analysis and assisting with witness and attorney preparation: Cities of Anaheim; Compton, Modesto, Poway, Santa Clara, Santa Clarita, and Whittier; Santa Clarita Community College District; and Tulare Health Care District.

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Douglas M. Johnson, Ph.D.

Speaker or Panelist

California League of Cities Los Angeles County Chapter, Keynote Speaker, "Redistricting Wrap-Up", March 3, 2022.

Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, "Redistricting Update," December 3, 2021.

California League of Cities Mayors and Council Members Executive Forum, "Coping with the New Reality of By-District Elections," June, 2020.

San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, ,June 26, 2019

Community Roundtable, " What's at Stake in the 2020 Census?," Hosted by U.S. Representative Ted Lieu. June 19, 2019.

Community Roundtable, "The Importance of the Census," Hosted by U.S. Representative Judy Chu. May 30, 2019.

League of Women Voters of Burbank and Glendale, Keynote Speaker, "Town Hall meeting on SB415" (The California Voter Participation Rights Act), May 8, 2018.

California League of Cities, City Manager Department Annual Conference, Panelist, "CVRA and the Profound Impact on Local Governance," February 15, 2019.

California League of Cities, Mayors and Councilmembers Executive Forum, Moderator, "The California Voting Rights Act and the District-Drawing Process," June 29, 2018.

California League of Cities, City Attorney Department, panelist, "The California Voting Rights Act: Recent Legislation & Litigation Outcomes," May 3, 2018.

California League of Cities, City Clerk Department, Co-Presenter, "California Voting Rights Act – Transitioning From At-Large To By-District Elections: A Practical Guide For City Clerks," April 19, 2018.

California School Board Association Annual Education Conference panelist: "15 Years with the California Voting Rights Act: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead." December 1, 2017.

University of California's National Public Service Law Conference: Civil Rights in the 21st Century: Moderator, "Voting Rights 101." September 23, 2017.

City Clerks Association of California Annual Conference panelist: "California Voting Rights Act: Putting the 2016 Legislation into Practice." April 13, 2017.

California School Board Association Annual Education Conference panelist: "The California Voting Rights Act: What Board Members Must Know." December 4, 2015.

Associated Cities of California – Orange County, Keynote Speaker, Newly Elected Officials' Reception and Dinner, "The California Voting Rights Act," January 29, 2015.

California League of Cities, City Manager Department, 2015 Department Meeting: "Opportunity to Engage Residents: The California Voting Rights Act." January 29, 2015.

California League of Cities, City Clerk Department, 2014 Annual Meeting: "Whose Line Is It Anyway: Making the transition from at-large to by-district elections." September 3, 2014.

National Conference of State Legislatures, Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee: 2007 Spring Forum, "The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commissions' experiences with the first-ever independent redistricting."

National Conference of State Legislatures, Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee: 2008 Spring Forum, "Communities of Interest In Redistricting: A Practical Guide."

National Conference of State Legislatures, Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee: 2009 Fall Forum, "The Key to Successful Redistricting."

National Conference of State Legislatures, Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee: 2010 Spring Forum, "Communities of Interest in Redistricting: A key to drawing 2011 plans (and for their defense)."

National Conference of State Legislatures, Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee: 2011 Winter Forum, "Citizen Voting Age Data from a line-drawer's viewpoint."

Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Santa Barbara's Channel Cities Club, "California's next experiment: independent, public redistricting," January 18, 2011.

Annual Conference, Arizona League of Cities and Towns, Presenter at "Redistricting Law and the Voting Rights Act: What It Means for Your City or Town in 2011," August 25, 2010.

Redistricting, The 2010 Census, and Your Budget, Sponsored by the Rose Institute of State and Local Government, California League of Cities, October 15, 2009.

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Arizona Election Law 2010 Continuing Legal Education Conference, "Communities of interest and technology in redistricting," sponsored by the Arizona State Bar Association, March 2010.

California's New Independent Redistricting Commission, sponsored by the Irvine Foundation and the California Redistricting Collaborative, December 15, 2009.

Tribal Association of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) Legislative Day 2009, "The 2010 Census and 2011 Redistricting in California," December 2, 2009.

California School Board Association, "Litigation Issues and the California Voting Rights Act," December 4, 2009.

California Latino School Boards Association, "Introduction to the California Voting Rights Act," August 20, 2009.

Building a National Reform Movement, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2006, conference on redistricting .reform hosted by the League of Women Voters, Campaign Legal Center, and The Council for Excellence in Government.

Texas Tech University, "A Symposium on Redistricting," May, 2006.

California League of Cities, "Introduction to the California Voting Rights Act."

Voices of Reform, a project of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco: multiple forums on redistricting and / or term limits, 2006 – 2007.

Classroom speaker at Bellflower High School, Pepperdine University, the University of La Verne, Pomona College and Claremont McKenna College.

Charter and/or Ballot Language Consultant

Castaic Lake Water Agency and Newhall County Water District consultant advising on process, rules and legislation language for merger of the two districts including changing from at-large to by-district election system. (2015-2016)

City of Corona: consultant for City Council on a potential city charter and a move to by-district elections. (2015-2016)

City of El Cajon: consulted on writing of charter revision and public education campaign for ballot measure changing from at-large to by-district City Council elections. (2016)

City of Goleta: consulted on development of ordinances and ballot language asking voters what election system they preferred. (2003 – 2004)

City of Menifee: advised commission considering language on by-district elections. (2009 – 2010)

City of Modesto: advised commission that successfully developed a city charter change moving Modesto from at-large to by-district elections and created an independent redistricting commission. (2006 – 2008)

City of Pasadena (on behalf of Pasadena Unified School District): advised commission that successfully developed a city charter change moving Pasadena Unified from at-large to by-district elections and created a redistricting commission. (2011 – 2012)

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Voting Rights Act and Racial Bloc Voting Analysis

Attorney-client privilege bars the listing of most of NDC's specific clients, but NDC has performed racial bloc voting analysis for clients of the following law firms (and for other jurisdictions):

Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni: Compiled and analyzed data for over 120 different jurisdictions facing voting rights litigation;

Lozano, Smith: Performed analysis of racial bloc voting in 4 separate jurisdictions.

Richards, Watson & Gerson: Compiled and analyzed potential liability under California Voting Rights Act and California Voter Participation Rights Act for about a dozen cities.

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo: Performed/performing on analysis of racial bloc voting in dozens of jurisdictions and California Voter Participation Rights Act liability analysis for multiple school districts.

Dooley, Herr & Peltzer: Performed racial bloc voting analysis of 7 elections in 4 different election years. Also advised attorneys on rebuttal of plaintiff's racial bloc voting analysis.

NDC
National Demographics Corporation

Douglas M. Johnson, Ph.D.

Districting / Redistricting Clients Prior to 2021

States

Arizona 2001 Independent Redistricting Commission
Florida State Senate 2001

Counties

Los Angeles
Merced
San Diego
San Bernardino
San Mateo
Yuma (AZ)

Cities

Anaheim
Apple Valley
Arcadia
Atwater City
Banning
Barstow
Bellflower
Big Bear Lake
Buckeye
Buena Park
Camarillo
Campbell
Carlsbad
Carpinteria
Cathedral City
Cathedral City
Ceres
Chino
Chino Hills
Chino Hills
Citrus Heights
Claremont
Colton
Compton
Corona
Dana Point
Dixon
Duarte
Eastvale
El Cajon
El Cajon
Encinitas
Escondido
Exeter
Firebaugh
Fontana
Fowler
Fullerton
Glendale (AZ)
Glendale (CA)
Glendora
Half Moon Bay
Hemet
Hesperia
Hesperia
Highland
Imperial Beach
Indio
Jurupa Valley
King City
Kingsburg City
La Mirada
La Mirada
Lake Elsinore
Lake Forest
Lemoore
Lodi
Lompoc
Los Alamitos City
Los Banos
Madera
Martinez City
Menifee
Menlo Park
Merced
Mesa (AZ)
Modesto
Monrovia
Monterey Park
Moorpark
Moreno Valley
Morgan Hill
Murietta
Oakland
Ojai
Oxnard City
Pacifica
Palm Springs
Palmdale
Parlier
Pasadena
Paso Robles
Patterson
Peoria (AZ)
Placentia
Porterville
Poway City
Rancho Cucamonga
Redlands
Redlands
Redwood City
Reedley
Riverbank
San Clemente
San Diego
San Marcos
San Marcos
San Rafael
Sanger
Santa Barbara
Santa Clarita
Santa Maria
Santa Rosa
Santee City
Simi Valley
Solana Beach
South Pasadena
South SF
Stanton
Surprise
Tehachapi
Temecula
Torrance
Tulare
Turlock
Twentynine Palms
Vallejo
Ventura
Victorville
Victorville
Visalia
Vista
Wasco
West Covina
Whittier
Wildomar

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Yucaipa
Yucca Valley

Community College Districts

Antelope Valley
Barstow
Coast
Cuesta
Glendale
Grossmont-Cuyamaca
MiraCosta
Palomar
Rancho Santiago
San Diego
Santa Clarita
Sierra
Southwestern

Special Districts

Alta Irrigation
Castaic / Newhall Water
Castaic Lake Water Agency
Chino Fire
Desert Healthcare
Desert Water Agency
Fallbrook Regional Healthcare
Fresno Irrigation
Grossmont Healthcare
Imperial Irrigation District
Joshua Basin Water
Jurupa Community Service District
Kings River Conservation District
Lake Arrowhead CSD
Leucadia Wastewater
Mojave Water Agency
Monterey Airport
Palmdale Water
Palomar Healthcare
Rowland Water
San Bernardino Water
Santa Clara Valley Water
Santa Maria Airport
Tri-City Health
Tulare Health Care District
Upper San Gabriel Valley
West Valley Water
Western Municipal Water
Westside Community Health Care District
Winton Water

School Districts

Alpine Union
Alpine Union Elementary
Alta Vista
Bakersfield City Schools
Barstow Unified
Bonsall Union Elementary
Borrego Springs Unified
Buena Park Elementary
Burton Elementary
Cajon Valley Union
Cajon Valley Union
Cajon Valley Union Elementary
Calistoga Joint Unified
Capistrano Unified
Capistrano Unified
Cardiff Elementary
Carlsbad Unified
Carlsbad Unified
Caruthers
Castaic Elem
Castaic Elementary
Cayucas
Centinela Valley
Central Unified
Central Union High
Centralia Elementary
Chula Vista Elementary
Claremont Unified
Clay Elementary
Clovis Unified
Coalinga-Huron
Coronado Unified
Covina Valley
Cypress Elem
Dehesa Elementary
Del Mar Union Elementary
Dinuba Unified
Eastern Sierra Unified
Eastside Union Elementary
El Monte Union High
Encinitas Union Elementary
Escalon Unified
Escondido Union Elementary
Escondido Union High
Exeter Elementary
Exeter High
Exeter Unified
Fallbrook Elementary
Fallbrook High
Fallbrook Union Elementary
Fallbrook Union High
Fillmore Unified
Firebaugh-Las Deltas
Fresno Unified
Fullerton Union High
Glendale
Glendale Unified
Golden Plains
Goleta Unified
Greenfield
Grossmont Union High
Hawthorn Elementary
Hughson Unified
Inglewood Unified
Irvine Unified
Jamul-Dulzura Union
Julian Union Elementary
Julian Union High
Kerman Unified
Kern High
Keyes Union
Kings Canyon Unified
Kings River
Kingsburg Elementary
Kingsburg High
La Mesa Spring Valley
La Mesa-Spring Valley
Lake Elsinore
Lakeside Union Elementary
Lakeside Union School
Lancaster Elementary
Lawndale Elem
Lawndale Elementary
Lemon Grove Elementary
Lindsay Unified
Los Alamitos Unified
Lowell Joint Union

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Lucia Mar Unified
Madera Unified
Magnolia Elementary
Merced City Elementary
Merced Union High School District
Modesto City Schools
Modesto City Schools
Modoc Unified
Monson Soltana
Morgan Hill Unified
Morongo Unified
Mountain Empire
Napa Valley Unified
National Elementary
New Jerusalem
Newhall Elementary
Newman Crows Landing
Oak Grove Elementary
Oceanside Unified
Oceanside Unified
Pacific Union
Palo Verde
Panama Buena Vista
Pasadena Unified
Perris Union High
Pixley Union
Placentia Yorba Linda
Pleasant View
Pomona Unified
Porterville Unified
Poway Unified
Poway USD
Ramona Unified
Ramona Unified
Rancho Santa Fe Elementary
Redlands Unified
Redwood City Schools
Richland School District
Riverbank
Riverdale Unified
Rosemead Unified
Salida Union
San Benito High
San Dieguito
San Dieguito Union High
San Marcos Unified
San Pasqual Union Elementary
San Ramon Unified
San Ysidro Elementary
Santa Cruz City Schools
Santa Monica Unified
Santee Elementary
Selma Unified
Sequoia Union High
Sequoia Union High
Simi Valley Unified
Solana Beach Elementary
South Bay Union
South Pasadena Unified
South SF Unified
Spencer Valley Elementary
Strathmore Elementary
Sundale Union Elementary
Sweetwater Union High
Tulare City Elementary
Tulare City High
Tulelake Basin
Turlock Unified
Tustin Unified
Twin Rivers Unified
Vacaville Unified
Vallecitos Elementary
Valley Center Pauma Unified
Victor School District
Visalia Unified
Vista Unified
Walnut Valley Water
Warner Unified
Washington Unified
Washington Union
Waterford Union
West Contra Costa USD
West Fresno Elementary
Westminster Elem
Whittier City Schools
Whittier Union High
Whittier Union High
Woodlake Union

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NDC
National Demographics Corporation

Douglas M. Johnson, Ph.D.

Districting / Redistricting Clients 2021/2022

States

Arizona 2021 Independent Redistricting Commission
Ohio Redistricting Commission, 2022

Counties

Fresno
Graham
Greenlee
Kings
Marin
Merced
Mohave
Navajo
Nevada
Sacramento
San Benito
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Sonoma
Yuma

Cities

Anaheim
Apple Valley
Arcadia
Arroyo Grande
Bellflower
Brea
Buckeye
Buellton
Buena Park
Camarillo
Campbell
Carlsbad
Ceres
Chino
Chino Hills
Chula Vista
Citrus Heights
Claremont City
Costa Mesa
Dana Point
Dixon
Downey
Duarte
Dublin
El Cajon
El Monte City
Elk Grove City
Encinitas
Exeter
Fairfield
Folsom
Fontana
Fremont
Fresno
Fullerton
Glendale Az
Glendora
Goleta
Greenfield
Grover Beach
Half Moon Bay
Hesperia
Highland
Imperial Beach
Indio
Inglewood
Jurupa Valley
Kerman
King City
Kingsburg
La Mirada
La Palma
La Verne
Lake Elsinore
Lakewood
Lemoore
Lodi
Lompoc
Los Alamitos
Los Banos
Manteca
Marina
Merced
Monterey Park
Moorpark
Moreno Valley
Morgan Hill
Newport Beach
Novato
Orange
Oxnard
Pacifica
Palmdale
Pasadena
Paso Robles
Patterson
Placentia
Pomona
Poway
Rancho Cucamonga
Redlands
Reedley
Richmond
Riverbank
San Bruno
San Dimas
San Rafael City
Sanger
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Santa Maria
Seal Beach
Selma
Simi Valley
Solana Beach
Solvang
South Pasadena
South San Francisco
Stockton
Sunnyvale
Temecula
Torrance
Tulare
Turlock
Twentynine Palms
Union City
Upland
Vallejo
Ventura
Visalia
Vista
West Covina
Westminster
Westminster
Whittier
Wildomar
Woodside

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Yuba City
Yucaipa
Yucca Valley

Community College Districts

Antelope Valley
Butte-Glenn
Chaffey
Coast
Glendale
MiraCosta
Ohlone
Palomar
Sierra

School Districts

Ballard
Barstow Unified
Buellton Union
Buena Park
Cajon Valley Union
Carpinteria Unified
Castaic Union
Cayucos Elementary
Centralia Elementary
Claremont Unified
Clovis Unified
Coast Unified
College
Cypress
Dinuba Unified
East Whittier City Schools
El Monte Union High
Elk Grove Unified
Fresno Unified
Fullerton Joint Union High
Glendale Unified
Glendora Unified
Grossmont High
Guadalupe Union
Hope Elementary
Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Union
Huntington Beach City Schools
Los Alamitos Unified
Lowell Joint
Lucia Mar Unified
Magnolia
Murdoc Joint Unified
Orange County Board of Education
Pacific Grove Unified
Ramona Unified
Roseville Joint Union High
San Luis Coastal Unified
San Mateo Foster City Schools
San Mateo Union High
San Ramon Unified
Santa Cruz City Schools
Santa Maria Joint Union High
South Bay Union
South Pasadena Unified
Standard
Tehachapi Unified
Tuolumne County Board of Education
Turlock Unified
Tustin Unified
Vista Unified
Westminster
Whittier City Schools

Special Districts

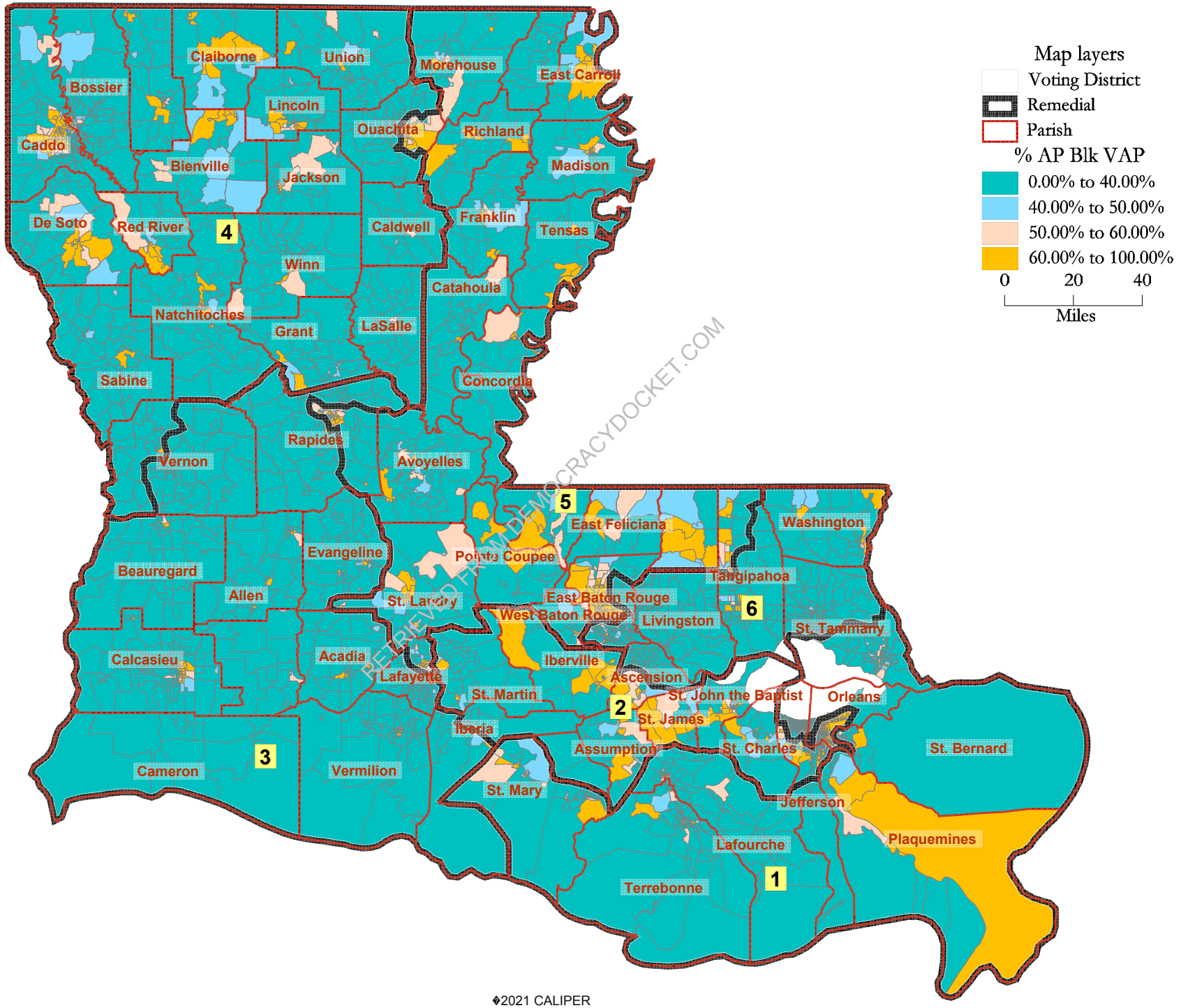
Buena Park Library District
Camarillo Health Care District
Cambria Community Healthcare District
Carpinteria Valley Water
Cayucos Sanitary District
Central Fire Protection District of Santa Cruz County
Chino Valley Fire District
Del Puerto Health Care District
Desert Health Care District
East Bay Regional Park District
Fallbrook Healthcare
Lake Arrowhead Community Services District
Leucadia Wastewater District
Monterey Airport District
Oceano Community Services District
Palomar Healthcare
Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District
San Miguel Fire Protection District
Santa Clarita Valley Water
Santa Cruz Port District
South Coast Water District
Tri-City Healthcare
Valley-Wide Recreation
Westside Community Health

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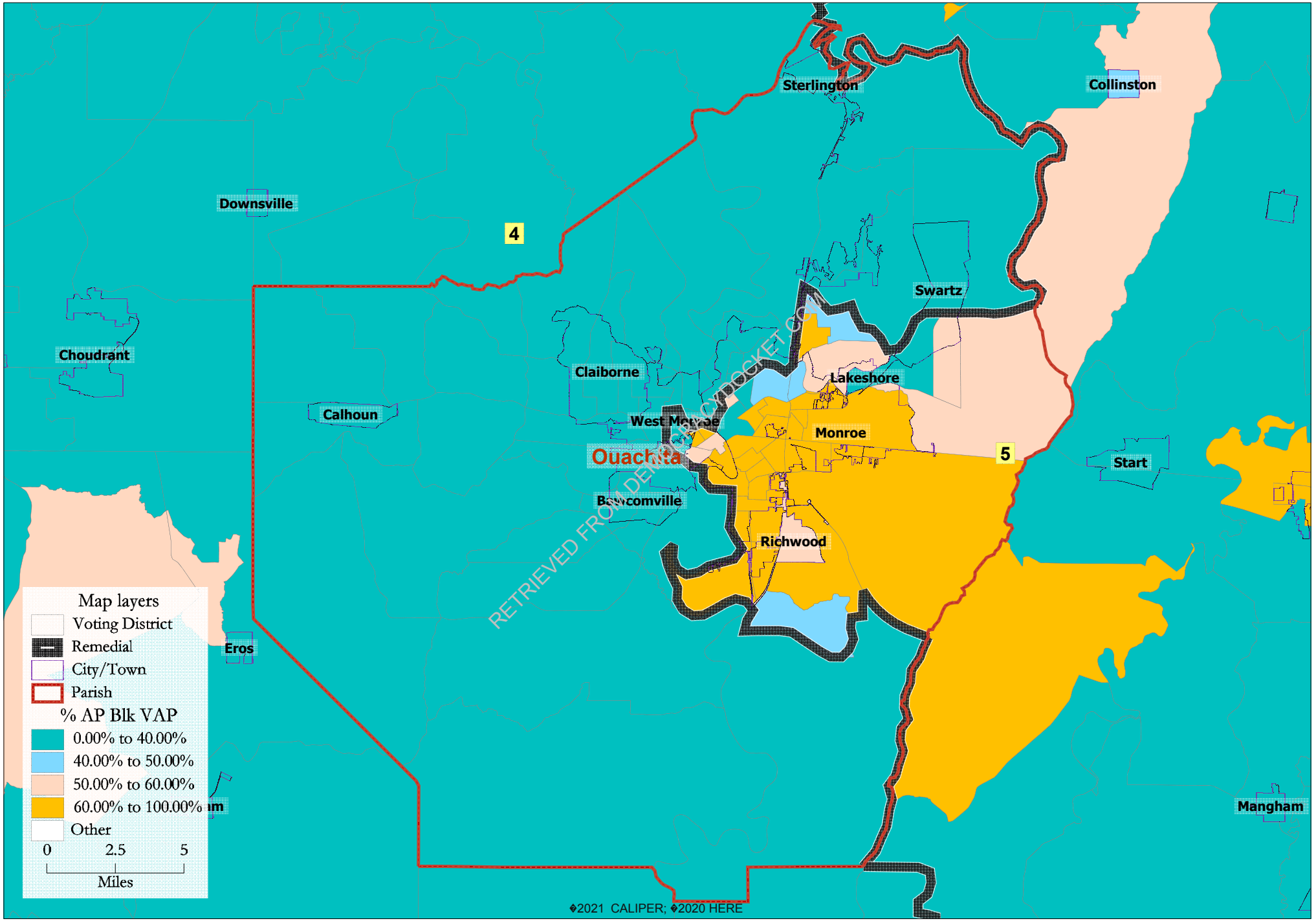
Douglas Johnson, Ph.D.

APPENDIX B – Full Page Maps

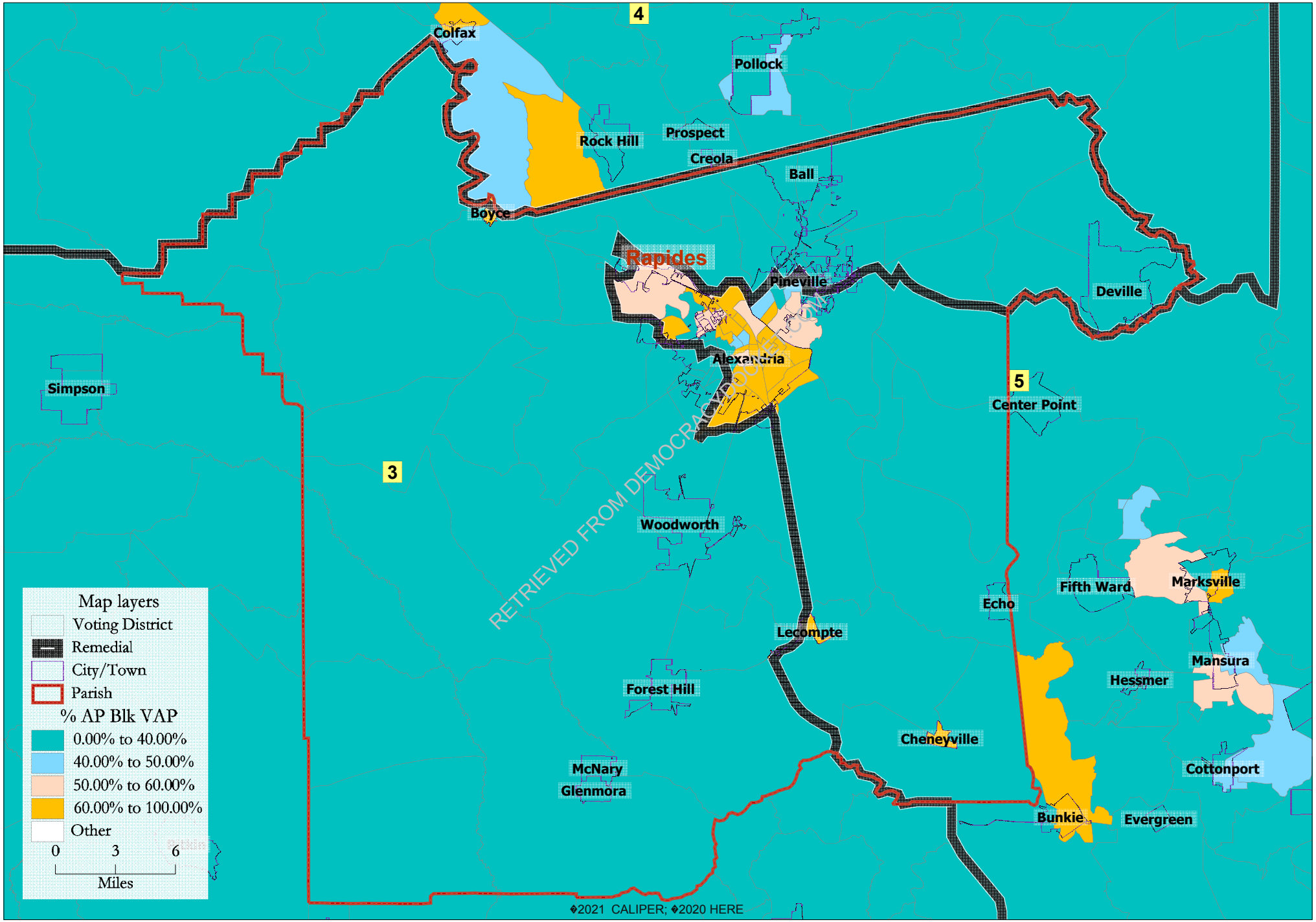
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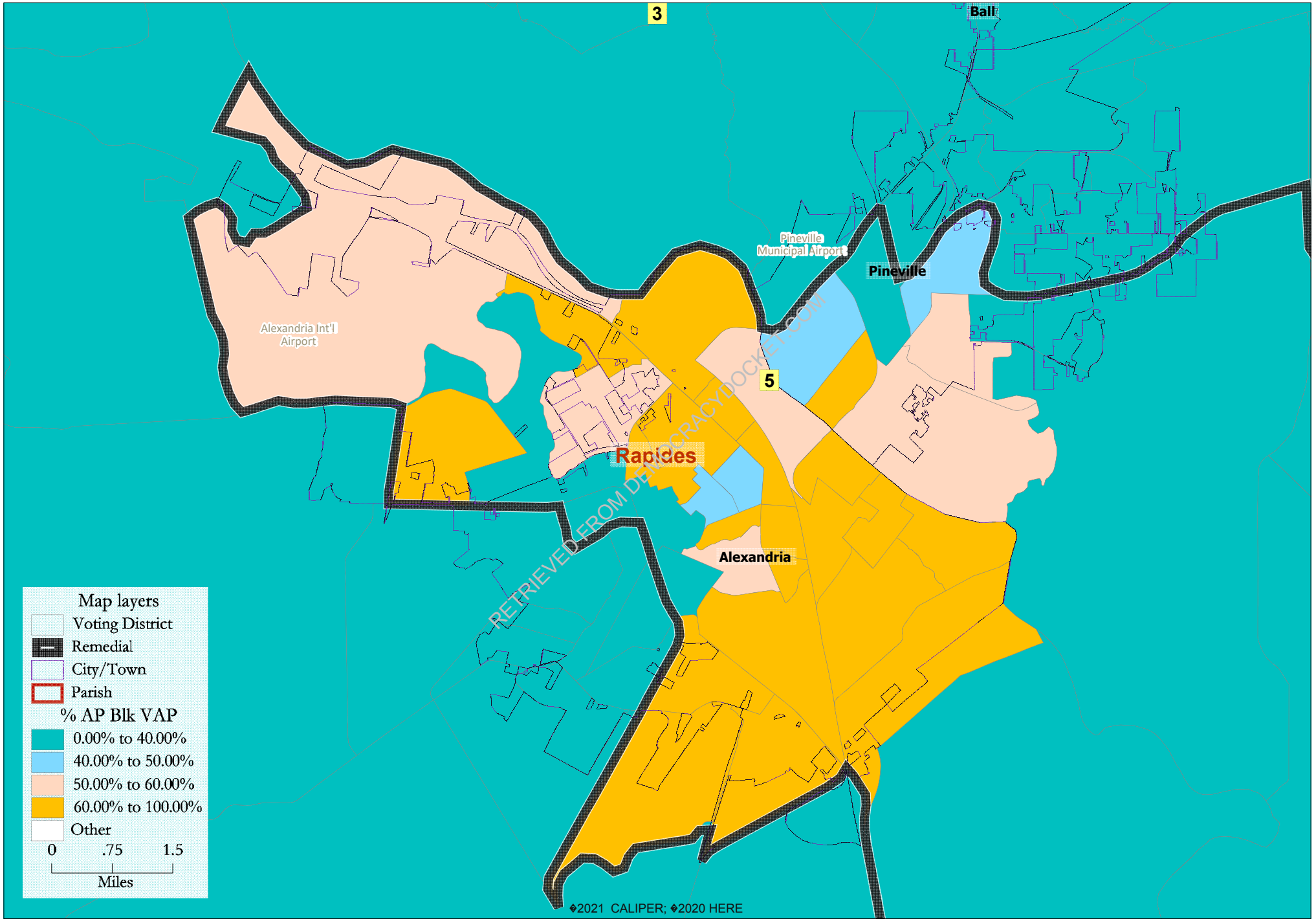
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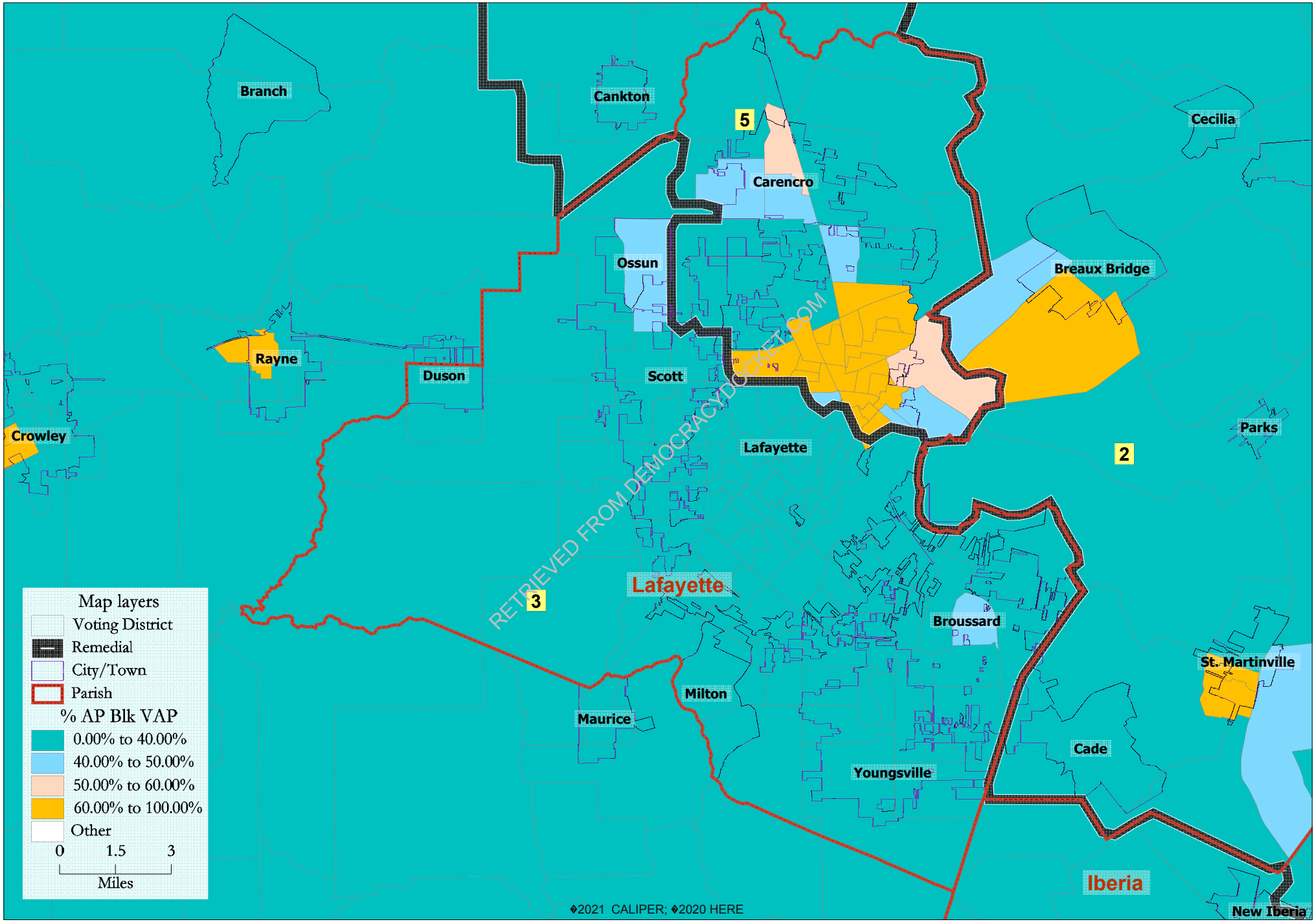
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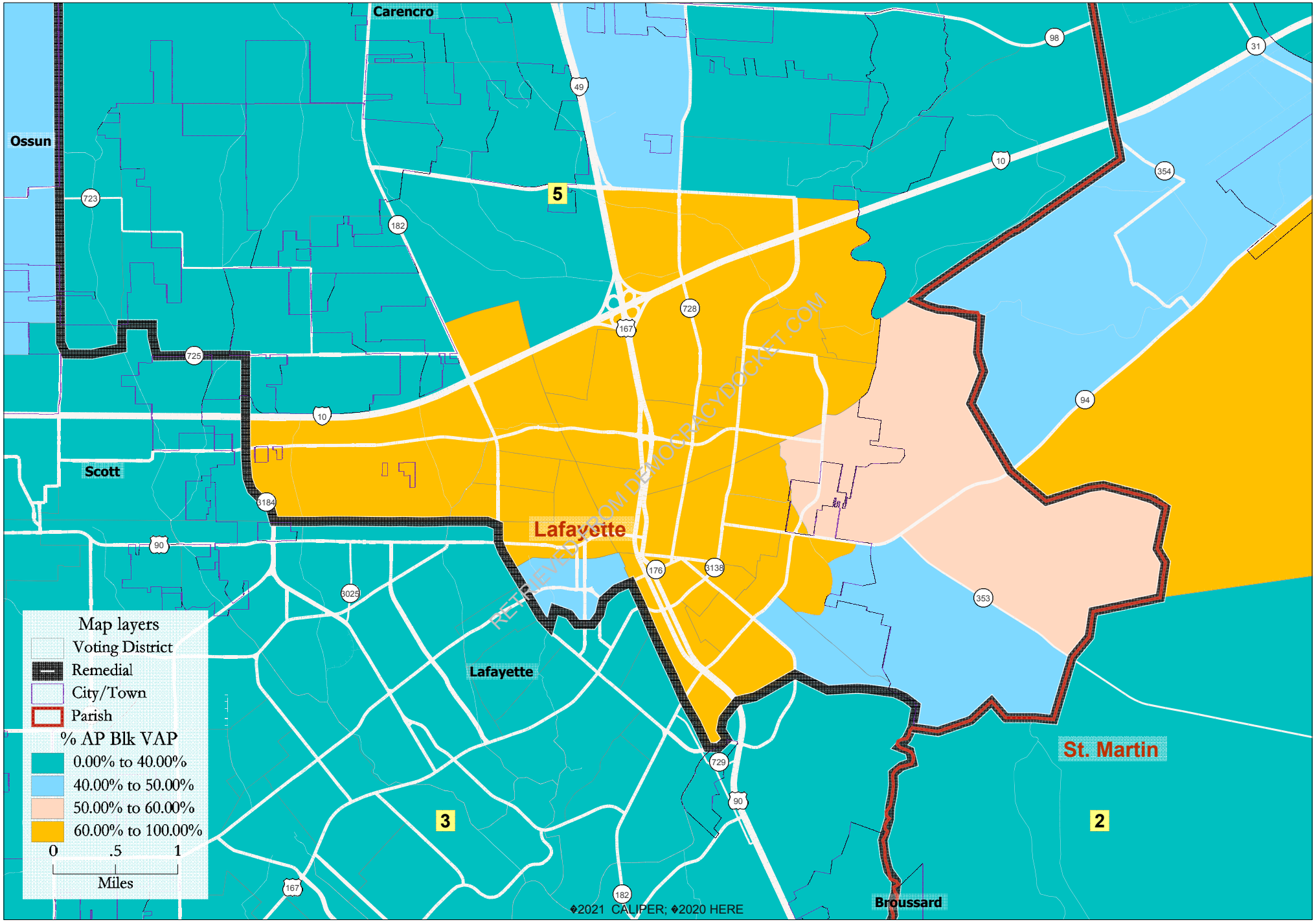


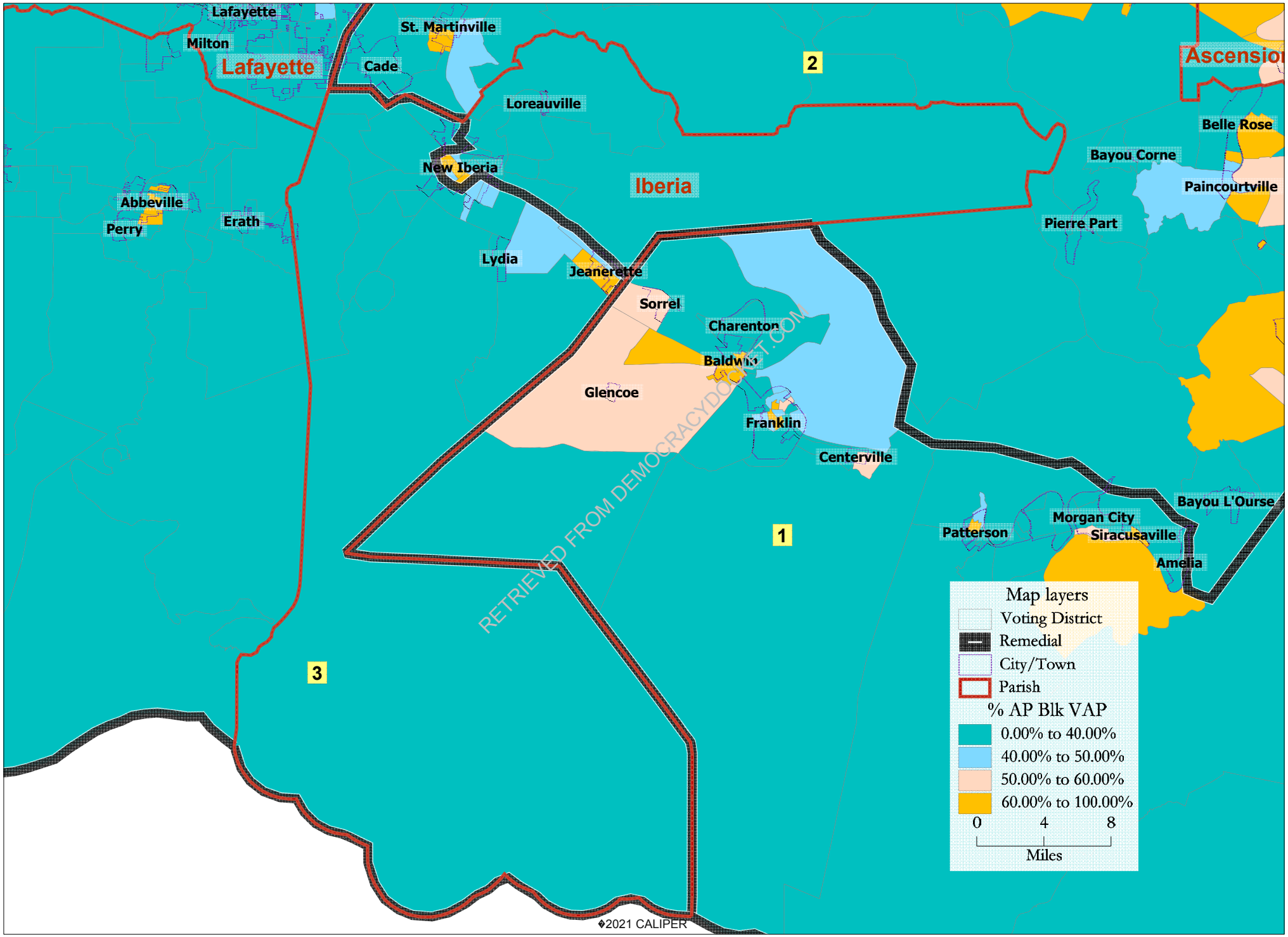
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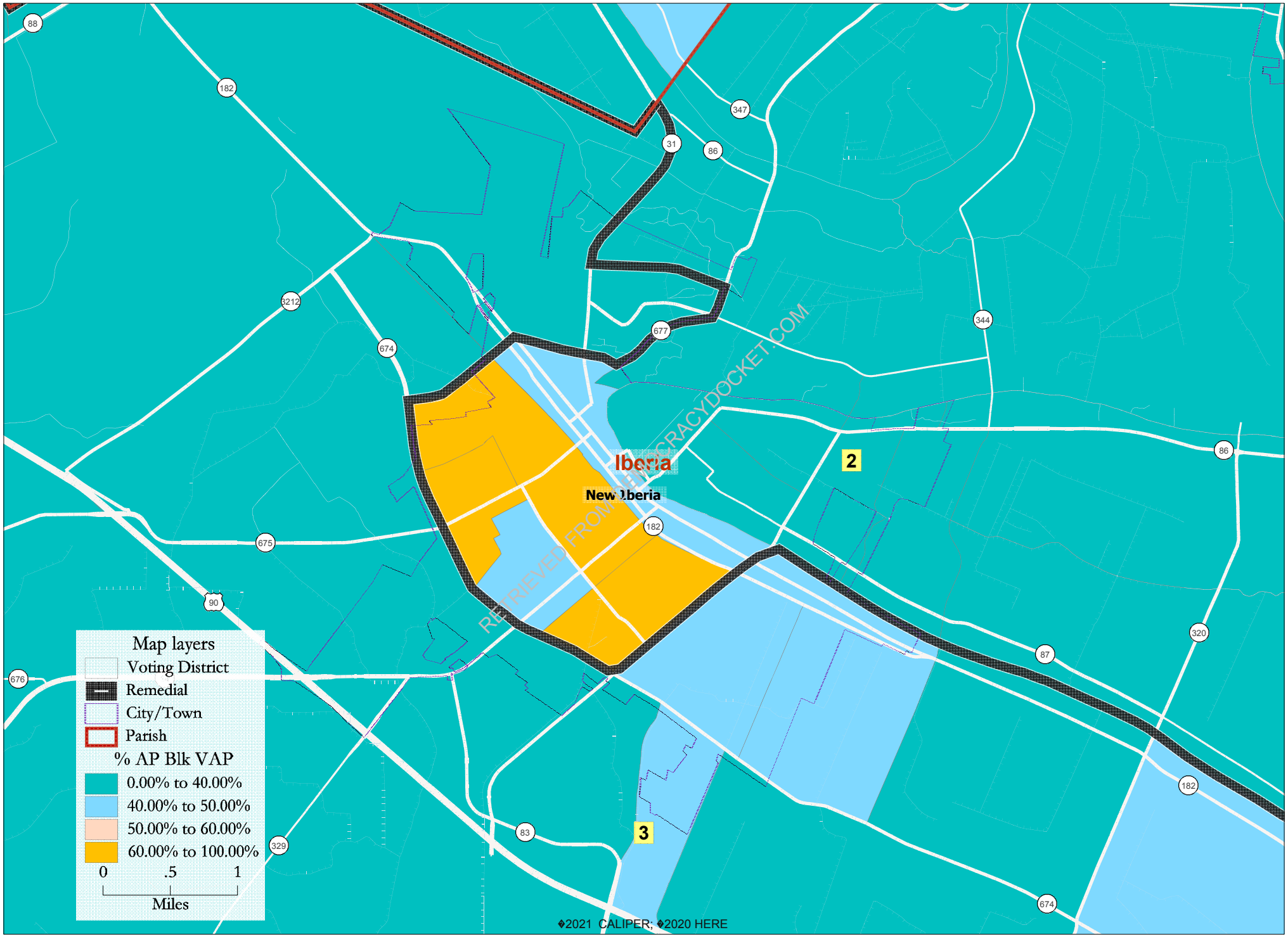


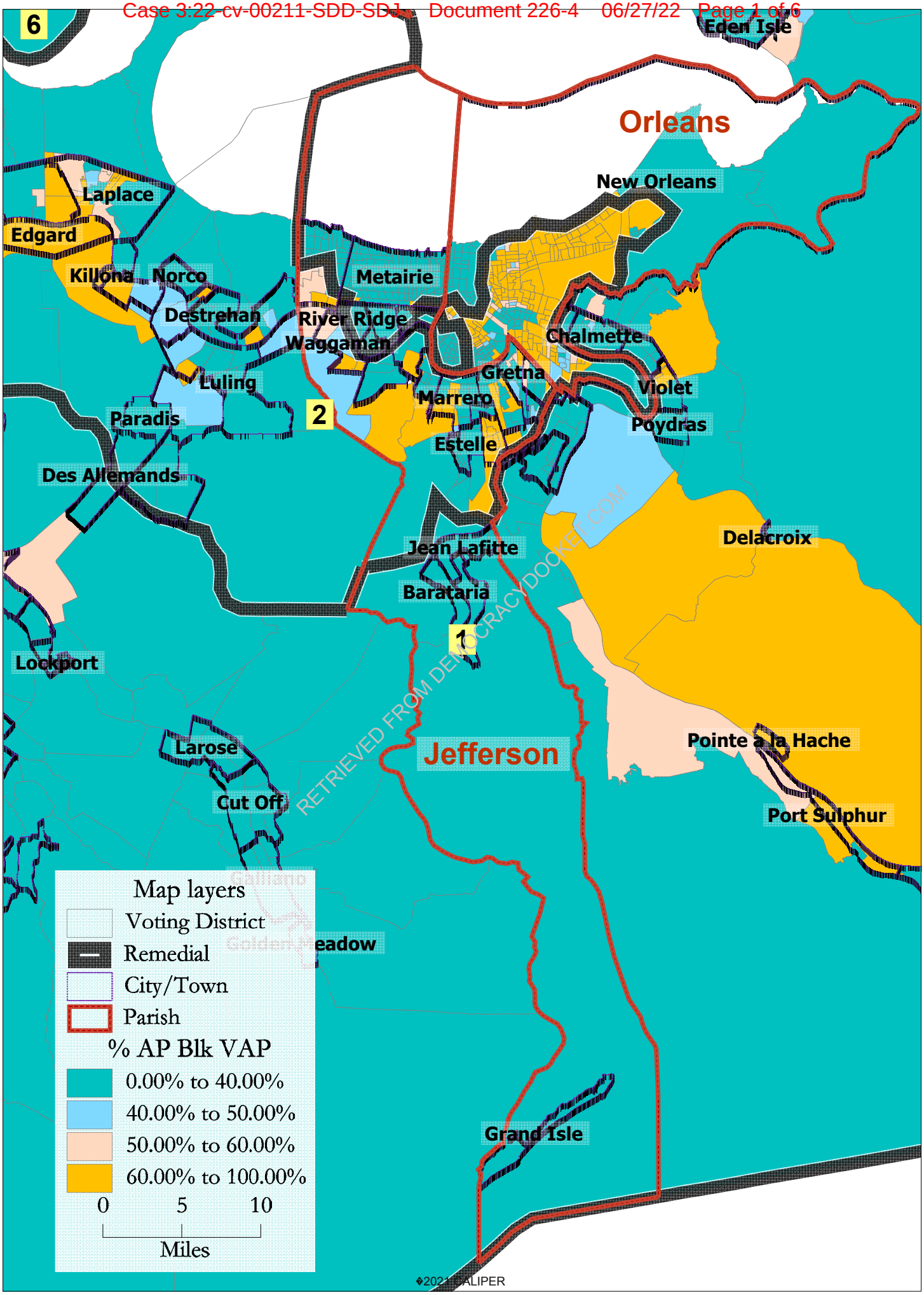
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Branch
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Cecilia
Carencro
Ossun
Breaux Bridge
Rayne
Duson
Scott
Crowley
Lafayette
Parks
2
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3
Lafayette
Broussard
St. Martinville
Milton
Maurice
Cade
Youngsville
Iberia
New Iberia
Map layers
Voting District
Remedial
City/Town
Parish
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40.00% to 50.00%
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Other
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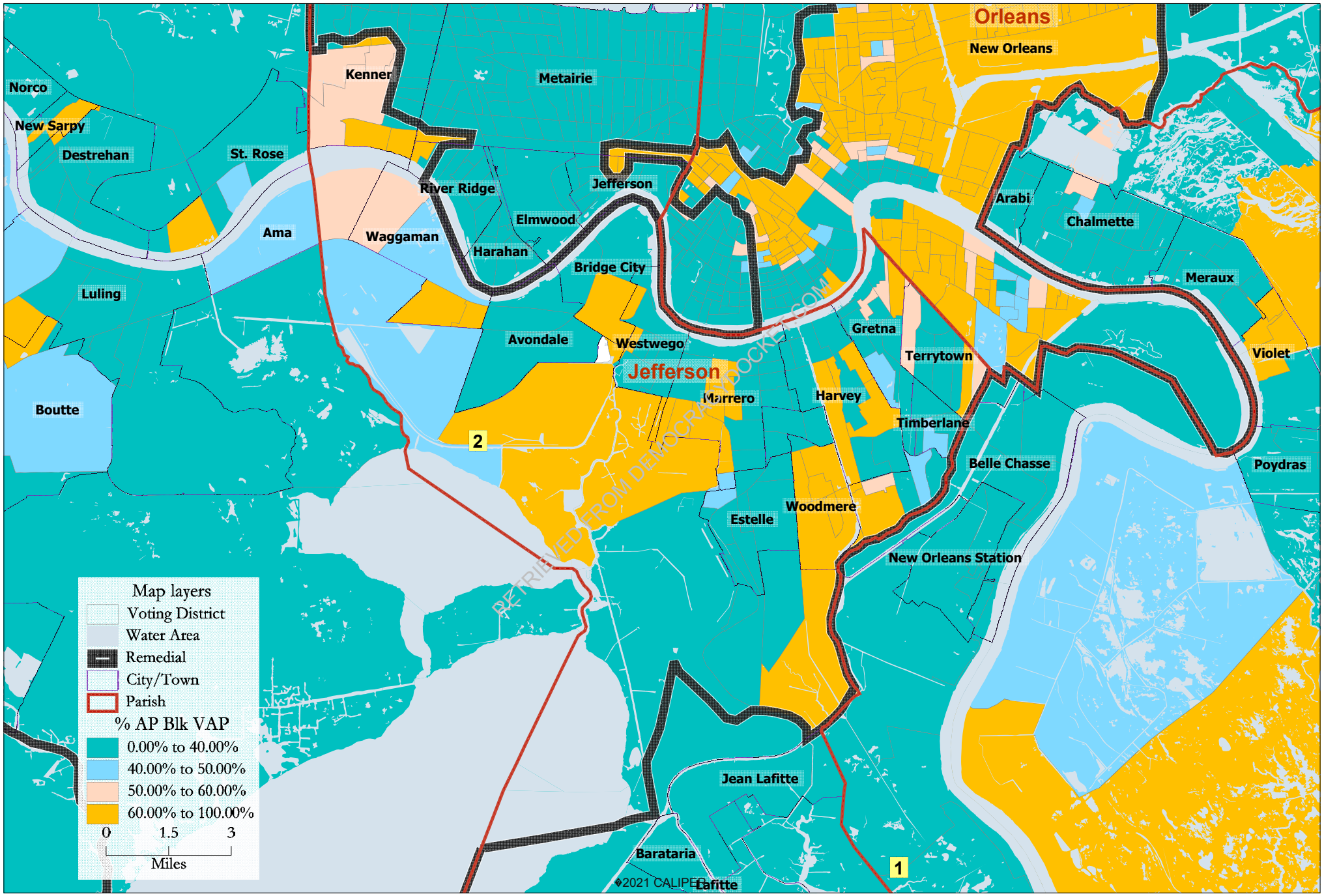

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Lafayette
Milton
Lafayette
St. Martinville
Cade
Loreauville
2
Ascension
Belle Rose
Bayou Corne
Paincourtville
New Iberia
Iberia
Abbeville
Perry
Erath
Pierre Part
Lydia
Jeanerette
Sorrel
Charenton
Baldwin
Glencoe
Franklin
Centerville
Bayou L'Ourse
Morgan City
Patterson
Siracusaville
Amelia
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Map layers
Voting District
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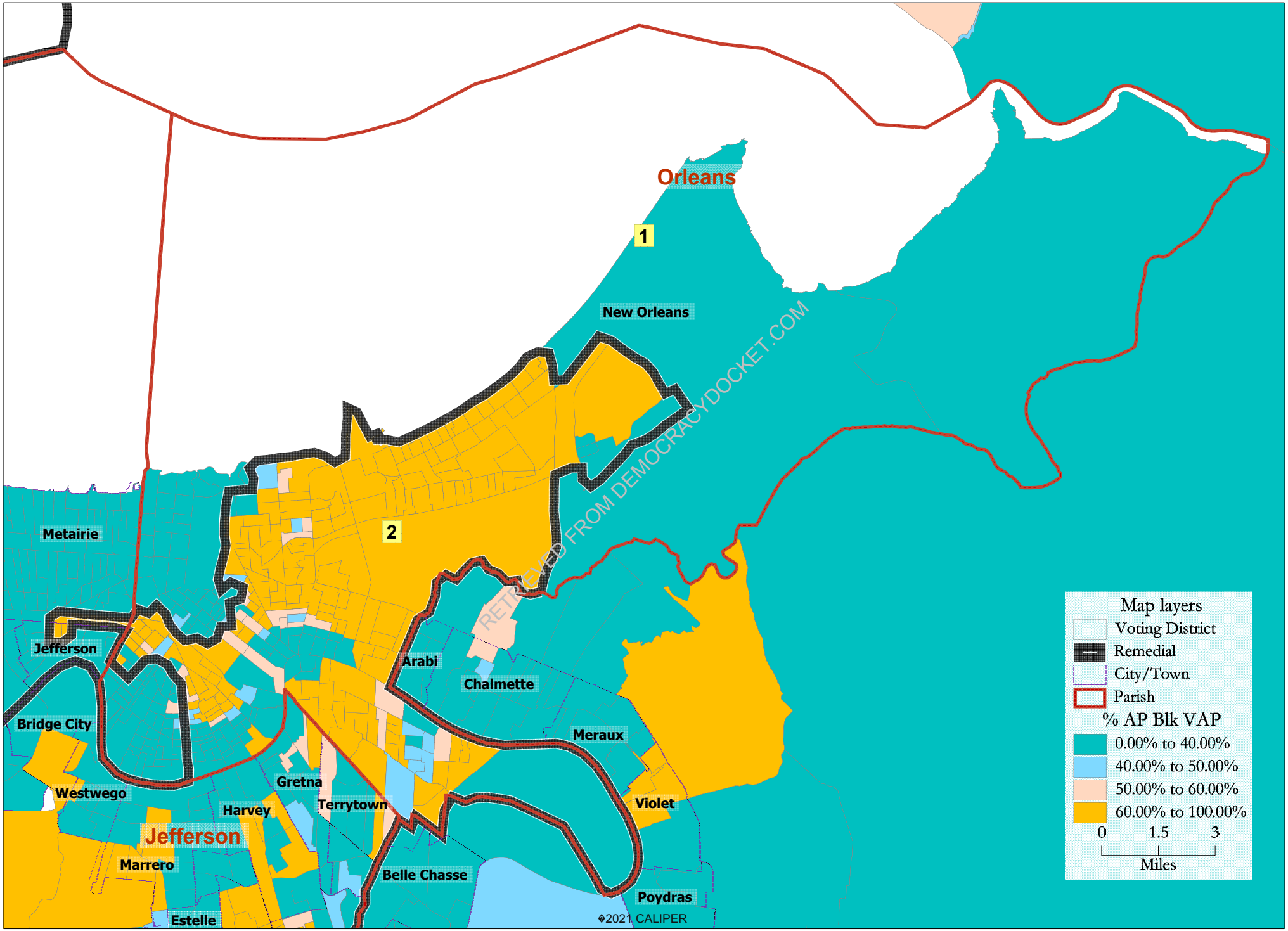

Iberia
New Iberia
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Map layers
Voting District
Remedial
City/Town
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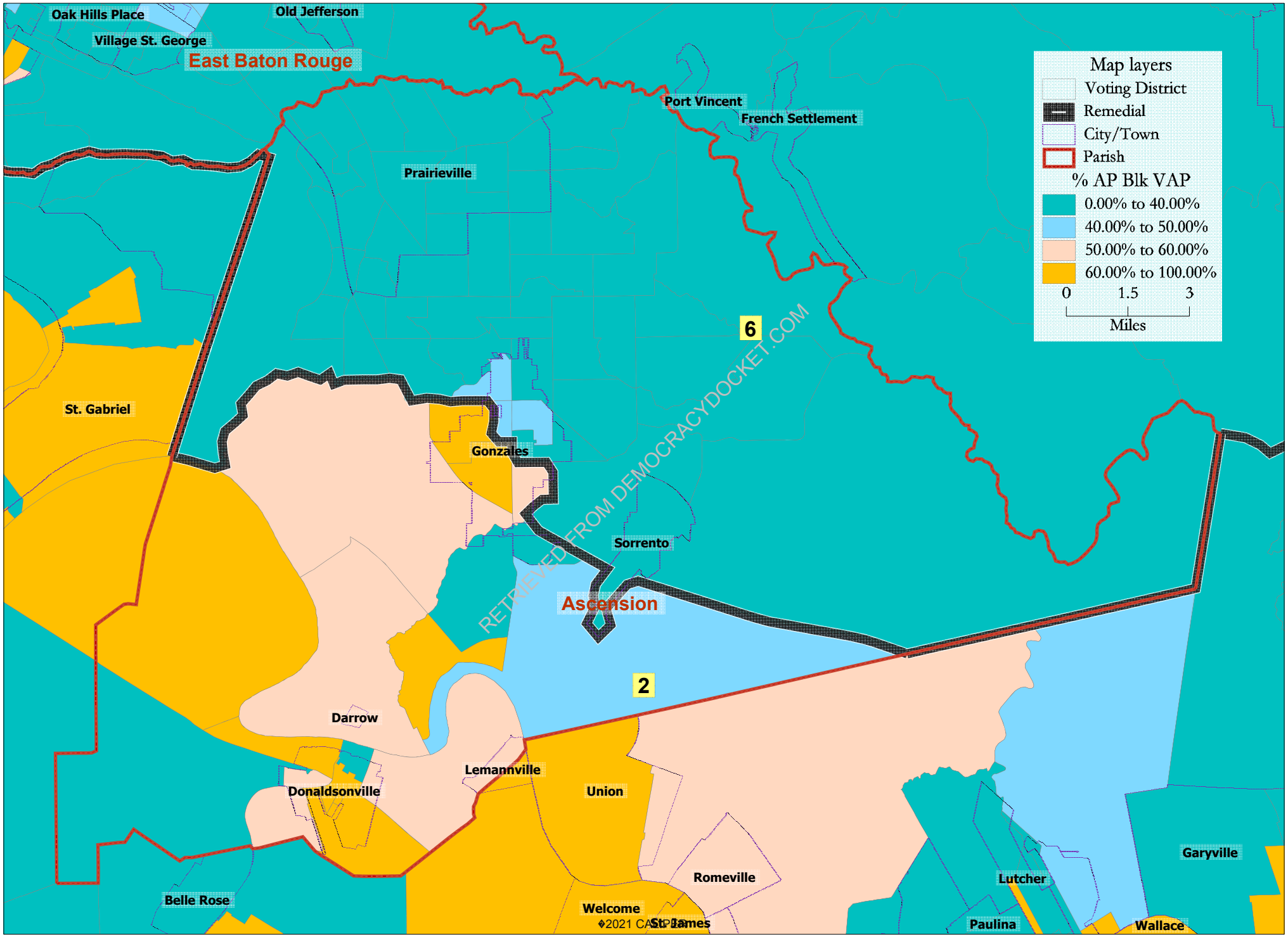
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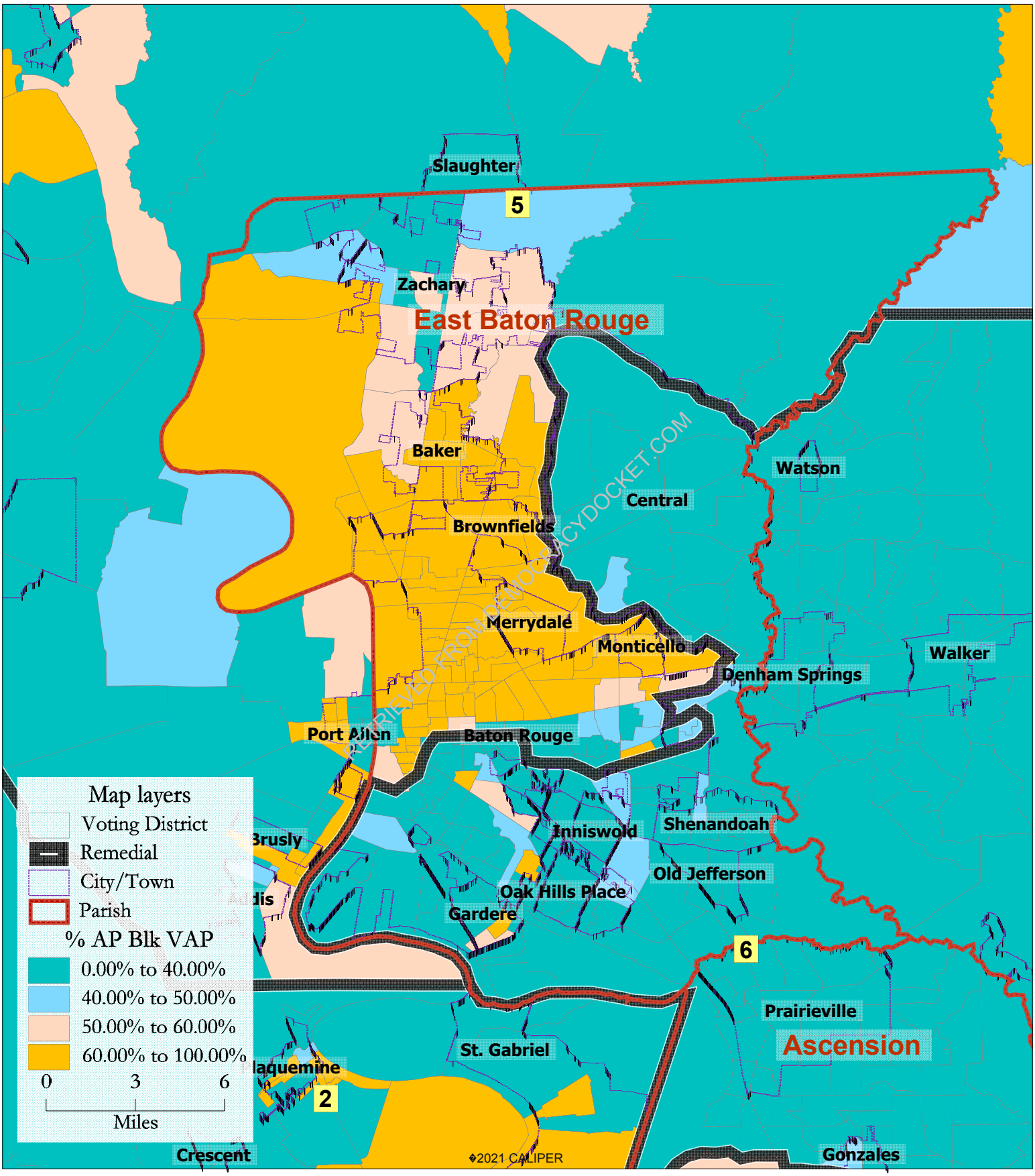
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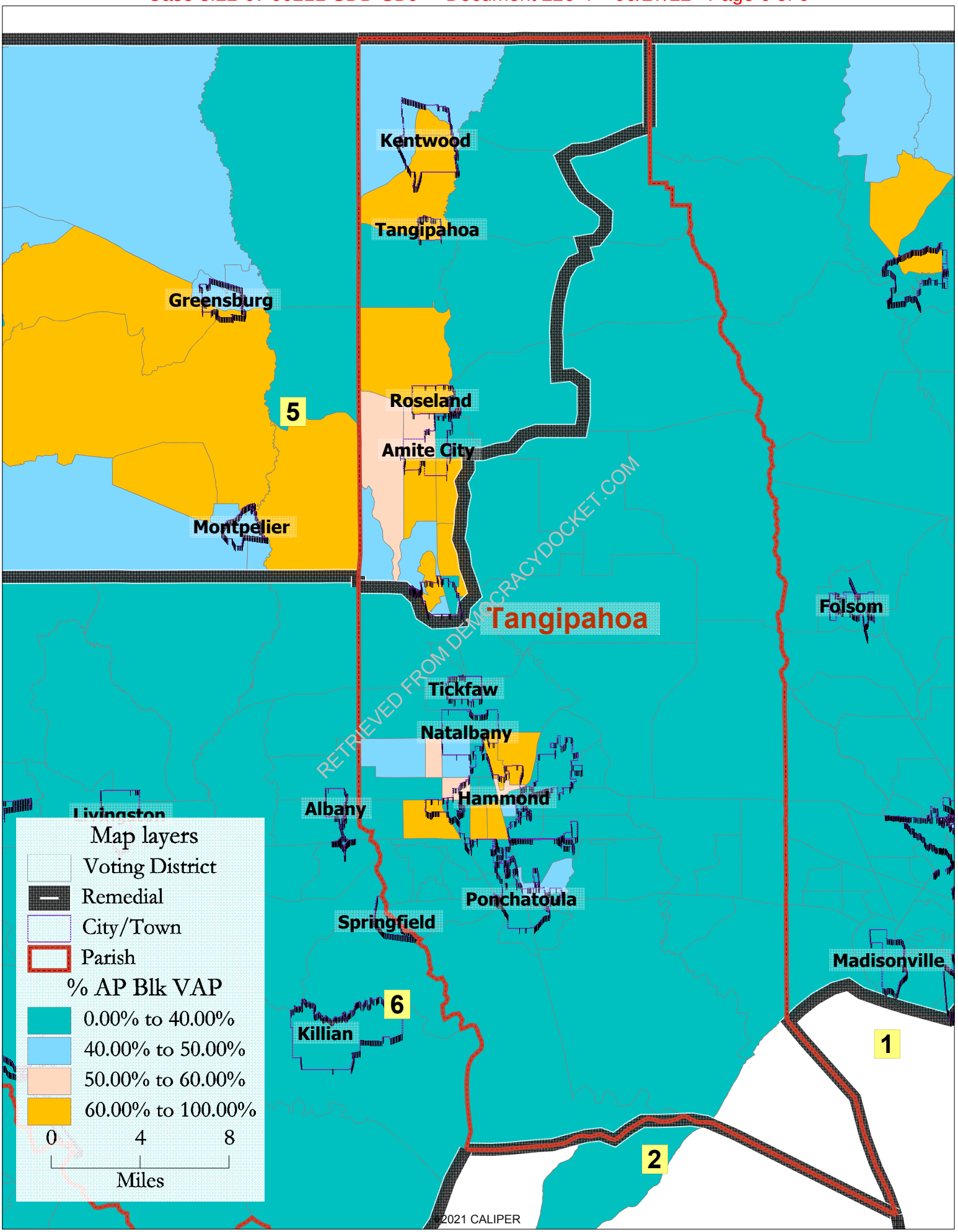


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Slaughter
5
Zachary
East Baton Rouge
Baker
Brownfields
Central
Watson
Merrydale
Monticello
Walker
Denham Springs
Port Allen
Baton Rouge
Inniswold
Shenandoah
Old Jefferson
Oak Hills Place
Gardere
6
Prairieville
Ascension
St. Gabriel
2
Crescent
Gonzales
Map layers
Voting District
Remedial
City/Town
Parish
% AP Blk VAP
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0
3
6
Miles
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Exhibit B

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Transcript of Louisiana State Senate Redistricting Committee

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Date: June 16, 2022
Case: Transcription Services

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TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO-RECORDED

TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

JUNE 16, 2022

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Job No.: 453461

Pages: 1 - 240

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

SEN. HEWITT: All right, members. I'd like to call this meeting of senate governmental affairs to order. This is June 16. Madam Secretary, if you would please call the roll.

SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Milligan?

SEN. MILLIGAN: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Allain?

SEN. ALLAIN: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Foil?

SEN. FOIL: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver?

SEN. TARVER: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Womack?

SEN. WOMACK: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. Senator Reese?

SEN. REESE: Here.

SECRETARY: Present. And Senator Price?

SEN. PRICE: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. That is not -- I'm sorry,

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I've got to add Senator Harris. Senator Harris?

SEN. HARRIS: Present.

SECRETARY: Present. That is nine in a quorum.

SEN. HEWITT: Welcome back, Senator Harris. All right, Senator Harris has been doing double duty on a number of different committee assignments and we're glad to have him back on senate governmental, so welcome back.

All right, first order of business, members, is approval of the minutes from June 3.

SEN. REESE: [inaudible]

SEN. HEWITT: A motion was made by Senator Reese to approve those minutes. Is there any objection to doing that? All right. Seeing no objections, that -- those minutes will be approved.

All right. Members, we are with two bills on our agenda today. I'd like to start out with a few opening comments to kind of set the stage a little bit so that the public kind of knows why we're here and how we got here, because it's been a lot to follow and there's been a lot that's been happening on a pretty fast pace.

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As you know, this body met in February for a three-week redistricting session that yielded a map after 19 days that we enacted. The governor ultimately vetoed and this legislature convened to override the veto with a two-thirds vote.

On June 6, which was the day that we adjourned from our regular session that followed the redistricting session, the lower court issued an injunction against our congressional plan.

The lower court also directed the legislature to prepare a remedial plan by June 20. On June 6, a motion was made to the lower court to stay that order pending our appeal. We argued that the lower court had not provided sufficient time to legislate a remedial plan.

On June 7, the governor called a special session of the legislature to comply with the lower court's order to prepare a remedial plan. That session began yesterday and it will last until Monday, June 20, which is the deadline set by the lower court judge.

On June 9, the lower court denied the motion to stay and noted that it would welcome any request for

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additional time from the legislature to complete its work. On June 9, we moved the Fifth Circuit to stay that order pending our appeal.

On June 9, the Fifth Circuit stayed the lower court's order pending briefing on the stay. On June 12, the Fifth Circuit lifted that stay, but expedited the appeal process on the merits so that we will argue the case in the Fifth Circuit on July 8.

The Fifth Circuit noted that the lower court had offered to extend the amount of time for the legislative remedial session. On June 13, we moved that the lower extend the amount of time for the legislative remedial session and then today, June 14, the lower court scheduled a hearing.

On June 14, they scheduled a hearing for today, June 16, requiring the Speaker and the President to attend to talk about the need to extend the time for the session. And so that's kind of the -- the judicial process that has been evolving, really since we passed our map -- the enacted map, we call it.

And so we're here, the -- again, the order from the lower court, and I'm going to read it

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directly. The appropriate remedy in this context is a remedial congressional redistricting plan that includes an additional majority black congressional district.

The United States Supreme Court instructs that the legislature should have the first opportunity to draw that plan. Therefore, the court orders the Louisiana legislature to enact a remedial plan on or before June 20, 2022, and that is why we're here.

And so with that background, I would like to invite Senator Fields to begin with Senate Bill 1.

SEN. FIELDS: Did you fill out a card?

MR. EVANS: [inaudible]

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. I'm going to be joined by Mr. Jared Evans of the Legal Defense Fund and he will also help explain the legal ramifications of my bill.

But before I -- I explain the bill, let me first talk a little bit about why I introduced this bill. I introduced this bill, because this bill is nothing new to the committee and nothing new to the legislature.

When we had the extraordinary session on

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redistricting, during I think the second extraordinary session on redistrict -- when we dealt with --

SEN. HEWITT: All run together, don't they?

SEN. FIELDS: They do. On redistricting, I offered this, members of the committee, as an amendment to Senate Bill 5 by the chair. This is the exact same amendment. Nothing has changed.

And I did that for the purpose of -- I didn't want to do anything different. I didn't want the committee to see anything different. I didn't want the public to see anything different. And I wanted it to also comply with the -- what the judge has ordered.

So we saw this during the extraordinary session.

SEN. HEWITT: And was that amendment offered in committee or on the floor?

SEN. FIELDS: This -- this amendment was offered both. No, no, no. This amendment was offered on the floor. This amendment --

SEN. HEWITT: So this committee has really never heard this bill as you are presenting it today.

SEN. FIELDS: This amendment -- if I may,

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Madam Chair, so this amendment was offered on the floor and so this committee has seen this bill. This committee has seen it as -- as a [inaudible]. The entire senate has seen this bill.

MR. EVANS: [inaudible]

SEN. FIELDS: Uh, one second, Mr. Evans. So the entire senate has seen this amendment. Not only have you seen it, you've debated it. You have had a chance to question it. And we've spent a lot of time on it.

But more importantly, the public have seen it. And -- and -- and I filed the bill even after the extraordinary session, Madam Chair and members. I filed the bill during the regular session of the legislature.

It is Senate Bill 306.

SEN. HEWITT: Was that ever heard?

SEN. FIELDS: No, it wasn't heard.

SEN. HEWITT: Did the -- did the public ever have an opportunity to weigh in on your amended bill that you presented on the floor?

SEN. FIELDS: If -- if -- if I may, Madam Chair, and I filed it for this purpose. Because I

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wanted to put it in the public domain. Put it in the public domain. So this bill is nothing new to this legislature.

It's nothing new to the public, because it got a number, and everybody know about Senate Bill 306. And then I refiled it, pre-filed it, during this special session as Senate Bill 1. So the long and short end of it is this is nothing new.

Everybody in this legislature knows about Senate Bill 1.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah, I don't agree with that.

SEN. FIELDS: And -- well, I don't expect you to. With all due respect. And -- go ahead, Jared.

MR. EVANS: Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: Introduce yourself for the record, please.

MR. EVANS: Good morning, members. Jared Evans, Legal Defense Fund. So the map before you today is very similar, almost identical, to SB 2, which Senator Fields introduced during the redistricting session, which this committee did hear.

Now, what we did was we took SB 2. We lowered

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the population deviation. We moved -- thank you. We lowered the population deviation. We fixed a few precinct splits. So this is nearly identical to SB 2.

So this committee has had a chance to hear that bill.

SEN. HEWITT: Significant -- there's significant differences between this bill and SB 2. This committee has never had an opportunity to vet this bill in committee with the computer where we can zoom in and look at maps.

We don't get a chance to do that on the floor. The public doesn't have an opportunity to weigh in on the floor, as you know. The fact that you filed a bill in regular session does not mean that we have all read the 2000 bills that get filed.

As you know, we don't read them or have an opportunity to work on them until they come to committee and come to the floor. That bill, Senate Bill 306, never did that.

SEN. FIELDS: And I understand it. Ms. -- Madam Chair, I'm not here to -- to enter into some disagreement with you. I'm just laying the record that

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the bill has been there and we have debated the bill on the floor during the redistricting session as an amendment to Senate Bill 5.

And I filed the bill during the regular session as 306. And that's undisputed. And now, so I present it to you here again as Senate Bill 1.

Now, the population in this state as it relates to black population is about 32 percent and the white population is about 62 percent, if my consensus number -- census numbers, rather, are correct.

And the congressional representation, we have six members of Congress in Louisiana. The congressional representation in Louisiana, we have five white members of Congress and one black member of Congress.

If my math serves me correct, that's about 82 percent white representation and about 16 to 18 percent black representation. Now, we've passed the bill this past extraordinary session and we went to court and the courts have basically ruled that we need to do something different, and that's why we're here.

And that's why I've introduced the bill that I've introduced and there's a companion bill on the

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House side.

And I want to thank the chair and the members of this committee for holding this hearing, because it's -- it certainly gives us an opportunity to comply with the court's order and it also gives us an opportunity to do it in a timely fashion. So I thank the chair for that reason.

Now, let me explain the bill. The bill, first of all, in terms of deviations. The deviations in the bill are -- you know, Congress, the idea of deviations for a population deviation for a member of Congress, since the Congress is split up into seven -- I mean, six congressional districts.

The ideal population for each member of Congress is 776,292 individuals in each congressional district. In district number one, I have an actual population of 776,288. My absolute deviation is a negative four.

So I deviate by four people in district one. The relative deviation is negative 0.001. So there's only four people that do not comply with the ideal deviation in district one.

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In district number two, my actual population is 776,324 people. I deviate a little bit higher and it's 32 people. So I'm overpopulated by 32 people. So my relative deviation number is up 0.004.

In district number three, my actual population is 776,280 people. My absolute deviation is negative 12 people. The relative deviation is negative 0.002.

In district number four, my actual population is 776,280 people. My absolute deviation is negative 12 people. And the relative deviation is negative 0.002.

In district five, the actual population in district five is 776,292 people. My actual deviation is zero. It is a perfect district in terms of actual population. So there is no relative deviation in district five.

In district six, my actual population is 776,293 people. My absolute deviation is one person. My relative deviation is 0.000. So I'm only one person off.

So in these six districts, the absolute means deviation is seven. The absolute range is between negative 12 to 32. The absolute overall range is 44 and

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the relative overall range is 0.00.

So the basis of this -- these numbers are the statistical numbers for deviation is pretty good in this plan. It's not absolutely perfect, but it's almost perfect.

Now, I've looked at other plans that's been filed this session. There is another plan, and we have not did the numbers on it, but there's a plan, and I'm very impressed with it. There's a plan that does a little bit better than this one.

It's filed by Representative Barry Ivory on the House side. I was impressed with it. It -- it beats -- it beats -- it's the first plan I've seen that beats these -- these numbers.

Now, Madam Chair and members of the committee, let's go through total populations. In district one, district one, the total population of district one, we've talked about it, is 776,228 -- 288 people. The total white population is 499,169 people. The total black population is 156,420.

The total Asian population in that district is 24,288. Total American Indian is 23,838.

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SEN. HEWITT: Chairman Fields --

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: We've -- we've got all that information here before us. Do you feel like you need to read all these numbers in for the record or can the bill stand for the record?

SEN. FIELDS: No. I -- I wish I was only talking to you, Madam Chair and members of the committee, but I'm sure that there are folk watching and I -- if you want me to stop, I will, but I'm reading it into the record and for those people who are not here who are listening.

I really want them to know, but I will do whatever you so desire. I mean, we -- we're only dealing with this bill and your bill and I'll be happy to read it all into the record, but I -- it is my intent, like we did in '94, to move this bill out today so that we can have a floor debate on it.

And so that's why I want to take my time and put all of this into the record so that we can have a -- a very vigorous discussion on it.

SEN. HEWITT: Proceed.

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SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair. So district one, the total American Indian population is 23,838. The other population is 72,573. The total Hispanic population is 93,564.

The voting age population is 603,235. The voting age population of the white voters of 406,023. The voting age population of the black is -- black population is 110,000. The voting age population of the Asian votes, 18,094.

The voting age population of the Indian Americans, 16,723. And then the voting age population of the others of 51,829. And in voting age population of Hispanic total is 64,590.

And so district two, the total population is 776,324. Total white voting age population is 260,535. Total black population is 423,079. Total Asian population is 27,469. The total American Indian population is 9176. Total other population is 56,065. Total Hispanic population is 72,176.

The voting age population total is 603,401. The voting age population of the white voters are 219,344. The voting age population of the black --

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black voters are 315,387. The voting age population of the Asian voters is 21,871. The voting age population of the Indian votes is 7071.

The voting age population of the other voters are 39,728 and the voting age population of the Hispanic voters of 50,271.

When you got to district number three, total population is 776,280. The total population of the white voters is 260,368. Total population of the black voters is 150,741. Total population of the Asian voters is 17,285 and the Indian voters, American voters, is 13,850. Other voters, 3406 and the Hispanic voters 41,805.

Voter population total is 586,948 and the voter age population of the white voters is 435,388. Voter age population of the black voters is 105,115 and the voter age population of the Asian voters of 12,444. Voter age population of the American Indian voters is 10,220.

Voter age population of others is 23,781 and the voter age population of the Hispanic total is 28,649.

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And then we go to district four and district four, you have a total population of 76 -- I mean, 776,200. Total white voters, 455,428. Total black voters 261,926. Total Asian voters is 12,007. Total American Indian voters is 18,020. Others, 28,899. Hispanic voters 34,593.

Voter age population total is 596,366. Voter age population of the white voters would be 362,936. Voter age population of the black voters is 109,262 -- 67, I'm sorry. And voter age population of the Asian voters is 8851.

Voter age population of the American Indian voters is 13,735. Voter age population of the others is 20,577. And then Hispanic voters, voter age population is 23,991.

And then we go to district five. We almost at six. It's seven -- five is 776,292 is the total population. The total white voters is 315,773. Total black population is 419,465. Total Asian population is 8946. Total American Indian is 7908. Total other is 24,200. Total Hispanic is 28,638.

The voter age population is 58,177 [ph]. Voter

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age white population is 255,642. Voter age population of black is 302,438. The voter age population of the Asian American -- Asians are 6781 and voter age American Indians is 5894. Voter age of the population of other is 17,467 and Hispanic voter age population is 2161.

And now, finally, district six. The total population is 776,293. The total white population is seven -- I mean, I'm sorry, 566,379. Total black population is 131,488. Total Asian population is 17,293. Total American Indian is seven -- I mean, 14,268. Total other is 46,865 and Hispanic is 53,773.

Voter age population is 592,421. Total voter age white population is 445,178. Total voter age black population is 91,994. Voter age population for Asian is 12,375 and American Indian, 10,644. Voter age population for other is 32,230 and Hispanic is 36,000.

That is the plan for the total population of Senate Bill 1, Ms. -- Madam Chair and members of the committee. The splits of this committee, it splits several parishes, but not as many as the present plan that we have then that we passed during the

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extraordinary session of district one.

We -- it splits one, two, three, four, five, six, seven -- seven parishes and it has -- you have the map up?

MR. EVANS: Sure.

SEN. FIELDS: And it has one, two, three, four -- four whole parishes. That is district one. District two, it splits one, two, three, four, five -- five split parishes. One, two, three, four, five -- five whole parishes.

And then district number three, it splits one, two, three, four, five, six -- six split parishes and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven -- seven whole parishes.

In district number four, it splits -- it appears it splits only two parishes and the rest are all whole parishes and district number -- district five -- let's see, district four. Yeah, district five.

District five only splits one, two, three, four, five, six parishes and the rest are whole parishes and district number six splits one, two, three, four, five and the rest are whole parishes.

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And finally, Madam Chair and members of the committee, this plan creates two majority black districts. It complies with section two of the Voting Rights Act and it also complies with the court order and that's what the bill does.

And at this time, I'd tender the mic to Mr. Jared Evans with the Legal Defense Fund.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Senator Fields, and this is probably going to be my last opportunity to do this, but Senator, I -- I want to thank you for your leadership.

Every black kid in this state my age who grew up in the '90s, we remember you as that skinny guy with the glasses representing us in Washington who our parents and our families were so proud of.

And I'm just -- I've learned so much from you over the past year and it's truly been an honor to fight alongside you in this fight.

Members, before I begin my remarks about Senator Fields' bill, I come to you all with some very good news. As you all know, I am one of the lawyers in the litigation and my colleagues are right down the

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street in court right now as we speak.

Members, all of this goes away. All of the motions. All of the stays. All of the appeals, the court filings. The $60,000 a month that you all are paying for lawyers who keep losing. All of that goes away.

If you all do the right and fair thing today, we can all be home with our families for Father's Day. We aren't asking you for anything that's going to cost you a dime. The only relief we seek is an opportunity for minority voters to elect their candidate of course in two out of six districts.

The district court agreed with us that in SB 2 and the map that the majority passed, the minority choice candidate has no chance to be successful in five out of six districts. All of this litigation goes away, members, and you don't have to keep losing in court.

You pass this bill I go back to D.C. and you all don't have to see me again. All of our legal team goes back home. All of the team that's been beating you all in court, they all go back to New York and D.C.

Members, this is your way out. Turning to

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Senator Fields' map. Now, I'm going to compare Senator Fields' map to SB 2 and also the map that you all have already passed that's been struck down by the -- by the district court.

Starting with district one. In Senator Hewitt's map, she said that it was very important to keep that district as a coastal district. That district one has historically been the first line of defense for hurricanes.

Senator Fields' map does the same thing. District one keeps St. Bernard and Plaquemines and that whole little area is kept together.

Moving on to district three. During the road show and in Senator Hewitt's map, we heard that it was so important the Acadiana region wanted to be kept together. Lake Charles and Lafayette said they -- Lake Charles and Lafayette said they didn't want to be split up.

In Senator Fields' map, all of Lake Charles and the majority of Lafayette are kept together.

Senator Hewitt said that it was very important for her, very important to her, that there still be two

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vertical districts in north Louisiana. Those areas are united by strong agricultural and industrial industries. Senator Fields' map does the exact same thing, members.

In district four, the northwest corner of the state contains both Northwestern State University, where both of my parents graduated from, LSUS and Southern Shreveport.

Caddo and Bossier are kept together in district four, which was also a big priority that we heard at the Shreveport roadshow. They all said they didn't want Caddo and Bossier to be split up. They're kept together in this map.

Finally, where Senator Fields' map differs from Senator Hewitt's map and the map that you all passed and that's already been struck down is that instead of packing black voters in New Orleans and Baton Rouge into just one district, district two goes west and includes communities in the river parish and the bayou region.

Areas that, again, have many industries in common, such as fishing. They also have some of the

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same concerns and challenges such as hurricanes and flooding. The communities in district two are also united by a very large petrol chemical industry.

So, members, we present to you a map that will meet the requirements of what the middle district laid out in their opinion. SB 1 complies with section two of the Voting Rights Act. It meets the standards set by Judge Dick and her opinion and it complies with what this session was called for.

SEN. HEWITT: Is that the end of your presentation, Senator Fields? Your opening remarks?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Let me -- let me begin by asking you a question then about -- about my area. Were you at the -- at the roadshow, the Covington roadshow, Senator Fields?

SEN. FIELDS: No, ma'am. I was not.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay, because I did not hear at that roadshow anything that had anything to do with dividing out, pulling out Slidell and Pearl River out of the rest of St. Tammany Parish. As a matter of fact, you know, that's my hometown.

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You've divided up Slidell and Pearl River. You've split up Lacombe and you've broken them out of the rest of the parish in St. Tammany. So I was curious about kind of what your thought process was for that and -- and what your justification was in doing that?

You could maybe pull that map up for me, if you will. That's the NorthShore map. So you can see St. Tammany, I think, is in your new district six, which changed dramatically from the enacted map and you've got Slidell -- parts of Slidell -- my part of Slidell is not in district one.

My part of Slidell is now in district six, so you've split up Slidell. You've split up Lacombe, but the majority of St. Tammany Parish would now be in district six, previously had been in district one, and I'm just sort of curious what your justification for that is.

SEN. FIELDS: Senator, I -- I was not at the roadshow and in fact I was only at the roadshow that took place in East Baton Rouge Parish, the district which I represent. When you all were at Southern University, I was present at that roadshow.

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But I would -- my response to that is there would be some parishes that will be split and in this plan that's not split in your plan. My only response to it is it only splits -- it splits less parishes than your plan and it complies with the Voting Rights Act.

And this plan is, in fact, more compact than -- than your plan. Now, does this plan please every single local government? You know, I don't know. I don't have the answer to that.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, don't you think communities of interest are important?

SEN. FIELDS: Oh, absolutely and I think this --

SEN. HEWITT: But you've -- you've divided up this community. Even Pearl River, as small as it is, isn't fully within one district or the other. The little town. It's a town. It is not fully in one district or the other.

The town of Pearl River is split. The city of Slidell is split. The city of Lacombe is split. I don't really understand the justification for that.

SEN. FIELDS: The justification is the plan

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has been created to comply with subsection two of the Voting Rights Act and -- and that has been satisfied and we have continuity.

All of the legislators, all of the congresspersons are in their respective districts, so you do have continuity of service and in terms of compactness, the districts are very compact and --

SEN. HEWITT: Doesn't the Voting Rights Act require that the minority population be sufficiently compact?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, it does.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay, your measurement -- your measurement is the compactness of the entire district, is it not?

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah, and -- and this district is more compact than the plan that you passed or we passed in the extraordinary session.

SEN. HEWITT: So the -- so the community of interest on -- in my area didn't matter as much to you. What was your reasoning then? Was it -- were you looking at race? Trying to -- to cobble together enough black precincts or what were you -- what was the --

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what was the logic there?

SEN. FIELDS: You -- you know when you say was -- was race the reason I -- I don't even know what areas you're talking about, quite frankly.

You know, so race was not the predominant reason for the drawing of any of -- any of the plans I've presented before you and it certainly wasn't the predominant reason for drawing this plan.

But was race a reason? Of course it was a reason, in complying with the subsection two of the Voting Rights Act. But at the end of the day, Senator, this -- this plan complied with jingles [ph] and it also complied with all of the senate factors.

And when taking all of those issues into effect, it complied with the plans and every parish will not be whole. You know, even in your plan, it split parishes. It split, in fact, more parishes.

You know, it just so happened that's the way it ends up.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, again, communities of interest do matter and that is a community of interest that I'm very familiar with that you have destroyed in

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your plan.

SEN. FIELDS: Well, you know, if -- we can talk about this all day, but at the end of the day, if I recall right, and I may be wrong, you know, but when I read the opinion, you know, your lawyers went to court and they were talking.

They argued community of -- they made an issue in their brief about community of interest and when it was time to argue the issue, they failed to even argue the issue of community of interest.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, we're not in a court of law. We're in a legislative hearing and I care about communities of interest.

SEN. FIELDS: I understand where we are.

SEN. HEWITT: Communities of interest is definitely one of our redistricting principles.

SEN. FIELDS: Then -- then your lawyers should have argued it in court.

SEN. HEWITT: And I'm very familiar with this community of interest.

SEN. FIELDS: And they did not argue it in court.

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SEN. HEWITT: I am not in court right? My job is not to brief or testify --

SEN. FIELDS: No, but when you bring up these legal -- when you up these legal --

SEN. HEWITT: -- I am here in a legislative hearing.

SEN. FIELDS: Madam Chair, with all respect, all due respect, when you bring up the legal arguments, you know, the -- the time to make these arguments are in court and your lawyers, not mine, your lawyers, failed to do that.

You -- you bringing up a legal argument that your lawyers have failed to make in court.

SEN. HEWITT: I am not bringing up a legal argument. I am asking about --

SEN. FIELDS: Community of interest is a legal argument.

SEN. HEWITT: -- as the map drawer, what was your intent -- what was your intent in drawing this map? And you have destroyed a community of interest that I am very familiar with in this map.

MR. EVANS: May I say something?

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SEN. FIELDS: You may say.

MR. EVANS: Well, Senator Hewitt, I could say the very same thing about your map as well and as you know --

SEN. HEWITT: You're not debating my map. We are here debating Senator Fields SB 1 map. Isn't that -- is that not what's on the agenda?

MR. EVANS: That's right. That's -- yes, it --

SEN. HEWITT: That is the purpose.

MR. EVANS: Yes, Madam Chair.

SEN. HEWITT: The purpose is not to decide --

MR. EVANS: And let's -- and let's talk about Senator Fields' map. When we started drawing this map, our goal, and Senator Hewitt, was to draw a map -- and I'm going to be very honest with you, that was more compact than your map, that kept communities of interest together and that had two minority districts.

Yes, race was a factor, but it was not a predominant factor. And, in drawing your map and in drawing our map, as we've said, there is no map that makes everybody happy.

I cannot tell you how many hours I have spent

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over the phone over the past year with members of the community who are angry. My parents are angry with me, because we couldn't draw a map that had Natchitoches in a majority district.

There are members in Shreveport and in Lake Charles who want their -- who want to be in district five or district two in our maps. There's no map, Senator Hewitt, that kept every single community of interest together.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, that's our purpose today is to talk about some of those things, because that is a redistricting principle, communities of interest, is it not?

MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay.

MR. EVANS: As is compactness and this bill is more compact than your bill.

SEN. HEWITT: We are not comparing bills.

MR. EVANS: As is population deviation.

SEN. HEWITT: We are not comparing bills. We are here to talk about Senate Bill 1.

MR. EVANS: Okay. Well, SB 1 is more compact

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than any bill that has been introduced and is more compact than the bill that's being debated in court as we speak and it has lower population deviations than the bill that's being debated in court down the street.

SEN. HEWITT: Can you -- can you articulate the compactness of the minority district? The minority population has to be sufficiently compact within the district.

MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

SEN. HEWITT: Can you articulate what that number is?

MR. EVANS: I can tell you what the court says, Ms. Senator Hewitt, and the -- and the court ruled that in both district two and in district five, in all the maps that we presented to the court, and one of them is very similar to SB 1, which is before you, that the minority population in both of those districts were sufficiently large and geographically compact for the minority voters in those districts to elect a candidate of their choice.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah, but -- but I think the court also said that you didn't do a good job of

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proving the minority compactness. You looked at the compactness of the entire district.

All right, Senator Tarver?

SEN. TARVER: Senator Fields, you mentioned that this bill now was an amendment on the floor of the Senate. How long was it debated?

SEN. FIELDS: Oh --

SEN. TARVER: Approximately, I know --

SEN. FIELDS: I do not recall the exact time, Senator, but it was debated for -- I don't -- I can't recall how long. I really can't.

SEN. TARVER: I -- I understand. Was it on the internet? This bill?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes.

SEN. TARVER: The amendment at the time?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes.

SEN. TARVER: It was on the website?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

SEN. TARVER: And so it had time for a lot of people to see, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

SEN. TARVER: All the -- basically all the

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bills was on the website. A lot of the bills was on the website for people to see, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir. It was.

SEN. TARVER: Now, your particular bill here, Senate Bill 1, it gives representation to minorities in Louisiana that have been denied representation in the past. Is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, it does.

SEN. TARVER: All the other bills that passed the Senate and all the other bills, basically that -- that the court saw, did not give proper representation to minorities.

SEN. FIELDS: It -- they -- they do not and did not.

SEN. TARVER: The bill that passed this committee basically did not give complete representation to minorities. Is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: That's correct. I gave some percentages earlier in my opening remarks.

SEN. TARVER: Okay, but so your bill and the bill that you placed on the floor -- the amendment that you placed on the floor, gave representation to all the

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people of Louisiana and minorities, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: Absolutely.

SEN. TARVER: Okay.

SEN. FIELDS: I mean, if you're going to have a representative democracy, it's just -- it makes basic sense that people have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

SEN. TARVER: The reason we're here is because the court knocked down the ones that were passed by the [inaudible] legislature.

SEN. FIELDS: That's correct.

SEN. TARVER: And the governor had to call the special session and that's why we're here today.

SEN. FIELDS: That is exactly why we're here today, Senator, and the governor did have the restraints on that call, because the courts, in its order, basically said we had to have something done by the 20th.

And interesting enough, we have had redistricting sessions called in six days and we have completed our business in the past with redistricting in six days.

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SEN. TARVER: Not only in redistricting, but in other bills that have came before the legislature. House Bill 1, House Bill 2, have also passed within six days.

SEN. FIELDS: I --

SEN. TARVER: In the history of Louisiana, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: I'm under the impression that in 2018, some of you were present during that time, that you all have passed an appropriation HB 1, which is a very complication -- complicated bill.

HB 1, in six days.

SEN. TARVER: And it made it in six days, was that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: That's correct. I was not here, but that was a -- that's the most recent history, in 2018, HB 1 was passed in six days.

SEN. TARVER: So in this redistricting, we have enough time -- in session we have enough time to pass a redistricting bill and we really actually don't need any more time. Six days is basically enough because of the history of other bills that have passed

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in Louisiana. Is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: Absolutely. I think six days is more than enough to pass a redistricting plan, because we have done it before. But you would have to have the will to do it. If you don't have the will to do it, 12 days is not enough.

Look, we've had -- we've had a whole session to do it and we didn't pass this bill. So you've got to have the will to do it and if this legislature doesn't have the will to do it, no matter how much time we have to do it, we are not going to do it.

So if we don't have the will, we just don't do it. So if we have the will to do it, six days is more than enough time.

SEN. TARVER: And -- and the bill that was vetoed by the governor came back to the Senate and was -- it was overridden by two-thirds. What percentage of the two-thirds were republicans that voted for that bill?

SEN. FIELDS: The -- the override?

SEN. TARVER: Yes.

SEN. FIELDS: Well, I mean, I -- I'm one of

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the members of the legislature and people may not believe me, but I never go back and look at a vote. I just don't.

SEN. TARVER: Oh, but I think it was 27.

SEN. FIELDS: I -- but I can only assume -- yeah.

SEN. TARVER: At that time, right?

SEN. FIELDS: Twenty-seven?

SEN. TARVER: It took 26 and there were 27 basically republicans voting for it and basically the democrats voted against it, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: I would take your word. I know that all the democratic -- as I recall, I think all the democrats voted the same way. But I -- I just -- I never go back and look at a vote. After I make a vote, it's -- that vote is passed.

SEN. TARVER: And at the same time, the 27 republicans that voted against it, all of them were white, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: All the republicans are white.

SEN. TARVER: But the democrats we have, we're mixed, correct? We have minorities and we have

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majorities, correct?

SEN. FIELDS: We do have -- we do have white democrats.

SEN. TARVER: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Senator Reese.

SEN. REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Senator Fields, you know, I think -- I think we all shared common goals as we started the redistricting process and -- and it's a very confusing process, especially for those of us that don't have a legal background to determine what principles of -- because there are many in redistricting that have to be applied to ultimately come up with a map that we think satisfies, you know, kind of all of those redistricting principles.

And -- and like you, I think throughout the process, we -- we try to keep in mind as well, you know, what opportunities do we have to create majority, minority districts within the confines of applying all of the principles that we have to apply to ultimately arrive at that.

I understand that -- that there's also law

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that basically, you know, we talk about the percentage of total population to minority population.

I think there's a particular law that -- that says that -- that you don't necessarily draw districts to equal any percent of that particular minority's population to the total population of a state, because again, it matters where people live, you know, if you -- if you can't get it compact enough to do that.

And then you start applying those principles of, you know, communities of interest and geographic boundaries and municipal boundaries and continuity of representation and then you apply all that and then decide with -- once you've applied that, can you actually create these -- this second district?

And so I really just want to -- to kind of focus some of my comments, because this is a conversation you and I have had before, probably when this amendment was on the floor of the Senate.

You know, in -- in -- and I'll just kind of focus in on this Vernon Parish piece of it, you know, on the western side of the state where -- where it seems that the only way we draw the district is you

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have to really abandon all of those other traditional redistricting principles to prioritize another goal to end up with a district drawn in that area the way it is, because we take the -- the largest federal installation in the state of Louisiana and we divide it in half.

And we take the communities, the primary community that provides the support for the installation and the education for the students who live on the installation and we divide that municipality in half.

And so we kind of have to abandon geography. We have to abandon continuity of representation.

We have to abandon the -- the desire to try to honor municipal boundaries and then we have to abandon what I could articulate in many, many ways to be a strong community of interest, as I'm sure you would appreciate, having served in Congress, that -- that, you know, deals with that major federal installation, which is the bedrock of the entire economy of that side of the state.

So but maybe speak to, you know, how the

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principles you applied to end up with your map calls the principles that I would say are required to be honored there to be kind of abandoned to focus on another end, perhaps.

SEN. FIELDS: You want to answer?

MR. EVANS: Yes, yes. So Senator Reese, thank you for that question.

In creating Senator Fields' map that's before you today, we took in everything that we heard from the roadshow and as I've said earlier and as I've said to this committee before, there is no map that keeps every single community of interest, every single area together.

So in this map, we did what we could. As I said earlier, we kept Shreveport and Bossier together. We did our best to keep the heart of the Acadiana region, all of Lake Charles, most of Lafayette and all those parishes in between.

We did our best to keep those two districts in north Louisiana that are united by agriculture industries.

We did our absolute best to keep those

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parishes on the coast that are our first line of defense against hurricanes, like the many we've had in the past couple of years, we did our best to keep those together, and we did our best to keep the parishes in the river region together.

Unfortunately, not every area is going to be kept together in every map and all the maps that we've seen come before us during the redistricting session, there are some areas that were -- that were -- that were split up.

It's just some areas have to be sacrificed.

SEN. REESE: No, and look, and I'm not being argumentative about that. I mean, I -- that's what I think we're all speaking to the same thing.

The tremendous difficulty it is to -- to honor all of those principles of redistricting and end up with the results that we're all — that we're all trying to end up with, within the legal confines what we're all guided by, right?

And so you do have to make decisions at some point, you know, holding some communities together, but choosing to divide others. And I think that's what

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makes the process so incredibly difficult.

And in this particular case, though, I think that -- that we divide what I would argue would be the largest federal interest in the state of Louisiana and divide it in half.

And so that seems to me that we would have to abandon so many of the principles that we're supposed to follow and try to develop a map in order -- in order to try to adhere to other goals in creating districts.

And that -- just a concern of mine that -- that appears there, so --

MR. EVANS: Yes. Yes, Senator Reese, and that's the case in every single map that's come before this committee. There are some communities of interest that unfortunately just had to be split up in any map.

SEN. REESE: Yeah, and I know we -- I may get into this a little bit more later on.

There may be people here that want to speak to it, but I -- you know, you'll have people living in one side of the district, maybe on the -- on the military installation that are going to be educate -- in one congressional district, will cross over and be educated

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in another congressional district.

The funding for the schools that they're going to attend requires a congressional appropriation called Impact Aid to make up for the fact that the military owns 50 percent of the landmass in the parish and we've divided that kind of in half as well.

So again, that's what makes it so difficult in understanding, you know, whether or not this is the appropriate map to adopt, because in some ways, at least in the area I'm most familiar with, we're abandoning all of those traditional redistricting principles for other goals in the totality of the state.

So that's my --

MR. EVANS: And, unfortunately, Senator Reese, the concerns that you raise are not uncommon, even in the current map.

I do a lot of voter protection work during election season and we have a hard time explaining to people in St. Landry Parish why their grandmother across the street or their cousin around the corner is in district four instead of district three.

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SEN. REESE: True.

MR. EVANS: Or in district five. When we have elections in New Orleans currently, there's a lot of people who go -- show up thinking that their friends told them to go vote in a special election and they realized they're in a different congressional district, even though they live across the street from each other.

SEN. REESE: Yeah. Yeah. Well, thank you. Thank you for your response. I appreciate that. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

SEN. HEWITT: All right, thank you. Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Senator Fields, I appreciate your efforts through this process. I know you've worked hard and we did pass a plan. I voted for it. I know you voted against it. At the time, I felt like the plan -- and still did, was legal.

I realize now it's gone through the court system and, as you know, around the country there's litigation all over the place about redistricting. And so I just want to make sure we're clear for the public

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where we are in the -- in the court process.

I mean, at this point in time, there's never been a trial on the merits at the district courts on the validity of the plan that was passed, would you agree?

SEN. FIELDS: That's correct. There's no -- there -- there has been no trial on the merits, but --

SEN. FOIL: And I realize Judge Dick has granted a preliminary injunction with her orders, which is why we're here today, and I've read the Fifth Circuit decision a couple of times and I -- I understand the Fifth Circuit did not keep a stay in place.

But the only order I saw by the Fifth Circuit judges was that the Clerk issued an expedited briefing schedule and to calendar this matter for argument before the next available randomly selected merits panel that is already scheduled to hear arguments.

So that's the only thing -- only order I saw from the First Circuit is it ordered that this be placed on an expedited docket for a merits panel.

SEN. FIELDS: You mean a Fifth Circuit?

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SEN. FOIL: The Fifth Circuit, yes.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay. And -- and there is an audit in place from the First Circuit and the Fifth Circuit has ordered it for a hearing on the 8th and right now, we're under the latest expression of the court and the latest expression of the court is the First Circuit.

SEN. FOIL: You mean the district -- middle district?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes. I mean the middle district.

SEN. FOIL: Yeah. And I -- and I understand that, but there might be -- I read the paper this morning and read some things in the paper that may have been misconstrued that the -- at least it implied that the Fifth Circuit was ordering that we go in and -- and make a new map.

I didn't see that order in this -- in this decision.

SEN. FIELDS: Well, it's not an order of the Fifth Circuit and if anyone said that, you know, I -- I guess it can be implied, I guess, because they lifted the stay, so it can be implied.

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But the Fifth Circuit did not say that, but the district court actually did say that and as an officer of the court and as a law abiding citizen and as a person who took the oath of office, when I said I was going to uphold the Constitution of the State and of the United States, I'm dutybound to do what the federal court has ordered me to do and that's why I'm here.

SEN. FOIL: And I do agree with you that we do have an obligation to try to do what the district court ordered us to do, I just --

SEN. FIELDS: I -- I don't think we should try to do. I think we should do. I -- look, I disagree with you on that. We shouldn't try to do what the district court ordered us to do. I think we should do what the district court has ordered us to do and that's why I'm here.

I mean, we -- we shouldn't play with that, Senator, with all due respect. I think we should do what the district court has ordered us to do. That's where we differ.

SEN. FOIL: Let me -- let me make clear, for

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the record now, I want to make sure people understand, but the Fifth Circuit has not ruled on the merits of the -- granting the preliminary injunction.

SEN. FIELDS: I agree with you. I agree with you, Senator. I agree.

SEN. FOIL: And you and I are both attorneys and we know there are times when we lose at the trial level and we have the right to --

SEN. FIELDS: I have done that.

SEN. FOIL: -- appeal that decision.

SEN. FIELDS: I've done that before.

SEN. FOIL: I know you have. You're -- you're a well-known attorney. But --

SEN. FIELDS: But -- but -- but let me clear. I don't think we should try. I think we should do what the federal court has ordered us to do. As an officer of the court, I want to be clear.

SEN. FOIL: You -- you are and I appreciate that and understand where you're coming from. But let me just finish this line of questioning just to make sure the public understands.

If this matter were to continue to be

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litigated, it could potentially go to a trial at the middle district. Then it could be appealed if there's an adverse ruling. Well, there will be an adverse ruling.

It could be appealed by the losing party to the Fifth Circuit and then it could go to the Supreme Court. So there's still potential for more litigation ahead of us.

SEN. FIELDS: Senator, as a lawyer, you're a lawyer. You know, as a lawyer, once a court issues a ruling, we -- we take -- we take appeals all the time.

SEN. FOIL: Right.

SEN. FIELDS: But the latest order of the court, pending appeal, we have to follow that. We have an order of the court and -- and we shouldn't give this legislature any -- there are a lot of non-lawyers in this legislature.

SEN. FOIL: Right.

SEN. FIELDS: And — and -- and we as lawyers, we should let them know they don't have the luxury of not following, this court following, this court order. This is a real judge who has issued a real order and we

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should follow it.

SEN. FOIL: I realize that and I understand that, but my concern is because of the timetable.

At the appropriate time, I would -- not just for your bill, but any -- any proposals that we -- we present, I would like to offer an amendment that puts some qualifying language that if your bill passes or some other bill passes, if a court later finds the first plan to be upheld, then the -- the second bill would -- would not be law.

I wanted something to that effect. Obviously we don't have the luxury of time to know what the courts are going to do, because we're here today and we've got to do something.

So I would want some kind of -- put some kind of language in that respect when we get to that time on amendments, I'm going to want to work on that with you.

SEN. FIELDS: [inaudible]

SEN. FOIL: And it wouldn't be just your bill, Senator, it would be -- it would be any bill that's proposed to the process. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SEN. HEWITT: All right, Senator. Thank you.

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Senator Milligan.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. You know, Senator, I sit here and -- and think about everything that we've talked about this morning and -- and yesterday, of course, on the floor.

I sit there and question the fact that with -- with our map, with our congressional map that -- that two chambers overwhelmingly supported and overrode a veto, the judge had 24 days to consider one instrument.

Right? A very important instrument on a very important topic. And she needs all the time she can -- needed. She took all the time that she needed to do it.

But yet we're expected, in six days, to reconsider not just one instrument, but multiple instruments that are all very important and we have to take into account every one of those instruments.

So I'm -- I'm not real happy with the fact that we're in a rush to get something done this important in six days' time. Can it be done? Yes. But we have to consider multiple instruments.

The next thing I want to talk about -- I'm just voicing my opinion there, because I -- I'm

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frustrated by that on such an important topic. The next thing I want to talk about is the fact that how in the world is race not the issue?

We just heard your attorney. Race is not the issue in drawing this map, yet we've been ordered not to draw two majority minority districts. We've been ordered to draw two black districts.

When I look at SB 1, when I look at the map, and I understand we're trying to hit all the numbers and you went over all the numbers this morning. It -- it's almost like we're trying to drive a square peg through a round hole to make those numbers work.

And with the computer, you can make those numbers work. But when you sit and look at the map and you look at these little jut outs that are solely designed to capture, not population, capture black population to make the numbers work, how is this not about race?

How is race not the issue in drawing this map? What I want to ask you, and your attorney, the current map that we all under, was approved under the Obama administration.

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The map that this body and the House approved is very similar. That original map was okay. It was fine. No problem. It was approved. We passed it. We moved on. We've adhered by it for the last 10 years.

The map that's been drawn is relatively similar, but it's not. It's terrible. And look, in 10 roadshows we've all been called racist because of that map. I didn't draw that map, but I live by that map.

And all of the congressional members along with all of us on this panel and you yourself, we are all public servants. I don't represent black people. I don't represent white people. I represent all people, as does all of our congressional leaders.

So my question to you, and to your attorney, is -- and maybe we've covered this. We've been at this a long time.

I need somebody to explain to me and this body how the current map and the map that's been drawn and approved does not allow for representation, the right to vote or the right to run of any minority inside those districts.

Because there's nothing in the current maps.

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There's nothing in the map that's been drawn. There's nothing in the map that you drew that denies representation. It denies the right to vote. It denies the right to run.

There's nothing that blocks that. And I take offense to it, because I sit there as a public servant thinking, I represent 119,000 people at home, but I represent everybody at home and nobody in my district can say they're not represented.

Nobody in my district can say they can't run, because I'm a white man. Nobody in my district says they can't vote because I'm a white man. I take offense to that. We draw maps based on population and federal standards and we try to check every one of those boxes.

Every one of those boxes. It's not drawn for the republicans and it's not drawn for democrats. It's not drawn for white, black, Mexican; I don't care. It's not drawn for those purposes.

But yet I have to sit here and we have to sit here through all the roadshows, through all the committee hearings, and we're -- we're told race is not the issue. But yet it is and I take offense to that.

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I -- I need somebody to explain to me again how people are not represented, they can't vote and they can't run because of the current map or the maps that have been proposed.

And I -- when you look at your map, Senator, you can easily make all the numbers work, but you're taking a little bit of Slidell. You're taking Ville Plat. You're carving up a little Rapides. Carving Ouachita.

I realize there's going to be some fragmentation. I realize that. Arguments are made. But when you look at this map, the current map that you've drawn, basically what happens in the fifth district is the fifth district now belongs to Baton Rouge.

How is -- how is there a community of interest? How is there any common interest from someone in Morehouse and West Carroll versus East Baton Rouge Parish?

So I -- I'll stop there, but -- but tell me again how -- how there's no representation based on the current map and how your map is going to change the representation. I realize it may -- it may allow for

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another -- another African American in Congress.

I realize that. But you may also weaken another district to not allow representation. I just don't understand this argument. So I -- I'll -- my apologies, but I'll turn it back over to you.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Senator. Well, Senator, the way this -- this system of voting rights work is every 10 years the -- the states have something called a census. And they do -- they send people out and now they do it through computers and they count.

And through the -- the most recent census, Louisiana actually increased in minority population and decreased in white population.

SEN. MILLIGAN: I understand.

SEN. FIELDS: And then there are some other -- others as well. There's Hispanic, so forth and so on. So Louisiana increased, I think by -- by four percent -- six percent -- I mean, four percent in -- in black population.

That number has went up and white population it actually decreased like by six percent. And -- and so after redistricting, we have to do this thing called

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redistricting.

SEN. MILLIGAN: I understand.

SEN. FIELDS: And -- and we have to redraw lines and so that's why we're here. And we have to do it based on something, you know, you know, there are all kinds of legal terms that we use. There are cases that have been litigated.

Jingles versus Thornburg. Then they're legislated. Jurors have had hearings. Like and they have come up with all kinds of interesting terms. Senate factors. And we have to put all that stuff together and we have to redraw lines and we have to use these guidelines.

And -- and then the court has to vet it if somebody challenge it. And so that's what has happened here in Louisiana. We have drew lines and it wasn't challenged last time. We drew lines and it's been challenged.

And -- and because it's wrong. It doesn't comply with subsection two of the Voting Rights Act. Now, back in the day, we had something called subsection five, which we still do, but we don't have

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to go through that rigorous -- the Justice Department doesn't have to do that rigorous oversight.

Because Louisiana has a history of discriminating against black people. There was a time I had to state the [inaudible] I had to do all kinds of things. My grandparents had to do all kinds of things just to register to vote.

And so -- so that's why we're here. Now, this plan is more compact than the present plan that we have today and our population, the black population in this state, is -- is high. Very high. Eight two -- 83 percent of the congressional representation is white.

I think that's wrong when you've got a compact black population where you can create a black congressional seat. And -- and that's why there's such a big fight. I know it's a tough -- you know, look, I know your heart.

You and I, we've worked together. I've worked with everybody on this panel. Everybody in the Senate. But it's a tough deal. But it's not tough for me, because I know it's wrong. It's just dead wrong. We've just got to get it right.

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And I know where you come from, man, but we've got to fix it and we've got to fix it now. And the court has given us until, what is it, Monday?

SEN. HEWITT: June 20 at 6:00 p.m.

SEN. FIELDS: The 20th to fix it and we've just got to just fix it. We've got to fix it.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: Let me just sort of add in here about some of the numbers. You talk about the numbers of the black population. I've got some numbers here.

SEN. FIELDS: Let's go.

SEN. HEWITT: In -- well, let me start out first by getting some clarifying information from Mr. Evans. When we -- let's see. When we did the census in 2010, citizens had to check one box, did they not?

You had to check white, black, Asian, etcetera. You could check one box. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: I'm not aware of what was on the census in 2010, Senator. I was still in college.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. But you counted, right? Everybody gets counted in the census.

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MR. EVANS: Yes, ma'am. Yes, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. I believe that's right. All right, in 2020, we changed the process by which we gathered census data where people could check multiple boxes, right? Check all that apply.

And so people could check multiple boxes. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: That is correct. Yes, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. And I believe the way the data has been accumulated is if -- if citizens checked black and anything else, it got put into the black bucket. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: I'm not aware of what the intricacies of the census were, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: You're not aware of what? I'm sorry.

MR. EVANS: What the intricacies of the census were.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I'm surprised because you're -- those aren't intricacies. Those are -- I mean, those are the numbers, right, by which you're

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basing a lot of your arguments.

When we say any part black, isn't that -- APB, isn't that an acronym that's used in the -- in the discussions about the census and the -- how we should draw the maps? APB?

MR. EVANS: That is correct, Senator. That is -- that is correct.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. So any part black, does that mean that if you checked black and anything else, that you were registered as any part black in terms of -- not registered, like registered to vote, but -- but that's how you were counted, is that correct?

MR. EVANS: I believe that to be correct, Senator, yes.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. I'm really asking. I'm trying to make sure that I've got all the acronyms right.

MR. EVANS: It's -- no, Senator, you are correct. There's a lot of acronyms and I'm not sure what all of them mean myself.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. I've got a

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table here that shows this is about black voting age population, BVAP. You're familiar with that?

MR. EVANS: Yes. Yes, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: Any part black. All right. In the year 2000, in the state of Louisiana, we had 29.6 percent black voting age population when you use any part black. In 2010, we had 30.47. In 2020, we had 31.25 percent.

All right, so in 10 years we went from 30.47 percent to 31.25 percent. This is black voting age population. Meanwhile, during that 20-year time, we went from seven districts -- congressional districts, to six.

So in 2000, when we had seven seats, the ideal district size was 638,425. In 2010, we dropped down to six seats, because other -- other states were growing faster than we were. Our ideal population district size -- ideal district size was 755,562.

Today, in 2020, it is 776,293, which is a difference in terms of ideal district size over the last 10 years of 20,731. Okay, so my point is, the black population has not changed that much in 10 years.

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In terms of black voting age population, it has not changed that much and yet we have gone from seven seats to six seats.

The growth of the -- of the districts is larger than it was with fewer seats, so it makes it much more difficult to draw a district that is majority black when you have fewer districts and a larger ideal district size. Would you not agree with that?

SEN. FIELDS: No, I will not agree with that at all, because let me just go to -- I was going from the US Census number -- I'm going to go to the state senate numbers, which I assume is the US Senate Census number.

Total white population in this state is 57.0 percent according the population from the senate and the total black population is 33.1 percent. Look, there are six districts. Six districts in the state.

You know, I -- I -- going from the -- the 62, I said, you know, but the white population according to the state is 57 percent. You know, you go 57 percent, how can you say that one out of 57 -- when you're 57 percent of the population, you want to occupy over 80

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percent of the seats?

Eighty percent? I mean, come on, now. I mean, that's -- no, that's not right. No, that's not fair. That's not fair under any circumstances. It -- it -- no one on this panel can even think -- can even dream that that's fair.

Senator Hewitt, you know that's not fair. And when the population is compact, the -- here's a plan before you that shows you if you put up -- if you put up the present -- put -- can you put up the present plan?

The present plan, if you put up the present plan, you'll see that district five is really no different from district -- district five under the Senate Bill 1. I mean, it's just really no difference.

It's -- it's really the same. You know? And -- and no, it's not fair. You will not get me to concede to that point.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I wasn't asking you about fairness. That's not even a legally defined term.

SEN. FIELDS: But that's what we're here for. We're here to talk about fairness.

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SEN. HEWITT: We're here to talk about a map that this legislature wants to enact --

SEN. FIELDS: That's fair.

SEN. HEWITT: -- that meets all the federal and state laws.

SEN. FIELDS: A map that's fair. That's why we're here. We have passed an unfair map. We're here to pass a fair map so we can get the federal court off of our back.

SEN. HEWITT: Where in the law does it -- where does -- in the law does it define fair?

SEN. FIELDS: Under subsection two of the Voting Rights Act.

SEN. HEWITT: It's -- the word fair I don't think shows up anywhere in the Voting Rights Act. What does show up is something that says, and I quote, that nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to the proportion in the population.

SEN. FIELDS: No, here, Senator, is your plan. That's -- that's the present plan that we are operating under today. Now, that's what we're operating under

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today, right now, today. Now, click on what we are debating right now.

Oh, wait, that's what we are -- that's the plan that we are operating under today. Today, that's the -- no, not -- not today. That's what they plan to run under. That's the one that's passed. We have passed this plan this past legislative extraordinary session.

Now, if we -- if the court -- if we can -- if we're allowed to run for office under this plan, this is the plan that the legislature has approved. Now, put -- pull up Senate Bill 1. Now, tell me -- I mean, I can't even imagine how anybody sitting on this panel -- panel can say that that's not fair.

You -- you've got 80-some percent of the seats right now today, Senator, 80-some percent, 80-some percent of the congressional representation in Congress today are white.

And this is what you want -- this is how the congressional seats look and this is what I'm proposing.

And that's why the court struck it down and we're still here debating -- we're still here debating

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about the same thing. That's -- you know, let's -- let's move on.

SEN. HEWITT: I don't believe the court struck it down. Didn't you just have that debate or that conversation with Senator Foil? This map has not been considered yet on the merits. Isn't that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: And in fact -- in fact, look, we can actually -- actually it has. Actually it has. We've had the trial in the merit in the district court. The appeals court, that's why we say appeal.

Appeal is for appeal the record. The case has been submitted. We've had the trial. All the appeal is going to do is appeal the record in the case. The record has been settled. You know? It's --

SEN. HEWITT: As a preliminary injunction.

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, the injunction.

SEN. HEWITT: A preliminary injunction is not the same as the merits, is it?

SEN. FIELDS: The -- the -- appeals court can't hear a trial. The appeals court is going to hear the appeal on the record. On the record. You're not putting new evidence in, in the appeal.

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SEN. HEWITT: The issue before the district court, though, it was a preliminary injunction, wasn't it?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, it was.

SEN. HEWITT: That's not merit.

SEN. FIELDS: An injunction on the merits. An injunction. The whole case has been submitted. Look, I'm not here to argue with you about the case, although I can, but I'm here to argue with you about my bill.

I'm trying to comply with the court order. The court has ordered us to do something and I'm submitting it to you, Senator, and my fellow members. Look, let's -- I'm just trying to help all of us, as members of the senate, to comply with the court order.

We've -- we've been ordered to do something and I'm doing everything I can do for us to comply with it.

SEN. HEWITT: And we -- we are here today to do the same thing, but we're a deliberative body and there's -- there's no way that you or I individually could say that this body will do what the court ordered, right?

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Even if you want to and you will it, and I want to and I will it, we can't do that, because we're a deliberative body with 144 people that all have an opinion and a vote.

SEN. FIELDS: I agree with you, but it's 37 of us and the 37 of us or 36, I forget about the numbers, Senator Harris. I don't know how many of us is it now, but the 36 or 37 of us can do.

The 36 of us, we need to show -- we need -- we're the leaders of this legislature. We need to show the court that we are doing what we -- what we have been ordered to do and we can do that.

SEN. HEWITT: And we are in day two of that process.

SEN. FIELDS: And I -- and look, I'm impressed with what the president and what you and what this entire senate is doing and has done to this point, because we are -- we -- we are doing what we need to do and -- and I just think we should continue on those path -- on that path.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Question, again, Senator Reese.

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SEN. REESE: Chairwoman. Senator Fields, one other thing, just a piece of underlying data that -- while you guys are at the table and have the expertise to answer it.

So in developing your map to -- to comply with -- with the court's order in creating two majority minority districts, obviously one of the things that we've all debated along this path as we try to develop our own maps related to what -- what is that percentage?

So tell me -- tell me what -- of all the demographic measures, what -- what percentage measure in your two minority majority districts -- or majority minority districts did you rely upon to label them as such?

SEN. FIELDS: I'm going to let Jared -- Jared answer this question, but that was -- that issue came up in court in terms of performance.

SEN. REESE: Right.

SEN. FIELDS: You know, will these districts perform? And I think the chair has -- has made a big issue about performance in previous hearings, and I've

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testified to this before.

These districts will perform, because that was another issue, whether or not the districts will perform.

SEN. REESE: Right.

SEN. FIELDS: And I -- I'm -- we did some kind of test on these districts.

MR. EVANS: We performed a racially polarized voting test. And Senator Reese, thank you for that question, because we had a weeklong trial before the middle district and that probably took more time up than anything else.

Both sides put forth several witnesses who talked about racially polarized voting, who talked about the history of racially polarized voting in this state and the court ruled in our favor that both district two and district five would perform for minority choice candidates.

And the keyword they used, Senator, is opportunity. Section five, as --

SEN. REESE: Right.

MR. EVANS: -- Senator Hewitt has said several

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times, it doesn't mandate --

SEN. REESE: Right.

MR. EVANS: -- anything proportional, but it does -- the language does provide -- the language does call for districts that provide an opportunity and it is our belief, and it is the belief of the middle district, that both district five and district two and Senator Fields' map will provide that opportunity for minority voters in this state.

SEN. REESE: So tell -- talk to me a little bit about how that's applied, then. So your -- your -- are you -- is the demographic the black voting age population?

Is the demographic -- what -- what demographic measure are you using when you apply that test that you say, all right, I need to be at 51 percent. I need to be at 57 percent. Is it -- is it that --

MR. EVANS: No, that -- that's an --

SEN. REESE: -- measure or is it a combination of demographics?

MR. EVANS: That -- that's an excellent -- an excellent question, Senator, and it is -- there is no

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magic number. I -- sometimes I wish it was, because there would -- it would make our job a whole lot easier.

But you have to look at the voting pattern of each individual area. You have to look at where there is white crossover voting, which means where there is white voters who are willing to vote for the minority choice candidate.

And unfortunately, in this state, outside of metro New Orleans, there is virtually zero crossover voting. So a district that is at 52 percent somewhere else in the state might --

SEN. REESE: When you say 52 percent, you're referring to 52 percent VAP?

MR. EVANS: Yes. Yes, or 49 or whatever, any -- any number. It would be different in the New Orleans area than it would anywhere else in the state.

SEN. REESE: So when you apply that percentage, it's not correct to -- to apply that percentage statewide regardless of the configurations.

You're saying you've got to actually draw a district precinct by precinct and apply that measure

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and you'll come up with something that says it either will perform or it will not perform?

MR. EVANS: Well, nothing can be applied statewide, Senator, because voting patterns are -- are different parish by parish, area by area.

So I -- to answer your question, there is no one magic number that we can say, okay, we're going to make all districts 55 percent black and they're all going to perform. We're going to make all districts 51, 52, whatever it is.

There's no magic formula that you can apply statewide.

SEN. REESE: But you are saying -- you are saying that you have some data that says that -- that district two and district five as constructed in this map, do perform as opportunity districts? You have that data?

MR. EVANS: Absolutely, and the court -- and -- and the court has -- and the court agreed with our experts. We -- we provided that -- we put on experts in the trial in the middle district and the court agreed with our witnesses.

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SEN. REESE: So your experts in trial, though, took the map that we're looking at in Senate Bill 1 and said how it would work? Or your -- your experts were in there saying how the map that the legislature passed did not work?

MR. EVANS: Well, in the record, Senator Reese, they looked at both of them. They looked at the map that the majority passed over Governor Edwards' veto and they also look at the remedial maps that we proposed to them as alternatives.

And they talked about how a racially polarized voting test is done. You look at previous elections, not just for -- not just local elections for schoolboard or mayor, but you look at how they have voted for offices like state treasurer, for Congress, for President, for governor.

And you -- essentially you come up with a number or a list of how those candidates would have performed. How the minority choice candidate would perform.

And that's what our experts testified to in court and that Judge Dick agreed with our witnesses,

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that both of these districts would perform.

SEN. REESE: Okay. All right. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Senator. Didn't -- didn't in fact your experts show that there was cross -- white crossover vote and that they could perform at something significantly less than 50 percent black?

MR. EVANS: Repeat your question again for me, Senator?

SEN. HEWITT: Didn't your experts demonstrate that -- that districts could perform even at something significantly less than 50 percent black?

MR. EVANS: I'm not aware of that --

SEN. HEWITT: Because of a white crossover vote?

MR. EVANS: I'm -- I'm not aware of that, Senator. What I am aware of is that our witnesses testified that both of these districts would perform for minority choice candidate. That's what I can testify to today.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. And this racially polarized voting data that you're talking about, this

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is the same data that -- that you -- you discussed during this -- the redistricting process that I asked you for that three times and you were never willing to share it while we were developing maps. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: That is correct, Senator, but when we got to court, we were able to provide multiple witnesses, world renowned expert witnesses, I might add, that had histories of work and racially polarized voting in redistricting and voting rights.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay.

SEN. FIELDS: And Senator, I'm sure you're aware, but that -- you know, I got a text a few minutes ago that the court denied the extension, so we have until the 20th to get this done. And the court denied the extension of time filed by your lawyer.

So, I mean, we have until the 20th to get this — to get this done.

SEN. HEWITT: We are here on day two, Senator, doing our part.

SEN. FIELDS: I agree with you. We are. We are. And I appreciate that.

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SEN. HEWITT: All right. Senator Price.

SEN. PRICE: Thank you, Madam Chairman, and Senator Fields and Mr. Evans. Thank you for all you're doing. But one of the things that has not been brought up is that -- and we're a deliberative body and we were given the first shot at developing a second minority district.

And if not, isn't it in the court order that then the court -- it would proceed to the court for them to take it and do it?

SEN. FIELDS: That's exactly right. I mean, if we -- let's just say we fail this session. Let's just say on the 20th, nothing happens. You know, I think, you know, for folk who are sitting and saying, well, we're going to wait until the 8th, I would think that the court is going to do something.

The court made it very clear I'm going to give the legislature one last shot at it. And -- and I can't speak for the court and don't want to even think about speaking for the court. But you know, the court could very well hire a special master and then create their own plan.

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And then come the 8th, you can have a court ordered plan. But I don't know. I do not want to say that I'm speaking for the court, but I think we lose our shot at it, at that point.

I -- I don't think we have no more right to, you know, but if you think we're going to have another shot at it, I just think we're sadly mistaken. This is our last bite at the apple and I just think we should take advantage of it.

SEN. PRICE: And -- and that's why I brought it up, because when you read the order, there's something that they say is about the court possibly moving in and -- and drawing the district themselves if we do not do something.

And that's what we face at this point.

MR. EVANS: Well -- well, not -- not possibly, Senator Price. Judge Dick had the foresight to understand the -- I will say political climate of this legislature and she ordered that if this body did not pass a map by June 20, that she would begin remedial proceedings to pass a map -- to enact a new map that did comply with section two of the Voting Rights Act.

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SEN. PRICE: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Senator, thank you. Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Senator Fields and -- I've had the pleasure for the last three years serving with you and -- and we've helped one another along the way, so I need you to help me here.

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

SEN. WOMACK: Do you feel like in the last 40 years that we've made progress in our state with African Americans moving forward in our education system, in our legislative process and our government throughout our municipalities, school boards and that sort of thing?

SEN. FIELDS: Well, I mean, that's a -- when you look at -- when you -- when it comes to redistricting, no, absolutely not.

I mean, because you know, although African Americans increased in population in the state and the white population decreased in population in the state, during this past previous redistricting session, we did not increase not one African American seat in any area.

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Not in a legislative area. Not in a congressional area. Not one -- we did not create not one additional seat on any level. If -- if I may be so [inaudible] to talk about local, you know, you know, like the First Circuit, one African American, you know, on a bench that includes several parishes.

You know, I can go on and on. I mean, when you look at it from that perspective, it's -- it's disappointing. So, you know, I think we have a long ways to go when it comes -- comes to that. So -- and -- and I'll just leave it at that.

SEN. WOMACK: So in our -- in our landscape -- of course, district five, I represent 10 parishes out of district five and then due to my work, I am involved in several other -- other parishes where there's -- I represent or either work for mayors who are African American. And I work for -- I know there's mayors that's been elected and held office for several years at a time because of their outstanding performance by majority white.

I know that in our -- in this day and time, we have interracial churches. We have boards that are

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interracial. I personally feel like we've made strides in the last 40 years. Are we there yet? Maybe not. But we've made strides in our processes, and our elections, and in our representation.

I have to question the fact that when we talk about representation that from the local areas of our state, across the -- across the board, we go everything from pastors, to justices of the peace, at large members, police jury, the town councils, to school boards, to state representative, to state senators, to committees by the hundreds.

So the representation for all -- for all people, as Senator Milligan alluded to, I answer the phone no matter who it is, and we represent. And I have to believe my constituents do the same, I believe you do the same thing. You've done that for me in your committee. So from the representation, the -- whether we call it organic growth, or movement, or what, it just seems to be working.

And as a legislative body we spent roadshows, we spent time, we voted, and which we do in session day in and day out. And sometimes we're winners and

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sometimes we're losers. But we move on. However, this process chose to take a different route. But taking that different route leads us to other routes.

Now, I know we've been -- been asked or told to have a map out of here. But there's also other avenues that, you know, possibly we have to take, or can take, or have the ability to take. I'm just concerned about the -- the fact that we're having to address something that to me is already happening within itself, you know, happening within itself across -- across our state.

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. And I spoke on it on the floor just for a tiny bit. You know, and everybody know, I have no desire to go back to Congress. I -- yeah. Ain't no way I'd go back now.

SEN. WOMACK: I've heard you say that.

SEN. FIELDS: But -- but, you know, you're speaking to someone who -- who's actually been there. I talked about the money part of how much money. We deal with billions here, they deal with trillions upon trillions there. You know, it's an important seat. I mean, it's an important seat. And when you got to such

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a large African American population, they want to participate in that.

You know, but it's not only the dollars they deal with, they also deal with appointments. You know? You -- your federal judge -- judges come from Congress, you know, and -- and -- and -- and you got African Americans who sit at their homes. There are African Americans who want to be federal judges one day, you know? And -- and -- and -- and they really come from the U.S. Senate.

We -- we -- I don't know if Louisiana will ever have a U.S. senator, a Black U.S. senator. So the closest thing an African American will get to a U.S. senator from Louisiana is probably a U.S. congressman -- a U.S. congressman. You know?

And -- and -- and so, you know, I -- I -- you know, policy comes from Washington. I mean, so on a national level, that's their road, that's their roadmap. I mean, that's the way they get to Congress. And so while -- while many -- and I don't think for -- for evil reasons, because I know your hearts. I mean, I -- while many of you think this is some [caveat ?] it's

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just -- no. This is -- this is real. People need to be represented at the highest level of government.

SEN. WOMACK: We had a -- we had a president, President Obama --

SEN. FIELDS: And -- and -- and people --

SEN. WOMACK: -- was a Black president, and we all worked under President Obama.

SEN. FIELDS: Absolutely.

SEN. WOMACK: So I have to -- I have to kind of agree to disagree that we've been there. I'm not saying that it won't happen again. We all -- we all vote for character, we try to vote for the -- for the best guy. And if we don't win, you know what we do? We work with him.

SEN. FIELDS: That's right.

SEN. WOMACK: And they -- they appoint judges, and he appointed judges and -- and we -- we lived with that.

SEN. FIELDS: And -- and -- and when President Obama was elected, it was a day that -- that -- that I cried with joy, and that was a good thing. But he lost Louisiana. Look -- look -- look, that was a good day.

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SEN. WOMACK: But we got to look at the big picture that it -- it -- it cannot happen every day, or it does not happen every day.

SEN. FIELDS: I understand.

SEN. WOMACK: You know, a -- my business grew under him, a lot of businesses grew under President Obama. We got a president at LSU now, African American.

SEN. FIELDS: Right.

SEN. WOMACK: You know what we doing? I met with him this morning, we're working to try to move Louisiana forward, not segregate to the point that we first got to deal with this. We -- we got to move the state forward. As we move the state forward, we -- we -- we move all people forward.

SEN. FIELDS: I agree with you, Senator Womack. And -- and we do it by passing this map, this would be a great step in the right direction. Because you make very good points. And -- and -- and -- and this is just one step. You know? We -- we -- we -- we have to do it with inclusion. You had a comment you wanted to make?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Senator Womack, thank you for

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that question. You raise a lot of good -- good points. I -- I do a lot of work on the local level for redistricting as well. And this kind of ties into what Senator -- Senator Reese was saying.

When you look -- when we are looking to add potential additional minority seats to school boards, to city councils, to parish councils, when a racially polarized voting analysis is done, we look to the elections that you just alluded to. That's why to Senator Reese's point, there's no magic number that you can put that says that you have to have this amount of minorities in a district.

But tho- -- it's not our words, this isn't us, Senator Fields, saying that federal courts and state courts, judges appointed by both republican and democratic presidents have found that racially polarized voting pervades congressional and statewide elections in Louisiana.

So when we do our -- when we do our analysis for our congressional maps, for PSC maps, for any other area that covers multiple parishes when you have large areas, you don't look at those local elections. Because

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those are isolated elections that affect, again, school boards, parish council, city councils.

You look at elections, like, for PSC, like, for Congress, like, for state treasurer, like, for governor. And in looking at those elections, again, federal courts have found that racially polarized voting pervades elections for all of those major offices.

SEN. WOMACK: I just go back to we elected a president. And we elected a -- we -- we -- we have council members, we have other members, we have a -- we have a -- a woman congressman, 51 percent of the state are women.

So where does it stop? Other than organically people moving forward in their education, in their committees, in their character, in their work, and pursuing that dream of wanting to be, as some have proved that it can be in the past.

SEN. FIELDS: I agree with --

SEN. WOMACK: Thank you.

SEN. FIELDS: -- you, senator. I mean, some states have Black U.S. senators. Look -- look, we have

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to get there -- we have to get there. And we can start today by passing this map. You know, this is -- this is one step in the right direction.

SEN. WOMACK: But are we pushing the process and let -- letting -- instead of letting it happening organically, are we --

SEN. FIELDS: Organic --

SEN. WOMACK: -- trying to --

SEN. FIELDS: I'm sorry.

SEN. WOMACK: -- to -- to -- to cut the cut the pa- -- cut the fabric to the pattern, or the pattern to the fabric here? That -- that's -- that's what I'm --

SEN. FIELDS: Organically --

SEN. WOMACK: What my comment is is, is allowing it to -- to grow, our -- our population, Black population has went up. Who's not going to say it's not going to happen the next term or the next term? Allowing it to happen and everybody striving for that, setting that goal and striving for that goal.

SEN. FIELDS: Senator, I -- I would think organically is to do what's -- what's -- what's

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required under the law, and now what's required by the courts. And I mean, I've just shown two maps. I mean, what we passed in the extraordinary extra session, and what we -- what we have before us today. I mean, I just think it's the right thing to do.

And look, Senator Womack, you and I have been working together, I know where you're coming from. And I -- I know how hard you work for your constituents. So -- and -- and -- and I know where your heart is, you know. But hopefully, we can get past this today and we can make this -- this state a better place. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank you, Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: Thank you, madam -- thank you, Madam Chairwoman for another [bite ?]. And this will be real quick. And, Mr. Evans [ph], since you were part of the -- in -- in court, this is -- my question's about the judge's order and what your interpretation might be. It's a pretty -- pretty narrow or pretty tight order.

I mean, it says to enact a remedial plan. But

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then the judge says what the appropriate remedy is, and specifically says majority, Black -- not majority minority. Is this unusual with other states to put majority Black versus majority minority?

MR. EVANS: Not at all, Senator Foil. Those terms are used inter- -- interchangeably.

SEN. FOIL: So the way I read the order is if we have a district less than 50.1 percent then it would not be an appropriate remedy. So if it was 49 percent, for example, it may be more Black voters than white voters. But that would not -- I don't think that would solve or comply with the language.

MR. EVANS: Senator Foil, I -- I cannot speak to your hypothetical. But what I can speak to is a map that Senator Fields has before you today. And there is a majority Black population in both Congressional District 5 and Congress- -- Congressional District 2. And the middle district in that opinion that you have in your hand agree with us that those districts were -- would perform for a minority choice candidate.

SEN. FOIL: And I'm -- once again, because there -- there can be other instruments. And while

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you're at the table, for efficiency, I was asking you since you were in the -- in the hearing, is it your understanding from the judge when she says majority Black that would be over 50 percent?

MR. EVANS: That is my understanding. Yes, Senator.

SEN. FOIL: I appreciate that. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Senator Foil. I'm curious about your comment. Black and minority are used interchangeably?

MR. EVANS: Ab- -- ab- -- absolutely. Majority -- majority-minority, majority Black. We say that -- yes. We use those terms interchangeably.

SEN. HEWITT: Really? Be- -- because there are other minorities besides just Black. And so if it was a majority, minority district, wouldn't you roll up all of the minorities, would make -- make a majority-minority district versus a majority Black district?

3: You -- you raise a really good point, Senator Hewitt. And what courts look at, and again, I go back to our racially polarized voting analysis, and

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they looked at the voting patterns of those minority groups. And courts have found in this state that minorities, irrespective of whether that's Bla- -- Black, Asian, or Hispanic, tend to vote for the same type of candidates. And those can- --

SEN. HEWITT: What court has found that -- what court has found that?

MR. EVANS: Senator, I don't have any -- I don't have the specific cite to give you right now. But that -- that's what courts have -- in -- in -- in Louisiana, I can tell you that courts have found that min- -- when minorities tend to vote together.

SEN. HEWITT: But Hispanics and Blacks in the state of Louisiana you believe vote the same?

MR. EVANS: Those aren't my words, Senator. Those are words from -- from courts.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. I'm not aware of that. That would be -- that would be an interesting thing to -- to track down. All right, Senator Harris.

SEN. HARRIS: Right. Thank you, Madam Chair. Senator Fields, one, thank you for -- for bringing this bill. Many of the -- the -- the questions and the

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statements that I initially had were based on whether or not this extension was granted or not granted.

And based on what we understand is that the extension was -- wasn't denied. So a lot of the stuff that I -- I had written down, I -- I think at this point is kind of moot. But just for the record, I just want to make sure that we -- we understand based on the judge's order that we have to draw this district by June 20th. Is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: That's correct, sir.

SEN. HARRIS: Okay. And if -- and if not, if I'm correct, then the court will draw the map, as -- as Senator Price mentioned. Is -- is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: That -- that would be my assumption. I do not want to speak for the court, but that would be my assumption.

SEN. HARRIS: Okay. So I know there's been conversation about having a six day session, a six day window and it not being enough time for us to be able to -- to draw a map. And it's a lot of stuff that goes into -- into these things. And I truly understand -- you know, understand that. You did mention some time in

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reference to when we did do -- we did have a six day session, a eight day session or whatever back in -- what? It was '92 --

SEN. FIELDS: '94.

SEN. HARRIS: -- or '94?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

SEN. HARRIS: And we had a couple of sessions. If I'm not mistaken, you -- you mentioned that on the mike yesterday.

SEN. FIELDS: Yes. We've had several six days sessions. Redistricting session was called for eight days, it ended up being a six day session. And we've had a couple -- we have had a few six day called sessions. So we just have to have the will so -- to do it. But we can do it in six days.

SEN. HARRIS: Right. And I -- I say that because I know some may look at 1994 as being a nice -- being -- being some time ago. But I can recall back in 2018, we had a second extraordinary session, in which we de- -- we did HB1, ultimately. Back then I was in the House, and there was young man by --

SEN. FIELDS: Maybe you could speak to that.

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SEN. HARRIS: Right. There was a young man -- there was a representative by the name of Franklin Foil that presented the bill on the floor of the House. And --

SEN. FIELDS: I didn't know.

SEN. HARRIS: -- Representative Foil at that time, got the bill out -- we got that bill out of the House, I want to say two or three days. And we had a day of layover. So technically, it was — it was a seven day, but we actually completed the work in six days, six legislative days.

So I just wanted to make sure that we have something from a more recent standpoint with a face that we can put to something that was a part of that. As well as many of us that -- that are on this -- this -- this -- this current panel to show that if there's a will, it can be done. And each and every one of us on this panel, as well as sitting in that audience, know just how important HB1 is to the state of Louisiana.

You know, you mentioned trillions of dollars that flow through the federal government. Well, we're talking billions of dollars that flow through the --

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you know, through the state of Louisiana that has to get to our citizens as well. So I just wanted to make sure that we put -- put that out there to let it be known that there -- there is a more recent time than '94 that we did that.

Another thing, there's been conversation about split parishes and -- and these things, and many not wanting to have split parishes. And I -- I truly understand that, and -- and I get it. My Senate district is 100 percent encompassed in Orleans Parish. I'm the only senator that has that from an Orleans Parish standpoint.

However, but I can say my constituents have two -- two congressional members in -- in my district. Part of my district is in one congressional district, another part of my district is in a second -- or is in a different congressional district. And I only bring that up to say, you know, would I like to have one congressional member? I probably would, but I don't have that luxury.

But you know what I do do is I work with both of them to make sure that we answer and do the things

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that we have to do for our constituents. So I truly understand that people not wanting to have parishes split and those other things. But I'm a living example of having that in Orleans Parish with my Senate district being 100 percent encompassed in the parish. So I just wanted to also, you know, state that.

Senator Fields, you, you know -- you know probably better than -- than anyone on this panel my progression to where I am today. What I can say is, when I first decided to run for office, you were one of the first persons that I talked to, and you encouraged me to -- to -- to do these things. When -- and I have a unique perspective of this that no one else on the -- the -- the panel had.

And I say that because I had the opportunity prior to being elected to working for a congressional member. And my job was to run up and down those 10 parishes making sure that those 10 parishes were taken care of. Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, East, and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Up and down the river.

However, what I can tell you all is that I've

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received phone calls. When I was working for this member, we received several phone calls from members outside of the dis- -- outside of those 10 parishes that felt that they needed to have somebody help them with some sort of representation. This is not something that I heard, I'm telling you, this is what I know because I have fielded those conversations.

And Senator Fields, you know this former congressman has flown around the state in other areas trying to help individuals. Again, that's not something that I heard. That's something that I know and that I have personally experienced.

So I have the luxury of sitting here and saying, okay, I have a Black congressman. However, there are many that are in this state that don't have that luxury. And we all tend to -- to -- to -- to advocate for our districts, we all tend to represent our districts. But I can tell you that there are people out there that don't feel that they're getting that representation. And that's -- that's just the -- the -- the -- the truth in it.

So based on those sorts of things, this court,

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from my understanding, has wri- -- has stated that the current map that we have that we passed does not satisfy adequate representation for all in the state of Louisiana. Is that a fair statement?

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. Doesn't comply with subsection two.

SEN. HARRIS: And I would -- and I -- I would pretty much end with this. Again, that based on not granting of this extension that we have an obligation as a legislature to draw this second minority-majority district by June the 20th. Is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: That is correct.

SEN. HARRIS: Okay. All right. Thank you, Madam Chair.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes, sir. Thank you, Senator Harris. Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. So, excuse me, I had to -- I had to go to bond commission so I didn't get to listen to all the discussion. And if I repeat some of the arguments that have already been made, I -- I apologize.

But in -- in listening to it, you know, you're

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saying that these maps weren't solely drawn on race. But we all seem to just be talking about race. So can you help me explain what other criteria we use besides race? Because that seems to be all we talking about right here, is gerrymandering districts to be -- to come up with some magical number. Can you help me with what other criteria is being used?

SEN. FIELDS: Senator, these maps were not drawn solely based on race, these maps were drawn based on a number of factors. And I'll let Jarrett [ph] speak to those factors if you want me to -- want him to. But we are here today because we have drawn maps that do not comply with Subsection 2 of the Voting Rights Act. And so this map --

SEN. ALLAIN: Because of race. So the judge is dictating that we need to draw maps based on race.

SEN. FIELDS: Did the judge -- did the judge -- well, this map was drawn before the court's de- -- opinion.

SEN. ALLAIN: I understand.

SEN. FIELDS: That this map --

SEN. ALLAIN: But the judge is saying we need

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to draw maps based on race.

SEN. FIELDS: The -- the judge is saying that we clearly had an opportunity to draw a map that complied with the Voting Rights Act, and we didn't. What -- no. Clearly had an opportunity to adopt a map that complied with the Voting Rights Act, and we didn't. We clearly had an opportunity to do that.

And so the judge is basically saying that we need to do it. You know, the minority population is cohesive enough to do it, is compact enough to do it. And we just failed to do it. Now why we failed to do it, she don't care. She's just saying, you got to do it.

SEN. ALLAIN: Based on race.

SEN. FIELDS: Based on the fact that the population is compact enough, it's cohesive enough, and it meets all [gen ?] goals, and -- and Senator Hewitt's lawyer didn't put on a case. Senator Hewitt's lawyer was on the stand -- not her -- her lawyer. Her lawyers had an opportunity to put on her case during the injunction trial and they failed to put on a case.

SEN. ALLAIN: Okay.

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SEN. FIELDS: They -- they actually raised the issues that they didn't even put on. And so they had an opportunity to argue the case. We've hired lawyers to go put on their case, and they failed to put on their case. And so now the judge have said listen, you all haven't put on a case, so now I've ruled. You know, and look, put up -- put up Senator Hewitt's plan. This is the plan that the legislature has adopted. And we have had how many days in the court? How- -- well, however many days.

SEN. ALLAIN: Go to trial.

SEN. FIELDS: We've had a week trial, and the judges have -- have the D judge have had an opportunity to hear this plan. And the judge has opined that it didn't meet all the factors. It wasn't just race. Race is a factor, not the predominant factor. Yet this pla--

SEN. ALLAIN: So what is the predominant factor?

SEN. FIELDS: It's a multitude of factors, a multitude of factors. And -- and we came up with that plan, and the judge looked at other plans that we

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reviewed. And he said, well, she's -- and -- and I guess the ju- -- I said, well, hold up, let me say, now -- now, look at the other plan that we reviewed, and that plan. This plan is more compact, and we ignored it, we said no to it. And there's no other reason other than race that we ignored it.

SEN. ALLAIN: So she said, redraw them by race.

SEN. FIELDS: No. She didn't say that. Well, yeah -- yeah.

SEN. ALLAIN: Let me --

SEN. FIELDS: Yes. She said, go draw two Black plans, that's what she said.

SEN. ALLAIN: That's what you said.

SEN. FIELDS: Because we ignored -- we ignored it the first time.

SEN. ALLAIN: Let me -- let me actually -- and I don't really -- really want to -- correct me if I'm wrong. But doesn't the Constitution say that the legislature has the sole right to -- to draw the maps?

SEN. FIELDS: Un- -- unless they violate federal law and the judge gives them the -- the -- the

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legislature is the primary authority on the drawing lines, unless they violate federal law, the judge actually gives them the -- like the judge is doing now.

SEN. ALLAIN: And one section of the Voting Rights Act was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Wasn't it?

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. It was.

SEN. ALLAIN: Okay.

SEN. FIELDS: What -- what section you said? I don't want to overstate.

SEN. ALLAIN: I said there was a section.

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. Okay.

MR. EVANS: May -- may -- may I clarify?

SEN. FIELDS: It was not ruled unconstitutional. The -- the -- the -- the court said in the Holden case --

MR. EVANS: Shelby v. Holden.

SEN. FIELDS: She- -- Shelby v. Holden that the -- the ten states, it was -- I think it's eight or ten. It's 10 states that were using these criterias --

MR. EVANS: The formula.

SEN. FIELDS: -- the formula that would judge

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re- -- what states were under Subsection 5. And they said those -- that formula was too old, they had to come up with a new formula. And so that was -- so they've got to come up with a new formula as to what states will be under Subsection 5. So it wasn't ruled unconstitutional.

SEN. ALLAIN: Okay. That's -- thank you for the clarification.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, sir.

SEN. ALLAIN: Has it ever been argued that -- I mean, it seems like this law supersedes what the constitution says.

SEN. FIELDS: Wha- -- which law?

SEN. ALLAIN: The -- the order.

SEN. FIELDS: No. The order is in line with the Constitution. Understand that -- look, there are three different levels of government. There's --

SEN. ALLAIN: Right.

SEN. FIELDS: -- the executive branch, exec- -- legislative branch, and the judicial branch. This is the judicial branch doing exactly what it's supposed to do. It basically interprets laws. And it basically

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says, look, this legislature has overstepped its bounds, and you all got to do the right thing. That's all it's doing.

SEN. ALLAIN: Okay. The -- the -- specifically your map, I do have --

SEN. FIELDS: And -- and let me be clear here --

SEN. ALLAIN: I do have some concerns.

SEN. FIELDS: -- it did not say -- I'm sorry, Senator. The -- the legis- -- I mean, the judicial -- the judge did not say, go adopt eight -- SB1, I want to be clear on it, it didn't say that. The judge did not say go and adopt SB1.

SEN. ALLAIN: But it said, draw two Black districts.

SEN. FIELDS: To comply with Subsection 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Because you can --

SEN. ALLAIN: Based on race.

SEN. FIELDS: You can do it, you've seen, obviously, enough plans that you can do it, and you failed to do it, and your lawyers did not put on a compelling case where the injunction should not be

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issued.

SEN. ALLAIN: They -- there -- I understand. And I -- I yield to the judges right to take in the -- the -- the arguments and -- and make that decision. Let me tell you about two concerns that I have. So I'm looking at -- at your map, and let's specifically talk about your map.

You and I agree that Congress is way too polarized these days. And I've resisted you, and I've talked at length on the floor about how Louisiana should not become polarized. But the fact of the matter is, it's no secret. They've become so polarized that it's almost impossible to get meaningful legislation done up there. That -- it's an impediment to their doing their job. Don't you agree?

SEN. FIELDS: To -- to -- to -- to a large degree. Yes.

SEN. ALLAIN: Yeah. My concern with -- with your map is not the Black population. But you've kind of created -- I'm -- I'm looking at this two 80 percent majority white districts. I mean, we're creating -- and I know it's a philosophical thing. But what kind of

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members you think are going to get elected out of these lily-white districts?

SEN. FIELDS: The same kind of members that are elected today.

SEN. ALLAIN: My -- my fear -- I hope you're right.

SEN. FIELDS: I -- I -- I think --

SEN. ALLAIN: But my fear is that --

SEN. FIELDS: -- I'm absolutely right.

SEN. ALLAIN: -- that the -- the Black members that get elected are going to be more -- are -- are going to need for their reelection more of the white population and be more beholden to them, while the -- while the white members are -- are not.

So what if you're a Black man in -- in one of these lily-white districts? Your -- your chances of getting elected are nothing. And your chances of getting decent representation I think are -- are limited, particularly if you have somebody that's philosophically very far on the right. So aren't we creating a more polarized -- helping to create a more polarized Congress?

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SEN. FIELDS: I -- I don't think -- I -- I think the same kind of representation an African American has today is going to be the same kind of representation it will have tomorrow.

SEN. ALLAIN: I -- I -- I appreciate it.

SEN. FIELDS: Other than --

SEN. ALLAIN: My -- my fear -- and I'm just --

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. I understand.

SEN. ALLAIN: -- letting you know what my concern is.

SEN. FIELDS: Other than --

SEN. ALLAIN: That -- that we are -- that we are creating polarized members of Congress to make the situation in D.C. worse.

SEN. FIELDS: Other than the fact that an African American will have an opportunity to elect two members of Congress of their choice.

SEN. ALLAIN: I appreciate that. My last -- my last concern is communities of interest. I noticed in your -- in your district one, my home parish of St. Mary, along with the Lafourche and Terrebonne, and a lot of them were being lumped together with -- with

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Jefferson and Orleans to a large degree where we'll -- our representation won't be near what it is in the current district.

I know my -- I know my parish, and it's agricultural, and it's rural. And to have the majority of the vote, or a good portion of the representation being in Jefferson or Orleans, which I don't think we have any commonality with, gives me grave concern that -- that the agricultural interest and no -- and a lot of other interests of the rural community will be overshadowed by -- by those in -- in Jefferson and Orleans.

And I've known them, I've gotten to know the members up here from Jefferson and Orleans. And they're not the same interests, they're not common -- commonality between them and my home parish. And it just gives me concern. I'm not saying there's not a -- a map out there that could create two minority-majority districts.

I mean, but the -- the judge said Black, which I'm -- I'm still grappling with also. But I'm not saying there's not a plan out there that I could

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support, but I've -- I got real trouble supporting this one, just -- just out of concern. Thank you.

SEN. FIELDS: I understand. Thank you, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Senator. Senator Tarver. And then I'm going to go and note that the public has been waiting patiently, and a lot of you have traveled here across the state. So Senator Tarver, and then I'll invite members of the public.

SEN. TARVER: Isn't the real reason we're here because we created six white districts, five -- five white districts in Louisiana and we ignored minorities? Isn't that the reason we're here?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

SEN. TARVER: Because the legislature created white districts. That's the reason we're here. Is that correct?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

SEN. TARVER: Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right, Senator. Thank you. All right. I've got several cards here in support not wishing to speak. Telley Medina [ph] from the SPLC

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Action Fund, Terry Landry, Jr., SPLC Action Fund, and Zac Lemoine from the governor's office.

All right. I've got a number of cards here in opposition that would like to speak. And so I will -- excuse me, one more card. I'll take it right here. I think Lauren [ph] just stepped out. Thank you. Okay. One more card that would like to speak, Edgar Cage with Together Louisiana. Slid in by the skin of your teeth right here. Okay.

MR. CAGE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very much. My name is Edgar Cage. I'm with Together Louisiana and I wasn't going to speak until I heard some things that I felt I had to address. And thank you very much for giving me this -- this opportunity.

First of all, you know, I think this body has ignored information that has been presented to it through the census, through the roadshow, through the extraordinary session, and now the court to create a second minority or Black district, however you want -- however you want to phrase it.

I don't know what more it can take. We -- we -- we have to get off where we are now. And to Senator

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Price, to the point that you made, if we don't do it, the court is going to do it for us.

And Senator Reese, you may be upset the way this SB1 look. But if a court does it, you may be more upset. So we have an opportunity now to do something. To do something that we -- we might -- we might could live with, more palatable than we have somebody outside -- outside doing it.

And -- and, Senator Womack, to your point. You asked the question, have Blacks made strides in Louisiana? Obviously, yes. But you know why most cases? We were forced to do it. It wasn't because of our will or something we wanted to. We had the federal government come in and do certain things to force us. Like, now if we don't do this, the federal government's going to come in and force a map on us if we don't take that opportunity to do it.

So I implore you now. And I understand the politics in it. If you don't want to do -- to vote for a second minority-majority district, for whatever reasons that you -- you might have, that you want the court to do it, then let's not -- let's stop this

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process then.

Because we -- we're really wasting time and money if we don't have the will to go ahead and do what the court has ordered us to do, what the constituents in the roadshow has told us at every stop. Even in the Slidell area, they want a second majority-minority district.

There -- there were other things that came up, but consistently -- consistently across the state, that was the theme of the roadshow, a second majority-minority district. And I implore you to just -- to -- to listen. And if we don't want to listen, then let's go home and let the courts do it. So thank you very much for this opportunity.

SEN. HEWITT: Sir, would you take a question from Senator Womack?

MR. CAGE: Sure.

SEN. WOMACK: Thank you, Mr. Cage. I just -- back to my original thought pattern. You know, in the -- in the early 1900s, over a million Black people went north. They went north to better themselves because there was jobs that paid more.

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In the cities up there, it grew. It grew economically, it was businesses, they -- they -- they made it happen. They're more than welcome, some of the descendants, to come back. And some of them already have because there's jobs in Louisiana. So the -- the -- the population can -- can -- can come back and -- and -- and do the same thing here. From an organic standpoint, come back, get our job, work our job, and move in. And they can elect or we can elect the people of our choice of whoever it is. By character because they've worked themselves up. We've all, from a working standpoint, to -- to bring that back. Not that the federal government -- the federal government didn't force them to go up there, they went because they wanted a better life. And they went and made that happen.

MR. CAGE: Appreciate the question, glad you opened it up. I think it would be difficult for us to attract maybe the people you're looking for at $7.25 an hour. We have to do some things here to make our -- us more attractive. And you talk about opportunity. I can give you a personal story that affected me in 1974.

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I was the first African American group sales representative Blue Cross of Louisiana had. And you know why? Affirmative action. I would not have gotten an opportunity, not have gotten the chance to be that if it wasn't for affirmative action. So that's what I'm speaking of.

It wasn't the goodness of the heart, it wasn't because it was the right thing to do, or the just thing to do. It was because of force. You -- we can look at the Voters Right Act and other things too that force states like Louisiana to get off the Jim Crow, or the segregation that -- that was happening.

The federal government forces, it wasn't the goodness of the heart, for the most part. But no. I agree with you that people have the opportunity to come back. But we got to make it attractive and a good reason for them to come back. And $7.25 an hour won't get -- won't get a lot of people.

And you got young people now leaving get the education because of things that are happening maybe in this body that they see. We're not progressive, we are still kind of stuck where we have always been. And

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yeah. We may be inching -- inching forward, but we need to be going miles instead of inches forward.

And this is an opportunity now where we can expedite that process. We can show -- we can show maybe tho- -- those people you're talking about to come back. Well, yeah. They -- they are concerned about all citizens. They're concerned about the representation. And -- and yeah. Maybe I might consider going back now.

But if we continue to resist, not creating as the roadshow, with the census, the roadshow, the extraordinary session, and the court now, and now this session to do the right thing, we're sending a signal that won't be attractive to those people you're talking about bringing back home.

SEN. WOMACK: Well, I was at those roadshows, and -- and a lot of the same people were there. But when you look at the percentage of the people there, the 30 or 40, maybe more -- I -- I -- I missed the New Orleans roadshow and I think the Baton Rouge roadshow due to family.

But when you look at the percentage, it wasn't a lot of representation when you look at the amount of

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people there, and the amount of people in -- in the -- that we're trying to represent, that -- that -- that this bill is trying to represent.

MR. CAGE: Well, yeah. I agree with that. And I think you can -- I'm not a marketer, you can look at statistics and show, for one person speaking that person was representing -- could be 500 people that didn't show up. But that -- that gives a representative. Well, that -- that may be a problem you have with the roadshow, not properly advertising, or whatever. I don't know, I don't want to get into that.

But because the people who were there, the voices you heard were loud and clear, a second majority-minority district. The ones that wasn't there, I'm not going to speculate on what they -- what they wanted, or what they were asking for. But the people who were there made it quite clear and plain.

SEN. WOMACK: Thank you, Mr. Cage.

MR. CAGE: Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Tha- -- yep. Thank you, Senator. All right. And just for the record too, I forgot to say this earlier. But Senator Fields, I do

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not -- I'm not a plaintiff or defendant in the case, nor do I have any lawyers. So you mentioned that earlier. I wanted to clarify that. And I know that you know that. But -- all right.

Okay. We got two late green cards. I'd like to invite you guys to come to the table, Lady Carlson with Together Louisiana and Christopher Toombs, maybe. Both present and would like to speak.

MS. CARLSON: Good morning, my name is Lady Carlson. I'd like to tell you a quick story, Senator Womack. There was a congresswoman named Barbara Jordan, she was from Texas. Her grandfather in the 1800s or 1900s had been elected to the Texas legislature, and he was told that if he took his seat, he would be lynched.

And so let's be clear, everybody that left the -- the south did not leave for jobs. Some people left because they were afraid of their lives. And I think that story of -- of Congresswoman Jor- -- her story represents an example of why people -- other people left.

I'm here to say to you this. I've heard lots of testimony about the reason the maps were drawn the

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way they were, the reason they were accepted was because it didn't guarantee that a -- a person of color would be elected, and that we'd have a -- to vote for a person of our choice. I think that basically says we don't understand the process.

And if you look at Senator Jay Luneau, who is a white democrat, he was elected by the people of their choice. Give us a choice. For you to make the decision for me about who I can and cannot vote for renders me incompetent.

And the other thing I would say is this, the people of Baton Rouge have consistently said they have nothing in common with the people in New Orleans. That has not stopped that the maps that are drawn that put Baton Rouge and New Orleans in the same district. And so if we're going to play by the rules, stop changing the rules. Stop moving the goalposts, and let's have one set of rules for everybody. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Ma'am, would you -- would you take a question?

MS. CARLSON: Yes.

SEN. HEWITT: So help me understand. I -- I've

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not heard that, that people in Baton Rouge say that they're not -- that they don't have any common interest to people in New Orleans. And I was at all the roadshows, I don't recall hearing that. So help me understand from your perspective, how is it that they don't have interest in common? Or how -- how is it that they're different?

MS. CARLSON: They're two very different parishes. New Orleans — Orleans Parish, Jefferson Parish, they're very different from the Baton Rouge parishes. There's a show -- and I did hear this in the -- in -- in the roadshow, people say that they didn't have anything in common.

There's a radio show, Talk Louisiana, Jim Engster, and consistently people call that show to talk about they don't feel they're being represented by their congressperson -- fairly represented by their congressperson. And that they -- they would like to have more access to their representative. And, look, I've heard this con- -- maybe you haven't, but I have. I've heard it consistently.

SEN. HEWITT: So I didn't understand though,

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your answer. How -- how are they different? I mean, these are two large urban areas, I think they have many issues in common. What is it that -- how is it that you see that they're different?

MS. CARLSON: I think that the way the -- the map is drawn, it's too large, you have the river parishes in that -- in that map, New Orleans, Baton Rouge. Yes. Some of our issues are the same, but not all of our issues are the same. And that -- to have -- to put the river parishes and New Orleans in the same bo- -- book with Baton Rouge just doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense politically to do that.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Thank you. Yes, sir. If you would introduce yourself. I'm sorry if I butchered your name.

MR. TOOMBS: Oh, no. It's okay, you were pretty close. The last name is Toombs. And thank you for having me here today to be in front of your committee and speak on this item. I just want to say something that would probably be a little bit enlightening to this committee. It probably wouldn't be better served to say Black and minority.

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There is a term in lingo with the diversity, equity, and inclusion type of genre, and it's called historically underserved groups. Okay. That's the terminology that we use at DEI at LSU. I myself am a recent graduate from LSU. I graduated with my master's in liberal arts. And I want to thank Senator Womack, is it? For meeting with our good president, because he's trying to do some good work down there. So thank you for doing that.

Now, I'll get down to the issues at hand here. I was highlighted in an article in the Washington Post that talked about the dis- -- wealth disparities in -- in, pretty much, Baton Rouge. And the way that I see it is this. By us being progressive with this bill, this -- this bill is progressive. Make no mistake about it.

Louisiana, Baton Rouge in particular, we have one of the biggest drain -- brain drains. We educate kids at BRCC, LSU and Southern every year and they leave because of the optics, because of the way things look, because of the way things feel. I know this because I was a retentionist at the university. And I would ask them, what do you plan on doing when you

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graduate? Leave, I can't stay here, it is too conservative.

Now, there is a quick story I'd like to give you. In 1862, there was a -- there was a seminary and military school in Pineville. Okay? And they were training soldiers and people to be in the ministry. And in an 18 -- in well a -- well, let me fra- -- let me back -- let me backtrack that.

In 1862, it was the Battle of Baton Rouge. And at that point, the school had a decision. They could stay in Pineville and keep learning and trading, or they could go to Baton Rouge and fight for the Confederacy. They chose to go fight, they lost. They had to go back in 1860 -- I think 1869, the school burned down. And then they had to come to Baton Rouge. So when they got to Baton Rouge, they were trying to develop this deal right not too far from in the barracks.

And they began to drop the military and the seminary deal, and then they became a college. At some point, Thomas Boyd felt like the college was getting too large, too many people there. So they decided they

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wanted to move at the -- I think it's the Gartness Plantation. And so when they went to the Gartness Plantation, they evaluated it, and they wanted it, the state awarded them $82,000, they rebuilt that school, that school is now LSU.

So the Confederacy, in essence, it -- it never stopped after the war, the energy stayed. And so what I'm saying is this. If we want to be a progressive state, stopping the brain drain, stopping all of the other atrocities that are happening to us day in day out, you guys have a big decision to make. Because the world is watching. The world is watching how we deal with this.

If we deal with this in a very progressive, idealistic way, there is big probability that businesses would want to -- love to come to Baton Rouge, come to Louisiana and be a part of our process. But as long as we have a stone-age idealism, we're always going to be 50, 49, 48 pick. Right?

And so the brain drain, how we stop that is we kill the bad optics. This is ridiculous. It looks like -- I'm just saying, it looks like the court is having

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to tell our legislature how to do your job. And your job is to be rational, practical, and reasonable. And I implore you, I encourage you, please, if it's not this map, it needs to be a map that's representative of our population. It's that simple.

The gentleman said earlier, is this about race? Of course it's about race, no doubt. You have a segment of people that have been isolated and have been segued for a long time. Now, that's not to say that we haven't had good ivory hue allies, do not let me be remissed on that. Because I believe the ivory hue community has been very supportive in ways with the ebony hue community, without a doubt.

But we have to work together, we have to be rational. The world is watching. Everybody sees what we're doing and this is on an international stage. You have the opportunity to make something progressive happen and change the landscape of this state for the next 50 years. Take advantage of it. That is my piece. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, sir. Thank you for being here today. All right. Do I have any other green

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cards? Okay. And I think I have -- I have e-mails, but I don't have any in support. Is that right? Okay -- okay. Let me go to the -- to the cards in opposition. And I'll -- I'll call you all up several at a time and give you a chance to speak.

I'll start first with Josh Guillory, the mayor-president in Lafayette, Doyle Boudreaux from the city of Scott, let's see, and Keely McGibboney from One Acadiana. If you all would like to come up. All right. Welcome, who would like to start?

MR. GUILLORY: I'll start, Senator. Thank you, Madam Chair. Appreciate the courtesies. Thank you. Senator -- oh, he -- he left? I was going to say --

SEN. HEWITT: Introduce yourself for the record.

MR. GUILLORY: Josh Guillory, Lafayette, Mayor-president. So thank you for allowing us to be here today. And I was going to tell Senator Fields I think the world of him. So I appreciate his efforts. And I believe that there's good intent here, and I think that everybody's heart's in the right place. So --

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But I'm going to speak to this very honorable body in the lens of a parish president. So everything I say is from Lafayette parish's viewpoint, vantage point, which I hope you take in consideration, it could probably be echoed with other parish presidents, other mayors across our state. So I definitely thank you.

And I -- I can't sympathize with you, I empathize with you. Because I don't know what you're going through. But it -- it sure looks difficult. So when you have the courts involved and you're trying to get it right every 10 years, you got to make sure everybody has representation, it's fair, you know, everybody has equal opportunity. So I do thank you for the diligence that you're putting in and the time. So we appreciate you.

While I respect the legal and legislative process, I respectfully oppose this particular pro- -- proposed map. It separates our parish, it divides our parish. And Laf- -- Lafayette Parish has been in the same district as -- as you know, since 2011, along with Lake Charles, Calcasieu, Parish, Cameron Parish, and all the parishes in between. And the majority of the

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Acadiana region that was spoken -- spoken about earlier.

This particular proposed map would divide northern parts of Lafayette and St. Martin Parishes and includes a sizable amount of the city of Lafayette, which means it would divide not only a significant portion of our parish, but also our city.

And this particular region is -- is used to being divided historically, and we've worked really hard the last 30 years as a community, particularly in the city of Lafayette to keep -- to keep us on the path of unification as -- as opposed to being divided. So please take that in consideration.

It also separates Carencro a -- a municipality in its entirety from our parish, and links it to parishes on the Arkansas border, or close to it. We believe our parish should not be split. And ultimately, our shared communities of interest should be pre- -- preserved, specifically preserved in this con- -- in this context.

We share culture, we share values, our heritage is unique, just like every region of our

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state. Every region of our state can make this argument. We're majority Catholic, Cajun and Creole roots, Cajun zydeco music, our economies, our -- the spirit of our economy, the spirit of our initiatives on tourism is very, very closely related, specifically in our parish. And our parish is a little different. We're small geographically, but we're heavily populated.

So Caren- -- to say Carencro is a distance away is -- is would be inaccurate. And I -- I'm not saying any of you are saying that. But literally, you wouldn't know unless you know. You can drive from Carencro to Lafayette and Broussard, Louisiana and think it's all one municipality. So very, very key point that I -- I ask you to keep in consideration. The broad geographical area of the proposal does not work.

Residents of North Lafayette and Carencro specifically would have minimal representation as this particular congressman or congresswoman would have to divide many of their -- much of their efforts, much of their time would have to -- which is very limited when they're back in district, as you guys know. And to tailor their approach to satisfying the needs of their

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respective district would be way more difficult, to say the least.

So I urge you not to move forward with this proposed map. But I will also say that whatever the legislature decides, we will respect, we will continue to work with the legislature, Lafayette has a great relationship with -- with many of you. And we do thank you for your service to our -- to our great state. So thank you for this time. And I'll yield back.

SEN. HEWITT: Tha- -- thank you, Mr. President. And I asked Bill to come back to the table to be able to pull up the -- the map. I'm sorry we didn't have it up while you were speaking. But this is the Acadiana map. If you all could just pull that up. And I'm a picture person. So it does help a little bit to see what you're talking about. If you want to talk us through that just a little bit.

You can see right at the southern part, I guess, where the yellow, which is district five, and the purple, which is district three kind of meat on the southern part. That is -- that is the primary Lafayette area I think that you were speaking of.

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MR. GUILLORY: That is correct, Madam Chair. And again, please take in consideration the historical context of that particular area that you just referenced. Actually, just south of that in the -- in -- right around the downtown area. And then what's commonly referred to as the north side in Lafayette has -- has -- there's been a racial divide. We're talking race, we're talking a lot about race today.

There's been a racial divide in that particular area. But dividing this par- -- di- -- dividing our parish and our city in this context would not help that. If you think you're helping the minority voice, I know this is on the -- on the federal level, we don't believe that -- that it would be strengthened that way. Because the majority of their -- their district would be further north, not south.

It -- it's only natural when you -- when God only gives us 24 hours a day, it's only natural for you to go to what's closer to you. I mean, it's -- I -- I'm -- I'm not telling an untruth here. This is the fact, physically mentally. So for -- for our local efforts, this would be -- this would run -- run afoul of our

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local efforts.

And at the state level too, our legislators were -- they're very familiar with this, our legislators understand. And I don't know where they'll land on their vote, but they definitely understand the divide that I'm -- I'm referencing. And -- and dividing us up on our federal -- our federal voice, it's our federal voice, it wouldn't help the cause. Not -- not in this parish.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, appreciate that. It's certainly helpful to have, you know, people from the area talk about communities of interest. These are not things that are defined. Right? It's not a geographic circle that you can draw around it as we can a parish or a city. Those are well defined. Communities of interest are defined by the people who live there, in my opinion. And so it's helpful to hear what you have to say. Would you take a question from Senator Price?

MR. GUILLORY: I'd be honored to.

SEN. PRICE: Thank you. And -- and more of a comment. And look, we all would love to have all our parishes whole, no doubt, under the present map that

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was enacted. And I represent along the river parish, and I can tell you Orleans Parish is split, Jefferson Parish is split, St. Charles Parish is split, St. John Parish is split, St. James Parish is split, Ascension Parish is split, Assumption Parish is split, Iberville Parish is split, and East Baton Rouge Parish is split.

So we would love to say, keep these parishes whole. But in order to draw maps and due to population, we have to at some point split -- split parishes. In the map that's actually been enacted, there are most split parishes in that map than this map. So just a comment just -- just so that you know we would love them whole, but it just doesn't happen because of the way the population is. Thank you.

MR. GUILLORY: Thanks, Senator.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thanks, Senator. Yes, sir. If you would introduce yourself for the record and -- and offer your comments.

MR. BOUDREAUX: Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the jury. My name is Doyle Boudreaux. I am here -- I am here representing the city of Scott in opposition of the bill. Everything Mayor-President

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Guillory had just said. But most importantly, is -- is to keep our parish as a whole. Represent- -- Senator Price would understand, somebody's got to be split. We're just fighting that it won't be our parish.

Diversity was talked about at length today. And as briefly as I can be, you know, without solid proof, I think Lafayette Parish is probably one of the most diverse parishes we have in the state.

We have our first minority affairs director in LCG, thanks to Mayor-President Guillory. In the city of Scott, we've had the first female mayor, who was Mayor Myers, who served for 20 plus years and retired under her own will. Following her was African American, Mayor Purvis Morrison, who served two terms, second term was unopposed.

And just north of us, the city that might show the most diversity on their council is made up of five members all at large. They have two African Americans, two females, and one white guy. You know, and we want to keep that diversity all in -- in the confines of Lafayette Parish. We understand some may have to be divided, we're just hoping it's not our parish.

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You know, Lafayette Parish has shown growth in diversity over the years on its own, like Senator Womack has -- has said, through organic nature. And, you know, we just want to keep our parish together in one conger- -- congressional district.

SEN. HEWITT: And -- and I can appreciate that. I know, it's -- it's har- -- we do have to divide parishes sometimes. I think the map we enacted divides one more parish than the map that's -- that we're debating today. And we try to do that in ways that aren't as disruptive to the communities of interest.

So, you know, we had a big debate on the -- on the floor about a parish that we had to split in a conference committee when we enacted the last plan. And we chose to split it in the -- in a national forest. Right? Because we didn't interfere so much with -- with the community of interest. And there's just never -- it's not an easy decision.

But I can certainly appreciate the points that you're making about how divisive perhaps, or maybe that's not exactly the right word. But -- but splitting up the city itself would be very difficult. And Scott

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is certainly -- I drive through there all the time. I mean, it's the next exit over, so I'm very aware. All right. Thank you all very much for being here. We appreciate your testimony and -- and your time.

MR. GUILLORY: Thank you Madam Chair. And again, thank you for your time. We ask that you also keep First Lady Savoie in your prayers, she passed away, pray for her soul and Dr. Savoie, and the family. So I'm actually sprinting over there to go the funeral. So thank you for -- for your service. God bless you.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes sir. Thank you. And I apologize to Keely McGibboney, earlier put in a card not wishing to speak, but in opposition. So I -- I misread that card earlier. All right. I have one more from the Lafayette area that would like to speak. Gavin Abington [ph] present would like to speak in opposition. Gavin Abington? Okay. All right.

Trying to kind of keep these grouped a little bit by -- by city. All right. We have the -- the may- -- Mayor Rick Allen from the city of Leesville in Fort Polk. If you'd like to come forward, I know you offered a white card present, would like to speak and provide

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some information. Would it be appropriate to add this one also at the same time?

MR. ALLEN: Madam Chair, gentleman, I am Mayor Rick Allen, the city Leesville and also chairman of Fort Polk Progress. And I would like to thank you for an opportunity to speak to you today about how the community of interest in the ongoing congressional redistricting plan affects my community.

As you know, a community of interest is a community, neighborhood, or a group of local residents who have common concerns, and who benefit from being maintained in a single congressional district. In this case, I would like to talk to you about Fort Polk and why it's important that Fort Polk remain in the same district as Vernon Parish.

As a lifetime resident of the city of Leesville, and the mayor of that great city, and chairman of Fort Polk Progress, a nonprofit organization that's solely dedicated to a healthy and robust relationship between Fort Polk and the community, and our congress- -- congressional delegation, I believe that I can provide you with a

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local perspective in -- on the importance of our relationship.

A couple of key highlights I'd like to talk to you about today. Our army community goes to school in Vernon Parish. So our community exhausted its bondability and built the most

modern high schools in our parish that we could afford to build. For Polk Progress' education initiative has been known around the world as a model for education initiatives and military communities.

In exchange for the property owned by Fort Polk, the military in Vernon Parish, the school district receives impact aid that is appropriated by Congress, and the cost of education, educating these military students.

SEN. REESE: So mayor, if you don't mind me, interrupting you just a little bit there. So obviously -- obviously, I very much respect your position being here today, and really just kind of focusing on the community of interest of Vernon Parish, and not wishing necessarily to weigh in on any particular map that the legislature may or may not adopt, and I respect that.

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But certainly you and I share this common interest in -- in holding together in whatever version of a map that passes that -- that strong community of interest. And so when you talk about impact aid, and I'll just reference the map being discussed now. Obviously, every map has a zillion different ways it can be designed.

But -- so in -- in this particular map that we have, we would have -- you have military students living in one congressional district, and they would attend school in another congressional district.

But impact aid, which is the money the federal government pays the school district in lieu of property taxes to educate -- provide educational services, that you would have those kids attending another congressional district. But the money has to be appropriated for impact aid. Right?

And so it's kind of an inextricable -- you can't divide that interest, that congre- -- you know, that -- that federal interest. Right? So the impact aid is paid to the school districts to support educating the military children.

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MR. ALLEN: That's absolutely correct, sir -- Senator. And it may not be priority for a con -- congressman and another district to make sure that that impact aid is -- is received for those schools.

SEN. REESE: In the oth- -- in the other district

MR. ALLEN: The other district. Yes, sir.

SEN. REESE: Okay.

MR. ALLEN: So Vernon Parish, you know, is laser focused upon Fort Polk and its family education. When Congress authorized the defense community's infrastructure program, known as the DCIP, the parish and the state went after the first DCIP grant ever, and competed against communities all across the nation. We were able to win a $7.5 million grant for our schools, and we invested that $7.5 million in STEM classrooms at five of our schools.

And so the investment continues for Vernon Parish and Leesville. Vernon Parish answered the army's call for additional land and sold another 42,000 acres of land -- or 47,000 acres of land out of our parish. So -- which makes Fort Polk own 50 percent of Vernon

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Parish.

SEN. REESE: So -- so Mayor, I mean, it -- once again it looks like that -- that connection, that community of interest connection continues to extend. And I know that they have, you know, in this version of the map -- and we're not here -- you're not here to necessarily talk about one map or the other.

But in this version of a map under consideration, it appears that we're actually splitting apart into two congressional districts the army base proper, and the additional land that was purchased that they use for their training. And so that -- that federal facility is kind of sliced.

And -- and that additional property you're speaking of that the parish no longer has the ability to tax, and then has to rely on federal appropriations to support things like school districts and others would be divided. Is that --?

MR. ALLEN: That's absolutely correct, Senator. And it splits my city as well.

SEN. REESE: Yeah.

MR. ALLEN: So it's -- it -- it puts us in a

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position to where the -- and -- and the military is also interested in purchasing more land from Vernon Parish, which will be in the opposite district as well. So it's well known that Fort Polk is the largest economic driver -- generator in Vernon Parish, and the second largest employer in the whole state of Louisiana.

It's a -- the recent economic impact study funded by the state demonstrates that there's no other parish that is dependent on a nearby military in- -- installation, whether it be Belle Chasse or Barksdale Air Force Base, or others as compared to Fort Polk and Vernon Parish.

SEN. REESE: So -- so mayor, that -- in -- in terms of that connection, not just economic connection, but, you know, one of -- one of the things that all of us that live anywhere near a military installation live in constant fear of is Base Realignment and Closure. And we -- we talk about that often.

And in the Base Realign- -- Realignment and Closure process, you know, there are a lot of factors that the military measures to determine whether or not

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that installation is going to remain open, or closed, or grow, or shrink, or all those factors. But isn't -- isn't one of those factors the -- the -- in terms of talking about a community of interest, one of those factors is the community support measurement piece. Right?

You know, whether that's housing, whether that's job opportunity, or whether that's education opportunity. And again, we've -- we've kind of divided that in terms of federal interest here. But that is -- is that not part of what they measure in a -- in a BRAC?

MR. ALLEN: It's absolutely the -- one of the key issues in how it's scored. And -- and this would sever that relationship. And that -- so beyond that fact, however, you know, there are families working inside the fence line of Fort Polk, and the civilians of the parish and -- and citizens outside that are supporting Fort Polk.

It's -- it's hard to describe to you the emotions that are involved in our parish members -- with our parish members and our -- our soldiers, unless

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you've been to a parade, or a change of command, or -- or been there for Veterans Day, or something along those lines. It -- you just -- I can't explain to you the relationship that we have with Fort Polk, and we're very proud of that in Vernon Parish.

SEN. REESE: So Mayor, the -- the installation in this case, in this particular version there, where we kind of divide out the installation proper from the town of Leesville, there's -- in terms of military personnel stationed at that installation, those -- there's a percentage of those that live on base, there's a percentage of those that live off base. You --

MR. ALLEN: Yes, sir.

SEN. REESE: What would you say that current makeup is?

MR. ALLEN: So 40 percent of the military lives in our community off base.

SEN. REESE: Okay.

MR. ALLEN: So one -- one last point that I'd like to -- to stress to you, that when it comes to Congress rep- -- representation, the nexus between

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Vernon Parish, Fort Polk, and the congressional delegation district that -- that understands and serves both entities should not be overlooked.

Many of the partnering activities between the army and the Vernon Parish, whether it's education, or energy, or shared activities between the army and Vernon Parish, whether it's having Fort Polk, and the parish, and the congressional district working together has been a key advantage in retaining missions and trust of the army at Fort Polk.

Breaking that nexus could cause harm to the parish and to the army. We will continue to support the army under any eventuality. But being Congress -- being a congressional district that is unmoored from Fort Polk will inevitably disrupt this cohesive- -- cohesiveness and coordination that we have served the parish and the army for -- well, for very many years.

SEN. REESE: So Mayor, the -- the -- why don't -- why don't you talk a little bit about -- because again, one of the things we're talking about here is not only a community of interest, but in how that integrates in with congressional decision making.

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So -- so you guys worked hard to create in Congress some law called intergovernmental support agreements. And maybe -- maybe tell me a little bit about how the intergovernmental support agreement works in terms of community of interest, that in the case of this map, we're kind of dividing in half. But tell me a little bit about how that -- how that's worked for some of the communities.

MR. ALLEN: So in 2012 and '13, whenever they passed a law in Congress that allowed us to enter into an intergovernmental service agreement with a base next our communities, it allowed us to go after some services that the city Leesville, for instance, already provides that -- that Fort Polk the army base needed.

SEN. REESE: Mm-hmm.

MR. ALLEN: We landed a $3.2 million vegetation control contract, which is a vital part of the city's budget. And it set us on a new trajectory geographically where we're located. There are not very many opportunities to increase revenue or to increase our budget. But that interserver- --intergovernmental service agreement, we hold three of the largest in the

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world, and Leesville has the largest intergovernmental service agreement in the world with Fort Polk.

SEN. REESE: So, you know, all of these things require congressional action. You know, is -- is my observation. You know, so you've got to have the authority to perform these kinds of services, which takes congressional action, you have to have the appropriations at congressional level that -- that funds these sort of actions. And one of the things we've struggled with, I think, historically is maintaining seats on the House Arm- -- Armed Services Committee.

Don't -- would -- would you -- would you believe that -- that in terms of communities of interest, maintaining things like Barksdale Air Force Base and Fort Polk, our state's two largest installations in the state, together is -- is probably how we leverage that congressional seat on House Armed Services. Versus dividing out where one congressman has half of Fort Polk, and another congressman has half of Fort Polk.

MR. ALLEN: Absolutely. And --

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SEN. REESE: Kind of been the practice we've -- we've seen.

MR. ALLEN: And you can see the -- the results of that in just the last wins for Fort Polk and Barstow Air Force Base, over $123 million in MILCON projects alone for those two bases. And absolutely would be affected by splitting that base, taking that leverage away from our now congressman, or whoever the congressman will be could affect that tremendously.

SEN. REESE: Thank you.

MR. ALLEN: I appreciate you listening to me today. And I -- and I understand that -- that you have a very tough decision to make here. But Leesville and Vernon Parish is a community of interest. And it will greatly affect our ability to support and continue to support Fort Polk and our military families.

I'm proud of -- of the work we've done. But we've got a lot of work left to do. And splitting -- splitting our cities, and splitting our parish, and actually dividing the training ground that our great military uses to train at Fort Polk would -- would be a bad move for us.

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So again, I want to thank you, for all you do. And -- and I understand that you have a very tough decision to make. But with prayer, we will get through this. And I -- I again, want to -- want to thank you for the opportunity. And I'll take any more questions at this time.

SEN. REESE: Mayor, I -- I appreciate your sincere effort at -- for detailing to this committee and others, you know, how -- how you can't abandon necessarily that -- that community of interest that -- for the -- the -- the largest military installation in the state of Louisiana, which is a federal asset, which is absolutely governed by Congress, absolutely influenced by Congress.

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And we would seek to divide that federal installation in half, giving half of an installation to one congressional district, and half of an installation to another congressional district. And then divide the city responsible for providing the bulk of that support to the federal partner, divide that city in half.

But I also respect the fact that -- that you weren't -- are not willing to necessarily speak on the

-- the merits of one map versus another map, but to focus in really on what we -- you know, the -- the -- just the parameters of that parish, and the fact that it is an undistinguishable community of interest. Really undistinguishable community of interest, you know, in terms of -- of federal policy. So I thank you for taking the time to do that.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you. And -- and I'm -- I'm glad that's not my job today. Thank you all.

SEN. HEWITT: Would you take a question or a comment from Senator Milligan?

MR. ALLEN: Absolutely.

SEN. REESE: You can probably take the map -- the map -- senator? He wants the map. Okay. All right.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. And -- and Mr. Mayor, thank you, again for being here, and what you do, and certainly representing the folks around Fort Polk. And -- and really, Senator Reese, if you don't mind, you and I serve on military affairs together, and -- and you've got a deep history of Fort Polk.

And you understand the power and the -- the

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responsibility that the -- the 4th Congressional District has with having two big military installations. But also have seen the investments in our communities because of that power. And so would you just hit that again, and -- and reiterate the fact that keeping those together in the same district is a win for Louisiana, and how, please?

SEN. HEWITT: I will add you to the party, Senator.

SEN. REESE: No. I appreciate that. Yeah. I mean, and that -- and that's been my -- my observation is -- is in terms of the 4th District, you know, being able to aggregate that military influence of both Barksdale Air Force Base, you know, so two branches of service, two vital assets to our -- to our nation. But really, in terms of their economic impact, and other impacts to the state of Louisiana, they're the two largest.

And that's given us the leverage historically that one congressman representing both of those two large installations has been -- had the opportunity to be on the influential committees that make a difference

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in terms of appropriations, and in terms of military policy, that allow them to thrive, and allow them to continue to be positive impacts on the state of Louisiana. And to be -- to be viable in their -- in supporting the mission of national defense.

You know, I think that's the reason we've been so successful in -- in accruing the -- the resources necessary, is because we can aggregate those into one district. Because it is such a shared interest between those two communities, those two bases.

SEN. MILLIGAN: And I appreciate that I've seen the infrastructure investments in -- in -- in Bossier surrounding the base. I've seen the investment into cyber and -- and those responsibilities in the Northwest Louisiana community. We've seen that investment. And certainly you've seen it in the Fort Polk area, and you spoke on that several times.

I -- I would hate to think that we would weaken our responsibility, our representation for the military community and the investment that the government makes in our state by dividing this up among numerous congressman. We certainly in Louisiana need

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every -- every positive we can get. And that's certainly a very strong one for us.

I -- I would like not to see that broke up and split. I want to see that -- that the -- the power is retained under one congressional member for the sake of not just our communities, but all Louisiana. So thank you for --

SEN. REESE: Thank you.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MR. AILEN: Thank you, sir.

SEN. REESE: Thank you, Mayor Allen.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right, Mayor. Thank you very much. We appreciate you. All right. I've got a white card here also from Timothy Magner, the greater Shreveport Chamber, if you would like to come forward.

DR. MAGNER: Good afternoon, and thank you so much for the opportunity to meet with you today. I'm Dr. Tim Magner, the president of the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce. And I wanted to provide you some additional background on -- on the 4th District.

As you know, the political boundaries are

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comprised of overlapping communities of interest. They begin with small units, such as streets and neighborhoods, moving outwards to towns, and cities, and military installations, further to parishes, regions, and then configurations like the 4th District and the state of Louisiana.

Thus, larger boundaries are built on smaller communities. The logic of this approach is that the value is added as more contiguous communities are linked together. One example of this value which we -- we talked about here at length is the inclusion of the state's two important military installations of Barksdale Air Force Base and Fort Polk, and the Joint Readiness Training Center.

Beyond the singular impact of either institution is the impact that their combined inclusion has on the 4th District, which will equip whoever holds that congressional seat with great influence in Washington D.C. These two installations are critically important to national security interests, and their importance virtually guarantees that the member who represents them will sit on the powerful Armed Services

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Committee.

A seat on the Armed Services Committee allows the representative to better compete for funding that is essential not just to the economy of the 4th District, but to the state's economy as well.

As a recent example, the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, the Louisiana military installations led by Barksdale Air Force Base and Fort Polk are set to secure about $1 billion in funding, which includes more military construction dollars for the Air Force and the Army than anywhere else in the world.

Representative Johnson's [ph] position on the House Armed Services Committee representing both bases was a critical factor in bringing those federal dollars to Louisiana. Dividing our base communities into separate districts would dilute the bargaining strength and have potentially negative effects on our state.

Both Barksdale and Fort Polk are poised to expand importance in -- in -- in the future as a weapons generation facility that's slated to go into -- into Barksdale. And I know Fort Polk is looking to expand as well, as you just heard. With the planned

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expansions, there will be opportunities to create new businesses and attract businesses from out of state.

A single representative in Congress can help facilitate those expansions, but splitting the installations into two districts put those -- puts those plans at risk. And it's not just the financial impacts.

Military Families often have different needs than you and I, and having those base communities in the same district allows their representative in Congress to have a better understanding of those needs. Fort Polk has approximately 8,000 soldiers stationed, with 13,000 family members living on and off, as well as 6,000 department of the army civilians and contract employees, and more than 40,000 retirees in that area alone.

Barksdale, by contrast, has a population of almost 15,000, which is comprised of about 5,000 active duty, 1,300 or so reservists, almost 5,500 military family members, 23 -- 2,500 civilian employees, and over 25,000 retirees in that area.

Many service members, veterans, and their

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families face similar problems virtually all military families and their -- military personnel and their families encounter. Ensuring that these populations are part of a single congressional district allows their elected representative to better address their needs than if they were divided among multiple districts.

The 4th District also unites rural, agricultural, and timber industries. The 4th Di- -- District is largely rural and thus includes the par- -- the included parishes share concerns that rural districts have, such as rural broadband, rural water, and access to education to name but a few.

This is also a significant agricultural district. The 4th District is in the top 25 percent of all congressional districts in agriculture, supporting the state's $11 billion industry because the district encompasses poultry, cattle, crawfish, rice, and soybeans are growing across the district and Caddo, Bossier, Natchitoches, Evangeline, and St. Landry.

This is also a strong timber district, with timber processing facilities also across the district in Homer, Ringgold, Coushatta, Chestnut, Oakdale,

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Chopin, and a new one being constructed in Bossier Parish. Thus, there are some population and economic similarities and interdependencies between and among the component parishes of the 4th District.

However, I would offer that the strength of the 4th District is not simply due to the outlines of the district itself. But that in the manner in which it is constructed builds on the combined strength of the communities, such as the bases, cities, towns, and parishes that are contained wholly within the district. The strength of the whole, therefore, is predicated on the integrity and internal continuity of each of its parts. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank you, doctor. Appreciate that. So I was a little bit confused by -- by some of the points. Were you speaking in support of the enacted bill? Or were you speaking in support of -- of the bill? I know you turned in a white card, you're basically trying to provide information, I guess, and describe it. When you just talk about the district, are you describing the district as it exists today?

DR. MAGNER: As -- as -- as it's currently

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constructed.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay.

DR. MAGNER: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I understand now. Thank you. All right, Senator Milligan.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I don't have a question to him. But I -- I want to thank you for your leadership, and -- and taking the time to come down today.

DR. MAGNER: Appreciate it.

SEN. MILLIGAN: You and your team are rock stars, and -- and -- and certainly lead the -- the -- the charge in -- in Shreveport and Northwest Louisiana as a whole. So I do appreciate you.

DR. MAGNER: Thank you so much.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Sir, would you take a question from Senator Reese?

DR. MAGNER: Certainly.

SEN. REESE: Mr. Magner, thank you for -- for coming in to testify today. And I know you turned in a white card, so I won't ask you necessarily about a particular position on a bill. But again, one of the

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difficulties that we have is, you know, how you construct bills and layer all of the requirements for redistricting principles on top of one another to ultimately arrive at something that both meets all legal standards that -- that we've discussed here today.

But at the same time, you know, holds together communities of interest. Some communities of interest are cultural, some are -- some are very, you know, local related communities of interest. But in terms of -- of congressional policy, and today we're talking about congressional maps, and congressional representation, I mean, is there -- is there a stronger congressional policy tie in terms of community of interest than we -- than what you had witnessed to -- to be that of Barksdale and -- and Fort Polk?

DR. MAGNER: No. And again, I think the -- the -- it's the implication of what that has for the state as a whole. The -- the combination of those two installations have tremendous impact individually on the -- as we heard from the gentleman from Vernon Parish earlier, and certainly the impact on the -- the

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Caddo, Barksdale region is -- is significant.

But the combination of those two together within the -- within a single congressional district has profound influence on what happens, not just in that district, but in the state of Louisiana as well.

And so maintaining those connections, and similarly, to the extent possible, maintaining the -- the integrity of, as we heard cities around the -- the -- the bases. And the ability to be able to have that community's sort of organizational integrity reflected in, and how that is supported throughout the district.

SEN. REESE: Well, I appreciate you taking the time and -- and effort to help educate us on that. Thank you.

DR. MAGNER: Certainly. Happy to do so.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I think that's the -- the last question. Thank you very much for being here. We appreciate it. All right. Next I'd like to call up from St. Tammany Parish, Parish President Mike Cooper and Councilman Mike Lorino.

MALE 1: All right. No. Thank you, Mike.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank y'all very much

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for being here. Who would like to go first?

MALE 1: President Cooper.

SEN. HEWITT: President --

PRES. COOPER: I'll go first. Yes --

SEN. HEWITT: President Cooper, thank you for being here, sir.

PRES. COOPER: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the committee, Senator Fields. Currently, all of St. Tammany Parish is represented by congressional district number one. Senate bill one divides St. Tammany Parish into two congressional districts, congressional district one and congressional district six.

St. Tammany Parish has been represented by congressional district one since 1974, almost a half century. We'd appreciate this committee giving the same attention that was given act five and Senate bill five of the 2022 first extraordinary session with respect to the boundaries of political subdivisions by keeping us whole within congressional district number one.

Act five, SB5 preserves our core principle values and the community of interest within St. Tammany

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Parish as was mentioned earlier. St. Tammany is naturally included within the New Orleans economic region and SB1 puts more than half of our parish within the congressional district based in and around Baton Rouge instead of New Orleans.

Finally, whether it is our infrastructure projects, flood protection issues, our economic priorities, or our cultural way of life, our priorities in St. Tammany are united and stretch across our entire parish. The people of St. Tammany Parish strongly support remaining intact within the first congressional district.

I would respectfully ask that you vote to defer Senate bill one and keep all of St. Tammany Parish within congressional district one as enacted by act five of the first extraordinary session of 2022. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. Yes. Councilman, if you would introduce yourself again for the record?

MR. LORENO: Yes, ma'am. Mike Loreno [ph], Councilman district for St. Tammany Parish council.

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Before I get started, what a tough job you all -- you have. We're getting ready to start redistricting ourself. And I can just imagine in a few weeks sitting on that side and handling the issues that you're bringing forth, and it's going to be a tough, tough go. But I want to thank you all for that.

Madam Chair, there's not much that I can add to what President Cooper said and which you eloquently described as so important to St. Tammany Parish to remain whole. Senator, I realize that there's a lot of district -- a lot of areas that are divided. But that doesn't mean you have to change one because another one is there.

There should be a way to look at these things and try to figure them out and work them the best you can. And if you can't well, you can't. But as I sat there and listened today, committee only has three choices as I sit there. Keep what you have now, vote for Senator Fields is a new one, or let the courts do it.

So whatever way you choose, that's a tough decision on each and every one of you sitting here and

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it's going to be guided by your principles and your beliefs, but sitting here, I would rather see you ladies and gentlemen, do it much more than a court handle it. Because everything I've seen come out of courts over the years, sometimes aren't the most friendly and correct.

And so I'd just like to once again, say thank you very much. I realize the job you had. And I also ask you to leave St. Tammany whole, if possible, if possible. We just had a major election in St. Tammany Parish. And at the beginning of that election, that issue was supposed to divide St. Tammany Parish. And it didn't because all the people in St. Tammany Parish had an opportunity to vote and all the people voted what they wanted to have done, and that's what we strive to do.

And I know that's what you strive to do. So once again, thank you very much. And we really appreciate the job and a difficult job. Thank you, Madam Chair, and it's great to see you as always.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I appreciate you all coming over here to -- to -- to our world, and

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appreciate what you do. Yeah. This -- the -- this map, as it's represented here for our parish is very -- is very troubling to me. And -- and you all know these precincts as well as I do. You know, we're sp- -- we're splitting -- we're splitting neighborhoods in the military road area.

You know, we're taking Pearl River that has maybe four or five precincts and putting four of them in one district and -- and the other one in a different district, a congressional district, we're doing the same in Lacombe where we're, you know, these are very small areas; right? And -- and splitting them is -- is very concerning to me.

And then I think the other thing, and I'm going to put you guys on the spot a little bit, you know, we have a little competition kind of between the east side and the west side of the parish. And again, kind of putting the east side over in a different congressional district than the west side only helps promulgate that; wouldn't -- wouldn't you think?

PRES. COOPER: Yes, it does. In fact, we represent eight municipalities as well. There are eight

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municipalities in St. Tammany Parish and they meet regularly as the St. Tammany municipal association. We are a cohesive parish, we're the fourth largest parish in the state of Louisiana. Yet we are, we are very cohesive. We continue to grow and yes, by dividing our cities or splitting some of the cities from the rest of the -- the other municipalities in a different congressional district would be detrimental to our parish.

MR. LORENO: Mad- -- Madam Chair, may I say one other thing?

SEN. HEWITT: Sure.

MR. LORENO: I left off one important point. This would be the second time district four has been affected by -- or St. Tammany has been affected by a change. We just -- we just came down with a new Senate district. And then now in my district, I have half the highway 22 in the new Senate district and the other half of the highway in the old Senate district.

You know, and residents don't really understand that. Especially new residents that are moving in instead of moving in, they just think, hey,

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here's my Senator, but they don't realize well across the street, it's a different Senator. So, you know, we just went through that. And if, as I said, if we can keep St. Tammany whole as it is, it would be great.

SEN. HEWITT: And -- and I appreciate that. And we do see ourselves as a -- as a community of interest; right? We have festivals and, you know, all of -- all of those things, we have one chamber of commerce that represents both sides. We used to have two separate ones. We have one chamber.

PRES. COOPER: Yes.

SEN. HEWITT: We have one economic development organization. You know, we -- we definitely see ourselves as one community of interest and, you know, dividing us this way, is again, it -- it d- -- it violates everything that I know about our parish and -- and where we've raised our kids for 35 years.

PRES. COOPER: And of course, again, economically, we're a part of GNO Inc, Greater New Orleans, Inc. That's our economic development organization. And it's important that we be a part of the New Orleans region, as opposed to being shifted to

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the Baton Rouge region.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Okay. Well, I appreciate y'all taking the time to --

PRES. COOPER: Yes.

SEN. HEWITT: To come and speak here with us. I -- I wish I could take you to lunch. Looks like we're going to kind of work through lunch.

PRES. COOPER: I'll take a rain check.

SEN. HEWITT: But thank you very much for being here.

PRES. COOPER: You're welcome. Thank you, members of --

MR. LORENO: Thank you.

PRES. COOPER: Committee.

MR. LORENO: Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you.

PRES. COOPER: Thank you, Michael.

MR. LORENO: Thank you, sir.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I've got a couple of folks here from Washington Parish, Sheriff Randy Seale [ph] and Brent Jones from Franklinton. All right. We must have worn them out. That would be easy to do. All

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right. From Rayville, Ethan Estes [ph] and Harrison Cooper from Rayville, Louisiana. Okay.

MR. ESTES: Okay.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Welcome.

MR. ESTES: Can you hear me?

SEN. HEWITT: Pull it a little bit closer and then introduce yourself for the record.

MR. ESTES: How about now? Can you hear me?

SEN. HEWITT: Much better.

MR. ESTES: Perfect. All right. Good afternoon. My name is Ethan Estes and I am from Rayville, Louisiana. It is a very small town in Northeast Louisiana with about 3,000 people. So we're just a map dot. I'm a student at the University of Louisiana Monroe, and I have worked in the political arena, I guess, for the last three or four different years.

My first job was working as an intern for then Congressman Ralph Abraham. And my most recent job was working for Congressman Elect Luke Letlow, and I've traveled all 24 parishes and almost all 64 parishes in the state, 24 parishes that comprises our fifth

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congressional district. And I've met many, many different people along the way, but we all have a lot of similar similarities; right?

We've heard a lot this morning, Senator Hewitt, you talked about communities of interest -- interest; right? And so Louisiana's fifth congressional district is comprised of nothing but communities of the same interest. We are comprised of agriculture in Northeast Louisiana, soybeans, cotton, corn. And the central Louisiana of our district it's timber and the Florida parishes it's cattle and strawberries, peaches.

The fifth congressional district exports is one of the largest exporters of agriculture. And we are the largest district that runs parallel to the Mississippi River prime for economic development and economic growth. Our now Congresswoman Julia Letlow sits on the appropriations committee up in Washington, DC, a very powerful committee in Washington, DC.

That is a grand slam of bringing dollars and money back to our district and invested in our communities to where it matters. Senator Milligan, you talked this morning about West Carol Parish and

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Ouachita Parish and Richland Parish, you know, in Northeast Louisiana, we're the redheaded stepchild; right? Nobody ever really gives us enough credit.

And rural the -- we are the rural parish. We are a very rural district. And so, we sort of get the hand me downs on some end of the deal. But that's okay. But at the same time, we also have a voice too, in -- in all of this; right? This bill, Senate bill one, diminishes the rural life of Northeast Louisiana.

It does away with the communities of similar different or similarities, excuse me. East Baton Rouge Parish. What this -- what this bill does is 30 percent of the population would now reside in East Baton Rouge Parish alone, and the entire district that's being proposed in Senate bill one that goes all the way up to Lake Providence, West Carol -- East Carol Parish. The representation would most likely fall to East Baton Rouge Parish, and we would not have a voice at that point.

SEN. HEWITT: So you're saying 30 percent of the congressional district five, the way it's drawn in this bill would be from East Baton Rouge Parish.

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MR. ESTES: Thirty percent of the population.

SEN. HEWITT: Of the population.

MR. ESTES: Would be concentrated to East Baton Rouge Parish.

SEN. HEWITT: Which completely -- and do you see that as a community of interest where you talked about all the agriculture and the rural part of really what -- what you s- -- as you all see yourselves as being, how does -- that doesn't really fit with East Baton Rouge?

MR. ESTES: Not at all. Again, Northeast Louisiana, we are country folks. And we are the agriculture district, but we don't have similarities with East Baton Rouge Parish; right? And -- and we don't believe that our voices would be represented or -- or accurately represented if it comes down to this.

Another thing that I want to pinpoint, I know that we don't have the map up, but Ouachita Parish is split --

SEN. HEWITT: We can pull it up. We can pull it up.

MR. ESTES: Okay. Perfect.

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SEN. HEWITT: We know people that can pull up maps.

MR. ESTES: [indiscernible]

SEN. HEWITT: You want to pull up the Ouachita area?

MR. ESTES: Perfect.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay.

MR. ESTES: So looking at Ouachita Parish, we can clearly see that it is split and that has not happened. And I don't know how long. But Monroe, Louisiana, and some of the city limits of west Monroe would reside in the proposed district five while the other half of Ouachita Parish would then be in Congressman Mike Johnson's district.

This would cause a multitude of problems. As far as education, economic growth, our Ouachita Parish school board would not have a voice around this particular district. You know, half of Ouachita Parish may get funding, the other half may not. That creates just an -- an astronomical amount of, of hurdles that would need to be overcame with that.

And so, myself and some folks that are here

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today with me, are strongly against the proposed bill because we believe it pulls our voice away. And we believe that with this new concentration of most of the population or a good bit of the population being concentrated to East Baton Rouge Parish would bring our voices away.

And that's something that we are not ready to do, considering that most of the members in of Congress are along the I10 corridor. And with that, that is all that I have. I'm going to pass it now over to Mr. Cooper, if there's any questions.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes, sir. Mr. Cooper, introduce yourself for the record.

MR. COOPER: Yes, ma'am. I'm Harrison Cooper. I'm from Rayville, Louisiana. I've spent my whole life in the fifth district. I grew up in Rayville. I just graduated from Louisiana Tech in Rustin, which is in Lincoln Parish. So I've spent the whole, like my whole life in the fifth district, along the I20 corridor.

And to see it being split, it would just change the whole dynamics of that area. My dad farms. And so I've seen farmland in the whole district and for

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that to get split and moved and for the voice to be taken away that we do have right now, it would change a lot of things. And that's basically it.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. No, I appreciate that. And I did not realize 30 percent of the population would be in East Baton Rouge. So you're, you know, at -- at risk of converting or changing a district that is agriculture based and rural based, you know, we c- -- we talked about the Delta and lumping it in with East Baton Rouge, which had, you know, urban, much different issues, concerns, priorities, etc. So that -- that was a -- that was a significant point.

MR. COOPER: Can I give you one more percentage?

SEN. HEWITT: Yes.

MR. COOPER: So over 60 percent of the fifth district would be in south Louisiana around Baton Rouge, also.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Yep. Yeah. That's significant. And I appreciate you pointing that out. It didn't, you know, it's not that obvious when you look at the geography, you know, because it is such a large

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district, but when you talk about where the population is centered, that is a c- -- completely different picture.

And to me completely changes the complexion of the district as -- as it was intended and minimizes the importance of agriculture in our state. We're an ag- -- we are an agriculture state and much of that comes from the fifth district. And so I appreciate you all making those points.

MR. COOPER: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

MR. ESTES: If I can make one more comment really quickly. I'll -- I'll promise to be brief. During my time on Luke Letlow's campaign, we traveled again all 24 parishes in -- in the fifth congressional district every day from March to December. And anywhere he went, he never met a stranger; right? No matter who it was, no matter your background, no matter anything, he always bound and determined to get to know you.

His wife shares that same character. Doc- -- Dr. Letlow -- Congresswoman Letlow has been an advocate for higher education. She's been an ag- -- advocate for agriculture and she's been an advocate for all the

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people of the fifth congressional district. And we would like the -- to urge the committee to keep the fifth district the way it is. And one of the similar bills that you have recently presented, Madam Chair. So with that, we yield our time.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. We appreciate that very much. Thank y'all for being here at -- and traveling to -- to be with us today at the capital. We've got one more person up from Northeastern part of the state. And that's Brooke Edmondson from west Monroe. Brooke, would you like to come?

MS. EDMONDSON: Hello.

SEN. HEWITT: Welcome.

MS. EDMONDSON: My name is Brooke Edmondson and I'm from west Monroe, Louisiana. I currently go to school at Louisiana Tech I'm in civil engineering, but kind of just piggybacking off of what you just heard. I've lived in Ouachita Parish my entire life. Our parish has made up of lots of different people though we have several municipalities in Ouachita Parish, we are one. We are one together. We work together. We have different cities, of course, but we are one together.

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And then splitting up this parish would just take away some of the things that we have worked so hard to overcome over the past few years, our parishes have always worked collaboratively together. However, in the past few years we have done an excellent job of exp- -- expanding that and just continuing to do so.

But splitting up our parish would take away from our infrastructure improvements, our eco- -- economic advances, and then right off of what you just said, you just heard from the agriculture standpoint of it. So we just urge you once again to reconsider this. You know, we do have -- you do have to make tough decisions in this and splitting up communities, but we are just asking that you will reconsider the Ouachita Parish community.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, thank you for -- for taking the time to -- to join us. You know, as I look at the map and you may not be able to answer this question, but -- but I'm not sure if all of west Monroe is even included in the same district or not.

It looks like there could be parts of west Monroe in district five and parts in district four. I -

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- I don't know if you've looked at those precincts --

MS. EDMONDSON: Correct.

SEN. HEWITT: Or you know them.

MS. EDMONDSON: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: Is that -- is that true?

MS. EDMONDSON: Yes, ma'am. That is true. And that's one thing -- like even me being from west Monroe, I live outside of the city limits. And so we do a lot of our work in west Monroe. I work there, we do like our eating, our shopping, everything is in west Monroe city limits. However, we live a mile away from the city limits.

So we will technically be considered in Mike Johnson's district, if this passes. However, everything else that we do resides in the fifth district. So that's the main change, just kind of advocating for those other communities like Brownsville, Clayburn, those areas of Ouachita Parish.

SEN. HEWITT: So you all in the -- that community, you think of yourselves as being, you know, a one community of interest.

MS. EDMONDSON: Absolutely.

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SEN. HEWITT: The way it's divided to -- on this proposed map, doesn't make any sense to you in the west Monroe area in particular; is that right?

MS. EDMONDSON: Correct. Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. And again, and I'm asking, I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, but I'm trying to -- it -- it does -- it does look to me the way it's drawn that there are parts of west Monroe that are out.

MS. EDMONDSON: Yes, ma'am. And like I just said, like the city limits, of course, of west Monroe, they are included in the fifth district still, however, when I think of west Monroe, you know, it's not just the city limits, it's all of the people, the community right outside of these city limits that make up west Monroe.

We are one, we are a whole, we are very family oriented, community based, and we all support each other. And so drawing this line in between us just kind of strips that away from us.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. And best of luck in your civil engineering career.

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MS. EDMONDSON: Thank you very much. One more year.

SEN. HEWITT: It's a -- it's a great field and I'm a little partial to female engineers, so --

MS. EDMONDSON: Yes.

SEN. HEWITT: Give you all the encouragement I can.

MS. EDMONDSON: Well, I certainly appreciate it. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you for being here. All right. Let me go to -- to Metairie, Nathan Kenig [ph] -- Keonig [ph]? Is -- Nathan, are you still here? Okay. All right. In Pineville, Cade Smith.

MR. SMITH: Good afternoon.

SEN. HEWITT: Good afternoon.

MR. SMITH: If you will, would you pull up the Rapides Parish map, please?

MALE 1: Sure. Just read my mind.

MR. SMITH: So my name is Cade Smith. I am from Alexandria, Louisiana. I currently res- -- reside in Pineville, but I'm a recent graduate in political science from the University of Louisiana Monroe. So

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it's a little unique.

I -- when looking at this map have my hometown of Alexandria being divided and our community being divided, but also where I went to college, Monroe also being divided outside of west Monroe, as they previously talked about.

I grew up in Boce, which is Northwest of Alexandria and all of these little towns that you see, all -- everything happens in Alexandria. People live outside, sort of like how they were talking about in west Monroe. People live outside of the city limits, but everyone comes to Alexandria. And if you look above, this is kind of a cluster right here, you have, and, you know, Pollock all the way down to Ball to Alexandria.

Everyone comes to Alexandria. And that's being split among three different districts in this proposed map, which is why I -- I'm emerging all of you to reconsider. And I'm not here to debate on whether or not there should be -- I know we talked earlier about the racial disparities. I'm looking at the communities of interest myself.

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And I know everyone wants their parishes to be clean cut, which isn't feasible. And I think it would -- I would prefer to see a parish kind of dug into outside of the communities of interest rather than have say Alexandria -- Alexandria metro area split up into two or three different districts.

Also to kind of touch on the agricultural side of things like we already discussed earlier, if you could zoom out to just the state map? Can we get the -- the current map? Is there a current map? Yeah. So this is the current map, as you can see, Northeast Louisiana has essentially all the yellow is agricultural.

We are the agricultural district of Louisiana. We essentially produce nearly 50 percent of all agricultural sales from Louisiana comes from the fifth district. And if you go to the -- the new map that was proposed, you see how much of the district gets lost in this. And one, that's going to hurt our agricultural community.

We have all these farmers that are in the Northeast district, sort of like leveraging armed services. This goes back to agriculture. We have

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Congresswoman Julia Letlow, who sits on the agriculture committee in the House right now. And if we lose part of our area to another representative, they might not get that same representation. They might not get those same grants and funding from the federal government, which is just really important to consider when looking at redistricting.

I know, like I said, you know, it would be ideal to have every parish clean cut in a different district, but it's -- it's not, but also we want to avoid cutting into these communities of interest. And like I pointed out earlier, like between Grant and Rapides Parish, everybody kind of goes into Alexandria.

I have family that lives in Grant Parish, I have family that lives in Ball, Pineville, Alexandria. So like having them split between three different districts, that's just completely insane in my opinion, which is why I'm urging y'all to reconsider this area in particular Alexandria.

But also not really going into the Monroe area in Ouachita Parish, because that's already been covered, but that's also another area of concern. And

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that is all I have.

SEN. HEWITT: Would -- would you go back and just sort of touch on, I think you talked about this a little bit, go back to the, Bill, -- the -- the Rapides Vernon Parish map kind of the Alexandria Leesville area. D- -- were you saying that that's -- that -- I mean, that -- that appears to be chopped up? Is that what you're saying?

MR. SMITH: Oh, I was just talk- -- I didn't -- I didn't realize I mentioned Vernon Parish.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, yeah, that's just sort of the -- the name of the -- the title on the slide, but -- but blow up, Bill, in the -- in the Alexandria Pineville area. I think this was the beginning of your comments.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. So that area is broken up into at least two districts there in the Alexandria Pineville area; is that right?

MR. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: I mean, is Pine -- Pineville is split into two d- -- two districts and Alexandria is

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also split into two districts?

MR. SMITH: I'm not sure in terms of Pineville. I mean, Alexandria, it looks like for sure is split into two districts part of it at least. I'm not sure. I believe Pineville is also split into two districts right there as well.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. And I mean, I always think of those as being, again, one -- one area, one community of interest.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. That's -- that's very -- very odd drawing there to me.

MR. SMITH: And I drive going to school -- I'm pursuing a master's degree, but I still go out to Monroe, of course. I drive up highway 165 to get from Alexandria to Monroe. And everybody as many like of the towns, you can see on this map right here, Pollock down, everyone comes to Alexandria. So it's just like crazy that all the commercial happens in Alexandria.

But just because they live outside, I mean, having three different districts and I'm mainly talking about the Alexandria Metro area itself, just Alexandria

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Pineville area is what I'm mainly concerned about, but still, looking into Grant Parish, I know preserving parish lines is what we would want, but it's also important to -- important to consider the communities of Pollock and Prospect and all those other communities as well. That's something to look at.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. I don't see any other questions on the board. Thank you so much for being here.

MR. SMITH: Thank you for having me.

SEN. HEWITT: I appreciate your travels. All right. We've got -- I think the rest of these cards are -- are present, not wishing to speak, but in opposition. Susie Labre [ph], Savannah Harrison from Baton Rouge, Wade Evans from Baton Rouge, and Jamie Angel [ph], actually from St. Martin Parish, Arno [ph]. Okay.

FEMALE: To the back.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. I've got a few -- and members you'll have this in your folders, emails in opposition. And I'll just read the names very quickly. Darla Lenox [ph] from Lake Charles, Holly

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Royston, Sandra Campbell, Andre Bro [ph], from Wanakitiana [ph], Susie Labre [ph], Paula Blue, Shirley Adams, Kathy Constanza [ph], from Prairieville. Little Beagles. Terry Head.

Okay. I think those are my cards. All right. Sorry. We're -- we're multitasking here a little bit. All right. A loss -- did I lose my computer -- my computer driver? [speaking in background, indiscernible] Okay.

Yeah. I think -- I think I'm good. I think I'm going to let that go. All right. Any other questions or -- or comments from the -- from the committee? I think we've heard all the cards. Mr. DeVille, do we have any amendments?

MR. DEVILLE: Not at this time.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Yeah. I think we're ready. Yeah. Hang on one second. I know we've got members in and out. I apologize. In and out trying to take care of a little bit of other business as well. [speaking in background, indiscernible]

Okay. I appreciate the -- the -- the kind of pause there for a minute as we gathered up our group

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again. We did also get a card from Senator Troy Carter, as you know, a member of Congress, present in support, not exactly present, but in support. Do not wish to speak. He's got long tentacles, I guess, from Washington, DC. Sen- -- Senator Price, would you like to -- to speak on his behalf?

SEN. PRICE: Uh, yes. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I did receive texts from US Congressman Troy Carter. I fully support the creation of a second congressional district -- second minority district. Louisiana deserve a fair map that creates meaningful opportunity for African American to elect a candidate of their choice. Please share my support for Senate bill one with the committee today. Thank you. Congressman Troy Carter, congressional district two.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Senator, thank you for that. All right. Senator Foil?

SEN. FOIL: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I have an amendment that I had sort of discussed in concept earlier with Senator Fields and because the g- -- the judge has given us a direct order, and it's a short timeframe, we just don't know ultimately what the

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litigation may go, but we do know we need to take action during this special session.

So I asked the staff to work on up an amendment, which I'm going to probably offer for any plan that comes through, which I'll summarize it and -- and the staff can explain it further detail. But basically, if we do pass a bill with this amendment, that bill would be the plan for the fall elections.

However, if at a later date, a court upholds the previous plan we held, then that plan would continue to move forward. And there's more wording in it. I tried to make it -- summarize it, but the staff can probably explain further.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Would you all like to -- like to add to that?

MR. DEVILLE: Would you like me to distribute it first?

SEN. HEWITT: Yes. Let's do that. Let's distribute. That's a great idea. Let's distribute the amendment first.

SEN. FOIL: Amendment.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. So S- -- Senator

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Foil, you -- you have the floor, would you like to -- to speak on the amendment again and -- and we'll give -- -

SEN. FOIL: Yeah. It's -- it's a wordy amendment. I mean, the concept that I ask staff to incorporate is basically that it -- the plan that we pass for this legislative session, that -- that would be the plan and effect for the fall election.

However, if at a later date a court upholds the previous plan we passed, then that plan would supersede the plan we passed this session. That's -- that's what the goal of the amendment is. I know it's a wordy amendment, but -- but it's simply, since we have to act by the 20th, on -- to do something, this simply puts that protection in place if the litigation continues.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. Matt, did you want to add anything to that? Or that's --

MR. DEVILLE: I think the Senator summed it up nicely.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. All right. Senator Fields, I know you're -- you're reading the --

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the amendment. Do you have any objection to the amendment?

SEN. FIELDS: No, ma'am, Madam Chair. No objections to the amendment as -- as written.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. Senator Allain?

SEN. ALLAIN: Yes. So thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I'm a little confused. So they'd run under one district, but if the court changes its mind or -- or upholds the original plan, then all of a sudden they're elected in that district, but representing another district.

So how do -- how do we know -- how do they know if they -- I mean, somebody may get elected that -- that is elected in an original district, but ends up in somebody else's district?

SEN. FOIL: [indiscernible] staff [indiscernible]. Okay. Well, I'll -- I'll --

SEN. ALLAIN: I mean, I -- I -- I think this adds more confusion and --

SEN. FOIL: Well, and it may be in the way it's worded, but the -- the goal is since we have to do the judge has ordered us to pass a plan by the 20th. We

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don't know what the appellate courts will do with --

SEN. ALLAIN: Right.

SEN. FOIL: With our original plan. And so the goal was if we pass something and then the courts a few weeks later, come back and say, hey, the original plan was okay, this -- then that plan would supersede this plan because we don't have the -- we don't know what's gonna happen in the future with the courts.

SEN. ALLAIN: Yeah. I -- I know, but I think it just adds to --

SEN. FOIL: That was the -- that was the goal.

SEN. ALLAIN: The more confusion. Thank -- thank you for effort.

SEN. FOIL: Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So let me make sure that I understand now that we -- now that we're talking it through again. I thought I did and now -- now maybe not. So -- so the idea is, you know, we're saying again that we don't know how the courts may rule; right? Or what plan the judge may put in place.

SEN. FOIL: That's right. There's just a -- it's trying to take care of the uncertainties as best

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we can. But once again, it's simply saying, let's say hypothetically, we pass Senator Fields's plan with this amendment. His plan would then be -- and if it's goes through the process and is signed by the governor, his plan would then be in effect for the fall.

However, this amendment says if the fifth circuit or another court, or even the district court has a different ruling and says, the original plan is now valid, then that would take preference over Senator Fields's plan. Does that -- and that's what the goal is. And -- and -- and I'm certainly willing to work. I've asked staff to help me with the wording to -- to get that right.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Sen- -- Senator Harris?

SEN. HARRIS: I just want to make sure. And we have some bright attorneys in the room. The plan adopted by this act is an interim plan that will be effective for elections to the 118th United States Congress only.

I guess what my question is, is if the courts agree that this map, that Senator Fields is currently discussing, and they say that that is the plan, if I'm

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not mistaken, this is stated -- stating that it only applies to this particular election, which would be the 118th. So what happens in two years?

Is that, you know, in two years, will there be a different plan or will it be this plan, because the way this reads, it says elections to the 118th United States Congress only. So that's specific to this upcoming fall election. And I'm -- I just --

SEN. FOIL: No. I just saw this amendment myself this morning.

SEN. HARRIS: Yeah.

SEN. FOIL: And that's a valid -- that's a good question. And -- and maybe that's something that we can look at with staff on how we word it. I mean, I think you know what my goal is.

SEN. HARRIS: Right. Yes.

SEN. FOIL: But I don't want to create more confusion and so maybe we can strike that language possibly.

SEN. HARRIS: All right.

SEN. FOIL: Because I think if you -- I think if you just struck the -- if you struck like four

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elections, the 118 United States Congress only that they solved your -- your concerns.

SEN. HARRIS: Right. I -- I believe so. I just --

SEN. FOIL: Doing on the fly, but I think --

SEN. HARRIS: Yeah. I just -- just didn't want to -- to -- to -- to do something that would only impact this one -- this one particular election.

SEN. FOIL: I -- I -- I understand you're concerned. That's a valid concern. And I can talk to staff about that or Madam Chair -- Chairwoman. What -- how would you like to proceed?

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I guess what I'm thinking, I -- I think these are all good questions. You know, and I -- I reflect on the 2010 census. I mean, many of those lawsuits didn't get resolved for eight or nine years. I mean, they just got resolved before we took the 2020 census.

And so we could be talking about a number of congressional elections before all of this gets settled. And so maybe we need to take a step back. Senator, there will be, you know, many opportunities to

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add amendments to this bill, you know, should it go forward and maybe we need to put some more legal eyeballs on this before we adopt it.

What would you say if we not -- if we not -- maybe withdraw the -- the motion to consider this amendment and let's look for another opportunity to -- to consider it and work on it a little bit more.

SEN. FOIL: Yeah. I'm -- I'm more than willing to do that, Madam Chairwoman. And I think you could probably fix it by just striking out a few words in -- in the first and second sentence, but I'll -- I'll work with staff on that.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Are y'all alright with that? The other members of the -- the committee, if we -- I think Senator Foil has withdrawn the motion; right? To -- he's with -- Senator Foil, I believe is withdrawing the motion to -- to on the amendment set 13.

SEN. FOIL: I am based on the way it's worded. Yeah. Based on the way it's worded. I -- I -- I think Senator Harris raises a good point that it might leave some other questions. So I would like the opportunity

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to work with staff to get it cleared up and make it more concise.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. Fair enough. All right. Do we have any other amendments?

SEN. REESE: I do.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes. Okay.

SEN. REESE: The staff need to pass it out.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I think Senator Reese has an amendment. That -- would y'all pass that out?

MALE 1: Yes, sir. [talking in background, indiscernible] This one. It switches from here. [indiscernible] doesn't change anything else.

SEN. HEWITT: Did you turn in your card?

MALE 1: Two or five. It only affects four and three. Doesn't change anything else. Yes. It's just putting drain holes [indiscernible] yeah and -- and Grant. Well, look at -- let me look at their numbers. See, it's that to that. Doesn't change any of that. That. It's just here. It's Vernon, Grant, and LaSalle. The only changes.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. S- -- Senator -- Senator Reese introduces amendment set 12. Senator Reese on

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your amendment.

SEN. REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Members, the -- the amendment that I have to this map today, Senate bill 12, or -- or amendment amendment set 12, seeks to rectify one of the principles of redistricting that I absolutely feel like we cannot abandon in the effort to -- to comply with the court order in developing two majority minority districts. And that is to abandon those communities of interest that I think are most integral to federal policy in the state of Louisiana.

And in -- and in so doing, I believe that any -- anything that seeks to divide the largest federal installation, the state of Louisiana into multiple congressional districts would violate those other principles of redistricting. And so my amendment seeks to rectify that.

Senator Fields, I do not in this amendment, modify in any way, the two majority minority districts that -- that you propose in your map, which is districts five and districts two. I -- I seek to rectify this in modifications to districts four and

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districts three.

And so this amendment primarily in summary keeps the Vernon Parish in one congressional district, there -- thereby resolving the issue related to the community, the strong federal community of interest that exists with Fort Polk and the military installation.

And it makes up for those population numbers I believe in the parishes of Grant and LaSalle to the best -- to the extent that we can -- we can do that. That's what the amendment does, Madam Chairwoman.

SEN. FIELDS: I -- I'm doing my best, Madam Chair to go through --

SEN. HEWITT: Yes, Senator Fields?

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair. As -- as it apr- -- as I appreciated Senator Reese, this amendment does not affect district two or district five.

SEN. REESE: Okay. Here.

SEN. FIELDS: And district two and district five actually remains the same.

SEN. REESE: Correct. I -- I'm looking for a

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head nod from Bill there, but yes.

SEN. FIELDS: It only changes --

MALE 1: Vernon.

SEN. FIELDS: Vernon.

MALE 1: Makes Vernon whole.

SEN. FIELDS: Makes Vernon whole. And it --

MALE 1: Adds Grant --

SEN. FIELDS: And it adds Grant and part of LaSalle.

SEN. REESE: I believe that's what the amendment does, Senator.

SEN. FIELDS: Will switch in between two congressional districts and those two congressional districts would be Senate district -- I mean, Congressional district -- where's my map?

MALE 1: Three and four.

SEN. FIELDS: Three and four.

SEN. REESE: Yes, sir.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay.

SEN. REESE: That's -- that's what --

SEN. FIELDS: I have no objection to that. The -- but the -- it -- it -- it bumps the deviation up to

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eight and I think it's 17 instead of -- hold up one second. Don't have any objection.

SEN. REESE: Okay.

SEN. FIELDS: It -- it bumps up the deviations a little bit, but I think the deviations move up from it -- you know, slightly. But I -- I -- I think that meets all the court's requirements.

SEN. REESE: Madam Chairwoman, I'd move for adoption of amendment set 12.

SEN. HEWITT: Senator, let me ask you this. Have you had a chance to talk with, you know, any of the locals that are impacted by these changes in -- in LaSalle or Grant -- Grant Parish? Let's see, I guess it was mostly LaSalle. Well, both; right? LaSalle and Grant -- LaSalle's being split up now.

They weren't, you know, an hour ago, you know, we still haven't addressed the issue in the -- in the -- kind of what I see as an issue in the Alexandria area.

SEN. REESE: No, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: This does fix the -- this does fix your -- your issue that you're seeking to fix in

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Vernon. But of course, you know, all of these changes and this is what makes redistricting maps so challenging [indiscernible] is that there's a ripple effect; right? So any change that you make in one part of the map, ripples into other parts of the map; right?

And so it affects other people that this morning didn't think they were affected at all, or changes them from one district to another. Have you had -- this is all moving very fast. Have you had an opportunity to talk?

SEN. REESE: No, ma'am. No, Madam Chairwoman. I appreciate that concern, but no, I -- I've not, I -- I've just based on the testimony today and in my own knowledge, sought to rectify, what I -- I felt like was a abandonment of one of those core principles in terms of the way that federal installation was being treated. So --

SEN. HEWITT: And I appreciate that. I -- I mean, I do think that's a concern that -- that many of us share on the -- on the military basis. So again, I -- I -- I support the -- the -- the -- the correction that you're trying to make. I just want to make sure

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that we understand, you know, the ramifications of -- of what new challenges we may be creating as a result of that.

You know, so what I would like for us to be able to do is what we have done in the past with all of our other redistricting efforts. And that is to hold this bill until tomorrow.

And -- and I don't remember if we normally adopted the amendment or we waited till the next day to adopt the amendment, but we want to give -- I guess we adopt it so that we can enact it and -- not enact it, enroll it; right?

So then what we see tomorrow is one that's got it all put back together. Isn't that what we did in the past? I think so. No?

MALE 1: I don't know, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: Isn't -- isn't that what we did so -- so you have overnight to put them together because part of the issue is you're trying to make sure you haven't dropped any precincts or double dipped any precincts or whatever.

SEN. FIELDS: Madam -- M- -- Madam Chair, I

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mean, if I may, it -- I mean -- I mean, what -- what do we have this together?

MALE 1: Mm-hmm.

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. B- -- bec- -- we are under operating under a strict time limit. I mean, and -- and I'm not trying to push the committee. I'm not trying to push the legislature. I just want us to be able to get it to the house in a timely fashion so that they would have enough time to do what's necessary for them to do if they chose -- if they choose to do it.

And so it was my desire to have the bill on the floor today so that they could very -- at the very least read it in. And -- and -- and, you know, I would urge the committee to pass it. If it's the desire of the committee to pass it, to pass it today, not let it lie over. Because I do think that would put the -- the legislative process in a -- in a -- in a -- in -- in -- in jeopardy.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I, you know --

SEN. REESE: I -- it is your call, but I -- I'm just -- I'm just -- I -- I'm just putting the -- I'm just giving you notice if you -- if it lies over,

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it puts us in a -- in -- in -- it puts -- puts the bill in jeopardy of passing the entire process.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, which is back to the original point of six days is just not quite enough. I mean, we have to have an opportunity to be deliberative; right? And to offer amendments and to do some of those things as -- as we always do.

I mean, the goal is not just to pass something in six days, I don't think, and I'm not trying to d- -- diminish the work that you've done in any way or say that this is, I mean, this -- this was a thoughtful proposal on your part. And so I'm not trying to disparage it in any way, but I do think that, you know, the goals should not be for us just to pass -- pass a bill without having an opportunity to deliberate and amend it as -- as the body sees fit.

I'm also aware that there is a -- I think another bill that is going to be dropped that will have an -- a two black districts that I would like for us to be able to -- to see and to hear tomorrow. And so I -- what I'm going to suggest to the committee is that we do hold this bill over till tomorrow with the

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amendment, hear t- -- and hear the other bill before we decide which bill, if any, we want to pass out the committee.

I think that is, again, keeping with what we have done in the past in this committee, we heard the bills, we -- we moved one of them out. And I think that that is a prudent step for this legislature. And one that is very consistent with how we have managed our business in the past. These are very complicated bills. We want to make sure that we're doing it right. And to give everything very thoughtful consideration.

SEN. FIELDS: What I mean it -- it's, I mean, it's your committee and -- and it's the committee's rules the committee can do what it so desire. I -- I -- I just simply urge the committee to pass an instrument out today so that we can receive it on the floor today, when we go into session.

If the committee chooses not to do that, we will go in today to do nothing. That would be nothing to do today when we go in and if we go in today, there's absolutely nothing to do. And we would've wasted a day of floor work.

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So I mean, if -- if -- if -- if you -- if you -- if -- if that is the committee's desire, because when we adopt committee amendments on the floor, we don't let it lie over on the floor when we adopt committee amendments on the floor.

So if it's that important, I would urge the committee because we haven't adopt the amendment yet -- amendment yet -- don't adopt the amendment on the -- on -- in the committee, adopt the amendment on the floor because look it -- it's not even about -- it's about getting the process done.

I'm just really trying to get the legislature to not put itself in a worse position than it's already in. And -- and I -- I -- I just see us putting ourselves in that position and I just don't want us to do that, but it's -- but it's -- I don't set the rules. I'm just -- just trying to get us to abide by the -- by the court's order.

SEN. HEWITT: And -- and -- and I understand that and -- and, you know, I'm trying to also make sure that -- that we, as a committee are doing our due diligence and -- and working with you to make the bill

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better. And in my opinion, bills are get better as time goes on, generally. And I think this is a reasonable amendment on the part of Senator Reese that we would like to consider, but we want to make sure that we're doing it in a thoughtful way.

SEN. REESE: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: So staff, can you advise me? I do not -- I really don't remember before if we adopted the amendment and committee and held it over, or if we -- we -- [speaking in background, indiscernible] Because then it gets it --

MALE 1: That's why we lie over. So [indiscernible] gets a chance to see the adopted amendment.

SEN. HEWITT: That's right. Okay. All right. Ms. Sullivan?

MS. SULLIVAN: Madam Chairwoman, the -- the, yes, the committee would adopt the amendment and hold the bill and committee, but there is no engrossment that's prepared so that you can look at the bill as it would be if the amendment were adopted on the floor.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Okay. All right. So -- so

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adopting it -- adopting it, having it lie over so everyone has an opportunity to see it, go back, talk to the locals in that area. Gather more information is what we've done in the past. All right. Senator Tarver?

SEN. TARVER: Are we going to adopt Reese amendment?

SEN. HEWITT: Yes. That's what I'm -- that's what I'm suggesting is I'll -- Senator Reese is going to make a motion.

SEN. TARVER: Okay. Okay.

SEN. HEWITT: Right? To adopt amendment set -- what's the amendment set? Amendment set 12. Okay. So Senator Reese has made a motion that we adopt amendment set 12. Is there any objection? All right. A q- -- a question from Senator Harris.

SEN. HARRIS: Yeah. I just want to make sure that we -- we -- we are very clear that if we adopt this amendment and we hold this bill in committee, that it's not violating the timeline that was given by the judge.

I stated earlier we have a Sep- -- I mean, a June 20th timeline in which to -- to operate under.

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Now, I get it. And I understand if we want to keep it in here and, you know, give parishes an opportunity to see whether or not they like it or not. I mean, you know, in -- and all -- with all due respect, if that's what we -- if we that's what we're doing, we don't have to adopt the amendment. We could talk to the parishes and adopt it on the floor.

But if this is a -- a -- a -- a situation in which we're trying to keep it in committee and we run out of time, that's not what I'm here for. And I just want to put it on the record and let that be known because we're running up against a timeline we're running up on June 20th. That -- to -- today is Thursday. We're talking about Monday, and we understand that we all are aware how this process goes.

So I just want to be on record to state that if -- if it's the will of the committee to keep it in committee and hear something later on or another bill being dropped, that none of us have seen, that's one thing.

But if we are all operating in a manner of good faith, and we want to make sure that these

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parishes and everybody have an opportunity to look at it, we can do that today and -- and -- and tomorrow. This bill can come out of here and those conversations can be had, and that amendment can be put on -- on the floor.

So I -- I -- I don't want to sit here, you know, now coming back on this committee, because it's so important, it's -- this is such an important issue. Being back here pretty much wasting my time because I'm here because I -- I -- I believe that we are here to do a job and it's the right thing to do, and we all want -- want to do that, but I did not ask to come back here for us to still be in violation of a court order.

So I just want to put that out there and make sure that everyone, you know, on this committee understands where I'm coming from, you know, in reference to -- to what it is that we are doing right now.

So I have no problem with Senator Reese's amendment, but if that's something that would throw us outta whack on time, that's a problem. I sat here. I gave you all a timeline. I mentioned my colleague

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Senator Foil, who was in the House at the time. We did it in six days and that was the budget bill. Something that everybody in here is very much concerned about and affects everybody.

So I just want to put that on the record that, you know, I have no problem with -- with the amendment, but since we're running up on this timeline, we have to be very careful.

SEN. FIELDS: S- -- Madam Chair.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank you. Senator Harris. Senator Tarver, do you have a question?

SEN. TARVER: Did we adopt his amendment?

SEN. HEWITT: Not yet.

SEN. TARVER: Okay. Okay.

SEN. HEWITT: All right.

SEN. FIELDS: Madam Chair?

SEN. HEWITT: Senator -- I'm sorry, who spoke?

SEN. FIELDS: I -- I did.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

SEN. FIELDS: If -- if I may ask Senator Reese a question, would the Senator, I mean, if -- if it's the -- the -- the committee's desire to hold the bill

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over, if they adopt the committee, I mean, the amendment would the gentleman be willing to just hold on his amendment and -- and -- and -- and put the amendment on -- on the floor?

Because I -- I do think it -- if you hold a bill over overnight, then -- then we have nothing to do when we go in today. I mean, a whole purpose of being here today is to get a -- a bill out of committee today. And -- and I -- I just urge the committee to get a bill out today so that we could --

SEN. HEWITT: I --

SEN. FIELDS: We can move a bill forward when we go in today.

SEN. HEWITT: I do think we will have something to do today, and that is the s- -- the -- the -- the other bill, I think that's being introduced will be introduced today. So that --

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. But from a -- from a time perspective, that bill then has -- has to be referred to committee. And we -- look, we -- we have to be out of here by the 20th. I mean, I wish we could just push that bill. We can change the author on this bill. I

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don't care. I just -- look, I -- I, we need a bill out of here by the 20th.

And -- and we -- I -- I think we are running in a jeopardy. If the purpose is to give the house a bill where it can't pass it, then we are wasting all of our time. I -- I just want us to be in good faith with the court, and -- and we have an instrument before us.

We can amend the bill that you're going to introduce today to the -- to -- you can amend this bill to the bill that you're going introduce today when we hear this bill. I mean, I -- we -- we just do not need to run out of time. And I think we are -- we are getting to that point.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, Senator Milligan?

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you. Madam Chairwoman and -- and members. The -- the precedence of this committee has set in the previous redistricting session is once we made an amendment of substantial amendment, like Senator Reese's that we gave the public the ability, the folks that are listening, the ability to look at the changes.

You know, this is an important matter. And --

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and frankly, I feel like we were hamstrung from the very beginning because we were only given six. We weren't given eight, we weren't given 10 and that could have happened.

I don't think we ought to violate our precedence, our standard that we set the first three weeks by forcing something out of here with changes like Senator Reese's amendment, without letting the folks see it. And if the shoe was on the other foot, I would -- I could hear the argument would be different.

But in this case, we've got to follow precedent. You know, Senator Harris, you mentioned Senator Foil and his six day miracle with HB1. He probably had more days to do it, but he got it done in six.

We are only given six, but I don't think we ought to violate the precedent that we -- we adopted and used in the previous redistricting session to hurry, hurry something, the floor that -- that -- that needs to be changed and looked at and considered with another bill that's coming up that we'll hear tomorrow in this committee. That's just my two cents, Madam

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Chairwoman.

SEN. FIELDS: Senator Milligan, with all due respect. I mean, with all, you know, listen to precedence, you know, we -- we on a court order and I think that takes precedence.

SEN. MILLIGAN: We -- we are under court order, but as far as we are under court order, but as far as this committee, the business at hand, we have to handle it the way we're supposed to handle it. And I think that's -- that's the best way. That's the best approach.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay. What --

SEN. MILLIGAN: Okay. It's the approach that we've -- we've done.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay. Then you -- you -- you've been around here perhaps longer than me. Then you tell me how we pass -- how we get a bill tomorrow. Tell me how we get a bill through the process when it's filed in the files of the Senate tomorrow, explain it to me. How do we do it?

SEN. MILLIGAN: We have to -- to listen to the testimony we heard today, we have to take the

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amendments that Senator Reese are offering. And we have to put that out there. We have to let that lie over overnight in case folks want to come tomorrow testify on or against Senator Reese's amendment.

That's only fair. That's giving those people a voice. I don't see where we have a choice not to do those things. Our constituents back home, Senator Reese's constituents back home, they can't come testify on the floor of the Senate tomorrow. They can only come here to testify tomorrow.

And that was the standards that we set originally. We weren't given a choice on the number of days we're trying to operate inside of number of days that we were handcuffed with, but we're doing the best we can. And I think that sticking to our precedent is the right thing to do.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay. So you had -- you hadn't given me how we get to the 20th. So if you do it based on your scenario, we are putting our fingers in the judge's face. And I don't think we should do that. I really don't, Senators. I think -- I think we are going down a very slippery road and I'm a member of the

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Senate and I'm going to speak out.

And I'm a -- I'm going to do the right thing. I think we are doing the wrong thing if we go down that road because not one of you can tell me, how are we going to do it starting tomorrow? And if you do know how to do it, tell me I want to hear it right now. Tell me how we going to do it starting tomorrow. Now we have lost two days.

You know, let's not play games with a federal court. Now, I know we got some good lawyers who have told us, look, we -- we going to get the Supreme Court to decide, give us your cell numbers. We going to get the Supreme Court involved in this.

I know y'all got some good lawyers given y'all good advice, but so far it's been bad. Keep listening to them and see where it gets you. You might win, but you just might not. I'm not willing to roll those dice.

And as a member of this Senate, I'm telling you, you need to get a bill out of this committee now. Now, you can wait until tomorrow, but I'm telling you that's bad advice. Bad advice. I've put on the bill, put on -- look, do what you want to do, Madam Chair and

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members.

I -- you know, I can't keep trying to tell you to do the right thing. Y'all keep trying to get more and more time. You have no more time. Your president has been before the court and she just told your president no more time. And you're still trying to get more time. Your t- -- the gentleman and the gentle lady's time has expired. You have no more time.

Off of the amendment, adopt the amendment, hold a bill over, if you so desire. I'm telling you it' a bad -- it's bad advice.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you Senator Fields.

SEN. HEWITT: And I would like to say, we're not getting advice on how to legislate. This is -- this legislative body's job to legislate. This is not advice from a legal group. This -- this is us doing our job, making sure that we have transparency in the process as, Senator Milligan said. And the fact that, you know, yes -- we are under a timeframe. I can't control that.

But we are -- we are -- we also have a responsibility for due diligence and doing our job. It's not just, I mean, if Cl- -- if Cleo could just

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pass a bill on your own, we could be out of here in a couple of days. But that's not how the process works. There's 144 members that all want -- and the public that want to have input into the process.

And -- and that is -- that is our responsibility as elected leaders of our -- we're representing our districts, our constituents, that is part of the process. And so I -- I -- I -- I don't understand how you can -- you can expect us to pass the bill and just continue moving it because it's more about the timeline than it is about the -- the quality or the -- the content of the bill.

SEN. FIELDS: It's -- it's -- it's two o'clock it's 1:43, Senator, Madam Chair. We've been here since nine o'clock. Senator Reese has offered up a good amendment, in my opinion. He wants to protect the people in his area. It's not complicated. At the end of the day, explain to me how you can get a bill through the process if you start tomorrow.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I would say, ask the judge that put together a six day clock; right? This is -- this is not -- this is not what I would've picked. If

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you had asked me, and there was a document, I forget the legal word presented by the president to the court, asking for whatever it was nine or 10 days; right?

Because the timeline that we all know and appreciate and understand would take something closer to nine or 10 days to be able to execute.

SEN. FIELDS: See, I -- I think that we are -- we -- we are going to find ourselves in contempt of the middle district; right? Because we are playing with this federal judge and -- and -- and -- and -- and I just think that's a bad way to go. Look, I'm finished. Y'all my colleagues, I -- I've said enough probably said too much. Vote your conscience.

SEN. HEWITT: All right, Senator Tarver?

SEN. TARVER: I have a substitute motion. I'd like to move this bill, all favorable.

SEN. HEWITT: All right.

MALE 1: Well, I've got a -- I've got a motion on the floor to adopt the amendment.

SEN. TARVER: No, but I got a substitute motion.

MALE 1: The substitute motions on the bill,

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not the amendment.

SEN. TARVER: I have a substitute motion. You made a motion. I made a substitute.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Hang on.

MALE 1: [indiscernible] substitute motion.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Let me get my -- my experts here. So we have a motion to adopt the amendment. We also have what's Senator Tarver's calling a substitute motion to report the bill favorable. Do we deal with the substitute motion or is it -- is it different because one is dealing with the bill and one's dealing with the -- the amendment.

MALE 1: [indiscernible]

SEN. HEWITT: All right. We're checking on that.

SEN. TARVER: Understand the process. [indiscernible] I made the substitute motion. You made a motion. I made a substitute, bring up the [indiscernible].

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. Members, everybody, we're working a little short staffed here. All right. So Senator Tarver is correct. We take the

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substitute motion first. The substitute motion is to report the bill favorable as drafted. [talking in background, indiscernible] Okay?

So the substitute motion is to report the bill favorable. So a vote yes would be to report the bill favorable. A vote no would be to go back to the original motion. All right. So Madam Secretary, if you will call the roll call the vote.

FEMALE: Senator Milligan, no. Senator Harris, yes. Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Tarver, yes. Senator Womack [ph].

SEN. WOMACK: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Reese, no. Senator Price, yes. Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: No.

FEMALE: No. That is six nays and three yays.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. So now we take up the original motion, which was to adopt amendment set 12,

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any objections to adopting the amendment? All right. Seeing none, then amendment set 12 is adopted. All right. Senator Foil. Did you want t- -- take up your amendment?

SEN. FOIL: I do, Madam Chair, because I don't want to delay things by taking this up tomorrow. So I'd like to put this on today. I have -- in -- in light of the suggestions by Senator Harris, I've taken out any reference to the upcoming -- the 118th Congress election.

So the way I understand the amendment to read now is simply if -- if this bill goes into effect, it will not go into effect or I'm sorry, it will be preceded by the existing map, if the existing map is later determined to be r- -- legal map.

The amendment also puts an effective date on the bill. There's no effective date as -- as staff has told me. So it also puts an effective date on Senator Fields' bill, effective on signature of the governor. So those are the two amendments.

SEN. HEWITT: What set do you have Senator Foil?

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SEN. FOIL: I have 15.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. All right. I was -- sorry, I was looking at the old set. Okay. So set 15. Does everybody have a s- -- have a copy of that?

SEN. FOIL: So it t- -- takes out any reference to the 118th Congressional election. It simply leaves it that this will -- this act will be in effect unless the other act we passed previously is found to be in compliance.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Any questions about the amendment?

SEN. TARVER: I have another substitute motion.

SEN. HEWITT: I didn't hear the first one yet.

SEN. TARVER: He made a motion to adopt amendment.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay.

SEN. TARVER: My substitute motion is to report this bill favorable as amended.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Okay. So Senator Tarver makes a motion that we report this bill favorable as amended, which would include Senator

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Reese's amendment. Any objection, Senator Womack objects. All right. So we're going to call for the vote.

So a vote -- a vote yes, is to report the bill with Senator Reese's amendment. A vote no, is to return back to the original motion, which would be to consider Senator Foil's amendment. Yes is to report the bill favorable with the first amendment. No is to return to the original motion. All right? Madam Secretary call the roll.

FEMALE: Senator Milligan, no. Senator Harris, yes. Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Foil?

SEN. FOIL: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Tarver.

SEN. TARVER: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Reese.

SEN. REESE: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Price.

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SEN. PRICE: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: No.

FEMALE: No. That is six nays and three yays.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So we go back to Senator Foil's amendment. He moves that we adopt amendment set 15. Is there any objection to adopting that amendment? Okay. Seeing none, then that amendment set is adopted. All right. I'm going to make a motion that we hold this bill until tomorrow and consider the amendments. Any objection to doing that?

SEN. PRICE: I object. I make a substitute motion to hold the bill as amended.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So I made the motion to hold the bill until tomorrow to -- to give the public time to consider and the members of the committee, the amendments, to which Senator Price objected. Senator Price offered a substitute motion to report the bill favorable as amended, which includes the two amendments now.

All right. So we're going to call the role. A vote yes would be to report the bill as amended. A

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report no would be to go back to the original motion. Madam Secretary, if you would call the role?

FEMALE: Senator Milligan.

SEN. MILLIGAN: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Harris, yes. Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Tarver.

SEN. TARVER: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Reese.

SEN. REESE: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Price.

SEN. PRICE: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: No.

FEMALE: No. That is six nays and three yays.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. So we go back to the original motion, which is to hold this bill until

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tomorrow to consider the amendments. Any objection to doing that?

SEN. PRICE: I object.

MALE 1: You already objected. Yeah. You already objected.

SEN. PRICE: I did object.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So Senator Price, objects. So we will vote one -- one more time. A vote -- a vote yes is to hold the bill until committee tomorrow. A vote no -- I don't know what a vote no does. Yeah.

SEN. PRICE: I -- I just objected.

MALE 1: So it didn't pass.

SEN. HEWITT: Right. [speaking in background, indiscernible] yeah. So -- so the -- the motion is to hold the bill over in committee.

SEN. PRICE: Until tomorrow.

SEN. HEWITT: Until tomorrow. So a vote yes would be to do that. A vote no, I guess we keep debating it. I don't know what a vote no means. Because we've already voted -- voted not to report the bill. All right. Let's take a vote. So a vote yes is to keep the bill in committee. A vote no is to do something

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else.

FEMALE: Senator Milligan.

SEN. HEWITT: All right.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Harris. No. Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Tarver.

SEN. TARVER: No.

FEMALE: No. Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Reese.

SEN. REESE: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. Senator Price. No. And Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes.

FEMALE: Yes. That is six yays and three nays.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair and members.

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SEN. HEWITT: Yes, sir. Thank you. All right. The -- the second bill on our schedule is Senate bill two, which is the bill that -- that -- that I dropped. This was not the bill that we enacted. This was the original version of that bill that ultimately we enacted.

But I think given again, the work that we've done today, the bill that has been filed, I -- I believe that it's going to be dropped today. That would have another minority district. I think we should wait and c- -- and consider that tomorrow.

And so at this point, I'm -- I'm not going to present Senate bill two; all right? Any other business before this committee?

SEN. MILLIGAN: Motion to adjourn.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Seeing none, motion from Senator Milligan to adjourn.

[talking in background, indiscernible]

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June 23, 2022

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Exhibit C

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Transcript of Louisiana State Senate Redistricting Committee

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

JUNE 17, 2022

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Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 128

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

SEN. HEWITT: All right members, I'd like to call this meeting of Senate Governmental Affairs to order. It is Friday, June the 17th. As you know, most of the State offices are closed today in celebration of Juneteenth, so to those who are here today working with us, we appreciate that very much.

MALE 1: Could we get time and a half?

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. Yeah, I'll throw in a little extra into your pay this week, yeah.

All right, um, Madam Secretary, if you would, please call the roll.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Milligan.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Foil. Senator Harris.

SEN. HARRIS: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Price.

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SEN. PRICE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Reese [ph].

SEN. REESE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver.

SEN. TARVER: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. And Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. That is eight and a quorum.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Good. Thank you all very much. Okay. A couple of things here that -- to get us started. As -- as you all know, we -- we had a -- a -- a very thorough hearing yesterday on -- on Senate Bill 1. I think it was about five hours, so thank you all for that. And lots of participation from the community as well.

One thing I want to clear up, because there was some confusion and I created probably some of that confusion, and that has to do with the amendment that we added. We added two amendments as you recall. One amendment from Senator Foil had kind of some language in it. The other amendment from Senator Reese was

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actually changing up Vernon parish, LaSalle and Grant parishes.

So, those -- those -- that amendment, you know, we've done it both ways in this committee on redistricting bills, in some cases amendments are affecting nearly every district. And, so, the amendment ends up being kind of a new bill because we're restating every district that was affected.

In this case, only Districts 3 and 4 were affected. And, so, the amendment addressed Districts 3 and 4 and replaced the old District 3 and 4 description in the original bill. And, so, for those of you in the public that are trying to follow along with us, those amendments -- both amendments are online and you can see those.

So, to see Districts 3 and 4 you have to read the amendment. To see the other four districts, you read the original bill. Okay? So, that -- I just wanted to clarify that because there was some confusion about all that yesterday.

The other thing that I'd like to point out, and members you have the -- the bill in your -- in your

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folder and the amendments, we also have picked up a fiscal note. It has zeros but the -- the consideration or the idea was that, you know, any work that the Secretary of State has done so far in preparing for an election under the maps that we passed or the map that we passed several months ago, the enacted bill, any of that work that he had already done or expense he had gone through should we enact a different map, there would be perhaps some new expenses as a result of that.

And you'll -- when you read the fiscal note you'll see that, you know, that was sort of a statement by the fiscal office. They don't have any information from the Secretary of State's office as to exactly what those dollars would be. So, there's a little bit of arm waving in the description and zeros because, you know, we don't have exact numbers.

But the anticipation was that there would be some expenses, although I don't know that -- you know, I don't know how much they would be or how significant they might be. So, that fiscal note I think you'll see is on every bill, Senate Bill 1, 2 and 3. But I just wanted to kind point that out, that's something new

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since yesterday.

Okay. So, yesterday we spent a good bit of the time -- a good bit of the time talking about communities of interest and how those were -- were represented or perhaps interrupted, depending on whose view you had. Interrupted as the map, Senate Bill 1 map is being proposed.

And, so, I'd like to kind of further explore that a little bit, Senator, and talk about, you know, kind of the reasons and some very specific areas. The reasons why the -- the map was drawn the way it was and the redistricting principal that was used in that particular area.

And to help us kind of with that conversation, I had Bill kind of create a map for me. If you would pull that up. And I'm -- I'm mostly interested, again, in what I see as kind of the fingers, I'll call them, for lack of a better word.

And, so, this map -- and my eyes aren't quite as good as they used to be -- if -- if I was up close to the screen I would blow that up. But -- but Bill talk about the legend. How about just read through the

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legend first so we'll understand what all the coloring coding means.

DR. BLAIR: Yes, Madam Chairwoman.

SEN. HEWITT: And --

DR. BLAIR: For --

SEN. HEWITT: -- I guess introduce yourself.

DR. BLAIR: My name's William -- Dr. William Blair. I'm the legislative demographer, I guess for --

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Thank you.

DR. BLAIR: For simplicity this map color codes the state, the -- the Louisiana database of precincts we use to redistrict into four categories of 0-25, 25 to 50, 50 to 75, and 75 plus percent voting age population black from our data. So, the darker the color, the higher the percentage voting age African-American.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. So, everybody -- and kind of understands the -- the color code. So, for example, you know, one big thing that -- that jumps out is down in Plaquemines on the east bank which actually is part of my district, the east bank of Plaquemines is dark -- dark blue or navy.

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So, that is, according to our database, all of those precincts that you have shaded are in the 75 to 100 percent black voting age population.

DR. BLAIR: Yes, ma'am.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Okay. So, let's start out just, you know, by way of example, let's go up to Washington Parish. And we had some discussion about that yesterday in terms of communities of interest. I'll find it on my other map. Okay.

So -- so we had some discussion yesterday about communities of interest and the observation was that, you know, we pulled out parts of Monroe and -- and West Monroe into Congressional District 5. Left some of it, the West Monroe area and some of that in Congressional District 4.

And, so, there were -- there -- we did get some input from folks from the public that came and spoke about perhaps they -- in their opinion it was disrupting that -- they saw themselves as a community of interest and that was disruptive. And, so, I wanted to go back then and ask -- I mean, I think, you know, this is the map again and that area that shows that

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finger, I'll call it for lack of a better word, in the -- in the Monroe area how it takes in Congressional District 5.

So Senator Fields tell me, what then was the -- was the logic, you know, was race the primary reason why, you know, that was pulled into Congressional District 5?

SEN. FIELDS: Ma- -- Madam Chairman, first of all thank you very much for -- for having me for a second time. And let me thank the members of the committee for discussing this plan for a third time for five hours yesterday. With all due respect, Madam President, as you know we under a court order.

SEN. HEWITT: Chairwoman.

SEN. FIELDS: I'm -- I'm sorry. You're right. It's -- look, we all tired. I'm calling you president now. Madam Chairwoman.

[talking in background, inaudible]

SEN. FIELDS: Look, if -- if -- if any member of this committee is not satisfied with this map, I'm going to just off- -- ask you to offer an amendment. I'm not going to sit here for another five hours and go

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precinct to precinct. I sat here yesterday to do that. And I thought the purpose of today was to give the public an opportunity to review the amendment -- amendment and then we would vote the map up or down today.

I'm here today to take a vote on the map. If you don't like it, vote it down. I'm -- I'm just tired of all these delays, with all due respect. If you don't like the way Monroe is shaped, amend it. If you don't like the way the shore -- north shore is shaped, amend it. I'm just -- look, I -- let's not get tide up in the analysis of the paralysis. We all know why we're here. I've explained this map over and over and over again. And I'm not going to explain it anymore.

So, with all due respect, and look you all my colleagues, I love each of you. But I'm not going to sit here and do a dog and pony show over and over again. And that's what -- that's with respect, you know. And I -- and I respect each of you. So, if you don't like it, change it, but I'm not going to sit here and keep answering the same questions over and over again.

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SEN. HEWITT: Well, Senator, I think you are disrespecting this committee and I do think that we are asking questions about your bill and under- -- trying to understand your bill. I think these are reasonable questions. This is not a question that we asked yesterday and I would like to understand your bill.

SEN. FIELDS: That -- well, that's contrary to what you said yesterday, Madam Chair. You said yesterday the purpose of holding the bill over was to give the public an opportu- -- if there's a person in the public who wants -- it's the pub- -- anybody in the public who wants to testify --

SEN. HEWITT: I'm running this committee hearing, Senator Fields, and the public will have an opportunity to comment and they will have an opportunity to talk about the amendment. But I would like to ask you a question, right, about the reason for why you drew the map you did. And I don't think that's an unreasonable question.

SEN. FIELDS: It -- you -- you're welcome to come and address Monroe.

SEN. JACKSON: I originally, Madam

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Chairperson, came to support Senator Fields as part of this deal but the conversation has come up about the Monroe area and the Washington Parish area which I represent. And the testimony that took place through the road show. I believe at that time I had COVID, if I'm not mistaken and I attended --

SEN. HEWITT: I'm sorry -- I'm sorry, Senator. I know we all -- we all know you but for the record --

SEN. JACKSON: Oh, I apologize --

SEN. HEWITT: -- if you don't mind just --

SEN. JACKSON: -- yes.

SEN. HEWITT: -- introducing yourself.

SEN. JACKSON: Senator Katrina Jackson, District 34, encompassing a large portion of Washington Parish and the entirety of most Monroe, a large portion of Monroe, Louisiana.

The question has come up, I originally came to support the senator and other members who co -authored this bill about the testimony in Washington Parish and Monroe regarding the Fifth Congressional District during that road show.

I believe the -- during that time I had COVID

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and I attended by Zoom and I listened to every piece of testimony of my constituents. There was an overwhelming majority of African-Americans in Washington and Mor- -- Mor- -- Washington Parish and Monroe who testified overwhelming that they wanted to be able to elect a person of their choosing and they didn't think the current maps did that.

I do remember probably three to five people who came to talk about not wanting that. But I -- I -- I remember about 20 or 30 people ad nauseum giving testimony to Madam Chairperson and this committee during the road show talking about Washington and Mor- -- Morehouse Parish and Monroe wanting to elect a candidate of their choice.

And believing that they had not been represented adequately. Not by the person, but by the way the district was drawn. Because I want to be very clear on that. I get along very well with my congress woman but as you know, I can't support a drawn district based on who represents my district. I -- I draw and I'll support districts based on fairness.

And, so, there was some testimony just now

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from Madam Chairperson, or a statement, that there were people from Washington and Monroe who -- and it was, it was three to five people. On the reverse side of that during the road show, there was 20 to 30 people from that same area who talked about wanting a fair district. And, so, for that reason I only came to the table because you asked a question about the area I represent.

SEN. HEWITT: And the testimony that I was referring to was testimony that we had here yesterday in this committee where we had people that came from the Monroe area. We were asking them to help us understand, you know, the community of interest in that area. The map as it's drawn takes parts of west Monroe and leaves them in District 4. It takes parts in District 5, along with the rest of Monroe.

So, the questions were, you know, why are we doing that. What's the logic behind that? How do -- how do the people in Monroe -- how do you believe the people in Monroe see themselves as a community of interest?

SEN. JACKSON: I can only --

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SEN. HEWITT: In the greater Monroe area --

SEN. JACKSON: Right.

SEN. HEWITT: -- I'll say.

SEN. JACKSON: I -- I'll speak from what they spoke on not only during the road show but in this committee because I was also in a committee doing redistricting, when a number of people came from Monroe. Their concern was less about, honestly, keeping a parish whole for a congressional district and making sure that parish had adequate representation.

I believe that -- I've talked to some people and they said, look, to have two congressmen representing our parish works for them because that's two people fighting for that parish. And that's the way they looked at it. And -- and I can say here, when I look at the delegations, because of our population, we're smaller in number than most delegations. So, when we come into the legislative session each year as a delegation, we don't have as many people fighting for our area.

So, we thought it to be advantageous when I spoke with them last night. I did have a Zoom and after

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the Zoom we went on a private meeting. We thought it to be advantageous that we would have two congressional members from our area fighting for us. We felt that it was better.

SEN. HEWITT: And do you believe that where the district is drawn makes sense from a community of interest standpoint?

SEN. JACKSON: I do, yes. Eve- -- if you look at Congressional District 4 and 5, both of them have some very populated agricultural areas. And, so, we have that commonality.

They also both center around an urban area or our ur- -- urban area in Congressional District 5, being Monroe, the urban area in Congressional District 4 at the time being, you know, the old map being Shreveport. Our districts are very similar in that the outlying areas of our districts are very rural.

And then the hub of those districts, where the main population lies, and not the main populations as far as the district, when you look at those two parishes, right, Caddo and Washington and -- because those are the hubs really in the north of those two

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districts are very urban.

And, so, we have always been very similar in our districts, our district make up and our population of rural versus urban. And we've shared that commonality. Northeast Louisiana and northwest Louisiana generally share a lot of commonality in communities of interest and what that means and what our representatives will fight for.

SEN. HEWITT: Did -- did you hear the testimony in committee yesterday from some individuals, don't remember everyone's name, I didn't know everybody that was here, but they testified to the fact that in Congressional District 5 the way it was drawn in Senator Fields' map that 30 to 35 percent of the population of that district would be in East Baton Rouge. Did you hear that testimony?

SEN. JACKSON: I didn't but I -- I'll take your word for it if that was the testimony given. I was in and out of watching it with my family yesterday. But I -- but I would tell you this right now in Congressional District 5, a large portion of our population is intangible [inaudible] and other

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parishes.

Congressional District 5 currently sits in what 20 some parishes. I -- I don't think that this district is any more unique than the district we currently sit in as far as having multiple parishes in one district.

Northeast Louisiana carries a density of population. It -- I mean, a -- a -- a -- basically it's -- it's real like -- not dense. I apologize. It's very fractured our population. We have a lot of rural areas that are -- that are low in population.

So, regardless of how we draw Congressional District 5, if you look at the current map, Congressional District 5 consists of about 20 some parishes right now.

SEN. HEWITT: Mostly rural.

SEN. JACKSON: Mm.

SEN. HEWITT: Wouldn't you agree that the map the way it's being proposed in Senate Bill 1, because it includes such a large part of East Baton Rouge, you are changing Congressional District 5 from one of rural agricultural base district to one that has an -- an

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anchor in a very urban area? That was, again, I'm not quoting but --

SEN. JACKSON: Well --

SEN. HEWITT: -- that was --

SEN. JACKSON: -- when I looked --

SEN. HEWITT: -- sort of my --

SEN. JACKSON: -- at the nu- --

SEN. HEWITT: -- takeaway --

SEN. JACKSON: Yeah. Madam Chairperson --

SEN. HEWITT: -- from the --

SEN. JACKSON: -- when I looked at the numbers, Baton Rouge -- East Baton Rouge Parish doesn't make up a majority of that district. I think it makes up a hundred and some thousand of seven- -- I think 700 and some thousand people. So, I'm not sure if the constituents who testified yesterday had the actual numbers. But I mean I think what -- how much is that district hold in population right now under this map?

SEN. HEWITT: The whole district?

SEN. JACKSON: Yes.

MALE: 760.

SEN. HEWITT: We could -- we could pull it up

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Senator Fields had all those numbers yesterday --

SEN. JACKSON: Right.

SEN. HEWITT: -- he read through.

SEN. JACKSON: And -- and I left my map at home because, like I said, I came to support but then you guys asked questions about my area and since I had just talked to my constituents I wanted to be very clear on where my constituents were with Senator Fields' map.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes. So, District -- the -- District 5 has 776,292 people.

SEN. JACKSON: And in Baton Rouge, east Baton Rouge, in that district?

SEN. HEWITT: 189,802.

SEN. JACKSON: That's not a majority. That's not --

SEN. HEWITT: We didn't say majority. I think the testimony yesterday was 30 or 35 percent.

SEN. JACKSON: Right. And -- and --

SEN. HEWITT: We can do --

SEN. JACKSON: -- so --

SEN. HEWITT: -- the math on that.

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SEN. JACKSON: Right. And I --

SEN. HEWITT: The --

SEN. JACKSON: -- think in the con- -- current Congressional District 5 there's no one parish, you know, probably, maybe holding 30 percent but it's a wide sped -- spread district. I think that regardless of how Congressional District 5 is drawn as far as you're going to have parishes with more population than other parishes.

As I said because when you get into the rural areas of our parishes, you have less population. But at the end of the day, if -- if we look at it, and I think go- -- I think Senator Fields he's always prepared even when I'm just here cheering him on. If you look at Congressional District 5 Avoyelles is -- Avoyelles is a rural parish. It has 39,000.

Catahoula has almost 9,000. Concordia in my district is a very rural parish with almost 19,000. East Carroll is a extremely rural delta area with almost 7500. East Feliciana rural area with almost 20,000. Evangeline with almost 9,000; that's a rural area. Franklin extremely rural, 20,000. Iberville rural

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with 3500. And Madison very rural with 10,000. Morehouse with 25,000. Washington parish with 69,000.

If you take Morehouse and Washington together, you are at a rural population count before adding everything I just read of about 100,000 or 105,000. Pointe Coupee's rural with 20,000. Rapides is a rural area with 60,000. So -- and -- and I can go on and on but I don't need to do it. I'm sure the committee has this map. This district is still heavily rural based on the rural population of the parishes.

And, so, even if you took, let's say, East Baton Rouge, 189,000, when you add up all the rural constituents, this district is overwhelmingly rural in its population.

SEN. HEWITT: It's certainly not as rural in the new map as it would be under the -- under the old map or the current map.

SEN. JACKSON: I -- I -- I do understand that but I -- you know, as the Senator said, we are not here because we called ourselves back into session. We're here because a federal judge ordered us to create two majority -- minority districts.

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So with that, it -- it was not on our fruition of being called here. And so, we -- you know, we know what we're here to do and so when I look at -- number one, I'm an attorney so I'm never going to attempt to not follow a court's order. Okay. Because I -- I love bar license.

And then I'm a senator who took the oath of office and to -- and to abide by the Constitution and how the framework is signed and there's a check and balance system on the three branches of government.

The judicial branch has exercised its check and balance system. So I come here with good intent to try to preserve everything I can from my area and its representation while also following the oath that I took in completing the duties of that judicial order that came out. And when --

SEN. HEWITT: And when --

SEN. JACKSON: -- I do that I have to balance that. And, so, we know we can't stay with the old, even if we wanted to. But my constituents didn't want to anyway. The road show showed that and their testimony in committee during redistricting showed that.

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So, representing my constituents, upholding the oath that I take, there is a balancing act that has to be performed. And in that balancing act, when I looked at this district, and that's why I co-authored it, this district was very heavily populated rural.

St. Landry parish 82,000. St. Martin 42-. Tangipahoa rural area 20,000. West Baton Rouge is considered for me to be somewhat rural. West Feliciana is definitely, West Carroll is definitely rural. And -- and that's what I judged it by, was the majority -- overwhelming majority of the population in Congressional District 5 based on this map still considered a rural district. And for me it was when I looked at the numbers.

But I do find it, the advantage, Madam Chairperson. I've always had one person representing me from my area in Congress. I do find it to be a great advantage that we would have two. That's two voices speaking for you. I can speak your part of the Orleans delegation when you guys want something from Orleans in the state of Louisiana, the legislature, you all come together.

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When we want something in our rural areas, four, five what representatives or six representatives and three or four senators, that -- those votes outnumber us a lot. And so I like the fact of having someone else up there to represent me. I like the fact of having two congressmen to represent our area and our interests.

SEN. HEWITT: And I -- and I appreciate those points. And I appreciate your perspective. You know, the questions again were centered around communities -- communities of interest and the -- the rationale and the logic behind drawing the map the way it was drawn.

SEN. JACKSON: And -- and for me, the -- the overwhelming thing for me when I looked at this map is this deal -- overwhelming rural district as far as the population and it was and it is.

SEN. HEWITT: But you would admit that it's less rural under the new map, the proposed map than it -- than it currently is.

SEN. JACKSON: I'm not sure. I would have to look at the current numbers but what's less rural than not rural is also the people that it represents and

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whether all of the people in that district have a for-- -- fair voice.

And -- and so I think this map gives them a fair voice while giving them and our parish -- I may be being a little selfish in that but I think we all come to do the job of our constituency -- two congressmen to represent us who can -- who can expound our interests. And no one is oppos- -- ever opposed to having two congressmen from their -- that represent their area.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Okay.

SEN. FIELDS: Madam Chair, do you have anyone from the public who wish to be heard?

SEN. HEWITT: Would you like to come to sit in my chair, Senator --

SEN. FIELDS: No --

SEN. HEWITT: -- Fields?

SEN. FIELDS: -- not at all, Madam Chair. Not at all. And I -- and -- not at all. And I only say that, not out of disrespect at all. I -- but -- but I thought that was the purpose of us being here today.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, let's do that. Let's -- let's get on with it. If you'll give up the table, I've

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got some red cards.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I've got several red cards here. Trying to see what make the most sense in terms of --

MALE 2: [inaudible] back here.

SEN. HEWITT: -- out of which groups. Okay. Okay. I'm going to -- we'll -- I'll bring up two of you at a time so you don't have to wrestle with the -- with the laptop. Tom Kendrick, LaSalle Parish accessor and Gabe -- Senator Firment -- I mean, excuse me, representative Firment representing Grant LaSalle.

REP. FIRMENT: [inaudible] a [inaudible] --

SEN. HEWITT: I gave you a promotion just as Senator Fields gave me a promotion.

MALE 3: Get a picture with him without his crutches.

REP. FIRMENT: Hopefully my doctor is not watching.

MALE 3: What I --

MR. KENDRICK: He's milking this thing pretty hard.

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MALE 3: Might need that some time.

REP. FIRMENT: It's worked so far.

SEN. HEWITT: Let's see, who would -- let's -- Representative would you like to start?

REP. FIRMENT: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Gabe Firment, District 22 state rep and I'm -- I'm here this afternoon because I guess about this time yesterday I started getting calls from people around my district, Grant LaSalle Parish, and, you know, they said, look, do you know the Senate is working on a -- a plan that would put Grant and LaSalle in a congressional district with -- that -- that Clay Higgins represents with Lake Charles and -- and Lafayette and I said I do not -- I did not know that but let me look into it.

And -- and so really I would -- I would certainly be opposed to that plan and you've -- we've been talking about communities of interest and, you know, that plan would drastically disrupt the communities of interest in Grant LaSalle Parish. And, so, that's my primary opposition. Have looked at the original bill, which puts Grant and -- and LaSalle, I

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believe, in District 4 would -- would certainly be opposed to that as well.

So, it -- it just when you -- when you look at that map and -- and some of these things have been mentioned but Grant LaSalle are very rural timber, agricultural based parishes. You know, there's cultural cohesion, I think, with the 5th District and more so with 5th but also with the 4th District.

You know, the — the i- -- the idea for me that -- that Jena and Breaux Bridge would be in the same district that Pollock and Abbeville, Dry Prong, and Cameron would be in the -- in the same district frankly is just kind of ludicrous.

And just one -- one particular thing that stood out to me is -- is looking at -- at my district, going up Highway 165 in LaSalle Parish you've got little small towns of Olla, Urania, and Tullos that -- they're really like families, dysfunctional at times but -- but -- but families. And the amendment, I believe it was Committee Amendment 12, would actually split those communities in two.

And Senator Womack may be more knowledgeable

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about this than me, but just to give you an idea of what that would -- would do, their water systems are connected, their sewer systems are connected. I believe Urania takes Tullos' sewer and -- and, you know, Urania gets water from Olla.

So, the idea of splitting those communities and -- and, you know, not to mention the fact they go to church together, they go to school together. They -- they work at the same place. There's a big hospital and a prison right there between those communities and -- and to split -- split those up just doesn't make sense.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, I know you're very passionate about your area and very knowledgeable and so we appreciate your perspective on that and -- and bring some of those -- that additional information to the table.

REP. FIRMENT: And -- and Senator Hewitt, if I -- if I could, and -- and, you know, maybe the most concerning thing about this process to me is -- is -- so I started getting these calls and, you know, I -- people wanted to come down here but today's a holiday, Sunday's father's day and to try to get people down

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here to testify in person with less than 24 hours' notice is -- is just unfair and undemocratic to -- to me and I know the committee really, it doesn't have any -- any control over that.

But I don't know if -- if you all have entered the emails you've received into the record but I know I've gotten emails from dozens of people in -- in LaSalle, the -- the LaSalle accessor's here with me. I know the sheriff, school superintendent, school board members, police [inaudible] members, president of the police jury in Grant Parish have all sent emails in opposition.

Just and -- and -- and the message is really the same, it's we -- we just do not share many commonalities with -- with the 3rd District. Please keep us together. So, I'll -- I'll -- I'll be happy to answer any questions. I know Mr. Kendrick would -- would like to say a few words as well.

SEN. HEWITT: All right, thank you. If you would introduce yourself.

MR. KENDRICK: So, I'm Tom Kendrick, I'm LaSalle Parish accessor. And I've been accessor for

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about 10 years. And what I figured out is that you don't really know a place until you've hung out around there a while. And I've been to every door in LaSalle Parish. I've knocked on every door in LaSalle Parish; every color, every everybody. It doesn't matter to me.

And I think that -- that LaSalle belongs in District 5. I know we've been there for about 20 years. We're very rural. We have a- -- around 15,000 people. We have lots of things in common with them.

You know, if you go below -- I was looking at this map sitting over there and I'm going to tell you besides my accessor friends, I bet you I don't know 25 people that live below Rapides Parish because we don't have anything in common. We never go down there. It doesn't -- it doesn't fit in our -- in our mix.

But I know the -- I know we've been in District 5 for about 30 years or better and that's always seemed to work with us, rural, farming, agriculture kind of a parish. But then when I saw this map, I said, okay, not only are we coming out of 5, we're also being chopped up. And I don't -- I don't understand that because, you know, I got a pretty good

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idea of where the people live in my parish. We build maps in our office.

And I mean it can't be that many people and then to go all the way around -- I -- none of this makes any sense to me because I can't figure out what people in West Carroll Parish have to -- have in common with people in St. Landry Parish. I mean, that makes no sense to me. So, but I'm not here to talk about them.

But, you know, what I would -- what we would like to do is have LaSalle Parish whole and be with parishes like ours and we believe that that's in the 5th District.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I appreciate that perspective very much. All right. A question from Senator Price.

SEN. PRICE: Madam -- thank you, Madam Chair. Representative, in the bill that was enacted was not Grant Parish split in that bill?

REP. FIRMENT: It was. Yeah, it was split between the 5th and the 4th District.

SEN. PRICE: Correct. And now you're saying they're -- they're holding in -- in the bill that is

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here, it's just that is not in the 5th District. Is that correct?

REP. FIRMENT: Yeah, so, my primary opposition would be to the bill that puts Grant and LaSalle in the 3rd District which goes all the way down to the -- to the coast. But, yeah, I -- I --

SEN. PRICE: Grant and LaSalle's in the 5th District in this map.

REP. FIRMENT: Well, I guess it depends on which one we're talking about. I believe we've got an amendment --

SEN. PRICE: Cole's [??] map.

REP. FIRMENT: Yeah. You -- we're -- we're talking about the bill unamended, correct? Is that what you're --

SEN PRICE: Right --

REP. FIRMENT: -- referring to?

SEN. PRICE: -- exactly.

REP. FIRMENT: Right.

SEN. PRICE: As amended by Representative Reese.

REP. FIRMENT: Right. Yeah, so --

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SEN. PRICE: And -- and --
REP. FIRMENT: -- as --
SEN. PRICE: -- but you're talking about being split --
REP. FIRMENT: Yeah, so as the LaSalle --
SEN. PRICE: -- and it was --
REP. FIRMENT: -- Parish state rep --
SEN. PRICE: -- it was --
REP. FIRMENT: -- I --
SEN. PRICE: -- also splitting the enacted map.
REP. FIRMENT: Yeah. So, first of all as the LaSalle Parish state rep, I would echo the objections of Mr. Kendrick that historically LaSalle Parish has been in the 5th District and this -- this map would change that and put LaSalle in with Vernon, Natchitoches, Caddo, so, yes, certainly some disruptions in communities of interest there as well.
SEN. PRICE: But I was just trying to figure out if it was splitting the enacted map. Did you vote for the enacted map?
REP. FIRMENT: Yes, sir. You know, LaSalle --

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SEN. PRICE: It was --

REP. FIRMENT: -- District is in the 5th -- the 5th District under that map currently.

SEN. PRICE: But it was also split.

REP. FIRMENT: No.

SEN. PRICE: Yes, not LaSalle but -- look, which one?

FEMALE: Grant.

SEN. PRICE: Grant was --

REP. FIRMENT: Yeah, there was a small sliver of Grant --

SEN. PRICE: Yeah.

REP. FIRMENT: -- didn't like it then, I can't -- I still can't say that I was crazy about it but I -- and I will certainly say that there's more in common with western Grant and the 4th Congressional District. So, no, we didn't -- wasn't crazy about it but Senator got -- kind of got out voted on that, you know how that goes.

SEN. PRICE: But you voted for it.

REP. FIRMENT: Yeah.

SEN. PRICE: You didn't get outvoted, you went

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REP. FIRMENT: No, well, I voted for it. I think the -- I voted to concur with the -- with the final bill but I voted against it initially.

[talking in background, inaudible]

REP. FIRMENT: Yeah.

SEN. PRICE: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Okay. I don't see any -- any other questions. I appreciate you all very much for being here. Thank you.

MR. KENDRICK: Thanks.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Deborah Randolph from the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce if you'd like to come to the table, present, would like to speak in opposition. And then the other card I have in opposition, Blake Phillips the LaSalle Economic Development District, present in opposition but does not wish to speak.

MS. RANDOLPH: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. I'm Deborah Randolph president of the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce and I appreciate the opportunity to be here

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today to share our thoughts and concerns about Rapides Parish and some of the surrounding areas in central Louisiana.

The question we're facing is -- is whether to break apart our district, split up countless communities of common interests and drastically divide some of our parishes and municipalities. And certainly that's the case with -- with Rapides Parish with this map. And I'm here to express some concerns about that.

Adopting this map, for example, will cost north Louisiana a congressional seat and here's what I mean by that. And -- and more than just this map would make Baton Rouge the population center of a district -- new district, shifting away from our current configuration and like -- and -- and dividing the representation from Monroe and Alexandria.

And, so, basically the 5th District would have more residents from East Baton Rouge Parish than Washington and Rapides combined. And, so, this not only creates a situation where the numbers drastically shift from north to south but the 5th District would literally also have more residents in La- -- in

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Lafayette Parish than Rapides. And the voting population from Lafayette Parish would nearly be equal to the one in Washington as well.

So, if this map is allowed to be enacted, more than 60 percent of the 5th's population would now live in south Louisiana and it would en- -- ensure that sometime in the near future, five of our six representatives in Congress would be from below I-10.

Adopting the maps will break a bar -- apart communities of common interest, divides Monroe, Alexandria, Lafayette, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The only major population center in the state that doesn't seem to be split up is -- is Shreveport, Bossier, and Lake Charles.

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And honestly, relative to communities of interest to -- to place a big swath of Rapides Parish in the 3rd Congressional District with Lake Charles and Lafayette is problematic for us relative to those communities of interest. Our biggest sectors are agriculture and timber. We're a healthcare hub and we have some manufacturing as well. And other than that we are a region of -- of small businesses but so much

agriculture and timber in our area.

But it's not just the major cities, the map separates Slidell from Covington, Pineville from Alexandria, Ville Plate from Mamou, Carencro from Broussard, Breaux Bridge from St. Martinville and New Iberia, Zachary from Central for example, and Lacount from Forest Hill.

So, look, I -- I -- to me the -- the common areas of interest are very local to me in -- in their definition. And they have so much in common in geography, commerce, culture and character. And, so, of course that's -- that's what I'm so concerned with.

And there -- the legal case argues that the maps must account for unique economies and different histories between New Orleans and Baton Rouge but then it doesn't account for it in other areas of the state, it looks like to me.

The case also argues that the delta in south Louisiana parishes such as St. Martin and St. Landry should be joined because they have shared eco- -- economic interests in petroleum and sugar cane but ag- -- in reality, any good farmer will tell you that

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there's -- there's -- there's no sugar cane north of -- of Rapides Parish.

But look, we're looking at these common areas of interest and that's so important in drafting these districts. And I understand what an incredibly difficult job this is. But our -- our -- the people back home where I live feel like we've been carved up more times lately than a Thanksgiving turkey only they're not feeling all that thankful about some of it.

So, that's what I'm asking consideration of is -- is keeping us whole. As Representative Firment said in -- in such a passionate way about his parish, we would like to be left whole. So, this map has part of us in the 3rd and part of us in the new 5th District. And, so, that's basically something that we see that is problematic for us.

And -- and -- and the way I see it too, what is happening here is that the map pit cities against the rural areas. And -- and so such that rural interests such as agriculture and broadband and that access plays second fiddle to the urban interests. And so I see that as -- as problematic for us and the

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things that we're trying to work on so diligently and achieve in our district in our area of the state right now.

And, so, honestly it's going to give cities a greater bite at the apple while the rural areas are left behind to -- to -- to struggle. And, so, I -- the other thing that -- that I see is that history tells us that redrawing such as it's proposed in this could very easily be overturned.

And, so, I -- I would ask that we -- that we work together to -- to look at it and to try to come up with a way to keep parishes together and communities of interest together while achieving what we want to do with our -- with our redistricting. And I appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Miss Randolph. I thought you made an interesting point that I had not really heard made exactly this same way and that was and I'm -- I'm paraphrasing or restating in some way, but when you look at the fir- -- the -- the 5th district, when you're grabbing parts of Monroe, parts of Alexandria, parts of Lafayette and parts of Baton

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Rouge, your worry is, I believe you said, that now you've got some of these urban areas in here that get kind of all the attention to the ex- -- at the expense of the rural communities --

MS. RANDOLPH: Right.

SEN. HEWITT: -- and that is one of the things that makes the 5th District, you know, so unique is that, you know, again trying to focus on the rural aspects of it to make sure that you're getting your share of the funding, both at the federal, the state level. So, that was -- that was kind of an interesting point. Did I say that right? Is that -- was that part of what you're --

MS. RANDOLPH: It is a concern --

SEN. HEWITT: -- message was.

MS. RANDOLPH: -- because what the -- what this proposed map does is place a big swath of Rapides Parish, particularly the more rural area of it in the 3rd Congressional District, which puts it in the same congressional district with -- with Lake Charles and Lafayette, for example. And then the little -- if -- if you can call Alexandria and Pineville more urban, that

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area does go into the 5th District.

So, but then that area, which is certainly the smaller guy on the block, with some of the other urban areas that go into the new 5th create that concern that -- that you restated.

SEN. HEWITT: Well, Bill, I'm going to ask you to come back if you would and pull up the -- the Rapides -- of -- I think we call it Rapides Vernon map so we can just see that a -- in a little more detail. And I don't know if you've -- this is the map.

So, can you see it from where you are? I think the -- the yellow, again, is District 5, you know, the -- the finger there, I'll call it, is the Alexandria area. Can you recognize where we are on -- on the map?

So, when you look at the Alexandria Pineville area, how -- how do you see that as a community of interest and -- and do we have the whole community of interest together? I -- I appreciate your points about not wanting to split between two congressional districts but -- but even if you were to say, let's put the whole Alexandria Pineville area in District 5, did we do that with this map or are we missing some pieces?

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MS. RANDOLPH: Well, again, a big swath of Rapides Parish, such as Woodworth and Boyce and Rock Hill and Pollock, Creola, Ball, which is a very -- a -- a big growing community are in -- are placed into the 3rd under this map, the 3rd District with Lake Charles and Lafayette.

And then in the yellow portion and -- of Alexandria and Pineville and other surrounding communities and those precincts go into the 5th down to Echo, Fifth Ward, Lacount [ph].

SEN. HEWITT: The area that you all in general consider to be the Alexandria Pineville area is it all in District 5 or not under this map, can you tell?

MS. RANDOLPH: So, I'm sorry. I'm --

SEN. HEWITT: The -- the area that you all would consider, I mean, you know, in Slidell we -- we -- it's not just the city of Slidell boundaries, it's, you know, there's others of us that have a ZIP code that says Slidell but we're not in the city of Slidell boundaries. We're in the parish part.

But, so, how does it work in the Alexandria Pineville area, do you all -- I don't know which of

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these prescients you all would consider to be kind of in the Alexandria area. Did we capture all of those in yellow and put them in District 5 or did we not? Did --

MS. RANDOLPH: Did --

SEN. HEWITT: -- we split them up in some way?

MS. RANDOLPH: No, we did not. And we very much work as a -- first of all, we work as a region but we certainly work together as a parish to move forward. And have great people who work in a wonderful fashion together to promote and grow the businesses that we have of all sizes and to attract new ones.

And, so, this certainly splits us up to -- relative to the way that we work economic development, for example.

SEN. HEWITT: Is there anything based on what you know as the head of the Chamber of Commerce in this area that -- that would cause you to want to separate, again, this Alexandria area into two pieces as it's separated out? Is there something unique? A community of interest that would justify, you know, part of it being in District 3 and part of it being in District 5?

MS. RANDOLPH: No, it would not. I would favor

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keeping all of Rapides Parish together in one district because of those common interests of the parish.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Okay.

MS. RANDOLPH: And we work certainly with a wider swath of central Louisiana but certainly it is -- it's daunting and difficult to think of our -- our own parish base to be -- to be split like the -- like it's proposed to be.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah, and I -- I can certainly appreciate that. All right.

Bill, if -- if you would, Dr. Blair, if you don't mind, pull up the -- the color coded black voting age population map and see if you can find our way to the Alexandria Pineville area.

Okay. So, the darker colors are the higher black voting age population which in -- in my opinion models pretty -- pretty well what we pulled into District 5. So, I -- what appears to me is -- is an attempt again to go grab the black -- the blacker precincts in that area for District 5 to try to get the numbers up to a -- you know, minority district, a -- a black district.

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Okay. Anything else, Miss Randolph?

MS. RANDOLPH: Thank you very much for your consideration.

SEN. REESE: Madam Chair, [inaudible].

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah, would you -- I'm sorry, Senator Reese.

SEN. REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Miss Randolph, I just didn't want to miss the opportunity. You've been such a leader in central Louisiana especially in terms of -- of liaising with the legislature on issues that are important to not just Rapides Parish but the greater region.

And I thank you for coming down here today because I think, you know, the -- the better understanding that you have as -- as, you know, somebody working on the ground in that area to -- to best portray to the legislature the community of interests that exist in -- in not dividing the city of Alexandria into multiple districts or not dividing the city of Pineville in multiple districts.

And the -- and the, you know, the efforts that have been underway for many decades now and all work

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together on economic development, on -- on education, on a -- you know, workforce training, all these things occur as a -- a team effort in that area and I think that's kind of what you were detailing, so.

MS. RANDOLPH: That -- that's certainly the case. We work on those together with our various partners in economic development as well as our -- our mayors, our -- so our city government, our parish government. And, so, you stated that very well and I appreciate that. And -- and of course we have a great working relationship with -- with Vernon Parish and --

SEN. REESE: Right. Well, thank you -- thank you for taking the time to bring that to our attention.

MS. RANDOLPH: Thank you very much.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right, thank you very much. All right. I have, I think those are all the red cards. I did get a late green card I want to read in, Terry Landry Jr., SPLC Action Fund, present in support, not wishing to speak.

And members you have a number of documents in your folder relative to -- I think these are all in opposition. Is that right, Madam Secretary?

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MADAM SECRETARY: [Nodding affirmatively.]

SEN. HEWITT: These are all in opposition to SB1.

MADAM SECRETARY: [inaudible]

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah, okay. So you also had in your folder an email that I -- I think we touched on it yesterday, but perhaps not, from Congressman Troy Carter in support of SB1, so you've got that in your folder. You've also got a number of -- and I'll just try to briefly mention the names here. Randall Briggs. These are all in opposition.

Let's see. Gabe -- Gabe Firment in opposition, we heard from him earlier. Former Congressman Bob Livingston in opposition. Sh- -- Shad Rice. Cynthia Cocker- -- Cockerham from La- -- LaSalle Economic Development District. Sorry, it's difficult, some of these are -- are long. Miss- -- now, let's see. Dura Walter or Walter Doro.

MALE: Walter Dora.

SEN. HEWITT: Walter Dora, okay. Stephanie Knight. Gene Steen. Janice Steen. Blake Phillips. I think I can see these. We're just about at the end

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here. Reid Walters. Okay. So, those are all in your folder.

Okay. In addition, I -- I've just received these cards in support. Wishing to speak, Chico Yancy, if you'd like to come forward.

MR. YANCY: I'm going to wave.

SEN. HEWITT: You're going to wave. Okay. Thank you, sir.

Ashley Shelton, president, support, not wishing to speak, Power Coalition.

Edgar Cage, present in support, not wishing to speak.

Shay Foster, present in support, not wishing to speak with the SPLC Action Fund.

And Kayla Kudrow, the Amanda Louisiana Group, present in support.

Okay. All right. I think those are all the cards, all the emails. The board is clear. Do I see any other questions or comments from the group, from the committee? All right. So, we have an amended bill before us. What's the pleasure of the committee?

MALE: I move to go ahead and vote.

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SEN. HEWITT: Yes, yes. Thank you, good idea. Senator Fields.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee for the time you have put in this bill.

I -- I've been before this committee several times and I want to thank you for the patience you have put in deliberating on redistricting. And it's been a very long, tedious process because you've been all over the state dealing with this issue.

But as always, I always take a moment of personal privilege when I talk about congressional redistricting because it is personal to me and I've shared with this committee. In the 1800s the first black man ever elected to congress was never seated. And he wasn't seated because he was black. And when John Willis Menard tried to take his -- Menard tried to take his oath of office, they didn't allow him to take his seat. He was elected from the 2nd Congressional District in New Orleans.

And a gentleman from Ohio objected to his certification only because he was black. No other

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reason. He wasn't the first black person elected from Louisiana; he was the first black person elected in the history of this country. And that gentleman from Ohio said, let's -- it's just not time for a black person to be elected to this body. No other reason. No other reason.

And he said, let's -- I -- I want to move not to seat this colored guy. Let's save the $5,000 and let's send him back to New Orleans, Louisiana. And he didn't have -- John Willis Menard didn't have the power to fight. He was one vote. Packed his bags and he came back to New Orleans. Didn't have no power. Fighting against the 434 members of congress. Got elected but didn't have the power to fight.

But then you know about Charles Nash. He got elected from Baton Rouge to Opelousas and they seated him. Nobody ever talks about John Willis Menard because they never gave him an opportunity to be seated. Now, when you read in the history books, you will learn that five people were elected and seated. Five black people in the history of this state. Five. Five. Five black people have been elected and seated in the United

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States Congress. How many have been elected total- -- total. 172 people. Out of 172 people, five have been black. Five.

And today I just simply offer you a bill. Since reconstruction, there have been four blacks elected to the United States Congress. Four. I'm one of them. Four. We elect six every two years. I'm asking you to just send two. Two. Just two of the six. This bill is compact. I mean it's the best plan I could come up with.

And Chairman Hewitt, I -- I really meant no disrespect. I really didn't. And I know you didn't. And I apologize to you. But I'm ready to just get this thing done, one way or the other.

So, I tender this bill to you. If you vote for it that's a good thing, it's a step in the right direction for our state. If you vote against it, we're going to spend more money litigating. You know, in the courts we call it dilatory tac- -- tactics. You just keep delaying. Do I stop delaying the inevitable?

Do you think black people deserve representation in Congress? Of course they do. And

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that's what this bill is all about. That's why these four federal judges said, you know, you all need to get this business done. Come on now. It's not right. Everybody in here know, it's just not right. Not right.

And then sometimes people just got to do the right thing. And now is that time. Now is that time, right now is the time to do the right thing. Right now. Not tomorrow. Not after this bill. Right now is the time to do the right thing. You might not have tomorrow.

So, I offer this bill to you and I ask you to vote for it. Thank you for your time.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Senator, thank you very much. I -- I appreciate your passion for this topic and the work that you've done to -- to propose solutions that -- that you support.

[talking in background, inaudible]

SEN. HEWITT: I certainly agree with you on one point and -- and, you know, I'm ready for all this to be over as well.

[talking in background, inaudible]

SEN. HEWITT: And, you know, these are -- I

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think redistricting bills are tougher than any -- almost any bills that we -- we've heard and -- and you and I have both served for a few years now in the legislature and they -- they're difficult. They're -- not only are just -- are they just technically difficult because any move in one district of course has a ripple effect in the other district. It's hard to make all the numbers balance and to fit all the criteria that are -- that are put on us to do so.

This is also complicated in trying to thread the needle between the Voting Rights Act and the 4- -- 14th Amendment.

[talking in background, inaudible]

SEN. HEWITT: And especially when we're talking about race, which, you know, because of the -- the judge's order put us directly in a conversation about race for these six- -- the six-day session and it -- I think it has made it a -- a very difficult conversation to have.

And, so, you know, I apologize to you as well. You know, if -- if I was pushing a little bit too hard or pushing back or showing my emotions as well.

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But I do believe that the map that we've passed already, we have done the right thing. And -- and I do believe that that is a good map. I understand the judiciary has a role in all of this and the legislature has a role and -- and we're all trying to do our part to the best of our ability and I know that you are as well.

All right. Senator Tarver.

SEN. TARVER: Madam Chair, I'd like to move that we report this bill favorable as amended.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Sen- -- Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: Substitute motion to defer.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. All right. So, Senator Tarver has made a motion to which Senator Womack has made a substitute motion to defer. A vote yes would be to defer. A vote no would be to go back to the original motion. All right.

Madam Secretary, if you would call the roll.

MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Milligan.

SEN. MILLIGAN: [no audible response]

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes.

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Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes.

Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes.

Senator Harris.

SEN. HARRIS: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No.

Senator Price.

SEN. PRICE: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No.

Senator Reese.

SEN. REESE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes.

Senator Tarver.

SEN. TARVER: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No.

Senator Womack.

SEN. WOMACK: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes.

Senator Hewitt.

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SEN. HEWITT: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes.

That is 6 yeas and 3 nays.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. And the bill is deferred.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Madam Chair and members.

SEN. HEWITT: Yes, sir. Thank you.

All right. Next bill on our agenda is Senator Ward with SB3. Sorry, we're reshuffling here a little bit.

SEN. WARD: I understand.

SEN. HEWITT: Trying to get -- we can collect a lot of paper in these redistricting bills as well. All right. Senate Bill 3, Senator, whenever you're ready.

SEN. WARD: All right. Thank you, Madam Chair, members. I'm not going to do a -- a lengthy opening --

SEN. HEWITT: [inaudible]

SEN. WARD: -- or introduction of the bill mainly because I know you all are probably much more familiar with the numbers and all those things related

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to maps than I am. So, but I -- I will get into that in a second.

My main reason for filing a bill was federal judge put in place an order to which at this point I feel like we had an obligation to put our best foot forward in trying to come to some- -- something other than what we had in place right now.

And I know that there's ways to do that and we can have that discussion and -- and part of that is trying to find some middle ground in terms of what we passed, maybe even what was just read moments before this and it's not an easy thing to do.

I -- I think when the -- when the bill was filed yesterday they probably had folks from both sides of this argument or equation that we're unhappy with and I -- I've handled a -- a number of bills at this time in my career and typically whenever you're trying to strike a balance, the starting point for most -- most bills that are filed with that in mind are people being upset from both sides.

So, I understood that that would probably happen but be that as it may, I'm -- I'm just going to

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briefly touch on the bill and then of course we can -- we can go on and answer questions from there.

So, within the order that we are here to operate under, one of the things -- or the -- the main thing that was discussed is that we shall have -- or we should have two minority -- or not minority seats but two majority black seats.

And, so, what this district does it takes District 2 and it makes it 52 percent and a little -- 52.09 percent black and 47.9 percent of white and other. District 6, 51.95 percent black and 48.04 percent white and other.

In terms of the -- the deviation for all the districts, I believe the -- the big -- the largest deviation out of all of them, all the districts, all six, is 84 and that would be District 4. And the second largest would be District 5, which is a minus 70 off of the perfect number 776,292.

So, I know there's going to be a ton of questions. Instead of me continuing to present it that way, I'd -- I'd be happy to just go on through and -- and answer. I'm sure you'll probably do a lot of that

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yourself. But I'll be here to answer what I can.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. Thank you for the introductory comments. So, you know, one of the -- I guess the first things that -- that, you know, I notice about this map compared to many of the other maps that we've looked at is, I just visually -- it makes some pretty significant changes in terms of where the geography is for the different districts.

SEN. WARD: Mm-hmm.

SEN. HEWITT: You know, so, you know, there -- there's -- there's several notable ones, right, so now District 5 comes across the northern part of the state. You have a little bit more -- you know, the horizontal type perspective on that rather than the, you know, the two districts that we currently have.

SEN. WARD: Right.

SEN. HEWITT: So, you know, we've got the map up there. You know, you've got District 3 representing the entire coast from Cameron to St. Bernard, you know, which is very different than -- than the map -- the enacted map has, you know, three different people representing the coast.

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You know, District 6 becomes more of a north shore district. Yeah, so District 6 picks up a lot of the Florida Parishes, etcetera.

SEN. WARD: Mm-hmm.

SEN. HEWITT: Kind of over in my area which is -- which is very different. So, what -- what consideration did you give to, you know, the traditional redistricting principals which includes continuity of representation?

You know, so to me one of the -- one of the -- again, the noticeable things is, when you compare, let's say, the maps that we're currently working under of -- the -- from the 2010 census to this map, there's some pretty major shifts in terms of continuity of representation. You know, was that something that you considered when you were drafting your map?

SEN. WARD: I think -- I think that was considered and I -- I believe whenever you -- whenever you look at the map in general, there's -- continuity can be looked at in -- in many different ways. For example, the -- the map that goes across more north Louisiana, I think you could make a good argument that

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there's a lot in common there in terms of those parishes.

You know, if you go down to District 6 in terms of how it lays out, it's not -- it's not a whole lot different than -- than how you would see some of the legislative districts grown -- drawn in terms of continuity and -- and things like that. But really the starting point for drawing this map was to try and give us a starting point that adhered to the -- the order that we are operating under and -- and from there we -- we worked on it from there.

And, so, look I -- can you ever get to that perfect place in terms of continuity? I don't know, but I -- I do think that this does carry that. And I know, for example, District 3 -- 3 that goes entirely across the coast, well, when you have -- you know, when you have one person that they could really become an expert on such things as coastal erosion or any other -- any other matter dealing with the coast. And so certainly there -- there's a -- there's a lot that goes on there.

Now look, are -- are -- are the folks different in Cameron maybe than they are in Plaquemines

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or St. Bernard? I'm sure they are but in terms of a lot of what they deal with on -- on a daily basis I think would be similar.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. And so similar to, you know, some of the things that we observed in -- in Senate Bill 1, there was -- there's a lot of, you know, fingers kind of jutting out in places where we split some parishes.

You know, one of the ones I notice is over in my district over in -- in St. Bernard, you know, that -- that, to me, I mean, the people in the parish, they're all one community of interest and -- and I -- and I see you split it between District 3 and District 2. Yeah. So there you are.

So that's got -- you can see, so St. Bernard is over on the Eastern side of that, of that map. You've got kind of the big finger there that picks up, you know, District fiv- -- Precinct 50, and then you've, you know, you've got this -- this purple part from District 3 that just comes right into -- right into St. Bernard.

You know, splits it right in half as a matter

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of fact, you know. So for me in my area and knowing -- knowing that community, I mean, that just quite honestly just makes no sense whatsoever from a community of interest standpoint. What -- what was your -- what was your thinking about that area?

SEN. WARD: I don't know that I necessarily thought about that area specifically, but whenever you're talking about doing things like that. So in West Baton Rouge where I live currently, we have two congressional districts that -- that rundown LA one, and you -- you've got Addis [ph] and Brusly and these different -- City of Port Allen and in a very similar way, on one side of the road, you've got one Congressman representing and on the other side of the road you've got another Congressman representing that area. And so --

SEN. HEWITT: Well, this is even worse than that. I mean, to drive from one side of St. Bernard to the other, you have to drive through Congressional District 3 to get there, right? You'd go from -- from District 2 through 3 back to District 2. You know, and so that just -- that just doesn't make any sense to me.

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SEN. WARD: And -- and look, and I understand that perspective. What I would say to that is, under our current maps, you have -- when I say current, I mean, the ones that --

SEN. HEWITT: The 2010 map that we're operating under now?

SEN. WARD: [Inaudible] it. You have a lot of similar situations and I -- and I think the reason for that is, you can do your absolute best to try and keep community interest together. But whenever you were trying to weigh how you -- how you draw maps and keep them -- keep the deviation as close as possible, but also manage in terms of the -- the population and the demographics, it can become difficult to -- to not have some areas around the state that -- that look similar to that. And like I said, the -- that goes on all the way dating back to the 2010 map in -- in the parish I live in.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Bill -- Dr. Blair, if you would put up kind of that St. Bernard area with the black voting age population, color coded map thing that we have, and see if you can zoom in on the -- zoom in

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on that area.

Okay. So, I mean, there's the -- so you weren't here. I don't -- were you in the room earlier, Senator Ward, when we talked about the color coding on this map. Bill -- Dr. Blair, maybe explain the color codings to -- for the Senator.

SEN. BLAIR: Madam Chairwoman and senator. The color coding is the darker blue. It gets the more voting age population, black, the precinct is. So the deep blue is plus 75 percent African-American VAP. The lighter blue is 50 percent to 75 percent. The light green is 25 percent to 50 percent, and gray is 0 percent to 25 percent. [Inaudible] population black percentage.

SEN. WARD: Okay.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. And then when I go back to our redistricting principles, HCR90, and I'll -- I'll read this directly. This is H. All redistricting plans shall respect the established boundaries of parishes, municipalities, and other political subdivisions, and natural geography of the state, to the extent practicable.

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However, this criterion is subordinate to, and shall not be used to undermine the maintenance of communities of interest within the same district to the extent practicable. So again, communities of interest are very important.

And I would submit to you that this area of your map breaks up a community of interest that -- that I know and love that the people of Chalmette. And it appears to me that maybe, and you sort of hinted to this earlier in your comments, you know, this appears to me to be largely drawn to try to adhere to the directive of the court to draw two black districts. And the precincts that you included in District 2 were done deliberately to -- to create a black district in District 2. Would you not agree with that?

SEN. BLAIR: Well, I think what I would say to that is, you know, and from what you just read, the last part of that, the sentence, I believe was to the extent possible. So you do want to do your best to keep those communities of interest together to the extent possible. And so I think we did that in this map to the extent possible.

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SEN. HEWITT: It's practicable, and there's some legal difference between that I'm -- but I'm --

SEN. BLAIR: Pa- -- practicable. I -- I apologize. I -- I thought, you know, I tried to write it down, but --

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. It's practicable.

SEN. BLAIR: Practical. So, but either way, to the extent practicable, and -- and I think we -- we attempted to do that, but also within the guardrails of -- of what we are -- were actually called back here to do.

And so I do think those things were kept in mind, but -- but yes, that was -- that was -- there -- there's no doubt that when you see some of the different fingers that go into different communities, there --, there's always a reason for that.

And a lot of times it has to do with population. And so I'm kind of a visual person sometime, but we've talked a lot about percentages and -- and things like that. So when you've got -- when you have six of anything in particular --

SEN. HEWITT: Hang on one second. Let's get

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the screen set so we can see what you're doing a little bit better. I didn't know we were going to have show and tell today, so that's -- let's get --

SEN. BLAIR: I have to simplify things for myself, so.

SEN. HEWITT: Let's get the lights back on so we can see what you're doing. Okay. All right. Senator, thank you.

SEN. BLAIR: We have -- we have six districts that we have to draw. If everything was just six solid pieces, it would be easy. It would look like this, you know, four and two. It'd be simple. We wouldn't have any problems.

But what we have to do is get six districts out of something that looks more like this, and you've got four and two, you know, four orange and two blue, but they're in a lot of cases all mixed together.

And so there's no way to not have situation where you have to -- have to dive into certain places and -- and get the appropriate amount of -- of votes necessary in certain areas. And so I don't think that there's a map that could be drawn in any iter- --

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iteration where you wouldn't have -- have some of that to take place.

SEN. HEWITT: And I mean, that's -- that's the whole -- that's the whole rub, isn't it? I mean, that's the challenge is -- is trying to, again, respect all the redistricting principles of the federal and the state laws, protect our communities of interest, provide continuity of representation, you know, while balancing both the Voting Rights Act and the 14th Amendment.

And so you know, that's -- that's what this committee has been working to do now for nine months. You know, we're coming up on a nine-month effort to do just that. So, you know, I -- I appreciate your effort and your -- your thoughts.

There is an infinite number of ways to draw maps and, you know, I know that when we look at our own individual maps, the map in our areas that we're most familiar with, you know, it's easy to find, you know, shortcomings in those maps.

Did you start out -- I mean, I'm not sure if you said this or not, but so let me ask you again,

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because I thought I heard you say it. Did you start out drawing the two majority black districts first to meet the court order and then drew the other ones after that?

SEN. BLAIR: No. I -- I don't -- I don't think that was the way we went about it. The way we really went about it was, when I sat down with staff, my thoughts were, I'd like to see a map that is drawn in a way that -- that complies with the current court order.

And I don't -- I don't necessarily mean to draw one, or two, or three of the districts in any particular order, but the final outcome of what that map is, I wanted us -- I wanted to be able to sit down at the table knowing that what I had complied. And -- and from there we, you know, just kind of went.

SEN. HEWITT: So most of the other maps ended up -- that I guess Senate Bill 1, as well as the House maps that I've looked at, take Congressional District 5 and -- and turn that into a -- a majority black district as well as District 2, which as you know, currently is, why did you choose six?

SEN. BLAIR: Quite honestly, we were just

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looking for a way to keep five in a more of a east, west manner and number four going from, you know, more north to central-type Louisiana. And then once -- so in an effort to keep those things that way, in order to come up with the sixth district, you have what you have now.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So part of your instruction to staff was to start out by having an east, west strategy in the northern most districts?

SEN. BLAIR: That's correct.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. And what was the thought behind that? I mean, why -- why do that again, continuity representation would -- would cause you to want to continue having north, south districts as we -- we're accustomed to today?

SEN. BLAIR: Well, maybe so. I don't -- I don't know the -- for example, the -- the current, I guess it would be currently five, you know, you've got, for example, Congresswoman Letlow, she represents from East and West Carroll all the way over through the Feliciana and St. Helena and into Tangipahoa, maybe all the way into -- all the way into Washington Parish. So

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I think in terms of continuity, this, you know, feels more -- more likely to have that than what currently is in place to me. I -- I --

SEN. HEWITT: Well, the way we have kind of been using continuity of representation is the idea that, you know, I want to have the same congressman or co- -- congresswoman today that I do tomorrow because, I, as a voter know how well that person has been representing my district.

And if you dump me over into a different district, it's kind of a whole new ballgame, but I know how well the person representing me in Congress has been doing or not doing. And so the more people you shift into a new congressional district, that is disrupting the continuity of representation.

And although I didn't do the math on it, but you know, to me, because everything is, you started out with a strategy of having an east, west district up in District 5, you know, and District 6 comes into the Florida parishes that were previously there in District 5.

SEN. HEWITT: I mean, I think you would have a

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lot of people in the State of Louisiana that now are in a different congressional district than the one they were, you know, yesterday, I'll say.

SEN. BLAIR: True.

SEN. HEWITT: And so for me, that is a huge disruption of continuity of representation. And, you know, all -- in addition, you probably, in terms of, you know, congressional projects and things that they're working on, these are long term projects in Washington.

You know, you would hate to just sort of all of a sudden kind of shift to where now this big project you've been working on for 10 years with a particular congressman or congresswoman, now gets handed over to somebody else that may not have all the history, not to say that they're not all competent with great staffs. But that would be disruptive in my -- in my way of thinking. And that's part of the point behind continuity of representation.

SEN. BLAIR: Yeah. And I understand that. I think -- I don't think there's any easy way to do that or do this, I should say. But I do believe whenever i-

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-- if you -- if we didn't take a look at something different, we would've, you know, probably just kind of been stuck in neutral.

So I wanted to give a different look and I know all those things have to be weighed in the court. We'll -- we'll weigh all those things as -- as this moves forward or -- or -- or the current proceedings move forward, but this was the best effort we could make in terms of trying to provide a different look.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. I appreciate that. All right. Let's move al- -- move along here. Senator Allain?

SEN. ALLAIN: Thank you, Madam chairwoman. Actually, the party map that I like is that you consolidated the coast. I think that's something that -- that I've often advocated for that you -- that the coast is consolidated.

I know the -- the biggest problem that I see right here in -- in, you know, after talking to several other members, which I may be the only one here that likes the -- the map, I know it's -- it's pretty widely disliked, chopping up Lafayette, chopping up Lake

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Charles is problematic at best.

And that include also Rapides and -- and I guess parts of -- of St. Bernard that Senator Hewitt spoke about. But a general concept of consolidating the coast into -- into one district, has some appeal to me. So I don't hate your map or maybe you wanted a few, but, you know, it's, I -- I think, you know, something I could live with, but I -- I'm -- I'm afraid that it's not going to go very far.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Senator, thank you. Senator Milligan.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm looking at the map and it's Barksdale Air Force Base is -- is under this map in the fifth district, isn't it?

SEN. BLAIR: It is.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Okay. And -- and yesterday we -- we spoke at length about, you know, the strength and the continuity of strength and the common interest that having both of our large military installations under one congressman, what that does as far as the power that it gives us.

You know, Barksdale, Fort Polk, currently, we

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mentioned this yesterday provides 10 billion -- 10 billion in annual economic impact. 77,000 jobs, $350 million in state income taxes on annual basis.

And on top of that, according to the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, we're provided over $1 billion in -- in construction funding between those two installations going forward.

You know, my concern with that is dividing these bases into separate districts, dilutes that power, that -- that -- that Congressman Johnson has on his committee and weakens us as a state, and so I'm -- I'm concerned there. And then it appears from the map that --

SEN. BLAIR: If I could just speak to that before we move on. So I have sp- -- I have talked to staff because I -- I looked back at what was discussed yesterday and, of course, the bill had already been made ready and filed.

But if -- if we were fortunate enough to make the floor, there is an amendment that could -- could solve that --

SEN. MILLIGAN: Could fix that?

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SEN. BLAIR: -- and put them both in the same congressional district and us not have a major problem in terms of numbers for the -- for either district. I appreciate your consideration of that. I mean, that's a huge win for our state and -- and we -- we need all the wins -- we -- we -- we can get and having that, I would commit to you to do that if -- if we -- if this bill moved forward.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Okay. The other thing that you may just want to check on, I don't know the answer to this, but it looks like under this map, the congressman's been drawn into District 5. He lives in Benton [inaudible] which looks like is precinct 2.1. I'm not sure if you've had a conversation with -- with the congressman, but I believe he's just been drawn into Congressional District 5.

SEN. BLAIR: And -- and that's very possible. I don't -- I don't know where -- quite honestly, I don't know where any six of them live and I have not spoken with any of them.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Understand. Understand.

SEN. BLAIR: Just -- just for many reasons.

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But I did not speak with any of them about this, but I would understand that. I would say this though, the difference between legislative seats and congressional seats, you do not have to live within the district that you run for.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Okay. Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Chair.

SEN. HEWITT: I've been told congressman Graves is kind of right on the edge of his district also in the way this is drawn. I'm not sure if he's in or out, but he's kind of right on the edge. Okay. All right, Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: Thank you. Mada- -- Madam Chairwoman. Senator Ward, thank you for the proposal. I'm going to ask you a couple of questions just to clarify for the record and s- -- really some things I went through with Senator Fields on his bill as well, just to clarify where we are in the judicial process, and really why we -- why we are here.

We -- we -- we have an ongoing case but the judge has ruled by -- on a motion, on a preliminary injunction. But just to be clear, there's not been a

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trial on the merits of the -- of the lawsuit at this point.

SEN. BLAIR: No. There -- there has not been a trial or a hearing on the merits of the appeal at this point. So we are -- we are just operating under -- under an order that is up for appeal that will, I guess, be heard sometime in July.

SEN. FOIL: And -- and even on top of that, the only thing that was granted so far was a preliminary injunction. So even if the preliminary injunction were -- were to stand, the defendants would certainly have a right to go back to the trial court, to have a full-fledged trial on whether or not the -- the maps are out of compliance.

SEN. BLAIR: As far as I know, I'm -- I'm not exactly sure. I -- I -- I -- I know at some point there was a week long, I don't know if it was a trial or a hearing.

SEN. FOIL: Tr- -- trial and a preliminary injunction because the only thing that's been granted so far by the trial judge is a preliminary injunction. And so the- -- just trying to clarify for the record,

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there's some other things going on out there and as you -- you've already pointed out, the Fifth Circuit has already agreed to take up the argument on the preliminary injunction on the merits in July, but they've not ruled whether or not it's valid or not at this point.

SEN. BLAIR: They -- they have not ruled whether or not they will uphold or not uphold the district court's ruling at this time.

SEN. FOIL: And then, arguably the losing party could go at least apply for REITs to the Supreme Court if they -- they chose to do that.

SEN. BLAIR: They could.

SEN. FOIL: And so I put some amendments which Senator Fields was willing to accept which I appreciate on his bill regarding these contingencies. And it looks like you've already put that amendment in your bill. I'm looking --

SEN. BLAIR: Double checking. I think -- I think we added that language. I actually left -- I have the numbers and the --

SEN. FOIL: You do -- it's on -- it's on page

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-- it's on -- I'm looking for page 12, line 15. So I don't -- I don't think I need to add the amendment to your bill because I think you have that clarification language in here which -- which looks at what happens with the litigation.

SEN. BLAIR: Yes. It -- it is there and --

SEN. FOIL: So -- so I appreciate that language because if your bill were to pass, that gives the parties a chance to still look at the older map through the court process if they choose to do that.

SEN. BLAIR: No. I -- I think that's right. I mean, I -- I, my -- from my perspective, it -- having that language gives -- gives us the ability to operate under the current court order. But at the same time discussion as the process moves forward, if -- if the final ruling, whether it be the Supreme Court or whatever it may be, is something other than what has already passed, then -- then we would have decided what we wanted to replace it with as opposed to maybe the judicial system.

SEN. FOIL: And then -- and then really lastly, just about the map itself, I know you're doing

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the best you can with the data you have. All of us have suggestions to make things better, I would say.

But then it throws something else off as well. But something I really would want to look at and I'm not prepared to try to offer an amendment today because I just haven't had enough time to get with staff.

But if you look at the -- the new third district, it does include, actually where I live in East Baton Rouge Parish, and it's a pretty wide area from Cameron all the way to St. Bernard. So I would -- I would want to work with you Senator Ward on what you've done with East Baton Rouge Parish to see if we could tighten that up a little bit.

SEN. BLAIR: Look, I -- and I appreciate that. I -- I am open to, if this bill were to get -- were to make it to the floor, I'm open to really anything that keeps us in the vein or between the guardrails of complying with the -- the current court order that we're operating under. And so in terms of amendments to try and make the districts better or more suitable for representation, I'm -- I'm wide open to suggestions.

SEN. FOIL: Well, I appreciate that. Once

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again, these are somewhat unusual times with the -- with this deadline that we're under and all the uncertainty, but I appreciate your efforts because, you know, we're here to -- to act in good faith and -- and do what we can here. So thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, senator. And just kind of as a -- as a reminder, again, you know, the -- the position that this committee has taken is that, you know, we would work to do amendments in this committee so that the public has an opportunity to comment on those amendments as they did earlier on the amendments on Senate Bill 1.

You know, when we make a change in Vernon Parish, it -- there was a ripple effect in LaSalle and Grant and those folks had an opinion about that, and they shared that with us earlier today.

And so while we want to move things along and we understand there's a short timeline, you know, we also don't want to short circuit the transparency steps that are so important in redistricting because of course this is the map that we're going to live with for the next 10 years.

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So I just kind of wanted to put that on the record while we're talking about that. And I'd be remiss to, if I didn't talk about my former home parish of Calcasieu, it's also pretty significantly chopped up.

Again, you know, that's, you know, that -- one of the big messages that we got when we were at the road show and probably every month for five months leading up to the road show was from George Swift and the -- the folks over silver with the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development.

And one Acadiana reminded me that they see themselves as one group, one community of interest between Acadiana and the Lafayette Lake Charles area, basically, I will say. And so, you know, in -- in my way of looking at it, you've really not adhered to that -- that very, very, very strong message that we got, not just on the road show, but every time I got dragged into a -- a chamber meeting or a -- any kind of a panel discussion in that part of the state, they always made sure that I understood that that was their very strong preference. And so, you know, I do see that as a

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concern again of mine and that part of the -- that part of the state.

SEN. BLAIR: And look, I -- I understand that. I think that the more you can keep the communities of interest together, the better. My experience with having multiple congressmen, or even multiple legislators, or senators, or state representatives sharing parishes, is that, if done right, and if everybody works together, they can absolutely have stronger representation with multiple people.

But I -- I -- I do understand, Senator Price and I have been together before places where people say, well, which -- which one, you know, whose district do I live in? And we look at each other and say, we don't know, because there's literally a street, a neighborhood street, and some people on one side vote in one district, and some people on the other side vote in the other district. So it's -- it is part of the process of trying to keep everybody together as best as possible. And, but I do understand that.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. Senator Reese, are you ready?

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SEN. REESE: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Senator Ward, just -- just one -- one topic, and I won't get too deep into it, but one of the things we didn't -- we didn't necessarily spell out in name as we've discussed some of these maps is -- is one of -- one of the principles that you have to stay away from in redistricting that of -- of gerrymandering, you know, the drawing of a district solely for the purpose of -- of capturing one -- one political group or another.

You're -- you're -- you're an attorney I'm not, probably understand the concept better than I do. But -- but, you know, just the Rapides Parish, for instance, in your District 6, I mean, what -- what would be the -- what would be the point of that -- of that incursion into Rapides Parish and, you know, from the point where it begins to the point that it ends, if not gerrymandering.

SEN. BLAIR: Well, I'm sure that it could be seen as -- as gerrymandering, if that's the way you want to look at it. But in -- in terms of just trying to get enough overall population to stay within the

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deviation, you've -- you've got to find your way into populated areas to get the numbers where you need them to be.

And so from -- from my aspect or from my perspective, that doesn't necessarily always mean you're gerrymandering based on race, or party, or anything like that, but you've got to have enough population to make the district work numbers wise. [Talking over each other].

SEN. REESE: I mean if somebody else wants to -- to do that, I'm -- I'm okay with that. I mean, I -- I just -- yeah, and I -- and I appreciate that, Senator Ward. And I -- you know, it just -- it -- it just seems like that.

And we've seen this in multiple different versions, but that -- that district number six, you end up -- you end up having to go out. You know, it could be, you know, you could -- you could be using rivers as a boundary.

You could be using, you know, other subdivision or -- or municipal boundaries or, you know, whatever and it doesn't appear that that -- that that

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was necessarily the -- the -- the driving force behind selecting the precincts ultimately made up, you know, that the route through Rapides Parish, for instance. But --

SEN. BLAIR: And -- and I understand that and I think -- I think what you have to look at is whenever -- whenever all these different things and y'all know the criteria much better than I do.

But when they're all being weighted right by the court, they're all looked at and -- and, you know, carry a certain amount of weight. What I think we had to factor into drawing this map was the guardrails of what we needed to do in order to -- to create two majority black districts. And so --

SEN. REESE: But I -- I think that -- I think you -- you hit on, I mean, that -- that is the that's the difficult task at hand, is it's how do you --

SEN. BLAIR: It's a difficult thing to do.

SEN. REESE: -- how do you make your best effort at complying --

SEN. BLAIR: Which is why --

SEN. REESE: with supports recommendation. Oh,

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I see you have a -- you have a -- you have demonstrative tools there with you, but -- but I --

SEN. BLAIR: I might [talking over each other].

SEN. REESE: -- but I think that's, that's the difficulty is how do you achieve that task while avoiding gerrymandering, while avoiding all the other principles that -- that have to be utilized and are supposed to be utilized first, you know, as you begin to -- to draft these. And so I think it just kind of highlights the difficulty in doing so, and I -- I appreciate your effort at -- at trying to achieve it though.

SEN. BLAIR: That's right. I appreciate it. Thank you.

SEN. REESE: Thank you. But you can still go ahead and use your --

SEN. BLAIR: Oh. I'll set them here in case you need to look at them further.

SEN. REESE: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. The board is clear from the -- from the senators. I have a -- a few

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cards I'd like to -- to get to. The first we have -- we have two white cards here from fellow senator, Senator Talbot and Senator Mills. Would you all like to -- to speak Senator Talbot, Senator Mills?

MALE 4: You go first.

MALE 5: Thank you.

SEN. MILLS: Thank -- thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and appreciate the patience with us. And I have not spent a lot of time.

SEN. HEWITT: Senator, just -- senator introduce yourself, if you don't mind. We all know you, but maybe everyone else watching online does not.

SEN. MILLS: Thank you. And I'm Senator Robert Mills, District 36. And I was looking at this map for the first time and was concerned about the incursion into Senate District 36 of a new Congress person.

And, you know, obviously we get along in north Louisiana with Congressman Letlow and Congressman Johnson. We surely have our favorite of -- of -- of those, but that's personal of both highly qualified.

But Bossier Parish is split in this, and it concerned me when I looked at it at first that

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Congressman Johnson now currently serving in as a congressman for the Forest dis- -- district had been drawn out of the district.

But in fact, his current home is within a couple of miles of the line and he's in this district, but that's his current home. And, of course, quite a bit of Bossier parish and -- and Mrs. Johnson's home and family in Webster Parish are drawn out into the other districts.

So it did -- it did seem a bit intrusive that we've taken quite a bit of what has been historically congressional District Four represented so well by Congressman Mike Johnson and -- and brought in current Congressman from -- from District 5. And it just -- change is always uncomfortable, and I just wanted to express my opinion that I -- I feel like in -- in representing District 36 I would object to this map.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Senator, thank you. Senator Talbot, introduce yourself, please.

SEN. TALBOT: Thank you. I'm Kirk Talbot. I'm State Senator from District 10 which is East Jefferson Parish. And I just -- I don't want to be redundant, but

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I just want to point out in my area, you know, for the first time I've ever seen, you know, we're taking north Kenner and -- and cracking east Jefferson and putting it in, I guess, it'd be District 2.

And then you have, I guess, what -- what concerns me is that the continuity of communities seem to be gone out the window with this map. I mean, you have Lakeview mids- -- parts of Mid-City in the uptown area, around [inaudible] in District 1, which is a very conservative district.

Then you take out the very conservative areas of north Kenner which is a lot of folks and put it in with District 2. And it, you know, that to me makes no sense. And -- and I won't, again, I won't beat a dead horse, but I just want to point out that, you know, looking at this map, it -- it becomes clearer and clearer to me that -- is that my cue? Is that --

MALE 5: [Inaudible].

SEN. TALBOT: I got it. So that being said, I'd just like to say it -- it just -- there's no community continuity in my area of -- of interest. So I'd be happy to answer any questions, if there are any,

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but I appreciate you giving us the time.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. I don't -- I don't see any questions on the board. Thank y'all for your time being here today and --

SEN. TALBOT: Thank you.

SEN. HEWITT: -- and helping us to better understand your areas. Okay. I've got some cards in support here wishing to speak, Checo Yancy from [inaudible], wishing to speak. And Jay Frankie Hires [ph] present would like to speak as well. So if y'all would like to both come to the table.

MR. HIRES: Good afternoon. My name's Frankie Hires from Jefferson Parish. I'm traveling for, I believe, the seventh or eighth occasion on this -- on this effort. Principled representation, it might matter, right? It's why we end up here.

I was just over at the other room, speaking to this a bit. Jefferson Parish with 440,000 citizens, Baton Rouge with over 456,000 would've been the second, third largest states in this union when we first enumerated.

And you don't have to wait 10 years; you have

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to do it within 10 years. Though in 1920, we failed at the federal level. Is there a union if you fail to do what you're obliged to do? Has a contract been nullified? I don't know. You don't want to address that here.

But you don't have to wait 10 years to correct for this. That's for sure. The constitution's clear about that. It's within 10 years that you must do this again. That being said, we've all sworn an oath to defend the constitution, support the constitution, the oath of affirmation, article six, right?

I did as a census worker. When it comes to trying to deal with this issue of minorities, it's -- it's a floating thing, right? This is changing all the time. Black folk are going to double their population in the next predicted 20 years by the census figures. They'll go from 13 to 15 percent of the national population.

The demographic is going to increase by the greatest margin and -- and trust. Non-Hispanic white folk right here, we're the only ones losing. We've topped out. We're opting in with the other races

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because two or more races are going to 400 percent growth. 400 percent growth for two or more races.

What happens when one of those people decides to define themselves as black? What's going to happen to your apportionment then? You're districting then. You see in questions of power, the distribution of power, as a Jeffersonian Republican, Thomas Jefferson said this, let no more be heard about a confidence in man.

I don't want to have to count on you to do the right thing. I don't want to have to count on you to be fair or equitable or any other such idealistic notion. He said to bind them down from mischief, by the chains of a constitution.

But if we don't comprehend the document or what the very fundamental words say, representatives and direct taxes put pin in the latter one because I'm sure none of you know what direct taxes are, but direct taxes and representatives are to be apportioned among the several states, according to the respective numbers.

And if you understand, article four, section

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four, we're obliged that at the state level. We surrendered this in 1842 on June 25th, as a matter of fact, next Saturday a week from tomorrow, we'll mark the 180th anniversary since John Tyler signed away principled representation and the work of the 27th Congress.

So March 4th, 1843, when that 28th Congress is seated, you can no longer constitutionally speaking, get much done. And what ends up happening, right? Secession, abolition, a costly Civil War, Jim Crow, reconstruction.

Robber barons to prohibition, suffrage, prohibitions repeal. Y'all have seen this pendulum. It's feeling like 1977 to me right now. We rationed gas back in 1970, some of you might remember that. I was in California. Trust me. We knew about it, right?

What makes up a minority and how we're going to resolve these things requires some considerations of the principles that guide for this. When that first bill was -- was passed in 1792, narrowly, by one seat in -- in one chamber and two in the other, they had no principles at all for explaining the outcome.

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They came to just intolerable results could not be o- --objected to from the north, from the south, from industrial agrarian. And if it had been obtained by any means prescribed within the constitution, it had been fine.

Jefferson found that it had not because it provided for two ratios of representation. It's amazing how, when I'm sitting in these special sessions, none of you, not one person, not the representatives, nobody wants to see their parish or their community dissected.

But 55 plus parishes serve more than one master. The representative does at the state level. We've got no sense of what it means to have principled representation because it's been 180 years since we knew what it meant.

Republican form, you're guaranteed it at the state level. That's why I've been to these meetings. Y'all are supposed to take a heads up on this. You're supposed to go look into it. I can't find anybody because nobody's coming to me and asking me afterwards.

Polly won't come see me. She tried to redistrict me out of my district. That's the best y'all

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could do. It's just silly. So he goes on to say, if you permit the large fraction of one parish or one state to choose a representative for one of the smaller fractions in another state or another parish, you take from the latter its election.

And this constitutes real representation and substitute a virtual representation of disenfranchised fraction, and the tendency of the doctrine, the vi- -- virtual representation, anybody know what the doctrine of virtual representation refers to? Any y'all?

That's the Revolutionary War. No taxation without representation, but nobody knows what direct taxes are. Nobody knows what the principles of indirect taxation are. Jefferson Parish taxes West Bank, half a percent less for hospitality industry than it does the East Bank.

That defies the constitution itself but nobody knows what the document says. So y'all swear an oath, but it's become perfunctory. The apportioned bill that actually did pass after the veto, the first veto, George Washington's veto, to ensure that we'd have a basic divisor, principles to prescribe for future

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apportionments.

That bill reads as such; House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected agreeably to a ratio of one member for every, at the time 33,000. You know what our ratio is today for this, what you're doing? 776,000 people. Each one of those reps has got to try and speak for.

I don't care who -- who's voting for them. They're not listening to anybody. They can't. How could they? The only people any of these six representatives are ever going to be able to listen to is the biggest employer, and I found out it's the federal government.

Vernon parish has the biggest employer. Po- -- Polk -- Polk Base, army base, right? That's the biggest employer in the state. And you know who the next biggest employer of the state is? The state.

And this isn't a place where I live with -- I'm a Republican. I live in a socialized state, completely socialized. The two biggest employers are the federal government and the state government.

Anybody care for free market capitalism? There's no such thing. [Inaudible] free markets I beat

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you over the head and take your stuff, and that's free kind of, I guess. Point is that, principle representation matters. I need you all to consider this.

I need you to establish some principles to guide for future apportionments. Consider this greatly. You've sworn an oath to do it. You've sworn an oath to actually care about the things that I'm trying to get to you. I'd appreciate it if y'all would do something about it, more than give us lip service.

Look, the minority here in Jeffers- -- in Louisiana, isn't black people. I said this over at the other room. This is your census report. 40 something parishes, right? 40 something parishes, all losing population. The rules are the minority. The rules are the minority.

And they've held power, more power than they were entitled to going back to probably the formation of the state because they could. I don't fault a shark for being a shark, but at some point, you're going to run out of food, right? So you got to figure out how to -- how to give up some of the power from the north and

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the west that you've had principally.

So you got six representatives. How about this, right? Rules are -- that's the minority district. So let's set aside one district to just be rural parishes. And then go ahead and let East Baton Rouge be the home for one pa- -- for one district.

Jefferson, be the home for a second district. Orleans, be the home for a third district and so on, down to St. Tammany and Lafayette. Now, Caddo Parish would make like a third black district if it was the home, but I'm not asking you overreach or to really consider that.

But five parishes from East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Tammany, Lafayette with 221,000 plus should not be suffering virtual representation that we got away from in the Revolutionary War.

You could do better. Jefferson said this. If I find -- if we find the people lacking, if I find the people lacking for the enlightenment required to exercise their discretion, exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, that is, if I find them lacking for the enlightenment required to exercise their

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control with a wholesome discretion, the solution would not be to take it from them. Not you.

You're just a reflection of our neglect and opportunism, right? I'm not going to take the power from you. No, he says the solution is to inform their discretion. And that is a true corrective for cons- -- constitutional abuses of power.

You got to inform your discretion as to why. How we empower an office of trust has to begin to matter more to all of us than who holds it. Y'all are term limited. You're gone. Before I can find out what you did wrong, you're already onto your next gig. I appreciate the time. Thank you much.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. Hires. Mr. Yancy.

MR. YANCY: Wow. I really know now what it is sitting next to a Republican.

SEN. HEWITT: Come and visit this committee more often. You'll never know what you might have here.

MR. YANCY: And -- and -- and, you know first of all, my name is Checo Yancy. I represent -- I work for Vote and I'm former incarcerated person. And I gained my voting rights a couple years ago and, you

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know, trying to be a part of the community and do the right thing, but I tell you, wow.

You know, I think we are here today because the federal judge said that we need two minority districts. And I was really shocked when -- when -- when -- when a young man said, white folks are losing. And I'm saying, wow, first time I heard that.

But in history, history is, you know, sometime it repeats itself. What we are here to hear today and what I'm -- what I'm in for is that we get the two minority districts and I hope that we would do the right thing. We had an opportunity, I've been to several of the road shows and testified, and think my voice was not heard.

I think a lot of other people's voice was not heard. But I'm here today to say that you -- you -- you ladies and -- ladies and gentlemen, you know, you hear the bills, the instruments, and you make a law and we have to follow it.

If I don't follow it, then I get in trouble and go before a judge and then I have to mandate it to follow it, am I correct? Well, the judges said that we

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need to do the right thing and, you know, every -- somebody's district going to get cut up. Somebody's district going to get separated.

But in the end, we want to be fair. We want to make sure that we understand that everybody has an equal opportunity. A second minority district would give that opportunity in Congress to have an opportunity to have a voice that somebody can listen to what I'm saying or in that other district, what he's saying or she's saying.

You know, we want to make sure that ladies and gentlemen, again, let's just do the right thing. Why do we need the federal judge to tell us to do when you're reading the paper yesterday that Representative Schexnayder and Senator Cortez got called.

They went to see the judge and the judge said, hey, either you do it or I'm going to do it. And that's where we are. That's where we are today. And I'm asking you to take into consideration.

You voted down Senator Cleo Fields, and now we got Senator Ward coming in, trying to do something. And let's listen, you know, with -- with our organization

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Vote, you know, we -- we believe in being a part of the community and giving back, you know.

And I heard someone earlier talking about being bust [ph] all over. Well, guess what? We've been bust for years. As black people, we've been bust out our neighborhood to other places to, you know, to make it look good or whatever. So we don't -- we can't use that excuse.

But we should in the light of the law, and I've heard several committee members say in the committees, the color of the law. Let's do what the federal judge say. Let's get those two districts, get it done.

And in my organization, what we say all the time is, no surrender, no retreat. We'll be here fighting, and I'm here. Thank you. I'll take any questions if they any. But thank you for allowing me to sit next to a Republican and that was good today.

SEN. HEWITT: I'm sure he feels just as fortunate to sit next to a Democrat. All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Yancy.

MR. YANCY: Thank you.

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SEN. HEWITT: All right. We have a few other cards here in support, not wishing to speak Edgar Cage with Together Louisiana, Ashley Shelton, the Power Coalition, Terry Landry, Jr. SPLC Action Fund and Devonte Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project.

Those were in support, not wishing to speak. President opposition, not wishing to speak Mary Susie Labrie. I've been practicing on that. Okay.

MS. LABRIE: It's beautiful. A plus.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you. All right. And I believe you all have -- I believe it's one letter in opposition to SB3 from Keely McGibney [ph] from one Katie Anna. That's in your folder. All right. Have I missed anything else? Any other emails or cards? Okay. Senator Ward, would you like to close on your bill? S-- Senator Ward before you close, would you be willing to take a question from President Cortez?

SEN. WARD: Absolutely.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. And Senator Ward, and I have spoken offline about this, but I feel compelled to put it on the record. Yesterday, during, I think it was Senator Fields bill, the parish

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president from Lafayette King as did -- as did a member of the -- the city councils from Scott and a number of different people relative to Lafayette Parish and the -- and the -- the dividing of Lafayette Parish.

So this bill does basically the same thing. It -- it, doesn't -- it's not a whole lot different in that regard, in that area. And a lot has been said during this debate and I -- I appreciate the passion and debate and I love -- I'm a former civics and history teacher, so I love all of that stuff, you know, so everybody that brings a different angle to the debate.

I love talking about the Revolutionary War. I -- I always thought it a good job if I could keep the kids awake during discussion of the Revolutionary War. But Senator Ward's bill is -- and I commend him, it's something different that we haven't heard.

So it kind of hits people really between the eyes and kind of shakes you up and says, okay, we've seen Senator Fields bill. We saw it in the regular se-- -- for previous special session. We've seen a lot of similar bills that basically took the fifth

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congressional district and made it into a second black district.

This one appears to be a something that's just a little different than all of those. While it does that, it -- it does shake up a few things. It shakes up cer- -- certainly the third which I currently reside in that now beco- -- I become, I think I reside now in the fourth.

And if I believe, and the third moves to the coast a little further, just south to the coast. So it does conf- -- create some confusion, I -- I grant that. This would not be a bill that I would be willing to support because doing the right thing is voting your constituency.

Following the judge's order is different in that this -- and I think there's been a lot of confusion with regards to the federal judge's order because I've watched many times, and I've seen, and I'm going to tell if you will give me the latitude, I want to tell a quick story.

I saw a courtroom now, I wasn't in the courtroom at the time I saw a courtroom where there was

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a -- I was told by my clerk of court, that there was a jury selection and they asked a potential juror for the murder trial. They said, would you be willing to be, you know, willing to listen to all of the evidence before you made a decision?

And he said, yes, I would. He said, wha- -- are -- do you have any preconceived notions? And he said, if the police arrested him, he's guilty. And then I've also seen when people get convicted of murder at the district court, and we don't immediately say, hang him, or shoot him, or put him in the electric chair.

We say, they're on appeal. They go to a second court. And then if they get, you know, the same ruling, we don't say immediately run over there, and before the 20th of next month, you got to have them -- you got to have them in the electric chair.

We say, let it play out to the Supreme Court. In fact, we passed bills recently, and I know Senator Foil and I were in the house at the time when we passed the bill out of House appropriations to give a man who came to the table, who had spent some 30 something years in jail and he had been released because they

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found DNA evidence to prove that he was not guilty.

And so we put into law, I think $150,000 to make up for the number of years he spent in jail. So with that, I'm going to -- I'm going to say that the judge that I did go in front of yesterday to ask for more time because I truly do believe that this is a too short a period of time.

And she asked me on the record, will you do everything you can to expedite the process? To which I said, I am one vote out of 143, but I will do what I can judge to expedite the process. And so the- -- there is -- but I did also mention to her and to the court that we are bound by the constitution, the statutes, and the rules of the Senate, and the rules of the house, and the ru- -- and the joint rules of the legislature.

And I mentioned to him that one of the rules of the House is it requires a two-thirds vote to suspend those rules. The Senate is not under that same hurdle. We can suspend with a -- with a majority of those president voting. So we can move around and do business a little quicker than the House can. They take

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a little longer to maneuver.

This is the last instrument that -- that is in front of this committee and effectively the last instrument that would be in front of the Senate. Absent of the House sending us an instrument to deal with. My understanding is the House has taken up their instruments today.

I understand. I just -- I just spoke to someone in the -- in the house. They're going to take up another instrument that apparently has got some amendments being proposed to it tomorrow. And so at this point in time, absent of us moving forward, a bill, we have no more business in the Senate.

And so again, I'm going to circle back to my very first statement. I don't like the bill in the current form. I wouldn't vote for the bill in the current form. I'm not a member of this committee other than ex officio, but I know that in talking to Senator Ward, he knows I don't like the -- the elements that I can't explain to my district, that I could vote for it on final passage.

But I do also understand in a process, that if

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this bill gets deferred in this committee, there is no instrument in the Senate. That being said, even if the bill were amended to where they could -- to where he could get 20 votes on his instrument, there's no guarantee the House would pass it, or even hear it, or even suspend the rules to put it in committee.

So we find ourselves a little bit at a quagmire, but I'm going to say that I appreciate Senator Ward bringing the instrument, at least in an attempt to give something different that hasn't been the same. I'm going to say retread of the same arguments and -- and to defer bills or not defer bills that you've already deferred.

The last thing I'll say is that yesterday at the end of the -- of the courtroom was in a trial, I guess it was just a hearing. When I was relieved and I could have left, I stayed and -- and the judge did tell both the plaintiffs and the defendants that she was ordering them to put together maps, remedial maps, the lawyers.

She told the lawyers, go put together remedial maps and get them back to me as soon as possible. Now,

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I have to say on the -- the one hand, I -- I take offense in that -- and I don't take personal offense by the way. I only take the offense that the court is now saying the legislature is doing nothing, is going to do nothing, and I know that in advance.

So it's almost like the -- the judge has said, I've predetermined the outcome, and I'm going to get -- pick the map I want to pi- -- pick anyway. So that just came down and I wanted to make you all aware that I just got a notification that they are required to have those maps by June 22nd to the court.

And they'll have an opportunity to, I guess, debate on either side, the merits of the map. And so to suggest that somehow if his map doesn't get passed or his map has been deferred, your map's not been taken up, if the House doesn't have a map, there's going to be a map.

And that's the first thing I'll -- I'll say, there's going to be a map with two minority districts. So for anybody who wants two minority districts to be in the map, there's going to be one.

Secondly it hasn't been totally adjudicated

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and the merits have not been heard yet and they're going to at some point. And -- and I don't know which side's going to -- going to be right or wrong and I say it on the very last day of the first special session, I think I -- I recall saying that we overrode the -- the governor's veto and -- and I said the governor and the executive branch opposed this map that the legislature had put forward; as a coequal branch it had a right to do that.

And the courts, the other third branch was going to weigh in at the time. I didn't think it would be the federal courts and didn't know, thought it might be the state courts, but it could have well been the federal courts. And while they are a different level, and it's really a federalism issue, more so than a three branches of government.

But I think my point still holds that two of the three branches are going to decide if that first map was legal and constitutional. Now, note, I don't believe any judge can tell an elected official that they have to come in here and do a particular thing.

We're trying to do something, no more so than

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we could legislate that a state district judge call a case on a particular day, or that we tell the secretary of the department of transportation he has to let a contract on a particular day. They execute the law. We don't. We make the law. They don't.

And the way we make it is through our process of the constitution, the statutes, and the rules of our body. And so -- so with that, I'm -- I'm just going to say, I -- I don't have -- I don't have a vote in this committee.

But as a Senate, if -- if this bill were -- this bill were to be reported to the full Senate, then at least there would be still opportunity to debate if, and only if the House would move an instrument out of their committee so that we know that they would at least be receptive of a Senate instrument if it got to them that they would be willing to suspend the rules.

Other than that, anything other than that today, we have done our business here in the Senate, and we are sitting in the proverbial bullpen waiting for the House to -- to be -- to play ball. So I know that was a little longwinded Madam Chair, but I wanted

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to get everything on the record, a), that this bill is not something that I could go back home and explaining voting for on final passage.

But I know Senator Ward's intent and he said it earlier was to work with everybody to attempt to make it into a posture that some people could vote for. And -- and then also to state that it is only, only a backup plan if on final jurisdiction the other map were to be ruled unconstitutional. So with that, as I tell you always, do the right thing and the right thing is to represent your people from back home. And -- and so thank you for the [inaudible].

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President, thank you for your words and -- and kind of catching everybody up to -- up to speed and -- and up to date, so very well said. All right, Senator Ward to close on your bill.

SEN. WARD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Members, look, y'all have been at this for a very long time. I appreciate the opportunity to present the bill. I think i- -- if you could just keep a couple of things in mind as -- as we move forward with the vote, however, that

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turns out.

One of the things that I think stuck out to me the most in terms of talking about the map itself was, did it break up community of interest and were -- were parishes, or towns, or cities going to have multiple congressmen?

And what I would like to say to that is, my current senate district, the nine par- -- out of the nine parishes I represent currently in the -- from the 2011 map, six of those nine parishes have multiple congressional members for their representation, six of the nine.

So that's -- that's not an uncommon thing. That's something that happens. It's -- it's going to happen somewhere in the state. Under our current districts, it just so happens that it -- it -- it's the region that I'm from. So that is -- that is one thing to keep in mind.

The other thing that we talk about a lot in this building is -- and the president alluded to it just a -- a few minutes ago, there's three branches of government. We're the legislative branch. All we're

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asking for with this particular bill is to put something in place that we -- that we chose together as a body in case not -- not -- it's not a guarantee, but in case once the judicial process runs its course.

And if the map that we -- that we already passed is struck down, that this would -- would take effect. Now, for -- for myself as somebody that practices law, whenever you go in front of a judge, we ask for similar things all the time.

And what we do is, you go into court and whether it be a motion or some sort of hearing, or anything, if they're going to rule on it and make a judgment, you say, judge, this is what I really want, but if you're not inclined to do that, how about this?

And I really think that that's what we're doing here, but we're having a say in it. Because if we don't move forward and -- and put this on the floor in a way that we can at least attempt to continue to build consensus around something, then we take ourselves out of the equation completely, and we -- we rely solely on the judicial system to make that decision.

So all I ask today is -- is that you give it a

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fair shot and you give us the opportunity to continue to try and build consensus around something. I don't know that if -- if it -- if we find out that the house is going to make it clear that they are not going to build a work with us to build a consensus around something. I don't know that we need to move forward with it, but if we don't move forward with this instrument today, we'll never have that opportunity to know.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank you, Senator. Senator Tarver?

SEN. TARVER: Senator Ward, I -- I -- I'm looking at your bill is a lot to be desired about your bill. But I know you -- you brought the build a good faith, and I think that you really want to do the -- the right thing. I look at the minority districts and around 52 percent it need to be a little -- little higher.

I know you are willing to -- you are open to amendments on the floor. And I think that we can do something to make this building show good faith to the people of Louisiana, and also basically to the people

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of Louisiana. That is what we are concerned about.

I know we need to get something out of here. So if we don't get anything out of here, we'll be gone today and the -- the House might get something out of committee. I don't really know, but I can't be concerned about the House. I got to be fair myself. And I think that you have a pretty good bill.

I like north Louisiana, but I have to look at the whole state as a whole. You could increase a little bit in a lot -- a little bit, basically in -- in the minority community, the two districts that you have. So I'm going to make a motion to report this bill favorable.

MALE 6: Substitute motion. It did not amend it.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. I was just checking to -- to see if we -- we had no amendments on this bill, right?

MALE 6: No.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Okay. Senator Allain?

SEN. ALLAIN: I -- I can -- I cannot go along with reporting this bill favorably. But I do believe

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that we need to keep an instrument alive, at least in the interim. So I'm going to make a substitute motion that we report this bill with no action.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. All right. So Senator Tarver made a motion to report the bill favorable. Senator Allain made a motion to report it with no action. A substitute motion. I will make a substitute motion. Can I do a substitute on substitute?

SEN. ALLAIN: Nope. You can't.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Okay. All right. So Senator Allain the vote -- the Senator Allain has moved that we report the bill without action. So a vote, yes, would be to do so, that would send the bill to the floor. A vote, no, would have us go back to the original motion. [Inaudible]. Okay. So, all right. So let me just read again. So a vote, yes, would send the bill to the floor with no action. A vote, no, would allow us to go back to the original motion. Let's see.

FEMALE 2: We're ready?

FEMALE 3: We're trying to explain this. You go back to the original motion just to report it [inaudible]. [Talking over each other].

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SEN. HEWITT: All right. I'm sorry. Put all that back on the record. So we were trying to make sure that everybody understands what the motion is.

MALE 7: Madam? Madam?

FEMALE 4: Thank you. [Talking over each other].

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Why do we always get all the interesting motions here? All right. Okay. So again, just for the record, Senator Allain, did you want to say something else? No. Okay. Okay. I'll take you off then. Are -- are you on?

SEN. ALLAIN: No.

SEN. HEWITT: All right.

SEN. ALLAIN: [Inaudible] motion.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So Senator Allain's substitute motion is to report the bill without action which would send the bill to the floor. So a vote, yes, would be to report it with no action and send it to the floor. A vote, no, will take us back to the earlier motion, and I'll explain that if we get that -- to that point. Okay? So if you will, Madam Secretary, call the roll.

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MADAM SECRETARY: Senator Milligan?
SEN. MILLIGAN: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Allain?
SEN. ALLAIN: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Foyle?
SEN. FOTLE: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Harris?
SEN. HARRIS: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Price?
SEN. PRICE: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Reese?
SEN. REESE: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Tarver?
SEN. TARVER: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Senator Womack?
SEN. WOMACK: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. Senator Hewitt?
SEN. HEWITT: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. That is five yeas and four nays.
SEN. HEWITT: Okay. So that bill gets reported without action.

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MALE 6: Chairman. Move that we adjourn.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. I- -- is there any other business before this committee? Then we sta- -- Senator Tarver moves that we adjourn.

SEN. TARVER: Thank you, members. [Talking over each other].

MALE 8: Let me know before we do anything else.

SEN. TARVER: I will. I know. If I have to prepare for the floor, I definitely will. I'll call -- I -- I just want to better prepare for some of those little [inaudible] if I get all the detail, maybe I know you done those --

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June 23, 2022

Chris Naaden

(453585, 1. Senate Committee June 17)

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Exhibit D

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Transcript of Louisiana State House Redistricting Committee

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Date: June 17, 2022
Case: Transcription Services

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TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO-RECORDED

TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA STATE HOUSE

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

JUNE 17, 2022

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Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 352

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members in public, I'm going to call the committee on house and governmental affairs to order. Today's Friday June the 17th. Please if you have a cell phone, please silence it. If you'd like to give testimony please fill out a card.

White for information, green is support, red in opposition. Additionally on some housekeeping, all the bills on the calendar today deal with redistricting. Obviously that's why we're here. That's for the call.

And we do have our committee clerk here, Mr. Harrington, who if any of the members would like to pull any of the maps up and -- and focus in on them, we have that ability to be able to do that here today. So you just have to let us know if you'd like to do that. With that said, we're going to go ahead and call the roll. Ms. Ammersbach, please read the roll.

CLERK: Chairman Stefanski.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Present.

CLERK: Present. Vice Chairman Duplessis.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Here.

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CLERK: Present. Representative Boyer. Representative Wilford Carter.

REP. CARTER: Present.

CLERK: Present. Representative Deshotel.

REP. DESHOTEL: Present.

CLERK: Present. Representative Furnam.

REP. FURNAM: Here.

CLERK: Present. Representative Gadbury.

REP. GADBURY: Here.

CLERK: Present Representative Horton. Is she here?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She's here.

CLERK: Present. Representative Ivy. Present. Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: Here.

CLERK: Present. Representative Mike Johnson here.

REP. JOHNSON: Here.

CLERK: Present Representative LaCombe. Representative Lyons.

REP. LYONS: Present.

CLERK: Present Representative Magee.

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REP. MAGEE: Present.
CLERK: Present Representative Newell.
REP. NEWELL: Here.
CLERK: Present Representative Thomas.
REP. THOMAS: Here.
CLERK: Present Representative White. 14 members.
MR. CHAIRMAN: 14 members in a quorum. Members, additionally today a-- --as we -- as we go through this docket we -- I'm not going to put a time limit on. I want to give everybody an opportunity to say what they need to say. And -- and I know these are -- these are important bills we're debating so I'm -- I'm not going to do a time limit.
However, I would ask that the members, you know, you get one bite at the apple. So while you're on the mic think about all your questions, choose those questions wisely, because we are going to try to keep this thing moving. But I don't -- I don't want to stifle debate.
I don't want to encourage, rather I want to encourage everyone to be able to say what they need to

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say today and the public to be able to participate and say what they need to say. With that said this morning members, I'm going to start with HB2 by Speaker Schexnayder. If you'd like to come to the table. Mr. Speaker, whenever you're ready.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you, chairman. Thank you members for being here today. I want to thank you all for being here today, and I understand how difficult this task is before you. I know that the tensions are high. Just look on Facebook, look on social media. I'm asking each one of you to look past all of that.

I'm asking each one of you to listen intently, and as you make your decisions remember why you were elected. You were each elected to represent the people of your district. That's your job. Your decisions and your vote is yours alone to make. Members, I'm asking that you continue to do what you have always done.

And that is to listen, that is to let the democratic process work out, and allow any person who wishes to speak have a voice. At the end of the day, if you do that, you vote your conscience, you vote your

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district, you have no one to apologize to and nothing to apologize for. I filed this bill as a placeholder bill, as an instrument to be used if needed, just like we do in any other session. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I don't plan to move this bill today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The speaker doesn't plan to move this, members. So what I'm going to do is I am going to read the cards though, because if -- if people came here to testify I want to give everyone an opportunity to -- to have a say. That's what -- that was the point of giving us extra time. So the first card I have in support is Mitchell Marmande.

REP. MAGEE: [Inaudible]. Come on, man. It's a [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Well Tanner. I should have let you read it, but I didn't recognize Tanner, so I wouldn't have known it was him anyway. But Mitchell, if you'd like to come down. Yes, sir.

REP. DESHOTEL: You have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hold on. State your point.

REP. DESHOTEL: If it's not being moved why are we taking testimony on it?

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Because I want to give the public an opportunity to -- to, if they came here and if they came here for this bill, I -- I want to be transparent and give them an opportunity to talk. And that includes all the cards, green, red, white, anything we have.

REP. DESHOTEL: All right. That would -- that -- that would also mean we could ask questions of the people that's testifying?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

REP. DESHOTEL: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. All right. Yes sir, whenever you're ready.

REP. MARMANDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm here just as a representative of my Bayou region. I'm from Houma, Louisiana. I own a civil engineering firm in Houma, Louisiana. My main focus of work is managing the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System.

I've done that for 15 years for the Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District. I also serve as president of the South Central Industrial Association

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which represents about 200 member companies throughout the Bayou region. In addition to that, I serve on the board of a community bank.

And what I -- I -- I just want our voice heard, you know, 10 years ago we were up here, members of chamber of commerce and SCIA when redistricting was occurring and -- and our main goal was to keep the communities of Terrebonne and Lafourche together, because we felt we had similar interests and we needed the same voice in Congress.

And we fought and fought and obviously it didn't turn out that way. We ended up with three representatives across the coast of Louisiana, but it ended up being one of the biggest blessings that we could imagine. Unfortunately, since 2010 we have been impacted by hurricanes Delta, Isaac, Ida, Laura, Zeta, Barry, and probably a few that I'm leaving off.

And my principal responsibility is that hurricane recovery effort for the Levee District. I cannot emphasize enough how important it's been having three representatives in Congress for us. I don't believe our communities could have recovered as well as

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we are recovering without that voice.

You know, it seems to me like the coastal legislators do not look at district lines and they -- and we suffer the same -- the same perils, you know? I mean, the west part of the state was impacted a few years ago by Laura and Delta and last year Ida was devastating to our particular region.

So, you know, the coastal economy that, you know, that we work to protect is important for the entire state. I think -- I think in the last few years it's remarkable to see what type of federal investment that we've had imparted upon us. I know for my project, Morganza, which has been principally funded entirely by the state and the local government for the last 15 years, for the first time in our history we received $400 million of federal money.

And this is a massive system over a 98 mile levee and floodgate system that protects Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. So I would urge you to support House Build 2. I know that we're -- there's no action on it today, but we have been truly blessed by our representation across the state in the last 10 years.

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And -- and it's just so -- I mean, we have such a unique area with fisheries, with -- with the industry that we have in our area. It is so important to the economy of the entire state, and I think, you know, the districts as they have been in -- in House Build 2 protects that way for all -- all of the people of South Louisiana. So I would urge that support.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We do have a question. Mr. Pro Tem.

REP. MAGEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for being here, Mr. Marmande. I -- I think one of the incredible things is last -- when we did redistricting the first time we didn't get a lot of coastal voices here and I'm glad you're here to kind of tell our story. You work on Morganza to the Gulf as your primary purpose of civil engineering, is that fair to say?

REP. MARMANDE: Yes, sir.

REP. MAGEE: And where is Morganza at?

REP. MARMANDE: Morganza is I think in Pointe Coupee Parish.

REP. MAGEE: Okay. It's in Pointe Coupee

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Parish so it's pretty -- it's somewhat in the interior but our -- our alignment system goes all the way from Morganza.

REP. MARMANDE: Right. And Morganza is -- is confusing and its name and that it actually -- it actually entice -- entails the whole basin from the West [inaudible] River from Morganza all the way to the Gulf.

REP. MAGEE: So there's a -- there's a community of interest there between Morganza and coastal Louisiana. Is that fair to say?

REP. MARMANDE: Absolutely. I think what we're doing on the Southern end actually protects the economy of the whole state, not -- not just our area. It's protecting our lives and property directly, but it's protecting much more than that.

REP. MAGEE: And realistically speaking, congressional district six and one under this map have sitting Congressman. Have you had the opportunity to communicate with those congressmen? Have you found that they have been responsive to all your -- the needs of coastal Louisiana?

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REP. MARMANDE: So in my job, I mean, I have direct contact with them. In fact, I'm just getting back from Washington this past week. So, but yes, I mean, I -- I can pick up the phone and call, and I mean, you know, we don't have to call them after a storm.

They're calling us to see what we need, which is a pretty amazing thing to happen. And -- and -- and there's no learning curve. Of course, you know, representatives change, but -- but that -- that tie to the coast, I think, is what -- is the most important thing.

REP. MAGEE: And -- and in the six years I've been elected I know you and I have talked a lot and I think you would agree with me that my main focus here at the legislature has always been about coastal protection levies. That's been the reason why I ran.

I talked to you when I first ran for office, that was the whole reason why I was running. So that's a pretty big deal in Terrebonne Parish and Lafourche Parish, coast protection. Is that correct?

REP. MARMANDE: I -- I think it's the -- the

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number one issue in our area, you know?Certainly after Ida it's even more to the forefront.

REP. MAGEE: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pro Tem for question, Representative LaCombe.

REP. LACOMBE: I just wanted to -- so in the maps that I'm looking at on district, as we were talking, we talked about Pointe Coupee, and I think the speaker pro tem raised out the issue that, you know, there's community interest between the Gulf and the flood zones. And -- and I'm very familiar with the -- the Morganza structure because I live there.

REP. MARMANDE: Right.

REP. LACOMBE: And I represent Pointe Coupee Parish. But in this map, Pointe Coupee Parish is not based in the community interest with the zone, it's actually based in the Monroe District.

So, you know, that's something that we had talked about through redistricting because currently we are represented by a congressmen out of capital region area, but under this map on some of the other proposed maps that have passed, Pointe Coupee was taken out.

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So basically the top part of your structure where the levee systems begin at the old river control structure, both levees on the -- the Mississippi Riverside and the [inaudible] side where the actual structure starts and -- and the cove engineers maintains, that entire structure now is not in the congressional district of the coastal zone. Is that correct?

REP. MARMANDE: I -- I don't believe that it is, but I'm not certain about that. Now that structure is not a part of the Morganza to the Gulf System, per se. That is a core --

REP. LACOMBE: That's a core structure.

REP. MARMANDE: A core structure.

REP. LACOMBE: But levee start right there.

REP. MARMANDE: For the levees. Yeah. You're right.

REP. LACOMBE: Protection levees that sit on both sides are -- are there.

REP. MARMANDE: That's the -- the edge of our boundary.

REP. LACOMBE: Yeah. So that's where it

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starts, and that whole entire structure, and I say structure but let's go the entire levee system on both sides, the Mississippi River side and the [inaudible] side come to a parallel from you, it -- it feeds up to like a bottleneck. Correct?

REP. MARMANDE: That's -- that's true.

REP. LACOMBE: And so both levees are right there in Point Coupee, but that Pointe Coupee is not in the coastal zone congressional district. Correct?

REP. MARMANDE: It is not.

REP. LACOMBE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Deshotel.

REP. DESHOTEL: So to -- to the same question, I'm looking at all four maps and I don't see Pointe Coupee in the coastal zone in any of the maps. Do -- have you reviewed any of these maps?

REP. MARMANDE: I -- I have not reviewed -- reviewed them since yesterday, so I'm just going off of memory, but I do not believe they are.

REP. DESHOTEL: Okay. I'm just curious what -- where the question was going because I don't see them in any -- any of the maps. Thank you.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, he asked this question, you -- you made your point. We're good. All right, that clears all the questions today. Thank you very much for your testimony today.

REP. MARMANDE: Thank you for your time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Jenkins, I'm sorry. Representative Jenkins. Representative Jenkins. I apologize. Didn't see. [Inaudible].

REP. JENKINS: Not -- not a problem, Mr. Chairman. So and I do understand you have a focus about the recovery on storms and -- and that's an important issue to you, is that right?

REP. MARMANDE: Absolutely.

REP. JENKINS: But don't you think all of the citizens of this state should have their voices heard in Congress?

REP. MARMANDE: Absolutely.

REP. JENKINS: And do you think that this particular map is allowing all of our citizens to have their voices heard in Louisiana? Have you given any thought to that?

REP. MARMANDE: So -- so I'm certainly looking

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at it from my point of view, which is what's better for my community and all the people in my community. And so I feel that that's the best thing for our region.

REP. JENKINS: Yeah. So you -- you'll just speak -- when -- when you look at this map, and your support of this map is really just focused on your region. That's basically what your testimony is -- is [inaudible].

REP. MARMANDE: Yeah. I'm -- I'm here on behalf of my community.

REP. JENKINS: All right. And you -- you do understand that this particular map has been reviewed by federal court and found not to -- to -- to meet the requirements of the Voters Rights Act.

REP. MARMANDE: I mean, you know, I -- I'm not a lawyer or an attorney or do I ever want to be, I just want to engineer flood protection for my community.

REP. JENKINS: But you -- you are -- you're a citizen and -- and --

REP. MARMANDE: I'm -- I'm a citizen.

REP. JENKINS: -- and you care about the other citizens of the state of Louisiana.

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REP. MARMANDE: I'd like to think that I care about everyone in this state.

REP. JENKINS: And I believe you do. I'm not challenging you on that. I'm just simply saying, just as you are concerned about those particular concerns about your -- your -- your particular area, you do understand we got citizens throughout this state that can say the same thing. We've got issues that we do not feel our voice is being heard in Congress. Would you -- would you agree with that?

REP. MARMANDE: I certainly understand that.

REP. JENKINS: And I think you would want all of our citizens to have their concerns, just as yours, and their voice heard in Congress. Would you agree with that?

REP. MARMANDE: Yes, sir.

REP. JENKINS: All right. Thank you, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Representative Jenkins, for your question. Representative Horton.

REP. HORTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much, sir, for coming here today. It's important that our citizens weigh in on -- on -- on what we're

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doing and -- and what we have done, because it's you that we serve. Let me ask you, do you live in a diverse community?

REP. MARMANDE: I -- I would say Cajun people are extremely diverse, so yes, we do live in a diverse community. I don't know the demographics particularly. But absolutely. I mean, I think -- I think Terrebonne and Lafourche are two of the most diverse places in the whole state of Louisiana.

REP. HORTON: Okay. Thank you so much, sir. I appreciate you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank your, Representative Horton. All right. Now the board is clear. Thank you very much, sir. I appreciate your testimony here.

REP. MARMANDE: Thank you all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Also filling out a green card and support Mary [inaudible] Labry. Susie Labry, rather, and then also Jennifer Carrigman, filling out both green cards and support and not wishing to speak. Thank you much. Thank you both ladies for coming today.

Filling out a red card and opposition, not wishing to speak, Jared Evans with Legal Defense Fund,

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Terry Landry, Jr with SPLC Action Fund, and Sean Jache Foster with SPLC Action Fund. All red cards in opposition, not wishing to speak. That clears the cards. The speaker has given me his indication.

Oh yeah, the email testimony. Let me read the email testimony, I apologize. There are 19 emails in support for HB2 and none in opposition. So 19 in support. Additionally, the speaker has indicated to me he would like to voluntarily defer this. So we're going to leave this bill in committee.

And with that said, I'm going to move that HB2 be voluntarily deferred without objection. Next, we're going to go to HB1 by my vice chair, Duplessis. Mr. Harrington, you want to go ahead and bring up the map just real quick while he's -- while he's introducing? Good. Everybody's got a chance to look at it? Good deal. We can take it down and focus on Mr. Duplessis. Whenever you're ready.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the committee. I think I would like to start out by pointing out that when I drove up to the Capitol this morning it was a little different. I think

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we all noticed a lot of people were -- were off work today.

This was our first celebrated work holiday of Juneteenth on this Friday and I just wanted to just acknowledge that point as we talk about this congressional map and as we try to move forward as a state in terms of how we go forward. I think we all know why we're here. We're all here because this matter is currently in litigation.

We met as a committee starting in the fall, going across this state, going on a road show, hearing from the various constituents throughout the state. We started a redistricting process in February. This body voted on a map, maps I should say, and then this body then voted to override a gubernatorial veto.

Which was then followed by immediate litigation that ensued, and currently the middle district court of Louisiana, federal district court, has held the current map that we -- we passed as a body to not be compliant with the Voting Rights Act. House Bill 1 is an opportunity for us to be in compliance with the order of the court.

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Just to begin my presentation, what I'd like to do, just to be as -- as clear and as succinct as possible, is I'm just going to read directly from the order what the judge said in the order. Number one, I just want to point out, at the outset of the order it reads that the plaintiffs who brought this action are -- are likely to succeed, to prevail on the merits of their claims brought under section two of the Voting Rights Act.

This was followed by granting a -- a preliminary injunction, followed by stating that the appropriate remedy in this context is a remedial congressional redistricting plan that includes an additional majority black congressional district. Therefore, the court orders didn't ask, didn't suggest, it orders the Louisiana legislature to enact a remedial plan on or before June 20th.

The legislative leadership, Speaker Schexnayder and Senator -- senate president Cortez sought an extension of time, and that extension, that request was denied on yesterday. Therefore we are under a court order right now to adopt a remedial plan by the

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20th of this month, and today is the 17th. And House Bill 1 is that remedial plan.

Members, black voters in Louisiana have less an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice under the con -- the current congressional map. Because of the way the district lines are drawn, candidates preferred by black voters only have a chance in district two. That's the district in which I reside, one minority district.

And you've heard time and time again the math equation that the people of this state, black people of this state make a -- a third of this state yet we only have one voice in Congress. This map is responsive to everything that I heard on the road show and everything that this committee heard on the road show.

I heard so many people talk about the need to have a congressional district where they have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. However, the current map only provides that opportunity to voters that reside within the boundaries of district two. District two in its current configuration and in the map that the governor vetoed is one of the most

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gerrymandered districts in the country.

It lumps black neighborhoods in New Orleans with black neighborhoods in North Baton Rouge, while picking up black areas in the middle along the way. In this map, the minority community is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in district two and in district five.

And when I say map, I mean, the map that I'm proposing today. The map that I'm proposing is more compact than the current congressional map and the speaker's map. Black voters have less an opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice to Congress.

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This map, preserves communities of interest to the extent practical -- practical, and it breaks fewer parishes and the current -- than the current speakers map, excuse me. This map complies with section two of the Voting Rights Act. It allows voters of colors in district two and five to elect their candidate of choice.

It meets the requirements of this session as

called by the governor, and most importantly it meets the standards set forth by the middle district. I'm happy to go through the map if you like, in terms of the configurations and the nu- --numerical breakdowns, but I'm also happy to take any questions that you might have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Who -- Representative Duplessis, I'm -- I'm not assuming that you drew this map physically, you know, and so I don't want to ask you questions about the -- the specific drawing of it. Is -- is there someone here who drew the map that could answer those questions?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. Sitting with me is a familiar face that you've all seen, Jared Evans, who is a lawyer with the Legal Defense Fund, I'll let him introduce himself and speak to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely. And we do have a card in support wishing to speak by Jared Evans with Legal Defense Fund.

MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Morning.

MR. EVANS: I'm Jared Evans, Legal Defense

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Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Do -- anything you'd like to say before I ask you some questions, because I know you filled out the card, you're just here to -- kind of here to talk. Gotcha. Awesome.

MR. EVANS: Please proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So I'm looking at the map and geographically it's a -- it's a pretty, and specifically I want to talk about district five, which would be the new majority/minority district. Okay. Geographically, it's -- it's a pretty long district. Would you agree with me?

MR. EVANS: Absolutely. Yes. Not -- not much longer than the current district five.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gotcha. Yeah. No. And which I don't disagree with, I'm -- I'm just -- just trying to kind of figure out. So what was the, I guess, what was the primary vote motivation for drawing district five?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, when we drew this map we looked at all of the testimony that we received from the road show. The number one thing that they said in Monroe is to please give us an opportunity to let

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our candidate of choice to Congress.

The number one thing we heard in -- in Alexandria was please give us an opportunity to let our candidate choice to Congress. The number one thing we heard here in Baton Rouge was please give us an opportunity to let our candidate of choice to Congress.

And so what this map does is takes many of those communities of interest, puts them together in a district and gives those voters an opportunity to the candidate of choice to Congress, because I've never heard that before.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So again though, what was -- what was the prima- --mary motivation in drawing district five?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, there was no primary motivation in drawing any of these districts. We took several conv -- several factors into consideration. Population deviation, one. All the districts had to be equal in population, lowest deviation as possible. We also took compactness into consideration.

This map is the most compact map that's been considered by this -- by this legislature, this

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session. We also took communities of interest into consideration. This district is United by a very large agricultural in- --in- --industry.

You also had many universities that people from Monroe and Alexandria attend Southern University. So I could keep going, Mr. Chairman, but there's -- there's many communities of interest in this district that we took into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gotcha. So I guess what you're telling me is that there was no motivation, primary motivation, in drawing this, because that, I mean, that was the question.

MR. EVANS: There was no one primary motivation in drawing any -- any district, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Got it. Okay. So I want to look at a couple things and I'm going to ask Mr. Harrington to -- to pull up a couple areas. In -- in your map it goes all the way from Ouachita Parish to Tangipahoa Parish, correct?

MR. EVANS: Yes, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In district five. And again,

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like I said, all -- all of these questions are going to be about district five for the -- for the -- for the time. And so if -- if we focus in on Ouachita in -- in particular, my question would really be why -- why did you pick -- why did you pick Precinct 62?

REP. HARRINGTON: Right there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And it's hard, I know it's hard to see the -- the precincts on th- --that one. That's actually why I have this map up because I think it's a little bit easier if we can focus in on -- on the precincts.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, in trying to get any district to match the pop -- to get it under a population deviation, it's all about precincts. Anytime you add one precinct, you know, you got to lose another one somewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I get it. I drew a bunch of maps. I get it. I get it.

MR. EVANS: You know exactly what I'm talking about. So it's --

MR. CHAIRMAN: 100 percent.

MR. EVANS: So any -- any specific precincts

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you ask me about the answer is it was to make sure that the deviation was -- was within as close to zero as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. why didn't you pick Precinct 61?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell you anything about which specific precincts. I -- I don't have the numbers in front of me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you -- didn't you draw this map?

MR. EVANS: I'm not a map drawer, I'm -- I'm an attorney. I'm not a demographer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, my question was specifically to -- to Mr. Duplessis, is -- is there someone here who can answer questions about why the map was drawn and how it was drawn? And he said, absolutely. I have Mr. Evans who's ready to answer these questions. And so --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well -- well, if I -- if I could Mr --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of course you can.

REP. DUPLESSIS: -- Mr. Chair, while I do

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understand the question and it's a -- it's a fair question, I -- I think the level of specificity when we are talking about, I don't know if -- was it like 4,000 precincts we may have across the state?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's actually 3,400 and change, yes.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay. But to ask the question as to why one precinct in Ouachita was chosen over another precinct in Ouachita, I -- I'm -- I'm -- I would think it would be hard pressed for anyone unless they were a demographer to answer that question. So there is no demographer here who drew a map, so Mr. Evans can speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who was the demographer that drew the map?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I don't -- I don't know the name, Mr -- Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we don't know the demographer who chose — who drew the map, and there's no one here who can answer questions about why specific precincts were chosen? And let me -- let me frame it this way, Mr. Vice Chair, I'm framing it this way

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because I didn't pick Ouachita out of the blue.

I look at your map, I go there's some, looks like fingers going into Ouachita, and I say, why did they do it that way? Because I'm just curious, if you had used the whole par- --parish of Ouachita, I wouldn't ask you this question.

I'd be like, they chose Ouachita, it is what it is, you know? But I'm not seeing that. I'm seeing specific directions in a parish. And so that just leads me to the question of why some and not others.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, I think we could go across the state and find split parishes. I think we could look at --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, they -- they're not all split parishes. Yeah.

REP. DUPLESSIS: We could -- we could look at congressional district two and -- and ask why, the current one, and ask why it's drawn the way that it's drawn. Why -- why is Orleans split? Why as you go up to river parishes, why are those parishes split? Why is East Baton Rouge split pretty much in half? Why? You know -- you know, it's really --

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MR. CHAIRMAN: We could, Mr. Vice Chair.

REP. DUPLESSIS: -- it's really -- it's really challenging to -- to -- to meet the deviation criteria.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand.

REP. DUPLESSIS: -- or requirement without splitting parishes. So th- --that's -- this is a natural result of the criteria in which we have to operate. And again, that's just my knowledge just as being a member of this committee. I'm not a demographer

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand. And we --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I don't know who drew this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: -- we could ask all those questions, Mr. Vice Chair, but we're on your bill --

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: -- that you're asking us to pass, and that we have to do our duty to our constituents to deliberate. And so I have to ask these questions about your map because people are going to ask me, you know?

If you're asking me to support this bill, I'm going to be asked, why did they do that to Ouachita. I'm going to be asked that question, especially when I

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go up to Ouachita. And so I -- it's -- it would be logical that I would ask you that question about why.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I -- I don't say it's not logical. Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And so let me throw something out there. You know, so what I was going to ask you is why not 61, 78, 34, 77 or 76. As you can see on the board behind me, those are all neighboring precincts, all very close to the one, 62 that was chosen.

And when I look at those precincts, what I see is that in Precinct 62 there's a 60% black population, but in 61 right next to it there's a seven. And so I'd like to know why one was chosen over the other. And -- but unfortunately it sounds like no one here can tell me that, is that right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I can't tell you why that specific precinct was chosen over another specific precinct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would it surprise you to know that that precinct has a higher population of African-Americans than the ones that were around it?

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REP. DUPLESSIS: No. It would not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's go to Alexandria. Okay. So in Rapides Parish around Alexandria, it appears Precinct C13 was selected. And again, why are we here in Rapides? We're here in Rapides because I look at your map and I go, that's odd. Why are they dipping into a parish like that?

It -- it -- it doesn't make a lot of geographic sense to me so I have to dig down and go, let's figure out why the map drawer chose these. And so again, Mr. Evans, why was C13 selected rather than the neighboring precincts that are not in it?

MR. EVANS: So what I can say to your question, Mr. Chairman, is that when we are looking -- again, this map is responsive to what we heard from the road show, and the voters who lived in the city of Alexandria said they wanted to be in a majority/minority district. They said that their rural neighbors who live outside of the city limits vote differently from them.

So what we did -- well, so in drawing this map that's one of the things that we tried to do. We took

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the communities that voted alike and tried to put them in a district in -- in -- in this district.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So it was a -- a city and kind of rural issue, is that what you're saying, in this particular case?

MR. EVANS: You can put it that way. Yes, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. So C13, if you look at it, looks like it has some pretty rural areas next to it, right? But if I look at C13, I say, why not N21, S6B or S6A? And when I look at those precincts, I go C13 has a 65% black population, C37 has 16, C6A has 23, C6B has 36 and N21 has 10.

And so I can draw my own conclusion about why that precinct, but I'll -- I'll -- you- --you've given testimony and I'm not going to -- I'm not going to say that it's wrong. I just -- it is -- it is surprising. So then I look around and I go, well, he's made -- you know, that is a logical argument, Mr. Evans, about rural versus city. Okay?

I don't -- I can't terribly disagree that -- that I can see the map maker may have done that. But if you look just south in some city areas, because I've

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been around Alexandria and I've seen the city a little bit, there's precincts such as C36, C31, C32, C33 and C36. Do you know what kind of precincts those are?

MR. EVANS: I do not, Mr. Chairman. What I can tell you is that our goal was to have these districts as equal in population as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

MR. EVANS: It is very, very hard to get -- to get as close to zero as -- as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. But if this area was chosen because it was rural versus city, those precincts that I have listed in the 30s are in the municipality. So that argument doesn't seem like it would stand up. Would you agree with me?

MR. EVANS: When I said city limits, Mr -- Mr. Chairman, that doesn't necessarily specifically mean voters actually live within the city limits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What does it mean then?

MR. EVANS: It means voters who live around that area. The city limits that it -- that it's a political subdivision, yes. But voters don't necessarily have to live in a city to vote a certain

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way. Just because you live in the city of Alexandria doesn't mean you vote as -- as the same way as everybody else. You live outside those city limits, there's voting patterns back -- back and forth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. No. No. I -- I agree with you. The people that live outside the city limits versus the people that live in, look I'm from a rural area, it is -- there is nothing but countryside around where I live. I get it. People in the country on a big piece of land vote differently than somebody who has to live in the center of the city. I agree with you on that.

But that's not what I'm pointing out. I'm actually pointing out precincts that are in the municipality of Alexandria and -- and right next to the ones you selected, but you didn't select those. And so you can't say we chose these because they're in the city and these because they're not, when 36, 31, 32, 33 and 36 are all surrounding those.

And so what -- so again, what -- what is the motivation for selecting the precincts that have been selected other than making sure that the population is

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exact? Because that's the overriding factor, right? When we're -- when we're -- when we're redistricting we have to make sure that number is as close to zero as possible, especially for Congress. But there's several other redistricting factors. Would you agree with me?

MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So what other redistricting factors were -- chose you to select C13 versus all of the other ones that I've listed, just next to it, right there right next to those.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can only tell you what I've already said [inaudible] drawing these districts.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Let -- let me speak to that, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind. I'm -- I think it's important that we just kind of cut right to it. And look, we -- we want to talk about pointing out what the other factors are in all of various criteria were. Let's -- let's be very clear that race is a factor. Race is a clear factor, so much so that the judge made it a part of her order in saying that a second majority minority --

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MR. CHAIRMAN: She didn't say majority minority. Did she?

REP. DUPLESSIS: She said majority black, right? Okay. However --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you agree with me there's a difference between majority/minority and -- and majority black?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Not necessarily. No. No. I wouldn't.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you be a minority and not be black?

REP. DUPLESSIS: You can, yeah. But -- but -- but let me -- let me get back to a conversation that you and I had very early on in this process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure.

REP. DUPLESSIS: And we talked about the challenge of balancing Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause versus that of what we're required to do under the Voting Rights Act, and the -- the -- the tests that exists under -- under jingles. How do you go in one direction by saying that you have to consider race but then you have to go in another direction by

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saying you- --you're not supposed to consider race.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Extremely difficult.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Very difficult. Right? So -- so I'm not going to sit at this table and say that, oh, these precincts were just randomly selected because we were just trying to meet a deviation standard, because that would be false. Absolutely ha -- race absolutely has a lot to do with this.

If it didn't, we wouldn't even be here right now. This entire re-districting process and everyone that's come to this table throughout this process, this whole thing has gone down -- boiled down to race. However, there's much more than race, Chairman Stefanski. And what I want do is just read to you, if you don't mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And -- and -- and I just want to comment on what you said. I -- I don't disagree with anything that you said. I don't. I -- I don't. And -- and -- and Mr. Vice chair, what I'm trying to get is, again, I go back to -- I go back to why I was elected --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: -- and why people sent me here and they ask me to be deliberate and they ask me to ask questions and they don't ask me to just take people's word for it. And so this by no means -- hey, but if I had asked you that question about these precincts and you had gone, we chose those because of race. Mr. Chairman, that's why we chose them.

My -- my line of questioning is going to stop. But that's not the answer I got immediately. And -- and you have clarified that it is a point, and I'm going to come back to this after I let you finish your statement, but I mean, that's what I'm asking. I'm asking why in a parish that gets split and -- and the geography looks odd to me. It just does.

And when I go home people are going to ask me why -- why -- why is that the map? And I have to answer why these areas look like that. I have to be able to articulate why they do. And so the line of questioning is specific on that. It's, I'm trying to figure out why they look like they do. And -- and --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I -- I welcome the questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I'm going to go ahead and

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let you read what you need to read. Yes, sir.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. I just -- I just want to -- want to just -- just point this out. And this is -- this is -- these are not my words. These are words from the court, that to harmonize the conflicting demands of Fourteenth Amendment and that of the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme court has assumed that compliance with the Voting Rights Act is a compelling state interest for Fourteenth Amendment purposes.

And a state's consideration of race in making a districting deci -- a districting decision is narrowly tailored if the state has good reasons for believing that its decision is necessary in order to comply with the Voting Rights Act. So it -- it -- it's a balance that we have to strike. And again, I wasn't here in 2010 when congressional district two was drawn.

I don't think any of us were. Maybe a few people in this body were here. But if you look at congressional district two as it's drawn right now, I think those questions could be raised. And that is the same district that this body voted overwhelmingly to pass out of this body right now. So I mean, if you look

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at the way that that district is drawn, as I pointed out, it's one of the most gerrymandered districts in the -- in the country. Okay?

So I think this map puts us more on a path to balancing race as a factor, but also communities of interest and also all of the other criteria around deviations, fewer split parishes, few- --fewer split precincts, et cetera, the -- all of the goals that we have to try to achieve in this redistricting balance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I respect that. Good deal. Again, on -- on -- in Rapides, so these specific precincts, again, I'll go back to like my original question, why these precincts versus the ones that are immediately bordering around it?

REP. DUPLESSIS: What I -- what I will say, and again I'm not trying to get into the head of the -- the map drawer here because I -- I -- I don't --

MR. CHAIRMAN: And it would be nice if we had him here, and I'm -- I'm not going to -- look, I -- I didn't necessarily, on the maps that I presented I know I didn't need the map drawer because I sat there and I drew everything that I did. And I'm not -- I'm not

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saying everyone else has to do that, but, you know, it's tough for us as -- as -- as a committee to evaluate everything, you know?

Especially whether we have a court order saying you have to, okay? It -- it's -- it's very difficult for me to be able to do my due diligence. And I can't talk to the person who sat there and selected these -- these.

It's -- it's, and I think you can respect that, and so I mean, it's frustrating not to have someone who can tell me why these precincts were picked and why -- what -- and -- and ask me to vote on something for the way our state's going to look for the next 10 years. It's frustrating. But I do -- I'm not going to put you in a position to where you have to answer a question that you can't, and I understand that. And so I don't -- I don't want you to answer anything you can't answer, and I'm not going to ask you to.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, again, I -- I -- I do have 152 page order before me right here, and I do know that --

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MR. CHAIRMAN: I have it too.

REP. DUPLESSIS: -- that the demographer did testify in court. If you like, I can probably find his testimony in the order and we can speak to his motivations. But what I do know is that --

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can, but, you know, I read this order yesterday too. I spent a considerable amount of time reading the entire order, which is rather voluminous. I believe around 140 pages.

REP. DUPLESSIS: 52.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 152. Okay. So I read it too. And -- and the -- the questions I'm asking were not immediately addressed in the -- in the record as it was transcribed. It's possible -- in the order, rather.

It's possible if we pulled the -- the transcripts from the -- from the court hearing, all of my questions might have been answered. But unfortunately I had to try to either work or be here doing legislative business so I couldn't -- I couldn't be in court those days.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Again, it -- the -- we may not be able to answer why a specific precinct was

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chosen over another, but I do think that the intent was clear, is that it was to try to achieve the requirements on the Voting Rights Act.

That if you have an opportunity to draw a district where voters of color, black voters in particular, are compact enough you -- you ha -- you have to draw it that way. That's what the law tells us to do. And I believe that the demographer's efforts were done in doing that. So that would explain the justification of as to why every precinct was chosen.

Because if you can draw a map where -- that voters, black voters in particular vote, minority voters, can be drawn in a way where the district is compact, that's what we're required to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would it -- would it shock you to know that all of the precincts that I have listed, especially around Rapides are all majority white?

REP. DUPLESSIS: In terms of being included in congressional district five?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That are not included. All the border precincts around the -- around what I've just talked around are all majority white.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: It -- it would not shock me, but one of the -- one of the pieces that go along with that, Chairman, when you break down the race component, is you have to also look at communities of interest.

And while those precincts might be majority white, you have to look at voting patterns and how those voters vote, and whether or not those precincts that are made up of majority white voters would actually vote for somebody black.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I -- I agree. But -- but what jumps off the page is that the pre -- some precincts were selected just because they're majority black versus the ones that are neighboring that are majority --

REP. DUPLESSIS: No. It -- it's not just because they're majority black or because they're majority white, it's because we have a history in this nation that led to a Voting Rights Act, because people vote certain ways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have the voting analysis for the precincts that I've listed?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I will let Mr. Evan speak to

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that.

MR. EVANS: [Inaudible] Stefanski, that was submitted to the court for trial and we encouraged the legislature very early on in the process to get your own racially polarized voting analysis done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. You did. And we had that conversation and I can -- I asked you, for months now it must be, if you would provide me the detailed voting analysis.

MR. EVANS: And for months I've encouraged the legislature to do their own analysis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you ever turned to -- have you ever given me that?

MR. EVANS: [Inaudible] to the court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But -- but ha- --has that ever been provided?

MR. EVANS: Racially polarizable analysis is all through these 152 pages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. But it has never been provided to this committee and is in -- and still to this day this committee has never been privy on any of the maps that have been submitted, either filed by

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members or ones that were submitted by the public of the full date -- the full detailed voting analysis.

That -- that in my opinion we needed to fully evaluate those plans. And as I sit here today, on this map, do you have the full analysis to provide to this committee,

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. EVANS: Your lawyers, in the suit that you enjoyed in, have the analysis?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Me? My lawyers? Who's my lawyer?

MR. EVANS: The case we keep beating y'all in, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you're mistaken on -- on who hired who. Okay. I think you're mistaken. And secondly, the answer to that question of course is no, you have never provided me that analysis.

And -- and if you, in my opinion, if this committee is going to do a full and -- a full breakdown and -- and thought process and -- and evaluation of these plans, that's something that would be very

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beneficial as I've continued to say.

All right, let's go to another area of the state. I want to go to the -- the whole other end. I want to go to -- I want to go down to Tangipahoa. So in Tangipahoa, again, I've selected this area because it seems like we're, again, picking and choosing on the fringes of a district. Now, this one isn't so egregious as the others, I would have to agree.

And this one -- this one, you know, it -- it -- I can -- I can see some geographic breakdowns, but -- but again, my question's going to be why were 115B and 26, those two precincts around the Hammond area, why were those selected?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, we can look at any single map and any single parish that is split, and we're going to have the same issues. Again, we go back to population deviation. There is no way to have every parish hole in this state and have a map that has zero deviation or as close to deviate -- zero deviation as possible. So again, we took all the factors that I've already listed into drawing this map and into particular this district.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So there -- there is in -- I guess, what is your testimony to my question on why these two specific precincts were selected? You gave me a very holistic answer just now, but these two, 115B and 26, why were those two selected?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I -- I will give the same answer that's been given with respect to Ouachita parish and -- and Rapides Parish. Those two particular precincts, if -- if -- if a demographer were here, sitting here right now, he -- he, or she would be better situated to answer that question, but I believe that it was in an effort to be in compliance with the -- the Voting Rights Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I can accept that answer, you know? And -- and the reason I'm pointing out those two is you have neighboring precincts of precinct 27, 28, 117, and 119, and -- and I'm curious why those two were chosen in conjunction with those, but I know what my answer's going to be.

I appreciate your answer, Mr. Duplessis. We can take down the map now, Mr. Harrington. And so I -- I -- I respect the effort that goes into drawing a map

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and -- and I appreciate both of you answering my questions, but again, when I have to go home to my constituents and I have to answer why I voted for a map, these are the things I need.

I need to know why geographically it looks that way and why specifically these precincts were -- were chosen. I have to be able to articulate those reasons to the people that elected me and sent me here.

And so, in -- in comparison, and also this question, the conversation you, Mr. Evans, you and I just had, I have to be able to say why it's necessary to do that from a voting analysis standpoint. And when -- and when I don't have all the information it -- it is incredibly hard to do that.

And I'm not sitting here -- sitting here and I'm not going to -- I'm not going to blame my vice chair, and I'm not going to blame you, Mr. Evans. I'm not blaming y'all for anything. I'm saying in order, in my opinion, for this committee, and as chairman, for us to have a full, robust analyzation of a map, not a debate.

We can have a debate and we can talk about

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legal, we could talk about court cases, we could talk about jingles, we could talk about the Fourteenth Amendment, we could talk about all that.

But in order for us to have a full analyzation of your map and the geography that contain -- that is contained within it, these are some of the questions that I have to ask, because my constituents are asking me. And -- and -- and -- and that's it, but I'll let you respond. Mr. Evans.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Oh no. Mr. Chairman, I -- I fully understand your question, and that's an issue that we currently have all across this state. When I do voter protection work and get out the vote efforts in St. Landry parish, I have to explain to voters why their grandmother who lives two blocks over is in a different congressional district than them.

When we had the special election for congressional district two last year, people were literally across the street from each other asking me why their neighbor is voting and they aren't voting. So while I understand your question, Mr -- Mr -- Mr. Chairman, but it's an -- any -- any kind of map you

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draw you're going to have that issue.

And you're picking up specific areas to -- to ask us questions about, but we could do the same thing on any map on any -- even in the current map. It's just -- it's just an overall issue in drawing a map in a state as diverse with as many parishes as possible to try to get to zero deviation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I'm asking you these specific questions because I have pointed out in the map, geographic concerns of mine. Additionally, this is the new district, right? I mean, let's -- let's -- let's just put it out there, this would be the new majority black district that would be in compliance with the judge's order.

You're maintaining the one that currently exists. This would be the new majority black district, like -- like it says in the judge's order that she's ordering us to do. And so I have to hyper focus on this. I have to. I have to pick this one apart and ask you these questions because i- --it's what I'm going to be asked if this map would get implemented in the state of Louisiana.

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With that said, I'm going to move on. I've -- I've taken my extensive bite at the apple. I -- I'd appreciate both of your answers, and Mr. Deshotel, you -- Mr. Carter is the next question. Robbie Carter. I mean, Wolf Carter, sorry. I'm losing my train of thought.

REP. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- we got here because we had a special session dealing with reapportionment because of the census. Is that right?

MR. EVANS: That's correct.

REP. CARTER: And I don't remember anybody bringing in the demographers to testify during a special session. We had to -- we had the speakers bill and I asked the speaker, if you might recall, I asked the speaker, what efforts did you make in order to comply with the Voters Right Act?

And he said, this is my map. This is just my map. He didn't make no effort based on his testimony. I also asked the speaker, did he recall that the prior session we passed a -- a -- a law setting forth the criteria we would use to draw maps. And the speaker said, I asked, did you do that? Did you follow that

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criteria?

He said he'd like to think he did, but this is his map. This is his repetition from him of what the districts ought to look like. Okay? There was no argument at the time about what precincts were white, what precincts were black. Okay?

So all along the way I reminded, at every opportunity I reminded the author, the -- the speaker, I don't know if he wrote the map himself, I would imagine a demographer was involved, do you think the state hired demographers?

Have demos on payroll? Either the -- the Republican party or the state of Louisiana or somebody have demographers on board, do you -- would -- would you imagine they -- they have those people?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

REP. CARTER: So if the -- if the chairman wanted to talk to the demographer, he could talk to one, would you think?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

REP. CARTER: Okay. Now I did not talk to the -- and I'm going to tell you right now, I'm in favor of

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the bill. So I'm not -- I kind of got the impression from the chairman he's against the bill. He might not be. That's just my impression I got.

But I'm -- I'm -- I'm being upfront that I'm in favor of the bill and -- and I want to ask you some questions to explain why I'm favor of the bill. More important, I want the people of Louisiana to know why we here and why we doing this. Why this bill is here. So you recall the bill, we passed we set criteria.

The criteria was, as I recall, correct me if I'm wrong, we'll try to keep community interest together, as much as we can, try to keep parish together as much as we can. We will try -- we will comply. We said we will comply with the Voters Right Act, section two of the Voters Right Act.

Now, we know we had a section four that Supreme court throughout, and basically section four required that the state present its map to the justice department for pre-clearance. And had that been done we know this map would not have been cleared because the -- the judge just said it was illegal, right?

MR. EVANS: Right.

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REP. CARTER: So we got away from the pre-clearance, now we doing -- now we only dealing with section two. Now, could you tell us what does section two require? We understand about communities of interest and we understand about parishes as -- as -- keep as whole as possible.

We shouldn't split precincts. Okay. So we try not to. In fact, we -- I don't think this map splits precincts. That's almost illegal to split precinct, unless you got some very depth and boundary grounds, like a lake or pond or canal. So -- so what does section two require? Could somebody tell me that?

MR. EVANS: It requires that if the minority population is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district, and races -- racially polarized voting -- voting is present, then you are required to draw that district.

REP. CARTER: Okay. So first of all, the challenge is to try to see if you can come up with such a district. Now, I -- I asked the -- the -- the speaker, and -- and I asked all along during the

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process, during the special session, what effort's been made? Nobody made any efforts. So one of the problems that the state had when they had this map that went before the judge, they never had any evidence that they tried to do anything.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Carter, are we going to talk about HB2 or I mean, HB1?

REP. CARTER: HB2, I'm talking about HB1. Just like you did, I'm talking about HB1 and HB2.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: I didn't talk about any bill yet, Representative Carter, but I would -- I'd ask you we move -- we have a lot -- we have a stack of cards, can we please get to questions on this bill?

REP. CARTER: I've been talking five minutes. The -- the chairman talked over 35 minutes. I -- he had his side, I'm saying my side.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Right. But --

REP. CARTER: It just takes -- if -- if you would not interrupt me I -- I'm going to move on, but it's important to see these maps.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: I'm not trying to interrupt. You keep talking about the speakers bill.

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We're not on the speakers bill. I'm asking you to leave the questions --

REP. CARTER: I'm telling you why this bill is here. I started out by saying this is why this bill is here. The -- the speaker bill was illegal, that's why the bill is here.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: I'm asking you to move on to this bill. Thank you.

REP. CARTER: So isn't this bill for less gerrymandered than -- than the bill we passed.

MR. EVANS: Yes.

REP. CARTER: In other words, it's more compact.

MR. EVANS: Correct.

REP. CARTER: That's one of the requirements, to be compact.

MR. EVANS: Yes, sir.

REP. CARTER: Is there -- is there something illegal about seeking out black dis -- precincts or -- or population to try to get a district?

MR. EVANS: If that's the sole reason for -- for -- for drawing a district, yes.

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REP. CARTER: So -- so the chairman kept on saying about races. He's trying to say race was the only reason we did this, and that would be something they can use in their -- in their case. They're trying to build a record for the case. Which is completely incorrect because -- because race can be used if you trying to achieve a state interest, is that right?

MR. EVANS: It must be used.

REP. CARTER: That's right. It must. So -- so in order to achieve the interest of vote, section two of the Voters Right Act, you have to consider race, because that's what the act says. Now, how many -- how many races, how many -- we talk about -- the judge said black population.

Why you think she said black population, not Latino population or Asian American population. Why -- why did she say black population?

MR. EVANS: Because we have already shown a multiple -- multiple ways that there are enough black people in -- in the -- in our proposed map, representative [inaudible] map, to constitute a majority in a -- in a district.

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REP. CARTER: So you don't have enough Oriental Asian Americans, you don't have enough Latino Americans Louisianians in order to make a map that come up with 700,000 people thereabouts?

MR. EVANS: As we've shown, Representative Carter, black people do constitute a -- a majority in both district two and district five in -- in [inaudible].

REP. CARTER: Now -- now, I happen to live in Lake Charles, Louisiana. I don't live in one of these areas, either one of these two predominant black districts going to be -- going to be created if we successful at some point, or the court is successful, but I support it because I have a -- a community of interest. Okay.

So you talk about community interest, you're not talking about just the few people in that district. I have interest that -- that -- that -- that I don't think my Congressman from my district even -- even address or care about. Okay. But I do find that Congressman Troy in New Orleans, Carter, does address my concerns. Okay.

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And so -- so we -- community of interest does not have to be a one particular geographic area. It's what your concern is about what you'd like the Congress to address. Would that be correct?

MR. EVANS: That's correct, Representative Carter. And I cannot tell you how many of your constituents have called me and my colleagues and want to know why -- why they couldn't be in a district where they had the opportunity to elect the minority person to Congress?

REP. CARTER: And when we came, went to Lake Charles, we had a lot of people from Lake Charles asking for another black congressional district.

MR. EVANS: That's absolutely.

REP. CARTER: Okay. And they knew there wasn't going to be included more than likely, but they -- their interest would be served. So -- so first of all, it's nothing wrong with dealing with race. So that's what we supposed to be doing, trying to find if we got enough black population to create addition. And we got that. It's obvious.

We got 33, over 33% of the state. We got that.

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The next question is, can this -- can this group vote compact -- is compact. Is -- is it small enough a group, it's not so gerrymandered to be snake-like, to be outrageous, to offend the -- the -- the -- the geographic layout of the state. And this map is the most compact map that we've come up with.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes. It's more compact than -- it's more compact than the one that this body has already.

REP. CARTER: Okay. Certainly more compact than one [inaudible] already passed.

MR. EVANS: And Representative Carter, those are not my words. Federal courts have found that racially polarized voting pervades statewide election.

REP. CARTER: So -- so the only reason why on -- another thing you have to show, if I'm -- if I'm correct, the only reason why you don't have a black Congressman based upon the compactness you have, based on the fact they tend to vote the same, is because polarized voting, none -- non-black voting, would prevent that black from getting elected.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Correct.

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MR. EVANS: We've proven that.

REP. CARTER: So that -- so -- so -- so -- so you have to show that. If you don't show that you don't -- you don't win. Okay. So this federal judge said it is obvious from the pleadings and the -- and the record that -- that the plaintiffs will win if they go to trial. So that's -- that's the judge's basis of stopping issuing the stay and ordering the state to do it again.

REP. DUPLESSIS: And if I -- if I may add judge, just to add to that, the US fifth circuit court of appeals in their ruling pointed out that the defendants did not make a strong showing that they would succeed on the merits with respect to the map.

REP. CARTER: Before I got here I -- I was -- I made -- I was made aware and I looked at maps that was -- efforts was made congressional reapportionment and passed. There was a slash that was not accepted by the fifth circuit. There was a Z with -- with -- with dashes, I think, at one time, that was not accepted. Okay.

This is neither a slash or -- or a Z. This is

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as compacted as all the other areas of other districts in the state. So this is quite an accomplishment. And whoever the demographer is, he done a tremendous job, and I see why the judge did what she did.

But now, if we don't do this, so basically what the judge is saying, it gives us time to do it. Now we already know the -- what the process is. If we don't do it, then the judge is going to do it.

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. CARTER: So I'd like to see us do it if we can. Now, if we -- if we -- this map will result in at least half the black population, almost half the black population because in -- in -- in Caddo Parish, large black population, Lafayette Parish, up in Calcasieu Parish, and all over the state it's a large black population but it's dispersed.

And you really cannot -- cannot get a compact district. So this is the only one we can. So these folks in this district five and district two, they will be speaking for all blacks throughout the -- throughout the state basically, that have the same interest.

MR. EVANS: Just as our current Congressman

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speaks for all black interest.

REP. CARTER: Just like -- just as the Congressman from other areas, just like the gentleman's testified earlier, he have two congressmen, at least two, and they do -- do well. Or three.

MR. EVANS: Three.

REP. CARTER: So -- so -- so -- so this would give me who have a community interest with the people in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, somebody speaking for me.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. That means you may have two Congress people voting for the judge [inaudible] Voting Rights Act.

REP. CARTER: And if -- and I can let a Congressman that listen to some of the things I want to do, I might have this Congressman in section five, section two and maybe three, two someday. So it's not always, I'm just trying to point out it's not always that easy to do. This is hard -- hard work.

And this was -- this was an effort made to do this, and this took time and it cost money. Now, really, we are spending a lot of money here in this

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session to do nothing. We spent a lot of money last in February knowing we were doing nothing. Everybody was saying we were doing the wrong thing and they didn't care.

The majority didn't care. So we're all hoping the majority cares enough to not to continue to spend money. What about this -- this district have you heard that -- that you would criticize this plan, this -- this -- this house bill one? What does it do? What is the -- what -- what have you heard that been the biggest argument against it? Has it been it split up too many parishes?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, it splits -- it splits fewer parishes than the map that the -- that we're currently under, that was floated out of this body.

REP. CARTER: Okay. So -- so -- so does it -- it's -- it's compact. Now -- now the problem, the issue about the -- the -- the -- the precincts in -- in North of Louisiana that's predominantly white and the next to a precinct that's predominantly black that's in the district and a predominant white one.

So not in the -- that seem to be the biggest

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argument. We spent 30 minutes talking about that. That is done. That -- that happened because communities of interest --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Communities of interest.

REP. CARTER: -- it's a primary reason why that happened.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes, sir.

REP. CARTER: And -- and basically what you're saying is though people may live next to each other, a short distant from each other, they have a different way of looking at things. They tend to vote a different way. And -- and -- and -- and they vote the people of similar interest should have, and those people have somebody to represent them with their same -- with that interest.

With a sufficient amount of people their community interest are [inaudible] representing them right now. It is the other people, the predominant black precincts, that don't have anybody representing them. And that's what you're trying to resolve, that's what the court is trying to resolve.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Correct.

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REP. CARTER: Okay. That's all I have.

REP. CARTER: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Carter. For question, Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was, and I appreciate the chairman asking questions about Rapides Parish, and I got to say, as a comment, somewhat I'm offended that you indicated one of the reasons why you split Rapides Parish in the manner that you did is that at the road show you only heard testimony that said that they wanted a second minority district.

That they were unsatisfied with having the parish whole. That's just incorrect. And if you're making a record by saying that, that's just false. It's false from the testimony that was given. Testimony that was given that was contrary to that wasn't from people that lived in Rapides Parish.

It was the group of people that followed us to each one of the roadshow events that had nothing to do with the area that they necessarily were testifying in. So I just want that to be clear because I'm offended by

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the fact that it implies that Rapides Parish falls into this idea that you have to create a district with minorities for a minority to be elected.

Because let me tell you about Rapides Parish, maybe we're advanced, I guess we're going to be penalized for being advanced, parish wide and in areas where a majority of whites were registered, we've elected two black mayors, a judge, a marshal, multiple police jurors.

So it's insulting that we're doing this under the guise that, and it's almost insulting to you too, to say that the only way an African American can be elected is if you make the -- make -- make it a district where only African Americans can vote. That's just -- I -- I don't -- that may be what the law is interpreted, but in real life, that's not the case in Rapides Parish.

And so I am offended that that was said, and I don't think that's factual. I know we had plenty of people testifying that they were concerned about keeping Rapides Parish whole, and the map, as I understand, the map is designed to primarily comply

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with the judge. What the judge, what the appointed federal judge in the district court ordered. Is that -- is that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's why we're here today, because the judge ordered us to do this.

REP. JOHNSON: And does that -- do you have any problem with that from the concept of separation of powers?

REP. DUPLESSIS: No.

REP. JOHNSON: You don't.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Why -- why would I?

REP. JOHNSON: I don't know. I -- I -- I'm not able to rule on court cases and I can understand she could send it back and give us an opportunity, but I mean, she also has the ability to draw the maps herself. Does she not?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, it looks like that's what this body is trying to -- to do. We're trying to empower her to do that. She -- she -- she, in her duty and authority as a judge made a ruling under the law.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. In that case --

REP. DUPLESSIS: That we're not in -- we're

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not in compliance with the law.

REP. JOHNSON: And she is not the final word on the outcome of --

REP. DUPLESSIS: As of right now she is, because no other court has ruled on this. REP. JOHNSON: Right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: So as of now she is.

REP. JOHNSON: But it is still pending. There are appeals that are pending.

REP. DUPLESSIS: There are -- there are always appeals. You can appeal -- you can appeal until, you know, eternity. But as of now we are under a court order.

REP. JOHNSON: So if we were to vote your map in, and I guess that's the way you say, I don't know, vote your map in, but your plan in, if we all approve it and the fifth circuit comes in and says, nah, that's not good, so we're going to be back here again in two months to do another map?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Quite possibly. But -- but -- but again, I think it's -- it's -- it's just interesting how, you know, we -- we tend to pick and

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choose when we think that something should or be final or something isn't final because my -- my guess.

And may be I'm wrong, Representative Johnson, but my guess is that if this district court judge that we say this -- this not final step in the process had upheld the speaker's map, I -- I think the sentiment from this body might be a little different.

It wouldn't be such that, oh, the process isn't over yet. It wouldn't be there's still more time to see how the courts are going to rule. It would be the judge has decided. The judge has made a ruling, and we need to respect the law.

REP. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. And that's your opinion. I don't necessarily agree with that speculation.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay. Well, I have another opinion with respect to your -- your -- your initial comments about -- around you --

REP. JOHNSON: Rapides Parish?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Rapides Parish. Now, you and I have had a lot of good conversations around Pineville and re -- and respect the -- I respect the fact that

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you all are an outlier. You all have elected a -- a -- a black man.

REP. JOHNSON: 72% white population.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I understand that. And -- and -- and you all are an outlier, so I know you get very passionate on this issue.

REP. JOHNSON: I do.

REP. DUPLESSIS: But to suggest that a black person, not just a black person, this is -- this is -- race is a component, but it's much bigger than race, it's about communities of interest, that someone who shares my interests and the interests of my community could run in congressional district five and have a legitimate chance of winning, that's not being fair. That's not being honest and that -- and that's insulting.

REP. JOHNSON: What are your interests? How are your interests different than my interests?

REP. DUPLESSIS: My -- my interests would be voting for an infrastructure bill. My interest would be voting for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. My interest would be voting for the George Floyd Justice

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Act. I don't think those votes are coming out of -- out of Washington. Only one person --

REP. JOHNSON: Is that -- is that racial or political? I mean, because you can be a --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Those are my interests. That's what I'm saying. It's more than just race.

REP. JOHNSON: I mean, I'm sitting next to Jeremy LaCombe right here who is clearly a Caucasian and he agrees with those same -- same things. So does he have to be black to be --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Let's not -- let's not -- let's not pull him into this.

REP. JOHNSON: Well, I like him. I want to bring him in.

REP. DUPLESSIS: You asked me what my interests were. You asked me what my interest were, and I'm telling you right now what my interests are, and it's more than just race. Okay? So if Jeremy LaCombe, sorry Jeremy, we pulled you into this, if those are his interests, thanks for making my point. If those are his interests, give me the opportunity to vote for those interests.

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REP. JOHNSON: You don't have the opportunity?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, no. I'm saying me, I'm speaking on behalf of black people in this state.

REP. JOHNSON: Black people don't have the opportunity?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Not in your district.

REP. JOHNSON: Would I have an opportunity in your district?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, I've said what I had to say.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. But, well, let me go down the list of questions, but I did want to correct the Rapides. I have -- I have questions that I want to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're -- we're going to ask -- we're going to ask and answer. Okay. If -- if - if -- if you would --

REP. JOHNSON: I have questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he's asking the questions, if there's -- and -- and again, if we need to direct to who you're asking the question, either to Vice Chair Duplessis or Mr. Evans, and I would ask that when the question is directed to you, y'all answer the question

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that's directed. Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON: So -- so my friend, Rep Duplessis, you agree that racial gerrymanding -- gerrymandering is illegal.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JOHNSON: Can you tell me -- I was looking at numbers. In your map, Ouachita Parish, 30,169 registered black voters are removed. That's 73 percent of the registered voters were removed to -- to the district -- 5th congressional district. East Baton Rouge Parish, 84,165 were removed.

Evangeline, 3,473 black voters were moved to accommodate. Lafayette, 23,802 registered black voters. Tangipahoa Parish, 6,410 African American black -- black voters. St. Martin, 3,549. All are large percentages of the registered voters of those parishes.

The previous map only split two parishes. I think yours splits eight. Isn't that the definition based upon the race of racial gerrymanding [sic]?

REP. DUPLESSIS: No, sir.

REP. JOHNSON: What -- why? Why is that -- why is that acceptable to remove those -- those --

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particularly from one race to accomplish this map?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well again, we've talked about it. This -- your question is very similar to the questions that Chairman Stefanski [inaudible]

REP. JOHNSON: I didn't understand his question, so I wasn't -- it wasn't on purpose --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well -- I gathered from his questioning, he wanted to -- to better understand why certain precincts were included versus other precincts not being included. Your questions were more to the point of why were this number of black voters take -- take --

As -- as we've pointed out repeatedly, if you look at the analysis in which we have to undertake for the Voting Rights Act, if the map can be drawn in such a way where minority voters, black voters in particular, make up a large enough population, and the district can be drawn in a compact fashion, we have a requirement to do that.

So it's not just -- it's not just race.

REP. JOHNSON: You could have taken those 30,000 black voters in Ouachita Parish -- keep that

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parish whole, and have taken them from East Baton Rouge Parish.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I'm not saying it couldn't have been done. Again, I'm not the demographer here. But there are multiple of factors, compactness, split parishes, split precincts, overall deviation, how a precinct is drawn, how that might throw off another district. You know, this is like a puzzle piece. You make one change in one district and it has a ripple effect.

REP. JOHNSON: You and I laughed when we first got our book. We got our yellow highlighters and I said, I feel like we're back in law school.

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's right.

REP. JOHNSON: One of the things I highlighted was where it talks about the Voting Rights Act under section two. And it says clearly, I got it highlighted, nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population.

MR. EVANS: You are correct, Representative Johnson. But in the court opinion, and the Supreme

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Court has said, proportionality can be a factor that a court can use in striking down a map.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. So I shouldn't have highlighted that portion, is what you're telling me.

REP. DUPLESSIS: No. I think he's just saying there's just more to it. That's -- that's one piece. That's just -- that's not the final piece.

REP. JOHNSON: All right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Like the -- like the court process.

MR. EVANS: Representative Johnson, may I address your first question.

REP. JOHNSON: Well my first question I think was more of a comment to your comment.

MR. EVANS: Okay.

REP. JOHNSON: But -- but yes. Certainly. Go right ahead.

MR. EVANS: You listed a lot of local offices.

REP. JOHNSON: That's right.

MR. EVANS: You listed mayor, and judge, and -- and city council. With all due respect, Representative Johnson, we're talking about congress

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here. And in these 152 pages, when the court looked at whether there is racially polarized voting in congress, the court struck down that map.

REP. JOHNSON: But you're look- --

MR. EVANS: If you look at the rac- -- if you look at the racial numbers of district -- every district except district two, the share that the minority choice candidate got in those races aligns very closely with the minority population in those districts.

Those aren't my words, Representative Johnson. State and federal courts, judges appointed by democrat and republican presidents have found that racially polarized voting pervades state and regional elections in this state.

REP. JOHNSON: And -- and my -- my response was an immediate response to any implication that the people in Rapides Parish were too racist to elect a black candidate. And I showed you examples where that absolutely is not true. So I wanted to clear that up.

And -- and you can say what you want. They can only vote as they can.

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MR. EVANS: At the local level. Yes. Yes, Representative --

REP. JOHNSON: Where they are the majority population, they're willing to vote for minorities to be elected.

MR. EVANS: At the local level. Yes, Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON: Well I don't know that we've had a significant number of African Americans even attempt to run for congress in that district in the past. So it may be the right person with the proper qualifications, my parish apparently is willing to vote for that.

So I -- I guess I'm just offended by the fact that it's as though we're painted with a broad -- broad brush, and that they're willing to vote for the person based upon the content of their character and not the pigmentation of their skin.

MR. EVANS: Well --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well just -- just to -- just to again further -- I think it's important to point out, Rep. Johnson, that just because you are a person

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of color, just because you are a, you know, a -- a minority has been -- whatever the case might be. I can't speak to how things are in your hometown because I'm not from there. We -- we've talked about that.

But a -- a -- a person of color, a black candidate, is not always the candidate of choice for black voters. And that needs to be very -- that needs to be made very, very clear. You can be a candidate, you can be black, but that doesn't make you necessarily a candidate of choice for certain communities of interest.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. I thought that's what you were saying earlier that you had to draw a black district because only blacks -- I mean it just -- it's almost preposterous that only -- you can only be elected if you're black by a black district. That's degrading to the blacks.

MR. EVANS: We agree with you, Representative Johnson. That's why we're here.

REP. JOHNSON: By splitting Rapides Parish in half, what do you do to the community interest of my parish?

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REP. DUPLESSIS: I'm sorry?

REP. JOHNSON: What -- by splitting the -- the community of interest in Rapides Parish, what do you do to my parish?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well East Baton Rouge is split right now.

REP. JOHNSON: Rapides Parish.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well we -- we have to -- we have to -- look, we have six congressional districts across this state. Six. And we have to do this in a way where deviation is as low as possible. And we have to get as close to zero as possible.

So you know, I mean we -- we -- we -- we are what we are. And we've been under -- we are under a court order right now by -- by -- by federal district court to draw a map that has a second black congressional district.

REP. JOHNSON: Do you agree that the map does split the community of interest of Rapides Parish?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I -- I -- I'm not in a position to agree or disagree with that.

REP. JOHNSON: You -- you can't disagree that

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it poli- -- it -- it splits political subdivisions.

REP. DUPLESSIS: A political subdivision is not a commu- -- doesn't mean it is a community of interest.

REP. JOHNSON: Separate question though. You don't deny that it splits political subdivisions in the parish --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I don't -- I don't deny that. No. But a political subdivision does not mean it's a community of interest.

REP. JOHNSON: Because I mean, our -- our police juries, our school boards, share everything. We'll have two congressmen, diminished influence with those, for one parish --

REP. DUPLESSIS: You know, it's funny you say that. Because the first testimony in support of a bill earlier today said that they had three congressmen along the coast and talked about how great it was.

REP. JOHNSON: I -- I -- I'm not that person.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I'm just saying. I -- I heard some testimony earlier that talked about how great it was having three congresspeople representing them on

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coastal issues. So I -- I -- I -- I -- we had the same debate around the BESE maps, people saying well we didn't have -- you know, having more than one BESE rep was a bad thing. I don't see how having more representation is a bad thing.

REP. JOHNSON: Well we have six senators now in Rapides Parish. Six. That's state -- on the state level. Do you honestly want to tell me that that's best for the parish to have a small percentage -- the small percentage of the population of each elected official. It hasn't worked that way thus far --

REP. DUPLESSIS: That strengthens your delegation. You have more voices --

REP. JOHNSON: Unless you have very little -- doesn't work that way. Doesn't work that -- hasn't worked that way in Rapides Parish. I don't think it's worked -- we've been -- Rapides Parish has been split before. It's not been a -- a helpful -- or hadn't been a benefit to our influence in congress.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah.

REP. JOHNSON: That's why I'm very much -- we're -- we're a whole parish right now. Splitting us

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hurts the people of Rapides Parish. I understand that's not your -- your -- your purpose. Your purpose is to comply with the federal court judge.

But I'm elected in that parish. I'm elected in the state. I care about both. But splitting my parish to make the numbers fit when it can be done differently perhaps, and -- and my opposition is not to a second minority district. It is to having my parish split in half and diminish the people, black and white, of Rapides Parish voting power is a -- is a concern and a problem.

And -- and we could spend days on that. And I know that probably needs to be moved on. But --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I would just -- I would just, Rep. Johnson, I -- I mean I hear what you're saying in terms of parishes being split. But, you know, as I look at my -- my friend and roommate, Rep. Lavadain over there who's from Rapides Parish, I -- I would -- I would be willing to be and argue that the -- the people -- there -- there are people in Rapides Parish who don't feel represented right now in congress.

REP. JOHNSON: I'm sure [inaudible]

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REP. DUPLESSIS: So -- so -- so if it requires splitting that parish to give those people a voice in congress, I -- I -- I don't know that that diminishes the blacks, as you said. I don't know that that diminishes them at all. I think it strengthens them.

REP. JOHNSON: And you know, if I said the blacks, I hate talking in terms like that. I hate talking in -- I just like to talk in terms of people. But those are the terms we're given.

I'm not always sure whether I'm supposed to say minority, minority black, minor- -- you know, you have to -- it's a real -- it's a real -- when it's not your nature to separate you out, it -- it becomes a -- a -- a language I'm not comfortable to know exactly how to say it.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I -- I understand that. But I think it's important for us to -- to -- to acknowledge race. I think it's important given the history of this country and given the current state of affairs right now that we -- that we do see race, and that we acknowledge it.

And that we don't try to paint everybody with

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a broad brush and say, oh, I don't see color. We need to see color. And we need to recognize color.

REP. JOHNSON: So -- so the whole -- the whole -- the whole dream of judging people on the content of their character --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I didn't say judge people by their color --

REP. JOHNSON: No. Or to deal with people --

REP. DUPLESSIS: No.

REP. JOHNSON: -- based upon the content of their character rather than --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I didn't say to judge people based on color. I said to see color and to acknowledge the differences and experiences that people have based on color.

REP. JOHNSON: I -- I don't -- I don't disagree that it's important. I just -- I just -- I would much rather vote for a person based upon the content of their character, regardless of their color, than based upon whether they're black, white, or --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well I -- I just -- again, we could go back and forth. But I just said that you could

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put a black person up, but that doesn't mean he's the black person's community of choice. I mean candidate of choice. So we're going to base -- we're going to make decisions based on content of character. But we cannot ignore race.

REP. JOHNSON: With that way of thinking, we're never going to be --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well I disagree.

REP. JOHNSON: -- one society, are we.

MR. EVANS: But we can, Rep. --

REP. JOHNSON: I sure wish we could. I sure wish that for my children and my grandchildren. And I appreciate your passion. I appreciate what you're doing. Appreciate the hard work you've put into this.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes, sir. Thank you.

REP. JOHNSON: And --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Johnson. Next we have Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, I came into the redistricting session in February and in this session with a mindset that we need to do what was right for our state. I

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didn't come with any bitterness or anger.

I wanted to see if we as a legislative body could come together and do what was right for our state based upon the information from the census, based upon the criteria that we had to follow to redistrict, and sit down and try to come up with and do the right thing.

And I -- I just hope that as we go through this process, that all of us just keep that in mind. We try to do what is right for the state of Louisiana. And I want to kind of bring this back around as to -- to why we're here now in this -- I call it a second redistricting session.

Our body passed a instrument, which is now I think HB -- HB2 by the speaker, out of the February session. Isn't that right, Mr. Vice Chairman?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. JENKINS: And that instrument of course was filed. It came through this committee. I don't think there's too many people that changed on this committee. It went to the floor. Went through both chambers. It went into -- it was vetoed. The veto was

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overwritten. And it went into law.

And at some point it was challenged in court. And a federal judge took a look at that in federal court. Isn't that right, Mr. Vice Chairman?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes, sir.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. So that was the process that that instrument went through. And it made no difference which side of the instrument you was on. That instrument had a fair chance to go through the process. And that's one of the things I'm trying to find out and hope that will happen in this process.

If we have an instrument, let's give it a fair chance, to go through the process. What I think I saw in the February session, it's a lot of bills just did not make it out. They did not have a cha- -- they did not have a equal chance to go through the process.

But at this particular point we know that a federal judge has taken a look at the instrument that we passed. And Mr. Evans, the attorney, I understand that both sides in court had an opportunity to present their case. Isn't that right?

MR. EVANS: We had a weeklong trial the second

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week in May, Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: And Mr. Evans, all of the evidence was put before the judge. Isn't that correct?

MR. EVANS: That's correct.

REP. JENKINS: And we understand that the judge has based -- has reviewed and based on that evidence issued a ruling. Isn't that correct?

MR. EVANS: That's -- that's correct, Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: And in essence, the judge felt that the instrument we passed did not meet the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. Isn't that correct?

MR. EVANS: Yes, sir.

REP. JENKINS: All right. An instrument that had an opportunity to go through the legislative process, all the way through the executive branch's objections, and to court, had a fair chance in court to try to see if it would stand.

And the judge has looked at that and has indicated that that particular instrument does not stand. It needs -- we need to go back and take another

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look at the process and try to come up with a new map. Isn't that right, Mr. Vice Chairman?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes, sir.

REP. JENKINS: And if I understand the reading of the ruling correctly, the district court specifically said Louisiana can and should create a second majority black seat.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: So we're -- we're not just talking about the voices of the people on the roadshow, and I know that many of us was involved in the roadshow, and what those desires were. We're talking about now a ruling based on evidence that has been reviewed by an unbiased judge. Isn't that correct, Mr. Vice Chairman?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. And not just a judge. You also had the US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that said in their ruling that the defendants were -- did not make a strong showing that they would succeed on the merits. So it -- it -- we're talking about the one judge order right now.

REP. JENKINS: Correct.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: You are correct.

REP. JENKINS: Right. And -- and I was going to get to that and I'm glad that you brought that up. Not only was that particular judge, an unbiased judge took a look at it. Motions was filed because of a stay, if I understand it correctly, with the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

I understand a panel of judges that had been appointed by a variety of presidents, both democrat and republican, if I recall it, took a look at it, vacated a stay, and also denied a stay, and said, legislature go back and do your job --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Right.

REP. JENKINS: -- and try to come up with a map that should meet the -- the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. Is that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. JENKINS: And I bring a -- you know, I'm bringing this up so we won't lose sight as to why we're here. We -- none of us ran back here to this particular session voluntarily. We -- we've had a court intervention both at the district court level and the

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court of appeals level that said we need to come back and -- and -- and try to create a map that meets the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

And that's what our job here is today. You know, I come from a different area. Other members come from a different area. But we -- we can't lose sight of the fact, regardless of whatever you came from, you're being requested to produce a map that creates a second majority black district. Isn't that correct, Mr. Vice Chairman?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. I would just say, we're not being requested, we're being ordered to do it --

REP. JENKINS: We've been ordered to do so. And so let's talk about the map here with HB1. First of all, if I recall, HB1 was filed the first day of this second special session. Am I correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: It was pre-filed a day prior.

REP. JENKINS: Pre-filed a day -- and so it was there on the first day.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes, sir. It was read in on the first day.

REP. JENKINS: Had anyone in the committee

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reached out to you to talk about a lot of the particulars of the map?

REP. DUPLESSIS: No.

REP. JENKINS: And this body did not work at all on it yesterday, which was Thursday. Isn't that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. JENKINS: And I think that was ample opportunity that if there was some concerns about the geography of the map, or -- or how the map was created, or reaching out to someone who -- who may have been a demographer involved with the map.

We had at least a whole day yesterday to try to go into some of those issues. Am I right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

MR. EVANS: Well not just that, Representative Jenkins. This -- the map being considered, HB1, it is virtually identical to a similar bill that was heard by this committee during the redistricting session. The changes that were made were so incremental, primarily just taking a few pre- -- precincts and making them whole.

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But all of the other substantive considerations, communities of interest, parish -- parish splits, compactness, they're all the same.

REP. JENKINS: That -- that's correct, Attorney. I believe that would have been HB8 out of the February redistricting session that we had --

MR. EVANS: I believe -- I believe you're correct, Representative Jenkins.

FEMALE: [inaudible]

REP. JENKINS: I think it may have been Gaines, Representative -- I'm sorry, Representative Gaines. But I looked at a previous map in the February session that looks virtually identical to the map we're talking about. And I believe that map came before the committee, if I recall. It was vetted. Questions were asked. Testimony was given. And information was shared at that particular time.

So there's very little difference between what we looked at back in February and what we're looking at now. Am I correct in -- in -- in that statement? And if I'm not, then help me with it.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. I think this map does

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have some differences. But yeah, a similar version of this has been presented.

REP. JENKINS: Right. And a lot of information that may be -- that we might need to know about HB1, a lot of that information was discussed when we looked at all this back in the February session. Would I be correct in saying that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Again, I can't speak on behalf of any -- what anyone else has filed down to the particular details. But yes, we have seen sim- -- a similar version of this during -- during the redistricting session.

REP. JENKINS: Well we agree -- we agree that it's just not all brand new. We're not just starting from scratch on HB1 in this session.

REP. DUPLESSIS: That is -- that is correct.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. I looked at the numbers on HB1. It looks like in district two it's 54 percent black population and it district five it's 54 percent black population. Am I right or wrong on that?

FEMALE: [inaudible]

REP. DUPLESSIS: 52.

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REP. JENKINS: What is the numbers on it?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Pulling them up now for you, Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. I may have round them up or down one way or the other.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay.

REP. JENKINS: I'm talking about the overall population. I'm not talking about --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. Now the overall total population --

REP. JENKINS: Yeah. I'm talking about the overall population --

REP. DUPLESSIS: 54.4 district two. 54 in district five.

REP. JENKINS: Right. I know -- I know the voting age population --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Voting age population is slightly slower.

REP. JENKINS: Slightly lower.

REP. DUPLESSIS: 52 --

REP. JENKINS: Like I said, 52 and -- and close to 51.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes, sir.

REP. JENKINS: So my -- I guess one of the questions I'm asking is, do we -- do we feel that those numbers are effective districts?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I'll let Mr. Evans speak to that. I do. But I'll let Mr. Evans speak to that because I know that there's been analysis have been performed on that.

MR. EVANS: Yes, Representative Jenkins. The minority choice candidate would be successful, or at least have the opportunity to be successful in both districts two and five.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. And then HB1 once again, as far as complying with the order from the order, is it your opinion that HB1 complies with the court order?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

MR. EVANS: And -- and not just the court order, the call of the session. We're here because the governor called us here. And this map is compliant with the governor's call.

REP. JENKINS: Right. It would make no sense to try to pass another instrument out of this body with

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just one black congressional district. Am I correct with that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. It -- it would not be in compliance with the court.

REP. JENKINS: And as far as HB1, is it your opinion that it complies with the Voting Rights Act?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

MR. EVANS: Not just -- yes.

[talking over each other]

REP. JENKINS: I'd like to ask from both of you. We got a great author and we got a great legal mind sitting at the table. And I'm just really trying to get down to -- to the real points of what we are trying to do.

And that's making sure that we are here to -- to follow what the court has asked us to do, after now, after we've already given an instrument a chance -- a majority has given an instrument a chance to go through the entire process. And it brings us back here again. So it's no reason for anybody to be upset, anybody to be angry.

The instrument that's a majority of this body

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wanted to move forward with went completely through the process. And it came back. And we're here now to try to come up with a new instrument.

So we need to start focusing on that, and seeing how are we going to get an instrument out here that meets the call and meets what the judge want to see. We can't get another instrument out here with just one black congressional district in it.

Now our task as a legislative body is subject to a timeline by the federal court order. Is that correct, Mr. Vice Chairman?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes. We've been given until June 20th.

REP. JENKINS: And this body did no work at all on yesterday, Thursday, in this effort. Is that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. JENKINS: And if I recall also, the district court, I believe there was a request for extensions, but the district court has not given us any kind of extension on this case. Is that right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

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REP. JENKINS: I want to go back to something I -- I -- I was hearing you say a little bit earlier, Mr. Vice Chairman. You know, we got six congressional districts in this state. Is that right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: And only one of those districts are now being represented by someone who's black. Is that right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's right.

REP. JENKINS: All right. And we went through the population. We all on this committee know what that is. But one third of the population of this state is black. Is that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: So if we have six congressional districts, it would just seem that, only fair, that two of those districts would be created in a way where a black person would have an opportunity to be elected. Would that be a fair statement for me to make?

MR. EVANS: I -- I wouldn't say a black person. I would say the black -- the candidate of choice for black voters.

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REP. JENKINS: Okay. All right. And HB1, the bill that you have filed, Mr. Vice Chairman. When I looked at the bill, you know, I see it as coauthored by every member of the black caucus in the House. Am I correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: And Louisi- -- the Louisiana legislative black caucus mission is to represent the interests of blacks throughout this state. Am I correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: You -- we have members of the Louisiana legislative black caucus that represent people from the north, the south, the east, and the west, in our House districts. Am I right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: And every member of the Louisiana legislative black caucus has coauthored this -- this HB1 bill. Am I right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: Mr. Vice Chairman, do you think having a diverse delegation in Washington would be

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helpful to the state of Louisiana?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: And I know it's not based upon any kind of partisan situations, but you have democrats and you have republicans, so matter -- no matter who's in the -- what part is in the White House, you have members of our delegation that would be a member of that party, of that president, he or she, whoever he or she may be. Am I right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. And you made mention of, and I talked a little earlier about, you know, everyone wants -- every citizen of our state wants to feel that their voices are being heard. And that's the way I feel about it. I -- I -- I really do. If you're black, you're white, Latino, if you're male or female, I think that every citizen of this state should have some fair representation in congress.

You made mention of issues of interest, especially to -- to -- to -- to -- to black people. I'm just going to put it out there. You talked about the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Do you feel like the

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delegation that we have there now is -- is -- is really supportive of an interest like that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I would --

MR. EVANS: When it came -- when it came up for a vote in congress, we did not have a single member of our conger- -- congressional delegation to support it.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. And do you -- what about the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act?

MR. EVANS: When it came up for a vote in congress, we did not have a single member of our conger- -- congressional delegation to support it. And I will say that that was after -- both of those bills came up after Congressman Richmond had resigned, and before Congressman Troy had been elected -- Congressman Carter had been elected.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. We could go on with issues like equal pay and raising the -- the minimum wage. And we can also go on to -- like the infrastructure and job act. I mean we have a lot of citizens in this state who would like their voices heard on issues like that, that our delegation or the

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majority of the delegation does not support.

And I -- and I -- I get it. I mean I understand why they may not want to do it. We always want to -- you know, we hear a lot from people saying, well I got to vote my district vote, my district vote, my district vote, my district vote --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Jenkins, I don't want to cut you off, but can we -- can we bring it back to the map, at least. I know this is all holistic. I know it is. I'm not telling you you're not. I'm just saying, can we -- can we try to bring it back to the -- this map.

REP. JENKINS: Ab- -- absolutely --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

REP. JENKINS: In fact, I was about to wrap up. But we vote my district, vote my district, vote my district, vote my district. But the point I'm simply making is simply this. We need to make certain that we have fair representation for all the citizens in the state of Louisiana. Do you believe that HB1 will accomplish that goal?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

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REP. JENKINS: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Jenkins. Mr. Pro Tem, for a question.

REP. MAGEE: Thank you, Mr. Spea- -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate everybody's work on this. And my questions are more simple and basic. I'm just trying to get a sense of the decisions that were made and why they were made. And they may be stupid questions. I'm not -- these are not planned questions that anybody by any stretch of the imagination.

It -- my -- my curiosity is, it seems to me that there's more black people in Shreveport than in Monroe. Is that fair to say?

MR. EVANS: Yes. Shreveport is a larger urban area. Yes, sir.

REP. MAGEE: And then there's more of a compact black population in the city of Shreveport than in Monroe.

MR. EVANS: I can't testify to that, Mr. [inaudible]

REP. MAGEE: I -- I -- and I don't have

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numbers. This is based off of my just -- my -- my working knowledge of growing up in Louisiana. But yet for some reason you all made the decision to make the second minority district based out of -- somewhat based out of Monroe versus Shreveport. And why was that decision made?

Why not -- why not build it out -- out of one of the larger minority districts in North Louisiana, instead of one of the smaller minority districts in Louisiana?

MR. EVANS: Thank you for that question, Representative Magee. And the simple answer is compactness. We -- we tried. A bill was presented to this legislature, two bills actually, that included [inaudible] the city of Shreveport.

To Representative Jenkins' point, many of his constituents were upset that they weren't included in -- in the minority district that we were creating. And so it was -- it was -- to make the bill more compact, and which was a major principle for us, we chose district five. Because it -- it would have split fewer parishes to get our population deviation close to zero.

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REP. MAGEE: Okay. But Shreveport has a black mayor, right?

MR. EVANS: Yes. I think so.

REP. MAGEE: I think Monroe doesn't.

MR. EVANS: I'm not aware.

REP. MAGEE: Okay. And I think the majority of the council in Shreveport --

REP. DUPLESSIS: They did -- they did. Mayor Mayo was it? I know he's not the mayor anymore. But I think he may have been mayor for about 20 years or so.

REP. MAGEE: Right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah.

REP. MAGEE: But not currently, I don't think.

REP. DUPLESSIS: No. Not currently.

REP. MAGEE: I can't comment. I don't live up there. I'm not -- I don't know. I'm just -- just -- my interpretation of it. Okay. Now we have other maps in Louisiana that we break up, that I think maybe we can call them not political maps. We break up LDH into regions. Isn't that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. MAGEE: We break up DOTD into regions.

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Isn't that correct?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

MR. EVANS: Wildlife -- Wildlife and Fisheries.

REP. MAGEE: Wildlife and fisheries. Do any of those maps have -- follow compared to the one you all proposed? For example, does the Monroe region for Wildlife and Fisheries, does it go down into St. Landry Parish?

MR. EVANS: Representative Magee, in drawing this map and -- and preparing, we've looked at political maps. We did not look at those -- at those ones that you're referencing.

REP. MAGEE: Okay. I -- it just seems to me that those maps are probably based off of communities of interest of some kind.

Because that's why they were probably geographically formed, and for administrative, and these -- saying that, you know, for Wildlife and Fisheries that, you know, I don't know, Lafayette region compared to the Minden region, probably have similar Wildlife and Fishery issues, and so we're going

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to group these people together so that they agents and the -- and the staff [inaudible] work there can -- can deal with the same issues. That's what it'd seem like to me.

MR. EVANS: I don't disagree with you, Representative Magee. But what I can say is that when courts look at issues dealing with redistricting, they don't look at those types of maps. They look at political maps.

REP. MAGEE: I understand that. And I'm -- I'm not trying to win a legal case right now. I'm trying to ask questions about the map.

REP. DUPLESSIS: And -- and I would just -- I would add to that answer, Rep. Magee, that -- that's probably a factor, the -- it's probably a factor. But I would think that those decisions are made, when you talk about administrative agencies, more from an operational standpoint.

Just like that of say, you know, a -- a business or some sort of franchise where you have regions, just based on pure geography. Not so much that, you know, we're going to look at communities of

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interest per se. It's probably a factor.

But I would think when you're talking about DOTD, Wildlife and Fisheries, LDH, that -- I would think the -- the predominant factors there have to do just more with, you know, regionalization and geography from an operational standpoint. But it's probably a factor. Yeah.

REP. MAGEE: Okay. And look, you know, I don't remember a whole lot from law school. It's -- it's been some time. But I do remember one thing that my constitutional law professor taught me, which was John Devlin. And anybody who knows John Devlin, you know he's not -- he's not a conservative.

But he always said, the Supreme Court is right, not because they're right, they're right because they're last. And that has stuck with me for 10 years. One of the few quotes that I remember from law school.

And so I -- I don't know what's going to happen in the legal case. I'm not going to be like everybody else and try to tell everybody what's going to happen. I think it's -- it's going to be played out and a decision will be made. And once it's final, it's

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final. And then I think that's [inaudible]

I do know that the 5th Circuit did say that -- and it really just said that the court's analysis entirely -- is not entirely watertight. And it's feasible that the defendants may actually win. So I mean, I don't know what's going to happen. So I think we're all here just speculating at this point.

Thank you. And that's all I have.

MR. ACTING CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Speaker Pro Tem. For a question, Representative Gadberry. Before we get there, John Devlin was a really good constitutional law professor. Representative Gadberry --

REP. GADBERRY: Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman. First of all, you -- you indicated that you did not draw the maps, you did not -- neither one of you did. Do you know who did?

MR. EVANS: Yes, sir. The demographer's name is Tony Fairfax.

REP. GADBERRY: Yes. Anthony Fairbanks [sic]. I pulled that out of the 152 page document you got in front of you.

MR. EVANS: That's correct.

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REP. GADBERRY: Because I read it, portions of it this morning when I received a copy of it. In that same -- same document on page seven, it says -- it goes through what the judge I guess defines as the equal protection clause, which forbids racial ger- -- gerrymandering, intentionally assigning citizens to a district on the basis of race without sufficient justification.

The Voting Rights Act bill pulls in the opposite direction, as you indicated earlier, and in fact often insists the district be created precisely on race. So it's a tug of war. Who wins, is how you -- and to me who wins is considering all the other factors.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Correct.

REP. GADBERRY: So being from district five, Ouachita Parish, that's what I want to concentrate on now. In your bill there's 387,046 people in six parishes along I-10 corridor. Okay? I got those off the numbers from your map, which is 50 percent of the total population of that district as drawn.

30 percent of those are just in east and west Baton Rouge Parish. So my question is, how is a person

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from Ouachita Parish going to be able to run for congress, when 50 percent of the people are in Baton Rouge, and has nothing in common with the northern part of the state?

North Louisiana loses again. If this map is passed as is, my opinion is there will be one congressman from northern Louisiana and the other five, whether they're black, white, yellow, green, or blue, I don't care, but five of them will be from south Louisiana.

So that's one part on my -- do you have any -- well, you didn't draw the map, so you don't know --

REP. DUPLESSIS: What -- was -- I was going to wait until you got to your question.

REP. GADBERRY: Yeah. My question is, why did -- were the maps drawn that the majority of the population is along the I-20 -- or I-10 corridor, eliminating north Louisiana from having representation?

REP. DUPLESSIS: So what I would like to do is -- I was in my mind going to go to congressional district two and make a similar I guess analysis on the reality right now that people from Baton Rouge don't

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feel like they can run in congressional district two and be successful, currently.

And I would imagine that based on congressional district five, not my map, but the speaker's map, the map that this body adopted, that people from East Feliciana, West Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Pointe Coupee, might have some challenges running in congressional district five as it is.

My point is that these are the challenges we face when trying to draw these maps. And not -- and -- and -- and giving those people, whatever part of the district you might be from, an opportunity to run and be competitive.

So you -- you raise a -- a valid point. But these are challenges that exist in every congressional district.

MR. EVANS: And to Representative Duplessis' point, under the current configuration of district five as it is now, there's many people in St. Landry and Alexandria [inaudible] that they -- if they run, they aren't successful.

REP. GADBERRY: All right. Also -- I lost my

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map here -- the other -- the other point I want to make was -- or question I guess, is never in the past 40 years that I've been able to ascertain has Ouachita Parish been split. It's always been whole. Now we come up with Ouachita Parish being split.

And more particular, the map that was drawn cuts out West Monroe, or reaches up in and gets the city of West Monroe, typically. If you take a seven mile radius from the city hall of West Monroe, you have people -- another -- well I don't know if I said this before, the population of West Monroe is roughly 13,000.

You have another 15 to 18,000 within a seven mile radius of West Monroe that call themselves -- or convey themselves as I live in West Monroe, when actually they live in Ouachita Parish. Not the city limits of West Monroe, but they -- all those people go to West Monroe High School. There's one high school in that area.

So the communities of -- of interest, the community of interest has been dissected right there in that area. And my question I guess is, could we dissect

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something else? I mean if you'd have stopped at the river, Ouachita River, you -- you wouldn't have dissected West Monroe.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Again, I -- I want -- I want to speak to that again. And I know, you know, all these communities of interest, that's what makes us what we are, right? The differences, the unique attributes, and those things that you know about your community that I would never know, right?

But I -- again, I'm going back to some testimony that I heard earlier. It would probably -- it may play out differently, you know, if this map would have become successful. But I remember hearing earlier that they talked about how much they fought, and fought, and fought the -- the -- the -- the breaking up of some of those coastal parishes.

And -- and now how it's just been such a -- such a great thing. And they want to keep it that way now. So I understand the hesitation. And I'm not suggesting that it should be necessarily welcomed. But it, you know, I'm just saying, it -- it -- for that -- for that community where they testified earlier, it

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turned out to -- to -- to work.

And I -- and I just -- I think that we have a responsibil- -- we have an obligation under the law to -- to -- to come up with something that -- that meets all the criteria and is compliant with the Voting Rights Act. And that's all we're trying to do. We're not -- no one's intentionally trying to split up your [inaudible]

REP. GADBERRY: Right. And -- and I think it's still a possibility that that can be done.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Mm-hmm.

REP. GADBERRY: I just don't think this is the map that's [inaudible] from -- from the district five standpoint.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I respect that.

REP. GADBERRY: I -- because, you know, I just think based on the population in district five, it's all concentrated on that I-10 corridor. And it's going to neglect the total from -- from [inaudible] Parish north is going to be neglected with representation.

So I guess that's my -- my questions. But I appreciate -- I mean I've -- I've -- I dug into these

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maps back in October, November, January, February, myself, drew them, trying to start out at a point, no preconceived notion. Let's see what happens.

And I almost got to the point of two districts. But I just couldn't quite get there, okay. So I didn't present that map. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. ACTING CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Gadberry. For a question, Representative Thomas.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Acting Chair. Let's see. Good afternoon. Had to check the time. I have several different ways of asking you questions, or several different categories that I'd like to ask you questions.

The first thing is, many of our colleagues have been talking about one third of the population being black. There's absolutely -- actually not correct. According to census numbers, which is what everything that we're supposed to base our decisions on, the number or the percent of blacks, according to census numbers, is 31.17 percent. That's census numbers.

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If you multiply that times six, the result is 1.8702. It is not two. And that's why there is so much difficulty, I believe, in drawing two minority districts. Because it's not two. It's 1.8702.

MR. EVANS: Representative Thomas, respectfully, the middle district disagrees with you. The middle district found that it can be done and it should be done.

REP. THOMAS: The middle district disagrees with the math?

MR. EVANS: The middle district found -- you -- you said that it's -- it's hard and why it's so complicated and difficult to draw two minority districts. And what I'm saying is that the district court dis- -- the middle district disagreed with you and found that it can be done and should be done. That's the whole [inaudible]

REP. THOMAS: That was not the point. The point is, numbers are numbers. And they are finite. And they are not subject to being rounded. 31.17 percent is a census number. That's not something that somebody made up and pulled out of the air. If you multiply

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that times six, the product is 1.8702. It is not two.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Can you tell me what the -- the -- the white population of the state is?

REP. THOMAS: I did not look that up.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay.

REP. THOMAS: Because what --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well what I [inaudible]

REP. THOMAS: Because what -- because -- excuse me. Because what a -- a lot of the conversation has been is 33 percent of six is two. It is not 33 percent according to census numbers. And that's what we're bound by, among other things, is census numbers.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well if I may respond to that. If I may respond to that Representative Thomas.

REP. THOMAS: Are you disagreeing that -- that it -- that the number is 31.17 percent?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well I -- I -- I will say that --

REP. THOMAS: Yes or no.

REP. DUPLESSIS: -- we know that there's an undercount. We know that.

REP. THOMAS: No, no, no, that -- that -- that

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-- that -- that is not something that we have to take into account --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I don't -- I don't -- I don't have the numbers in front of me at this moment, okay? So -- so if -- let's -- let's go with your number. Let's go with your number.

REP. THOMAS: Well it's not my numbers. It's census numbers.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well my -- yeah. What I have right here is -- thank you, Representative Ivey. I have a total population, total black, is 33.13 percent.

REP. THOMAS: That is not census numbers. I don't know where he got his numbers from.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well these --

REP. THOMAS: That is not the census numbers.

REP. DUPLESSIS: [inaudible] numbers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's just let each other talk. [talking over each other]

REP. THOMAS: Okay. All right. I'll go on to my next --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well I -- I -- I haven't --

REP. THOMAS: I'll go on to my next area.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: But we have 33 percent.

REP. THOMAS: No. You have 31.17 percent.

REP. DUPLESSIS: So you're telling the staff that [inaudible]

REP. THOMAS: Okay. Now --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vice Chair and Representative Thomas. Let's -- let's just respect each other. Let's ask and answer, okay? All right. Representative Thomas, for your next question.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. My next questions centers around a statistical analysis that was done and presented by an expert who was recognized as an expert and in sworn testimony. His last name is Blunt.

In sworn testimony, in writing, he said that he was hired to analyze and determine whether a race blind redistricting process, following traditional district criteria, would or would not be likely to produce a plan with two majority minority districts such as those submitted by Anthony Fairfax and William Cooper, the expert witnesses for the plaintiffs.

To do so, he simulated a set of 10,000 possible Louisiana congressional district plans that

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adhere as closely as possible to traditional redistricting criteria. Are you familiar with this testimony, with this sworn testimony?

MR. EVANS: [inaudible]

REP. THOMAS: His simulations did not take race or partisanship into account. The simulations allowed him to determine the number of minority districts which would be likely to emerge from a map drawing process that followed traditional criteria, but did not draw districts predominantly on the basis of race. That's his sworn testimony.

His result was after 10,000 simulations. And none of the plans that emerged did black voting age population exceed 45.47 percent, with a second minority district not exceeding 42.24 percent.

He concluded therefore that race would need to be a substantial consideration in drawing two black districts. I believe that you -- you agreed with my colleague, Representative Johnson, that you cannot draw districts based on race because that is gerrymandering --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Solely --

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REP. THOMAS: -- and Representative --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Solely -- solely based on race.

REP. THOMAS: Well the numbers don't support that.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well we don't even agree on the numbers, first of all. Because --

REP. THOMAS: Wait -- excuse me. I'm reading -- I'm reading sworn testimony.

MR. EVANS: Representative Thomas, since you're reading, what did the court say about that witness? What did -- what did the court say about Dr. Blunt? If I remember correctly, he was discredited as non -- as non-reliable. Am I correct? What did the court have to say about Dr. Blunt?

REP. THOMAS: I'm reading sworn testimony. And I'm asking the questions.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Please proceed. Let's -- but let's talk about Dr. Blunt though. You want to bring [inaudible]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hold -- and I'm -- I'm going to let you all continue. Members of the crowd, I please

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ask that you, you know, we -- we keep the -- any kind of outbursts, anything under control so that we can -- we can focus our attention on the -- on the questioner and the answerer. And Mr. Evans, I'll let you continue that line of statement because I cut you off. Okay.

Representative Thomas, on -- on your next question.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you. I'd like to ask Mr. Evans, what percent of the black voting age population makes it probable to elect a black?

MR. EVANS: As I've told this committee multiple times, Representative Thomas, there is no magic number. You take a lot of factors into consideration. You look at a number of previous races, how the minority choice candidate has been successful, has the minority choice candidate ran, does those numbers match the racial makeup of a district.

So there is no magic one number. And the court -- the court alluded to that.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. I'll -- I will move now to communities of interest. In sworn testimony, Mr. Heffner, the expert --

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REP. DUPLESSIS: He has to run to the bathroom, so I'll try my best to answer any questions that you have for Mr. Evans.

REP. THOMAS: Mr. Heffner, who is also a sworn expert, testified in writing that communities of interest are based on political issues, culture, economics, occupation, religion, or local traditions. He also testified that communities of interest is one of seven traditional redistricting criteria.

I'd like for the map to be brought up. Can we have the map of congressional district one, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the bill we're discussing, Representative Thomas?

REP. THOMAS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So congressional district one of -- of this bill, HB1.

REP. THOMAS: It's okay. Okay, that's good. That's good. Okay. This is the congressional district that I live in. So I'm very familiar with Jefferson Parish. And I'd like to point out that this map has only a sliver of St. Tammany, which is unlike the current map. But it also winds around and goes all the

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way to Iberia Parish. You all see that? Okay.

So in looking at again census data, and in having a conversation with my colleagues, I found out that there's not a whole lot in common between Jefferson Parish, Iberia, St. Mary. And I'd like to point out some of those things, in terms of what is considered to be communities of interest.

In terms of the economy, in Jefferson Parish, our economy is based for the most part -- and remember my source of information is census data -- our economy is based on construction, retail trade, educational services, healthcare and professional -- healthcare, and professional scientific and technical services.

The educat- -- the economy in Iberia Parish is based on their two sugar mills, sugar cane. They have 1,000 acres of crawfish pond, lots of agriculture, no shopping malls, one Rouses, one Chick Fil A, three McDonalds, one Burger King, two Wendy's, no steakhouse, and one upscale restaurant that's about to close.

In terms of culture, events, and festivals, let me start with Iberia Parish this time. They have the Delcambre Shrimp Festival, Mardi Gras, but their

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Mardi Gras is one street parade and a couple of balls.

They have the world championship gumbo cookoff, holidays, the home and garden tour, and the Delcambre Christmas boat parade, Lao New Year, the home and garden tour, sugar cane festival. And it was described to me that they have boucheries versus wine tasting in Jefferson Parish. They have [inaudible] and we have concerts.

In terms of Jefferson Parish, the events and festivals, we have Mardi Gras, we have 12 crews with street parades, balls, etc. We have Family Gras, the Zurich Classic, Italian heritage festival, Jean Lafite seafood festival, Uncle Sam Jam, international tarpon rodeo, freedom fest, Gretna heritage festival, the Bridge City gumbo festival, fall festivals and Halloween, Christmas in Lafreniere Park.

I think just from some of these that I have told you about, and our populations are very different, the annual budget in Jefferson Parish is $581 million. And Iberia, their budget, their governmental budget is 60,919,000, etc. Iberia Parish has more in common with St. Martin Parish than with Jefferson Parish. And if

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you notice up there, St. Martin Parish is not in congressional district one.

One other aspect in terms of communities of interest, the education level in Jefferson Parish, high school graduates, 86.4 percent. In Iberia it's 81.9 percent. The bachelor's degree holders in Jefferson Parish is 27.6 percent. And in Iberia Parish it's 15.3 percent. We are very different.

I believe that the map that we passed already, act five, maintains traditional communities of interest. Is there any comment that you might have about those communities of interest?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I would just say that -- look, I respect your opinion and everything you have to say, but we're here because a federal judge has -- has ruled that the map is unconstitutional.

REP. THOMAS: So no comment about communities of interest.

REP. DUPLESSIS: The -- the judge has ruled that the map is unconstitutional.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. So no comment about communities of interest. Okay. I get it. Heffner, the

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expert that I'm talking about here, he evaluated the four illustrative plans that were presented. And concluded that all are based on the presumption that blacks share the same interests and issues because of their race. That was a conclusion that he -- that he made in his sworn testimony.

I'd like to piggyback a little bit on something that Representative Johnson brought up. I -- I attended all of the roadshows, every single one of them. I sat there and I listened carefully. I agree with him that there was a group of people who did appear at all of the roadshows, not sure whether or not they were from Louisiana even, but they all said very much the same thing.

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But when we listened to the citizens, some of the citizens said that they would like to add a black district. But others said leave it the way it is, that they liked their representation. So in terms of the public, and not organized groups possibly from out of state, they said they had some differing opinions.

And I didn't keep a count of how many said we want this representation, how many said we want to keep

it the way it is. I didn't keep a count of that. But I would say that there were differing opinions.

Now let -- let -- let me ask a question that I haven't heard anybody ask. What is -- what is the female population of our state, roughly?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I know it's the majority. I have to pull it up. I don't --

REP. THOMAS: Pro- -- probably somewhere around 52 percent. I don't know an exact number on that, which is unusual because usually I know exact numbers. In our legislature, in the House, we have 20 percent of the population are female.

Do you think it's important or would it be necessary to mandate that 52 percent of the legislature of the House of Representatives should be female?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I think it's important. The question about mandate -- because I believe representation is important. But I -- I -- I think these are very two different comparisons when you talk about gender versus race. The Voting Rights Act deals with race, not gender.

REP. THOMAS: I understand. But in -- when I

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represent the citizens in my district, I don't necessarily pay attention to whether they are male, female, old, young, middle aged, black, white, republican, democrat, no party. I represent the people who elected me to house district 80, without regard to their station, their race, their gender.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'm finished.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you, Representative Thomas. Next, Representative Deshotel.

REP. DESHOTEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think first I'd like to -- I need to give a shout out to our rep- -- our colleague, Representative Beullieu [ph], who it's my understanding actually won that world famous gumbo cookoff in Iberia Parish.

FEMALE: [inaudible]

REP. DESHOTEL: So -- so I just had to start -- start with that one. But I think I'd like to -- to maybe comment on something Representative Jenkins said. You know, he said this body did not work at all yesterday. And I'm going to have to disagree with him.

I actually worked yesterday. I worked on these maps. I looked at these maps. I looked at the data.

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Tried to understand, tried to prepare myself for -- for this meeting. So to say we didn't work, I think is a, you know, not -- not fair. Because really we -- we did work.

And I'll tell you what else I did. I took a lot of phone calls. I took a lot of phone calls from constituents.in my parish. Because if you notice, this map affects my parish. So I called some mayors, I called police jury members, I called just citizens that I -- I really trust. And then I got a lot of calls from -- from citizens that I really didn't know.

And a lot of the comments I got was, hey, why is this happening, why is this so fast, can we come to Baton Rouge, how does this work, can we come to testify. Got all this things happening that we have to deal with. And -- and the consensus I got was that they didn't feel they had enough time to come express their opinions on this matter.

And I -- and I think the question for -- for you is, is this the map that was filed, born [??] the redistricting session.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I did not file this map

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during the redistricting session. I can't speak to what anyone else filed during the redistricting session except for I [inaudible] --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Duplessis, I can't -- I don't [inaudible]

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me turn off and on Representative Deshotel's mic.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He's the culprit.

REP. DUPLESSIS: What -- what -- what I -- what I can say --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Deshotel, why don't you bump to the right, okay? All right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: There were similar iterations of this map that were offered as floor amendments during the redistricting session. But I did not file this exact map during the redistricting session.

REP. DESHOTEL: We good. We good now. Superman. How about now?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Much better.

REP. DESHOTEL: I knew you could do it.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: On the -- on the -- on the question of time, I did not come up with the timetable. I did not come up with that [inaudible] comment about Rep. Jenkins, I -- I heard -- I interpreted what he said, not as that we didn't work individually, but we didn't work as a body, which is a true statement. We did not work as a body. And we did not work in a manner where -- where -- where instruments could move through the process. We weren't here. There were no committee meetings.

So despite all the work that I know you did and the work that we all did in preparing for the day, we didn't work as a body to move the instruments forward, or any instrument forward.

REP. DESHOTEL: But do you think it's important that we did that work to prepare ourselves for this meeting?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's always. Even when we're not in session. But that's more of an individual choice, as opposed to us as a body coming in and moving instruments forward.

REP. DESHOTEL: Right. No. I understand.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: And -- and in terms of the dates, these were dates that were given by the court. So I had no input or no say in that.

REP. DESHOTEL: Yes, sir. So -- so this is not the same map that was filed. And --

MR. EVANS: Representative -- if I may, Representative Deshotel. It is substantially similar to a map that was voted down in this committee during the redistricting session. Only things that were changed were a few precincts were made whole to comply with the redistricting principles that were passed by this body.

But all of the parish splits, compactness, all those are the same. So the public has seen this -- this map has been available online at least since early February.

REP. DESHOTEL: So all -- I'll have to disagree with you. You just said that you -- you changed the map and some of these precincts are changed. Well those people did not see that map. But so I guess the ques- -- the -- the next question is, so we changed the map, so it's the remedial -- and this is your words, remedial plan that the judge ordered us to

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come up with.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. DESHOTEL: Okay. So now I have a question for -- for the Chairman. So I -- I read in The Advocate yesterday that the judge threatened Speaker Schexnayder with contempt of court because he filed a legislative instrument. Is it -- I mean is that -- did I read that right?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I don't know what was reported. I don't know -- I don't know how you define threatened. I can't -- I can't say that's true or not true. And I -- I don't know how you define threatened. So I don't know what -- what was reported. So I'm not -- I'm not [inaudible]

REP. DESHOTEL: Okay. And that's fair enough. And I think the question is, you know, you started out your statement, your presentation, by saying the judge ordered us to enact, ordered us to adopt a remedial plan. House Bill 1 is the remedial plan.

REP. DUPLESSIS: That I am presenting. It's the remedial plan that -- that I am presenting.

REP. DESHOTEL: So I guess this is my question

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for the -- the Chairman. If the judge ordered us to come up with a remedial plan, she threatened Speaker Schexnayder, you know, I guess can hold him in contempt of court because he filed a legislative instrument.

Does that mean if I don't vote for a map that has two black congressional districts, that I could be held in contempt of court?

MR. CHAIRMAN: So first I'm going to say, I'm not your lawyer. Which I was taught in first year law school. Before I give anyone advice, they said always say that. It is the Chair's opinion that we are elected members of a body. Our Louisiana constitutional duty is to represent your district in the best way you see fit.

I'm not going to tell you what a judge can and can't do. But you acting -- you acting in an ability to be able to represent your district and vote the way you normally do according to the rules of this House, I don't see how you can be held in contempt for doing just that.

Let me mention something else. Again, not your lawyer, but you have to read orders very literally. Nowhere in the order does it say you cannot vote for a

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map that doesn't contain this. And so I'm always very literal. Again, I'm no one's lawyer. I'm just the chair of a committee trying to manage this process, Representative Deshotel.

REP. DESHOTEL: Thank you. I -- I -- I definitely appreciate it because I was getting a little worried. You know, I've -- I've never been arrested. I've never been even suspended from school. So I didn't want to get arrested for contempt of court because I didn't vote for a -- for -- for a specific plan. But I appreciate it. Thank you.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Deshotel. Representative Newell.

REP. NEWELL: Good afternoon, Senator -- I mean Representative Duplessis and Mr. Jared. I appreciate you all being here.

One quick thing, I would like to say hello and welcome to Ms. Kayla Cutno [ph]. She is a current law student at The Southern University Law Center here in Baton Rouge. And she was an intern at the law firm I work at two summers ago. Welcome, Ms. Kayla, and I hope

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you learned a lot from today's committee exchange.

Representative -- keep wanting to call you Senator. I wonder why the Lord is keep putting that on my mind. But if the maps that we have now, the old maps, are presented to the court, if they're allowed to stay, would it be fair to say that certain people in this state would not have what we would consider fair representation?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I would -- I would say yes. I'd say that would be a fair statement.

REP. NEWELL: Would that -- would that be in compliance with this court order that we've been talking about all morning?

REP. DUPLESSIS: It would -- it would not. It would not be in compliance.

REP. NEWELL: Okay. And just to go back right quick, and I'm not asking you for an interpretation of what the judge said, but what did the judge say yesterday about the map that our speaker presented yesterday in court, not in the 152 pages that said it was wrong, what she said yesterday.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well this is -- what did she

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say yesterday? Yesterday was a hearing on a motion for an extension.

REP. NEWELL: Yes. It was.

REP. DUPLESSIS: So the -- the -- the question of the -- the map was -- was not -- it was not the primary question.

REP. NEWELL: It was not --

REP. DUPLESSIS: It was about whether or not there would be an extension. But again, to your -- to your question, what the order says is the court orders the Louisiana legislature to enact a remedial plan that includes a second majority black congressional district.

REP. NEWELL: And I'm going to answer my own question. Because I was there and I heard what she said. She said that the map did not comply with the order. Even though I know the -- the --

REP. DUPLESSIS: Right.

REP. NEWELL: -- the reason we were there was [inaudible]

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. NEWELL: So given the history of this

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state, would it be fair to say that those who do not receive fair representation with the maps weren't fairly counted and won't -- won't fairly be represented.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I would agree with that.

REP. NEWELL: So we will be -- it's also fair to imply that if those persons do need fair maps fail to receive them, their voting power and influence would be reduced.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Correct.

REP. NEWELL: Do you know to what extent their voting powers and representation would be reduced?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I mean, significantly.

REP. NEWELL: And these are open. You all could tag team this if you like.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Okay.

REP. NEWELL: Could it be opined from -- from this body's current action, again just an opinion, not asking you for your legal statement or just legal representation, just your opinion.

If the current action and minorities don't receive one third of the representation, will they have

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less value in their votes, would their votes have less value than others.

MR. EVANS: What -- what -- what I can say to your question, Representative Newell, is that what the court has said is that it is guaranteed that in the current map, which the Governor Edwards be told, the minority choice candidate would be defeated without question in five out of six congressional districts.

REP. NEWELL: So, essentially, the black voters in other parishes, their vote does count a little bit less so or has less value than say my mine. Thank you. Could it be inferred by this legislator's actions in 2022 to limit the voting power, would it be similar or would you opine it is similar to the three-fifths compromise?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I never quite thought about it that way, but I would -- I would say yeah.

REP. NEWELL: I did.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah.

REP. NEWELL: Okay.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. I would -- I would agree.

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REP. NEWELL: Our whole discussion is not about electing a black person to fill this congressional seat, is it?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Correct.

REP. NEWELL: Is -- the purpose is to give black voters an opportunity to vote their candidate of choice. Am I correct in my understanding?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's right.

MR. EVANS: Correct.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I would say Rep if Herschel Walker would run in and be my congressman, I wouldn't vote for him.

REP. NEWELL: Because that's not who you choose.

REP. DUPLESSIS: No. No, he doesn't represent my interest.

REP. NEWELL: He doesn't represent your interests. Exactly.

MR. EVANS: Representative Newell, we have several examples of that in this -- in this -- in this state.

REP. NEWELL: In this very body we have --

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MR. EVANS: Senator Luneau.

REP. NEWELL: Senator Luneau is exactly.

MR. EVANS: He defeated a black man.

REP. NEWELL: Yes he did. He -- he defeated a black Republican in a 60 percent black district but it gave those blacks, I've been called today, it gives them an opportunity to vote in their candidate of choice.

MR. EVANS: Yes. The race of the candidate does not matter. It's the interest they represent.

REP. NEWELL: It's the interests that they represent and do they represent the interests of the voter. My colleague the other day told me that he was voted -- and a white Republican voted in by crossover vote meaning black Democrats voted him in office, one of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

So, that means is gives -- we should open that up to give more of our residents that opportunity, more of our citizens in this state, the opportunity to vote in their candidate of choice, even if it is a crossover and we might get a moderate Republican, just like we might just get a staunch Democrat in office.

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And again that brings -- I appreciate my colleagues who live in areas where they don't have to talk about race or don't have to see race. They don't have to see color but that does not -- across the state -- that -- the theme does not go across all of our state and it's good that you are in that District.

But our congressional districts are comprised of our House districts and in Orleans Parish, overwhelmingly on the local level, we have black leaders. We have black female, black male leaders, Democrats in our district. Jefferson Parish, we have a mix of white and black Republican and Democratic elected officials.

St. Tammany Parish, white Republicans. St. Bernard Parish, white Republicans. They have that opportunity to vote but when we come together in District Two, we're the only district that has the opportunity to vote in a black Democrat to Congress and we're just trying to give another portion of our state an opportunity -- an opportunity to vote in a black or a Democratic candidate.

We're not forcing them to vote for anyone;

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we're just opening up that opportunity. And being from New Orleans, I never understood how a person could open their mouth, and say that their vote didn't matter. I never understood that, being from New Orleans, because when I was born, we already had a black mayor.

We had -- we had a black police chief; we had black people on the school board. There was a black person representing me in the Senate and in the House at the state level. So, I never understood a person not believing that their vote mattered until I stepped foot in this building and that is when my world came crashing down on me in my 40s to understand that.

That was not something that I grew up as a child thinking and I realize just how sheltered I had been and I hope that we can, but listening to these conversations, it's not going to happen, that we can allow for all our kids across the state to just believe that they have an opportunity, an opportunity to do something else.

You can't be something if you don't see it. So many of our children were limited to just thinking that they could be teachers and doctors and lawyers because

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that's what they saw. But I want all kids across the state to believe that they can be contractors, state representatives. That they could be attorneys.

That they can be anything that they want to be because they can see it and they can relate to it as a me. I want little black girls to think I can sit there. I can be a state rep. I can be whatever it is I put my mind to. But if we don't open the opportunities for someone to be able to just use their constitutional right of voting, we'll never get there.

And it is disheartening. And I don't -- I don't know if the Judge knew what she was doing intentionally or if this was just God's divine plan that we're discussing a second congressional race, a second congressional district on the eve of Juneteenth, the day that this state -- the day that this nation is recognizing Juneteenth, when the blacks finally got or were told that they were free, finally told that they could go out and be on their own, they were no longer under the guise of -- directions of master.

They can be; they can be a whole man or woman. And but still today, right now in 2022, on the eve of

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Juneteenth, we are discussing the value of the black vote and the value and counting the black people in this -- this state. When George Floyd was killed --

MALE: Murdered.

REP. NEWELL: -- murdered. Thank you. Yes, he -- that's what it was. He was murdered. When that happened, I had some friends of mine, some white friends that are very dear to me, call me and say, "What can we do? What can I do? What can we do to help this nation heal? What can we do to move this nation forward?

What can we do to bring our communities together?" They don't have the opportunity to do it. My personal friends don't have the opportunity to do it but the representatives, the people who represent them in this body, what you can do is give us this second congressional district. That's what you can do for me.

That is what can be done to give the people in this state an opportunity and let them know that they are heard. Let them know that the void -- the vote and their voice matters every day, not just on Election Day. Some of us count and I'm speaking us collectively

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as a legislative body, some of us count in the black people to know that our district is right.

But when it comes time to walk those districts, the black neighborhood is not visited. The black churches are not visited because they -- to some of us, they don't matter and that is interesting and frustrating all at the same time. And my colleague said that Louisiana is going to lose.

He said, I forgot what context you said Louisiana is going to lose with drawing this Congressional map. When Louisiana lost in 2013 when preclearance was done away with. That is the day we lost and we lost more than I could have ever imagined when that was deemed unconstitutional for certain jurisdictions to be -- to be covered by preclearance and have certain restrictions.

That is the day Louisiana citizens lost. And thank you for bringing this map again. Thank you for sitting there for these past three hours listening to this. Thank you, Jared, for being here and I'm glad that you all keep winning in court and I can hope you all continue to keep winning in court, because it's --

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this fight is not going to end until we all come together and realize that all of our citizens matter.

It doesn't matter what you look like; it doesn't matter what your party looks like, but everyone needs to have the opportunity. And hopefully that by the time we come to redistricting next year, that the black people who vote in this state, the young people who are becoming of voting age in the next -- at the end of this next 10 years, they believe that their vote has value and that they can say, "My vote counts," because right now with the agenda that we're pushing, with the maps that we have, with the arguments that we're having right now over something that the court said to do, our young people will continue to say that they vote don't matter.

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And you know what they're going to do? Continue to leave this state and go somewhere where they do believe that they matter and where they have opportunities. And that's all we want to give to our citizens in Louisiana is opportunity. And with that Mr. Chairman, I yield.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Newell.

Representative Farnum.

REP. FARNUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman So, I'm sitting here looking at District 3. I live on -- on the very western side of this state and I don't know how many of you all are familiar with Star Wars. But -- but my -- my newly formed district here kind of looks like Jabba the Hutt with a baseball cap on.

And you know, it goes to the communities of interest and we've always been a District 3 that takes the top, you know, couple of parishes and spreads to the east and then joins with the Lafayette area, which goes along with Representative Thomas' testimony that we have a lot more in common with St. Mary, you know, St. Martin Parish, Iberia Parish than Jefferson Parish does.

We -- our culture is basically the same all the way across that region. We all enjoy the same things. We -- we make our living off of oil and gas related issues. We have a ton of industry in our area. We have, you know, on-shore and offshore drilling efforts or at least we used to.

And we have flat land farming and crawfish

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industries across that region. And our congressmen that we have today and have -- have always had in that area, have to focus on those issues. Well, now with being Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline and Rapides, and, you know, a region that's so far out of touch with what we deal with on the coastal areas that now the congressman is going to be -- having to learn a whole new ball game.

It just, you know, I received so many phone calls over the time and talking at groups that keep us in the Lafayette region. We have a joint -- kind of a joint Chamber of Commerce, if you will, that deals with the whole coastal area and the industries that it supports. And to be whacked off of part of that and put it into a region where we really hadn't had anything to do with ever other than tourism.

You know, we go back and forth to each other's areas and we enjoy each other's areas. So, that's the part that I have the most heartburn with. And then I sit here and listen to the testimony that all you want is a candidate of choice, not necessarily a black candidate and I guess going along those lines, it's

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more of a belief of ideals and beliefs rather than -- than being a black candidate.

Did you -- would you agree with that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, when you look at the totality, how you define a community of interest, race is a factor but it's not the predominant factor.

REP. FURNAM: Yeah.

REP. DUPLESSIS: So, I would -- I would -- I would generally agree with your -- with your question if I'm understanding it properly.

REP. FURNAM: So, I guess all the testimony that both of you all have given and some of the reps here have given is that you don't necessarily care if it's a black candidate or not. It's a candidate of choice that represents the -- the ideals that you believe in and not the ones that somebody else believes in.

So, going down that same path, wouldn't it just be easier to say, "We want a Democrat or Republican District?" Because that's basically what you're saying is you want the beliefs to be represented and not necessarily a skin color.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: I think in today's party -- party system that we have throughout this nation, that, you know, I think it would be hard for me to disagree with that. However, I'm not here to have a conversation about party. I do think that interests are often defined by what party someone may join or how they may vote.

REP. FURNAM: But isn't that exactly what we're doing today? That's exactly what we're doing today because if we had this conversation about party affiliation, it would be illegal and Section 2 of the Voting Rights wouldn't cover it, would it?

REP. DUPLESSIS: No, I think probably much of the resistance that we're getting from two black districts -- for having two black districts has to do with party.

REP. FURNAM: And then that's illegal, isn't it?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's why the judge struck down the [inaudible]

REP. FURNAM: Nothing in Section 2 of the Voting Rights covers the -- the protection of a party

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affiliation or a belief system.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Well, you know, when I look at the two party system, you know, I often wonder and I mentioned that if Herschel Walker was running to be my congressman, I wouldn't vote for him. But I look at the -- the parties and I look at the lack of diversity of one of those parties and I ask myself, "Why is that?"

REP. FURNAM: So, at the end of the day, this whole discussion isn't about black or white. It's about party affiliation.

REP. DUPLESSIS: No, it's about interests.

REP. FURNAM: It's about interest, which turns into a party affiliation.

REP. DUPLESSIS: If you want to give it that title, I'm saying it's about interest. So I'm just asking that you don't put --

REP. FURNAM: That's -- that's all I've heard --

REP. DUPLESSIS: I'm asking that you don't put words in my mouth.

REP. FURNAM: I've been -- I've been to all 10 --

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REP. DUPLESSIS: You're saying that's what you heard but you didn't hear us say that one time.

REP. FURNAM: -- let me finish. Let me finish. I've been to all 10 of the redistricting meetings.

REP. DUPLESSIS: So did I and I went to Lake Charles.

REP. FURNAM: Yeah, I did too.

REP. DUPLESSIS: And I heard what the people there said.

REP. FURNAM: I have too.

REP. DUPLESSIS: And they weren't paid organizers.

REP. FURNAM: I've heard them every single day --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members. Members. Hey, Les and Royce. Questions and answers. We've got to keep to the core.

REP. FURNMA: Okay. So, at the end of the day, this -- this isn't about a black district. It's about a party-affiliated district and -- and --

REP. DUPIESSIS: It's about interests.

REP. FURNAM: And it's exactly that and it's

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party affiliation --

REP. DUPLESSIS: And it's what the court has ordered us to do.

MR. EVANS: Representative Farnum, we are here before --

REP. FURNAM: Thank you. I rest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Jenkins, you're before but we -- I gave you a bite at the apple already. We've got to get to some of these cards. Representative Lyons is going to be our last question for these two gentlemen. We're going to get to the cards. We're going to try to get rolling. Representative Lyons.

REP. LYONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And let me go back right quick because I had to -- to make a quick exit and come back, but I noticed that the testimony and Representative Duplessis, you know, you and I talked several times because we were on a road show together. And you remember when we were in Lake Charles talking about the testimony from a lady that was there that had spoke.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I remember distinctly.

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REP. LYONS: Do you remember when we were in Monroe, we had a similar conversation. The ladies who came from the community of Marlborough and talked about the redistricting and some of them talked about having to make that drive from I think it was Wilksboro or some other area that they had to drive that far to get there. You remember those conversations?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

REP. LYONS: And you remember the conversations we had of the great turnout and work that we had in Covington when we were in Covington. So, the other day on the floor, I was speaking and I was alluding to conversations that I had with people who from around the state at a conference talked to me about the -- the -- the redistricting process and the thing that happened with that. Do you remember that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Mm-hmm.

REP. LYONS: What I didn't tell you, is you didn't know that one of the gentleman was from Rapides Parish and he was talking particularly about the redistricting process and he wanted to know exactly why were they not considered into that particular process?

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I didn't mention that -- that fact. You didn't know that did, you know?

REP. DUPLESSIS: No.

REP. LYONS: So, and also what I want to, you know, go back and -- and -- and I know you can attest to this they're asking you, but you saw the turnout of people we had here in this body when we had the -- the sessions and we had the bills come before us from different parts of the state. Did you not see that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: I saw it.

REP. LYONS: And did you notice the different, as we refer to certain groups who are organizing to come and do certain things, you saw too, as well, did you?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah.

REP. LYONS: So, it's safe to say that there was a mixture of people from the communities that were there, as well as people who were particular advocacy groups promoting the whole process.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Right.

REP. LYONS: I just want to say that because you were there with me, so we know that particularly,

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it wasn't any groups going around the state, individual person. As a matter of fact, I think the only person that I may have seen in most of the places might have been Jared. Might have been Jared. Is that right?

MR. EVANS: Yeah. I was at three of them [inaudible]

REP. LYONS: That's correct. So, I saw you there but I'm saying that we got an overwhelming amount of community interest from people who we didn't know. Didn't know where I was from, didn't know other places were there, and most of them were people who were black people, suffice to say, that were saying we're glad we have the opportunity to come before us and give testimony.

So, I was sitting here going through some of the -- the -- the mail-in testimony. And I went back to try to look at some of the viewing of the spots that we talked about earlier, and there were people there and it's on the record that gave their name from where they were in the community.

So, the community had an opportunity to come to all these venues and give out -- give input about

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what they thought to happen with these particular congressional maps. Is that correct in my assessment of that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: That's correct.

REP. LYONS: Okay. And I want to put that on the record to make sure that it wasn't just a statement. It wasn't just an organized effort to do what's right because people all over the community came to us who wasn't for my district, who wasn't from Jefferson Parish or other places.

They weren't from Orleans. You know, they came from all over the state to talk about things that was important to them. And be it known, some of them are not really affected by this map that you have here now because it didn't really affect the areas. Am I correct in that?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Right.

REP. LYONS: But they wanted to have representation that they could see and so what happened, when we talk about the numbers and I stepped out as my -- my colleague from Jefferson was speaking about the numbers, and the value of them is that it's

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impossible to put everybody in one place in this -- in this state based upon the map and the numbers.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Correct.

REP. LYONS: It's impossible to do that. So, she was talking to you, Jared, about a gentleman, I think his name was Dr. Blunt, about something in the testimony. Can you go back to that for me, please? Because I wanted to understand the value of what you were talking about. I had to step out.

MR. EVANS: Absolutely. So, I'm reading directly from the court opinion here, Representative Lyons. The court considers Dr. Blunt to be well qualified by education and experience in the tendered field of expertise. However, Dr. Blunt has no experience, skill, training or specialized knowledge in the simulation analysis methodology that he employed to reach his conclusions.

He testified that he had never attempted a simulation analysis before this case and has never published on the topic, taught or even taken a course on it. Dr. Blunt's simulation analysis is not best described -- is best described as novice. He testified

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that he downloaded publicly available code, and wrote the instructions to execute the underlying algorithm.

Several times in response to questions about his analysis, Dr. Blunt admitted that he was limited in his ability to go under the hood of the code he was using to program in parameters and would account for certain redistricting criteria. Dr. Blunt conceded the importance of including all the relevant redistricting criteria variables into his simulations.

However, he testified that he was only able to account for population equality, contiguity, compactness, and minimization of parish splits. Admittedly, his simulations were performed without regard to minimizing precinct splits, without regard to respecting communities of interest, without regard for incumbency protection or even the criteria considered paramount by defendants' core retention.

In short, the simulations ran by Dr. Blunt did not incorporate the traditional redistricting principles required by law. Accordingly, he his opinions merit little weight.

REP. LYONS: So, he said he had I think it was

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10,000 he ran. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: Something like that.

REP. LYONS: So, that was just based on numbers. He was doing -- he's a number g he was doing. He was a numbers guy and so I want to make sure because I'm like -- we had a hard time drawing these maps so how did somebody come up with 10,000 simulations was kind of like beyond me.

But I wanted to make sure I get the value of what that meant going to that piece. And thank you very much for answering that and for clearing that up for me. I really appreciate that. That's all the questions I have, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Lyons. All right. Gentlemen, we've had everybody who -- get an opportunity to ask you all questions. I'm going to go to the cards. And what I'm going to ask the committee is also let's get through the cards. I'm going to ask the people that testify if you wouldn't mind hanging around just in case the members have questions for you after.

I think that would be the quickest way that we

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can get through and everybody can get an opportunity to speak. So, members, if you do have a question for these people who come up, these citizens, I'd ask that you just please hold off and -- and we can try to call them up after. I'm going to start with the cards in support who wish to speak. First up, I have Cynthia Young. I'll also invite up Terry Landry, Jr., from the SPLC Action Fund, and also Lady Carlson. I'll invite you three up to the table if you'd like to come. Yes, ma'am, whenever you're ready.

REP. YOUNG: Okay. Good afternoon. My name is Cynthia Young and I am the President and Founder of Right for Victory. Right for Victory, we are a nonprofit organization and we work to address voter apathy and joblessness in communities of color. My work focuses specifically in East and West Baton Rouge Parish.

I'll be brief because I did give testimony at the road show. I participated in a couple of the road show meetings but I just want to -- I am in support of House Bill 1 and I just don't want us to lose focus of why we are here today. We are here today because the

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judge ordered that we pass a bill that supports a map that gives a second majority black district.

So, that's why we're here today. So, I'm in support of that. I know I've been doing this work, we do get out the vote work. I've been doing this work for over 10 years, even before I started this organization two years ago. And I know when I'm out there speaking to the citizens, speaking to voters, I'm hearing the same thing. I've been hearing the same thing for the past 10 years since I've been doing this work that I do not have a candidate that I want to vote for.

There is not a candidate that I would like to vote for and that's why a lot of people that we are talking to, they don't want to vote. It's not that, you know, yes they say, "My vote don't matter; my vote doesn't count." But the reason they're not voting based on my experiences out here in the community talking to these voters, talking to these residents, is because there is not a candidate on the ballot that represents what they stand, that represents their values, that represents what's important to them.

So, you know, I will wrap it up. I'll be brief

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because I know other people are here to give testimony, but let's not lose sight why we are in this special session. We are in this special session because the judge ordered to pass a map that represents a majority black district, a second majority black district. So, that's all I have for today.

So, I just hope that we do what's right. And I will end with one of my favorite quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The time is always right to do what's right. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Landry?

REP. LANDRY: Good afternoon, Chairman. Terry Landry, Jr. on behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund. I will also try to be brief but I felt that it was important for me to speak here in front of you all today. I understand the tough job that you have, but this is really a simple matter. If you believe that African Americans should have equal and proportionate representation, you should absolutely vote in favor of this bill.

If you believe that it's okay for African Americans to be underrepresented on the congressional

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level, then vote it down. And that's what it boils down to. Like representative Newell mentioned earlier, today is the first day in our state's history where we celebrate Juneteenth. June 19, 1865 is when the last of the enslaved people were told they were free.

And here we are on June 17, 2022 and African-Americans are here still fighting for freedom and equality. Even if Representative Thomas you say the number is 30 percent, it's still underrepresented because we only get 16 percent of representation in Congress, which is unjust and unfair. And I disagree with that number. I think the accurate number is 33.1 and we should have two minority districts.

Black people in this state love Louisiana just as much as anyone else and sometimes we have to love it just a little bit harder because it doesn't always love us back. So today, I ask that you stand on the right side of history. You all as lawmakers that you ask citizens of this state to comply with laws and court decisions every day.

We sit in these committees and we've constantly heard that hey, the circuit has struck that

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particular ruling down and we must comply with that ruling, but yet we're arguing as to whether a judge -- judge's order whether or not this body has to comply with it. So, if this body does not comply with rulings and laws made by -- by the judicial branch, why should the other citizens abide and comply with laws that you all make?

So, in conclusion again, I ask for your favorable support of this -- of this legislation and have HB1 reported favorably.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Ms. Carlson?

REP. CARLSON: My name is Lady Carlson and I grew up with my grandmother, who taught me that your vote is your voice. And she also said, and this was in the 50s and the 60s, she also said that if blacks don't get a vote -- the vote, that we'll never have a voice. It seems to me that this legislature is intent on continuing the tradition of disallowing a large number of residents the right to vote for the candidate of their choice.

We've heard over and over and over again about how much we must comply with the Constitution. And that

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we're here -- I'm here to say that if you respect the Constitution, then the right thing to do is to create a second black district. Your vote is your voice. There was a man named James Brown, who had a song one time and he said, "We as blacks are not asking you to give us a hand up. We're asking you to open the door and we'll do for ourselves."

I'm here to say support this bill because it is the right thing to do. We want our voices heard just as much as any other group wants their voice heard. We can say that given the numbers, I don't know what, but if you want to follow the Constitution, then this bill should be voted out -- out of here and it should pass.

I thank you for your time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Carlson. Thank you to all three of you. Next up, we'll invite Representative Tammy Phelps. If Representative Phelps. Ms. Michiko Yancey and also Devante Lewis, all three of you, I'll invite you up.

REP. PHELPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be brief. I was just a disturbed by the testimony of how the bill began hearing -- I think I came back to this

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session just looking for us to complete a map and then today's committee hearing just to hear the -- the map itself. And most of the questions started off with what was the reason for this precinct? What was the motivation for this and why all of this?

And it took me back to we're here, obviously for a court order of a passage of a map that was not in compliance, and all the things were stated earlier, the motivation, none of those things were presented to us when we only had one map. Initially when we came for the original redistricting session, I communicated with my constituents and I'm agreeing with you every time, Mr. Chairman that I have a voice to go back and talk to my constituents about.

And the questions that I ask in all of my committees is that I am accurate enough to go back and give that information and also validate my vote. But we were not given an explanation of why there was only one map that made it out of this committee time and time again in the first session.

Not one time were we given -- we talked about who was demographer. All of the questions that were

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asked today about this particular map, we're not -- we were not given the opportunity or answers for that during the last session and that leads to me -- me to believe that's why we're here today with a map that's not in compliance.

We do change the rules a lot and I guess with all that being said, I'm asking that we not change the rules and it should not matter just because we're trying to what it appears now and I would like to go back to your comments, Representative Carter, it appears that this is not the map that the committee wants.

We want -- it appears that this legislative body wants the courts to order it, and that's fine. But let's be respectful to the intent of those who did put in the effort to bring a map again and all the ones that were voted down previously. All of the questions that were asked of communities of interest and why this and this splits in my parish and my district.

You all didn't say this. This was not said. Let me clarify and clear this up. It was not stated when these maps were brought forth before when they

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were all voted down. So, we had ample time to vet all of the maps that were presented. But I was not able to go back home or prepare my constituents to say, "Hey, we have an opportunity to vote on the speaker's map."

Because when I came in over those years and over the year that we were preparing, yes, we had meetings with the committee. There wasn't a lot of questions because there was one direction that was given. We had to come and see a map of our district. The entire map of the state was not presented to us until the day before when the session began and when it was filed.

So, someone else other than the Speaker's bill, there were a lot of bills put forth and opportunities were given that were did not even make it out of this committee. So, when we talk about those things, we could have vetted all of this what we're doing today on those other maps that were presented.

The motivation -- what jumps off the page, I just wasn't ready to hear that -- just a part of the -- of this body, and the people that we all represent. Because at the end of the day, I don't really harp on

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that is what I vote my district. I keep my district in mind when I make votes for the state of Louisiana, because we're not an isolated district and all of us have similarities and interest, populations of -- communities of interest in some way or the other, because we are all humans.

We're all Louisianans. We didn't choose whether -- what color we are. We don't choose the color of our blood. I think it's all the same, but when will this body just begin to see, well I can't say fairness, because [inaudible] that only comes once a year. Equality or may be equitable. We don't even meet the criteria of equity.

Equality, we're still working on it, but I guess I'm urging this body to do what's right and all the people, thank you. Someone mentioned, I don't think it was Rep. Lyons about there was no advocate bodies from out of the state, and I was taking offense to that too with the comments from Rep Thomas.

Because a lot of those young people were from the area that I do represent across the north and the south, the east and the west, where those organizations

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share the love of Louisiana and they're all conjoined together. That's why they were able to share that same message in their community and people showed up from each community.

So, I took offense to someone being paid from out of state to come and talk about maps for -- for Louisiana because we're better than that. But thank you for your time, and again, I just hope again, if we're not here to vote on the map, let's just say that. Let's not continue to waste our time and it may not be in your interest of the -- the map that you want. But let's just be honest.

And if we have to continue to talk about the color of our skin, and race, thank you, Representative Duplessis for mentioning that, it seems for some reason, it's an uncomfortable situation. I don't know if it should be at this point but it is.

And maybe that's where they mean when we have more conversations and understanding what's important to the Representative House District 3 and I'm going to use Rep. Furman for an example. And I learned what's most important in his district and then maybe we can

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all see how that would be better for the advancement for the state of Louisiana. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Phelps. Mr. Yancey?

REP. YANCEY: Yeah. Well good afternoon everyone. This is a real honor to be here and, you know, to have this conversation but one thing that I've listened to and understood that everybody is not comfortable with making a change. Going to the road shows, I went to them.

I didn't go to all of them, but I tuned in and, you know, even with Iberia Parish, when the guys was there talking about they like it has been 57 years that we've been at it this way. And I like it this way. Fifty-seven years, you don't want to change to allow other folks have a piece of the pie? Is that what you're saying?

You know, I'm a former incarcerated person and I got my voting rights back now. And guess what? I go -- I go to the polls and I make sure that I vote. But, you know, really this is really civics that we took an eighth grade now. We understand how the governing body

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and how everything goes, but we've just come out of legislative session that you made new laws.

And I have to follow those laws; you have to follow those laws. And you go, if you break a law, you go before who? A judge. So, now we got a judge telling Louisiana what you're doing is not right. And my God as -- as red-blooded Americans, you're not going to agree with the judge and when I listened at Representative Thomas about all this and numbers and everything. The judge said do it and that's what's got to be done.

I know you don't like it. All the stuff that goes on, I don't like it. But at some point, we have to understand that we live in a democracy that when the federal judge tells the states what to do, then that's what you do. And it was, you know, when -- I found it kind of funny when I read the statement from Judge Shelly Dick when she said if you don't do it, I'll do it myself. How did we get ourselves into that?

Are we really that divided? Are we really that divided with black and white? And the answer is yes, we are, because everybody wants to keep their little part of the pie nobody else gets a pie, gets a slice of the

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pie. You know, we understand what packing and cracking and all these things with the road show.

So, now the Fed said that in fact, the legislative tried to do this from the very beginning to give a two minority district and everybody rejected it. Now, the federal judge said by God, you're going to do it or either I'll do it. And then I read yesterday late on an email or something came out that, you know, maybe we should just wait and let it go to the United States Supreme Court.

You would rather fight than give us a piece of the pie. You're going to keep all the chicken on your plate. You just give us the gravy. I am saying today you need to stand up, do what's right, make sure you follow the law. What did the federal judge say? The federal judge said do it, it's not fair and we already knew it wasn't fair from the beginning. Thank God that the judge said that.

I respect everybody on this -- on this committee. I don't know everyone here but I'm down here during the session every day, because I want to be a part of the community to learn and I've seen several

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you Representatives in different committees that you vote against stuff that may affect people like me or people that we're trying to help and get back into society.

But this time, you have an opportunity to be counted and stand on the right side of history. Where will you stand on the side of history after this? You just remember, the history books will be written in your name will either be on the left or it will be on the right. And sometimes when you do these things in the Bible it says, you workers of iniquity.

So, thank you for allowing me to speak and I pray that you do the right thing. Don't let it be about, you know, this other stuff. Do the right thing in America. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Yancey.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Devante Lewis?

REP. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair, Devante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project. And -- and I'm not going to belabor the point because I think we know the vote. We know why we are here. This weekend, or this week, excuse me, the beginning of the week, I

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spent a lot of time in Memphis.

And I was at the Civil Rights Museum just about two days ago and just as you were entering the floor, I was walking through an exhibit and I got right in front of a picture and it was Bull Connor who said, "Damn the law. We make our own law down here."

And that's exactly what I saw in my ear -- in my headphones when you gaveled it on the House floor, basically saying we're not going to comply. We make our own law in Louisiana. And what we are here to do today is simply do what is fair and just and right.

Representative Johnson, I heard you talk a lot about what offended you in Rapides Parish and I'm going to tell you a story about what has offended me in my life. As I've studied and done everything right as everyone's told and got an education, I've realized there's not a single right as a black person I have that a court didn't have to give to me. A court had to free me from being a slave.

A court had to free me and said, "Oh, you can be separate but equal," and then had to undo that. A court had to grant fair housing. A court had to

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desegregate schools. And now a court is having to say you should be seen in redistricting because you are one-third of the population and you should be represented correctly.

That's why we are upset, because nothing has been equal for us. Nothing has ever been right for us. It's always been we're resisted until the court tells me I've got to give it to you. I'll hold on to it as long as I got because I don't have to give it to you until somebody else says it.

That is the challenge we are faced with. When we think about this veto override, this Governor's been governor seven and a half years. A lot of bills, he's vetoed, a lot of bills most of this body didn't like that he vetoed. But there's only been one -- one that was overturned. And that was one that specifically had to deal with race because that's what the Governor said when he vetoed this bill.

We found the votes to override the Governor, not on trans issues, not on gun rights, not on budgetary policy, but on giving black people in Louisiana a fair and just representation. That's when

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we decided to stand up to the Governor and being an equal branch of government as it was said on the House floor.

And then after you did it, you cheered, you clapped, you laughed, you high-fived each other. I sat right there and I thought about that 139 year history I told you a few months ago. I thought about my great, great grandmother, who was a slave and got freed. I thought about my -- my great-grandmother who grew up under Jim Crow, my grandmother grew up in segregated Lake Charles, went to First Ward Colored School.

I thought about my mom who I said was five years old before Calcasieu Parish desegregated itself. And in those cheers, I saw the same things, the same things they talked about. This is what we're here for and we can be very clear about it.

We don't have to do the same violence of the sixties to still be doing it. Coretta Scott King said something very empowering that we need to talk about policy violence and how we use policy as violence.

You may not have to sic a dog on me or spray me with the water hose or have the -- the National

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Guard with a Confederate flag on their -- on their helmet beat me, because you can do it through policy. You can do it through policy. And it doesn't take a white sheet because it can be a white tie, a blue tie, a red tie.

And so we have a choice today. I saw the Speaker tweet about vote your conscience and if your conscience doesn't allow you to see everyone equally and -- and deserve fair representation, then that's your conscience. But if you believe in the tenets that we talk about, about we are brothers and sisters, we're all children under God, then your conscience should call you to do what is right and what is fair and what is just.

And that is just to see us -- just to see us. That's what we're asking for. We're not telling you go pick a candidate. We're saying see us and value us the same way that you value every other community of interest, every other item. And so with that Mr. Vice Chair, that is why I support HB1 and that's what I'm calling on you to do.

Don't make the courts do it. Finally say to

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Black Louisianans, we will as a body value you because we want to, not because a court demanded us to. Thank you.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Thank you. I have one more card. I have several more cards in favor but only one that's present and would like to speak. Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana.

REP. CAGE: Good afternoon, Vice Chair and Committee. My name is Edgar Cage and I'm with Together Louisiana. You know, as Yogi Bara said, it's deja vu all over again. We've been through this; we've heard everything, and it's kind of obvious to some of us in the public after being a part of this process during the special redistricting session, the road shows, the court hearings, and now.

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It's very obvious how this thing is going to go. And as the speakers before me have so eloquently said, we need to change. This is not the right thing. We've heard from the census; we heard from the road shows; we heard from the redistricting session and now we hear from a federal judge what we have to do.

But, you know, in this process today as it

started, we always want to ask for [inaudible] to find a reason not to do something as opposed to doing something. We asked earlier -- the committee asked earlier why can you -- how can you prove what information you have to justify that the second district that those people of -- black people will have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice?

We want to produce the racial polarizing voting analysis. You know, and I can tell you this: If it had been produced, you would not have accepted it because it wouldn't say what you want it to say. You've already come to a conclusion, which is wrong. But if you want to -- to be that, then that's fine.

And we never asked for this under any other bill or any other situation. Only those ones that we could not -- we didn't want to support. And also, you want to talk about communities of interest. How can you go back to your districts and say why you -- you voted for a certain -- a certain map that maybe split a town, a community or whatever your community of interest is.

But the thing that -- I think the biggest question to ask is, how can you go back to your

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district and say, you defied a federal judge in ordering you to do something -- to do something? And, you know, as Mr. Lewis said earlier about Bull Connor, it reminds me of the desegregation of University of Alabama where George Wallace stood in the door and said, "Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

But the U.S. Attorney General came and he said, "Well, Mr. Wallace, Governor Wallace, we will integrate the University of Alabama today," and that did happen. So, my point because it was a federal court order that did this, my point is, we're in the same position. We are in the same position, and I know many of you don't want to go back to your districts and say and have a record to show why you voted for a second minority majority district.

But, you know something ladies and gentlemen, if you do nothing, which sounds like what you're going to do, not get it out, it's going to be on your record anyway, because a judge has done the work that you should have done before. And as Representative Phelps said, it's almost a waste of time. I mean, we went

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through the redistricting, nothing happened.

We're here now this week and Representative Thomas, I'm organization Together Louisiana -- Louisiana. Not Texas, not Arkansas, not New York. Louisiana. And I will be -- I'll tell you guys my age, I will be 73 years old in October. I live here. My license has always been here.

My roots have been here, but I'm here fighting for the people in my community who don't have a voice, who haven't had a voice and who don't have proper representation. And I don't know what your position is on Jim Crow but this is a Jim Crow type bill we're discussing. We don't approve and move favorable on HB1, and get that before the judge, then I know how you would have voted 50 years ago on Jim Crow.

And it doesn't take a hood, it doesn't take a cap to see where your -- it's going to take your vote today. So, ladies and gentlemen, I hope that your heart is touched by the pleas and the begging of a substantial portion of the people of Louisiana, the 33 percent -- 33 percent of the people who need some field representation, who have been left out in the past that

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-- take a moment and pray and let God come in.

Let your Creator come in and I think if you clear all the clutter out that may be there, God will speak to you. God will touch your heart. And God don't care if you're a D, an R, an I, a Q or whatever else. You're a human being and we're all here -- we're all here as human beings, as one -- one race, the human race.

But we have to treat each other equally and because we haven't, that's why a federal judge has to step in and make sure this happens like everything else has happened in this state, not necessarily out the goodness of people's heart but because the federal government has protected and know that everyone should have representation and everyone should be treated as a full citizen, not only in this country but in this state. So, thank you.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Cage. I'll look to Chair -- if you wouldn't mind -- and I'm going to say this because before I got in the Chair, Mr. Cage, the Chair had asked that we try to limit questions but Rep. Ivey, if you have a quick question,

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a very quick question for Mr. Cage.

REP. IVEY: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. I've asked zero questions so far and -- and this is -- this is going to be a brief-ish statement. First of all, I understand your -- your passions and the motivations behind those passions and -- and can appreciate them. I got married kind of young and I'm a very literal logic kind of driven individual.

My wife was more on the other end of the spectrum on the emotional end and it took me quite a while, about five years before I understood that a lot of our disagreements and issues came because I was offended by the actual literal words that she used. And I didn't look at the spirit of what she was trying to communicate.

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And I believe that some of your comments, where I understand the spirit of what you were trying to communicate, some of the language that you used to communicate it, can -- can be offensive. And so I want to just take a pause. You know, this is obviously a very sensitive subject matter and I recognize that some of my colleagues, this will have the absolute opposite

intent.

And so this is one of those things that I learned about communication. It's really important. And so I'm trying to appreciate testimony and all that from the perspective of the spirit of what people try to say, extending to them some grace. And that the -- the nature of this situation, the kind of the pressure of this specific environment.

And so just wanted to clear that for your benefit, if you -- if you acknowledge because how members vote on any bill, right, it's impossible to judge. And look, and I know my colleagues have voted against my bill so many times but I can't impugn any specific intent because many of these issues are so complicated and multifaceted. And so, I would not impugn that this specific vote on this specific bill, you also failed to acknowledge that there are other bills. I'm not going to be offended by that. That also could work.

REP. CAGE: [inaudible] called on your bill too, sir.

REP. IVEY: Okay. And so, but you said if we

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don't pass this bill, that's what you said, it means this. And so I'd like to give you the opportunity to maybe provide some clarification on that.

REP. CAGE: Yeah. And I appreciate that. And my intent is never to offend anybody. But my intent also is a speak from my heart -- to speak -- to speak how I feel.

REP. IVEY: That gets me in trouble sometimes too, sir.

REP. CAGE: Thank God there's other testimony today I'm assuming that's from the heart. Another question but it's not to offend. But, you know, we have to, as I said, we have to call it as it is and as I see it. And I'm not saying that you should, whether you vote on something or not, that's -- that's your prerogative.

And that's between as I said, you and your constituents, or either -- either your Maker or your God. That's on you and your heart because you'll be the one as been said earlier, who history will judge on how you vote. And your Creator will judge on what's in your heart and why you voted that way.

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But I'm -- I'll apologize if anything I said offended anyone. That wasn't my intent. But if it agitated you a little bit and made you want to think a little bit, then, you know, so be it.

REP. IVEY: All right. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Ivey. Thank you, sir. Also filling out a green card and willing to provide information if needed, Ashley Shelton from the Power Coalition, Trivia Carey, Shondra Shae Foster, Michelle Charles, green card in support not wishing to speak. Scott Tippet, Claire Stevenson from the Governor's Office, and Adam Eichmann from the Governor's Office.

Next, I'm going to go to the white cards for information. I'm assuming these were filled out because they're -- they're neutral, but Rick Allen from the City of Leesville. Mr. Allen? Yes, sir. Whenever you're ready.

REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and -- and members. I am the mayor of the City of Leesville and also, chairman of Fort Polk Progress. I serve on the Governor's Military Advisory Board and District D Vice

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President of the LMA. What all of that means is I'm really good at getting jobs that don't pay nothing.

I thank you for providing me with an opportunity to address you today regarding Vernon Parish as a community of interest. During this -- during this time, I've been -- I've been educated I'm going to say, and as chairman of Fort Polk Progress, a nonprofit organization that's solely dedicated on the healthy, robust relationship between the community and the largest army base inside of Louisiana and that relationship that we have between Fort Polk and the community and our congressional delegation is crucial to military funding across the state.

Our Army community children go to school and the current map would be split, Fort Polk from Leesville and my City of Leesville would actually be divided as well. I'm not here to be in support of any bill or any map. I just want to make sure that we understand what splitting Vernon Parish and -- and splitting Fort Polk from Leesville would do to our community.

So, the kids that currently live on Fort Polk

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would go to school in a different congressional district. The City of -- well, Vernon Parish sold an additional 47,000 acres to the federal government, which means that the federal government owns over 50 percent of our Parish.

In order for us to be able to do that, when we lost that tax revenue, the federal government agreed to furnish impact aid to help us educate -- help our education system educate the military students and all the other students in our Parish. So, having Fort Polk in one congressional district, and our --and our kids attend school in another congressional district could be problematic for Vernon Parish and our military kids.

It's very well known that -- that Fort Polk is the largest economic generator in Vernon Parish and also the largest employer in the state of Louisiana, second to only the state. The recent impact -- economic impact study showed that $1.4 billion dollars is inserted into Louisiana's economy from Fort Polk alone, over $9.6 billion dollars in military federal funding into Louisiana's economy, as a total.

It includes all the bases across Louisiana. As

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you know, there's current talk of a BRAC, which is a base realignment and closure and the federal government is talking about that. And one of the ways that we're scored is -- is by community relationship to our bases across the state. Forty percent of the people that are stationed at Fort Polk live off-base; they live in our community.

And so they would work in one congressional district and live in another. We, the Parish -- Vernon Parish, has the largest intergovernmental services agreement with Fort Polk in the world. The City of Leesville holds the largest intergovernmental service agreement in the world, saving the military operations over $100 million dollars over a five-year period and we're very proud of that.

And that has to do with the relationship that we built with our military partners. And we were able to accomplishment that thanks to our congressional delegation. I do not envy any of you sitting on this panel that has to make this decision but I -- but I'll pledge this to you. I will pray for you. I will pray that you have peace about the decision you end up

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making, and with that Mr. Chairman, I yield.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate it. Thank you. Next up, we're going to -- I'm going to invite Mr. Frankie Hyres.

Whenever you're ready, Mr. Hyers.

MR. HYERS: Good afternoon. Frankie Hyers from Jefferson Parish. I think this is the eighth trip for redistricting from as far as Jefferson Parish to Lake Charles; right? Covington. Been here a few times now for you all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hyers, if you could pull the mike a little bit closer, just -- we won't be able to hear you.

MR. HYERS: Contrary to what Mr. Duplessis had to say at the last meeting, I was not afforded the time to come here. Nobody afforded me that. I paid to come here and I pay to go to every meeting. It cost me dearly, and at 4-something dollars a gallon, it cost me a bit to get here.

I was sure that nothing would come of all those meetings other than to see a supermajority protect and -- and ensure and secure and, if anything,

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promote his majority further. So I am not surprised to find us here in a special session.

Adherence to the spirit and intent of our Constitution was so important to our Founding Fathers that one of the first acts of the first Congress in 1789 was to pass the verbiage for the Oath of Affirmation of Office in compliance with Article Six of our Constitution.

Everyone here swore that oath; right? But if you don't comprehend the document, it gets a little perfunctory; doesn't it? Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states, according to their respective numbers.

At the time of our first enumeration, Virginia was the largest state with 630,000 people followed by Massachusetts at 475,000 and Pennsylvania at 432,000. Baton Rouge and Jefferson Parish both exceed the latter.

We'd be the lar- -- second and third largest states. Orleans Parish would be the fourth or fifth largest state of the union, certainly to be afforded the republican form guaranteed under Article Four that

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each of you swore to support and defend.

But if you don't comprehend the document or what republican form means, you might just, you know, pay it lip service. So why are we here? It's history; right? That's what Mr. Duplessis said. It's the history of this nation that brought us here today.

We abandoned some principles at the first enumeration. Jefferson began with explaining what that bill -- what the -- what the Constitution says. The construct would reduce the distribution of power so that none of us could argue about how it got done.

Because if we could argue about how we're going to do this, one of us is going to feel like they got the worst of it, and we don't have domestic tranquility. It's been 180 years next Saturday. June 25th, 1842, John Tyler signs, promotes an Apportionment Act that betrays the Constitution.

That act did away with that large voting and made it so that we have to have contiguous districts. And it's only because of that that we -- we're here right now. On every question of its construction, let's bring ourselves back to when -- and adopt the spirit in

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which it was manifested; all right?

In questions of power then let no more be heard about a confidence of man or woman but bind them down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution. But if you don't comprehend what those words say or mean, then you just wave to your friends.

What are the chains of Constitution? Right? Everybody up here -- nobody -- Mr. Vernon Parish, nobody wants to see their parish split up. Jefferson Parish has 11 representatives. Only seven of them serve Jefferson Parish exclusively. There's no reason why the largest of parishes should ever suffer to virtual representation.

The bill for apportioning, without explaining any principle at all which would show it's confirming to the Constitution, thereby forcing Mr. Jefferson to experiment to find any principle by which it could have been formed.

They allowed for two ratios to be applied. Oregon gets a ratio of 706,000 people per representative. Jefferson Parish's budget? 770 million. Check your numbers. Numbers matter, some of this

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matters, but the principles matter more than who. All of you are term limited. This is your chance.

Establish some principles for representation; right? Establish some guide for future apportionment. That's what was done at the first enumeration. At that first enumeration, the law that ended up being passed -- forgive me one second -- reads as such.

House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected agreeably to a ratio of one member for every 33,000 persons in each state computed according to the rule prescribed by the Constitution.

Translated to the parish, that would have meant that if we want to determine that we're going to have 51 members -- that's putting the cart before the horse, by the way -- then each parish would have one. None would have more than one until they reach a certain ratio and that would have been around 90,000.

Terrebonne would have be- -- would have been with one representative. We wouldn't have had a second representative until Ouachita. Ouachita? I don't -- I'm sorry if I -- Ouachita. I'm sorry. Forgive -- forgive me for -- for messing that one up.

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The interesting thing about Ouachita in North Louisiana, you don't have the population to support two representatives. You just don't. Look. Black people aren't the minority of -- of Louisiana. That's your census report. 15 -- 15 parishes gained population. 15 parishes make up three million citizens of Louisiana. 15 parishes.

The top three parishes are bigger than those first few states that formed this union. There's no reason why those first six parishes shouldn't be the home of those resident -- of those representatives.

Now, when you look at this map and you looked at every -- the -- the last 45 parishes are all losing population. You're getting evacuated. That's the minority. Rural Louisiana is the minority. Black people aren't the minority.

But Bla- -- if Black people live in every parish, how are they not going to end up being disenfranchised? And we could play the games between 31 and 33. It doesn't matter. You got no principles upon which to guide for this so you end up, as Jefferson put it, in a scramble, a vendue.

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It re- -- it reduces us to a -- a -- a -- a concoction. It reduces us to hot blood and a complete, utter loss of the thing if we're not careful. 180 years ago next Saturday, this got put in motion. What you're facing today is a pendulum that's been going back from secession to abolition, Jim Crow, Reconstruction.

We had the Robert Barons, we had suffrage, prohibition, its repeal. In the span of 1913 to 1922, we passed five amendments. You think you're doing something special? This is going to the court because you all can't figure it out. You got to establish some principles.

There's no principles applied. How is it that Oregon gets one representative for every 706,000 but we've got to suffer to 776,000? Does anybody have any idea how many ratios are applied through the method of equal proportions? Anybody care?

Remember that Constitution you swore to uphold and defend? It would have provided that we wouldn't be doing this right now. We could all be somewhere else having a beer. Lunch. Doing anything.

So what are we going to do about it? How has

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to begin to matter more to you all than who. Maybe it's them where who -- how has to matter more than who. You're just a reflection of our neglect and opportunism.

So the north and the west of Louisiana, you know, I just was at the parish council meeting. Seems that north and west Louisiana, they have two districts for the Public Service Commission, came up in one of our meetings, Public Service Commission maps.

North and -- and west Louisiana, you own the Public Service Commission. You only share one parish that's split between the two of you. Meanwhile Districts 2 -- 1, 2 and 3, you want to talk about a concocted map, I've got two Public Service Commissioners serving both Orleans and Jefferson Parish.

So I'm pretty sure District 2, where Baton Rouge lies, you get to make all the decisions when it comes to my energy bill. I don't think Jefferson Parish or Orleans got a shot. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity.

Anybody want to take a stab at liberty, what

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it means in that context? It ain't freedom. It ain't begging and pleading for rights or what's fair or equitable. Bind them down from mischief by the chains of a constitution.

A lot of mischief and I don't fault anybody for engaging in as much mischief as you can get away with. I don't fault sharks for being sharks. North Louisiana, hold onto that grip of that power as long as you possibly can. But when it comes crashing down, my God, will that weight punish you.

You could reestablish some principles simply. Base two of the representatives out of Orleans and -- and east Baton Rouge and you've got your two minority districts; don't you? I mean, don't you? What's a minority? What's a minority; right?

It's not about minorities. It's about Black, or is it about party? Because I'm pretty sure both your parties are losing. I'm getting ready to run for no party and I think I'll win against any of y'all.

The parties are being evacuated. So it's not about party. We don't care about party. What we care about is principles and we lack for it at every level

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of government because we're too busy trying to keep track of y'all. If I wanted to figure out -- if I want to be an educated voter and pay attention to these maps, I've got to figure out how you drew these maps.

Then I've got to figure out who's running for president, who's running for Senate, both Senates. I've got a House of Representatives, I've got a governor, I've got a state Senator, I've got a state Rep, I've got state councilpersons, mayor.

What's [inaudible] I don't -- I ran out of fingers. How am I supposed to be an engaged, informed voter and do this responsibly when you tax me out of the -- the -- the possibility of it? You present no principles. You argue like sixth graders.

It's like going into hi- -- elementary school coming into these meetings. Bunch of sixth graders. Let's elevate the discourse. What do you say; huh? Anybody want to talk about the principles of apportionment, what it means to actually have a principled representative body. Anyone?

I thank you for your time. I don't hold much hope. I'm pretty sure this is going to a court. And

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that was an arbitrarily appointed court. Even the Supreme Court we settled for today, arbitrarily appointed by a House, arbitrarily seated. How has got to matter more than who.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hyers. Next, members, we're going to go to the red cards in opposition wishing to speak. Jennifer Carrigan?

MS. CARRIGAN: I'll waive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She waives. Okay. Patrick Miller? Mr. Miller? I'll also invite up, if Representative Emerson is in the anteroom, she's next, and then Representative Mark Wright, you're after her. You can -- so you can wait until Representative Emerson comes up. Yes, sir.

MR. MILLER: I want to thank the committee for meeting today and the opportunity to speak. In May, I just graduated from Louisiana Tech University. I got my Bachelors of Science in Economics and I am now attending Louisiana State University studying to get my MBA.

I originally am from Franklinton which is in the Fifth Congressional District as it is now and I

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went to high school in Mandeville, Louisiana and I have lived in Louisiana my entire life. When I was in North Louisiana, it's a completely different culture. It's a completely different set of people and area what -- what I was used to in Mandeville.

And I came to really enjoy North Louisiana. I came to really enjoy Ruston and I came to really realize the people of North Louisiana and how special they are and how we don't advocate for them as much as we should.

Many of the proposed maps would make Baton Rouge the population center of a new district. That would shift away from our current configuration and most likely divide representation for Monroe and Alexandria.

In fact, under the maps proposed, the Fifth District would have more residents from East Baton Rouge Parish than Ouachita and Rapides Parishes combined. This is not only the place where the numbers actually shift from north to south under their maps. The Fifth District would have more residents in Lafayette Parish than Rapides.

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The voting population from Lafayette Parish would nearly be equal to the one in Ouachita as well. This is a shift away from the voices and constituents in North Louisiana and Monroe and West Monroe and Lincoln Parish and parishes surrounding the Mississippi Delta to Southern Louisiana.

The maps proposed would divide the seats of Monroe, Alexandria, Lafayette, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The only major population center in our state that the maps don't split up are Shreveport, Bossier and Lake Charles.

But it's not just major cities that this map would split up. The map also splits up Slidell from Covington, Pineville from Alexandria, Ville Platte from Mamou, Breaux Bridge from Saint Martinville, New Iberia from Delcambre, and Zachary from Central as well.

This is very important because as one state and as the future, you know, I -- I plan to live my entire life in Louisiana. I've, you know, studied in Louisiana my entire life and I -- I'm making a sacrifice in my career, most likely, to stay in this state because I love my home and I love the people who

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call Louisiana home.

And I think that it's extremely important that we understand that everyone in this state needs a voice but we also have to understand that we can't split our communities up. You know, being a resident of St. Tammany Parish myself, I do not want to see my parish split up. I do not want to see my parish torn apart. We need representation in North Louisiana. We need representation around this state and I want to thank you very much for your time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Representative Emerson.

REP. EMERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members. I'll be -- be very brief. I know everybody's had a long day here and appreciate all the debate back and forth. Today, obviously, you know I'm one of your colleagues but I'm here as the representative from District 39 as well as a resident of Carencro and Lafayette Parish.

Specifically, this map -- and -- and I really just want to focus on my home area here because it splits Lafayette Parish apart. And yesterday, our

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mayor-president, Josh Guillory, spoke in the Senate Committee on a -- a -- I think the exact same map. I know it was amended a little bit but basically the exact same map.

And I don't think he's able to be here today so I did just want to kind of reiterate some of the things that he was saying about splitting apart our parish. It's -- Lafayette Parish has longtime been the anchor for this Congressional district.

Of course, you all know the very well-defined area and region of Acadiana. Lafayette, again, has been the heart of Acadiana. Our morning show is called Good Morning Acadiana and it's located in Lafayette. So I think separating our parish is a very -- is a very difficult thing. I think that's a very well-defined community of interest.

And this example might be a little bit silly to some of y'all, but it was really apparent to me because last night, I was eating at Prejean's restaurant, which is located in Carencro, in my hometown, where I live, where my family lives.

And a lot of you probably know Prejean's

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restaurant off of I-49. And it's owned by a guy name Boudreaux. His last name is Boudreaux. And so when I think about Boudreaux who owns Prejean's being in the same Congressional district as the great people of Morehouse Parish, while I love them and I love the people of Tensas and Madison and Ouachita and everybody else, I don't think it's the same community of interest as Mr. Boudreaux from Prejean's.

So that's really all I wanted to point out here. Splitting apart Lafayette Parish, again, it's a parish that's been in that district as a whole for a very long time. The parish that I live in, that I grew up in, and the town and community that I live in and grew up in. And I think it's very important to keep that community of interest together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Emerson. Thank both of you for your testimony. I'll invite Representative Mark Wright and Representative Owens up. Whenever you're ready, gentlemen.

REP. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members. I'm here today to represent District 77, Covington, St. Tammany Parish, the North Shore. Contrary to what has

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been said in the media by judges and elected representatives, like, I actually think this is not enough time to take a look at something like that.

That's why I decided to forsake my day and come here and wait and be able to testify. Normally, we have a lot of people that come here from St. Tammany Parish to, you know, sort of voice opinions and all but as you saw, Mr. Miller, you know, and Ms. Carrigan are the only two that are here.

I think a lot of people have no clue what's going on. And so even waiting one day, I think, is not enough. That's for other people to decide. I -- I wanted to be on this committee a long time ago, did a lot of lobbying. I -- I envy you all.

So I'm not here to tell you what the map should look like. I'm just here to tell you that putting St. Tammany Parish in a district anchored by East Baton Rouge does not work. First off, St. Tammany, particularly West St. Tammany where I represent, I mean, I -- I'd argue that half the families commute across the causeway to work in Metairie and New Orleans.

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When Hurricane Katrina hit, a vast majority of people moved to our area; right? We share the lake. We're part of Metro New Orleans. There's no doubt about that. And that goes for the North Shore for that matter.

In fact, the -- the term North Shore is based in the North Shore Lake Pontchartrain because we all -- we share that common basis. You know, heck. I -- I grew up in Metairie and moved right over and, you know, I feel like that's just one same community; right?

Whereas if we go with this map, St. Tammany would be sort of second to East Baton Rouge and the Baton Rouge metro area. In fact, with this map, quite frankly, I think the Baton Rouge metro area, particularly median market, benefits the most, because I think you're going to have like four districts anchored in Baton Rouge.

So everybody's going to be advertising when they run their campaign in Baton Rouge. And that's a bit of a joke, but it's just true. Like, it's -- it's all based in Baton Rouge. I'm not sure that's healthy, quite frankly. So I'm here to tell you, just as a

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representative, about some of those facts, about, you know, this community of interest fact that we talked about.

St. Tammany's been in the First Congressional District I think about 50 years and, you know, that's a good bit of tradition. Obviously, we like our congressman, Minority Leader Scalise. You can't always control who represents you. I get that.

But that interest, that common interest, everything from, as I mentioned, that community of people commuting, living, working, it -- it's also related to some incredibly serious issues. I mean, we built the -- the great wall over there near Saint Bernard and New Orleans East for flood protection.

Well, a part of that actually causes flooding in Mandeville. A lot of people don't realize that but we get a lot of flooding in Lake Pontchartrain because the water comes through Lake -- Lake -- now goes through Lake Pontchartrain and comes in and we've got to deal with that issue.

And I think people on the South Shore understand that and they want to help out. And it's

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good to have the same congressman and congressional staff from that area. So I'm just here to say -- I'll -- I'll close up.

I'm here to say it -- I don't know what the map should look like or what the bill should look like. That's your job and -- and I don't envy you on that. I am waiting to see what I have to vote on. I'm just saying, if I get this bill, I have to vote against it.

There's just no doubt in my mind, if I'm going to represent my area, that I would not be able to support this. I'm fairly confident. And I'm not here to speak for the delegation. I'm fairly confident St. Tammany delegation and perhaps the whole North Shore would agree too. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Owens.

REP. OWENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I'm going to keep this very brief because I know everybody's been here a long time today. I come here today as resident of Slidell and the representative for District 76 which encompasses the majority of the Slidell area and as the area that's actually going to be split up by this map.

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St. Tammany really is a very homogenous community. We -- you know, on the east side and the west side, we all have, you know, a lot of similar interests and we share a lot of the same interests with -- with Jefferson Parish as well.

A lot of our people from St. Tammany actually are people who originally lived in Jefferson, have moved over across the lake and -- and they still -- a lot of people still send their kids there to -- for school.

They -- we commute there for -- for jobs. They have businesses they own in Jefferson. And then vice versa too. Like, we travel across the St. Tammany to go to work and a lot of people live in Slidell and have a business over in Mandeville or Covington or some of the other areas in town.

So it's -- to split these up at this time, I just -- there's too much common interest there on both sides of the lake to -- for us to -- to -- to do this at this point. I just don't see how that's going to benefit us. And our parish has almost doubled in size in the past 20 years and, like I said, you know, this

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is -- a lot of these people have -- have migrated over.

So that -- that being said, we've worked the past three years -- this is one of the real reasons why I'm testifying today with -- with the congressional delegation, especially with Congressman Scalise, CPRA, the St. Tammany Levee Board, the Corps and we're working on basically $4 billion -- that's billion with a B -- of levee -- and -- and water projects that are coming down the next couple years.

So we don't want to jeopardize that at this point if these maps change and we split up St. Tammany. All of a sudden, we're part of East Baton Rouge Parish. Then all of a sudden I -- it's -- you know, we -- we -- we get to the weeds with all that. And we really don't want to put that in jeopardy. We want to continue on our path going forward and as the bill is written right now, ask that you don't support it as written. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative. And Representative Wright, we do have a question for you if you wouldn't mind hanging out. We're going to get through all of them and -- and we might have a member

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who -- who wants to call you up and ask you a question. Next up, present and would like to speak, Chris Canulette?

MR. CANULETTE: Close. Canulette. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I apologize. Yeah. Please, sir. And then Deborah Randolph as well. Okay. And -- and Ms. Susie LaBrie. Ma'am, you can come up as well. Yes, sir. Whenever you're ready.

MR. CANULETTE: Yeah. Thank -- I'd like to thank y'all. First of all, I'd like to thank you for your time and your -- and your families' time. I truly understand what you're going through because I am a councilman from District 8, St. Tammany Parish.

The -- you know, the ones that suffer the most are our families because we're here doing these things. And like y'all, we're doing reapportionment also. I'm here about the map. Everything else, that's -- that's y'all's game. And it's a tough game.

The map is -- is -- to me, it's detrimental to St. Tammany Parish. We -- we truly, really are more of a coastal parish, whether we like to believe it or not, especially down. The fact of the matter is this.

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When a lot of the money came out for the projects, for the wetlands and -- and restoring the coast, we got a boat dock and a launch and a landing and a bayou 40 miles from the gulf. Not much help.

The fact of the matter is this. When you leave the [inaudible] end at the coast of St. Tammany, you hit no land until you get to the Gulf of Mexico. It used to be all marsh. It's all gone. We desperately need your help and that's why I think we should definitely be realigned with the coastal. It's like our representatives are talking and I feel it's just detrimental to St. Tammany.

And thank you for your time and your service, all of y'all. I know you don't get a lot of love and appreciation. You get a lot of ridicule and I feel your pain and wish you all nothing but good luck.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Ms. LaBrie.

MS. LABRIE: Yes. I have a friend named Burt Kelly [ph] who couldn't make it today and he asked me to read his testimony and also want to add mine. First of all, I'm Susie LaBrie representing myself.

I do think this is more of an urban versus

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rural situation covered under race. So anyway, I want to get onto Burt's letter and this is exactly what he has said. So this is his testimony here. I had it set up.

A letter -- he was sending this letter to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee too and it -- and he's in District 29, Senate District 2. I believe that's across the river. That's Senator Price's district. And I believe Barry Ivey is the representative over there. I don't know.

Be it known that I had observed most of yesterday's committee meeting via the Internet. I want to convey my thoughts and concerns on the subject that I listened to. I listened to both sides of the debate and I have been in the position to employ both blacks and whites as well as have been employed by both blacks and whites.

I have served both publicly as a school bus driver. I worked alongside both in my military service and in the private sector holding the same job title. I have friends and acquaintance likewise, what I know and convey.

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But what is law of jurisdiction doing and the judge or court have on dictating to a legislative body on how -- this is -- this is expanding back and forth. Let's see. I had this. By what law of jurisdiction does a judge or court have on dictating to a legislative body on how, what and timeframe to make the laws.

It seems to me that this major overstep of separation of powers. I feel the amendment proposing in House Bill 1 may appease both sides but in the long run will cause greater confusion as stated by the Senator on the panel.

That was also apparent yesterday in the short term. It was all because of trying to push something through to avoid being in contempt of court. Imagine that. A whole state and all its citizen being in contempt of court simply because they're trying to be fair and doing what is best in their state and citizens at will to be a lasting decision for decades in less than six days.

I heard many times that House Bill 1 is not solely about race but I didn't hear from those who proclaim that what other things were except the

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statistics of voter tendencies that were tied to a race.

I did hear some argument about economics and of potential divisions on manners that affect both all blacks and whites at various industries and as neighbors and coworkers. My concern is being as both black and whites live in areas of agricultural, fishing, rural and other economic areas as well as of cultural -- cultural cohesions.

Quartering up areas like these with no economic considerations is harmful to the state and all of its citizens. No one will have true representation based on what really matters. The growth of both individual and their surrounding community. The Internet is of a larger or more wealthy well -- we'll cancel out the last within a given district instead of that district being represented as it should be based on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I feel like constructing a district boundary based on race is the complete reverse of what the 14th Constitutional Amendment was all about. No one grew be discriminated or given special privileges based on a

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pigment of their skin.

To do otherwise, I believe that we are reverting back to the ways of decades and centuries ago and driving a wedge that took years of protests, legislation, litigation, blood and lives to remove. To illustrate my concerns further, imagine if we were to go far as to have Black states and white states.

Unbelievable it sounds, but we are laying a footstone to what one day could come the reality by passing House Bill 1. Would you be able to say this can happen from a district but not from a state? I'm requesting that House Bill 1 not pass. Burt Kelly. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Ms. LaBrie I always say LaBrie. I apologize. Ms. LaBrie Thank you very much.

MS. LABRIE: Both is correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. LABRIE: You've been doing good with that one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, ma'am. Thank you very much for your testimony. I appreciate it.

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MS. LABRIE: Thank you too. Appreciate you having us to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, ma'am. Also filling out a red card in opposition not wishing to speak, Julie Sandifer, Dale Clary and Janine Gotro [ph]. Members, is that clear? Is all the cards by Mr. Vice Chair back up to the table? Or actually, Representative Thomas, did you want Representative Wright to come back.

REP. THOMAS: [inaudible]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You okay? Okay. And for that matter, members, was there anybody that you want to invite up to ask additional questions? Representative Ivey, did you? No. Okay. Absolutely. And I'm going to put Representative Ivey on. He has a motion.

REP. IVEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take up an amendment before closing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Absolutely. Now's the proper time. We're going to go ahead and take up Amendment Set 1. Do you want to have Ms. Smith read it in or are you [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: That'd be --

MR. CHAIRMAN: [inaudible]

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REP. IVEY: That'd be great.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Ms. Smith. You're good.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Amendment Set 16. It is available online and it adds a Section 6 at the end of the bill providing for applicability of the bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Representative Ivey, on your amendment.

REP. IVEY: Sure. You know, there was a lot of debate yesterday and in the end, there was amendments that were offered. One of the amendments, and specifically I think by Senator Foil, provided some effectiveness language.

Obviously, we understand where the current state of the lawsuit is and it is, you know, ba- -- still with the ruling of the lower court where the injunction is still in order which has necessitated this special session where we are supposed to produce a second map with a second majority -- Black majority-minority district by June 20th.

And so understanding that there is a lot of litigation still pending and -- and only God knows how

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it's going to end, and so to be fair, to -- to kind of both sides perspectives, I -- I thought this was a reasonable amendment in that we don't know the timing of those decisions, whether or not a map that we end up producing and passing will be the one used in the upcoming Fall congressional election or imposed upon us potentially by the federal judge if we do not enact a map.

Depending on the timing of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, that may or may not come, that relief for the defendants may or may not come. If -- if it does not, then, you know, we're -- we're left with either a map we pick or the one that the judge picks. And either way, I believe it would be fair that whoever ultimately prevails, whichever side, and this will be probably appealed all the way to the Supreme Court.

And but whatever the final judgment is on the case, if it is in favor of the defense, then Act 5 of the 2022 first extraordinary session will become law again where we will not have to come back into session and try to repass another map. You know, so if -- and if the -- the plaintiffs prevail, well then the map

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that we pass or the one maybe imposed upon us will be the map that we -- that we're stuck with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vice Chair, since you're a member of the committee, you can obviously question Mr. Ivey if you have any.

REP. DUPLESSIS: I had an opportunity to talk to him prior to his amendment being offered and I'm not going to object.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Thomas, you have a question on the amendment? Hold on. Let me add you. All right. Both you and Representative Ivey, you're on.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Representative Ivey, does this -- is this amendment identical word-for-word from what Senator Foil submitted yesterday and that committee passed?

REP. IVEY: I actually asked staff that question and it's my understanding that it is not identical language but the effectual nature of the language is identical. The effect of the what will happen is the same.

The -- the Senate drafts things differently than we do and so, you know, we showed certainly

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deference to staff. I actually was able to preview a version of this. I will be adding this amendment to my own legislation as well that I want to be bringing. And so I've had the conversation. I -- I believe personally the language looks good and will accomplish exactly what the intended pur- -- my intended statement.

REP. THOMAS: So do you know what the exact differences are?

REP. IVEY: I haven't compared. We can ask staff to maybe provide some clarification on that.

REP. THOMAS: I -- I -- I would like that clarification please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's put Ms. Smith on.

MS. SMITH: Just one moment. I need to locate -- should I just read them out?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Why don't you just point them out? You can -- you can point line by line --

MS. SMITH: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: -- the differences if it's easier.

MS. SMITH: Okay. So I believe that the amendment, the Senate amendment that has been referred

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to, Senate Amendment 15, in that amendment, it provides that the plan adopted by the act would lose any effectiveness whatsoever if any court so empowered reverses, vacates or stays the decision, the relevant decision of the court before us.

In any such case, Act 5 of the 2022 session will become again effective. The language before the committee right now that we worked on in Amendment Number 16 provides a similar mechanism that if a final unappealable judgment by a federal court in the relevant cases does not declare the congressional plan enacted by Act 5 to be in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the following shall occur.

The provisions of this act shall cease to be effective. So that would mean that this bill would be -- cease to be effective. R.S. 18:1276 as enacted by Act Number 5 and the provisions of Act Number 5 that are repealed by this bill would be reenacted and the provisions of this section shall not reduce the term of a representative of the U.S. Congress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Smith, what's the substantive effect of the differences? Maybe --

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MS. SMITH: They're the same.
MR. CHAIRMAN: -- if you can just summarize.
MS. SMITH: As far as --
MR. CHAIRMAN: It's basically the same?
MS. SMITH: As far as staff is --
REP. THOMAS: So nothing substantive?
MR. CHAIRMAN: No. According to --
MS. SMITH: Okay. So in -- in staff's opinion, it has the same effect. In addition, it also answers the question of what happens to the people who are elected in the meantime.
REP. THOMAS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
MR. CHAIRMAN: For a question on the [inaudible] Representative Carter.
REP. CARTER: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, the amendment, what it would do is that if -- if a court did not stay the election, i.e. the Supreme Court of the United States, did not stay the election that is scheduled for qualifying in July and the election in November.
If it's not stayed and -- and -- and a course

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of candidates are elected pursuant to whatever map we pass out of this session or whatever map the judge impose, then if the Supreme Court did not issue that stay and these people were elected and -- and then the Supreme Court -- when the case is ultimately tried in both the district court and the -- and the -- the Fifth Circuit and then the Supreme Court.

And ultimately, the Supreme Court will say, well. The map that we pass during the last session, the -- the reapportionment session is okay. It doesn't violate Section 2. Then -- then this map, whatever map that the judge come up with, or this map I guess, would no longer have an effect and we go back to the -- the -- the map we passed in the special session.

And -- and -- and -- and those people that got elected through -- during the process, they will continue to hold office and -- and they will not limit their term. So they got elected in November. If there's no stay, then it -- then -- then -- then they will serve for two years. But then the -- the map would revert back to the -- the speaker map that we passed during the -- during the February -- during the

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February reapportionment session; is that right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that a question for Representative Ivey?

REP. IVEY: Yeah. That is correct.

REP. CARTER: Okay.

REP. IVEY: Yes. No one -- whoever -- if -- if this map or any one of the maps we pass, if we add this language to all of them, passes and there's no judicial and -- a timely judicial intervention in favor of the defense, then what -- a map, one of the ones we select if we pass it, will be the law up and until a final judgment. If that final judgment is in favor of the defense --

REP. CARTER: Yeah.

REP. IVEY: -- it will revert back to Act 5. If it's not, then the map that we pass will ma- -- be maintained as the law of the land. And anyone elected under the -- these conditions would remain in office until a reelection.

REP. CARTER: The end of the term.

REP. IVEY: Yes.

REP. CARTER: Right. Well, my problem with

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this is that it -- it would take away from the legislature the opportunity to come back and do another map. Either --

REP. IVEY: Well, nothing would take away from our opportunity. We always have that opportunity. However, what -- what I think would be more prudent is not -- is to put us in a position where we don't have to come back. And now it depends on who prevails; right? In this case, if the -- the plaintiffs do not prevail, it may be more favorable to, you know, have -- try to have to come back. But what's -- what's going to be different on that second go-around?

REP. CARTER: If -- if -- if -- if -- if the -- if the Fifth Circuit or the United States Supreme Court feel that the defendant has a -- the defendants have a legitimate argument that ought to be considered, they would issue a stay. They would issue a stay long before July qualifying time. The Supreme Court would issue a stay, would have a hearing and -- and would either vacate whatever the judge in the lower court had done and -- and then -- then will be --

REP. IVEY: Yeah.

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REP. CARTER: [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: I recognize that.

REP. CARTER: This amendment is not even -- it's not -- what I'm saying, the amendment's not necessary. The -- the amendment doesn't do [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: I think you just made my point that it is necessary because if the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals st- -- stays the lower court's injunction, what would happen is if we pass this map without this language, this becomes the law of the land, period.

And the -- the -- the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling is irrelevant because this becomes the law of the land. Without language to qualify the effectiveness or nature of a bill that we pass this session, then it -- it -- it's the -- the law of the land. And so this is language to provide that and delineate between --

REP. CARTER: Well --

REP. IVEY: -- the different potential outcomes.

REP. CARTER: Let me -- the Firth Circuit already said -- the Fifth Circuit has already said that

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they didn't think the Senate would prevail. They already said that. Now -- now, the only -- the only --

REP. IVEY: It was an administrative stay and they did not --

REP. CARTER: Right.

REP. IVEY: -- rule in favor of the defense --

REP. CARTER: They -- they -- they --

REP. IVEY: -- because they didn't --

REP. CARTER: If the Fifth -- well, let me — let -- let me -- if the Fifth Circuit thought there was a chance that the Senate might prevail, they would have -- they would have continued the stay and had a hearing, a -- a more -- more detailed and waited -- and ordered the trial court to stay. They didn't do that.

Now, I don't know of a application. I'm sure application being made to the United States Supreme Court and if the United States Supreme Court feels, when they receive these documents that I'm sure will be pretty quickly, they could issue a stay. So if they felt that the defendant might prevail, the Supreme Court could issue a stay.

So we don't need this -- they issue a stay,

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they issue a stay, then we go on as -- as we are now. We won't -- we won't have the -- the --

REP. IVEY: And --

REP. CARTER: -- House Bill 1 if we pass -- if we pass House Bill 1, House Bill 1 would be stayed because of the Supreme Court stay. They would decide what -- which one would go. You don't have to have this amendment.

REP. IVEY: But you can't stay enacted legislation. If we enact legislation this special session, it cannot be stayed by the Supreme Court. We have produced and created a new map with effective dates on that map. And if we're going to comply with the lower court's order, then the enacted map that we create will have to have an effective date for the upcoming Fall election.

And so I'd like to remind you, Representative Carter, that the author of the bill has not objected to this motion and I believe that we all recognize it's a long shot getting anything out of here. I -- I -- I -- I would imagine that it would be a lot more of a challenge to get any legislation out of here without

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such language.

REP. CARTER: So we would go two years and then we would reimplement the statute that we -- we said we pa- -- passed during the -- during the special session.

REP. IVEY: Only if it -- the final judgment, the court finds in favor of the defense.

REP. CARTER: And we couldn't in two years pass another bill if we want to [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: We still can. You can come back and we can author legislation. It's always in order.

REP. CARTER: That's right.

REP. IVEY: We don't need a special session for it.

REP. CARTER: That's right. We don't -- all we can pa- -- pass, a -- a rea- -- reapportion bill any time we wanted to.

REP. IVEY: Exactly.

REP. CARTER: If we did -- if -- if the Supreme Court said that -- that what we did was -- was -- was incorrect, then we can pass a bill. We can have a special session or we can have a regular session and

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pass the bill. We've got two years because these people are going to be in office for two years. So why -- we don't need this amendment. This amendment is a --

REP. IVEY: Well, logic says that --

REP. CARTER: If this -- if this --

REP. IVEY: -- if -- if -- if we don't -- we have to have language that delineates the effectiveness. Even if we don't say we revert back to the current map, we have to have language that would qualify, that if some -- if the defense prevails, right, why would we pass a map that adds a second majority-minority district; okay? And I've authored a map myself and -- and so I think everybody understands how I feel on the situation.

But why -- in deference to both sides, the plaintiff and the defense, if someone prevails and final judgment is rendered in favor of the defense, why should -- if we try our best to comply with the lower court's order to pass a map this special session with a second majority-minority district, why would we feel it's fair to impose that map for another 10 years if the defense prevails?

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REP. CARTER: Not 10 years. Two years.

REP. IVEY: Well, I'm sorry.

REP. CARTER: Two years. [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: Well, you're saying the effect -- so is this map -- Representative Duplessis, is this map only effective for two years? It's not. You don't -- you have no expiration date on this map?

REP. DUPLESSIS: No.

REP. IVEY: Okay. Therefore, if we passed your legislation as it's currently drafted, this becomes the law of the land until the next redistricting cycle?

REP. DUPLESSIS: The next -- until we're required --

REP. IVEY: Unt- -- until we re- -- redistrict.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Representative Carter, Representative Ivey, you all finish your thoughts on this. I feel like you both [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: I'm -- I'm done. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Carter, any final thoughts?

REP. CARTER: Yeah. My -- my point is, all I'm

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trying to -- trying to point out is if this map is -- if it's passed, if it was to pass and if the Supreme Court had a problem with it or if the Supreme Court, for whatever reasons, maybe not even the map, said that the -- the defendant should win, for whatever reason, that means the old map was okay, then these people elected is only elected for two years.

And so we can come back and -- and re- -- and do a -- do another map, the same map or another map. This prevents us from doing anything because the map would automatically take effect and -- and my -- my concern is that the -- the legislature can change the map within two years. You don't have to wait 10 years to change a map if the court says it's -- it's -- something is wrong with it. That's what I'm saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And yeah. You've made your -- you've made your point.

REP. CARTER: You've got two years.

REP. IVEY: And -- and --

REP. CARTER: You've got two years. Then you can change the map. Two years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Y'all both have made your

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points on that issue. We're going to move on. Representative [inaudible] Magee's got a question.

REP. MAGEE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to be clear though. I've heard it said a lot of times, and Representative Carter just said it, that the Fifth Circuit made some sort of intention about what it plans during the merits of the case and the Fifth Circuit was extremely clear on its intention on the merit case and said, that said, neither the Plaintiff's arguments nor the district court's analysis is entirely water tight, meaning they're not -- I read that as, we don't really care for both arguments completely.

And it's feasible that the merits panel conducting a less-rushed examination of the record, in light of differently framed arguments, may well side with the defendants. So I don't know where we're getting this -- this -- we keep saying this out loud that the Fifth Circuit has announced an intention to support the plaintiffs' position but they've clearly said that the defendants may win in the Fifth Circuit. So I -- I just want to be clear on the record that the

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-- it's still up in the air in the Fifth Circuit in contradiction to what Representative Carter just said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you [inaudible]

REP. CARTER: [inaudible] I was following [inaudible]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I'm going to let Representative Jenkins go next. I think we -- we've -- we've gotten a lot of arguments out on this. Representative Jenkins on the amendment.

REP. CARTER: [inaudible]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Jenkins. Representative Jenkins. Representative Carter, hey. Let -- let's -- I will recognize you again if you would like to. Just please, please wait until you're recognized. Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- I don't see a big problem with the amendment. It's not in any way adverse to the -- the district court's ruling. I -- I just want to be sure that it's -- it's not adverse in any kind of way, is it, to the district court's ruling?

REP. IVEY: I personally don't interpret it

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that way.

REP. JENKINS: Okay. And -- and Rep. Duplessis, you okay with this amendment?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Look, I'm -- I'm -- I'm fine with it for purposes of, you know, trying -- I -- look. We're under a tight timeline.

REP. JENKINS: All right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: We're under a very tight timeline. I personally don't really see the point of it. However, I'm not going to object to it.

REP. JENKINS: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Jenkins. Okay. Finally. Representative Ivey is going to offer up Amendment Set 16; is there any objection? See.

REP. CARTER: I object.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. There is an objection. We will vote on this. A vote yes is to adopt Amendment Set 16. A vote no is to not. And so Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chairman Stefanski?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

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MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Vice Chairman Duplessis?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Bourriaque? Representative Wilford Carter?

REP. WILFORD CARTER: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Deshotel?

REP. DESHOTEL: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Farnum? Representative Gadberry?

REP. GADBERRY: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Horton?

REP. HORTON: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Ivey?

REP. IVEY: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Jenkins?

REP. JENKINS: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Mike Johnson?

REP. MIKE JOHNSON: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative LaCombe?

REP. LACOMBE: Yes.

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MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Lyons?
REP. LYONS: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Magee?
REP. MAGEE: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Newell?
REP. NEWELL: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Thomas?
REP. THOMAS: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative White? 12 yays, 2 nays.
MR. CHAIRMAN: 12 yays, 2 nays and the amendment is adopted. Okay. Representative Ivey, another question on the bill. Representative Ivey.
REP. IVEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the appropriate time, I would like to move the bill as amended and this is going to be my final closing remarks before Rep- -- Vice Chair Duplessis closes.
I -- I'd like for everyone to take a moment and -- and reflect on like why we're here and what the purpose is. At the committee level, and as a -- a new -- new legis- -- legislator a few years ago, you know, I -- we take the job so seriously sometimes, I think we

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fail to put in proper context what the committee role is in the legislative process.

And as I appreciate what that context is for us today as it pertains to attempting to comply with the -- the lower federal court, you know, we have to decide, you know, in committee to kill or not to kill.

I don't think that's really the issue though that we should be considering. I don't think there's anything so offensive before us that it warrants such punitive action to prevent us from having a floor debate on the issue.

I think it's imperative we have a floor debate. I believe one of the failures of our efforts in the special session was that we did not have a floor debate on the issue. I think that -- and -- and -- and I -- I shared -- through the process I supported many maps that I would not vote for on the floor.

And I will -- I've already told Representative Duplessis and Senator Fields, I can't support their maps on final passage because of some of the issues that I've -- I have with them. That said, I -- I have worked to produce maps that I could support. And -- and

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that's why I have some alternatives.

But -- but I do believe that under every -- every circumstance, I would have voter for the speaker's map to get to the floor. I would have voted -- I'm voting -- going to support your map getting the floor, mine, and any other map to get to the floor for debate.

There is no chance that a map is just going to accidentally slip through a crack. We understand the challenge that we're up against. And to not allow the institution, not this -- we're just a part of the body on the floor.

I believe this committee owes -- the institution owes our colleagues on the House floor who cannot participate in this line of questioning and offering, you know, statements on all the people who come and present testimony, I believe we owe it to them to -- to have an opportunity to debate the issue on the floor. Again, I've already stated I can't support it on final passage in its current posture. However, I do ask that we move as amended, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Representative Ivey.

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But some housekeeping before. Lost in my desire to -- to end the debate on the amendment, Mr. Hurd had filled out a white card and I do want to give him an opportunity.

I don't want to -- if you'd like to make some comments, it might be moot at this point. I understand that. But if you'd like to give some comm- -- comments, I'd invite you up next to Mr. Duplessis. It's a white card, Representative Duplessis. I don't think you need to -- need to leave.

MR. HURD: I'll -- I think with the comment from staff in reading it, it did not mention how it would deal with the stay as the -- as it was fleshed out --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, please, if you're going to -- if you're going to -- yeah. Come -- come to the mike, sir, if -- if -- if you do want to give some --

MR. HURD: My name's Paul Hurd. I'm from Ouachita. Ouachita Parish. We're somewhere near Little Rock if -- in case you're wondering. The question I had was, the -- the amendment -- I'm in support of the concept of the amendment. I just wanted to make clear

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that it -- one version that I saw yesterday only would go into effect if it was ultimately determined on the merits that the old district was proper.

All right. This amendment that -- that -- that will deal with this problem in having this in limbo right now needs to deal with if it's either held on the merits, be it the old existing plan, is held on the merits to be legal or if the stay that prevents it from going forward is lifted so that it -- there's no federal impediment.

And I think -- though I wasn't sure about the initial reading, I think ultimately the explanation and the record and this -- and this committee makes it clear that the committee intends for that language to be sufficient, that should the stay against its use be lifted and it would therefore be enacted law that was not otherwise stayed in the federal system that the old district would prevail and this district would not. And that was my concern and the speed at which we were moving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh. Certainly. I understand. Sta- -- staff is indicating yes to your -- to your

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explanation.

MR. HURD: Thank you for your time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. Also, members, on HB1, we received 12 e-mails in opposition which will be in the record. Vice Chair Duplessis to close.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Committee. I think we've been at this now since 10 -- 10 a.m. and I just want to let the committee know just how much I -- I -- I respect each and -- each and every one of you.

We all come to this process with different life experiences, different perspective -- perspectives and -- and certainly different goals in terms of our -- our futures and thinking about consequential votes like this and what they may mean.

This has been a particularly difficult day for me certainly because this bill was -- was scheduled but -- but -- but not so much. Not so much because of the bills. I think everybody kind of came to the table knowing where they were going to be.

So we just -- I think we went through a whole year, quite honestly, of -- of -- of work with

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everybody knowing where they were going to be. Road shows, testimony, bills introduced, debates. I don't know if it changed a single mind. I don't know if it changed a single heart.

But this day was particularly difficult for me because at this very moment, I was scheduled to be at an event giving a keynote address in my district for an event that I've been looking forward to for many years now.

I was -- I was going to be giving the keynote address at the -- basically the grand reopening of A.P. Tureaud Civil Rights Park which is in the heart of my district in the Seventh Ward.

And the event began at two p.m. and, you know, I think about that and I think about the irony that I'm here today presenting this bill because I think about Alexander Pierre Tureaud and -- and -- and who he -- who he was, for those of you all who don't know him or don't know of his life.

But he -- he had -- there's a monument that was placed of him in -- in 1997 and -- and I would assume that anybody who has a monument after them has

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done something with their life that someone else considers significant.

He is a native New Orleanian, was a native New Orleanian, who -- who attended Howard Law School and graduated in 1925. I'm also a graduate of Howard Law School. And I learned and studied about his life and the contributions that he made to this state, to this nation.

Before you had a Jared Evans representing the Legal Defense Fund, you had Alexander Pierre Tureaud who was local counsel for NAACP for pretty much all civil rights cases throughout the south. So when Thurgood Marshall came to take on cases, to fight desegre- -- to fight segregation, it was A.P. Tureaud who was the local counsel who led -- led on those cases.

There were only four Black lawyers in the state of Louisiana when A.P. Tureaud came home in the '30s to -- to be an attorney in this state. He filed 13 lawsuits against LSU. He filed lawsuits for equal pay so that Black teachers could make the same as their white -- white teachers.

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He filed numerous, countless voter -- voter rights lawsuits. I just encourage all of y'all to look him up one day. Right now, they're -- they're celebrating the refurbishment of his monument because it was vandalized over the years and the park was in disrepair. And I really wanted to be there today.

And I can't be there today but, you know, I think about the fact that when A.P. Tureaud ran for congress, he was a -- I can't remember if it was in the '40s or the '50s. I think about the fights that he fought and the fact that at time -- that time, we had no representation.

We didn't even have Congressional District 2. But he still ran. And believe it or not, he ran as a Republican. Things were a little different then. But so many things are still the same and, you know, fast forward. We're in 2022 and each of us before we -- or the moment we became representatives, we all put our hands up and we -- we -- we swore an oath to uphold the Constitution.

But a Constitutional decision has been made and with all of the debate that we've had today, all of

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the discussion, all of the perspectives, Representative Thomas and I talking about whether it's 31 percent or 33 percent.

We're under a court order right now. There's not a whole lot of room for interpretation as far as I'm concerned, or at least as far as the judge is concerned. Whether it's 31 percent, whether it's 33 percent, what we do know is that it's 57 percent for whites in this state, but they make up 83 percent of Congress.

Is that fair? Is that just? Whether it's 31 percent or 33 percent. We got some real work to do in this state. I'm -- like I said at the beginning, I -- I think that everybody came here with their mind made up on what they were going to do and I don't think anyone said it better than Mr. Lewis earlier when he really pointed out the fact that any progress we've made in this state has always been ordered by a court.

And we have an opportunity to do something different. We have an opportunity for our children to say, we didn't -- we didn't have to be forced to do it. We have to be forced to do the right thing because we

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know what the right thing is. So I don't think there's a whole lot more I can say that hasn't already been said.

I -- I ask that you, you know, do what you have to do. The motion has been made to -- to report the bill favorably as amended. I think what we've presented, what I've presented with HB1 complies with what we've been ordered to do. And as a lawyer, as an officer of the court, I'm going to do what I'm told to do by a court.

I'm not going to tell a federal district court to say, well. Let's just wait and see what the appellate court says. We don't get to pick and choose when we want to follow the law. We talk about law and order all day in this building. We can't pick and choose when we want to follow the law.

And right now, the law says two Black districts, whether we like it or not, whether it makes our community look a little different, maybe we could use some of that in Louisiana. Because what I can tell you is that one thing I took away from this road show for certain is that despite the fact that we didn't

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lose anybody in congress, we are losing young people.

And this vote today and this process is going to send a message. Are we going to be a state of the past or are we going to be a state of the future? And anybody coming up here talking about we need to keep things the way that they are and we don't need to change nothing, that means you like things the way that they are. You like being last in everything good and first in everything bad. With that, I -- I ask for your favorable passage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Members, Representative Ivey has moved that report House Bill 1 as amended; is there any objection?

FEMALE: I object.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an objection. Members, a vote yes is to report as amended. A vote no means the bill remains in committee. With that said, Ms. Omersbach [ph] will call the roll.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chairman Stefanski?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Vice Chairman Duplessis?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

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MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Bourriaque? Representative Wilford Carter?

REP. WILFORD CARTER: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Deshotel?

REP. DESHOTEL: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Farnum?

REP. FARNUM: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Gadberry?

REP. GADBERRY: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Horton?

REP. HORTON: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Ivey?

REP. IVEY: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Jenkins?

REP. JENKINS: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Mike Johnson?

REP. MIKE JOHNSON: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative LaCombe?

REP. LACOMBE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Lyons?

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REP. LYONS: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Magee?
REP. MAGEE: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative Newell?
REP. NEWELL: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Yes. Representative Thomas?
REP. THOMAS: No.
MADAM SECRETARY: No. Representative White? 7 yays, 8 nays.
MR. CHAIRMAN: 7 yays, 8 nays and the bill remains in committee. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.
REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Next up. Representative Ivey, HB3. Representative Ivey, what bill do you want to start with?
REP. IVEY: HB4.
MR. CHAIRMAN: We're going to start with HB4, Members, 4.
REP. IVEY: I'm going to -- you can talk about my deferral for three.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Members, housekeeping, HB3 is going to be deferred. My plan is to put that on a

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committee meeting tomorrow. Three is going to be deferred. My plan is to have that ready to go tomorrow for a committee meeting as well as probably HB2. Just for -- for today, that's what my mindset is.

We're going to see how the rest of the day progresses, though. So we are going to start with HB4 by Representative Ivey. Whenever you're ready, Representative.

REP. IVEY: Chair, do you want me to display the maps on the screen? Do you want me to display the maps on the screen?

MR. CHAIRMAN: John, why don't you cue up his initial map.

REP. IVEY: And before I get going, I -- I'd like to just -- because -- before anybody gets too confused, I do have two amendment sets for two different maps for this, therefore, illustrative purposes. So don't -- don't feel you're going to have to, you know, decide to vote on that or not. So they're -- they're for illustrative purposes. I just need one more minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. No. No. Like I said, why

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don't we -- we're going to wait on -- Mr. Harrington's going to cue it up. Well, whenever that map's up, we'll pop it up just so everybody can get a look at it and the public can.

Additionally, housekeeping [inaudible] on HB3, again, I'll formally make a motion to defer that. Is there any objection to deferring HB3? Seeing no objection, HB3 is deferred. There were two emails --

CLERK: They said, no stand [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Two emails on both three and four, they're in your folders, Members, they're not for or against. So I -- I guess they're white emails and then one in opposition. So those would be -- those two would be considered white cards --

REP. IVEY: For which bill was there an opposition?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not -- there is an opposition on HB3.

REP. IVEY: Three, but not four; correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three, but not four. Yes, sir.

REP. IVEY: Okay. So that's a little indicator there.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Whenever you're ready, Representative Ivey.

REP. IVEY: All right. Just literally one second, closing windows.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's let him -- as a point of order, let's let him present the bill before you --

REP. IVEY: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's a point of order Representative Thomas reporting order.

REP. THOMAS: I -- I just want to know if that's the map that we're going to be discussing? Is that the one with his amendments?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thi- -- this is. This is HB4, the map that is up right now.

REP. THOMAS: With his amendments or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, he's -- I'm going to defer to the author whether or not he wants to adopt those amendments --

REP. THOMAS: Oh, okay. Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: -- but for the purposes of what the discussion -- where he's going to start, this is the map.

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REP. THOMAS: Okay. So -- so that's with the original?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's the original on HB4.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Representative. Thank you. All right.

REP. IVEY: And -- and just to provide clarification, Representative Thomas, I have no intentions of moving the amended -- the amendments. Those are for illustrative purposes only.

REP. THOMAS: So this [inaudible]?

REP. IVEY: This is the map. Yes, ma'am. All right. Am I ready, Mr. Pro Tem, whenever?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Go ahead.

REP. IVEY: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Members. I know it's been a long day. I -- I'd say I'm going to try to be brief and I will, but it -- it's a lot of ground to cover. So I will begin. I want to start by reminding everyone what my votes were on HB1, which became Act 5 in the first special session of this year.

I voted and supported HB1. I voted to overturn

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the veto and to provide clarity in case there's anyone who may misunderstand why my -- why I supported that and also I am bringing these maps, I'd like to provide some clarification.

I -- I am aware of how that map was produced and while, you know, accusations, and of course, that's what the courts will decide, have been made as far as, you know -- you know, different biases or whatever. The fact is the map is the status quo. That's what the map is.

The speaker -- the -- the chairman, all they -- malapportionment is the first and preeminent responsibility of redistricting and -- and the standards by -- that the federal government requires upon us for malapportionment is -- is much more difficult than what we have to do with every other map and if you haven't had to try to draw one where you're getting numbers like literally into the, you know, teens, it's tremendously different than when you're given the -- you know, the grace of a plus or minus, you know, 2 1/2 or 5 percent.

It's -- it's -- the difference is night and

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day. And so I'm not opposed to a second majority-minority district, but up until I had to make efforts this -- you know, for -- in preparation of this special session, I had not seen a map that I could support. Obviously, one of the major issues I have with the maps that were before -- that -- Representative Duplessis' map and Senator Phil's [ph] map is how it dramatically cha- -- alters multiple current Congressional district makeups.

These are substantive moves. When you relegate Congressional District 6 to the Florida parishes, you wholly disrupt the constituency and the issues, the economics and these other factors that play a -- a critical role to all of Louisiana in our representation in Congress.

And so while I'm not opposed to a second majority-minority district, I believe it is incumbent upon myself to ensure that -- that we do it in the most practicable, responsible and least disruptive manner possible and that is the approach that I took when trying to draw this map.

So what -- what is the issue before us today?

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It is to specific- -- specifically and sole exclusively to attempt to pass a Congressional map that adds a second majority-minority district by June 20th. That is the court's order. Why are we here is because Act 5 of the 2022 Special Se- -- First Special Session was challenged in federal court on the basis of violating Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

The Court found in favor of the plaintiff and ordered an injunction and has required that the Legislature draw a map that adds a second black majority-minority district by June 20th. I personally didn't appreciate that qualifying language, because we can still comply with Voting Rights Act when there is a -- when groups of minorities vote in blocks, enough to provide for that opportunity district, which is what this is about.

And so it really made the -- the challenge of creating a second majority-minority district more difficult. And so that said, the defendants have appealed that -- the rul- -- the defendants have appealed the ruling and the injunction to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Fifth Circuit Court of

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Appeals issued an administrative stay on the lower court's injunction, then days later vacated that stay.

And so we're still waiting for appeal. Where we are right now is still having to address the court order to draw a second black majority-minority district in just days. Absent timely Judicial intervention in favor of the defense a Congressional map with a second black minority- -- minority-majority district will be implemented for the upcoming Congressional election in the fall.

It will be through one of the two following processes, the Legislative process or the Judicial process. Now, I asked staff earlier about the -- has the Legislature ever failed to adhere to a court order to -- you know, dealing with the Voting Rights Act. Of course, we've had much -- much opportunity to -- to do that.

And this is what I was told. So PAR has a -- this came from PAR's website, it's an important bit of history. In 1971, the question of was legal free districting came down on Louisiana very hard and PAR was there to step in. So it talks about the '60s Voting

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Rights Act and then it says, later when Louis- -- when Louisiana Legislature drew its new maps after the 1970s Census, it continued the same pattern, the 1 person-1 vote principle was not the Louisiana way.

So in 1971, U.S. District Judge E. Gordon West ordered a new set of maps. The Legislature went back to the drawing board and the U.S. Justice Department rejected the gerrymandered plan. It was getting to be mid-year when the election scheduled for the fall. So that left Judge West in a difficult place.

He was about to let all state Senators and Representatives run at large statewide. That's what he was about to do. When the judge had lunch one day with the then president at the time, Ed Steimel, wa- -- was there and of- -- Ed Steimel was there to offer to help. Be careful what you ask for, Steimel or PAR became the special master for that 1971 redistricting session.

It was a landmark event. It brought a new approach to redistricting back by the force of federal law and PAR was given only 30 days to pull it off. It conducted hearings and consulted with Legislators. So this was the 1970s. I was born in 1979. So I mean, I'm

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a child of the '70s, I guess, but '79.

And so I have drawn numerous maps, I've gone through that process. I have drawn many of these maps on my laptop while sitting in the bed at 3:00 a.m. And so my point is the technology that we have, the advantage that we have today, the fact that we've ma- -- especially us and -- and the committee level have discussed these issues, debated these issues.

We have tremendous familiarity and we are obviously -- have been put up against a very difficult timeline. That said, in 1971, in a -- in a day where technology didn't exist to any level, PAR was able to facilitate within 30 days, the map process, the printing, the production of all that is just -- it was cut and paste literally.

And so I -- I believe we have tremendous advantage, we've got technology we're going to be able to -- to discuss these things. We get information timely. So while it is extremely difficult to comply with this task, I believe that it's absolutely possible. And so that's -- I'm -- I'm going to get off of that, but that pro- -- that's the only instance

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where the Legislature failed to do it and then PAR stepped in.

So the question before us is are we going to give it our best effort to try? I stated yes- -- two days ago on the floor I recognize the probability of failure is far greater than the probability of success, but I believe we owe it to ourselves as -- as a representative in this institution and we owe it to our constituents to try and that's what I hope I'm -- I'm doing today.

I respect everyone's decision. I'm not going to be upset one way or another, vote your heart and -- and -- and -- and it'll be what it'll be, but one way or another, absent Judicial intervention, there will be a second majority-minority map impo- -- you know, brought for this upcoming fall election, again, without timely Judicial intervention. So --

REP. MAGEE: All right. We have a question from Representative --

REP. IVEY: Wait -- wait, I'm not done, I'm sorry.

REP. MAGEE: Oh, sorry.

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REP. IVEY: I'm sorry.

REP. MAGEE: You can't pause that long, Representative Ivey.

REP. IVEY: I know. I know. Look, I've -- I've got a lot of notes here; okay? So let's see -- okay. I -- I want to point this out as well, sometimes, you know, espe- -- especially serving on committee I know all of you can testify to this personally, sometimes you -- you -- you're up in testimony, you're hearing it and someone makes a very compelling case on an issue you really don't necessary -- were expecting to agree with and you're like, wow, that -- that's inter- --

I mean, I kind of agree with that. And then the other side comes and they offer some points and you're like, wow, that -- that kind of sounds like it -- it's right too. And so just because you have people who may vote the same way on the same issue does not mean necessarily that we are doing it all for the same reasons.

I've got four children and, you know, when an event happens at the house, you know, when they were little, what happened, oh my God, you're going to get

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four completely different perspectives and that -- that's what we're here to do is offer our perspectives and assimilate that and try to make the best decision we can, but I will say that there is a lot of testimony from some of my colleagues and advocates for a second majority-minority district that I absolutely disagree with and take issue on.

And I'm not here today and I did not question point-for-point on what those issues were, but I will tell you that I can wholeheartedly support the plans that I've produced, okay, and still -- and -- and not be in full agreement with all of the perspective and testimony and, you know, impassioned presentations that we've seen.

That's not what my support of the right -- you know, what I believe is the right thing to do at this time means. And so I -- I didn't want to go without qualifying some of the, you know, statements that have been made, are -- are, you know, I dis- -- disa- -- fully disagree with. And so this map, my approach -- let me try to find --

I'm -- I'm finding it, sorry. Yeah. No. No.

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No. So what was my approach; right? You know, racial gerrymandering, it -- it ca- -- this is a long day, so I'm trying to, you know, cover some of the ground that was already covered. That way to kind of preemptively address it on my -- my bill, racial gerrymandering; right?

And we've had the great discussions about what is, what isn't and -- and the fact is we've been ordered by a court to produce that. So the map that I start- -- this -- this map started from was the current Congressional map. My approach was to be as least disruptive as possible. In my initial effort, it was just to simply try to bring about more competitive districts.

So when I was working on this in February, you know, March, I was -- my goal -- I didn't believe it was actually possible to get a map in a position that I could support that actually achieved a second majority-minority district. And so my -- my -- my effort was just to try to get something more competitive.

Well, that just -- I kind of left it in that current posture and then we were required to, you know,

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be here for this session. And so I picked it back up and the -- the efforts after that were to actually be able to get to that second majority-minority district. And so racial gerrymandering, I'd like to pull up -- this is -- this is Cooper v. Harris, it was decided by the United States Supreme Court on May 22, 2017.

The issues are very similar, but they provide great clarification on racial gerrymandering in maps drawn by the -- the -- this state. Okay. I'm just going to read you some of the language and hopefully this puts to rest some of the concerns that were mentioned earlier in the HB1. It says -- this is in the opinion.

The Constitution entrusts states with the job of designing Congressional districts, but it also imposes an important constraint. A state may not use race as the predominant factor in drawing district lines unless it has a compelling reason. In this case, a three-judge district court ruled that North Carolina officials violated that bar when they created two districts whose voting age population were majority black.

Applying a differential standard of review to

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the factual findings underlying that decision we affirm. Now, it says, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment limits racial gerrymandering in Legislative districting plans. It prevents a state in the absence of "sufficient justification" from "separating its citizens into different voting districts on the basis of race."

When a voter sues the state officials for drawing such race-based lines, our decisions call for a two-step analysis. First, the plaintiff must prove that race was the predominant factor motivating the Legislature's decision to place a significant number of voters within or without a particular district, and that was Miller v. Johnson.

That entails demonstrating that the Legislature "subordinated" other factors like compactness, respect for political subdivisions, partisan advantage, what have you to "racial considerations." Second, if racial considerations predominated over others, the design of the district must withstand strict scrut- -- scrutiny.

The burden thus shifts to the state to prove

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that its race-based sorting of voters serves a "compelling interest" and is "narrowly tailored" to that end. This court has long assumed that one compelling interest is complying with operative provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

We're here today as a result of compliance with the Voting Rights Act, at least as it has been ruled up thus to, you know, this point. That is A, as it says on the second provision under strict scrutiny, that it's a compelling interest. The compelling interest is a federal court order. That's the compelling interest.

And so obviously -- and there's -- I -- I won't read other -- other supreme court opinions on this, but one of them basically says that, you know, we -- of course we see race when we redistrict just like we see economic factors and we see all these other communities of interest. We see all of them; right?

And the question becomes down whether or not it is the predominant factor and of course, the only provisions where it's not or is acceptable is when it

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meets those tests and the second one being the state has a compelling interest and I believe we -- this -- we are here and -- and that we achieved that.

And so Members, you -- you can see the map, you -- you can put it up there, you can get your own copies, but that's -- that's what I believe this map accomplishes. You know, with regard to compactness, with regard to all these other things, I've authored two other maps, now, neither one of them provide or meet that standard for a second majority-minority district, but if you look at them, those maps score off the charts, particularly, I think it's --

I'll tell you, it's on the amendment set -- yeah. Amendment Set 13, we -- when we were in committee, there was a young man who I met on the road show and had multiple engagements with, Mr. James Henry. He produced multiple maps and map 3, which he produced is what the Amendment 13 is.

It had the highest scoring for compactness for everything else. It even complied with at least on days redistrictings, you know, algorithms, it -- it had 100 percent for mi- -- minority voting.

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Now, the -- the problem is ins- -- we -- we didn't produce anything that made me -- other standards, you know, on whatever algorithms that might be out there that, you know, redistricting people use, but we're required now to a much higher standard to get to that second majority-minority.

But that map, if you look at it on Amendment 13, is -- it's a -- it's a beautiful map. It -- it -- it really makes a lot of sense and well, we would never be able to pass it in this institution and look, every one of you know it. Why? Because it's so disruptive to what -- where we are now. That's -- and that's the challenge, but it's a perfect map.

And so, you know, as you look at the -- you know, some of the fingers and things like that that go off there, obviously, we know why those -- those are there, but if you -- if you just ignore those few deviations and you look at the map as a whole, I believe what you'll find is it makes sense.

It makes sense under the conditions that we're required to consider this map in and I tried to not be injurious to any current Congressional district. An

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example -- I'm going to use Garret Graves as an example and I've not spoken to Garret about any of the maps and -- or any Congressman about any of the maps this whole time.

But I will say, you know, someone like Congressman Graves has spent a lot of time on issues that -- that deal with the coast and he is a tremendous asset to all of Louisiana, not just the coastal area near -- near his district, but to all of Louisiana's coastal parishes. He is probably one of the strongest champions we've got, rea- -- really sleeves rolled up working on these issues.

And to relegate him to the Florida parishes -- or I say him, relegate District 6 to the Florida parishes, I believe, would do -- do a tremendous disservice to our state and by being too disruptive, members or incumbents who have tenure and experience in addressing the issues that affect their constituencies will no longer be able to serve on -- or represent those issues, because the -- their new district may be so different that those issues don't affect their new constituency.

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And so we lose the time, the experience and the tenure and it -- it does a disservice to all of us no matter where we live in the -- you know, in the state or what our racial makeup is or -- or really, the other communities of interest. So that's why I brought this map and -- and I ask for your consideration and I'm happy to take any questions.

REP. MAGEE: Was that a pause or are you ready?

REP. IVEY: I'm ready, thank you.

REP. MAGEE: Representative Carter?

REP. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. You -- are you familiar with the -- the Fifth Circuit's ruling in -- in the prior attempts to get a -- a second district in Louisiana, say --

REP. IVEY: What decade, was that in the '90s?

REP. CARTER: No. That was in the '90s, yes. [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: So you had [inaudible]?

REP. CARTER: '90s and the 2000s. Yeah.

REP. IVEY: When we had [inaudible] in the '90s?

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REP. CARTER: No. No. No. This is [inaudible]. No. And -- and actually, there was -- there was a map that was drawn, they call it the -- the -- the -- the -- the slash from Freeport to Baton Rouge, remember that now?

REP. IVEY: I'm familiar -- well, I mean, I was probably only 10 or 12, but yeah --

REP. CARTER: Oh, yeah. Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- [inaudible] talking about.

REP. CARTER: But that was -- that was the slash and then there was the Z with splashes.

REP. IVEY: Correct.

REP. CARTER: And that was presented and the Fifth Circuit turned both of those down. The Fifth Circuit said neither one -- and it passed the Legislation, by the way. Both of these maps passed the Legislature --

REP. IVEY: Sure.

REP. CARTER: -- and it created a second black district; okay?

REP. IVEY: Mm-hmm.

REP. CARTER: But this map here is far more

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gerrymandered than the slash or the Z and the dash. I mean, I'm just looking at this map, while -- while gerrymandering -- and gerrymandering -- the United States Supreme Court has pretty much stepped away from gerrymandering in -- in some cases in regions -- regions and states by the Supreme Court rulings --

REP. IVEY: Mm-hmm.

REP. CARTER: -- but -- but -- but we know the Fifth Circuit has a problem with -- with real gerrymandering the districts.

REP. IVEY: The 1990 Fifth Circuit is still the same one [inaudible]?

REP. CARTER: No. No. No. That's 2000. This -- this happened --

REP. IVEY: Twenty years ago.

REP. CARTER: -- the -- the -- the slash and the dash happened in -- slash and the dash, that -- that's in the past 15, 20 years.

REP. IVEY: Mm-hmm.

REP. CARTER: But anyway, this map got so many tentacles to it.

REP. IVEY: Yeah. But it does comply with the

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court order, does it not? I mean, you don't think -- I'm not --

REP. CARTER: Well --

REP. IVEY: -- it's a rhetorical question.

REP. CARTER: -- well, it does create another minority district --

REP. IVEY: It does.

REP. CARTER: -- it does create another -- another district, but -- but my concern -- that's just me speaking now. My concern is that the map ought to be -- ought to -- ought to be reasonably compacted, because -- because one of the -- when you -- when you look at the jurisprudence upon this issue, it's not just the judge has got to look at whether or not the -- it -- it complies when it's talking about Section 2.

And -- and what we said to -- to ourselves when we passed the -- the -- the law that's set forth, the criteria on reapportioning maps, compactness was one of them and -- and -- and this map is not at all comp- -- compacted. So do you -- do you think the Fifth Circuit is going to -- if we vote this map, it's going to improve this map with all of these tentacles coming

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out of it?

REP. IVEY: Okay. Well, I -- I don't believe the Fifth Cir- -- Circuit, absence some lawsuit, will have -- has anything to say about this map that we're trying -- that I'm trying to move --

REP. CARTER: Pass the Legislature. Yeah.

REP. IVEY: -- to help comply with the federal court's deci- -- current ruling.

REP. CARTER: Well -- well, it doesn't make an- -- does- -- doesn't do any good for the -- the 3- -- 33 percent of black people in the state of Louisiana to have a map that -- that complies in one way and -- and -- and violates the law in another way and -- and I think this map would have a problem. I mean, that's -- that's just me speaking. I don't know what other people will -- will --

REP. IVEY: Well, you've been -- you've been known to be wrong before, so it's okay.

REP. CARTER: I've been known to be wrong before, but not often. And I -- as to the law and -- and I looked very closely at Fifth Circuit's rulings and -- and -- and district court rulings, I don't know

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if this map will survive the district court because -- because of all the tentacles and -- and it -- and it -- and it -- and it -- it probably splits up more -- how many parishes this map splits up. Communities of interest --

REP. IVEY: You're -- you're -- you're making the -- you're -- I -- I feel that some of what you're stating is actually supporting some of my colleagues who have -- who opposed Representative Duplessis' map --

REP. CARTER: Yeah. Well --

REP. IVEY: -- because you're splitting things up.

REP. CARTER: -- except -- except I think Duplessis had a -- a map that was compacted and -- and -- and -- and this map is not compact.

REP. IVEY: I won't -- I'm not going to argue whether or not his is more compact or not, because it -- it clearly is, however -- however, in the totality of circumstances, which I -- I will tell you after reading multiple supreme court opinions, is extremely critical.

You can't take one statement out of any, you

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know, opinion and -- and -- and use that as the guiding light for an entire, you know, map. It is the totality of circumstances, which I won't get into. That's the judge's ruling.

REP. CARTER: And I agree with you -- I agree with -- I agree on that. Right.

REP. IVEY: And -- and so if you look at the current map, and I'm just going to hold it up there, this is the -- this -- when I say current map, this is the current -- the map that current Congress people are under; right?

REP. CARTER: Uh-huh.

REP. IVEY: I -- I basically took from there and as far -- it goes from literally in the northeast corner and from East Carroll all the way including Rapides and Washington Parish. It's a sprawling district right now, because --

REP. CARTER: [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: -- the district -- District 5, which becomes the second majority-minority district. So if you look at District 5 --

REP. CARTER: Uh-huh.

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REP. IVEY: ¬-- what you find out, that District 5 becomes a lot more compact than it currently is, than the map that -- th- -- that has been in effect for a decade and it actually gets more compact and because we -- we tie in the Bat- -- some Baton Rouge population where you have a lot more population density.

And so from a compactness perspective -- so -- so if you think about it, I'm making the second majority-minority -- black majority-minority district more compact at the expense of other districts. And so from my perspective, your perspective --

REP. CARTER: Mm-hmm.

REP. IVEY: -- should be more favorable to that in that, you know, the -- the -- you know, it -- it provides a -- a real opportunity for that district.

REP. CARTER: Well -- well -- well -- well, my concern is getting the [inaudible] --

REP. IVEY: Are you going to be voting a no on my bill? I'm just curious?

REP. CARTER: I might very well, because getting a -- but to me, getting a -- getting a -- a map

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out with a -- with -- with another majority district does not guarantee it complies with other elements of -- - of -- of the -- of the law.

REP. IVEY: Well, what's being challenged right now --

REP. CARTER: It has to comply --

REP. IVEY: -- is still debatable in the courts and it's being argued in court whether or not we have complied or not. And so I don't -- I don't want to have the debate on that when -- I -- I mean, it will meet the standard that the -- the -- the federal judge has imposed upon us to produce a set -- you know, I've acted in absolute good faith.

I believe this map will pass those scrutiny, I sincerely do. This is not a pig in a poke, I haven't tried to produce something where opposition to this and opponents of a second majority-minority district could use to exploit. I've not done that. I think all of you all know me, I don't operate like that.

I do absolutely believe that this map is -- is a -- a -- a -- a very reasonable and [inaudible] possible map.

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REP. CARTER: Well, I think the map is too gerrymandering, that's all I've got to say.

REP. IVEY: Okay.

REP. CARTER: I think it's too gerrymandering.

REP. IVEY: It's been racially gerrymandered --

REP. CARTER: Yeah. It --

REP. IVEY: -- it has been.

REP. CARTER: -- it doesn't have -- you don't -- you don't have to achieve a -- a second minority-majority district by such gerr- -- gerrymandering as been shown --

REP. IVEY: Right.

REP. CARTER: -- by HB1, but it didn't pass, like you said.

REP. IVEY: I -- I -- and I understand that.

REP. CARTER: So you doing this -- I know your effort is -- is -- is -- is -- is to try to achieve what the federal court told you to achieve, but we may achieve the -- the -- that objective by creating another problem and I think -- I think we're all creating another problem with this map and -- and

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[inaudible] --

REP. IVEY: I guarantee you no matter what map passes, if your favorite map passes, there will be a lawsuit and it will be challenged --

REP. CARTER: Yeah. I agree.

REP. IVEY: -- you know this --

REP. CARTER: Right.

REP. IVEY: -- and then it'll be up to both sides to argue that before the courts.

REP. CARTER: Uh-huh.

REP. IVEY: So we're not trying to prevent lawsuits or challenges, we know they're going to exist --

REP. CARTER: Uh-huh.

REP. IVEY: ¬-- no matter what. The difference is if the -- I mean, I don't know about -- and again, I understand strategy and advocates for the second -- second black majority-minority district --

REP. CARTER: Uh-huh.

REP. IVEY: ¬-- okay, strategically may favor the -- the map that you had or someone imposed by The Court. I don't know if a map imposed by The Court can

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be challenged by The Court, you know, for -- I don't know. And so -- but for myself, I'm trying to pass a map. I'm trying to pass a map.

I already discussed maps that don't even add a second majority-minority district, the ones that I passed out in my amendment sets.

REP. CARTER: Mm-hmm.

REP. IVEY: They don't even achieve that and they look beautiful. They -- I mean, they -- they really make a lot of sense and they have a snowball's chance in hell in passing in this Legislature, because we have to balance this all with politics as well. And so I am trying to appeal broadly to my colleagues who many do not believe we need to or should be doing this, right --

REP. CARTER: Uh-huh.

REP. IVEY: ¬-- who -- who may have a deference to simply, you know, make The Court do it and hopefully win -- win in court. I'm trying to present an option for them that they can sincerely and -- and objectively scrutinize to determine --

REP. CARTER: Well --

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REP. IVEY: -- if this map makes sense for them.

REP. CARTER: -- I just stated it's not -- and I -- and I close, sometimes you can appear to be doing what The Court ordered you to do, but in the way that would end up being defeating to the cause. If -- if this map passes this Legislature, I think it's a very good chance that we'll be -- be reeled back with the amendment that we're going to put on this map, the same -- same [inaudible] put on the oth- -- other bill.

We'll be in a real good chance of being back here with the old map, because -- because I don't know -- I don't know if this map would pass the muster of what I've seen come out of the Fifth Circuit --

REP. IVEY: Yeah. And I don't know if you know what --

REP. CARTER: -- that's all I'm saying and I -- and I've seen every map --

REP. IVEY: ¬-- what any map would do and --

REP. CARTER: -- I've seen every map come out of the Fifth Circuit in the past 25 years and I've read every map that come out of it and this map here would

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not pass the -- the muster of the old Fifth -- Fifth Circuit, maybe -- maybe it'd pass the new Fifth Circuit, I have no idea, but -- but it doesn't look -- it doesn't look like a map that the Fifth Circuit would approve, that's all I'm saying.

REP. IVEY: I appreciate your perspective. I mean, if you ignore the -- the fingers, right, that come off of the -- the Fifth District --

REP. CARTER: Yeah.

REP. IVEY: -- which is the racial, you know, components --

REP. CARTER: I understand.

REP. IVEY: -- then it -- it still looks like a good -- it looks like a good map, we're -- and we're being required to -- and it is accepta- -- I have to believe that The Court, when they have -- in the case that I -- I read, when they identified the acceptance of racial-based, you know, districting with the caveat that it had a -- what was the word where it'd be basically necessary, then I have to believe that when a map would fall out of maybe some more ideal, you know, shape or whatever, that when the shape that kind of

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falls out of that is based on trying to comply with a federal order, it -- it would be -- it would be --

That's a meaningful element in that it would be okay. So anyway, I'm happy to answer any more questions.

REP. MAGEE: Well, you lost your question person. So we're going to go to the next one, Representative Thomas.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. Representative Ivey, I'm very glad that you acknowledged that this is racially gerrymandered, because I have many of the same questions about the fingers and the compactness and so forth. So I'll move on to my next issue and that is what percent do you believe it requires in black voting age population to make it probable to elect a black?

REP. IVEY: Well, it's not about the probability to elect a black candidate. The minority -- the Voting Rights Act isn't about a specific race, it's about minority populations and different states have different par- -- you know, different minorities are their predominant minorities, like in Florida, the

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predominant minority group is -- is Hispanic. And so --

REP. THOMAS: Okay. You're -- you're -- you're lea- --

REP. IVEY: -- well, let -- let --

REP. THOMAS: -- you're leaving the point and -- and I really --

REP. IVEY: -- but no, I'm -- I'm trying to provide clarification.

REP. THOMAS: -- in -- in the interest of time, I really would like to focus you.

REP. IVEY: Okay.

REP. THOMAS: And so my question stands, what percent is it to make it an opportunity to elect a black? I'll use that word instead of probable --

REP. IVEY: But not -- not to elect a black, it's to elect a candidate of the minority's choice.

REP. THOMAS: No. No. No. That's not -- that's not the -- that's not the ruling.

REP. IVEY: No.

REP. THOMAS: We -- we -- we are supposed to draw -- well, all right.

REP. IVEY: I've been very, very detailed in

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my language. You -- you said elect a black candidate, it's to -- I know your intention was to -- to elect where my -- a black minority district can elect a candidate of their choice.

REP. THOMAS: Yes. That's -- that's fine --

REP. IVEY: That -- I know that you --

REP. THOMAS: -- if you want to phrase it that way, that's -- that's fine. Okay.

REP. IVEY: Yes.

REP. THOMAS: So my question is what percent does it require of black voting age population?

REP. IVEY: As I appreciate the ruling -- or -- or the order, specifically when they caveated that it must be a black majority-minority district, to -- to constitute a "black majority-minority district," I believe that standard is -- is clearly a 50 percent plus 1 population of black --

REP. THOMAS: Did you read that in the order?

REP. IVEY: It's -- it's just -- it's what it said, it's kind of self-evident.

REP. THOMAS: Okay.

REP. IVEY: I didn't read the 150 pages --

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pages, ma'am.

REP. THOMAS: Let me see if I can rephrase that.

REP. IVEY: It's been the standard on numerous other cases.

REP. THOMAS: I thought the standard was 55 percent and that there is jurisprudence to support that.

REP. IVEY: Again, there's so much out there. You may have absolutely read something like that. I have read other documents in CSL and others that lead me to conclude otherwise.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. Because in my analysis of House Bill 4, I came up with a black voting age population in Congressional District 2, as you have drawn it, 50.201 percent.

REP. IVEY: Correct.

REP. THOMAS: And Congressional District 5 is 50.176 percent. Do you agree with those numbers?

REP. IVEY: I mean, whatever -- whatever's in the file and those are -- I mean, I didn't look at them all, but those sound about right, the 50.-something

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percent is what it --

REP. THOMAS: I am really hard-pressed to see how that would work to elect a candidate of their choice.

REP. IVEY: It -- it's not to elect, it's to provide the opportunity to elect --

REP. THOMAS: Okay. To -- well, all right. I will use your words --

REP. IVEY: Yes.

REP. THOMAS: -- to provide the opportunity to elect a candidate of --

REP. IVEY: Yes.

REP. THOMAS: -- of -- of black people's choice.

REP. IVEY: Correct.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

REP. IVEY: And -- and just for --

REP. MAGEE: You're welcome.

REP. IVEY: -- further clarification on that, the -- the requirement of the Voting Rights Act doesn't provide that minorities get to elect a candidate of their choice, it is only about opportunity. And -- and

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so as I appreciate the order by the federal judge for our case specifically, majority-minor- -- mi- -- black majority-minority district is what was ordered.

Now, whether or not there's jurisprudence on what constitutes a "opportunity district," if that threshold may be 55, maybe that's the case, but it's my appreciation on what the order is, it's -- it's to have a "black majority-minority district" and that's by population -- black voting age population.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. I -- I -- sorry, I -- I gave up my mike, but -- but I would like to ask it, do you think that there might be -- if -- if this map were to be approved, do you think it's likely that we could end up with six white Congress people?

REP. IVEY: I do not, because if you look at District 2, which is the -- you know, the current majority-minority district, what you'll find is that the -- the other minorities and also whites in that district do not -- they vote enough in block to not prevent minorities in that district from being able to elect a candidate of their choice.

And so that's -- that's -- you know,

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obviously, if you're from a political spectrum, you know, New Orleans, which is really the core of District 2 is a far more liberal or progressive population of individuals compared to other parts of the state and as a result, that -- there's a lot more alignment between white and black and other races who live and reside in New Orleans.

REP. THOMAS: Okay. So what you're saying is there's a lot of crossover vote?

REP. IVEY: In that district, which --

REP. THOMAS: I totally agree.

REP. IVEY: Okay.

REP. THOMAS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem.

REP. MAGEE: You're welcome. Representative Deshotel.

REP. DESHOTEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem. Thank you, Rep Ivey. I know you've spent many hours drawing this map. You probably know the question that I'm about to ask you, because I've been very consistent throughout this whole process on the questions I asked and I -- I normally ask questions

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consider- -- concerning my -- my -- my district in my home parish.

So I -- I don't know if the staff could -- could bring up Avoyelles Parish and somehow we could look at -- at Avoyelles. Can you zoom in just a little bit more? I'm just trying to -- I -- I live on the blue lines right up north -- a little bit north, somewhere right there. I'm just trying to figure out which Congressional district --

REP. IVEY: What -- what precinct is it? I'm trying to zoom in myself.

REP. DESHOTEL: Let's see, I didn't see the different colors.

REP. IVEY: [inaudible] stuff. Which one? Which precinct?

REP. DESHOTEL: I'm -- I'm looking at it. This is -- use one of the current ones you can read as a reference.

REP. IVEY: 244A?

REP. DESHOTEL: Yeah. 22C. So I'm actually --

REP. IVEY: Okay. You're in --

REP. DESHOTEL: Okay.

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REP. IVEY: -- you're actually in the Con- -- Congressional District 4.

REP. DESHOTEL: Four. Okay.

REP. IVEY: Yeah.

REP. DESHOTEL: So can -- can you --

REP. IVEY: Are you running for Congress? I mean --

REP. DESHOTEL: Well, I -- I'm thinking about it after looking at your maps. I mean, that -- that's going to -- I mean, I may support this map now.

REP. IVEY: Yeah. Well -- so if -- if you're looking for a new level of insanity, look, the Congress is for you; you know?

REP. DESHOTEL: So I -- I guess I'm -- I guess the point I'm trying to make, if you want to zoom out just a little bit, it looks like you've got my parish pretty -- pretty split up in -- in some different communities. So I'm just curious, what was -- what was the logic in -- in --

REP. IVEY: Sure. Zoom in. Zoom back out. Okay. So were you here for my -- when I read the supreme court ruling concerning racial gerrymandering

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[inaudible]?

REP. DESHOTEL: I did, but I'll be honest with you, I kind of zoned out a little bit.

REP. IVEY: I understand, people do with those things sometimes, it's okay.

REP. DESHOTEL: So --

REP. IVEY: I'm used to it. I'm not offended. But no, so first of all, I -- I -- I went on a road show, I've been a part of all the committee hearings that you all have, all the testimony.

If you haven't attempted to draw a map, particularly a Congressional map, the smaller the district the easier it is and also the less you care about some other region of the state, but when you're dealing with a map that has six districts and what the -- and you're having to address what the current makeup is of those districts, what the current lines are as part of the political, you know, necessity, you ha- -- you just -- you can't ignore that, because too much change too soon for a lot of people can --

First of all, change is usually, you know, responded to in -- with reservation, but specifically,

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dramatic change is going to be met with, you know, a lot of heavy objection. And so my efforts were to make the fewest, slightest, you know, manipulations to the current districts in order to achieve compliance with this.

And so why -- like I don't know the area on 99 percent of the state; right? And look, I'm absolutely willing -- if -- if you have more insight, any member here, anyone that in — during this process, if someone has more insight where trying to flip a few things around or even like if you say hey, Barry, look, if you could make my parish whole in this district, right, and maybe swap out with --

You know, figure if you can get it somewhere else, look, I'm willing to at least try. That's all I can do is try and I -- I -- I'm asking for the opportunity. So if there's any specific elements that you are aware of where communities of interest would be better represented by either together or maybe making that split different, I'm happy to make as much combination as I can.

REP. DESHOTEL: And -- and --

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REP. IVEY: But getting to the small precinct things here or there is much easier than well, we can't bust out any of my free parishes. I mean, that gets a little more difficult.

REP. DESHOTEL: Right. I understand. And I only represent one parish. So I'm very hypersensitive of that parish and -- and how it -- it -- it looks.

REP. IVEY: And you should. Yeah.

REP. DESHOTEL: So I -- I think -- so if we're going to maybe start changing this now, I mean, how much time do we have to be able to work these little details out?

REP. IVEY: Well -- well, first of all, I'm not -- I'm not trying to change the map and I would say that, again, I -- I give it my best effort. Can't do that in committee, number one and number two, we all are aware that if we fail to move a bill out of committee today and the Senate does the same, well, then we're just -- it's -- we're just -- it's time to sani da [ph].

And so there's no threat that we're going to pass a map, right, without, you know, significant

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scrutiny by everyone. And so the reality is, you know, this committee has, in its -- its hands right now -- again, I know what -- if the Senate's ruled or not on -- you know, it's like watching the game, you know, what's going on in the other chamber, but if -- if this -- if our committee decides to not -- not to do it, then it's okay.

I mean, I'm not going to be mad. Look, The Court will do it. Whether or not it's -- it's significant will depend on when appellate court may or may not rule in favor of the defense, that's [inaudible].

REP. DESHOTEL: And look, I agree with you and I agree with all of this, but one thing I -- I need to make very clear is, you know, I think we have a lot of people here talking about numbers and percentages and all those things, I kind of look past that. I'm looking at people and I'm looking at communities and I'm looking at the people who voted for me and put me in office.

So it's not about numbers for me, it's about people. So these lines are very, very important to me -

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REP. IVEY: Yeah.

REP. DESHOTEL: -- and they're way more important than any number.

REP. IVEY: I --

REP. DESHOTEL: So I think if we're going to get a map right and we're going to make -- you know, if we have this different map we need to make, we're going to take some ti- -- it's going to take some time to create a map that, you know, affects different commu- -- that every community is -- is, I guess, communities of interest or -- or --

REP. IVEY: Of course. I -- I will -- I will -- first of all, I absolutely respect what you're saying and -- and your concern over your district and -- and how it's that -- it's -- it's the reason why I can't support HB1 because of what it does to the Sixth Congressional District.

REP. DESHOTEL: Right.

REP. IVEY: It's -- it's so -- so much of a substantive change on -- on representation. I would -- I would suggest that for the people who are in District

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4, the -- the type and nature and quality of the representation that they will receive is in line with the representation that they are currently receiving.

The issues are, in large, very similar, okay, between District -- current District 4 and current District 5.

If you look at the -- the -- the population in the new District 5, what you'll find is that is -- you know, there's a lot -- a larger element of black minorities in that population and I don't believe, again, currently they're being represented by someone from a political perspective that I think they would -- they would determine whether they like Julia or not or thinks he's doing a great job or not, but it may not be the candidate of their choice.

And so for them, for that population, in your parish specifically, to be able to be in that "majority-minority opportunity population," I believe it -- it would -- they would not be opposed to that, specifically, the -- you know, again, I don't know all the details in there, you know, but again, broadly speaking with that -- that population likely being

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significant amounts of majority-minority repres- -- representation.

Here's the other thing, I believe that it would be very difficult for the -- a candidate of the black minority's choice in that district to get elected. It would be extremely competitive. When you look at the day's redistricting tool, okay, which gives these different partisan leans and stuff like that in an analysis and I don't even fool with that until -- because I don't care.

But it -- it's -- when I done, I look at it. It -- it leaves that one blank. It doesn't -- it doesn't lean left or right from a political perspective and at the end of the day, I think what -- what indivi- -- anybody would want and desire, all of us would like to, you know, have the opportunity to elect a candidate of our choice.

Which one of us would not -- would not really desire to be able to do that? Being in the majority of the current Congressional district, I -- I can re- -- I -- I can have some empathy for people who feel disenfranchised, because the -- they know they'll never

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be able to elect a candidate of their choice, it's just not politically going to happen.

And so I can -- I can empathize with people who -- who feel like that and understand why -- like which of us -- again, if -- in urban areas, we have a lot more local races of more significance, but if you're in rural Louisiana and you're a minority and -- and -- and your politics is far left, what's the point of voting; right?

Why would they even, right -- why would they, right, unless they had some distinct significant civic -- you know, understanding of civic -- their civic responsibility. I think most people would just give up. And so this only affords them the opportunity to engage maybe in a different way they haven't before.

REP. DESHOTEL: And I -- you know, I -- I appreciate that. I'm not going to belabor the point, but, you know, just one -- one last point is I -- I think when you think -- when you talk about rural Louisiana -- and -- and look, I have no scientific data to back this up, but --

REP. IVEY: I do. So --

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REP. DESHOTEL: -- you will have more -- well, no, but what I'm about to tell you is I don't think you're going to see that far left rural person, in my opinion.

REP. IVEY: And you probably don't.

REP. DESHOTEL: So --

REP. IVEY: They're more middle of the road.

REP. DESHOTEL: -- so it's more middle of the road. So I -- I mean --

REP. IVEY: The -- the community of interest being rural and country is more --

REP. DESHOTEL: I think that's the community of interest, that's my point.

REP. IVEY: Absolutely, I -- I agree.

REP. DESHOTEL: Thank you. I appreciate you.

REP. IVEY: Thank you.

REP. MAGEE: Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON: Representative Ivey, looking at your map, of course, it -- it -- it splits Rapides also, but it looks like it splits off -- I also see -- I've looked at these maps so much I'm starting to see various animals like I'm looking at clouds. But the one

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that has the [inaudible] --

REP. IVEY: You realize that the next words that come out of your mouth are probably going to label this throughout the rest of, you know, history. So be careful please what you choose.

REP. JOHNSON: I kid you. I don't know what -- and -- and I was just talking to Representative LaCombe --

REP. IVEY: Well, we've got slashes and Zs and --

REP. JOHNSON: Yeah. But this kind of has a flash kind of thing to it. Did you look to see if it were possible to keep Rapides Parish whole? Because I know --

REP. IVEY: To get --

REP. JOHNSON: -- that most of what you've taken out is mostly rural for District 5.

REP. IVEY: Right. I can tell you that -- I can't tell you how many hours I've spent --

REP. JOHNSON: It's not impossible.

REP. IVEY: -- looking at redistricting maps and playing with maps bo- -- and so I feel I have a

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level of familiar- -- familiarity from a -- a strategic per- -- point of view on what's achievable --

REP. JOHNSON: Right.

REP. IVEY: -- and I -- I can say that -- I mean, look at the number, it's 50.-something black voting age population.

REP. JOHNSON: Right.

REP. IVEY: And so one of two things have to occur and this is a push-pull dynamic and if you look at the -- the data on the -- the chart I gave you, I'll -- I'll show you --

REP. JOHNSON: Right.

REP. IVEY: ¬-- in a minute, but if we lose that population, we'll dip below the 50 percent --

REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- and to make it up somewhere else will only cause more of that extension and more -- and just -- and -- and really, compactness starts to suffer significantly, because where are you going to get that population? You can't get it from Baton Rouge, it's all gone. You're not going to get it in Livingston Parish, because it doesn't exist.

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And -- and so where can you get it? I would -- and -- and here's a distinct difference between this map and -- and HB3, HB3 -- I'm sorry, yeah, HB3. HB3 was based off of Senator Fields SB9 in the first special session. It -- it never got completed, because it -- it still had some reasonable malapportionment with it.

However -- however, after I completed this map, I began to look at all the other maps that I might see --

REP. JOHNSON: Mm-hmm.

REP. IVEY: -- and try to compare. When I saw his, I was like, where'd -- where'd that come -- that's -- that's a pretty reasonable looking map. Now, politically, one of the major, in which is the reason I did not select that map to bring instead of this one, was that it split Lafayette Parish.

And so these are the tradeoffs, you know, you -- you have to make in this process. There's no perfect map --

REP. JOHNSON: Oh, so you didn't -- you didn't split Lafayette -- you didn't have any problem

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splitting Rapides, but you didn't want to split Lafayette?

REP. IVEY: Well, Lafayette being in the -- in the heart --

REP. JOHNSON: You've got relatives in Lafayette?

REP. IVEY: No. Being in the heart of Acadiana I didn't feel --

REP. JOHNSON: But we're in the heart of sinla [ph].

REP. IVEY: -- and -- and --

REP. JOHNSON: I understand.

REP. IVEY: Yeah.

REP. JOHNSON: What's this -- what, is this just a gratuity [inaudible] for us to put up in our --

REP. IVEY: Okay. So -- so I -- I want to --

REP. JOHNSON: -- [inaudible]?

REP. IVEY: -- I want --

REP. JOHNSON: Well, I mean, wait, I want to -- I want to just --

REP. IVEY: No. No.

REP. JOHNSON: -- just quick -- quick answer,

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does this have anything to do with your map?

REP. IVEY: It -- it ha- -- what it does is it --

REP. JOHNSON: Yes or no comment?

REP. IVEY: Yes.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

REP. IVEY: It demonstrates the challenge and if you look at the data --

REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- Members, on the challenge -- in testimony, the gentleman, I forget his name but the one who likes to sing when he testifies [inaudible] --

REP. JOHNSON: Ted Newt [ph] -- Ted Newt.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hire [ph].

REP. IVEY: Yes. Mr. Hire. He -- he made a very, very good point, the community of interest -- and I wrote it down, I'm sorry --

REP. JOHNSON: I -- I may be [inaudible].

REP. IVEY: -- but what he said was, rural Louisiana is a community of interest. Now, if you look at this map that you have before you, I want to point out a couple elements and the- -- these numbers are

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kind of shocking and unless you do the analysis, it's just not possible to understand that the -- the -- the actual difficulty of drawing these maps under any -- under any circumstances.

So you'll see on the sidebar in the legend there, zero, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine --

REP. JOHNSON: Right.

REP. IVEY: -- if you start at nine, okay, the -- the -- you've got East Baton Rouge Paris and Jefferson Parish. Those two parishes are the largest populated parishes and repre- -- and -- and the population between them is between 8.2 and 9.8 percent. I'm sorry, excuse me, 9.5 to 9.8 percent of the state's population is in 2 parishes each. And so 9.-something -- 9.5. So that's -- that's like 2- --

REP. JOHNSON: Twenty percent.

REP. IVEY: -- it's 19.3 percent in 2 parishes. And then if you take it to the next level and at 8.2 percent, you have Orleans Parish. So add that. So that's what the purple is and then you see Orleans in the dark green. So you've got three parishes that

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combined are 27.5 percent of the state's population --

REP. JOHNSON: Mm-hmm.

REP. IVEY: -- in 3 parishes that are relatively close to each other. And then if you go further and -- to the next tier, you've got 3 parishes between 5.1 and 5.7 percent and that's represented by number 5 in the purple, which are St. Tammany and Lafayette and Caddo. Those are the three.

And then -- so look at the -- look at the distribution of population and then if you go to the next step further, 4.7 percent you have Livingston -- wait, I'm sorry, 4.7 is red, that's -- that's Cameron; right? Or Calcasieu? Which -- which one is that? Calcasieu -- Calcasieu Parish. And then next you have one at 4.7, that's Livingston.

I'm sorry, two at the 3.1 to 3.4, it's Livingston and Ouachita. And then it gets interesting, so if you get down to 2 percent or less --

REP. JOHNSON: Yeah.

REP. IVEY: -- just add up the -- the number 2, the blue, the -- the orange and the green and that's -- that represents -- so again, between 0.1 percent to

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2.9 percent represents 45 percent of the state. How many parishes is that? That's 55 parishes. Oh, actually, excuse me, 55 -- 60 -- 55 parishes represent between 0.1 to 1.8 percent. I've got different data here.

REP. JOHNSON: [inaudible]

REP. IVEY: So 55 parishes rep- -- that -- that's just -- it's -- it's -- it's kind of mind boggling and this map kind of begins to show you --

REP. JOHNSON: Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- how that population is spread out. And so rural Louisiana is what's making it difficult to draw maps in general, but also, particularly when we're trying to add a second majority-minority district, because without urban population, you're never going to get there, because where minority populations live, if you look at the distribution throughout the state, they're -- they're kind of in rural Louisiana kind of scattered about. And so every time you have to add a precinct to get to the -- a minority precinct --

REP. JOHNSON: Mm-hmm.

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REP. IVEY: -- you're going to actually go upside down, because that pre- -- the one that's adjacent may be -- have a lot more white population.

REP. JOHNSON: All right.

REP. IVEY: And so it -- it -- it's extremely difficult to do.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. The -- your -- your -- your 2 amendments, which I find those intriguing, 13 and 15, you don't have any intention of doing anything with those, do you?

REP. JOHNSON: Not today. If everybody wants to, you know, look at those -- and look, if -- if you want to really upset the apple cart, okay, look, take ser- --

REP. JOHNSON: I don't --

REP. IVEY: -- but look, neither one of those comply with this court order, but I wanted to -- I wanted to bring them out --

REP. JOHNSON: Whoa -- whoa, what do you mean they don't comply?

REP. IVEY: Neither one --

REP. JOHNSON: They don't create two --

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REP. IVEY: -- neither one of them create a majority-minority district.

REP. JOHNSON: All right. Okay. I thought you had figured out a way to do that --

REP. IVEY: Oh, no.

REP. JOHNSON: -- and that's what I was going to ask you if that --

REP. IVEY: No. Unless people have a lot more babies I can't do that. But --

REP. JOHNSON: Well --

REP. IVEY: -- well -- and -- and the point of that --

REP. JOHNSON: -- we've only got -- we've only got until Monday. So I don't think that's going to happen.

REP. IVEY: I know. Well, the point of the -- the point of that map --

REP. JOHNSON: I mean, we can try --

REP. IVEY: Yeah. The point of that -- I'm sure people are out there trying right now.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. Well --

REP. IVEY: But the point of the map was to --

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to show that --

REP. JOHNSON: -- I don't have any more questions.

REP. IVEY: -- we can have maps that are genuinely more ideal, more compact, score off the charts and genuinely represent communities of interest at more significant numbers than any other map that we've genuinely entertained and those maps would never pass this institution.

REP. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. I don't have any more questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do -- do you intend to run both of your bills today or just -- just one?

REP. IVEY: No. Only doing 4, deferred 3.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We -- and -- and Representative Jenkins, we already deferred HB3.

REP. JENKINS: Oh, I -- I -- I was out of the room.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

REP. JENKINS: All right.

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REP. IVEY: In deference to the day and all that, you know -- and -- and again, I believe that between the two maps I believe that if I'm -- if I'm trying to get more consensus among my colleagues on the -- on -- you know, on the right who really don't even believe we should be here and do this today, I believe that more consensus may be found with this map than with the other, because when you -- when you break up Acadiana and -- and bring the fifth down to Acadiana as -- and Lafayette, I believe you start losing more -- more -- more members.

REP. JENKINS: You'll get better voting age population for blacks than your other map.

REP. IVEY: Yeah. But -- and again, I -- I recognize that, but -- but the -- the requirement -- I believe this one absolutely complies. And Members, I want to point something else out and of course, there's not a lot of people here at the moment and they may -- probably are listening on the other side.

So what are the different eventualities, right, as -- as the litigation goes through the -- through the process? We can choose to do nothing and

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the -- you know, Judge Dick will absolutely impose a map, whether it's this one, the one -- HB1 or some other version. Something's going to get imposed.

Now, maybe the defendants will be able to get an appeal or stay on the injunction in time, maybe they won't. Ultimately, an -- a stay on the injunction still doesn't deal with this issue or doesn't conclude the matter. And so I -- I don't believe that -- that the -- it'd be unlikely that we'll get a complete ruling on the -- on the issue at the --

Again, and then that gets appealed anyway. No matter who wins it's -- it's going to get appealed all the way. And so two scenarios, if you -- if you favor the defendant's argument, this map is not a bad map.

Here's why, it complies with the federal court order today, but if the defense prevails in -- in final judgment, then to revert back to, you know, the current map would be less significant of an event for those who may have been elected to Congress under this map. You know, they should -- instead of, example, juxtaposing it with Representative Duplessis' bill, if -- if --

Let's just assume that that map was passed

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under the conditions -- you know, if -- if -- whoever prevails in the end it'll revert back or not. And so let's say Congressman Graves wins in that district that is drawn, for two years, he's under -- has a completely different constituency largely that he's serving.

And so -- and if the defense prevails, then we have to go back to Act 5 from that map, it -- it really -- it -- it's tossing massive amounts of, you know, swing-in in the -- in the geography of the dif- -- districts. This map has the minimal impact on that shift.

REP. JENKINS: Well, I -- I -- I just simply -- -

REP. IVEY: [inaudible] it may be more favorable as far as my colleagues are concerned --

REP. JENKINS: I understand.

REP. IVEY: -- trying to get that [inaudible].

REP. JENKINS: I understand. I mean, I -- I just simply commend you for having the political courage to try to do a map with two black districts.

REP. IVEY: Is this a political job? I didn't know.

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REP. JENKINS: Yeah. It's very, very political. Very political. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. IVEY: I would definitely [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Let's -- I know your -- your button is pushed, Representative Carter, but I -- I'm sticking to my one bite at the apple, I'm going to let you come back again and -- and finish your line of questioning, but I want to get to the cards; okay? First card, Amber Thomas [ph]. I think it's Thomas. Yes, ma'am. Present, in support, would like to speak. Also, Davante Lewis with Louisiana Budget Pro- -- Project, in support, would not wish to speak. And whenever you're ready, ma'am.

REP. AMBER THOMAS: Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairman, the committee. My name is Amber Thomas and first, I would like to start off with in 2021, a black man was endorsed by the Republican Party to run for Congressional District 2.

During this campaign, it was said by Republican leadership that his -- that this candidate was hostile to the interest of the party, a black conservative man and those recorded words by that

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particular leader will forever be burned in my mind. In Louisiana, as of June 1, 2022, you have 21,780 registered black Republicans.

Of other party registered Republicans, you have 199,304. Since we have thousands of black Republican and other party voters who may believe in conservative values just like many black people do, why are we limiting the push to run more black Republican candidates since this is where we are in present-day Louisiana?

You cannot stunt growth of population decline and population growth. Sooner or later we will have to accept that Louisiana is changing. While the party is only getting out -- why is the party not getting out into the urban community and actually canvassing? Why do we not have an effective push during the Census of 2020?

So what you're telling me and other black Republican and conservative voters is that as a party, we would rather have black people there for photo ops and not to actually run for elected positions.

With having over 100,000 registered

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independents and black Republicans, this is the message that we're sending to other minorities who would benefit from actually having a second Congressional district where that would not stop Republicans winning, but it would definitely show what party wants it more.

So instead of having all of these galas and brunches and conventions as a party, we will do no work if we were to have a second minority district, just nothing? Are we really going to say we're not equipped as a party? Then we should just really say that and end this today. Is our Republican leadership that bad that they will never be able to campaign in a second majority-minority district?

Then just say that. Let us be honest that maybe our party is so old that we're not equipped to actually face a changing America. Any questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, ma'am.

REP. AMBER THOMAS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe there is, Representative Carter.

REP. AMBER THOMAS: Yes.

REP. CARTER: No. I -- I got [inaudible].

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, you -- oh, I'm sorry, did you --

REP. CARTER: I got a -- a question [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

REP. CARTER: All right.

REP. AMBER THOMAS: Okay. Any questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't see any others.

REP. AMBER THOMAS: All right. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We have a couple of more green cards and then we'll get to the red cards. We have Edgar Cage with Together Louisiana, is -- although I do not wish to speak, I am present and support. And Lady Carlson from Together Louisiana, although I do not wish to speak, I am present and in support. I believe that's all the green cards. And we have Mary, I've heard it three different ways today.

REP. LABRIE: Labrie [ph].

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought I knew that it was Labrie. I'm going to try that again.

REP. LABRIE: That's it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Susie [ph] Labrie who is --

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although I do not wish to speak, I'm present and in opposition. And I don't have any other cards. I do have Representative Carter who's now gone. Represen- -- you have the -- oh here, let me turn [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We're going to invite Representative Ivey back up to the table just so we can close out. And Representative Ivey, Representative Carter has a question for you.

REP. CARTER: Representative Ivey -- thank you -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. Representative Ivey, I -- I think this -- this bill sort of gives us an opportunity to define what is a minority-ma- -- majority-minority district. It seems that you think 50 percent -- anything over 50 percent is -- is a majority-minority district.

REP. IVEY: That -- it's not what I think.

REP. CARTER: Okay. I'm -- I'm just -- the bill does.

REP. IVEY: What I think -- well, what I think is -- so a majority-minority district is a district, okay, where minorities that -- you know, the significant minorities in that di- -- the mi- -- that

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minority class have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

REP. CARTER: Right.

REP. IVEY: That said, that's not what The Court ordered us.

REP. CARTER: Right.

REP. IVEY: And so we're not able to take into account other minority groups or white population that may vote in a -- a political alignment with black minorities.

REP. CARTER: I understand.

REP. IVEY: We're required to create a black majority-minority district. We've got 50 percent plus -- over 50 percent black voting age population. I believe that absolutely creates --

REP. CARTER: Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- a district --

REP. CARTER: Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- that is majority-minority.

REP. CARTER: Okay. When these districts -- when these courts hear arguments and expert -- ex- -- witnesses on these districts as to what is a minority -

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- majority-minority district, they take into account very different studies --

REP. IVEY: But that's only when you're trying to combine multiple minority groups or use white population as a part of that majority. This map only exclusively uses the black voting age population in its minority-majority calculation.

REP. CARTER: But when the -- when the judge says creating a -- a minority -- when you create a ma-- this district at 51.3 percent, in my opinion, it is -- it does not meet the -- the criteria that the judge has set, because it's not a minority district; okay?

Really, when you look at all the studies and all the -- all the different tests you take to determine the likelihood or probability of a -- of a -- a majority elec- -- selecting the person of their choice, this would not be one of the districts, in my opinion. This -- this district is not two minority-majority districts, that's -- that's the way I look at it and I'm just -- I'm just saying just because it's 50 percent or 51 percent, that -- that doesn't make it.

That's -- that's -- it'd probably take at

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least 53 percent to have a minority-majority district -- 53, 54 percent, not -- not -- not -- not -- Representative Carter, I think he got about 60 percent presently in his district, registered voters I think -- or 59, something like that, but he would go to 54 percent -- I think 53.-something percent in -- in your plan.

That would probably be a -- a -- a minority -- a majority-minority district, but the other District 5, that's an opportunity district. That's really not a -- that's really not a ma- -- ma- -- ma- -- majority-minority district. That's not --

REP. IVEY: Can you tell me, what was the number -- the standard that you said [inaudible]?

REP. CARTER: Well -- well, it -- it was based on studies, it's not -- the -- the House Bill 1 --

REP. IVEY: But what number did you use, 50 what?

REP. CARTER: I'd say about 53, 54 percent.

REP. IVEY: Okay. So --

REP. CARTER: Fifty-four percent.

REP. IVEY: -- HB1 only has --

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REP. CARTER: Probably 54 percent.

REP. IVEY: -- 51.4 percent. And so that map is not a -- a [inaudible] --

REP. CARTER: I don't think it -- I don't think it's -- it -- it's a majority-minority district.

REP. IVEY: Okay.

REP. CARTER: It -- it's not just -- it's not just the over 50 percent thing, it's -- it's -- it's based on studies and tests and -- and formulas and -- and all kinds of different -- different ways to determine voting patterns and to create -- have an opportunity to create a district -- elect a person of your choice.

REP. IVEY: So you agree that the judge --

REP. CARTER: So it's just based on --

REP. IVEY: -- shouldn't have made us do this in six days?

REP. CARTER: Well, I think we should've done it in the first place in February. I don't think the judge should've made us do anything. I think we should've done it, it's the right thing to do. And when you -- when you -- what you -- when you talk about a

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minority district, you're not talking about 51 percent, because the way you guys --

REP. IVEY: [inaudible] majority-minor- -- it's not majority-minority, to be clear, it's -- this is a black majority-minority district in the sense that the judge required that and the fact that there is no analysis that needs to be done to determine that black people make up over 50 percent --

REP. CARTER: Okay.

REP. IVEY: -- of the voting age population in this.

REP. CARTER: Oh, okay. You have to read the entire 152-page opinion to understand --

REP. IVEY: I was busy working on a map [inaudible].

REP. CARTER: -- to understand -- well -- well -- well -- well, I'm going to tell you -- and to -- to understand what the judge is talking about and when she say a -- a minority -- a -- a -- a black minority, this district, you have to read the whole 152 pages. You can't read the -- the -- the -- the beginning and the ending and say you've got a 51 percent district and

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it's a -- it's a black minority district, it's not.

REP. IVEY: What -- what --

REP. CARTER: And just -- so all I'm saying is -- for the record, all I'm saying is as I read the judge's -- the judge's decision, the whole 152 pages of it, and as I look at your map, it does not create two minority-majority districts, it does not. It creates a major- -- a possible minority-majority district and an opportunity district.

And so that's -- then it's -- then it's gerrymandered so bad. So those things combined I can't vote for it --

REP. IVEY: Well --

REP. CARTER: -- and I -- and I don't want to -- I don't get the impression that I'm against -- I'm -- I'm not against having -- of course I -- I support having two minority districts, but this is not one of them. This -- this is sort of like a -- like a -- a pig in a poke. This -- this is like --

REP. IVEY: I -- you used my language, I said it wasn't a pig in a poke.

REP. CARTER: -- it's -- it's like -- it's

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like saying you've got something but you really don't have it and -- and you're setting -- you're -- you're setting it up for failure and if you're going to have a real minority-majority district, you're going to have to have close to 4- -- 54 percent and -- and -- and -- because that's based on studies and experts. That's not based on just something come out [inaudible].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. You made that point, Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER: All right. All right. That's all I have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You made that point. Yes, sir. All right. All right. Representative Ivey, I'm going to let you close.

REP. IVEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members, I appreciate your time and attention on this matter. I believe -- and again, our constituents, we owe it to them to at least try and again, I will respect any and all of your decisions and how you have to process the information yourself, you know, in your own belief system.

This morning I was thinking about what I was

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going to say and I was reminded of a meeting that we had at LSU last term about -- you know, it was probably I guess '18 or so and it was with LSU students and Steve Carter kind of, you know, coor- -- coordinated that and one of the questions that I was asked in the small group of students was, would I support a second minor- -- majority-minority district.

Now, I'm going to be honest, this was before redistricting and it was even on my radar and I -- I -- I understood what it meant, but I had no bearings on the significance or complications and difficulty of doing that and what I said was this, I'm going to let the data drive my decision.

You know, I -- I -- I don't want to force anything that doesn't have some resemblance of, you know, making -- making sense. And so, again, absent during the regular session, a bill that I felt I could support I -- I was -- I was and still am confident in my votes for HB1, which is Act 5 and the veto override.

I have done exhaustive research on jurisprudence on this issue. The fact is that it is so detailed and we never know what a -- a supreme court

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justice ultimately may rule on, what little details and I'm not going to pretend to have a clue that I can do that. I could make strong arguments on both sides.

I can make strong arguments on both sides. But I do know how the map was drawn. I -- I do put a lot of -- of faith in the incredibility in our speaker in his process that he used to draw the map. Now, while it may not have -- made any efforts whatsoever to improve competitiveness for major- -- for minorities, the fact is his map was the status quo and our number one objective for redistricting is to, you know, fix malapportionment and he did that.

It was a check in a box. There was no malintent in that process whatsoever. Now, here's the reality, and this is rhetorical, what actual involvement have any one of us had in the construction of any map that we've passed; right?

Very little. You know, with -- again, with the exception of maybe a few members, you know, trying to maybe fli- -- flip a few -- few precincts and things like that.

Largely, the dye was cast on most of the bills

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from the beginning. I know Representative Thomas worked with certain members to try to address some things and -- and were able to come up, you know, with some amendments and stuff, but it's -- it's just very few members had -- have actively engaged, at any level, on any specific map, particularly the Congressional map.

And so with that said, I tried to show da- -- great deference to the individuals who've put in the work and not question every little decision and every little thing.

And so with this, Members, what -- what I'm asking is that we keep alive the opportunity. There's a lot of time between here and the floor.

That's tongue-in-cheek, but -- but there's time. And so there's some things that can be addressed that maybe they -- they can't and maybe ultimately you can't support it and I can -- and I can appreciate that, but I do believe that what happened in the redistricting session -- and I -- I'm -- I'm not going to fault anybody or -- or -- or im- -- impugn any nefarious intent on the decisions, but the fact is we didn't get any instruments that would improve majority-

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minority representation out on the Congressional map.

And so no debate was had on the floor to allow the opportunity for all of us elec- -- not just me, but every elected official regardless of the side of the issue you're on to have the opportunity to debate that issue on the floor.

This instrument, as did HB1 and 2, provide that opportunity, if we -- if we move this and -- and that's all I'm asking.

You -- you know, you may -- you may have your mind made up and I can respect and appreciate it, but I do believe it's imperative that we get an instrument to the House floor so that it can be fully debated not only to attempt to comply with the federal court order, but to also, you know, do everything we can, because if we fail, and the probability is great, the federal judge is going to impose a map.

And so, you know -- and to conclude, since everybody's here and -- and Representative Carter doesn't like my map, I recognize why he doesn't like it, it's not as favorable as the other map, but one of the primary objectives, and I told you in my approach,

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was to be as least disruptive geographically to the current Congressional districts.

If the defendants are a prevail, you know, in the end, if we are -- if we have to use this map because the appellate courts don't intervene in time in their -- defendant's favor, the political shift from a map like HB1 could mean -- be dramatically impactful to our constituencies as a whole.

So like I said, if Garret Graves has to go from Flor- -- from where he is now to the Florida parishes and then back to, you know, where he is now, that -- that is -- that is significant and -- and it -- it affects the people in those -- those districts. And so I believe this is the least painful shifting for everybody under the current status quo and it absolutely complies with the -- the federal requirement. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Members, that's his close. That ends the debate, we've read the cards. Emails, did I read the emails? I read the emails already. Representative --

REP. IVEY: And -- and at the appropriate

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time, I'd like to move favorable -- favorable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Representative Ivey is going to move that we report House bill favorable. Is there an objection? There is an objection. A vote yes is to move the bill to the floor favorable, a vote no means the bill remains in committee. Ms. Ammersbach will call the roll.

CLERK: Chairman Stefanski.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

CLERK: No. Vice-Chairman Duplessis.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yes.

CLERK: Yes. Representative Beaullieu. Representative Wilford Carter.

REP. CARTER: No.

CLERK: No. Representative Deshotel.

REP. DESHOTEL: No.

CLERK: No. Representative Farnum.

REP. FARNUM: No.

CLERK: No. Representative Gadberry.

REP. GADBERRY: No.

CLERK: No. Representative Horton.

REP. HORTON: No.

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CLERK: No. Representative Ivey.
REP. IVEY: Yes.
CLERK: Yes. Representative Jenkins.
REP. JENKINS: Yes.
CLERK: Yes. Representative Mike Johnson.
REP. JOHNSON: No.
CLERK: No. Representative LaCombe.
REP. LACOMBE: Yes.
CLERK: Yes. Representative Lyons.
REP. LYONS: Yes.
CLERK: Yes. Representative Magee.
REP. MAGEE: No.
CLERK: No. Representative Newell.
REP. NEWELL: Yes.
CLERK: Yes. Representative Thomas.
REP. THOMAS: No.
CLERK: No. Representative White. Six yays, nine nays.
MR. CHAIRMAN: Six yays, nine nays and the bill stays in committee. Thank you.
REP. IVEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members for your time and attention.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Members, that clears the agenda for today. Representative Farnum makes a mo-- motion that we adjourn without objection.

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June 23, 2022

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(453585, 2. House Committee June 17)

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Exhibit E

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Transcript of State Hearing - Day 1

Date: June 15, 2022
Case: Transcription Services

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LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

HEARING DAY 1

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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Job: 453354

Pages: 1 - 54

Transcribed by: Jennifer Candela-Alvarez

P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: The Senate will come to order. 00:00:09 00:00:10

Secretary, open the machines for roll call. 00:00:10 00:00:12

Senator Mizell is here. Senator Womack is here. Senator Pope is here. You're voting. 00:00:15 00:00:18

Close the machines. 00:00:27

Thirty members in a quorum. 00:00:28

Members, today we will be led in prayer by President Pro tem Beth Mizell, and then she will lead us in the pledge. 00:00:29 00:00:31 00:00:34

PRESIDENT PRO TEM MIZELL: Thank you, Mr. President. 00:00:38 00:00:38

Members, if you would join me in prayer. 00:00:39

Dear Lord, we're back together with a task at hand. We ask for you to give us strength. We ask for you to keep us focused on you, Lord; and we ask you to use us to magnify your name. In this we pray to our -- our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen. 00:00:42 00:00:45 00:00:48 00:00:52 00:00:56

The Pledge. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the 00:00:59 00:01:02

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Republic for which it stands, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. 00:01:05 00:01:19

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Reading of the journal. 00:01:19

SECRETARY DIXON: Official Journal of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, Monday, June 6th, 2022. 00:01:25 00:01:26 00:01:29

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Milligan moves to dispense with the reading of the journal. Without objection, so ordered. 00:01:29 00:01:30 00:01:32

SECRETARY DIXON: Petitions, memorials, and communications. We -- I am in receipt of a proclamation from the governor calling the legislature into session this date until 6:00 p.m., June 20th. 00:01:34 00:01:35 00:01:38 00:01:45 00:01:48

I am in -- in receipt of a letter from the president appointing Jimmy Harris to the Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs. 00:01:52 00:01:55 00:01:58

The president appoints a committee of five to notify the House that the Senate is now in session and ready to commence business. Senators Hewitt, Price, Reese, Womack, and Tarver. Hewitt, Price, Reese, Womack, and Tarver. And the -- the president 00:02:10 00:02:12 00:02:15 00:02:18 00:02:22

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appoints a committee of five to notify the governor that the Senate is now in session and ready to commence business. 00:02:27 00:02:29 00:02:31

The president appoints Senators Bernard, Foil, Harris, Milligan, and Mizell. Bernard, Foil, Harris, Milligan, and Mizell. 00:02:33 00:02:36 00:02:41

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: The committees will please organize and discharge their duties. 00:02:44 00:02:44

(No audio from 00:02:40 to 00:10:19)

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Bernard, the report of your committee. 00:10:31 00:10:31

SENATOR BERNARD: Uh-huh. Thank you, Mr. President. The committee reported to the governor that we are here and ready to do the Senate's business. 00:10:34 00:10:36 00:10:39 00:10:41

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Very good. Thank you. 00:10:42

(No audio from 00:10:35 to 00:14:09)

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Womack? 00:14:16

SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you, Mr. President. We notified the House that we're ready to do business. 00:14:20 00:14:21 00:14:27

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Very good. Thank you. 00:14:28

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(No audio from 00:14:26 to 00:22:11)

SECRETARY DIXON: Members, introduction of senate bills -- Senate Bill 1 by Senator Fields now moves for a suspension the rules for the purpose of taking up the bills, reading them the first and second time, and referring them to committee. 00:22:19 00:22:21 00:22:28 00:22:31 00:22:34

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Without objection. 00:22:40

SECRETARY DIXON: Senate Bill 1 by Senator Fields is an act to amend Title 18 and to repeal certain sections of Act 5 of the 2022 First Extraordinary Session relative to congressional districting to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts, referred to the Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs. 00:22:42 00:22:43 00:22:49 00:22:53 00:22:56 00:22:59 00:23:02

Senate Bill 2, by Senator Hewitt, is an act to amend Title 18 and to repeal certain sections of Section 5 of Act 5 of the 2022 First Extraordinary Session of the legislature relative to congressional districts and to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts. It is referred to referred to Senate & Governmental Affairs. 00:23:04 00:23:07 00:23:12 00:23:16 00:23:18 00:23:21 00:23:24

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Fields, you 00:23:31

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have -- 00:23:32

SECRETARY DIXON: Senator Hewitt now moves 00:23:33
for a suspension of the rules for the purposes of 00:23:33
allowing the Senate Committee on Senate & 00:23:37
Governmental Affairs to meet tomorrow without the 00:23:39
required 1:00 p.m. posted notice. 00:23:42

SENATOR FIELDS: Mr. President? 00:23:44

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Fields on a 00:23:45
point of order. 00:23:46

SENATOR FIELDS: I -- it breaks my point 00:23:47
of order. I -- does the bill by Senator Hewitt 00:23:48
create two majority-minority districts? 00:23:52

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: I'm going to check with 00:23:58
the secretary. I have not read the bill. It just 00:23:58
was introduced. 00:24:01

SENATOR FIELDS: Does it comply with the 00:24:07
court order? And does it -- does it have -- 00:24:08

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: My understanding -- 00:24:14

SENATOR FIELDS: -- two majority -- 00:24:15

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: -- from the author and 00:24:16
from the secretary -- they do not believe that it 00:24:17
does have two majority-minority districts as it's 00:24:20

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filed. 00:24:25

SENATOR FIELDS: Then I'm going to object with the suspension of the rules because, if it doesn't comply with the court order, there's no need to send the bill to the committee. I object. 00:24:26 00:24:28 00:24:30 00:24:33

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. Members -- Senator Fields, you're -- you're objecting to sending all bills? Okay. State your complete objection so that we (inaudible) motion. 00:24:39 00:24:45 00:24:48 00:24:55

SENATOR FIELDS: Sure, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1 is already in committee. I'm objecting to Senate Bill 2. There's -- we're on a short circuit here. We only have six days. There's no reason to send a bill that does not comply with the court order to committee. We're here to comply with the court's order. 00:24:55 00:24:56 00:24:59 00:25:02 00:25:06 00:25:10 00:25:14

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: So I'm told the motion was for both the bills to be -- to suspend the rule for both the bills to be referred to committee. So if the objection is for both of them -- 00:25:22 00:25:23 00:25:26 00:25:30

SENATOR FIELDS: No. No, sir, Mr. President. My bill was sent to committee. I 00:25:33 00:25:34

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objected on sending Senator Hewitt's bill to committee. We're on Senate Bill 2. My bill has passed that process. 00:25:37 00:25:40 00:25:43

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. And your objection is because as it is originated, it -- you believe it does not comply with a court order? 00:25:47 00:25:47 00:25:52

SENATOR FIELDS: Not that I believe. If the bill does not comply with Subsection 2, which creates two majority black districts, it does not comply with the court's order. 00:25:56 00:25:58 00:26:02 00:26:05

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. What I'm being told is that, in general, it does comply with the objects of the call; and the legislature is free to legislate on any instrument that complies with the call -- 00:26:06 00:26:23 00:26:26 00:26:29 00:26:34

SENATOR FIELDS: That's not my -- 00:26:35

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: -- that is to -- 00:26:35

SENATOR FIELDS: I'm sorry, Mr. President. 00:26:36

SENATOR BERNARD: -- that is the legislate with regards to congressional districts. 00:26:36 00:26:38

SENATOR FIELDS: And, Mr. President, with all due respect -- respect, that is not my objection. 00:26:41 00:26:42

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My objection is her bill does not comply with the court order. We only have six days. It makes no sense to send a bill to committee that does not comply with the court order. Her bill only creates one majority black district, and I'm objecting to suspending the rules on that basis. 00:26:45 00:26:48 00:26:52 00:26:55 00:26:58 00:27:02

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. Objection noted. 00:27:06

Senator Fields, we're going to take a -- we're going to take a vote on your objection, but I -- before that I -- I feel compelled to notify the Senate, the full Senate, that, if somehow a bill were to be amended that was no longer in compliance, I think a motion in order to remove it from the files of Senate, namely, if Senate Bill 1 were to be admitted in Senate & Governmental Affairs and reported to the full Senate, I think the -- that by virtue of this, you could actually -- there could be a motion to remove your bill from the files at Senate. 00:27:11 00:27:12 00:27:14 00:27:20 00:27:24 00:27:28 00:27:30 00:27:33 00:27:35 00:27:40 00:27:43 00:27:45

I -- I don't know that we want to get into this. The idea of the Senate Governmental Committee or any committee in the legislative process -- the 00:27:45 00:27:47 00:27:51

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purpose is to vet the bills and to offer potential amendments. I don't want to speak for the author, but I think everybody has read the call, and so at this point I'm going to allow Senator Luneau to make a point of order, but we're going to dispense with his motion. 00:27:53 00:27:57 00:28:00 00:28:04 00:28:07 00:28:10

Senator Luneau, unless your -- your point is about his motion, we're going to dispose of his motion. 00:28:10 00:28:12 00:28:15

Would you like to make a statement before? Okay. Will you yield? 00:28:17 00:28:19

SENATOR LUNEAU: Mr. President, we don't -- it's not on the -- the bill is not on the computer yet. I'd like to see it and see what it looks like before we vote on that motion if we could. 00:28:21 00:28:22 00:28:23 00:28:25

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. 00:28:43

(No audio from 00:28:24 to 00:28:37)

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. So Senator Luneau, I'm told that until a bill is introduced and gets a number, they don't put it up. But it -- I'm -- I'm being told that it's being put up as we speak. 00:28:43 00:28:44 00:28:46 00:28:48

(No audio from 00:28:44 to 00:28:58)

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PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Luneau? 00:29:03

SENATOR LUNEAU: Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. Members, I object to this as well and for the same reasons that Senator Fields did. But also we're -- we're voting on an instrument that we haven't seen yet. That's not a good idea. We need to at least see this instrument and see what it said because I do agree that, if it doesn't meet the -- the -- the objectives of what the court has told us with four different judges now, that's problematic. So we need to at least be able to look at it. 00:29:03 00:29:07 00:29:08 00:29:12 00:29:13 00:29:15 00:29:17 00:29:20 00:29:23 00:29:26

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: All right. So at this point, we have a -- we have a -- an objection to the suspension of the rules for the purpose of referring Senate Bill 2, I think it will be, to the Committee on Senate & Government Affairs. 00:29:38 00:29:40 00:29:43 00:29:48 00:29:51

Is there any objection? Well, there is -- the motion has been made, and there's been objections. 00:29:52 00:29:55 00:29:56

Senator Hewitt, do you want the floor on the objection? 00:29:56 00:29:58

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President. 00:30:13

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Members, as we know, there are no guarantees that a bill, the way it's introduced, is going to look that way when it's done at the end of the process. And so, you know, there's no guarantee Senator Fields's bill is going to look the same, and there's no guarantees that my bill will look the same. But we are here to adhere to the court order, and so that would be my intent. 00:30:15 00:30:17 00:30:19 00:30:22 00:30:26 00:30:28 00:30:30 00:30:38

Having said that, I will say that, if you want to let the bill lie over, Senator Luneau, so that you have an opportunity to see it, I would be happy to do that. 00:30:42 00:30:44 00:30:48 00:30:50

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. So Senator Price, do you have a question? Okay. Can you -- okay. 00:30:55 00:30:56 00:31:00

So Senator -- so Senator Fields has made a motion to which he objected to, and so now at this point, the vote is, if you're in favor of suspending the rule, you will vote yea. If you're opposed to suspending the rule, you will vote nay. And the secretary will open the machines. Okay. 00:31:00 00:31:06 00:31:09 00:31:13 00:31:17 00:31:20

Are you through voting? Close the 00:31:36

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machines. Zero yeas and 30 nays, and the rules have failed to be suspended. Senator Hewitt's bill will lie over. Okay. 00:31:38 00:31:44 00:31:48

Senator Peacock, do you have a point of order? 00:32:01 00:32:02

SENATOR PEACOCK: Thank you, Mr. President. But the motion was on both -- the rules were suspended for both bills. Correct? 00:32:06 00:32:06 00:32:09

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Yeah. The -- the initial motion was made by the Secretary of the Senate on behalf of Senator Fields. Senator Fields came down and made a clarification on the motion. It was his motion. He clarified that his bill was in committee. The motion that was made on his behalf by the Senate secretary was to start the process as we do every session. We read bills on a first and second reading to refer them. We do that traditionally. 00:32:22 00:32:23 00:32:25 00:32:28 00:32:30 00:32:34 00:32:38 00:32:43 00:32:46 00:32:51

The first bill -- the author of the first bill is generally the one that makes the motion to suspend the rules for all bills. In this particular case, it happened to be Senator Fields. He had 00:32:52 00:32:55 00:32:57 00:33:01

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Senate Bill 1. 00:33:03

When Senate Bill 2 came up to be referred, 00:33:05

he objected, and I'm going to deduce that he 00:33:07

bifurcated his motion to say that his motion was to -- 00:33:11

- to suspend the rules for Senate Bill 1 but objected 00:33:15

to the suspension of the rules for Senate Bill 2. 00:33:19

Senator Fields, if I'm misstating your 00:33:22

point, please come down and clarify. Senator Barrow 00:33:24

--

SENATOR PEACOCK: At this point, I'd like 00:33:29

to reconsider the vote on suspension of the rule on 00:33:30

Senate Bill 1. 00:33:33

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay. So at this time, 00:33:37

Senator Peacock has made a motion to reconsider the 00:33:39

motion to suspend the rules on Senate Bill 1 00:33:45

Is there any objection? 00:33:57

Senator Fields, state your objection. 00:33:58

SENATOR FIELDS: Point -- point of order. 00:34:00

Mr. President, Senate Bill 1 does comply with the 00:34:01

court order, and it does create two majority 00:34:04

districts, does it not? 00:34:06

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: I haven't read the 00:34:08

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bill, but I -- 00:34:09

SENATOR FIELDS: I object. 00:34:10

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Peacock has 00:34:19

made a motion to reconsider the vote by which the 00:34:21

rules were suspended in order to refer, on second 00:34:25

reading, Senate Bill 1 to Senate Governmental Affairs 00:34:31

to which Senator Fields objects. 00:34:34

The machines are open. A vote yes is to 00:34:37

reconsider that vote. A vote no is not to reconsider 00:34:39

the vote. 00:34:42

Ms. Secretary will open the machines. Go 00:34:43

to your machines. 00:34:49

Are you through voting? Close the 00:34:54

machines. 00:34:59

18 yeas and 11 nays. And the motion has 00:35:00

been reconsidered. Senate Bill 1 will lie over. 00:35:03

Senator Fields, for the floor. 00:35:13

SENATOR FIELDS: Mr. President, Members of 00:35:31

the Senate, now we're here today for one purpose and 00:35:32

one person only. And that is we have been ordered 00:35:38

here by the courts to draw two black or minority 00:35:42

districts, and there is one bill that does that, and 00:35:48

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we're on a six-day period to do it. And we have had sessions in this capitol where we have passed bills in six days. 00:35:58 00:36:04 00:36:08

So I -- I -- we can't say we can't do it. We can say we don't have the will to do it, but that's by choice, not by obligation. A rule is a rule, and we can suspend it anytime we get ready just like we just did. We make them, and we suspend them just like we did. 00:36:13 00:36:17 00:36:20 00:36:26 00:36:30 00:36:40

Now not one judge, not two judges, not three but four federal judges just told Louisiana to do what we just said we're not going to do. We just told them we are not going to do it because we can. We're the big legislature, the State of Louisiana. You don't tell us what to do. 00:36:45 00:36:50 00:36:59 00:37:06 00:37:16 00:37:20

In 19- -- in 19- -- I think it was '90, we had a session where we had we had to -- to draw lines, and we did it in eight days, but we took two days off. So technically we did it in six days. We had an appropriation for corrections that same year, and we had a session in six days. 00:37:22 00:37:35 00:37:38 00:37:42 00:37:48 00:37:55

Let's talk about rules. Rules are made to 00:37:59

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be suspended. If you suspend a rule here and you take a bill, no one can say it's unconstitutional. No court will hold a bill passed by this legislature unconstitutional because we suspended a rule. Just say we don't want to do it. Six members of congress -- over a third of this state is black. Just say we don't have the will to do it. It has nothing to do with Republican or Democrat. It has everything to do with right versus wrong. You got the votes. You got the majority. 00:38:05 00:38:10 00:38:15 00:38:20 00:38:26 00:38:32 00:38:37 00:38:48 00:38:53 00:39:04

Senator Peacock, you gave it to me. You won't let that bill go into committee. Then I won't let your bill go into committee because I got the votes, and I'll show him. 00:39:07 00:39:15 00:39:19 00:39:24

What has this state come to? Is that the way we do business? Is that what we're about? I'm in the majority. I don't care what you think, and I certainly don't think -- don't care what those judges think. We're going to do what we want to do. Now we're going to lose this day because we can. 00:39:36 00:39:40 00:39:51 00:39:57 00:40:00 00:40:05

Now Senate Bill 1 -- it's been on the calendar for three months. It was Senate Bill 306 00:40:13 00:40:17

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this past session. And then during the regular or 00:40:26
during the special session for redistricting, you saw 00:40:31
it then. It -- it never changed. I argued it here. 00:40:35
I put it as -- put it up as an amendment to Senator 00:40:39
Hewitt's bill. It's nothing new. One out of six, 00:40:42
and that's just the way it's going to be until some 00:40:55
higher court higher than the Fifth Circuit tells us 00:41:00
different. 00:41:09

Aren't we better than that? Now, Senator 00:41:10
Hewitt, I know you are. You traveled all over this 00:41:16
state holding town hall meetings. You heard the 00:41:22
people in this state from Shreveport to New Orleans. 00:41:29
You heard them. They said we want a second minority 00:41:33
district. You heard them. Every town hall meeting 00:41:37
you held, people said they wanted a second black 00:41:44
district. 00:41:47

The plan is more compact. It beats your 00:41:55
plan on every measure. The president, with all due 00:42:02
respect, hired lawyers, and not one of you knew about 00:42:09
it. The people on the committee didn't know about it 00:42:15
other than the chair, I guess. 00:42:17

Now we have lawyers and court fighting 00:42:26

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against a second black district and they're losing every time. Why? Not because they're not good lawyers. They just can't argue against it. It's wrong. 00:42:31 00:42:33 00:42:38 00:42:42

Let me tell you what they do in congress. I can take a matter of personal privilege. I've been there. They appropriate money, and they send it to the several states. And Louisiana has the second highest black population in the entire country. 00:42:46 00:42:49 00:42:51 00:42:58 00:43:03

Black people need to be represented. No other state in this nation has more black people than Louisiana. This body is better than that. We don't need a court to tell us we need to do the right thing every time. 00:43:08 00:43:14 00:43:17 00:43:26 00:43:29

It's not about Republican, Democrat. It's about right, wrong. And nothing made me feel worse than when the governor's veto was overridden. You could hear the shouts in the other body like someone had won the Super Bowl. 00:43:32 00:43:35 00:43:43 00:43:49 00:43:53

Are we not better than that? I don't know what we're going to do this session. I know why we're here. I've read the 100 and something page 00:43:59 00:44:04 00:44:08

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opinion from the district court and 100 and something page opinion from the appeals court. How many times they have to tell us to do the right thing? 00:44:12 00:44:14 00:44:19

We've got a job to do, gentlemen and ladies. Now what just happened, in my view as a lawyer, is a -- is a contempt of court. And now tomorrow my president and the speaker of the house has to go to a court and say why they need more time when they sent a bill back to the calendar that complied with the court order, but we need more time. 00:44:31 00:44:32 00:44:43 00:44:52 00:44:57 00:45:06 00:45:12

It's time for us to do the right thing. It's not time to play games. It's time to do what we should have done the first time. I have nothing further to say, Mr. President, and I thank you for the time. 00:45:22 00:45:25 00:45:30 00:45:38 00:45:40

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you, Senator Fields. 00:45:41 00:45:42

Senator Luneau, would you like the floor on personal privilege? 00:45:43 00:45:44

SENATOR LUNEAU: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I don't think any of us want to be here today. I know I don't. But I'm here today because I 00:45:45 00:45:59 00:46:03

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have an obligation. When I ran for office and I was elected, I promised to do what I had to do to represent the people of my district and the people of the State of Louisiana; and that's what we're here to do. We have an obligation to do this. We're obligated to redraw these maps because the courts have said you have to. 00:46:07 00:46:09 00:46:12 00:46:14 00:46:16 00:46:19 00:46:21

And Senator Fields is right. There are four different judges that agreed to that appointed by, I believe, four different presidents. For sure, three different presidents. 00:46:24 00:46:25 00:46:28 00:46:32

And when they told us to do this, they told us to do exactly what I asked you to do when we were here in the first special session of this year and that is to make the maps reflect the population of the State of Louisiana because we are obligated to do that. And we all know that. 00:46:33 00:46:39 00:46:43 00:46:46 00:46:49 00:46:52

I'm not going to go through the courts and talk to you about what the requirements are. We all know that. But just a few short days ago, I stood at this mic, and I asked you to do the right thing then; and you did. 00:46:54 00:46:56 00:46:58 00:47:03 00:47:07

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We passed a law that took away some of the last vestiges of slavery in Louisiana from the holiday list. And I told you then that would be a step in the right direction. And you know what? It was a step in the right direction. But we have an opportunity to take a step in the right direction again here today and through this session and that is to draw legitimate maps that reflect the population of the State of Louisiana. 00:47:09 00:47:12 00:47:16 00:47:19 00:47:21 00:47:25 00:47:27 00:47:33 00:47:36

Minority people do deserve the right to elect the people they want to represent them in the legislature, and we have the obligation to do that. Let's get to work. 00:47:39 00:47:42 00:47:44 00:47:50

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Hewitt and Senator Bouie to the floor on personal privilege. 00:47:52 00:47:53

SENATOR BOUIE: Thank you, Mr. President and Members. I concur with our colleagues. But let me tell you where what we just did puts us. The Declaration of Independence says, We hold these truths be self-evident that all men are created equal. 00:48:05 00:48:06 00:48:10 00:48:15 00:48:18 00:48:23

That's what this piece is about. That we 00:48:23

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afford to every Louisiana citizen, based on numbers, the right to be represented. And so what kind of Louisiana are we trying to build for our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren? 00:48:27 00:48:31 00:48:35 00:48:39

Do we want vestiges of discrimination and denial to continue? I am -- I am very disappointed in what we just did. 00:48:41 00:48:45 00:48:50

Thank you, Mr. President. 00:48:53

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you. 00:48:54

Senator Jackson, personal privilege. 00:48:55

SENATOR JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. President and Members. Members, I have read the court opinions. We all advocated for what, at the time, we thought was right, I assume, or what I'm finding we thought was politically expedient for some of us. 00:49:07 00:49:08 00:49:11 00:49:15 00:49:20 00:49:23

When we redraw maps every ten years, they're not to be drawn on party lines or to preserve a status quo but to fairly draw maps that represent all people. As a black female that sits in this body right now with one other black female, a limited amount of minorities, although we make up one third 00:49:25 00:49:28 00:49:31 00:49:36 00:49:40 00:49:45

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of the state, congressionally, we make one out of six. 00:49:48 00:49:52

For me, it has always been simple math. Dr. King said that A right delayed is essentially a right denied. As we sat through these next six days and on the first session -- the first day of session we delayed the right of a people to be properly represented, the right for our state to have fair maps. 00:49:54 00:49:58 00:50:03 00:50:09 00:50:12 00:50:16 00:50:21

I believe when we come here, we represent people, not ourselves, not our party, but people -- the population of what we call -- what I believe to be the great State of Louisiana. But I'm going to submit that, if we don't do what we've been ordered to do, then this state remains great for some while remaining somewhat of a disappointment for others who constantly ask for their rights not to be denied, to have a fair seat at the table for one third of population who pays taxes, for one third of a population who works hard, for one third of a population who has the same hopes and dreams for their children as everyone else has to be fairly 00:50:23 00:50:25 00:50:32 00:50:36 00:50:39 00:50:42 00:50:47 00:50:51 00:50:55 00:51:00 00:51:04 00:51:08 00:51:11

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represented. 00:51:14

So I came here to do the business of the 00:51:16

people, not the business of a party, not the business 00:51:18

of what my personal belief was, but the business of 00:51:23

the people; and that's always fair representation. I 00:51:27

am hoping, after what just happened the day, we get 00:51:31

there and we realize that delaying anyone's right is 00:51:34

truly denying that person's right. 00:51:40

Thank you, Mr. President and Members. 00:51:43

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you. 00:51:44

Senator Barrow for the floor on personal 00:51:45

privilege. 00:51:46

SENATOR BARROW: Good afternoon, Mr. 00:51:57

President, and Members. Here we go again. As many 00:51:58

of you know, oftentimes when you see me, I have on 00:52:04

this one pin along with our state pin; and it says 00:52:06

one word. Vote. Voting is the one equalizer that 00:52:12

each of us have one of. And at this point, it 00:52:20

appears that we are denying the people of color, 00:52:25

people that look like me, the opportunity to have the 00:52:28

choice to elect a candidate of their choosing because 00:52:33

we will not draw a map that can give them that 00:52:40

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opportunity. 00:52:44

I know last time I came up here, I talked 00:52:47

about my own personal stories and things that I had 00:52:49

gone through and things that I have experienced. 00:52:51

They're honestly -- Peacock, I hope my children and 00:52:55

my grandchildren never experience unfairness to be 00:52:59

able to buy a home where I want to and not have 00:53:06

redlining as a part of the issues that we are 00:53:10

conflicted with because I have representation -- 00:53:13

Womack, or somebody -- who understands the -- the 00:53:17

plight of folks that looks like me. 00:53:20

So I'm asking you, Members. Really, I'm 00:53:25

pleading with you, and I'm begging of you. The 00:53:28

measure that we just took now seems like we may not 00:53:32

get there, but I'm hoping through the end or before 00:53:37

the end of this process, while we're spending all 00:53:41

this money, you know, for the attorneys that we have 00:53:44

and the time that we were here, that we come up with 00:53:48

a product that the courts have already told us we 00:53:52

have to do. Let's do our own job and not have the 00:53:56

courts have to do our job. 00:54:03

Thank you, Mr. President. 00:54:05

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PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you. 00:54:06

Senator Price, the floor on personal 00:54:07

privilege. 00:54:09

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Mr. President. 00:54:19

You know, I sit on the S&G, and I went around this 00:54:22

state, and I made every meeting we had, every 00:54:26

community, every town hall meeting. And in each of 00:54:31

those meetings, people got up and said we need fair 00:54:35

and equitable maps, not just people of color. It was 00:54:39

people. It was citizens of this state that made 00:54:46

those statements. 00:54:51

And I felt then that it was falling on 00:54:53

deaf ears because when we came back to committee, and 00:54:54

I mentioned this in one of the committee hearings 00:54:59

that we did not listen to what the people were saying 00:55:02

around the state, everybody talked about the fact 00:55:04

that this state and the black population has 00:55:08

increased one third, and we needed fair and equitable 00:55:12

maps. 00:55:16

But what did we get? We had to get a 00:55:19

court to come back and say you didn't do the right 00:55:23

thing, and today is an example of pleading and what 00:55:26

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our citizens has said to us, to do the right thing, falling on deaf ears again. And why? Why are we here? Why are we not listening? Why do we have to have a court to tell us what we have to do if we're going to do the right thing? Why can't we do the right thing? 00:55:33 00:55:37 00:55:42 00:55:47 00:55:50 00:55:53

Many of you went around the state with us. Many of you heard it, but yet -- and still we return. And we did something that the people of this state stated that we should not do. Because why? And I understand the process. Let's maintain control. We are in control; so let's maintain control. But that's not always the fair thing to do. It's not always the right thing to do. 00:55:55 00:55:58 00:56:05 00:56:08 00:56:13 00:56:17 00:56:20 00:56:23

Politically, it may sound great. Yes, let's do it. But what do we do? And what we do in the sight of God? What type of people have we become when we won't do the right thing? We won't even try to work together to do the right thing. 00:56:28 00:56:31 00:56:38 00:56:44 00:56:48

You know, I look above, and I let him guide me, and he will guide us. And at some point in this world -- I pray every day that we do the right 00:56:54 00:56:56 00:57:02

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thing for each other. 00:57:07

Thank you, Mr. President. 00:57:09

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you. 00:57:11

Senator Hewitt on the floor on personal privilege. 00:57:11

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President. 00:57:13

Members, this legislature has the constitutional responsibility for drawing districts, and we've done that. We were here for 19 days in a three-week session, and two thirds of us determined that the map that we passed was the best representation of the State of Louisiana, and we did that. 00:57:25 00:57:27 00:57:30 00:57:34 00:57:39 00:57:44 00:57:48

We spent months before that on our road show. We -- this was the most public and transparent process that we've ever had. We made sure that, when there were amendments put on these very complicated bills, that members had an opportunity to understand them. The public had an opportunity to weigh in. And we're going to continue to do that in this process. 00:57:52 00:57:56 00:58:00 00:58:04 00:58:06 00:58:09 00:58:13 00:58:15

Now you talk about doing the right thing. We did the right thing. We -- we deliberated as a 00:58:18 00:58:21

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legislative body and passed a map. We did what we always do. Right? People get to debate, the public gets an opportunity to weigh in, and we did our job. 00:58:25 00:58:36 00:58:40

Redistricting is not an easy thing. You have to thread the needle between the Voting Rights Act and the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment says you cannot use race as the predominant reason for drawing a map. 00:58:50 00:58:53 00:58:55 00:59:00 00:59:03

Yet we're being directed by the court to use race as the reason to draw a second district. But here we are. And although maybe there have been bills or maps that have been passed before my time in six days, I think it is extremely difficult to do that without sacrificing transparency and the opportunity for public input. 00:59:05 00:59:08 00:59:16 00:59:24 00:59:28 00:59:32 00:59:35

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But we are here because of a court order, and we will continue to do the job that -- that we are all elected to do and that is to represent the people in our district. And I'm committed to doing that, and I believe that you all are committed to -- to doing that as well. 00:59:43 00:59:50 00:59:53 00:59:55 00:59:59 01:00:01

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator -- thank you. 01:00:05

Senator Carter on the floor on personal privilege. 01:00:06 01:00:13

SENATOR CARTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members I read the middle district court's opinion, and I encourage all of you to read it as well. It's 152 pages, but it reads fast. And not only -- one -- one of the things that's fascinating about the opinion is the judge just doesn't rule that we should create two minority districts, but the Court explains why. And the court explains the long documented history of discrimination against African Americans right here in the State of Louisiana. 01:00:14 01:00:15 01:00:19 01:00:22 01:00:26 01:00:28 01:00:31 01:00:34 01:00:37 01:00:40

And one of the things that's fascinating about that opinion is that the defendants in the case conceded Louisiana's long discriminatory history about discriminating against African Americans in the State of Louisiana. It was conceded that Louisiana has this long documented history of discrimination. That's fascinating to me. 01:00:43 01:00:44 01:00:47 01:00:52 01:00:54 01:00:58 01:01:01

It's fascinating to me because we're debating, just during the regular session, concepts like Critical Race Theory that makes it improper or 01:01:03 01:01:06 01:01:09

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inappropriate for schools to teach Louisiana's discriminatory past. And yet it was conceded in the district court that Louisiana has this long discriminatory past. 01:01:13 01:01:16 01:01:21 01:01:23

And I have in front of me the -- the -- I know it's on my screen, and I don't even have my glasses on, but I'll show you. It's the US Constitution. And when we formed our United States Constitution, the most important branch of gove rnment, all of government, according to many legal scholars and historians, it's the United States Congress. That is why it is established in Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution. 01:01:25 01:01:28 01:01:29 01:01:31 01:01:35 01:01:37 01:01:41 01:01:43 01:01:47

Article 1, Section 1. All legislative power is hereby vested in the -- in the -- in the legislative branch, the Congress, which shall be conformed of a Senate and a House of Representatives. 01:01:51 01:01:54 01:01:57 01:02:00

It defines the Senate a little later on. Each state shall give two. But how our nation was founded, how it was formed, how it came together was all about how do you determine the appropriate number of representation of the members of congress, the 01:02:04 01:02:06 01:02:10 01:02:13 01:02:16

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members of the house of representatives, the same thing we're going through now. How do we apportion representation? How do we district ourselves? 01:02:18 01:02:21 01:02:24

And you look at the original text from the Constitution. Article 1 establishes Congress. Article 2 says this is how we're going to go about establishing the House of Representatives. It provides the minimum age requirements. It provides the citizen requirements. 01:02:27 01:02:29 01:02:32 01:02:35 01:02:37 01:02:40

And then it gets to how do we -- how do we apportion them? And you know what it does? It considers my ancestors, African Americans. When it comes to counting us, you just count them as three fifths of a person. It's embedded in our original constitution. 01:02:41 01:02:43 01:02:46 01:02:49 01:02:52 01:02:56

African American slaves -- we shall be counted as three Fifths of a person when trying to figure out how to draw the maps, how to apportion the original House of Representatives. 01:02:58 01:03:00 01:03:04 01:03:07

I mention that because not only does the State of Louisiana have a long documented history, uncontested history, of discrimination, but so does 01:03:11 01:03:14 01:03:17

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this nation. And it continues today, not just with our founding, but we have a federal judge right now pointing out to us our discriminatory practices. It continues. 01:03:20 01:03:25 01:03:28 01:03:32

And I must tell you that I dealt with Critical Race Theory when I was a member of the Educational Committee on the House side. I'm so much happier to be on the Senate side. It's much smaller. There's less of us. We really get to talk and get to know each other. And you're hearing from each and every one of us, the individual members of the black caucus. We're telling you how Democrats -- not just African American legislators, but how personal this is, how offensive it is that we have to have -- we have this long documented history of discrimination in our state at the nation. 01:03:33 01:03:35 01:03:37 01:03:41 01:03:44 01:03:47 01:03:49 01:03:52 01:03:56 01:03:59 01:04:03 01:04:05

We have federal courts, appellate courts telling us, reminding us to stop discriminating, to do what's right. And yet here we are. We find ourselves doing it again and again and again. It has to stop. Please let it stop. Let's move forward together, please. 01:04:07 01:04:09 01:04:12 01:04:15 01:04:18 01:04:23

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Thank you, Mr. President. 01:04:24

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you. 01:04:26

Senator Boudreaux for the floor on personal privilege. 01:04:27

SENATOR BOUDREAUX: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I -- I rise. I know sometimes it's uncomfortable when you have these type of conversations. I've -- I've spoken on a number of occasions about the Senate and the institution that we were so privileged to serve in. 01:04:40 01:04:41 01:04:44 01:04:47 01:04:49 01:04:53

And if we just go back on memory lane just for a minute, historically, the numbers in the '60s and the '70s were predominantly Democrats in this place. 01:04:56 01:04:58 01:05:02 01:05:07

Senator Fields talked, when we were in the redistricting session, about the number of African Americans who have ascended to Congress. 01:05:08 01:05:11 01:05:13

So while it's uncomfortable to sit, we in this institution have an opportunity to change this. You know, Senator Bernard, you -- you served in -- in local government. You understand where the rubber meets the road. 01:05:18 01:05:22 01:05:27 01:05:30 01:05:32

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See, our actions will trigger reactions to so many other things in the community. Now let's just go back to the simple math. Six congressional seats, and there's one. Just simple math. When they ask us for a second minority district, which would still be two out of six, is that unreasonable? Is that distasteful? If we don't do it, then who's going to do it? 01:05:34 01:05:38 01:05:41 01:05:44 01:05:50 01:05:55 01:06:02 01:06:06

So we talk about the courts, and we say let it go to the courts, and it's gone to the courts. It -- it reminds me of the presidential election that ended up in the courts with Al Gore and President Bush. 01:06:07 01:06:09 01:06:14 01:06:18 01:06:22

They said let the courts decide. And what did Al Gore do? At the end of that exhaustive process, he said, it's over with. He is -- President Bush is our president because the courts decided that. 01:06:24 01:06:28 01:06:31 01:06:35 01:06:38

We have people today who still believe the last election was a big lie. They haven't accepted the fact that we do have another President. But you see, that's where we come in. We have to change that 01:06:41 01:06:45 01:06:49 01:06:52

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narrative. 01:06:55

But if we go around with that same 01:06:57

rhetoric, we go around and saying, well, that court 01:06:59

missed it. They didn't get it. We have to show 01:07:02

respect to the courts when you're winning and when 01:07:05

you're losing, and -- and be graceful in defeat. 01:07:08

Now I'm not holier than anybody else in 01:07:12

this room, but I -- I -- I believe in the power of 01:07:15

prayer, and I'm going to continue to pray that the 01:07:18

court continues to be consistent in their rulings. 01:07:22

That's still not going to bring everybody where they 01:07:26

need to be. But you know, we open in prayer every 01:07:28

day, and I tried to close my eyes because I have to 01:07:30

take care of me. And that's why I'm up here today. 01:07:33

Each and every one of you know what is 01:07:36

right. Two out of six is not anything. I mean, it's 01:07:38

simple math. I sent it when we were in 01:07:43

redistricting. If -- if -- if the African American 01:07:45

population went down during the census count, hell, 01:07:49

we'd be up here fighting because we wouldn't have one 01:07:53

seat. 01:07:55

Senator Carter just talked about three 01:07:57

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fifths. It would be down to one -- one sixteenth of a vote. 01:07:58 01:08:03

And I'm not being sarcastic. I -- I hope you understand that this body, this deliberative body, the Senate, if we're just going to wait and keep saying, well, that court's got it wrong, and -- and let's appeal it -- 01:08:04 01:08:05 01:08:08 01:08:12 01:08:15

See, I prefer to take that money -- we -- we did a lot on roads and bridges throughout all of our districts, but I've got some people back home. They're still at minimum wage. 01:08:17 01:08:20 01:08:23 01:08:27

And when we look at this whole process and the amount of -- of dollars that spent to either defend or to send out false information of where we're going, we control that. We control that. 01:08:30 01:08:33 01:08:38 01:08:42

So I'm going to ask you -- you know, my years of officiating -- the first couple minutes of a game, when the ball doesn't go in the hole, (indiscernible) it's going to be a long day. 01:08:47 01:08:49 01:08:52 01:08:55

I have a bad taste in my mouth for how we just started this short session. It doesn't taste good. It doesn't feel good. I'm glad it's not me 01:09:00 01:09:03 01:09:07

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that have to go to court tomorrow. I don't know what to say. I -- I don't know where we're at. I think we're in a bad place. I think we need to hit that reset button and decide what -- what is it we want. 01:09:13 01:09:15 01:09:18 01:09:21

We talk about the we want for our kids and our grandkids. We talk about how great this is a place to live in. Be with those people who don't have any contact with their congressman. Be with those people who feel that they are left out and not listened to on any fronts. Listen to them, and if it doesn't trigger anything, I can't help you. But I can tell you I hurt for those who don't have a voice. I hurt for those who -- who Senator Barrow said earlier they have to rent. 01:09:25 01:09:27 01:09:30 01:09:34 01:09:38 01:09:42 01:09:46 01:09:50 01:09:55 01:10:00

You know, people say, well, they -- they're in that situation because they put themselves there. Okay. Okay. Just keep believing that. Just keep believing that. I'm going to ask. We -- we -- were off to a bad start. 01:10:03 01:10:03 01:10:06 01:10:11 01:10:14

Now there's been some teams winning the Super Bowl. I think somebody alluded to the Super Bowl. Some teams have won it, and they lost their 01:10:16 01:10:18 01:10:21

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first couple of games, and, boy, they hit a streak. 01:10:23
We've got to hit the streak. We've got to do it for 01:10:26
our people. We have to do it for all of God's 01:10:29
people. We have to do it for the state. 01:10:31
You know, we -- we -- we said before do we 01:10:34
want to look like Washington D.C.? Is that what we 01:10:37
want? Dysfunction. Nobody wants to be here to 01:10:41
address this, but by God, we raised our hand, and we 01:10:46
took that oath. Let's take care of the people's 01:10:50
business. 01:10:52
I won't be here when -- when the pendulum 01:10:55
swings and more -- more people are in the -- the -- 01:10:57
the people that are in the minority today will be in 01:11:01
the majority. But I hope they'll be like Al Gore at 01:11:03
the end of the fight. It was a good fight. I would 01:11:06
hope they would be like John Lewis and go and fight 01:11:10
for all of the people. 01:11:13
We quote Dr. King often, but do we walk in 01:11:15
those same paths, along that same trail that he 01:11:19
walked up until his death? And that's about service. 01:11:24
Let's take care of business. Let's hit that reset 01:11:29
button today and decide. We have to let the courts 01:11:32

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tell us what to do; and then, when they tell us, we don't listen. Let's see where we're going. 01:11:36 01:11:39

Thank you. 01:11:41

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you, Senator Boudreaux. 01:11:43 01:11:43

SENATOR TALBOT: President Cortez to the floor. 01:11:49 01:12:00

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you, Senator Talbot. Thank you, Members, for -- for being here today, taking the time out of your life to come back to this beautiful capital that we get to serve in. 01:12:00 01:12:01 01:12:04 01:12:07

I want to kind of bring you up to speed as to how we got here, a little bit of background on why we're standing here today or sitting here today. 01:12:10 01:12:13 01:12:17

There was a couple of people that alluded to legal firms. I want to remind you all that there was a lawsuit brought against the State of Louisiana before we ever filed a map. I'm going to repeat that. Before a map was ever filed, there was a lawsuit brought against the State of Louisiana. 01:12:20 01:12:23 01:12:29 01:12:32 01:12:35 01:12:39

As the presiding officer of the Senate, it's incumbent upon me, whether I like it or not, to 01:12:43 01:12:46

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support the will of this deliberative body. I can be on the losing side. I still have to support what the body said. I don't have a choice. If it's 20 to 19, and I was one of the 19, and the 20 won, and someone sued us, I have to support the 20 even though I didn't like it and even though I disagree with it. 01:12:50 01:12:54 01:12:58 01:13:04 01:13:06 01:13:10

I'm going to give you a little timeline. On June 6th, the last day of our legislative session, you all recall a federal district court judge issued an injunction against our congressional plan that we had passed in our Extraordinary Session from previous. 01:13:14 01:13:17 01:13:20 01:13:25 01:13:28 01:13:33

That same judge also directed the legislature to prepare a remedial plan by Monday, June 20th. I don't know if the judge knew what it would take to get us into a special session or not. That's not my job. I don't want to question a judge and their knowledge of the legislative process. That's that's what they do. I don't know what to do in a court. I've never been in a court before. 01:13:35 01:13:36 01:13:41 01:13:46 01:13:50 01:13:54 01:13:56 01:14:00

Tuesday, June 7th, the governor issued a call for a special session to start today, June 15th, 01:14:03 01:14:07

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and to end Monday, June 20th. Now the governor has the control of the call. He could have said it could end June 25th or July 1st. He didn't. That's his decision. 01:14:12 01:14:18 01:14:21 01:14:27

I'd say this many times. I -- I try to do what we do on the first floor. I don't try to dictate what the governor does on the fourth floor. That's his job. He runs the Executive Branch. We've got coequal branches of government in our democracy. 01:14:29 01:14:31 01:14:35 01:14:38 01:14:41

On June 9th, Thursday, the Fifth Circuit stayed the lower court order pending a briefing on the stay. Now, again, for those lawyers here, you're going to maybe correct me later; but what they were saying was we're going to stop this process until you can come talk to us at which time some motions were filed, and the three-judge panel at the Fifth Circuit issued a -- a ruling. 01:14:44 01:14:49 01:14:54 01:14:57 01:14:59 01:15:04 01:15:08 01:15:14

Their ruling was we're not taking up the merits of the case. And by the way, Senator Carter, you -- you read the 152. I did too. It was -- it was a very good read, and so was the 30-something page Fifth Circuit. 01:15:18 01:15:21 01:15:23 01:15:25 01:15:28

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They said we're not taking up the merits today. What we're saying is that there's enough information. Y'all should go into session and honor the fact that the district court said the first opportunity to remediate ought to be with the legislature. 01:15:31 01:15:32 01:15:36 01:15:40 01:15:44 01:15:48

On Sunday, June 12th, the Fifth Circuit lifted their stay. I can tell you, and I've talked to people on all sides of this, many lawyers, some that work on the fourth floor. Not one of them suggested that they thought the Fifth Circuit was going to reverse that stay. 01:15:50 01:15:53 01:15:59 01:16:03 01:16:07 01:16:09

I had many of you call me and say is it safe for me to go on vacation? Is it safe for me to take a trip? To which I had to reply, I don't know. I don't work in the courts. If you're taking a trip, make sure you get insurance -- trip insurance. 01:16:11 01:16:14 01:16:17 01:16:20 01:16:23

This Sunday they reversed the stay. So on Monday, the 13th, myself, along with the speaker, asked the district court -- because I could read from the Fifth circus -- I don't have it with me, but I could read from it. 01:16:26 01:16:33 01:16:38 01:16:40 01:16:43

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It says, both in the district court and in the appellate court, but if more time is needed, the district court would be open to giving you more time. Six days is a very short period of time to pass a commemoration of Mother's Day being a good holiday. It still Constitutionally requires three readings on both sides. It still requires a committee hearing on both sides. It still requires -- if the two chambers, who are separate, decide to have a disagreement, you would have to go to Conference Committee. Very, very difficult to do in something that's so emotionally charged, affects every corner of the state.

So on Tuesday, the 14th -- that was yesterday -- the district court scheduled a hearing for Thursday, tomorrow, June 16th, requiring that the speaker and I attend to discuss the request for more time. I will say this: The district court did respect the authority of the legislature to offer a remedial plan to the ruling that they laid down.

We have all known somebody who has gone to court and gotten a bad ruling, and immediately what

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they do is appeal it to the next core. And we've watched it on TV, walking out of the courtroom saying, don't worry. We're appealing. We believe the court got it wrong. 01:18:09 01:18:13 01:18:15 01:18:19

We say all the time in legislation until the court of final jurisdiction determines this shall be the law, or -- we put that in -- in -- in bills all the time. 01:18:22 01:18:26 01:18:31 01:18:35

But I want to read from the court that -- the 152 page that Senator Carter referenced. It's on page 2, and it's the early part of it. In fact, when I had a conversation with the governor with regards to this special session, he said, Patrick, you won't get to read very far. It will tell you exactly what -- what's going on. 01:18:36 01:18:40 01:18:43 01:18:46 01:18:48 01:18:50 01:18:52

On page 2, in the second paragraph down, it says, The appropriate remedy in this context is a remedial congressional redistricting plan that includes an additional majority black congressional district. 01:18:53 01:18:56 01:19:00 01:19:03 01:19:06

The United States Supreme Court instructs that the legislature should have the first 01:19:07 01:19:10

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opportunity -- the first opportunity to draw that plan. Therefore, the court orders -- and it's in bold -- the court orders. That means that court orders the Louisiana legislature that we are a coequal branch of government. We are not the judicial branch, and we are a deliberative body. 01:19:12 01:19:16 01:19:20 01:19:23 01:19:27 01:19:29

No one can order us to do anything other than to go try to get our job done, but -- but we -- neither one of us in here controls this whole process. 01:19:34 01:19:38 01:19:42 01:19:46

We're one vote, each of us, and currently we have 143 members. We can pass a bill out of this Senate that would be in 100 percent agreement with every one of the 38 senators we have elected, and they could not get a single vote in the house. 01:19:47 01:19:50 01:19:54 01:19:56 01:19:59

So I want to go on in that order. The court orders the Louisiana legislature to enact a remedial plan on or before June 20th, 2022. Now that's a terminus that was put in by a judge in a process that that judge can't control or has no control over. We don't even have control over it. 01:20:03 01:20:08 01:20:10 01:20:14 01:20:17 01:20:20

When I say that, I mean that just what 01:20:24

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happened earlier here today. A motion was made. An objection was made. A vote occurred. The outcome of the vote was a byproduct of democracy. That will happen throughout this process over and over and over again, and it will happen in two different chambers. 01:20:27 01:20:30 01:20:35 01:20:40 01:20:44

So Senator Fields was sort of the byproduct of being Senate Bill 1. He was -- his -- his name was the name given to that first motion. It was a cumulative motion. We do it every session. The first bill gets read in. We suspend. We read it first reading, introductory reading. Normally, the rules tell us it has to lie over until the second day for a second reading, and then refer it to committee. 01:20:47 01:20:51 01:20:53 01:20:57 01:21:02 01:21:05 01:21:08 01:21:11

And then on the third day, it can be taken up in committee. But it doesn't require the chairman to take it up on the third day. 01:21:15 01:21:17 01:21:20

Remember, all you chairmen in here, there are some bills that were filed on the first day that you didn't take up maybe until five weeks into the session because you had a lot of bills. We have two bills, folks -- two bills, Senators. 01:21:21 01:21:24 01:21:26 01:21:28 01:21:31

And why would we want to stifle debate on 01:21:36

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such an important issue by asking either one of them not to be referred to committee? If you believe the order is the order, and if you believe a bill doesn't conform with the order, then it's not going to matter anyway. But if it's a bill that was filed and possibly could take on amendments and be within the context of the order, let it be heard. Don't delay it for another day. 01:21:39 01:21:42 01:21:46 01:21:49 01:21:52 01:21:56 01:21:59 01:22:03

So I think we're -- we're starting off on the wrong foot. Senator Boudreaux suggested that. I think we need to hit the reset button. And I'm going to remind you that -- you know, I love Senator Fields. He is passionate about this issue -- as passionate as anybody in this room. What he did by objecting to that motion was to stop discussion of a second bill. 01:22:05 01:22:08 01:22:10 01:22:14 01:22:18 01:22:21 01:22:26 01:22:30

So when we talk about when we lose, we want -- we don't -- we want to take our ball and go home. Senator fields, I'm going to ask you -- let's hear both of the bills. I'm giving you all day to hear it. I'm giving Senator Hewitt as long as we can. We are going to set the date to return to 01:22:32 01:22:35 01:22:37 01:22:41 01:22:44 01:22:47

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session as far away from the committee hearing beginning so that all of the debate can be heard and -- and as many people as possible can come. 01:22:49 01:22:53 01:22:55

We have, you all know, very little chance of passing a bill if we let them lie over tomorrow only to refer them both tomorrow only to have them heard on Friday. 01:22:58 01:23:02 01:23:07 01:23:11

So to Senator Boudreaux's point, I'm going to press the reset button, and I'm going to make a motion that both Senate Bill 1 and 2 -- that we suspend the rules to allow both Senate Bill 1 and 2 simply to be referred to the Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs. And that's my motion. 01:23:12 01:23:15 01:23:16 01:23:21 01:23:24 01:23:27

SENATOR TALBOT: Thank you. We have a motion to report Senate Bill 1 and 2 -- to refer 1 and 2 to suspend the rules to refer them to -- to committee. 01:23:31 01:23:32 01:23:36 01:23:41

Is there any objection? 01:23:41

Senator Fields, do you want to state your objection? 01:23:43 01:23:44

SENATOR FIELDS: Mr. Chair, I -- I've been asked to bifurcate the motion, and I would be happy 01:24:02 01:24:03

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to do that. I'm going to -- I'm going to make the first motion to suspend the rules to allow Senate Bill 1 to be heard -- to be referred -- excuse me -- to Senate & Governmental Affairs. That's the first motion. 01:24:06 01:24:09 01:24:13 01:24:16 01:24:18

The second motion will be -- and I know you need to dispose of the first one before. The second one will be to suspend the rules to allow Senate Bill 2 to be referred to Senate & Governmental Affairs -- to suspend the rules to allow it. 01:24:19 01:24:22 01:24:23 01:24:25 01:24:28

SENATOR TALBOT: Okay. So we have a motion to suspend the rules to refer Senate Bill 1 to the Committee of Governmental Affairs. 01:24:32 01:24:32 01:24:37

Any objection? Seeing no objection, the motion is adopted. 01:24:44 01:24:46

We now I have a motion by Senator Cortez to report Senate Bill 2 -- Refer Senate Bill 2 to the Committee on Governmental Affairs. 01:24:48 01:24:50 01:24:54

Is there an objection? Seeing no objection, the motion is adopted. You want to state your -- I'm sorry. There is an objection. 01:24:55 01:24:57 01:25:03

Senator Fields, state your objection. No? 01:25:05

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Okay. We have an objection; so the secretary will call the roll, a vote when the machines are open. A vote yes is to refer the bill to Senate & Governmental Affairs. A vote no is not to refer. The secretary will open the machine. 01:25:10 01:25:13 01:25:16 01:25:22 01:25:25

Secretary, close the machine. 01:25:36

21 yeas, 9 nays. The motion is adopted. 01:25:37

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: The bill has been referred. 01:25:49 01:25:50

Senator Hewitt? 01:26:11

SECRETARY DIXON: Senator Hewitt now moves for suspension of the rules for the purpose of allowing the Senate Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs to meet without the required 1:00 p.m. posted notice tomorrow. 01:26:57 01:26:59 01:27:02 01:27:04 01:27:07

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Is there any objection? Seeing no objection, the motion is adopted. All right. Announcements. 01:27:10 01:27:13 01:27:19

Senator Hewitt? 01:27:31

SENATOR HEWITT: All right, Members, Senate Governmental Affairs will meet tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Hainkel Room. 01:27:47 01:27:47 01:27:49

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PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator price? 01:27:54

SENATOR PRICE: I had a point. The bill 01:27:55

still has not been posted. I refreshed my screen. 01:27:59

It's not there. I don't know. 01:28:03

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: You're under second 01:28:12

extraordinary session? 01:28:13

SENATOR PRICE: Yes. I'll look at it 01:28:14

again. 01:28:30

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Senator Price, do you 01:28:30

have it? All right. Any other announcements? 01:28:31

Senator Talbot for a motion. 01:28:47

SENATOR TALBOT: Thank you, Mr. President. 01:28:52

I'm going to make a motion that we adjourn and 01:28:53

convene tomorrow, Thursday, June 16th, at 4:00 p.m. 01:28:54

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Without objection. 01:28:57

(No audio from 01:28:51 to 01:29:49)

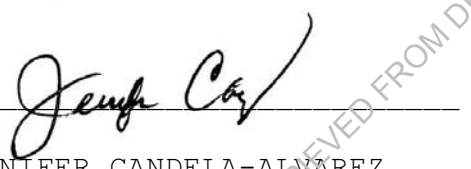
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Exhibit F

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA SENATE CHAMBER

REDISTRICTING

JUNE 16, 2022

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Job No.: 453461

Pages: 1 - 17

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

SEN. CORTEZ: Senate will come to order. Secretary, open the machines for roll call. Vote your machines.

Senator Abraham is here. Oh. Senator Milligan is here. Close the machines.

Twenty-six members and a core of members today. We're going to be open in prayer by Senator Mark Abraham and he -- then he will lead us in the pledge.

SEN. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. President.

When Beth asked me about 45 minutes ago to do the prayer, I -- this is what came to my mind, one of my favorite scriptures. I'm sure y'all have heard of the prayer of Jabez. It's -- maybe y'all have, maybe not. It's found in First Chronicles 4.

And basically, Chronicles is a genealogy, and you get tired of reading it. Someone begets someone begets someone. It's on and on and on.

Right smack dab in the middle of those genealogies was Jabez. And Jabez asked God, will you bless me indeed, will you enlarge my territory, will you guide me with your hand upon me, and will you keep

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me from evil and harm? And God said, and he granted Jabez's request. And then it goes on to the genealogies.

It was so important to me that that was just -- just sliced right into that scripture. And so I think at this -- this time, with all what's going on and the contentiousness that we might have in this body and the body across the hall, I think we need to be blessed indeed. So let us pray.

Lord, we do look to you for wisdom. We ask that you bless this body indeed, that you enlarge our territory, Lord, beyond on parochial mindset, and that you will really put your hand on us and that -- and keep us from harming each other. Keep us from saying things and doing things that really put harm in this body.

Lord, we ask that you grant this request for this body and the body across the hall. And we know that you have your hand on this proceeding.

We ask that you bless it. We ask that you give us supernatural wisdom. We ask that you give us kindness and love and -- and thoughtfulness as we go

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through this process.

We ask these things in your name. Amen.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the Unites States of America and to the republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SEN. CORTEZ: The reading of the journal.

MS. DIXON: Official journal of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, Wednesday --

SEN. CORTEZ: And the buoy moves to suspend -- dispense with the reading of the journal. Without objection, so ordered.

MS. DIXON: Introduction of Senate bill. Senate bill three by Senator Ward. Senator Ward now moves for a suspension of the rules for the purpose of reading the bill. Just introduce for the first and second time and referring it to committee.

SEN. CORTEZ: Just a second, Madam Secretary. Senator Fields, you have a point of order?

SEN. FIELDS: Mr. President, I assume that this bill is -- does this bill create -- is this bill in compliance with the court order? And does it create

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two majority of like districts?

SEN. CORTEZ: From my understand from -- understanding from my conversation with the authors is that it does, but I can ask Senator Ward to come down and confirm that. Senator Ward? The question is does it -- does your map create two majority black districts?

SEN. WARD: Yes, Mr. President. Yes, Senator Fields, it does.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Very good. Is there any objection to suspending the rules to read it on first and second and refer it to committee? Seeing no objection, the rules have been suspended.

MS. DIXON: Senator Bill 3 by Senator Ward. It's an enactment to title 18 and to repeal subsection B of section five of act five of the 2022 first extraordinary session relative to congressional districts to provide further redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts. Refer to the committee on Senate and governmental affairs.

SEN. CORTEZ: Announcements. Yeah. Senator Luneau, you -- you have a point of order?

SEN. LUNEAU: I do.

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SEN. CORTEZ: State your point.

SEN. LUNEAU: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I want to make a motion this morning to discharge -- not to discharge but for the -- to order the Senate of governmental affairs committee to report SB1 without action. The reason for this is because this is a bill that we can debate on the floor and that we have time to do that now if we -- if we take this action today to get this -- get this bill out and moving.

As everyone here knows, we're on a time shortage here. We have a short fuse to deal with, and this would be a method by which we could do that.

So I would make that motion now, Mr. President.

SEN. CORTEZ: All right. Sen- -- Senator Luneau's made a -- a motion to require the Senate of governmental affairs committee to report Senate Bill 1 without action. Is there an objection?

Senator Hewitt, state your objection.

SEN. HEWITT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President.

We had a five-hour hearing today in committee

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hearing Senate Bill 1 and we adopted an amendment to help make the bill better. We plan to hear this bill tomorrow again. We -- I mean, we've debated it, for the most part. We will consider it tomorrow, along with Senator Ward's bill.

And my expectation is is that we will take it -- be pre- -- prepared to take action on that bill tomorrow. So I don't see any reason at this point to discharge the committee or to require us, I should say, the motion to require us to report the bill in a particular way.

Allow the committee to do its work, and we have done our work. We spent all day today debating this bill and hearing this bill. Give us an opportunity to finish our job tomorrow as -- as we have planned.

So I object to this motion. And I am not going to support this.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Senator Luneau, you have a right to close on your motion.

SEN. LUNEAU: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, the reason I bring this motion is because this is an extraordinary circumstance. Normally, I would be

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the first person that would come to this mic and say let the committee do their job.

We don't have time to do that. This may, in fact, seal the deal and make it where we cannot pass a bill. If we do this today, it will give us all an opportunity to debate here on the floor each and every one of us, and we can do the same thing.

We have debated this exact bill time and time and time again. We can certainly talk about amendments that came up in committee today here on the floor this afternoon. We entertain multiple page amendments on the floor constantly during sessions. There's absolutely no reason other than to delay that we could not do that today.

I would ask for your favorable support.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Luneau, your motion was to direct the committee to report without action the bill. You didn't give a time with which to do it. And I'm -- I'm not sure if the motion -- the motion is certainly in order.

I'm not sure the motion gives a clear directive -- I'm going -- I'm going to use that word. I

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don't know if it's appropriate. Directive to the committee. And remember the -- the -- the committee -- committees, not unlike your committee, meet at the pleasure of the call of the chairman or chairwoman.

So with that, I -- I just want to make sure the members know what is the motion on the floor. You -- would you like to --

SEN. LUNEAU: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. President. Members, the motion would be for that to be done right now so that we can -- we can debate that bill on the floor this afternoon.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. So that clarifies it. Senator Milligan, you have an objection. Do you want to state anything? Or you just -- okay.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Members, that bill, just like in the previous redistricting session, was amended. It was amended to change the precincts, the parishes within that bill.

The -- the -- the public still has a right to come tomorrow and testify. Those folks -- we made a change in LaSalle Parish. Those po- -- those folks have the right to come tomorrow to testify that they're not

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in support of that. That they don't like their parish being split.

For us to do it here on the floor, we take that away from them. And I suspect people are coming tomorrow. So for that reason, I object.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Luneau.

SEN. LUNEAU: Thank you, Mr. President. With all due respect, senator, I understand that better than most. My parish has been carved up and chopped up innumerable times. My district has done the same thing.

It suffers that fate now in the current bill. But I also understand that we have a mandate to do the right thing, and that's what I'm trying to do is to give us an opportunity to debate this, not let the clock run out because the clock is a powerful thing. We can't stop it. But we can give everybody the right to debate this.

We could put it off for another year and let people come and give their concerns. I know. I got those calls today.

But the fact of the matter is, the time is now. We need to do the right thing. Again, move

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favorable passage.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Luneau has offered up a motion to require the Senate governmental affairs committee to report today Senate Bill 1 without action. All those in favor of requiring them to report -- Senator Peacock, did you have a point of -- corr- -- correct. Only -- only senators are -- are voting. Yes.

So a vote yea would be to re- -- require the Senate governmental affairs committee to report Senate Bill 1 without action today. A vote no would be not to require them.

When the machines are open, all those in favor will vote yea. Those opposed, vote nay. And the secretary will open the motions.

Senator Jackson, yes. Senator Jackson was a yes. You through voting? Close machine.

Nine yeas and 18 nays. And the motion fails to carry.

Senator Ward, would you like personal privilege?

SEN. WARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I did not expect to be back here. I know most of you

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didn't either.

But once the order came down from the court, I felt like I had an obligation to be here. I had not resigned yet. My letter had not been sent in. That was in the works.

But since I had not, I felt my duty was to come and try and carry out the duty and adhere as best we could to the order given by the judge.

Now, I want to read to you one of the last paragraphs of it. It says the appropriate remedy in this context is remedial congressional redistricting plan. That includes any additional majority black congre- -- and additional majority black congressional district.

The United States Supreme Court instructs the legislature should have the first opportunity to start to draw a new plan or to draw that plan. Therefore, the court orders that the Louisiana legislature enact a remedial plan on -- on or before June 20, 2022.

If the legislature is unable to pass remedial plan by that date, the court will issue an additional order to enact remedial complaint with the laws of the

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constitution of the United States. And it goes on from there.

I read that to you for a couple of different reasons. One of them is I think we do have an obligation to try and do two things. Number one is to draw a map or a set of maps that has two minority -- majority districts. Or in the -- in the case of this order, two majority black congressional districts. That is what the order requested that -- or ordered us to attempt to do.

Now, the second thing I want to point out to you, though, is this. If we don't and at -- at the end of it, it says if the legislature is unable to pass a remedial plan, the court will issue an additional order.

So we need to put our best foot forward and we need to work as hard as we possibly can to make that happen. We're limited in time, no doubt about it. I think we've done ourselves a favor by being here daily every day possible and working. I think it would've been a mistake for us to have not done that.

But if we fail -- if we fail to do it, it's

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not the last step in the process. The court will issue an additional order and -- and we can go from there.

But I do feel like it was important for me to come up here and say that it's -- it's our obligation to continue to work hard to find a solution to what the judge or the courts have ordered us to do at this point.

So I look forward to working with all of you for another four days. And I really think if we -- if we do our best, we try and pull together, we can find a solution to what we failed to find a solution to not necessarily from the -- what the body has spoken to, but from what the court has -- has ordered for us to do at this point.

So we're going to -- we're going to work towards that. And I look forward to a healthy debate tomorrow in Senate governmental affairs.

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you, Senator Ward.

Okay. Members, announcements. Senator Hewitt.

SEN. HEWITT: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. Members, Senate governmental affairs

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committee will meet, as I said earlier, tomorrow at 1:00 in the Hainkel Room. Again, the idea behind that is to give -- the House and governmental affairs committee will meet at 10. So that gives the public an opportunity to participate in that hearing as well as our hearing later in the afternoon.

So we will start at one. We will hear Senator Fields's bill, SB1, and we will hear Senator Ward's bill, SB3.

And so I'll look forward to seeing you all there and ap- -- appreciate those of you that have had constituents from back in your districts come in and -- and participate in the process.

SEN. CORTEZ: Very good. Any other announcements? Okay. Senator Peacock for a motion.

Wait. Wait. Hold -- hold on Senator Peacock.

MS. DIXON: Senator Hewitt now moves for a suspension of the rules to allow the Senate and governmental affairs committee to meet without posting the agenda.

SEN. CORTEZ: Without objection. All right. Senator Peacock for a motion.

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SEN. PEACOCK: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I move we adjourn until Friday, June 17th at 5 p.m.

SEN. CORTEZ: Without objection.

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June 23, 2022

Chris Naaden

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Exhibit G

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Transcript of Louisiana Senate Chamber

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA SENATE CHAMBER

REDISTRICTING

JUNE 17, 2022

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Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 7

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

SEN. CORTEZ: Senate will come to order. 00:00:04

Secretary, open the machines for roll call. Senator Bernard is here and Senator Cloud is here. Senator 00:00:05 00:00:09

Bouie's here, Senator Womack is here, Senator Boudreaux 00:00:12

is here. 00:00:16

Senator Jackson is here. Close the machines. 00:00:17

31 members in the quorum. Members, today we will be 00:00:22

opened up in prayer by Senator Heather Cloud and then 00:00:25

she will lead us in the pledge. Senator Cloud. 00:00:28

SEN. CLOUD: Thank you, Mr. President. There 00:00:31

is no doubt, members, that this is a difficult time for 00:00:34

our legislature, for our communities and for our state. 00:00:37

I know that there's differing opinions and 00:00:40

disagreements and concerns and we're all working 00:00:42

through the process. 00:00:45

But what has been apparent to me, and I know 00:00:46

it's been apparent to you, is that our love for one 00:00:48

another has remained. Black, white, Democrat, 00:00:51

Republican, female, male, we all in this body know each 00:00:54

other's heart. 00:00:58

We feel each other's struggles, and I know 00:00:59

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that when it's all said and done, because we choose it, that love will remain. My prayer today is the lyrics to one of my favorite worship songs and I pray that it soothes our weary hearts in the days and hours to come. 00:01:01 00:01:04 00:01:08 00:01:11

Dear Lord, in the eye of the storm, you remain in control and in the middle of the struggle, you guard our souls. You alone are the anchor when our sails are torn. Your love surrounds us in the eye of the storm. 00:01:15 00:01:19 00:01:23 00:01:27

And when the tears of pain and heartache are pouring down our face, we find our peace in Jesus' name. The Lord is our shepherd. We have all that we need. He lets us rest in green meadows and leads us beside peaceful streams. 00:01:32 00:01:34 00:01:38 00:01:41 00:01:44

He renews our strength. He guides us along right paths and he brings honor to his name. And even when we walk through the darkest valley, we will not be afraid because we know that you are close beside us. Thank you, Jesus. Amen. 00:01:46 00:01:49 00:01:53 00:01:57 00:02:01

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. 00:02:05 00:02:08 00:02:10 00:02:29

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SEN. CORTEZ: Reading in the journal. 00:02:29

MS. DIXON: Official journal of the Senate of the state of Louisiana. 00:02:37 00:02:39

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Foil moves to dispense of the reading of the journal without objection. So ordered. 00:02:40 00:02:42 00:02:50

MS. DIXON: Reports of committees. Report of the committee on Senate and governmental affairs. Senate Bill 3 reported without action. Respectfully submit, Sharon Hewitt, Chairman. Senator Ward now moves for a suspension of the rules for the purpose of advancing the report just read. 00:02:51 00:02:53 00:02:55 00:02:59 00:03:04 00:03:07

SEN. CORTEZ: Without objection. 00:03:11

MS. DIXON: Senate Bill 3 by Senator Ward is an act to amend Title 18 and to repeal Section 4 and Subsection B of Section 5 of Act 5 for the 2022 first extraordinary session of the legislature relative to congressional districts. 00:03:16 00:03:18 00:03:21 00:03:25 00:03:29

It comes from the committee reported without action. Senator Hewitt moves to withdraw the bill from the files of the Senate. 00:03:31 00:03:34 00:03:38

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Ward, do you have an 00:03:41

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objection? Come down and state your objection. 00:03:41

SEN. WARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, 00:03:50

we had a healthy debate in committee on this 00:03:52

instrument, Senate Bill 3. 00:03:55

If we are going to have an opportunity to pass 00:03:57

something between now and Monday, it is vitally 00:04:00

important that this bill does not get removed from the 00:04:04

files of the Senate. 00:04:07

So I move -- or I object to it being removed 00:04:08

from the files of the Senate and I ask you to vote with 00:04:11

me to move the bill to a third reading and final 00:04:15

passage. 00:04:20

SEN. CORTEZ: Yeah. Senator Ward has objected 00:04:21

to the removal of the bill from the files of the Senate 00:04:23

and has now moved that it be engrossed and moved to 00:04:26

third and final passage. 00:04:29

Is there any objection? Seeing no objection, 00:04:31

the bill will be engrossed and moved to third and final 00:04:34

passage. All right. Any announcements? Okay. So we need 00:04:41

a -- Senator Talbot? Senator Talbot for a motion. 00:04:49

SEN. TALBOT: Thank you, Mr. President. I make 00:04:58

a motion that we adjourn and convene tomorrow at 9:30, 00:04:59

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June 18th, Saturday. 00:05:04

SEN. CORTEZ: A.m. 00:05:08

SEN. TALBOT: A.m. A.m. 00:05:08

SEN. CORTEZ: Without objection. 00:05:09

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 6 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



_____

June 24, 2022

Chris Naaden

(453585, 7. Senate Chamber June 17)

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Exhibit H

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Transcript of Louisiana Senate Chamber - Part 1

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA SENATE CHAMBER

REDISTRICTING

JUNE 18, 2022

PART 1

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 90

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

SEN. CORTEZ: Senate will come to order. Secretary, open the machines for roll call. Senator Carter is here. Senator Lambert is here. Senator Price is here. Senator White is here. Senator Henry is here. Senator Jackson is here. Senator Barrow is here. Senator Boudreaux is here.

All right, close the machines. 34 members and quorum members today. Senator Cary Carter will open us up in prayer and then lead us in the pledge. Senator Carter --

SEN. CARTER: Thank you members. It's a great honor to -- to be able to deliver the prayer this morning, especially as we engage in such important work dealing with redistricting and I also want to remind everyone in a happy way that we are celebrating Juneteenth.

And as we're celebrating Juneteenth, I want to refer you all to the scripture in the book of Jeremiah, the 29th chapter and this is a letter it's described as his letter to the captives and these are the words of Jeremiah the prophet.

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This is Jeremiah 29 verse 1. Now, these are the words to the letter Jeremiah that the prophets sent from Jerusalem on to the residue of the elders, which were carried away captives and it continues.

Thus said the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel to all that were carried away captive, whom the Lord has caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon. These are his instructions. Build ye houses and dwell in them and plant gardens and eat the fruit thereof.

Take ye wives and beget sons and daughters and take wives for your sons and give daughters to your husbands that they may bear sons and daughters that ye may increase and not diminish.

And this is the part I really want us to focus on. And seek the peace in the city that I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray unto the Lord for it, for in its peace you shall have peace. Let us pray.

Thank you Father God for this wonderful opportunity to serve your state, to serve the people of this nation and in all of our communities and let all

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of our communities have peace and prosperity all across our state, all across our parishes, all across our nation.

Let us have peace and prosperity for the God and guide us as we lead this state and lead our people to that end. Bless us Father and your mighty son Jesus. And we thank you and we praise you. Amen.

ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SEN. CORTEZ: The reading of the journal.

CLERK: Official journal of the senate of the State of Louisiana Friday, June 3rd.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Bernard [inaudible] dispense with the reading of the journal without objection so order. Senator Milligan would you like personal privilege?

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you Mr. President and members. Yesterday, I got to slip away for a special event. Yesterday morning at 9 a.m. my second granddaughter was born Miss Abigail Jean Oliver to my

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daughter, Madison and her husband, Clint and my 2-year-old granddaughter and big sister, Miss Ellawe.

She was born yesterday at 9:11, 6 pounds 13 ounces, 19-1/2 inches and she is absolutely beautiful. And so, I missed our struggles here and -- and somewhat tough days, hard days, and it was a very bright light yesterday for me and I --

I just wanted to share with all of you guys and wish mom and dad well. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

SEN. CORTEZ: Congratulations.

CLERK: Senate bills on third reading and final passage, senate bill 3 by Senator Ward is an [inaudible] title 18 and to repeal section 4 and subsection B of section 5 of act 5 of the 2022 first extraordinary session of the legislature relative to congressional districts.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Ward are you -- you prepared? Senator Fields you have a point of order.

SEN. FIELDS: Mr. President, my point of order is -- and I thank you for recognizing me. Before we discuss this very important piece of legislation and I

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thank the gentleman for introducing the bill, I just want to make sure that Mr. Ward is a member of the senate and my question is have you received any communication from Mr. Ward resigning from the Senate?

SEN. CORTEZ: I have not.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Ward, on your bill.

SEN. WARD: Thank you Mr. President. Members, we've been at all of this for quite some time. For this particular special session, it's only been a few days.

For those that have worked on redistricting, it's been a 9 or 10-month process, and it's something I was not heavily involved in, have not been heavily involved in, but for the few days that I have been, thank you for all the hard work that you've put into this topic, because it is not an easy one.

Over the years, I've always worked to try and build consensus around things as best as I possibly can, a lot of times trying to take on issues that were maybe something where groups were in different corners and trying to pull people together.

I can tell you that out of all the different

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things I've worked on, this is by far the most difficult one that I've ever -- ever tried to work on.

But where we are currently, is this and I know I've started with this every time I've spoken on this bill, whether it was whenever we were introducing it into the files of the senate or whenever I was getting ready to start my presentation in the committee yesterday.

We're here because of an order from the judge, a federal judge that called us back here for the purpose of remedial congressional redistricting plan that includes an additional majority black congressional district. That's why we're here. That's what we're here to do.

And so, of all the different plans that I've looked at over the last few months I felt like they were all very similar and one of the reasons for that is because it is not an easy task the way our population is in terms of how it lays out.

It can be a difficult thing to achieve for a number of reasons and, in particular, more so for congressional seats than legislative seats, the

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variation or the deviation, I should say, has to be much closer and so when you -- when you factor in all the delegations we have around the state and the way the population structure, it becomes a difficult task.

So, I wanted to try and give us an attempt at building consensus around something that quite frankly looked different than most anything we've seen so far. And this is what we've come up with at this point.

So, I'm going -- I'm going to go down and read the bill briefly and then I'll -- I'll be happy to answer your questions as the light is already lit up. But the focal point of the bill in particular was really District 2 and District 6.

District 2 has a black population of 52.097 and a white and other population of 47.9. Now that would -- that would be where current congressman Troy Carter currently resides and would continue to -- to represent.

District 6 is 51.95 percent black population and the white and other is 48.047 percent. Now the reason I start off by talking about those two in particular is one of the things that this map does is

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the 6th district does not displace a sitting congress person.

What it does, it creates a district, a second majority black district that does not turn -- someone who's already serving does not change their district into that.

So, what we have is the only two districts where a sitting congress person is not included in another person's or would have to make a choice of who they're going to run against would be District 1 and that's Congressman Scalise and District 2 and that's Congressman Carter.

So, whether be in District 5, District 4, or District 3, depending on how those would shape up as we move this forward there may be a choice between a congressman or congresswoman whether or not they were going to have to run against or end up in the same district.

So, that's the focus of the bill. Of course, there's many, many more details to all the other districts, but before we get into any sort of amendments or anything I really would like to answer

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questions about the bill as it sits right now. And Mr. President, I do see a question.

SEN. CORTEZ: Question on the bill, Senator Robert Mills.

SEN. MILLS: Thank you for your work on this Senator Ward and my interest is in going back and just trying to understand what we're trying to do and in Caddo, Bossier, Webster, DeSoto, Red River, and that is a community that is very similar in nature all the way up and down.

It's really the heart of northwest Louisiana. Your -- your map is disruptive to that area as far as I'm concerned. We've got similar communities and cities. We got employees that travel throughout the area for their employment.

Shreveport, the city of, Barksdale Air Force Base and Camp Minden are all connected and rely on each other and must be protected and splitting that area with congressional districts is not desirable.

Would you entertain an amendment that would just move in between congressional districts 4 and 5 only, not touching 6, not touching 3. Would you

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entertain an amendment that I would offer to consolidate Caddo, Bossier, Webster, DeSoto, Red River, a small section of Bienville with the rest of the congressional District 4 and allow us to maintain the distinct lines with the congressional representation that we've enjoyed in the past.

SEN. WARD: Senator Mills, look I -- and I stated this yesterday in committee. Really my -- my purpose of being very adamant that we have something on the floor to debate is that we try and build consensus around it.

I'm certainly willing to look at that amendment that you offer up and see if it's something that will help us reach a point that allows us to build consensus around something and keep this process moving. So, if throughout the day you offer that amendment, I'll certainly be happy to entertain it.

SEN. MILLS: Thank you and I would like to offer that amendment and I've spoken with Senator Peacock and Senator Milligan and we really -- we might have some minor differences between us, but we really think that it's in the best interest of our

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constituency in northwest Louisiana and I offer amendment that has been drafted.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Mills, if I can interrupt you for a second. We have a large number of people that want to question the bill. We also have a large number of amendments that are going to be offered as is the tradition.

The first amendments that are offered are the author's amendments and then we go in order as they were filed. So, you can ask your questions, but we're not prepared at this time to start taking up amendments, but we will get you back up with it when the amendments start to get offered.

SEN. WARD: And Senator Mills, I'm not trying to play coy with you. The difficulty in handling these things is this. We could -- I could just blindly accept your amendment and it may satisfy your delegation and everybody up there would be happy, what I have to be able to pull back and look at is what does it do to the rest of the state and -- and all those sorts of things.

So, that's why I say I'm certainly happy to entertain any amendment that will help us -- help us

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move this process forward and in particular keep the conversation going, but we're going to at some point have to look at them all holistically in order to see how they work together.

SEN. MILLS: That's fine and I understand that. And entertaining would definitely improve the attitudes of Senator Peacock and Senator Milligan as well as myself. Thank you very much.

SEN. WARD: Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator White for a question on the bill.

SEN. WARD: It's a lot of paper.

SEN. WHITE: A lot paper. A lot of questions. I just wanted to establish, you still are Senator Ward, right?

SEN. WARD: Unless somebody sent a letter in on my behalf, I am.

SEN. WHITE: All right, wanted to get that clear. Looking at the new districts on the state map, it's a great deal different from what this body sent out by 230 votes. Is that true?

SEN. WARD: That is true. It's much different

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than what we passed a few months ago.

SEN. WHITE: So, this map, the only deliberation we'll get on it is one or two days or maybe three days as I see.

SEN. WARD: That's correct. It's a -- we're -- we're tight on time so we're just doing the best we can in terms of transparency and running this process the best we can.

SEN. WHITE: Did you go all over the state like you did on a previous map and get input from the locals and everybody like some of the meetings I went to that you were there.

SEN. WARD: I did not. I did not.

SEN. WHITE: Okay. I guess I'll just kind of cut to the metro area then where I live. As you see that area right there, that white area or gray, whatever it is, light gray --

SEN. WARD: Yeah.

SEN. WHITE: On the west side, the Comite River, that's central. And it comes down and it goes into St. George area, and then St. George area is the south part of the parish above section from the Amite

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River to the Mississippi River.

It looks to me it's cut in two or three pieces. It looks like it has part of three, part of the new District 6, maybe just those two. But East Baton Rouge Parish, it has part of 6, part of Scalise. What's Scalise, 1? And part of [inaudible] 3.

So, it's cut in three parishes and some people say you know that's good, you got three senators, but if you look at the population where this is, I mean there's no representation of maybe 150,000 in the new district, maybe 40,000 in Scalise and maybe 50,000-100,000 in number 3, so that's less power for the greater Baton Rouge area, the most populated area, the capital city.

There's -- I mean if you're a senator you really with 600,000 you would have to pay a lot of attention to anybody in this district. Would you say that's possible?

SEN. WARD: I certainly understand that point. I looked at all that and I -- I guess for myself I represent an area and I said this yesterday in committee, out of the nine parishes I represent, six of

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them are represented by multiple congressmen.

Very similar to my senate district, it is also broken up. Out of the nine parishes, only two of the parishes I have are whole and complete parishes. So, it does make it difficult and I understand that, but it was just a byproduct of trying to draw something that it suited the needs of what we're trying to do here.

SEN. WHITE: Well, I thank you for that response, but I still have -- I pointed out and I still have great concerns about the representation of the whole east Baton Rouge Parish. We would not have a congressman that had a great deal of population in East Baton Rouge Parish; therefore, they wouldn't have to give us a lot of attention if they didn't want to. They're biggest votes in other parts of the state.

SEN. WARD: And I understand that. Your concern is that being sort of the tail end of any particular district could leave you where your feeling like the whole parish may not have much of any representation, and I do understand that concern.

SEN. CORTEZ: Yeah.

SEN. WHITE: And I -- I bring that point for

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this reason in my senate -- senate district goes to Tangipahoa Parish and I represent Hammond and Ponchatoula and some unincorporated areas.

Where Hammond and Ponchatoula are very, they fight, they're jealous of each other, but the one commonality that both of them have, they hate Baton Rouge because they think Baton Rouge gets too much.

So, for that reason, I think that you've left East Baton Rouge Parish out to where any areas of the state that's jealous of East Baton Rouge Parish, us congressman don't have to pay us any attention.

SEN. WARD: And -- and I understand that Senator White and I'm -- I'm willing to entertain any -- any changes you may have where we can try and make this work, but put that in a better posture that you see that's better.

SEN. WHITE: Okay, thank you Senator.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator Talbot for question on the bill.

SEN. TALBOT: How are you doing Senator? And I won't belabor the point. I guess I'm going to kind of echo what -- what Senator Mills said. It looks like

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I've got to get into the amendment room as well.

My concern is we have in this -- in this bill Kenner, the city of Kenner, which is, you know north of Kenner especially, you know very conservative area, is now in District 2, and I guess my -- you know that's a big community of interest.

Really, the whole East Jefferson of Jefferson Parish on the East Bank except for maybe the Southwest part, which is South Kenner, which has always been in that other congressional district.

So, that's my concern and -- and you know I can't speak for my Orleans counterparts, but we have, you know, Lakeview, Mid-City and parts of uptown in District 1 and it would seem like it would make sense to swap that out with North Kenner.

So, I just wanted -- and I appreciate what you're doing, which is a very difficult thing, and I won't waste your time up here, but I'll say it looks I have to go to the amendment room as well because of my concerns about breaking up this community of interest, so I just wanted to point that out to you.

SEN. WARD: And look, once again, I appreciate

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that. I'm willing to take a look at anything that someone provides me that will not only solve their issues, but also keep this in a posture where it doesn't disrupt the map holistically.

Because as you know whenever you change a precinct here or a precinct there, it has a ripple effect around the state in terms of numbers, so I'm willing to take all of it into account and see if we can make it work. That's really my goal today.

SEN. TALBOT: Okay. I appreciate that, and I will get on that in the amendment room. Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator Cloud for a question.

SEN. CLOUD: Thank you Mr. President. Senator Ward, looking at your version of -- of the map, do you realize in Evangeline Parish, which I represent, that you have very distinctively created outliers?

There is a finger and there's been other versions of -- of this effort, that has taken a section of my home parish, of Evangeline Parish and extracted out populations just to -- to get the numbers right and it's in order -- in an effort of trying to get the

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numbers right to create a certain district, we're creating an outlier.

We're creating communities that are -- that are going to be disadvantaged, competing with the attention and the time from a congressman that represents East Baton Rouge Parish, West Baton Rouge Parish, West Feliciana, St. Helena, and then you have these few little precincts and Evangeline Parish that are going to be competing, especially we've all been through with COVID, we've been through the -- all these natural disasters.

That's really the time that you need your congressperson to pick up the phone. How -- I mean could you -- do you realize that what a disadvantage -- I mean you're -- you're a senator, what a disadvantage it puts these few precincts and -- and these elected officials in, in trying to get surfaces and dollars and assistance, especially in times of great need?

SEN. WARD: So, look, I am aware that -- that it breaks parishes and some cases even smaller and tighter than that. From my perspective, we had a goal or I had a goal to try and draw a map that abided by

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the order that came down from the judge and I was not as concerned about that particular point because, as I referenced earlier, I represent nine parishes, seven of which are only pieces of parishes.

And so, I've always tried to make is a point whether I represent 1,200 people from one parish or the entire parish, I try and represent them just the same. But I do understand that concern because I remember the first time I ran and you go to some of those places where you only represent one small corner and the first thing that most people say is well, you know, please don't forget about us, we know you're -- we know we're -- you know 3 percent of your entire district, so please represent us.

And so, I do know that that's an issue for people. I think that it is a very difficult task to try and draw a map that does what we're trying to do here without creating some outliers around the state.

The question is really where are those outliers going to be and I have several of those same sort of fingers in and around the area I represent, so I absolutely understand -- understand that point.

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SEN. CLOUD: It appears to me that you know in trying to identify communities of interest and they're sort of like population harvesting going on to try to meet those numbers, we're losing focus on what is in the best interest of these communities and I know -- I know because I've so served in local government in a very rural area and how hard it is to have your voice heard and even moreso in this situation where a very, very rural disadvantaged area is going to be competing with some very populated areas and their voice is going to be lost in the mix.

And I don't -- I don't think that that's fair to them. Avoyelles Parish in your version of the map 2 was taken out and -- and put in this congressional District 6 and I can tell you I've traveled frequently all over Avoyelles Parish, there is very little that's similar in Avoyelles Parish with East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge culturally in every facet of life and the economics, the industries that are there, there's the similarities in Avoyelles Parish as compared to the rest of the district are vastly different.

And then, just quite simply as a female -- as

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a female, how many females Senator Ward, do we have elected in congress right now?

SEN. WARD: Just one.

SEN. CLOUD: One. We have one female. And I'm so proud that we have Congresswoman Julia Letlow. We are putting -- we are setting up the potential, a high potential of losing the only female that we have elected to congress in trying to solve this problem.

We may end up without having any female representation in congress, because finally, we have a female serving. She's there. She just got there and now we're setting her up for potential failure and inability to be re-elected.

SEN. WARD: Sure. And look and I understand that. My goal was not to hurt or protect any sitting congressperson. That was not part of what I was trying to do. I was simply trying to give us a different look, something new to look at regardless of who was serving where and I'm just being honest about that.

I did not get their input. I don't know what they feel about this. Every single sitting congressperson may hate this; one or two of them may

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love it. I have no idea, but it was -- it was simply just to try and give us something new to look at.

SEN. CLOUD: And I'm not speaking, you know, to a person with a name, I'm speaking to the female representation, right? We're going to -- where there's a potential of losing all female representation in congress by doing this. Yes.

Well, I too want to visit more on changes that need to be made. My people in Evangeline Parish, my people in Avoyelles Parish are very, very, very upset. My phone has been ringing off the hook over the last few days.

Many of them -- our police jury president actually in Evangeline Parish sent over an email. He was alerted late in the game about these -- these maps and what was going on with this process and he has come and participated in testimony for years as a long serving, a longtime police jury member and because of how rapid, how quick, how tight the timeline is, my people have not had the time to mobilize, take off of work, get down here and participate in this process.

This democratic process and they're very, very

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upset with this legislature and quite frankly this order.

SEN. WARD: And I understand that and look, they can -- I don't if there -- there probably won't be time for public testimony in the federal court system on all of this, but my thought on that is we do have an opportunity to try and do something throughout the democrat or with the democratic process this way if we don't take advantage of that.

They will absolutely have no say if a court redraws it, and so -- and which is the next step, so this is just one step in the process. But at least in this matter or in this fashion we do give some opportunity for our constituent's voice to be heard.

SEN. CLOUD: Well, my constituent's voices have not been heard and they want the opportunity and they cannot come and stand on this floor and testify, but here we are.

SEN. WARD: I know.

SEN. CLOUD: Thank you.

SEN. WARD: Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Allain for a question.

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Senator Allain, question.

SEN. ALLAIN: Yeah, I work much better with visual aids, so I brought a map. So, in drawing the third district, you know I appreciate that St. Mary and [inaudible] some of my whole parishes were for left whole, but when we talk about continuity of interest, you're literally looping in New Orleans.

So, this entire area we agree is -- is mainly agricultural. I mean you have some offshore interests and oil and gas interest in -- in lower Lafourche and Terrebonne, but mainly this is -- this is a rural area.

We've always been included with Lafayette, which I consider to be part of the region and somewhat -- and somewhat agricultural because there is a lot of ag around there. But you're looping us in with New Orleans.

I mean do you know how much acreage of sugarcane is in New Orleans?

SEN. WARD: Probably not a whole lot, but I bet they buy a lot of sugar.

SEN. ALLAIN: They -- they do buy a lot of sugar. But my concern is as I look at this map, the

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rural and the urban areas are somewhat being thrown together. You know, I mean, we've always been able to draw districts that -- that was a clear understanding of who and what that congressman represented and the rural areas were pretty well had leadership or a congressman that -- that would take on their issues because they knew.

With this, I mean we're -- we're, you know, St. Bernard, Orleans, Plaquemine has -- has very little agriculture. They do have fishing and that kind of thing, but I mean it's -- it's very dissimilar.

And I did recognize that gentleman, Mr. Mills, brought to argument about the north Louisiana and -- and I think I've talked a little bit to -- to Barrow Peacock about the problems they -- they have in north Louisiana.

I have the same problems, but the quagmire is going to be if you fix his, you can't fix mine; if you fix mine, you can't fix his. I mean I know we both have amendments that -- that are going to be coming up, but it's going to be tough to come to a consensus really with any of these maps. Don't you agree?

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SEN. WARD: Look, I think that's what I stated when we started with this. The difficulty is if I fix your problem, it creates problem over here; if I fix this person's problem, it creates a problem for me.

We all represent different regions of the state and so it is a very difficult thing to try and satisfy everybody. We don't even have to satisfy everybody to satisfy 20 people and -- and put something in the place where we consider -- consider having a consensus and a way that we can move forward with a new map.

But that is what I'm trying to do here and so I understand that people are going to try and fix their problems. I'm willing to look at all of them to see how they -- how we can mesh them together and make this work.

SEN. ALLAIN: I appreciate that. And particularly in my area, I see that Lafayette and St. Barton is split. I -- I know that's a problem. Lafayette has been put in the fourth district and separated from my geographic area, Iberia and n St. Mary, which is, I don't think has ever happened before.

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Maybe back [inaudible] that it did happen, but I -- you know it's -- it's there, and I know you and I have spoken offline that -- that there are many, many problems and -- and I just don't know how we come to a consensus with even 20 people in the short amount of time we were given.

And that's -- that's the problem. If we, you know, if maybe we had more than five days or six days at the deadline that we have right here, but I do have an amendment coming and I know already after seeing the other maps, I know they're not all going to jive, so I don't know if we -- if we, you know how we -- how we coordinate all of these together.

I -- I guess we'll take a little break and -- and see if any of it makes sense, but it's -- I don't see how we solve one problem without creating another.

SEN. WARD: And I -- I understand that. I don't disagree. What -- what I think we do -- we're going to have to do is -- is take a look -- look at the amendments as they come and if -- if some get on and some don't, ultimately we're going to have to put them all together and see what -- what the final product of

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that looks like and see if it keeps us in a posture of a map that stays in line with the -- with the court order and something that builds enough of a consensus for us to keep moving forward.

SEN. ALLAIN: And listen, I want to I want to make this statement that I -- I do appreciate your effort of you at least making an attempt. I think it's a -- it's a good try at where we're going. I just -- I'm hoping that there's a formula in there that -- that at the end of the day works, but right now I have my doubts, but thank you for trying [inaudible].

SEN. WARD: Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Lambert for a question on the bill.

SEN. LAMBERT: Senator Ward, I'm kind of looking over this and it looks like we've got to have populations in each one of these districts of about 776,200 people, give or take a few. Is that right?

SEN. WARD: Yeah, that's correct.

SEN. LAMBERT: And out of that we've got to try to reach some kind of racial balances and so forth. All right? And I understand this appears to be a pretty

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monumental task now that I'm looking at this and really looking at in detail, but you know I have a concern that I'm looking at District 3, which looks like I live in that now, where I used to be in District 6.

District 3 goes from EBR to St. Bernard, then all the way across the coast of Louisiana to the Texas line. And if I'm looking at communities of interest and issues, I just don't see where there's a whole lot of the same interest in this community.

And I'm going to tell you what really brings me to mind is in the Baton Rouge area, we've had a lot of problems in 2016 with flooding, the EBR, Livingston, Ascension, St. James area and even Iberville really have the Amite River Basin Commission. We've had that issue.

This map completely divides that district up. Wouldn't you agree?

SEN. WARD: Yes, I do see what you're talking about and where that basin would go through two part of 3 and parts of 6, so I mean, yes, I do understand the concern there.

SEN. ALLAIN: And that's what I have a problem

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with and I'm looking at this. I mean I look at the state as different regions have different issues. And what we're doing now is, now I don't know if Congressman Graves lives in District 3 or he lives in District 6 or where, but I mean he's familiar with these issues, worked, you know with us, the local delegations to get funding for these areas.

Now, what you're doing is with this map, it basically throws that to the wind. I mean we now have a situation where we would have to deal with possibly two new congressmen, who are not going to be familiar with this area, much less some of the other things that we have like -- I'm looking like Prairieville and Baton Rouge doesn't have a whole lot in common with the issues in Vermilion Parish.

SEN. WARD: Look, I understand that. I think -- I think what you're dealing with here is I was simply trying to give us something different look at and what we have so far. Most of the maps are very similar with the populations tweaked here and there to try and reach different goals.

This tries to reach a goal of complying with

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the judge's court order, but in a completely different way because up until this point, we have not been able to build a consensus around anything that does comply with that order that looked in a similar way to what all the other maps have looked at. So, this is just a different look to give us another opportunity to try and make that happen.

SEN. ALLAIN: And look, I want to applaud you for this, but I mean looking at this and I think a couple other people, this is a monumental task and it's something that's not going to be easily done because of the difference in the communities -- I'm going to call it communities of interest, seems to be the buzzword.

Because different regions of the state have different issues and I know as far as I'm looking at in District 3, a lot of our issues are not the same as in Vermilion, Cameron, and I just don't know how we can have effective legislation in congress when we're divided up like this.

SEN. WARD: Again, I'm going to go back to the district [inaudible] or if I go from the Feliciana and St. Helena all the way down into lower St. Martin, so -

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- and everything in between, so I understand the task of representing different communities of interest. It is not an easy thing to do.

Whether congress is ever effective or not effective in passing legislation, I'm sure we could all debate that for a long time, but I would hope that regardless of where any of these people landed in terms of how far away or how new it would be to represent a group of people, they would -- they would do their best to try and represent them all.

It's not an easy thing to do. You represent a group of people that, you know most of their livelihood is timber and things like that and you drive to the other end of you district and its craw fisherman, commercial fisherman and then while you're traveling from point A to point B you're passing through sugarcane and -- and everything else.

So, we're a diverse state and once you start traveling from parish to parish, it becomes increasingly hard to -- to put communities of interest together.

SEN. ALLAIN: Well, and I guess it does when

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you try to factor in other factors because I'm looking at this, it just doesn't appear as far as District 3 is concerned that we have those communities of interest. And I appreciate your efforts on it and I got to say this is a monumental task.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator Milligan for a question on the bill.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you Senator and I appreciate your work on this and -- and -- and trying to draw a map that we can all get behind. My question I guess looking at the new district is Barksdale Air Force Base. Is that still in 4 or has it been drawn in District 5?

SEN. WARD: As of now, it's in District 5. Once we get to the amendments, as I said yesterday in committee, my -- my first amendment as far as -- my only amendment will be to -- to fix that and I know staff has -- has already put that together in a way where it will not disrupt the numbers throughout the district, so we are going to -- to fix that problem in terms of making sure that those bases are in the same -- same district.

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SEN. MILLIGAN: And I do appreciate that. And I shared with you in committee yesterday and with the members of the committee and I'll share with the members here of just how strong we are militarily, but economically having those two in the fourth district.

I don't know that you know that the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act pledged a billion dollars in construction spending between Fort Polk, Camp Minden and Barksdale and so that's, to me, testimony of the strength of having those spaces all in one district.

And -- and certainly those bases in our -- in our state provide 9.6 billion in economic impact, 77,000 jobs and 350 million in taxes to our state locally as well.

So, my concern obviously is diluting our strength, but if your amendment's going to take care of that, I appreciate you altering that amendment and we'll see what that looks like.

SEN. WARD: Thank you Senator.

SEN. MILLIGAN: Thank you Senator.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Abraham for a question

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on the bill.

SEN. WARD: There's no more money for your bridge contained in this bill.

SEN. ABRAHAM: Well, I can vote for it if you can find me some money, that's what I wanted to publicly declare up -- no, look I'm not trying to pile on, just want to make a short, quick comment. Calcasieu Parish is where I live and Jeff Davis and Calcasieu are almost identical and you've split it right down the middle of big V and you take the Lake Charles area and parts of Jeff Davis and you move it to the north and you take everything else right in the middle of the parish and bring it to the south.

I mean you've split a major, major community of interest. I'm not going to offer an amendment, but I want just to give you the information so maybe you can do something and try to work it, because I know it's like a whack-a-mole, you change one thing, it pops up on the other.

So, I just wanted to let you know that, so if you have any comments on that.

SEN. WARD: Yeah, look I -- I understand that.

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Again, around the state there has been some of that that's taken place. Maybe that's something I should've paid closer attention to.

It was not at the forefront of my thoughts, probably because almost every parish I represent is split and is represented by multiple congressmen, so I -- I understand that concern and if there's a way for us to rectify that problem throughout this process and not disrupt everything else, I think we can try and do it. I just don't know what that looks like.

SEN. ABRAHAM: Well, others have offered amendments and I'm not going to offer one, like I said earlier, but I want you to keep that in mind when you're trying to work through everything that has been talked about today.

SEN. WARD: Thank you.

SEN. ABRAHAM: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Fesi for a question on the bill.

SEN. FESI: Thank you Mr. President. Senator Ward, I'm looking at this coastline and I was wondering how much you took in effect the -- the western side of

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Louisiana coast versus the eastern side and know the difference in the contour?

SEN. WARD: So, I did not necessarily take into account the difference in contour of the east versus west. I know the way they function is different and the way they -- they -- they, even though it's all coastline, I do know and understand they have different issues.

SEN. FESI: Well, I'll try to help you out a little bit. Usually on the western side, you still have a lot of beachfront that they're still -- that they're trying to save.

On the eastern side, we've lost our beach, we've lost our islands, and now we're losing our Morrish and now we're losing our land.

So, it is a big difference between the two. Steve Scalise and Congressman Scalise and Congressman Graves have been champions that's been helping get money to the eastern side of the coast to make sure we can save our coast.

They've brought in millions and millions of dollars, billions of dollars, and -- and we're -- and

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it's working. And then in your plan here, I lose both of those congressman and Congressman Higgins, I don't know how much he knows about saving the coast.

SEN. WARD: Well, I will -- I will say that currently Congressman Graves under this map would reside in -- in congressional seat 3.

Now, I know maybe in a little bit of a reverse of what we've been talking about, that would not be the same as having Congressman Graves and Congressman Scalise, but it does go in and touch EBR and as far as I know, Congressman Graves would reside currently in under this map in 3.

SEN. FESI: So, okay. I thought that -- I thought Congressman Graves was 6?

SEN. WARD: In this drawn congressional seat 6, there's no sitting congressman or woman that lives in 6, they all reside in one of the other 5 seats.

SEN. FESI: Okay. Well, I just don't know how powerful it is for someone not to live in the seat that represent and so I think that's a challenge.

The next thing is it would take probably a hundred amendments to try to straighten this map up and

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you know, to get our coastal zone back into the guidelines of what the -- you know the redistricting calls for. I mean this thing just totally changes everything in the whole state.

SEN. WARD: And look, and I understand that. Once again, I really have had two things in mind. Number one, start off with something that complies with the federal judge's court order, and number two, do it in a way that gives us a whole other look in comparison to what we've been looking at for quite some time now.

And so, look, maybe it made more people unhappy than happy, but we're here talking about a way to try and build a consensus around something and I don't know if we would've had that chance otherwise.

SEN. FESI: I appreciate for what you're trying to do, but you know, in a fact that we disrupt probably 70 to 80 percent of the whole state to try to fix a 30 percent problem, I think we could've done a lot better job and that's why I felt that the map that we had we had done that because we went over this over and over and over again and now, we're here trying to start from scratch in just six days when it took six

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months to do the other one.

SEN. WARD: I understand that. It's a -- it's a tall task for sure.

SEN. FESI: Okay. Well, let's see what happens. Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator Peacock for a question on the bill.

SEN. PEACOCK: Thank you Mr. President. And Senator Ward, I understand bringing this map and trying to comply with the order in and Senator Mills and Senator Milligan have talked about our concerns about Barksdale Air Force Base and some of your discussions with the other senators. You talk about this is not designed in a way to really try to keep the congressman in their districts.

But when I look at the fourth congressional district on your map, which goes all the way down from Lafayette to Lake Charles, all the way up to Bossier, it has none of Caddo.

Representative Mike Johnson lives in the part of Bossier that you have in there, but do you realize -- and he does a very good job covering the district and

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the districts are -- are big in general, but given this map, do you realize that the area that he resides in, the population difference and where it ranks, that Lafayette has the most population, that Calcasieu has the second amount.

Lafayette is at 167,000. Calcasieu at 163,000, and you keep going down, Bossier Parish would be the eighth in population.

You're basically putting where Congressman Johnson lives into a Lafayette, Lake Charles district with that. How -- how does that not -- you mentioned this was sort of done to try to keep the --

I mean he would do a very good job with whoever, but how does that work when you -- when we start digging into these numbers and I know there are some amendments out there, but I don't know that we have all these numbers to look at it by parish, by parish, by parish and see where the numbers are. Am I reading this correct?

SEN. WARD: I mean I hope you're reading it correct in terms of that's -- I'm sure it matches the map we're looking at.

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But look, I did not take into account the population weight in terms of where our current -- and this is no disrespect to any of them.

That just wasn't in the thought process of what I was trying to achieve, but I did not look at the population and where it sat in regard to any of the sitting congressman, that was -- that was just not part of the of the strategy I took in trying to come up with this map.

And once again, I -- that's no disrespect to anyone of them. It was -- that was not the goal I had in mind for what we were trying to get to here.

SEN. PEACOCK: But that's really when we get -- when we dig down into these numbers into the bill, you know these numbers of the 18 parishes, six of them are split and you start looking at the numbers and you start looking that Bossier Parish would be the eighth in ranking in congressional District 4, because you have -- you have divided the metropolitan area of Shreveport, Bossier with this map.

And I just -- I -- I know you've said that you didn't -- weren't able, but that's something that as we

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get more into this, that is a great concern to me and then that senate that I represent that area in my senate district, how much do you have diminished where Congressman Johnson currently lives in congressional District 4.

And I really think given his -- his -- his ten years now in congress and his armed service committees, you know that's just concern, so I just want to make sure that you've looked at that and I know you said you have some amendments to fix it, but I hope we have this data when we see those amendments.

SEN. WARD: Yeah look, once we get to the amendments as they -- well, I'll speak for the amendment that I have to try and fix the Air Force Base issue, I'm going to take it very slow, that way it has enough time to populate to the computer if it has not already and everybody can -- can take a look at it and see what it does.

SEN. PEACOCK: And we'll have this data.

SEN. WARD: As far as I know. I -- I'm not -- I'm not that smart, but you know I hope that we have that, yeah.

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SEN. PEACOCK: Okay, but you see my concern?

SEN. WARD: Oh, I absolutely see your concern.

SEN. PEACOCK: Okay.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Morris for a question on the bill.

SEN. MORRIS: Senator Ward, you -- you -- would you assert that southeast Louisiana and southwest Louisiana have a community of interest with one another?

SEN. WARD: I think they share a coastline. I think that -- that is an argument for a similar interest. Beyond that, I can see that, of course, it's two -- two different communities, and a lot of the interests would be different. But they do share a coastline, which is -- which is a pretty big deal.

SEN. MORRIS: So you -- you could understand that they have maybe or not the same community, just like northwest and northeastern Louisiana have separate communities?

SEN. WARD: Absolutely. I -- I understand that just -- just as I understand, like I said, for -- for my current district. When I go to Greensburg in St.

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Helena, it is very different than when I go to Pierre Part down in Assumption Parish.

SEN. MORRIS: And so you could understand why people from my area as well as people from northwest Louisiana don't believe we have identical -- just because we're all in north Louisiana, doesn't mean we have the identical communities of interest, just like all people in south Louisiana don't have an identical community of interest. Would you agree?

SEN. WARD: One hundred percent. Yeah. That's -- that's true.

SEN. MORRIS: Ye- -- yet your map does not reflect that difference. Does it?

SEN. WARD: Well, look, I don't think we have seen a map that does not have, you know, some sort of area that -- where you've got different communities of interest represented by the same person.

In part, because a lot of our state as a whole, is so sparsely populated that in order to come to the numbers, you got to have somebody -- there will be, you know, probably multiple Congress men or women who represent much different communities of interest.

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And so that's -- that's always going to be part of this process.

SEN. MORRIS: But wouldn't you agree that since two thirds of this body preferred the maps that kept distinct northwest, northeast, as well as southeast and southwest districts would likely be preferrable to the people of the state?

SEN. WARD: Look, I think that we did -- we did pass a bill with the two thirds of this body. And I think if you look at the language of this particular bill, it does not say that we no longer, or this body, I guess, as a whole, doesn't -- no longer agree with that.

It just simply says if the -- if the process plays out and our current map is -- is seen to be unconstitutional, that this -- this new one would fall into place. So I don't think in any way, this body would be portraying that we don't think we did the, you know -- we did good work earlier. So that's where we seem to be.

SEN. MORRIS: Now, Rapides Parish in particular is, in essence, gutted with a peninsul- --

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peninsular that strikes out from what I would call, the Baton Rouge Center District or purported Baton Rouge Center District, that being six. Can you tell me why that juts out so obviously and extends well beyond the cohesiveness of District 6?

SEN. WARD: Yeah. I mean, it's a matter of capturing population. I think there's all sorts of things you have to have in place to try and balance what the courts look at. But what was at the forefront of what we were trying to do here, to comply with the order -- and I've -- I've read it repeatedly but it -- it -- in the remedial Congressional districting plan, it must include in addition, a majority black Congressional district.

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And so in order to do those things, you have to -- you have to find the right community, and no- -- not just communities of interest, but also communities that allow you to draw districts that have the population that would fit the criteria to get your percentages where they need to be.

SEN. MORRIS: I -- I appreciate your hard work on this; however, I -- in its current state, I can't

support this map, as it disembowels northeast Louisiana from its traditional community of interest in a district that has been recognized and approved by the courts in -- in prior years. And -- and really, it is a disservice to the people of central Louisiana.

And so for that reason, I -- I can't support it in its current shape. But I -- I -- I know you're trying to do what the court says. But this -- this court case, if not resolved by your map, has a long way to go, and judge -- the -- the -- the lower court judge's order is just very preliminary in this proceeding. Did you know?

SEN. WARD: Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator Hewitt for question on the bill.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President. And I think you, Senator for bringing this bill, this, you know -- yeah, the -- I and our community have been working on redistricting for a long time. And so we know how complicated it is -- it is to do a map. And you're -- you're basically kind of trying to make some of these changes on the fly.

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And we have something like 3,400 precincts you're trying to keep up with and make sure, you know, we're not double-dipping or dropping any or whatever. And so it's a -- it's a herculean effort, both on -- on the part of the author as well as the staff, to try to pull this together. So I do appreciate it. And I appreciate, you know, your willingness to offer an option, as I do with all the authors that have participated this week.

I mentioned this in committee yesterday, you know, specifically about my district in St. Bernard. And I think, yeah, that's in that Jefferson, on the Jefferson Orleans cut in St. Bernard, you know. You are truly splitting up Chalmette right between District 3 and District 2 by doing that. I mean, it's just carving out right in the middle of -- of Chalmette.

If ever there was a textbook community of interest, and I would have said this before I was ever elected and before I ever knew what a community of interest was, it is the epitome of the people in Chalmette. They're a multigenerational that have grown up and lived in Chalmette.

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You know, they -- there were finery workers, they are fishermen, they're oyster men, they're seafood guys, they're crabbers. Everybody's got a pair of white shrimp boats, you know, at the front door.

They go to Rocky & Carlo's after church on Sundays. I mean, it is a community of interest. And so I absolutely, you know, would not be able to support a map that breaks them up like this, into two different Congressional districts. They are part of, you know, some major flood protection systems.

There are many major projects on the books that we are working to get to help protect St. Bernard, who flooded, of course, so badly after Katrina. And so that is -- that is a concern I raised yesterday and a concern that I -- that I still have with the map and its current posture.

A couple of others, sort of, just big picture ideas -- and I think you've heard from some of the members already and whose districts these reside, but such a big team in the road shows, was about the late Charles Lafayette area being seen as a community of interest. You know, they have economic development

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organizations that work across those -- all of those parishes.

They are a very tight-knit community, and -- and they absolutely made the point very, very early on and often, in this process, that they are a community of interest. I also am concerned about some of the -- the fingers or the tentacles that we see throughout the map. We talked about that a little bit yesterday in committee.

You know, I -- I do think that, you know, those -- those tentacles are done strictly for the purpose of picking up black precincts to create the two minority districts. And would you agree that that is -- that that was sort of the guiding principle or what you were trying to accomplish was some of those?

SEN. WARD: I -- I think in some cases -- I went over this somewhat yesterday in committee. You know, whenever you've got to try and get to certain populations for different districts, whatever that may look like, you -- you do have to end up with, I guess, the way you describe it, tentacles here and there. And it's -- it's mainly because our -- our population is

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not necessarily just stacked in -- in locations everywhere.

So in order to -- in order to make maps work, you've -- you've got to find the appropriate amount of population to make each district fit -- fit certain criteria.

And so I think that all the different criteria that go into drawing a map are weighted, and in this particular case, wha- -- what we were ordered to do, in my opinion, made it to where we -- we could to a certain extent, you could even argue that it was in -- in the state's interest as us, drawing the map to -- to move forward and try and find certain pockets of population in order to make it work and abide by the order that we were trying to operate under.

SEN. HEWITT: So the order was to draw two majority black districts. Was it not?

SEN. WARD: That's correct.

SEN. HEWITT: Did the judge tell us to do that at the expense of communities of interest?

SEN. WARD: I did not read the entire order, so I -- I can't speak to that. But I do know that that

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was the overarching reason for the order and -- and what we were supposed to do in terms of trying to come up with a new map.

SEN. HEWITT: Okay. Well, I -- I have read the order, and -- and I certainly can provide it to you. But it -- communities of interest were not mentioned in the order. I do not think she instructed us to -- to draw districts at the expense of communities of interest. I do not think we were instructed to draw districts at the expense of our -- our cities, you know. I do not -- she did not instruct us to do it any particular way. She said, "Go do -- go draw two black districts."

And so I do think there are -- obviously, there have been several different creative ways presented on -- on how to do that. But it is a balancing act, and I do think that, you know, we still have to honor all of the other redistricting principles and not throw all of those out the window. strictly for the purpose of trying to comply with the judge's order. Would you not agree with that?

SEN. WARD: Look, absolutely, I think you have

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to follow all the -- all the redistricting principles that have been in place for -- for quite some time. What I -- what I can't predict is how a [inaudible] judge will weigh them.

I -- I know that there's principles that have been in place through court orders or through rulings from over the years, but how -- how they have to balance those or able to balance those, I don't have the answer to.

But I do know that in terms of what we had to do here, we had to make -- make a cognizant effort to try and come up with two -- two districts.

SEN. HEWITT: I also think one of the -- the principles that -- that this map kind of violates in a big way, and I think Senator Fesi touched on this, is continuity of representation. You know, when you just look at the map, and I've got the enacted map here to compare, just visually, you look at how different that is to your map.

And continuity of representation basically is saying voters know their -- the performance of their Congressmen or Congresswomen better than anybody. You

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don't want to dump them tomorrow, into a new district, right, where, you know -- the -- you're -- you're basically not allowing the voters to hold that person accountable that they have go- -- gotten to know and to work with on the projects that are important to their community.

And so by changing the overall complexion in my opinion, you know, where you have the east west district to the north, you certainly have the big district along the coastline. District 6 is dramatically different.

You know, if -- if we had enough time and we could count up how many voters in your map would be in a different district compared to the -- to the map as it currently exists, I think it would be a significant number of people in our state. It's got to be well beyond half of them, would be in a new district.

And so, you know, continuity of representation is one of those tra- -- it is called traditional redistricting principles. It is one of those, and one of those that we valued a lot in the map that we enacted, which looks a lot like the map that we -- you

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know, that we did in -- in 2010.

And so I do think continuity of -- of representation is a big issue for me. I don't know how you'd do an amendment, you know, to fix that, other than, you know, amending the enacted plan into your map. I mean, obviously, that would be one way to do it, but that would not fulfill the two minority requirement order, black order that we got from the judge. But that is a concern of mine.

And again, it is -- that's what's been the challenge for our -- our community throughout this process, is balancing all of the redistricting principles and the federal and state laws. And that's, I guess, my -- I'll just wrap with this.

I do believe that -- that the map as you have presented it, and again -- I do appreciate that it's something different and it's a different look, but it is to me, so focused solely on black districts and black precincts, that it is done at the expense of all the other redistricting principles. And I just, you know, conceptually and personally have difficulty balancing all that in my mind, where everything else is

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kind of thrown out the window for that benefit.

So amendments to fix, St. Bernard would be appreciated. Amendments, I think, to put Lake Charles and Lafayette back together, would be appreciated, you know, to the extent that in the process of that, we could eliminate some of these fingers and tentacles. Because you're going to have to make up these numbers somewhere as you're making these changes, you know.

As you'll discover, you know, whenever you make a change in one corner of the state, you will feel the ripple all the way across the state. Probably every district will be affected by that. Because you have to balance them by equal population, which in general, the courts have said in -- probably informally or at least it's kind of been what we've been working within the committee, something less than double-digit differences.

Right. So you're talking about the difference in the number of people, compared to the ideal number, is like single-digits or double-digit differences. And so that causes you -- of course, all precincts are not the same size. So adding a precinct in one place, you -

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- it's not an easy swap, because you've got precincts with different numbers.

So I know our staffs are very capable, and I know they'll work with you, you know, in trying to address some of these issues. Thank you for your willingness to try to take this on.

SEN. WARD: Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Senator Ward, that's all the questions. Members, what I- -- what I'd like to do, I know we have set -- seven sets of amendments. I'm told that the amendments, if one were to be adopted, they would not be coordinated with the other amendments.

So what I'd like to do is allow you to come up and offer your amendment conceptually, and then let's temporarily return it after you get the amendment presented. And then at some point, I would like to be able to recess and see if these amendments can fix some of the concerns we heard up at this time. Senator Ward, are you okay with that?

Okay. I believe we -- as we always do, we start with the author's amendment first and then as

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they were filed. So Madam Sector.

SEC. DIXON: First set of amendments by Senator Ward. They are set number 17. Set number 17. We are hand -- passing out copies, but they are also on your computer.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Ward on your amendment.

SEN. WARD: Members, I'm going to hold off for a moment until everybody gets a paper copy. It's a lot of moving parts. Get to the numbers here. Think we're about ready. Get to the right page myself.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Ward, just go ahead and tell us what -- effectively, what the amendment does to that.

SEN. WARD: Yes. So the -- what we're doing with the amendment is, we're just simply putting -- it -- it came up multiple times on multiple bills with -- with the -- with the military bases and wanting to have them all in one Congressional district.

So what we would do is, we would put Barksdale Air Force Base into Congressional District 4. And by -- by doing that, in fact, we actually tighten up the deviation across the state. It actually ends up being a

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little tighter than what it was and -- or what it would be in the original map. I do see a question.

SEN. CORTEZ: Question on amendment. Senator Peacock.

SEN. PEACOCK: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Ward, I -- I appreciate you trying to address the issue with -- with Barksdale Air Force Base, but -- and -- and this is just, I guess, part -- you still have not addressed Camp Minden that is -- is -- that is integral to our military defense of -- of -- of and Webster Parish, and of course, Barksdale with Fort Polk.

So Camp Minden is right on the Webster Parish-Bossier Parish line. And -- and I know our National Guard and it is part of our -- our [inaudible] defense funding is related to Camp Minden along with Barksdale Air Force Base in Fort Polk.

So that -- that is something I just want to, you know, to address in this. I -- I do appreciate -- but then also, what we brought up earlier, you still have where Congressman Johnson lives, significantly down in population to the overall district. There's not

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a substantial change.

SEN. WARD: And -- and I understand that. And I -- in terms of the Camp Minden portion, that was not brought to my attention in committee, so I sought to address what we discussed there. But what we are doing is just to --

SEN. PEACOCK: Just we're talking --

SEN. WARD: -- talking about them in principle. If there's a way we can try and address that going forward, I'll -- I'll certainly do it.

SEN. PEACOCK: Okay. Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Se- -- Senator Foil, did -- did you want -- okay. There are no further questions on the amendment. Senator Ward, you want to temporarily return it and let the next amendment --. Okay. He returns it. Next amen- --

SEC. DIXON: Next set of amendments are by Senator Fields. They are set number 21. Set number 21. We are passing them out. And they are on your computer.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Fields.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Thi- --this amendment, quite frankly, will do

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three things. It will basically put the bill in the same posture, SB1, with two exceptions. With two exceptions, so I can be very transparent. It would be the same app that I filed under SB1, but there will be two exceptions to that.

One exception would be Senator Reese offered an amendment in committee, that would make Vernon Parish a whole. It would have that amendment on the bill to keep the military community together. So that amendment would be in this bill. And the other amendment that was in the bill that Senator Foil offered, that amendment would not be on the bill.

That's what this amendment would do. The deviations would change slightly, but not enough to affect the overall acceptable deviations. That's what the amendment does. And I see that there are no questions. And at the appropriate time, I move the adoption. I [inaudible] now --

SEN. CORTEZ: Look, there's a -- there's a question.

SEN. FIELDS: I know, I do see a question.

SEN. CORTEZ: Question on the amendment.

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Senator Foil.

SEN. FOIL: Senator Fields, can you explain the amendment that was -- that I had offered that's not --

SEN. FIELDS: Yes.

SEN. FOIL: -- acceptable? Yes.

SEN. FIELDS: I took your amendment off Senator because your amendment basically in my view, somewhat violates the judge's order, because it -- it dictates to the court what it is to do. It basically vio- — violates the court order in this respect. One, it -- if the -- if we --

SEN. CORTEZ: Senat- -- Senator Fields, could you explain to the members what his amendment did? It was a committee of amendment that did not get adopted since your bill did not get forwarded, so that the members would know what his amendment offer?

SEN. FIELDS: All right. Senator Foil had an amendment that basically provided that if this bill is ad- -- is adopted a pass, then it becomes law -- and the court amendment -- I mean, and the court order is overwritten by a higher court, that we would go back to

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a previous act of the legislator.

And I -- I -- I think that's inappropriate. I think basically what Senator Foil would be saying is, the latest expression of the law would not be the latest expression of the law. And so I took that out, because I think that's inappropriate. Because the latest expression of the law would be this bill.

SEN. FOIL: Just to be clear, Senator Fields, my amendment dealt with your bill. Senator Ward introduced this bill with that language in it, so it was not my amendment. That language was in the bill as introduced by Senator Ward.

SEN. FIELDS: A- -- and I apologize, but I'm telling -- I'm talking about my bill as it pass the committee, but that's right. And -- and so it takes that out.

SEN. FOIL: Right. So -- so the language that you're taking out that Senator Ward has in his bill, in summary, states, "If this litigation process goes forward in the first map or determine to be legal, then this piece of legislation would not go into effect."

SEN. FIELDS: My bill would be clean. It won't

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have any of that language in it whatsoever. That's what -- that's what my amendment would do.

SEN. FOIL: Thank you.

SEN. FIELDS: You're welcome.

SEN. CORTEZ: Question on the amendment. Senator White.

SEN. WHITE: Senator, I was just wanting to look at your map because I left your map on my desk. See how it differs. Okay. So this map senate District 6, does Senator Graves live in it?

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. Continuity of representation was important. So all of the members of -- present members of Congress, actually live in their respective districts.

SEN. WHITE: What's -- what's -- what's the new minority districts?

SEN. FIELDS: The new minority districts would be -- would be senate -- I mean, Congressional District number 5.

SEN. WHITE: So five and two would be the minority districts?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes, sir.

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SEN. WHITE: And so -- I'm just going to ask you, because you've been around a long time like me -- I never served in Congress but I watched many members serve -- with this new federal court order, as I look at it, and we wrestle with it, how do we fix it, what do we do, what's the different continuities, do you recall Judge John Parker's court order for East Baton Rouge Parish for desegregation?

SEN. FIELDS: I don't recall all of the specifics, but I do recall. Yes, sir.

SEN. WHITE: If you recall, I recall, because I had children, and we were trying to be in public -- I wanted them in public school. And that order, he ordered East Baton Rouge Parish school board to redraw all the lines, all the school districts lines.

And what he basically did, was took all of -- and -- and because we're using black and white in this, I'm going to use the same language -- he forced all the black kids in Baton Rouge to be bussed to the areas of Central, St. George, Zachary, those areas. He ordered all the white kids in those areas to be bussed to the inner city.

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We went from about 90,000 to about 60,000 students in East Baton Rouge Parish in a matter of about 10 years. He completely destroyed our public school system. It was good for extension in Levingston and west Baton Rouge, because they gained all our middle class kids it could more.

And -- and I -- and at that time, I coached AAU, and I had a team with my daughter and 12 African American girls on it. Their parents weren't happy with it either, because they were forced to go to other areas. It took forever to get that desegregation order out, but by that time, we had lost our public schools in east Baton Rouge parish.

And they were the top ranked -- them and Jefferson were the two top ranked districts in the state. And they went down to the bottom in a matter of about 15 years. I'm -- I'm just wondering what's -- I just -- an analogy, I see similarities if this judge is going to pound us and keep making us draw districts. What does it do for us? Is anybody going to know their Congressman? Is anybody going to have the same continuity that were seek to do this?

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SEN. FIELDS: A-- ye- -- absolutely, Cong- -- Senator. There are six members of the US Congress. Five of them are white, one of them is black. The judge simply said that's unfair. And this plan basically complies with the judge's order.

And it makes two of the six majority black districts. I -- I -- that's all it does. I mean, to me it's very simple. A- -- and it only gives them the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

SEN. WHITE: So the maps that the previous senator had up here, you don't like those maps?

SEN. FIELDS: In fact, I -- I plan to vote for that map if they take an amendment off. There's an amendment that -- that -- that really, in my opinion, you know, defies the judge's order. If they take that amendment off, I plan to vote for it, because it comp- -- because it -- it -- outside of that a- -- out side of that -- that amendment, I think it complies with what the court order has -- I'll get it.

SEN. WHITE: I'm sorry.

SEN. FIELDS: I think it complies with what the court has ordered.

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SEN. WHITE: Well, I -- I don't like it because it cuts his parish in three pieces. And I -- I know that if I need something, I can call Garret Graves direct on his cell line, whether he is Baton Rouge or whether he's in Washington, and -- and have a discussion about an issue. I know he does the same on state issues.

But if we have three Congressmen, I don't know that I'll have that connectivity, the three different Congressmen.

And it concerns me a great deal for the -- for the metro area where no Congressman has a majority of our metro Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, the biggest parish in the state.

And I -- I -- feel that we'll just be the tail. We won't be the dog. We'll be the tail. And we'll have to wag the dog if we get something done.

SEN. FIELDS: Well, cong- -- Senator, there is some -- there is an advantage to having more than one Congressman. Baton Rouge have always had more than one Congressman, you know. And -- and -- and when -- when -- and there's been a big advantage to that.

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I served with Congressman Richard Baker. As you know, he's a Republican, I'm a Democrat. And down there in Washington, everything is, you know -- not everything, but most things are based on party. I was the Democrat; he was the Republican. When the Republicans win charge, we leaned on him. When the Democrats win charge, they leaned on me. And we did a good job delivering for the state of -- I mean, for the city of Baton Rouge.

So the -- when -- when I hear members -- when I heard members yesterday in a committee talking about, "I want one single member of Congress representing this area," there -- there -- there is nothing wrong with having more than one member of Congress. In fact, there is a big benefit having more than one, fighting for your area, for federal dollars, for federal appropriation, there is an advantage to that.

And -- and I think Richard Baker and I did a good job for Baton Rouge. And I -- and I welcome more than one member of Congress.

SEN. WHITE: Well, thank you. And I appreciate that. I remember those days, but it's not that simple

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in Congress anymore. As you know, it's -- it's not that simple. Those days were probably a lot better days than what we are experiencing now.

My fear is we get three and -- and we can't get their attention. And I just -- I don't -- I don't think we would have the same stroke as you all had then. And for that reason, I -- I can't support a lot of these amendments and maps. But I just wanted to let you know my concerns.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, Senator White.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Members, I want to remind you that we are presenting these amendments in concept, and I don't want to stifle debate. And I want to allow everybody to ask questions.

We have four more people for questions on this particular amendment, and a person for the floor on this particular amendment, and then we have five more amendments to go through in concept.

These are all being returned to the calendar for you to go and work amongst yourselves to see if there's a consensus that you can get to. Everybody that's opposed to this amendment does not need to come

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tell Senator Fields they are opposed to his amendment.

If you want to point out something that -- I -- I -- I'm happy to have you do that. But I guess the point being, if you're going to come for every amendment and tell the same part that you're opposed to on each amendment, I think we got that on the bill, that you're opposed specifics of Senator Ward's bill. So without having people having people repeat themselves -- Senator Morris for question on the amendment.

SEN. MORRIS: I- -- I'll try to be bri- -- brief. Senator Fields, your map has a little section in northeast Louisiana that juts into Ouachita Parish. And you also have a section in -- that juts a -- a significant part of East Baton Rouge and juts into parts of East Baton Rouge Parish, I -- I think including where we're standing here, if I'm not mistaken. Can you explain why you have that little appendage coming into Ouachita Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish?

SEN. FIELDS: That was the drawing of the map. Senator, let me ask you a question. If -- if -- if that

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bothers you, I- -- I'm more than willing for you to, you know, make that a swear. And -- and -- and -- and if it doesn't interfere with two majority black districts, I would accept that as an amendment.

SEN. MORRIS: I -- I appreciate that, but I -- I want to know your justification for this, why would you reach out and grab these people in Ouachita and these people in East Baton Rouge Parish.

SEN. FIELDS: In drawing -- in drawing the map, Senator, you know, I had to be within the deviations. There are 6- -- 700 and some thousand people you -- you had to be within a deviation.

And none of the maps were going to be absolutely perfect, so I had to be within deviations. So I -- tha- -- tha -- that would be best explanation I could give for that.

SEN. MORRIS: So you -- you didn't reach out and grab the African American voters in Ouachita Parish and African American voters in East Baton Rouge Parish?

SEN. FIELDS: With District 6, as you know, is not and African American district. So certainly, I did not grab African Americans in District 6. That's --

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SEN. MORRIS: I'm pointing to five. The yellow.

SEN. FIELDS: I thought you were pointing to six.

SEN. MORRIS: I'm pointing to five.

SEN. FIELDS: Okay.

SEN. MORRIS: See that little pinged that sticks in there?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes. So I didn't grab them in six. So District 5, that's a large portion of the parish, in District 5. I mean, I had to be within the deviation, so that's why the ma- -- map looks the way it looks.

It's -- no- -- none of these maps, members, are going to be perfectly shaped. You have to fall within a certain deviation, and that's the way the cookie will crumble, when you have to be in a -- a perfect deviation, with members of Congress.

SEN. MORRIS: So you did not intend -- because these are apparently African American precincts -- so that was not the purpose of grabbing of -- of -- of that appendaged of District 5, which starts at the

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Arkansas line and comes to where we are right now?

SEN. FIELDS: That was not the sole purpose. No, Se- -- Senator.

SEN. MORRIS: But it was a purpose?

SEN. FIELDS: Yeah. You can take race into account in drawing maps. So race was a factor but it was not the predominant factor.

SEN. MORRIS: Thank you.

SEN. FIELDS: Thank you, sir. I see that there are further questions on the board [inaudible] --

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Hewitt for question on the amendment.

SEN. FIELDS: Be happy to hear.

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator, thank you again for being very consistent and participating throughout this whole process in offering solutions and maps, both in the normal -- the regular redistricting session and again, in this one. And I -- and I respect that deeply.

So we had a -- this -- we had a five-hour hearing at 9:00 a.m. on day two, to hear your bill. And this bill, as you described it, is basically the same.

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You took out the legal language that Senator Foil added in committee, though it basically was added in Rick Ward's bill, the original bill, and you took it out. But the effect was the same, which I don't agree with.

And then you addressed the air- -- the Barksdale Air Force Amendment that Senator Reese put on the committee. And I -- I did support that. I thought that was a good move. But there were lots of people that came in that day to testify about problems in very specific areas of the state.

We had, you know, the mayor for my hometown, my parish, talk about Slidell. And I did talk about that in my district about how it's carved up. I mean, completely carved up in terms of a community of interest with other parts of Slidell, parts of Pearl River, parts of Lacombe, and how problematic that was for us. It's just an example.

Did you -- I mean, you were there for the -- for the whole five hours -- did you in- -- incorporate any of those concerns that were raised in committee and -- and amendments in any way, in -- in this bill that you're presenting to us today?

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SEN. FIELDS: N- -- n- -- no. I did not. And in fact -- a- -- and I did hear their testimony, and it did not go on deaf ears. The- -- they were very fine people. And -- and I talked to a few of them outside in the hall. In fact, one of them said, "I apologize. I think you -- I -- I hate -- I hate what you're -- you know, I hate to be in your shoes." But I had to make my, you know -- I had to say what I had to say.

But at the end of the day, you know, we're under a court order to do what we're doing. And I -- I really appreciate all of their testimony. But -- but no, I -- I only took into account what the court has said and what my colleague, Mr. Reese offered, because it was a reasonable, very reasonable amendment.

And -- and I took my -- my other colleague, Senator Foil's, amendment off, because I just didn't think it was appropriate at the time.

SEN. HEWITT: But wouldn't you agree that the court order, the court didn't give us a map. Right? She didn't tell us how to do it. Right? There are infinite numbers of ways that you could draw a map that would adhere to the court's order, and -- but yet -- so here

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-- that's why we're here this week, is to try to do the very best we can, in honoring all of the redistricting principles, while drawing two black districts.

And I think there are opportunities to do that. And you heard many suggestions on how to do that in the committee hearing. And I guess I'm -- I would have been -- I was hopeful that perhaps you had incorporated some of those things in your map, because you have had more time than anybody, to work on your map. We heard your map first.

And Senator Ward's map is a day behind, which doesn't sound like a lot, but in a six-day session, it's huge.

And so, you know, I find that we're -- we're in scramble mode here, trying to work on a map, on Senator Ward's map, which we had the least amount of time to look at and work on.

And -- and you've had the benefit of more time, and, you know, was hopeful that -- that some of that feedback that we got from people back home, would have been considered in whatever amendment you might bring today.

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SEN. FIELDS: You know, Senator, I'm glad you mentioned that, because you've had that same time. You've had the benefit of introducing a map. You introduced the map without -- with -- with -- with one -- you've introduced the map with one minority district. You have made no effort to include in your map, two minority districts. You have made no effort to -- in fact -- well -- look, I'm doing the best I can. I'm doing --

SEN. HEWITT: [inaudible].

SEN. FIELDS: -- the best I can. I'm -- look, tomorrow is Father's Day and -- and -- I -- I -- I want to just -- I want to take a vote, and I want it to be up or down. And I want us to just -- if -- if we can get out of here today, let's get out of here today. But -- but -- but I know what I've done, and you know what I've done. And you have a bill in the committee right now, that has one black district. And that's not what the judge told us to do.

SEN. HEWITT: It is an instrument, right, that you could amend anything. You could amend your bill onto that instrument, we could amend any bill onto that

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instrument, so the purpose of that was to have another instrument.

I -- I know you're working hard and I pra- -- and I'm working hard right next to you. Right? We're putting in all the same hours. Appreciate your efforts. And I also look forward to getting home for Father's Day, if that be the will of this body. Thank you.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. Senator Morris, you have your button for the floor on the bill. I think Senator Fields is going to return this to the calendar, but if you want to -- I didn- -- I don't want to stifle the debate. If want to make a comment on the floor, you certainly have the right to the floor.

SEN. FIELDS: I thank [inaudible].

SEN. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I -- I -- I have great respect for Senator Fields. He's been here long time and -- and knows a lot about this process. However, I do have to point out some things a- -- about this whole process and what's -- what we're voting on or will be voting on when we vote on this amendment.

We have had more than one majority African

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American district in this state. In fact, on two occasions, we've had more than one majority African American district. And you know what happened to those districts? They were struck down by the United States Supreme Court, because racial gerrymandering is not appropriate.

And although according to Senator Fields, and I take him at his word, that it was not racially ger- -- gerrymandered, and that's why he doesn't reach out and grab what appears to be all the -- the majority of the African American districts in northeast Louisiana and Ouachita Parish, by little odd-shaped appendage. And also reaching into East Baton Rouge Parish, right here where we're standing, maybe that's not racial gerrymandering, but it gives every appearance of being that.

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And with -- with that, I'm going to close with just a quote from the United States Supreme Court, and this is in a 2018 case. "The equal protection clause forbids racial gerrymandering. That is intentionally assigning citizens to a district on the basis of race without sufficient justification."

I asked Senator Fields what his justification was, for those appendages I referred to a moment ago, and the only thing I heard was, "We just need some more population." I think it has to be more than that, because I think this amendment -- the map created by this amendment, would not only be bad for my area, but I think it would be unconstitutional. And that's why at the appropriate time, [inaudible]. Thank you, Mr. President.

SEN. CORTEZ: Thank you. There are no further questions, no further members for to the floor. At this time, Senator Fields will return it to the calendar temporarily. Next amendment.

SEC. DIXON: Next amendment is by Senator Allain. Set number 20. Set number 20.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Allain.

SEN. ALLAIN: I'm going to wait until the maps are passed out, but -- but basically, it was -- I was trying to preserve the -- the communities of interest in my area, the -- the -- the rural area as it stands. And it's been represented for decades.

We move the third district out of Orleans

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Parish and over toward Lafayette. And we did pick up Lafayette because I believe there is a lot of common interest between Dubois [ph] District in -- in my area.

So parts of Jefferson, Plaquermines, Terrebonne, Assumption, St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin, and Abbeville, and going up in to -- a little bit up into EBR, is what it does.

I -- I mean, this is strictly to satisfy what I believe should be maintained as a community interest. I see no questions. I'll -- I'll just let it stand as it is.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Senator Allain returns it to the -- temporarily returns it. Next amendment.

SEC. DIXON: Next amendments are by Senator Robert Mills. They are set number 22. Set number 22.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Mills.

SEN. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. President. And as I mentioned earlier, when talking to Senator Ward, this map simply brings back together Claiborne, Bossier, Webster, this other Red River, as a -- a operating unit, which it really is in fact. And it -- it only deals with populations in Districts 4 and 5. And that's

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basically the gist of this amendment, which I would ask you to support at the appropriate time.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. There are no questions. Thank you, Senator Mills. He returns -- temporarily returns it. Next amendment.

SEC. DIXON: Next set of amendments are by Senator Peacock. They are set number 19.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Peacock.

SEN. PEACOCK: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I'm going to waive my amendment, given what Senator Mills just presented, because it -- it -- it establishes the same concept. So I -- I withdraw my amendment.

SEN. CORTEZ: He withdraws.

SEC. DIXON: And the last set of amendments are by Senator Luneau. They are set number 23. Set number 23.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Luneau.

SEN. LUNEAU: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, this amendment, what is does is that it makes the -- the act effective upon the signature of the governor, if not signed by the governor upon the

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expiration of time for the bills to become law without the signature.

The reason for that is because the court has given us a deadline within which to have this done. And this would -- this would comply with the deadline. As the bill stands now, it does not comply with that, so it would not be in compliance with the court's order.

Even though I have my legislative hat on today, I have to keep my lawyer hat on all the time. And as an officer of the court, I believe it's important that I follow the -- the orders of the court, and that is a direct order of the court. So that's the reason for this amendment.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Thank you, Senator. He temporarily returns it.

SEC. DIXON: The next set of amendments are by Senator Fields. They are set number 25. Set number 25.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Fields.

SEN. FIELDS: Mr. President, it came to my attention that -- I explained the amendment already. They did not take the amendment out that deals with the -- upon the signature of the governor. So this would

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have to be a second amendment. So that's what this amendment does.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. And is this amendment on the computer?

SEC. DIXON: Yes.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Members, this one has not been handed out but -- or it is being handed out, but it is on the computer, if you'd like to pull it up.

SEN. FIELDS: Basically, it was a -- a draft thing error. When I add bill to draft the amendment, I told him I wanted to -- to accept Mr. Reece's amendment. But I did not want to accept my -- my Baton Rouge colleague's amendment. And they forgot to take off my Baton Rouge's colleagues amendment. And this would basically take it off.

SEN. CORTEZ: My understand, Senator Fields, this is a -- a exact duplicate of what Senator Luneau just presented as well?

SEN. FIELDS: Yes.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Duplicate amendment. All right. He temporarily re- -- returns it. Any other amendments?

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Okay, members, you've been presented the bill. You've been -- you've heard the questions and the comments, and you've been presented with seven, I think now eight amendments. One has been withdrawn.

At this time, what I'd like to do, is have a standard recess to allow Senator Ward to -- to visit with you all on the different amendments and to see if there's an opportunity to find consensus to get -- as you know, in this building, it's about getting 20 votes. So at this time, I'm going to -- I'm going to allow us to stand at recess until 1:15. Stand at recess till 1:15.

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I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 89 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



June 27, 2022

Chris Naaden

(453585, 3. Senate Chamber June 18 Part 1)

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Exhibit I

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Transcript of Louisiana Senate Chamber - Part 2

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA SENATE CHAMBER

REDISTRICTING

JUNE 18, 2022

PART 2

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Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 9

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Mills suggests absence of a quorum. Members, when the machines are open, quorum call. Quorum call. Vote your machines. Senator Morris is here. Senator Cloud is here. Senator Henry is here. Senator Pope is here. Senator Fred Mills is here. Close machines. Thirty-four members in a quorum.

MS. DIXON: Continuing with Senate bills on third reading and final passage. Senate Bill 3 by Senator Ward is an act to amend Title 18 relative to congressional districts.

SEN. CORTEZ: Senator Ward.

SEN. WARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, as you all know, we went through a number of amendments. I believe I have four -- five different amendments and then a sixth amendment that was duplicative.

The problem I -- I've run into, and quite frankly I have been concerned about this from -- from the get-go, is that I can't find anything -- we can't find anything collectively that can get us to 20 votes.

And let me back up from the bill for just a

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second. We have all worked really hard for a very long time, I mean, for those that are on the committee, for months. This is something that I did not intend to carry a bill on.

It's something that happened over the last few days. Quite honestly, last Monday, I didn't think I was going to be here. I know that was questioned. I'm not sure the intention of that. Certainly, I wouldn't be here had I resigned. I think that was sort of silly but that's a whole another story.

But what we have not been able to do is build a consensus around anything. Now, I could make us all as a body sit here and take votes on every one of these amendments and, you know, some may get on. Some may not.

But I don't think that I found a single amendment that would get on, number one. Number two, I don't think I found a single amendment that if it did get on, we would come anywhere near the 20 votes we needed to continue this process.

What I will say though is from the start of me filing this bill, really for me even showing up to come

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and participate when I was -- I had every intention of moving on was with the best of intentions.

I really, really hoped that I would be able to do what we've done all together on many other occasions which was work together and try and find some middle ground. Would that mean that what we did before was wrong or -- or what somebody else's bill that was presented was wrong? No.

But sometimes, you have to try and find some consensus that falls in between those two things. And so my intention of even coming back was to try and give one more -- one more effort in doing that.

I'm sorry. I haven't -- I haven't been able to find that. But I can assure you it's because -- it's not because I didn't try. Now, for me personally, the last thing I would ever want to do would -- would be to spend my last amount of time at this mike asking you to vote repeatedly on something that I know wasn't going to go anywhere.

When I walked in the building this morning, I was hopeful. I thought we had an opportunity. When we left to go over the amendments, I thought there was

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some opportunity. But when you're dealing with something like this, every time you satisfy four people, you lose four people. Every time you satisfy six people, you lose seven over here.

It's a difficult task and -- and, quite frankly, at this point, one that I think the -- the courts are going to have to decide. I wish it wouldn't have to be that way because I think that this was our opportunity. We were given a second bite at the apple.

And once again, that's not to say that what we did earlier was not -- was not a legal and suitable map. I -- I don't have the answer to that. But I know we were here and directed to be here under court order and we had -- we had to put our best foot forward.

This was my attempt. It was with the best of intentions. And I hope everybody, on all sides of the aisle, understand that. But because I don't think we're going to get there, it -- I -- I'm going to move that we return the bill to the calendar at this time.

SEN. CORTEZ: Okay. Senator Boudreaux, your -- your objection button is -- is lit up. Is there any objection to returning it to the calendar? Okay. All

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right. It's returning to the calendar. Okay. Members, the -- the House has -- has not convened yet, but at this time, we have no instruments here that we can bring forward.

It's my understanding that the House has no instruments that have been reported out of committee to bring forward. So it's -- it's -- in my mind, we're at the end of the road and I think that we just need to give notice to the House that we should be prepared to sine die. Senator Talbot, you want to make that motion?

SEN. TALBOT: Thank you, Mr. President. I make a motion that we adjourn sine die.

SEN. CORTEZ: No. No. No. No. That we -- that we send a message to the House requesting their permission to adjourn.

SEN. TALBOT: Make a motion that we inform the House that we request to adjourn sine die.

SEN. CORTEZ: Very good. Any objections? Seeing no objections, that motion is adopted. Members, let's just go ahead and stand at ease until the House comes in and we will -- they will be in receipt of our message. At ease.

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Well, they got exactly 53 votes on the motion. They got exactly 53 motions on the -- 53 votes on the motion to adjourn. [inaudible]

SEN. CORTEZ: Representative Stefanski.

REP. STEFANSKI: Mr. President, members, the speaker sent me to inform you that the House is ready to adjourn sine die.

SEN. CORTEZ: Very good. Thank you. Thank you, members of the House. Members of the Senate, just before we recognize a motion, I wanted to make -- I wanted to let the secretary read something.

MS. DIXON: Members, I am in receipt of a message from the House that the House has consented to adjourn sine die. Respectfully submitted, Michelle Fontenot, Clerk of the House.

SEN. CORTEZ: Very good. Okay. Couple of announcements here. First and foremost, I do want to wish our colleague, Senator Jimmy Harris, happy birthday. Happy I think it's 48th. He looks 38. But happy birthday, Senator.

That's eight. And to all of you who -- who are still fortunate enough to have your father around,

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please wish them a Happy Father's Day tomorrow. And to the fathers that are in here, Happy Father's Day to you. Thank you for your hard work this session. I appreciate you being here. And with that, Senator Talbot for a motion.

SEN. TALBOT: Thank you, Mr. President. I make a motion that we adjourn sine die.

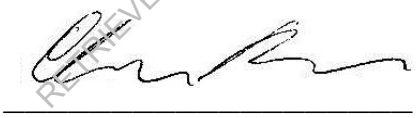
SEN. CORTEZ: Without objection.

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I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 8 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



June 24, 2022

Chris Naaden

(453585, 4. Senate Chamber June 18 Part 2)

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Exhibit J

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Transcript of House Hearing - Day 1

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LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARING DAY 1

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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Job: 453354

Pages: 1 - 98

Transcribed by: Jennifer Candela-Alvarez

P R O C E E D I N G S

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Roll call, Members. Go to your machines. The House will come to order. Roll call. You're still voting, members? Stefanski is here. Still voting? All right. Close them up. Ninety-eight members in a quorum. 00:00:06 00:00:09 00:00:12 00:00:20 00:00:26

Today, Members, the House will be opened in prayer by Representatives Edmonds. 00:00:28 00:00:29

REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, well, good afternoon, everybody. What a privilege and honor as all of you express the -- the great honor it is to be at this platform to lead us in prayer. 00:00:39 00:00:39 00:00:42 00:00:44 00:00:46

You know, I'm reminded -- and I'll read a verse of scripture as we start this special session. I'm reminded of some our great legacy people in our churches. And every Sunday, when I walk into church, there's a particular gentleman named Phillip that's at the back of my church. 00:00:48 00:00:50 00:00:52 00:00:55 00:00:58 00:01:00

No matter what's going on, no matter if it's a good day, a tough day -- he's a very elderly man, and, you know, he can find a way to find 00:01:01 00:01:03 00:01:06

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something that's not right or something he could feel a hurt or pain about. He's got the age to be able to -- to be able to complain and gripe every now and then. 00:01:09 00:01:12 00:01:15 00:01:17

But every day, every Sunday I see him, we agree on this: This is the day that the Lord has made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. 00:01:17 00:01:20 00:01:24

Yesterday, as I prepared to -- to come today, I read this scripture. I get a scripture text. And if you don't read the Psalms -- if you don't read the Psalms, you ought to read a Psalms or a -- or a Proverbs every day, in my opinion. 00:01:27 00:01:30 00:01:32 00:01:34 00:01:37

And here's the Psalms that was my yesterday to prepare for this session: Psalms 48 said, Oh, God, we give glory to you all day long and constantly praise your name. We may not find agreement on everything, but we can agree it is our privilege to bring praise to the Lord all day long. 00:01:39 00:01:41 00:01:43 00:01:49 00:01:53 00:01:56

Would you join with me as we pray together? 00:01:59 00:02:01

Our Heavenly Father, we just come to you, and we want to let you know that we love you. We're 00:02:03 00:02:05

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grateful the way you love us, the way you always show your mercy and your grace, your love and your strength, your power, and authority that's in our lives. We thank you through the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. 00:02:08 00:02:11 00:02:15 00:02:18 00:02:21

We're grateful for all of our places of worship -- the places that we raise our families, our children, and our grandchildren. We ask the richest blessing upon all of our constituents and all of our leaders. We pray that, as we meet in this special session, that you would you give our speaker great wisdom. We pray that you do the same for the president of the Senate. We also ask that you bring favor on our governor and give him wisdom as he guides us as our leader. 00:02:23 00:02:24 00:02:27 00:02:31 00:02:34 00:02:37 00:02:39 00:02:41 00:02:44 00:02:46

Now this very day for these men and women, my friends, I pray your richest blessing and anointing and presence and favor. May your protection be on all of their homes and their family members. And may we all agree that we get the privilege in the great State of Louisiana and in this wonderful country, the United States of America, that 00:02:48 00:02:50 00:02:53 00:02:56 00:02:59 00:03:02 00:03:04

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we can bring praise to you all day long. Help us as 00:03:07
we move forward. Give us wisdom, give us strength, 00:03:11
give us direction, and give us unity in Jesus's name. 00:03:15
And everybody said -- 00:03:19
ALL: Amen. 00:03:23
SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative White 00:03:24
Will lead us in the pledge. 00:03:25
REPRESENTATIVE WHITE: I pledge allegiance 00:03:28
to the flag of the United States of America, and to 00:03:28
the Republic -- 00:03:51
(No audio from 00:03:34 to 00:03:51)
SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. The 00:03:51
committee from the Senate. Senator Hewitt. 00:03:53
SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 00:04:11
Members, we are here to inform you that the Senate 00:04:12
has convened, and we are ready to do business. 00:04:15
On a personal note, I would like to thank 00:04:19
all of you for your commitment to being here this 00:04:21
week for this very important work and for the 00:04:24
sacrifices that you've made to be here and the 00:04:27
sacrifices that you continue to make to serve the 00:04:30
people of Louisiana. So thank you very much. I look 00:04:33

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forward to working with you this week. 00:04:36

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 00:04:38

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you, Senator. 00:04:40

(No audio from 00:04:40 to 00:04:50)

HOUSE CLERK: Mr. Speaker and Members, 00:04:51

Representative Davis requests five days' leave for 00:04:52

seatmate, Representative Hilferty. 00:04:55

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:04:56

HOUSE CLERK: Representative Wilford 00:04:58

Carter requests five days' leave for his seatmate, 00:04:59

Representative Moore. 00:05:01

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:02

HOUSE CLERK: Representative Garofalo 00:05:03

requests two days' leave for Representative 00:05:04

McCormick. 00:05:07

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:09

HOUSE CLERK: Representative Farnum 00:05:10

requests two days' leave for Representative Tarver. 00:05:13

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:17

HOUSE CLERK: Representative Muscarello 00:05:20

requests five days' leave for Representative Stagni. 00:05:22

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:27

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HOUSE CLERK: Representative Bryant request five days' leave for Representative Cox. 00:05:29 00:05:32

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:36

HOUSE CLERK: Representative Coussan requests one day's leave for representative Beaullieu. 00:05:38 00:05:39 00:05:42

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:43

HOUSE CLERK: And representative Freiberg requests one day's leave for Representative McKnight. 00:05:44 00:05:45

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 00:05:48

(No audio from 00:05:46 to 00:06:15)

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Morning hour five. 00:06:19

HOUSE CLERK: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the House is in receipt of a communication. The governor has issued a Proclamation No. 89 JBE 2022 by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution. I hereby call and convene the legislative -- legislature of Louisiana into extraordinary session to convene this day and to adjourn June 20th. 00:06:23 00:06:24 00:06:27 00:06:30 00:06:33 00:06:35 00:06:37 00:06:42

I've set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal, signed, John Bel Edwards, 00:06:45 00:06:46

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Governor of Louisiana. 00:06:49

(No audio from 00:06:49 to 00:07:23)

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Morning hour five. 00:07:23

(No audio from 00:07:25 to 00:08:33)

MALE SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker on personal 00:08:36

privilege. 00:08:47

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Members, good 00:08:49

afternoon, and thank you all for being here today so 00:08:52

unexpectedly and soon after we were -- had completed 00:08:55

our very successful session. 00:08:59

As we've said -- as I've said, this 00:09:02

special session is premature and unnecessary until 00:09:04

the legal process has played out in the court 00:09:08

systems. But based on the federal judge and a call 00:09:12

into the special session by the governor, here we 00:09:17

are. 00:09:20

We are grateful for the hard work that our 00:09:23

Governmental Affairs Committee did during this past 00:09:26

year -- this year. They've traveled the state. They 00:09:29

held meetings after work. They participated -- the 00:09:34

public participated in all means possible to this 00:09:40

process. 00:09:43

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They've even allowed those meetings to go on long into the night in order to make sure that everyone who wanted to be a part could be heard. Those committees did everything they could to make sure the process was fair, transparent, open to all citizens of this state. 00:09:46 00:09:48 00:09:51 00:09:55 00:09:59 00:10:04

Members, the maps we passed, after all the hard work, are fair and constitutional. It concerns me that we are now being asked to redo these maps in just five days, something that was passed overwhelmingly by two thirds of both bodies after a long year's work. 00:10:08 00:10:11 00:10:18 00:10:27 00:10:31 00:10:34

But here we are, and we will do our best, as we always do, over these next few days to make sure voices are heard as the process continues to play out. I respect the legal process, and I know how complicated redistricting laws are. I view this special session as one continuing step to this long process. 00:10:38 00:10:42 00:10:46 00:10:51 00:10:56 00:11:00 00:11:04

I am going to ask you to support suspending the rules today to allow us to refer these bills to committee that will be introduced in a few 00:11:06 00:11:09 00:11:13

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minutes so that H and GA can begin its committee work Friday to hear whatever bills are filed today. That will give you and the public time to review these bills. With that, I ask each and every one of you to keep the hard work in mind that we're going to do, and keep each other in mind that -- that we're here because we were asked to come back and do a job. Thank you. 00:11:17 00:11:22 00:11:28 00:11:32 00:11:40 00:11:45 00:11:50 00:11:55

MR. PRO TEM: Representative Stefanski on personal privilege. 00:11:57 00:11:58

REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI: Thank you, Mr. Pro tem. I just want to reiterate a couple things that the speaker touched on. 00:12:06 00:12:07 00:12:10

Number one, I -- I agree with the speaker. I -- I believe this is premature. We have not had a -- a final ruling on the merits. The second thing is I agree the maps that we passed -- and I want you to think back about the whole process that we went through to get here. Overwhelmingly, both in the House and the Senate, did we approve this map. 00:12:11 00:12:14 00:12:18 00:12:22 00:12:25 00:12:27 00:12:30

To the extent that we overrode a gubernatorial veto, that's only happened four times 00:12:34 00:12:37

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in the history of Louisiana. One federal judge has said that we can't use these maps. In five to six days -- a special session that we're going to try to have in five to six days on an issue this controversial and this important to so many people around this state, in my opinion, is simply unattainable. 00:12:40 00:12:45 00:12:51 00:12:53 00:12:55 00:12:59 00:13:03

The last thing I will say is the Fifth Circuit, when they vacated their temporary stay on the preliminary injunction, it's important to read what they said. 00:13:05 00:13:07 00:13:11 00:13:15

Our ruling here concerns only the motions for stay pending appeal and are for -- our determinations are for that purpose only and do not bind the Merits Panel. 00:13:17 00:13:19 00:13:23 00:13:28

That said, neither the plaintiff's argument nor the district court's analysis is entirely watertight. And it is feasible that the Merits Panel, conducting a less rushed examination of the record in the light of a differently framed arguments, may well side with the defendants. 00:13:31 00:13:33 00:13:36 00:13:39 00:13:44 00:13:47

Thank you, Members. 00:13:52

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Personal privilege, Representative Duplessis. 00:13:52 00:13:56

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members, Chairman Stefanski. I have with me some documents in my hand. These are not notes. This is a 152-page order from the federal court. This is a 34-page ruling from a -- from a federal appellate court. 00:14:17 00:14:17 00:14:22 00:14:24 00:14:30 00:14:37

The speaker mentioned that we were asked to come in here and redo a map that he believes is legal. Well, I don't think we were asked. We were ordered by a federal district court and by three federal appellate judges -- four judges. 00:14:40 00:14:42 00:14:46 00:14:52 00:14:57

We're either going to respect the law, or we're not going to respect the law. We've said time after time after time that the maps being proposed did not pass muster under the Voting Rights Act. 00:15:02 00:15:05 00:15:09 00:15:16

It feels like Groundhog Day because I've come to this well so many times and repeated myself, and we've made the same argument so many times. The question is are we going to respect the law, or are we not going to respect the law? 00:15:20 00:15:22 00:15:25 00:15:29 00:15:32

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The issue of time has been raised. We know because it's all in the record that this body has more than enough ability to get through these maps in the six days in which we've been given, starting today. We know we have enough time to get through the maps because the maps that have been filed by myself, Senator Fields on the Senate side -- they've been in the record for a very long time now. 00:15:34 00:15:37 00:15:41 00:15:44 00:15:47 00:15:51 00:15:53 00:15:59

And we were sent here with a very clear mandate from the court to come back with a map that had two African American congressional districts. This is not complicated. This is not hard. It might be hard for some of us, but we know what we're here to do. 00:16:02 00:16:05 00:16:09 00:16:13 00:16:17 00:16:20

The fact of the matter is this: The current maps that we are under -- the current maps that, yes, two thirds voted to override the governor on -- the fact is that that map is on the wrong side of the law, and it's on the wrong side of history. 00:16:23 00:16:26 00:16:30 00:16:33 00:16:37

So my challenge to this body is let's get on the right side of the law and get on the right side of history and adopt a map that complies with 00:16:42 00:16:45 00:16:48

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the federal order. 00:16:52

When I was young and I didn't listen to 00:16:55

what my mom had to say, she had a very specific thing 00:16:57

that she would say to me. 00:17:01

She said, Son, you have deliberately 00:17:02

disobeyed me. You deliberately disobeyed me. 00:17:05

We have been told what to do. So this is 00:17:10

not a choice that we have. We're either going to 00:17:12

deliberately disobey the courts, or we're going to do 00:17:15

the right thing. 00:17:19

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative 00:17:31

Phelps -- Representative Carter, why do you rise? 00:17:32

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: For those of us 00:17:36

who aren't on House And Government Affairs, what do 00:17:37

Thursday and Friday look like as far as when we may 00:17:39

be down here? 00:17:42

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Let's get there 00:17:43

first, and then we'll fill you in. How about that? 00:17:44

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Just trying to get 00:17:46

my schedule together. 00:17:47

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Yes, sir. 00:17:48

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Thank you, Mr. 00:18:10

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Speaker and Members. I first come here just with the responsibility of the people who sent me here to represent not just my district but for the entire State of Louisiana. 00:18:10 00:18:14 00:18:17 00:18:19

As the speaker mentioned, we did have -- our committee did a great job in -- in doing the work with us and for us. We did have several state meetings. And when it was in my area, and as I was told as across the state, it was deliberately and very clearly stated and asked for another congressional district so that we would have additional representation in congress. 00:18:22 00:18:24 00:18:27 00:18:31 00:18:35 00:18:39 00:18:42 00:18:45

I've heard the words fair, that the map -- previous maps were constitutional. It could be a controversial issue that we still have to address. I heard the word premature with us being here today. 00:18:48 00:18:51 00:18:54 00:18:58

I think it's very premature when we were -- we -- the speaker -- the president hired lawyers at the sums of $60,000 a month as the defense lawyers for where we stand today. 00:19:02 00:19:05 00:19:09 00:19:14

When representatives Stefanski brought the map, I did ask him -- some of you remember. We read 00:19:17 00:19:18

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it in the paper, or I read it in the paper first, and I asked the question. Was that -- how was that addressed as it did not come before the body? And -- and, of course, he could not answer for the speaker. 00:19:23 00:19:25 00:19:29 00:19:31

So that is something that has been concerning, and I see everybody, you know, not really listening. But, again, I'm here on behalf of the constituents across the State of Louisiana, wondering are we paying $60,000 a month to discriminate against minority people? That's another question today. 00:19:34 00:19:36 00:19:38 00:19:40 00:19:44 00:19:48

Louisiana is more than just the rich, the wealthy, the white. There are black people. There are other minorities in this -- in this state not so rich, not so wealthy. Maybe the haves and the have-nots? 00:19:56 00:19:59 00:20:03 00:20:08 00:20:11

I felt judged at times since I've been here by the people that I am here representing. And those of whom I have had conversations with, I've said, but I'm here to represent. We shouldn't be looked at -- how many SNAP recipients we have in our districts and how many are receiving benefits and make a determination of what's good and bad and 00:20:13 00:20:16 00:20:20 00:20:23 00:20:26 00:20:29 00:20:32

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ignore those people that pay taxes and try to live in our great state as well. 00:20:35 00:20:38

So I would like to go back and tell them -- and I hope they will see at the end of this week -- that, no, our speaker, our legislator, our president did not prematurely hire defense lawyers to discriminate against African Americans and minorities in this state. Because I know we will do the right thing and have fair representation for Louisiana. 00:20:41 00:20:43 00:20:45 00:20:50 00:20:54 00:20:58 00:21:01

Thank you. 00:21:08

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Representative Gaines. 00:21:08 00:21:16

REPRESENTATIVE GAINES: Members, were here to -- to carry out a cause, to take advantage of an opportunity to do what's just and right, to allow the black citizens of Louisiana to elect a second black congressman to create a second black majority district, which is due, which is just, and which is fair, based on the population, also, based on the federal court's ruling. 00:21:24 00:21:25 00:21:32 00:21:36 00:21:41 00:21:43 00:21:45 00:21:48

The court has agreed that this is just, and this is right. And let me say a couple things: 00:21:50 00:21:52

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This -- this country was founded on the profound principles of equally -- equity and -- and justice and fairness. This creed was loudly professed, however, in regards to African Americans, in many cases it was overtly delayed and systematically denied. 00:21:58 00:22:01 00:22:03 00:22:08 00:22:10 00:22:15

With regards to the Voting Rights Act, there have been several instances over the passing of time that blacks were able to gain their voting rights through struggle, sacrifice, and during the many hostilities dating back to 1870 after the 15th Amendment -- 1870, 1871 voting -- voter -- Voting Enforcement Act that allowed blacks to vote, allowed blacks to elect their representatives all over the country on national and local levels. 00:22:18 00:22:20 00:22:23 00:22:26 00:22:29 00:22:35 00:22:39 00:22:41 00:22:44

Of course, when it was repealed -- and I've talked to you about this before -- in 1894, every black that was elected to office was removed from office, denying blacks who had fought in wars, paid taxes, their right to elect someone of their choice. 00:22:47 00:22:50 00:22:53 00:22:54 00:22:58 00:23:01

It was 100 years before blacks were given 00:23:02

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the right to vote again through the 1965 Voting Rights Act after that rollback. Once again in 2013, the Supreme Court rolled it back again by ruling in in Shelby versus Holder that the -- the Voting Rights Act was no longer needed to protect black votes. 00:23:04 00:23:06 00:23:11 00:23:14 00:23:18

Well, that's like saying in hurricane -- in New Orleans that the levees are no longer needed because it's not flooding. Well, the reason why it's not flooding is because the levees are there. The reason why blacks have their rights protected, because the Voting Rights Act was there. 00:23:20 00:23:23 00:23:25 00:23:27 00:23:29 00:23:30

It was struck down in 2013, and immediately after it was struck down, eight states who had tried to pass voting rights restrictions sent notice to the Justice Department that they were going to file these same laws -- try to pass the same laws to target black voting and -- and oppress black -- black -- black voting ability and black voting strength. 00:23:31 00:23:34 00:23:37 00:23:42 00:23:43 00:23:47 00:23:50 00:23:55

While the Voting Rights -- Voting Rights Act was in place, there were 143 violations to the Voting Rights Act between 2001 and 2013 -- 143 00:23:56 00:23:57 00:23:59

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violations while it wasn't effect. So you can 00:24:04
imagine what was -- what was going to happen to black 00:24:06
voting ability after it was -- after it was repealed 00:24:07
and after -- after it was struck down. Today, 00:24:10
another rollback. 00:24:14

There have been -- 32 states have passed 00:24:15
voting restrictions that target black votes, and the 00:24:18
record shows that it has impacted blacks ability to 00:24:25
vote. 00:24:28

So we are just here asking you to give a 00:24:28
just and fair opportunity for minorities in the state 00:24:34
to elect someone of their choice, someone who can 00:24:36
fight for their interests, someone who can fight for 00:24:39
their causes. 00:24:41

As you know, many of the causes that we 00:24:41
fought for for our constituents, of which 90 percent 00:24:43
are black, have been struck down by this legislature. 00:24:44
So the representation and those who represent us make 00:24:49
a difference in terms of whether or not we can turn a 00:24:51
corner to the deviancies and -- and the things that 00:24:53
plaques -- plague our community. 00:24:56

We can't complain about the problems in 00:24:57

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our communities or the problems in the urban cities or the problems in black community, some of the things that we face, without giving a -- without giving a solution to -- to be able to avert these problems, without giving an opportunity to be able to change these problems. And this is an opportunity today to be able to effectuate a process -- the political process that allowed blacks to get -- have someone to represent their interests and to move their community forward. 00:24:59 00:25:01 00:25:03 00:25:05 00:25:07 00:25:10 00:25:11 00:25:15 00:25:17 00:25:20

And when you move our communities forward, all communities move forward. A rising tide rises all boats. We can come together, and we can do this. We just ask you for the opportunity to allow us to turn the corner and allow us to work together to create opportunities that's going to remove or at least overcome the -- the difficulties and challenges and deprivation of the past so that we can build a better future. 00:25:21 00:25:24 00:25:27 00:25:29 00:25:32 00:25:34 00:25:38 00:25:41 00:25:43

Thank you. 00:25:44

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Representative Pierre. 00:25:46 00:25:46

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REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE: Members, with all due respect, I did hear Chairman Stefanski and our speaker talk about time -- time. In 2018, during the Extraordinary Session right at three days HB 2 was -- HB 1 was passed. This past session we had HB 1 of the speakers bill, and it was done in four hours. 00:25:57 00:25:58 00:26:02 00:26:09 00:26:14 00:26:19

We've come here on several special sessions to do -- do a lot of things that was necessary and important to the people that we all serve, but we've got to be conscious of the fact that the court has ordered, and both found that there are ample time before election day to adopt and implement new congressional maps that complies with the Voting Rights Act; and legislative leadership has not bothered to take any action since the governor order. 00:26:23 00:26:25 00:26:29 00:26:32 00:26:36 00:26:40 00:26:43 00:26:47 00:26:50

We have to come in. We come in. We order them to come in, and we have meetings to talk about it. We have not done that. So the time is now, and we can make this happen. 00:26:57 00:26:59 00:27:02 00:27:07

Members, I ask that you do the right thing, and let's correct the wrong, and let's move forward with this additional congressional map. 00:27:10 00:27:12 00:27:16

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Thank you. 00:27:18

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 00:27:22

Representative Hughes. 00:27:23

REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. 00:27:38

Speaker, Members. The Book of Joshua commands us to 00:27:38

be strong and courageous. Today is, in this session, 00:27:44

is simply about doing the right thing. And Members, 00:27:54

from my perspective, it does not take courage to 00:27:58

simply do what is right. 00:28:02

Mr. Speaker and Members, as I stand here, 00:28:06

I can't help but reminisce and reflect upon a great 00:28:09

man who had such a profound impact on my life -- my 00:28:13

grandfather, The late, great Reverend Lieutenant 00:28:18

Colonel James Lawrence Winn, Junior, who was born 00:28:23

November 2nd, 1929. 00:28:29

When he graduated from McDonogh 35 Senior 00:28:34

High school in 1946, he enrolled in law school for a 00:28:36

year but then answered a calling to serve his 00:28:40

country. And so, after being commissioned as a 00:28:43

second lieutenant through Southern's ROTC program, he 00:28:47

enrolled in the military full-time. 00:28:50

Despite so many racial challenges during 00:28:53

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that time, he was able to go from a second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. 00:28:55 00:28:59

But during that time, I can't help but reflect on the stories that he shared with me -- how as he was fighting for his country and defending the flag, when my grandmother was pregnant, he could not stop at certain hospitals because of his race; how as it he's fighting for this country and defending the flag, simply to have that sacred honor, fundamental right to vote, he, my grandmother, and so many other people in my family that simply looked like him was slapped with literacy tests and poll tests. 00:29:02 00:29:04 00:29:09 00:29:12 00:29:16 00:29:20 00:29:22 00:29:31 00:29:34 00:29:37

As my grandfather defended this country and defended this nation, he not only had to fight to keep our citizens safe, but he had to fight for rights that should have been afforded to him as a citizen, but he did not have because of the color of his skin. 00:29:42 00:29:44 00:29:49 00:29:53 00:29:57 00:30:00

And here today, Members, unfortunately, people that look like me find ourselves fighting yet again simply for the fundamental right to vote. There's a reason that the John Lewis Voting Rights 00:30:02 00:30:06 00:30:09 00:30:15

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Act right now is in Congress. Because we see so many people that look like me, unfortunately, that continue to this day to be disenfranchised. 00:30:17 00:30:21 00:30:24

Members, at the end of the day, this session is about ensuring that black people have a fair chance at representation. They make up one third of this state's population. Members, I don't think that's too much to ask. 00:30:32 00:30:34 00:30:39 00:30:45 00:30:49

Now, Members, we see House Bill 1 has been filed and Senate Bill 1 has been filed, and we'll hear things like, oh, six days is not enough time for the public to weigh in. Well, Members, those bills were filed in previous sessions. They have been vetted. They have been reviewed. The public has had time to weigh in on those bills. And what those bills both do is create a second black congressional district. 00:30:54 00:30:56 00:30:59 00:31:03 00:31:06 00:31:09 00:31:13 00:31:16 00:31:22

I often talk about literacy, Members, but I was also very good at math and fractions. And one thing I learned in elementary school -- one third of six is two. 00:31:24 00:31:26 00:31:31 00:31:34

Members, what we are seeing at this 00:31:39

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moment, unfortunately, are the lingering effects of slavery and Jim Crow. But today, at this moment in time, we have an opportunity. We have a mandate to simply do the right thing. 00:31:40 00:31:45 00:31:50 00:31:57

Members, we did not get it right last session. We didn't get it right in February, because if we did, we would not be back here. And so, Members, at this consequential moment, it is our obligation to uphold our constitutional responsibility and do the right thing to ensure people that look like me have a fair shot at representation and to ensure that I don't have to go back home and answer the question that I had to answer last night for my 13-year-old niece that said, Uncle Moe, why do we have to fight so hard? I was speechless. 00:31:59 00:32:02 00:32:04 00:32:09 00:32:14 00:32:18 00:32:22 00:32:28 00:32:32 00:32:35 00:32:39 00:32:47

But I hope we can make her proud and children that look like her and citizens that look like me and simply do the right thing and honor the mandate of the court and the mandate of black residents by adding his second congressional black district. It's never too late to do the right thing. 00:32:49 00:32:51 00:32:54 00:32:59 00:33:02 00:33:07

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The time has come. The hour is now. 00:33:11

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 00:33:15

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 00:33:17

Representative Newell. 00:33:18

REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Good afternoon, 00:33:34

Mr. Speaker and Members. This is the third 00:33:35

legislative session where we have had the chance to 00:33:40

do what is fair, what is right, and what is legal by 00:33:46

enacting legally compliant maps the third session. 00:33:52

So I don't know why this session should come as a 00:34:00

surprise to anyone. I actually thought it would have 00:34:05

been called a little bit earlier because not one map 00:34:08

that was passed out of this body met the requirements 00:34:13

of the Voting Right Act. 00:34:19

Some of them were leaders in the 00:34:22

legislature have said that throughout the process -- 00:34:24

have said throughout this process we'll just let the 00:34:27

courts work it out. Well, it has been worked out by 00:34:31

the courts, and the courts have ruled that the 00:34:34

legislature must pass -- must pass a map that has two 00:34:38

minority-majority congressional districts and that we 00:34:46

have failed to meet that burden. 00:34:55

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We failed to meet that burden, and -- and we failed to meet the burden in proving why we don't have the time to pass one. 00:34:59 00:35:01 00:35:04

Several of my colleagues have come up and given examples as to the fact that we do have time to pass this map and have told how we've passed legislation in this body in less time than what we have now. This is just another opportunity that the courts are giving us to do what is right. 00:35:07 00:35:09 00:35:14 00:35:17 00:35:20 00:35:29

We can either pass a fair map now, or we can prove to our citizens, the people that elected us to come here -- we can prove to them, and we can prove to the courts why we, as a legislative body, have absolutely no business operating and voting without the supervision of the Department of Justice Preclearance. 00:35:33 00:35:36 00:35:39 00:35:41 00:35:46 00:35:50 00:35:53

We are here to do one thing, one thing in these next five days and that is to pass one map, one map which creates a second minority-majority congressional district. 00:35:55 00:35:59 00:36:04 00:36:08

We have heard from the citizens. We've given them ample time. We have heard everything we 00:36:10 00:36:12

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need to hear from the citizens all across this state. We have gone to the different regions. We've been in their backyards to listen to what they've had, and we gave them the opportunity to come to this building to tell us what it is that they want. And the overwhelming -- the overwhelming thing that was said -- they need a second minority-majority district. 00:36:15 00:36:19 00:36:21 00:36:24 00:36:27 00:36:31 00:36:37

If we start our work tomorrow morning, we will have more than enough time to do what we should have done in February. Waiting -- that will push us out of -- out of the time delay, and that will cause confusions. But if we start tomorrow, we will have more than enough time to get these -- this one map out -- the one map that the court has directed us to do. 00:36:41 00:36:45 00:36:48 00:36:53 00:36:56 00:36:59 00:37:02 00:37:06

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It is not too late to do what the courts have directed us to do, and it is not too late to do what is right by the citizens of this great State of Louisiana. 00:37:08 00:37:11 00:37:15 00:37:18

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Marcelle. 00:37:20 00:37:22

REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Mr. Speaker and 00:37:39

Members of the House of Representatives, I find myself standing here once again to talk about us doing what's right. I sat, and I listened as our speaker came and as Representative Stefanski came to this well and said that they thought that they had a fair map. They talked about the two thirds of this House voting overwhelmingly for their map. 00:37:40 00:37:44 00:37:49 00:37:56 00:38:00 00:38:04 00:38:08

But I want you to look at the makeup of this House. The reason it was overwhelmingly voted for, one, is because none of the other maps got out of committee. I didn't hear anybody come up here and talk about that. We presented map after map after map, all of which would have given us -- either one of them would have given us two minority congressional districts. But none of those maps made it out of committee; so you definitely would not have had an opportunity to vote on those maps because they were withheld in the committee. 00:38:15 00:38:17 00:38:23 00:38:28 00:38:32 00:38:39 00:38:46 00:38:49 00:38:54 00:38:56 00:39:00

We did go all over this state, roadshows, and as you have heard, people all over this state know that from six -- a third of six is two. You do the math. It's six congressional seats. Now this is 00:39:05 00:39:11 00:39:16 00:39:22

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not based upon something that Denise Marcelle said. 00:39:26
You know, we have something called the census, and in 00:39:30
the census, it said that we had enough black folk in 00:39:33
this state to have two congressional districts. It 00:39:40
is very simple to me. 00:39:46
We get up here every day, and we start off 00:39:48
with Psalms, and we start off with scriptures, and we 00:39:52
start off with prayer, and we talk about loving 00:39:56
everybody. But when it's time to vote, we don't vote 00:39:59
that way. We don't vote like we love blacks in this 00:40:03
state. We vote along racial lines. We vote along 00:40:07
party lines. We do not vote like we love everybody 00:40:13
in this state. 00:40:18
Now we can go across the street and have a 00:40:19
great barbecue, and some of y'all drank a few beers, 00:40:21
although I don't drink; but at the end of the day, 00:40:24
you do not want us to have fair representation in 00:40:29
Louisiana. And something is really wrong with that. 00:40:32
Something is really, really wrong with that. Because 00:40:36
when I love somebody, I want them to have the equal 00:40:40
treatment that I have, access to the same things that 00:40:42
I have. We may agree to disagree, and we may be on 00:40:46

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both sides; but we can't keep allowing the scales to be way up here on one side and way down here on the other side and not allowing these people to ever rise up. 00:40:52 00:40:57 00:41:00 00:41:04

And when we rise up, and when we get a second congressional seat, that means that we will have our voices heard in Washington. That means that we will have people fighting for the George Floyd Act. That means that the gun rights that we believe are best common sense laws, red flag laws that we believe is best for citizens not only of this state but other states throughout the nation, that we believe is best -- in the best interest of our children and protecting our families, that we get to vote. 00:41:05 00:41:08 00:41:12 00:41:18 00:41:21 00:41:27 00:41:32 00:41:36 00:41:39 00:41:42 00:41:45

But if you can hold this down here from ever getting there, then we never get to vote. It's very, very simple. I want to keep you with the one congressional district that you have, and you don't deserve another one. And that's why we had the preclearance for so long because they knew you wouldn't be fair in Louisiana. 00:41:46 00:41:48 00:41:52 00:41:55 00:41:58 00:42:01 00:42:04

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This is no surprise to anyone. So stop getting up here feeding me something that's not true. Let's do what's right. Let's do what the judges told us to do. Oh, that's right. We only want to do what the judges tell us to do when it's in your benefit -- to your benefit. 00:42:07 00:42:12 00:42:18 00:42:24 00:42:29 00:42:32

Do you know how many judges told us to do the right thing? We wouldn't be here. We keep talking about why did the governor call us back here. He called us back here because the judge made a ruling. He said go back since you didn't do what was right the first time or the second time or the third time. Please don't waste the citizens of Louisiana's money by allowing us to come back here. I want to go on vacation with my grandkids. I don't know about y'all. 00:42:35 00:42:37 00:42:40 00:42:42 00:42:46 00:42:51 00:42:55 00:42:59 00:43:01 00:43:05

But we could have done this. These maps are not new. We don't even have to recreate them. They've been sitting here all along with the second black majority seat -- minority-majority seat. It's already here. Why are we playing this game? It's not enough time. It -- the maps we have are fine. 00:43:05 00:43:08 00:43:11 00:43:14 00:43:22 00:43:27

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They don't hold muster to the courts. A very conservative court, I might add, ruled that it's more likely that the plaintiffs would win. 00:43:32 00:43:35 00:43:39

So when are we going to start really caring about each other like we say we love one another? When are we going to do that? I suggest that we start today. Today is a good day to start and not to introduce bills that does not create a second minority-majority district. That's not what they told us to do. 00:43:47 00:43:49 00:43:52 00:43:59 00:44:03 00:44:08 00:44:14

I hope that you all are not proposing to draft any such maps because we are going around in the same circle. So let's stop going around in a circle as if we are in a circus, and let's do what's right for all of the people of Louisiana, for all of them. 00:44:15 00:44:19 00:44:22 00:44:27 00:44:31 00:44:36

If you had the majority, then you would want your seat. We want our seat at the table. It's real simple. Give us an opportunity to elect another black seat so that we can fight for the issues that we believe our people want us to fight for. 00:44:36 00:44:38 00:44:43 00:44:48 00:44:54

Thank you. 00:44:58

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Ivey. 00:45:01

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Thank you, Mr. 00:45:23
Speaker. 00:45:24

Members, I wasn't planning on speaking. I 00:45:24
didn't realize there were going to be a lot of 00:45:26
personal privileges, but I felt, after listening to 00:45:27
some of it, that it was important for me to come up 00:45:29
here. 00:45:32

I appreciate the various perspectives that 00:45:33
we have been presented, and I do not intend to offer 00:45:36
any personal thoughts or criticisms with regard to 00:45:42
what's been said even though there are certain things 00:45:46
that I personally have been offended by. 00:45:48

What I would like to do is simply offer my 00:45:53
own personal nonpolitical perspective on the matter 00:45:56
at hand. We have a legislative duty. The -- the law 00:46:00
requires us to draw maps of congressional districts. 00:46:05
That's our responsibility. There's -- the current 00:46:10
legal status is that the lower court's ruling that we 00:46:13
must draw a second black minority district is what is 00:46:18
on the table today. 00:46:24

We have no idea, even though we have an 00:46:25

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expectation, that in early July that the courts may take up this matter of the case to, you know, potentially make a ruling, you know, at some point. We don't know when that is, and we don't know what the outcome will be. 00:46:27 00:46:32 00:46:34 00:46:38 00:46:42

And so it would be a gamble for -- for proponents of the current map to simply rely on the outcome in the judiciary. And so what we do have before us, in my opinion, is an obligation to at least try to adhere to the federal ruling that is before us. 00:46:44 00:46:48 00:46:54 00:46:58 00:47:02 00:47:07

I recognize that the probability of failure is far greater than the probability of success. That said, I believe it is incumbent upon us to at least try. And I simply ask that we all support the necessary procedural motions that would allow us, as a legislator, the opportunity to attempt to comply with the current federal law, regardless of how you may vote on the actual -- actual instruments should they even leave a committee. 00:47:08 00:47:12 00:47:15 00:47:19 00:47:26 00:47:30 00:47:36 00:47:39 00:47:43

I just ask that you please support the procedural motions that would allow us the 00:47:45 00:47:47

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opportunity to vet the instruments that have been filed and to make the necessary effort to attempt to adhere to the current court ruling. 00:47:50 00:47:53 00:47:57

Thank you. 00:47:59

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Boyd. 00:48:05

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 00:48:26 00:48:26

Members, I, like Mr. Ivey or Rep Ivey did not intend to come to the well today. But as he stressed, seeking the opportunity to hear other maps and let other maps be brought to committee, it is exactly what we are striving for ourselves. There's no guarantee with the second district that an African American person will be elected. It gives us the opportunity to elect another African American person. 00:48:27 00:48:30 00:48:34 00:48:42 00:48:46 00:48:51 00:48:55 00:48:58

Redistricting was my first session here. My first day was the first day of redistricting. It was difficult. The session was difficult for me as well because in 2022 I live in a time where I think things are equal. I have friends who are Republicans. I have friends who are Democrats. I have friends who are independent. 00:49:04 00:49:08 00:49:12 00:49:17 00:49:22 00:49:25 00:49:27

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But to sit in a room where people want to deny African Americans, minorities the opportunity to elect someone -- no guarantee, just the opportunity to elect someone that thinks like they do, and maybe have the same views -- it's difficult. 00:49:30 00:49:33 00:49:39 00:49:43 00:49:46

So I, like Rep Ivey, implore to you today, please. That's all we're asking -- for the opportunity to elect someone else. And please keep in mind that the other maps were not vetoed, but they went into law without the governor's signature. 00:49:50 00:49:55 00:49:58 00:50:02 00:50:05

They went into law without the governor's signature. It's not just this map. This is just the only one that was vetoed. This is just the only one that went to the courts. So we're asking for one seat to be given the opportunity to elect someone that represents their interest. 00:50:10 00:50:11 00:50:14 00:50:16 00:50:20 00:50:26

Thank you. 00:50:28

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Glover. 00:50:30 00:50:31

REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER: Speaker, Members, I -- I am the -- the last of five children in my family -- two older brothers and two older sisters. 00:50:31 00:51:07 00:51:14

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It was impressed upon me at an early age that I was the only one those five actually born into an America where, as an African American, I was vested with all the rights that we believe are due to us as Americans. 00:51:21 00:51:28 00:51:36 00:51:42 00:51:47

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1965 Voters Rights Act on August 6th of 1965. I was born in three days later on August 9th. When I started first grade, Northside Elementary school up in Shreveport, that was the first wave of integrated schools in Caddo Parish. A similar dynamic was taking place around the rest of the parish and the rest of the state and the rest of the country. 00:51:49 00:51:51 00:51:58 00:52:03 00:52:07 00:52:13 00:52:18 00:52:21

That dynamic caught many of you in the latter stages of your elementary and secondary career. It caught me at the beginning of mine. So as one who is numbered amongst the first generation or the first wave rather of Generation X, we are amongst that group that had the privilege and benefit of being born into what we believe to be the real full and true America -- the post Civil Rights Movement America, the post Southern apartheid 00:52:25 00:52:28 00:52:31 00:52:35 00:52:39 00:52:44 00:52:47 00:52:55 00:52:59

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America. 00:53:03

I grew up, like many of you, reading the 00:53:05
history of my city and this state and this country 00:53:10
and believing that many of those things that I read 00:53:15
about and that I saw in my history books and on 00:53:22
documentaries and film were things that were a part 00:53:28
of America's past and certainly a limited part of our 00:53:33
present and had no expectation that they would be a 00:53:38
part of our future. 00:53:43

In fact, one of the great moments in my 00:53:48
life was realizing that -- again, as that first 00:53:52
grader at Northside Elementary School, one of the 00:53:57
things that we have to do every morning in addition 00:53:59
to reciting the pledge was to be able to identify who 00:54:02
was the president at that time, who was our governor, 00:54:08
and who was our mayor. 00:54:14

The mayor of Shreveport in 1971 was a guy 00:54:15
by the name of Littleberry Calhoun Allen. He went by 00:54:26
L. Calhoun Allen, I guess, for obvious reasons; but 00:54:26
he was a two-term mayor that served between 1970 and 00:54:30
1978, the last time in our city's history that we had 00:54:32
a commissioned form of government as well as a system 00:54:36

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of government that only elected local representatives on an at-large basis. 00:54:41 00:54:44

That at-large system of election ensured that nobody who looked like me or from where I lived had a chance of being able to be a part of Shreveport government either as mayor or as a commissioner or as a member of the council. 00:54:45 00:54:49 00:54:55 00:55:00 00:55:05

Fast forward to 1990, and I'm having the privilege on the fourth Tuesday in November of that year of being sworn in as the youngest person to ever serve on the Shreveport City Council. And one of those folks that I was sworn in with on that day was Littleberry Calhoun Allen. 00:55:08 00:55:17 00:55:20 00:55:23 00:55:29 00:55:33

He had decided to get back into public life later in life, similar to yours truly, I guess; and he was being sworn into the District BC as I was being sworn into District A. And young 24, 25-year-old Cedric believed that to be a manifestation of the fulfillment of the ideals of America that I grew up listening to my dad tell me about, those things that made us exceptional, those things that made it worthwhile for him, an African American young man 00:55:37 00:55:39 00:55:44 00:55:48 00:55:53 00:56:00 00:56:05 00:56:09 00:56:13

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that was born in the Orange Mound section of Memphis, who went off to defend his country as a part of the Air Force during the Korean War, despite the fact he could not vote, substantial jobs that he could not have an opportunity to be able to work, schools that he could not attend -- he believed in the vision, the dream, the ideals of America and worked towards trying to ensure that his progeny would end up living in a better America than the one that he grew up in. And I believed for many years that that work had been accomplished. 00:56:17 00:56:20 00:56:25 00:56:32 00:56:36 00:56:38 00:56:45 00:56:49 00:56:53 00:56:58 00:57:05

But the truth of the matter is, as Dr. King said, freedom is never won once and forever. It's not like the Super Bowl. It's not like an NBA championship. It's something that has to be striven for on a continuous basis because otherwise that which has been won, that which has been achieved, that which has been accomplished, unfortunately, even in a place as exceptional as America, has the ability to be able to be taken back. 00:57:08 00:57:10 00:57:16 00:57:19 00:57:25 00:57:32 00:57:34 00:57:40 00:57:47

I want you all to understand that despite my expectations of not being in the midst of this 00:57:52 00:57:56

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type of history -- I thought the type of history that I would have a chance to be able to be a part of would be figuring out how we go on to even greater heights and even loftier accomplishments because we would have effectively dusted off the history of our Civil War era, the history of our reconstruction, the dark days of Jim Crow and black codes, the challenges of the Civil Rights Movement; and I thought the successes thereof had set us on a path and on a plane to where we were going to go forth and become even bigger, better, and greater. 00:57:59 00:58:02 00:58:04 00:58:09 00:58:12 00:58:18 00:58:24 00:58:28 00:58:32 00:58:34 00:58:39

In many respects, we have. But the truth of the matter is the fact that, when you examine the historical record, each and every time, especially in places like Louisiana, every time that we have made those types of moves, achieved those types of goals, ascended to those types of heights, it has not been because of the collective actions of those of us who have the duties and responsibilities for taking the appropriate actions. 00:58:44 00:58:49 00:58:53 00:58:58 00:59:02 00:59:06 00:59:12 00:59:16 00:59:19

And what do I mean by that? This body, in the summer of 1971 -- this legislature, in the summer 00:59:21 00:59:25

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of 1971, was made up of 139 members. There were only 100 members of the Louisiana House of Representatives at that time. There were 39 members of the Senate then as it is now. The way in which members were elected to this body in the summer of 1971 was that of the 64 parishes, each parish was guaranteed at least one state representative. 00:59:31 00:59:37 00:59:40 00:59:47 00:59:51 00:59:56 01:00:01

So no matter how big, no matter how small, everybody had a step rep from their parish. So the opportunity as an African American to get elected to the House of Representatives under that type of system was a bit of a challenge. 01:00:05 01:00:07 01:00:11 01:00:14 01:00:15

Those other 36 seats were apportioned out, I'm assuming, based on upon some form of a formula that, for instance, in Caddo Parish meant that Caddo Parish had seven state representatives, and you voted for seven state representatives no matter how many people qualified to vote. 01:00:18 01:00:23 01:00:27 01:00:30 01:00:35 01:00:38

So if there were 25 names on your ballot, and you voted for seven folks. The seven top vote getters were the ones who became the state representatives from Caddo Parish. Orleans Parish, 01:00:39 01:00:41 01:00:44 01:00:45

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to my understanding, was the only one that actually had a single-member geographic district. But of those 139 members in 1971, there was only one black despite the fact that the State of Louisiana at that time was almost 30 percent black. More than one out of four of our citizens at that time were African Americans, and they lived throughout Shreveport and Bossier and Monroe and Lafayette, Baton Rouge, New Orleans; but there was one. That was five years after the 1965 Voting Rights Act. 01:00:48 01:00:51 01:00:56 01:01:06 01:01:09 01:01:12 01:01:15 01:01:17 01:01:23 01:01:28

This body, this collective legislature, had over half of a decade to figure out the way in which to be able to compose itself in a manner that was reflective of the population of the State of Louisiana. And yet we chose not to do so. 01:01:34 01:01:39 01:01:42 01:01:46 01:01:50

What did it take? It took a judge by the name of E. Gordon West looking at the plans for reapportionment that had been passed by the Louisiana legislature, determining, yet again, that it failed to meet the muster that must be met in order to compliant with the Voters Rights Act of 1965, the only means by which you even had a chance of being 01:01:56 01:02:08 01:02:12 01:02:15 01:02:19 01:02:25 01:02:28

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able to create a mechanism by which you have an opportunity to get elected. But even then, it still was found to be lacking. 01:02:31 01:02:33 01:02:38

And because this body, of which we are a part of the tradition thereof, failed to act, Judge West said, Hold my beer. He reached out to a guy by the name of Ed Steimel, who at that time was part of the Public Affairs Research Council and appointed him as a special master. 01:02:43 01:02:47 01:02:53 01:03:02 01:03:05 01:03:09

And Ed Steimel said, If we're going to do this and do it fairly and do it effectively, we can't to keep this body at 100. We've got to expand it to 105. And you ended up with that -- at that point in time, the eradication of the guarantee that each parish in this state would have a member of this body and created 105 single-member geographic districts. 01:03:11 01:03:14 01:03:16 01:03:19 01:03:24 01:03:27 01:03:31

And the number of African Americans in this body didn't go to 25 percent as would have been reflective of the population at the state at that time. If my memory serves correctly, I think it only went to 8, the first of which from Shreveport was the Honorable late Alfonse Jackson; and he was joined by 01:03:36 01:03:38 01:03:42 01:03:45 01:03:48 01:03:54

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a few others from around the state. 01:03:58

It took external force, external action, 01:04:00

someone other than the folks sitting at these desks 01:04:05

responsible for pushing these buttons to be able to 01:04:08

do that which was right by the entirety of the state. 01:04:14

Not just right, but in line with the fulfillment of 01:04:19

what we believe ourselves to be as Americans. That 01:04:23

we are a democracy. That the folks who get to lead 01:04:26

us are not based on blood. 01:04:30

And my dad taught me that that blood meant 01:04:35

not just your relation as in kinship, being able to 01:04:37

pass down leadership, power, authority, and privilege 01:04:44

based upon who you're related to. He said that it's 01:04:49

also based upon the lack of bloodshed. That we 01:04:52

actually have a peaceful, orderly manner by which we 01:05:00

go about selecting our leaders. And once that 01:05:04

decision is made, those who win step up, and those 01:05:07

who lost step aside. 01:05:11

We are, whether we like it or not, in the 01:05:12

midst of, yet again, of not just Louisiana history 01:05:21

but American history, history that will determine 01:05:26

exactly who and what we are as a country. 01:05:31

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Every other point in time, members up until this very moment, any progress around this issue has come by the external force of the federal government. This judge has given us, yet again, as Louisianans, the opportunity to be able to come together and reason amongst ourselves and do that which is representative of our state, that which embodies what it is that is great about the ideals of America and that is to come up with a system of representation that is reflective of who we are and to do it of our own volition and of our own free will and not at the end of a federal judge's gavel. 01:05:35 01:05:39 01:05:43 01:05:49 01:05:54 01:05:58 01:06:07 01:06:10 01:06:15 01:06:19 01:06:23 01:06:28

So I would ask each of you to see yourselves within that full arc of history and know that it does, in fact, bend towards justice. The fact that I'm standing here before you is proof of that. But as I heard someone say, it does not bend by itself. It takes each of us being willing to do that, which most of us are told to do, probably. And that is to what? Vote your district. 01:06:35 01:06:38 01:06:44 01:06:49 01:06:53 01:06:57 01:07:07 01:07:10

And folks back home are telling you keep it the way it is. In fact, if we could, let's send 01:07:15 01:07:19

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it back to where it was because that's how we really liked it. That's what we do. Then justice has happened. Every time that there has been some movement, it comes by the force of someone other than us rather than those of us who have been given the privilege by our friends and our neighbors and our loved ones to come here and push these buttons. 01:07:24 01:07:27 01:07:35 01:07:39 01:07:44 01:07:48 01:07:50

So with that, I ask you to move with very deliberate, intentional intent to start this process as quickly as possible and to move us through it as quickly as possible and render a decision that is in line with what it is that we know, based on history, we have an obligation to do. 01:07:54 01:08:01 01:08:07 01:08:11 01:08:15 01:08:18

And if we aren't willing to do that, at least be able to say that we have gone through the process and said to the court, yet again, we couldn't do it and then hear, hopefully, Judge Shelly Dick say, hold my beer. 01:08:19 01:08:21 01:08:24 01:08:29 01:08:34

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:08:37

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative LaFleur. 01:08:39 01:08:39

REPRESENTATIVE LAFLEUR: Thank you, Mr. 01:08:53

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Speaker. 01:08:54

The word of God declares in Matthew 25 and 01:08:57

40 The King will reply. Truly, I tell you, whatever 01:09:00

you did for the least of those brothers and sisters 01:09:05

of mine, you did for me. 01:09:08

One third of this state is black. One 01:09:12

third of six is two. In every district, in every 01:09:16

school, public or private, one third of six is two. 01:09:21

You recognize that. I know you do. Yet you've 01:09:28

chosen to recognize that one third of six is two. 01:09:33

You can reverse the past by simply 01:09:40

recognizing that one third of six is two. This is 01:09:45

not -- not about party. This is about right. It is 01:09:51

about wrong. It is simple math. One third of six is 01:09:57

two. 01:10:04

Thank you. 01:10:05

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative 01:10:08

Lyons. 01:10:27

REPRESENTATIVE LYONS: Thank you, Mr. 01:10:27

Speaker. 01:10:27

Members, my first inclination was to ask 01:10:29

you guys -- how you guys enjoyed your summer away, 01:10:35

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but we haven't been away that long. So -- but the thing of -- or the (indiscernible) is this past week, while you guys were contemplating not coming back, enjoying your summer, I was here in this town at a conference. 01:10:38 01:10:43 01:10:47 01:10:51 01:10:56

And I was brought to that conference because at that conference, there was a gentleman from North Louisiana who stood up to make a report on Oscar James Dunn. And if you guys don't remember, we passed a -- a bill here on this past session to memorialize him as the first lieutenant governor elected black in Louisiana. 01:10:57 01:10:59 01:11:03 01:11:09 01:11:12 01:11:16 01:11:20

But the gentleman's remarks were about a fight to allow that opportunity to happen. So there were some members who actually knew of the work that we had done, and they called upon me and said, Rep, you've got to come and set this record straight because it was a lot of work that -- that you -- that you did with that. 01:11:23 01:11:26 01:11:32 01:11:35 01:11:38 01:11:41 01:11:44

So me -- as some of you may not know, I'm very humble. I don't jump out in front of a crowd just to get cheers. 01:11:46 01:11:48 01:11:51

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So I'm like, you know, there's an article written about it. You can -- you can read it. So, nonetheless, I -- I went, and I explained to those people. And this is a -- a conference here. For you all who don't know, Oscar James Dunn was the third Grand Master of the State of Louisiana of the Prince Hall Masonry. 01:11:52 01:11:54 01:11:57 01:12:02 01:12:05 01:12:09 01:12:11

So there's members in this body from all over the state, and I do, you know, actually talk about how proud I am of this body. So I explained to them very eloquently that there was no fight. There was a presentation of the facts, and the members of this body made the right choice based upon the conscience of each member of this body as the process went. 01:12:12 01:12:14 01:12:19 01:12:23 01:12:26 01:12:30 01:12:33 01:12:37

So there are some things that we fight about here, but that was clear, based on the facts, that that's how -- and how appropriate it should have went. And I explained to them the process and what was involved in that. 01:12:38 01:12:40 01:12:43 01:12:45 01:12:47

So after that moment was over, there were several members who said, hey, can I talk to you? 01:12:49 01:12:52

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Lyons, can I talk to you? I said, well, yeah, let's talk. What do you want to talk about? 01:12:54 01:12:57

They said, Well, I appreciate the fact that you talked about how well your colleagues and everybody did on this particular issue here, but why do we have to have an opportunity for you to go back in session again, and they couldn't do right with the congressional maps? 01:12:59 01:13:00 01:13:03 01:13:07 01:13:10 01:13:13

I'm like, I can't really give you all of the answers here right now. 01:13:15 01:13:17

And two of gentlemen said, You know what? I saw you in Shreveport. And the other guys said, Yeah. And you were also down here in Baton Rouge? 01:13:19 01:13:21 01:13:24

I said, Yes, because I sit on the House And Governmental Committee, and that was our charge to go about the state and listen to the individual people -- the community on the road show to find out what was your thoughts and ideas about redistricting. 01:13:27 01:13:28 01:13:31 01:13:35 01:13:38

They said, Well, you were there. Did you hear? 01:13:41 01:13:43

Q Yes, I heard. I heard very loud and clearly. 01:13:44 01:13:47

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So why could that issue be not like the first issue? 01:13:47 01:13:50

I said, Well, that's something to think about and ponder. So as I'm sitting there listening to some of the comments, expression that was made, one of the things that was said was that, as a majority here, we voted two thirds of the body to put maps out there that were fair and equitable maps. 01:13:51 01:13:52 01:13:55 01:13:59 01:14:02 01:14:07

And I thought about that process, and I said, well, hmm-mm, maybe we didn't. And the reason I say that is because, like my colleagues, who sit on house and governmental -- ascending governmental, you all wasn't privy of the riot that we went through about this beautiful state to all these different places and hear are all the different testimony and comments that were made; but I did. 01:14:13 01:14:14 01:14:19 01:14:23 01:14:25 01:14:28 01:14:31 01:14:33

I kept notes, I kept the files, and I kept the records. And, overwhelmingly, at every one of those stops, the large amount of comments were about you have to create a second minority district. People came in on buses. They came in on cars. They stood before us and waited hours and hours to speak 01:14:34 01:14:37 01:14:41 01:14:45 01:14:48 01:14:51

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to give their testimony, saying that we as a body have to do what's right everywhere we stopped, everywhere we went; and I did not miss one meeting throughout this state. I enjoyed it. 01:14:54 01:14:57 01:15:01 01:15:04

So I say that to say to you all is that there were several attempts -- many attempts to put forth maps that met the Jingle's principles about the -- the Voting Rights Act. And I don't think any of you guys voted on all of those maps. They never made it here. 01:15:07 01:15:11 01:15:15 01:15:20 01:15:25 01:15:28

The only map that ever made or close to an opportunity to get here was the one that you, Representative Ivey, attempted to bring here to this body that ended up over there on the table because there was a vote by this body made to table that bill and not let it be heard. 01:15:30 01:15:33 01:15:36 01:15:38 01:15:41 01:15:45

The rest of the bills -- Representative Glover brought two bills in H And G. They both died. Representative Duplessis brought a bill that died. And those maps, like every map that came before us, the question was asked from members of the committee in the chair: Do you think that map is fair and 01:15:47 01:15:49 01:15:53 01:15:57 01:16:00 01:16:03

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equitable? Did that map sustain the Voting Rights Act? 01:16:07 01:16:09

And the conversation was always yes, yes, yes. But all of those maps didn't come here. They didn't come before this body. They couldn't -- they didn't make it here. So every opportunity that we had for all those cities, for all those individuals who came about to give their testimony about what they thought -- in my estimation, we kind of ignored that because it never happened. It never happened. 01:16:09 01:16:11 01:16:15 01:16:16 01:16:21 01:16:24 01:16:27 01:16:31

So I want to be proud. I want to be as proud as I was Saturday night talking about this body doing what's right when I gave them the facts of what an individual did, not only for blacks in Louisiana but for the State of Louisiana. 01:16:36 01:16:40 01:16:44 01:16:48 01:16:51

I want to feel good and be proud that we're going to do what's right now. Because guess what? A federal judge said what you brought us did not meet the principles of (indiscernible). It was basically in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. You did not create that; so we are being ordered to do that now. 01:16:53 01:16:55 01:16:57 01:17:02 01:17:06 01:17:08 01:17:11

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So have we done that according to the facts the first time, we may not be in this position we are in now. And everyone is subject to their opinions. I have mine, you have yours, but we have the law -- the rules of law. We have a constitution, and that tells us that that judge, at whatever level they are, has jurisdiction over decisions that we make when the oversight is there. And that's what it is. It's based on fact. 01:17:13 01:17:15 01:17:17 01:17:21 01:17:23 01:17:27 01:17:30 01:17:33 01:17:36

So for all you members who I didn't see on the road show, I didn't see while we did the heavy lifting in committee, well, you have an opportunity now. And now you get an opportunity -- you should get an opportunity to look at a fair map that meets the (indiscernible) principles, that meets the proper procedures of all of the Voting Rights Act and vote on it to send it out to the people as it should be according to what's there. 01:17:39 01:17:42 01:17:44 01:17:49 01:17:52 01:17:55 01:17:57 01:18:00 01:18:02

And one very important question I'm going to leave you with is one I asked on committee one day after I sat there and I watched bill after bill, map after map get voted down. I asked a question to an 01:18:03 01:18:06 01:18:08 01:18:11

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individual at the table. 01:18:14

I said, In the rule of law, as it pertains 01:18:16

to voting rights, does anything in there question 01:18:20

intent? What is your intent? So when I look at your 01:18:24

intent, when you vote down every map that makes 01:18:28

sense, according to what this federal judge, that 01:18:31

says the intent was obvious. 01:18:34

The intent was never to pass one. The 01:18:36

intent was never to give this body an opportunity as 01:18:39

individual bodies who represent this state to vote on 01:18:42

something that was fair and equitable. That had to 01:18:45

be what the intent was. 01:18:48

So as I look at you right now, examine 01:18:50

your hearts. Something I always call a checkup from 01:18:52

the neck up. Give yourself a checkup from the neck 01:18:55

up that does not include an R or a D. It includes 01:18:58

faces of all you guys' represented districts. And 01:19:01

let's do what's right for the people of Louisiana 01:19:04

according to what is fair and equitable. Let's do 01:19:07

what's right. Show what our intent is. Because, 01:19:09

believe me, right now everything that you do shows 01:19:12

your intent -- shows my intent. Let's do what's 01:19:15

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right. 01:19:19

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:19:20

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:19:35

Representative Lavardain? 01:19:36

REPRESENTATIVE LAVARDAIN: Thank you, Mr. 01:19:39

Speaker and Members. Many folks are what we call 01:19:39

Constitutional scholars in here. The preamble to the 01:19:43

United States Constitution says, We the people of the 01:19:48

United States, in order to form a more perfect union, 01:19:51

establish justice -- justice. Let's talk about 01:19:55

justice, fairness, equality, doing what's right, 01:19:58

being fair, knowing what to do, and doing it. 01:20:03

Insure domestic tranquility, provide for 01:20:07

the common defense, promote the general welfare, and 01:20:10

secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our 01:20:14

posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution 01:20:17

for the United States of -- of America. 01:20:20

We have a duty to do what's right. The 01:20:24

judge has ordered us to come and provide a map for 01:20:27

the second congressional -- a second black 01:20:31

congressional district. We need to do that. 01:20:34

Now I've heard my colleagues talk about 01:20:37

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this and that, but let's talk about the real monster in the room. There was a song that Salt-N-Pepa sang, Let's talk about sex. But, no. Let's talk about race. That's the monster. 01:20:39 01:20:43 01:20:48 01:20:51

This is 19- -- this is 2022. We're still fighting battles as if it was 1965. When you go back and you look through history, you look at famous Governors like Orval Faubus. Orval Faubus was the governor of the great State of Arkansas. Once Brown versus Board of Education became law, he shut down all the schools in Arkansas. 01:20:56 01:21:01 01:21:07 01:21:10 01:21:13 01:21:17 01:21:20

Let's look at the great George Wallace. He was the Governor of Alabama. Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever. That's not us. The great Bull Connor from the police chief in Birmingham. Bull countered everything to deny African Americans the right to vote or have some type of decency. This whole bout is about race, folks. 01:21:23 01:21:25 01:21:30 01:21:33 01:21:37 01:21:41 01:21:44

We have to do what's right. We know what's right. I'm encouraging everybody -- look at yourself. Let's do what's right. We can't -- African Americans can't be fighting the same battles 01:21:49 01:21:51 01:21:54 01:21:58

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we fought in the '60s. This is 2022. We have to do what's right. If we're going to move our state forward, it has to be all of us. 01:22:00 01:22:05 01:22:07

Every time there was a map presented to H And G, it could never get out of the committee, just like Representative Lyons said, because nobody wanted it out. I'm encouraging you all -- the real picture is race. We have to put race aside and do what's right for this great state. 01:22:10 01:22:12 01:22:16 01:22:18 01:22:22 01:22:26

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 01:22:28

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Morning hour seven. 01:22:34 01:22:34

(No audio from 01:22:34 to 01:23:18)

HOUSE CLERK: Introduction of house bills. House bill by Representative Duplessis to amend Title 18 to provide relative to congressional districts redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts, provided with respect to positions, offices other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts. That House Bill becomes House Bill 1. 01:23:19 01:23:20 01:23:23 01:23:25 01:23:27 01:23:30 01:23:32 01:23:34

Representative Stefanski moves to suspend 01:23:35

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the rules for the purpose of referring this bill to House And Governmental Affairs at this time. 01:23:37 01:23:40

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 01:23:42

HOUSE CLERK: House bill by Speaker Schexnayder to amend Title 18. Provide relative to congressional districts -- congressional districts -- provide for redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts provides with respect to positions and offices. The bill becomes House Bill 2. 01:23:45 01:23:46 01:23:49 01:23:52 01:23:54 01:23:57 01:24:00

And Representative Stefanski moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of referring this bill to House And Governmental Affairs at this time. 01:24:01 01:24:03 01:24:05

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Duplessis, why do you ask? 01:24:07 01:24:08

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. 01:24:10 01:24:11

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Yes. 01:24:12

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: I have a question. We are moving to suspend the rules to move the four bills that have been introduced on the House side. 01:24:12 01:24:12 01:24:17 01:24:20

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Yes, sir. 01:24:20

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: House Bill 2, 01:24:21

which you have authored, as I understand it -- well, 01:24:23

maybe I don't understand it. My question is, rather, 01:24:26

is it your belief that this bill is in compliance 01:24:29

with the order that we got from federal court? 01:24:32

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: I do in the fact 01:24:34

that it complies with redistricting. 01:24:36

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Okay. My 01:24:38

understanding of the order -- and I have it printed 01:24:39

right here. It says that the -- it says very clearly 01:24:42

that we are ordered to move a bill that had two black 01:24:44

congressional district -- districts. 01:24:48

Does this bill have two black 01:24:50

congressional districts? 01:24:51

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It -- it complies 01:24:52

with redistricting, and, as you know, any bill that 01:24:53

we file, once it moves through the process, it can 01:24:55

change to anything. 01:24:58

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: My only 01:25:01

question, based on the order from the judge, 01:25:01

respectfully, Mr. Speaker, is does the bill -- House 01:25:04

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Bill 2 have two black congressional districts? 01:25:08

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: As I've said before, 01:25:11

my reading of it says that it complies with 01:25:12

redistricting, and that's why we're referring the 01:25:17

bill to committee. 01:25:20

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: I -- I'm not 01:25:22

sure what -- what you mean when you say, it complies 01:25:23

with redistricting. But I'm -- I think we were sent 01:25:25

here to comply with the -- the judge's order. That's 01:25:28

why we're here. So we're being asked to suspend the 01:25:30

rules on a bill that, my read of it, does not comply 01:25:33

with redistricting and my read of it -- it does not 01:25:37

comply with the judge's order. 01:25:39

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Okay. 01:25:43

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Therefore, I 01:25:43

object. 01:25:47

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Okay. 01:25:47

Representative Carter, what do you ask? 01:25:48

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I'd 01:25:49

like to ask the clerk question. We -- we -- Madam 01:25:50

Clerk, does the bill comply with the call of the 01:25:53

special session? That is, as I understand it, the 01:25:57

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governor's call says that it is to comply not only with the -- the judge's order, but it has to create a -- a second majority black district. And I think that's what the call was. So does this bill comply with the call? Is it germane to the call? 01:26:01 01:26:04 01:26:10 01:26:14 01:26:16

(No audio from 01:26:20 to 01:27:43)

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Representative Carter, looking at the call, it -- this -- this bill does comply with the call in the fact that it does do redistricting of a congressional district. 01:26:19 01:27:47 01:27:51 01:27:54 01:28:01

All right. Representative Bryant. 01:28:02

REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT: Mr. Speaker, what is the racial makeup of your map -- your bill? What is -- what is the amount of -- 01:28:06 01:28:07 01:28:10

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Ivey? 01:28:15

Representative IVEY: Yes. Thank -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, it was on the point of order because we shouldn't be debating the bill. Second, is -- is this a debatable motion or the objection? 01:28:17 01:28:18 01:28:21 01:28:23 01:28:26

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: The motion to refer 01:28:36

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is a very small debate, but on the bill, it is not. 01:28:37

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Okay. So -- 01:28:42

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Not on the merits of the bill. 01:28:43 01:28:44

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Okay. And -- and so, Mr. Speaker, I -- I would like to request that my colleague could reconsider the motion and -- and withdraw it. Every bill we bring is an instrument. Every bill we bring is a work in progress from the beginning. And -- and I would like to maintain the respect for that process and -- and ask my colleague to reconsider. Thank you. 01:28:45 01:28:45 01:28:49 01:28:52 01:28:55 01:28:58 01:29:01 01:29:04

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: To make that motion, Representative Ivey, you would have to come to the floor. 01:29:05 01:29:06 01:29:08

Representative Bryant, do you want to come to the floor? 01:29:08 01:29:10

REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT: I don't have to. I -- why am I coming to the floor? 01:29:12 01:29:12

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Because your button is pressed to come to the floor. 01:29:16 01:29:17

REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT: To ask a question 01:29:19

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about your bill? 01:29:20

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: That -- we can't ask 01:29:21

questions about the merits of the bill. 01:29:23

REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT: So the question of 01:29:26

--

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: The -- the motion -- 01:29:27

REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT: -- does your bill 01:29:28

--

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: -- was to object to 01:29:29

sending the bill to committee. That's -- that's 01:29:30

where we are. All right. 01:29:33

Representative Stefanski? All right. All 01:29:41

right. I move to refer. There was an objection. 01:29:47

All those in favor of referring it to committee, vote 01:29:51

yes. All -- 01:29:56

Representative Thomas? 01:29:58

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. 01:30:02

Speaker. What happens if this motion -- wait. 01:30:03

What's the motion? 01:30:08

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: That's what I was 01:30:10

explaining. 01:30:11

Representative Thomas: Okay. But -- but 01:30:11

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I want to know what happens if it passes, if it fails? 01:30:12 01:30:17

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: If it passes, it will -- it will go to committee. If not, it stays on the floor. 01:30:18 01:30:19 01:30:22

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Okay. 01:30:23

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It lies over until tomorrow. 01:30:23 01:30:24

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: So it could conceivably get to committee anyway? 01:30:25 01:30:26

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Under -- under the rules it would, yes. 01:30:31 01:30:32

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Okay. Thank you. 01:30:33

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:30:34

Representative Duplessis, point of order? 01:30:37

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Just a -- just a question and point of order. It was stated at the -- at the outset that committee would meet on Friday. 01:30:39 01:30:39 01:30:42

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Uh-huh. 01:30:44

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Okay. Is there a reason why it would meet on Friday as opposed to tomorrow? And -- and if this were not going to 01:30:45 01:30:46 01:30:48

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Representative Thomas's question, if it's -- if the rules are not suspended for it to be read in tomorrow, it's still going to proceed to committee, will it not? It just has to lie over. 01:30:53 01:30:55 01:30:57 01:31:00

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: If -- if we come in tomorrow, yes. 01:31:03 01:31:04

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: If? 01:31:07

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Uh-huh. 01:31:07

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Why -- why would -- I mean, why -- 01:31:08 01:31:09

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: If we -- if we have no other bills on the floor that would be referred in, we wouldn't have to come in tomorrow. 01:31:10 01:31:11 01:31:13

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: You mean in committee? 01:31:16 01:31:16

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: You would have committee only. 01:31:17 01:31:17

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Right. So we would have committee tomorrow? 01:31:19 01:31:20

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Yes. 01:31:21

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Okay. All right. 01:31:22 01:31:22

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: No. You would have committee Friday. 01:31:22 01:31:23

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Okay. I guess my question is why would we not have committee tomorrow since we -- 01:31:25 01:31:25 01:31:27

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Because -- 01:31:28

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: -- since we're already on a short time schedule? 01:31:28 01:31:29

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Well, we had -- we had said that -- we had said that already with the transparency of being able to have the public here and being able to give notice of the committee. The chairman referred to wanting to have that committee hearing on Friday. 01:31:29 01:31:29 01:31:33 01:31:36 01:31:38 01:31:41

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REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Okay. The Senate is meeting -- the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee is meeting tomorrow. 01:31:43 01:31:43 01:31:45

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Yeah. This is the House. 01:31:46 01:31:47

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: I understand. Yeah. I -- I -- I do appreciate that. 01:31:48 01:31:49

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you. 01:31:51

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: But I also -- I also -- it -- it's also, my understanding, is it not, that -- that we have already said we -- we don't have time. So I'm just wondering why we would wait until Friday. We would waste -- we would waste an entire day. 01:31:51 01:31:52 01:31:54 01:31:56 01:31:58 01:32:01

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Because the chairman asked that we give time for public and transparency on the bill. That's why we're doing it. 01:32:01 01:32:04 01:32:07

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Thank you. 01:32:09

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Representative Green? 01:32:11 01:32:14

REPRESENTATIVE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can this be a recorded vote? Or I would ask for a record vote. 01:32:17 01:32:18 01:32:22

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It is -- it is a recorded vote. All right. 01:32:29 01:32:30

Representative Duplessis, you wanted to come to the floor? Okay. He waives. All right. So the motion is we have a bill that -- 01:32:36 01:32:37 01:32:45

HOUSE CLERK: Suspend the rules. 01:32:49

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Suspend the rules to 01:32:50

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send to committee. Representative Dustin Miller? 01:32:50

REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: A lockout. 01:32:55

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Let me -- let me -- 01:32:55

let me get to that part. All right. We've had a 01:32:56

motion to suspend the rules to allow the bill to go 01:32:59

to committee. We had an objection by Representative 01:33:02

Duplessis. All those in favor would vote yea to send 01:33:04

it, and all those opposed would vote no. 01:33:08

Representative Miller asked us for a 01:33:12

lockout with 20 members joining him in the lockout. 01:33:15

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: A lockout is 01:33:23

obvious. All right. Members, quorum call. Quorum 01:33:24

call, Members. 01:33:30

Landry, yes. You through voting. All 01:33:31

right. Close them up. Ninety five members in a 01:33:37

quorum. All right. All right. 01:33:44

There was a motion made to send HB 2 to 01:33:45

committee. Representative Duplessis objected. All 01:33:48

those in favor vote, yea. 01:33:52

Representative Willard? 01:33:54

REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD: For this vote to 01:33:56

pass, it would require two thirds of those present 01:33:57

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and voting; is that correct? 01:34:00

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: That is correct. 01:34:01

REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD: Can I get a numerical count on what that vote total would be based off of the last quorum vote. 01:34:02 01:34:03 01:34:07

Sixty three? 01:34:57

REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD: I didn't know how many people voted. 01:34:58 01:34:58

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Sixty three. 01:34:58

REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:34:59 01:34:59

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. All right. We have a motion to suspend the rules and allow the bill to go to committee. All those in favor vote yae. Those opposed vote nay. The clerk will open the machines. Members, go to your machines. Go to your machines, Members. 01:35:03 01:35:05 01:35:10 01:35:12 01:35:15 01:35:16

Landry, no. 01:35:19

If you're through voting, close them up. 65 yays, 30 nays, and the bill -- the motion fails -- it prevails. I'm sorry. Prevails. Referred to House And Governmental Affairs. 01:35:22 01:35:26 01:35:30 01:35:39

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Representative Stefanski, personal privilege. 01:35:46 01:35:47

Representative Ivey? 01:35:56

(No audio from 01:35:58 to 01:36:39)

REPRESENTATIVE LAVARDAIN: Mr. Speaker, I move to discharge the Committee on House And Governmental Affairs for HB 1. 01:36:41 01:36:42 01:36:44

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:36:47

Representative Seabaugh? 01:36:52

REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH: What would be the effect of discharging the committee? 01:36:54 01:36:55

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It would -- the bill would come back to the floor and have to lie over. 01:37:00 01:37:01

REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH: Okay. Thank you. 01:37:04 01:37:04

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:37:06

Representative Duplessis, what do you ask? 01:37:06

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Would Chairman Stefanski please state on the record his reasons and rationale for moving to -- to discharge HB 1. 01:37:09 01:37:10 01:37:12

(No audio from 01:37:17 to 01:37:29)

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: On a motion, he -- 01:37:15

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he doesn't have to explain it. All right. 01:37:31

All right, members, the motion on -- 01:37:35

Representative Duplessis, do you want the 01:37:37

floor on a motion? All right. Representative 01:37:40

Duplessis? 01:38:00

REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. 01:38:00

Speaker. Members, I was very much told just now by 01:38:00

the speaker that this is the House, not the Senate. 01:38:05

But what we just saw was a move to imitate the Senate 01:38:08

by making a motion to reconsider HB 1 after a 01:38:12

procedural vote. Okay. So we can play that side and 01:38:17

we can play that game when it's convenient. 01:38:21

Now the chairman wouldn't give his reasons 01:38:24

for his motion to reconsider, but we saw this same 01:38:25

thing happen a few weeks ago at the end of session 01:38:28

despite the fact that HB 2 made it to committee. 01:38:31

Now we as a body are going to take another 01:38:35

vote. Because why? Because I didn't want to vote 01:38:37

for a bill that did not comply with the judge's 01:38:42

order. Why would I vote for a bill to go to 01:38:44

committee to be heard when it clearly does not comply 01:38:48

with the judge's order? 01:38:51

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This is ridiculous. Vote how you want to vote because I know you're going to do that, but I stand on my vote. And I asked everyone that voted red just now that you stand on that vote because that vote -- that bill clearly does not comply with the judge's orders. 01:38:56 01:38:59 01:39:01 01:39:05 01:39:08 01:39:10

All of this talk about, oh, well, we can amend the bill. This is the first step. This is just an instrument. It's just an instrument in the process. No. No. We don't have time for that. We have six days to get this right, and you file a bill that doesn't even come close to having two black districts, but she want me and my colleagues to move to suspend the rules to send that to committee. I'm not here to play those games. 01:39:12 01:39:14 01:39:16 01:39:18 01:39:22 01:39:26 01:39:29 01:39:33 01:39:35

Just like y'all don't want to be here, I don't want to be here right now. But if we don't get this right, you know who's going to be here? Our children and our grandchildren having these same ridiculous debates because we don't like a vote that we just took because this is the House, not the Senate. 01:39:35 01:39:39 01:39:43 01:39:45 01:39:47 01:39:51 01:39:54

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Carter, what do you ask? 01:39:57 01:39:57

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I thought the chairman had the floor on personal privilege. 01:39:59 01:40:00 01:40:03

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: To make a motion, yes. 01:40:05 01:40:06

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: All right. You said personal privilege. I didn't know it was to make a motion. 01:40:07 01:40:07 01:40:08

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Uh-huh. 01:40:10

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: But I guess you can do that. 01:40:10 01:40:10

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Yes, sir. 01:40:11

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: If -- if -- is -- is a motion in -- in order to -- not only to discharge -- can I make it now? Not only to discharge the Committee on -- on House And Government but to -- to have a committee of a whole on -- on House Bill 1 -- move it to a committee of a whole on House Bill 1? 01:40:12 01:40:15 01:40:21 01:40:24 01:40:27 01:40:31 01:40:39

(No audio from 01:40:36 to 01:41:22)

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. So now we have a motion on the floor. 01:41:25 01:41:27

Representative Jefferson? 01:41:29

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Mr. Speaker, thank you. What is the impact if it's discharged? What would be the effect of that? 01:41:35 01:41:36 01:41:41

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It would -- which -- which motion? 01:41:42 01:41:48

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: The motion we are, I assume, getting ready to -- 01:41:49 01:41:50

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Carter's? 01:41:52 01:41:53

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: No, Chairman Stefanski's. 01:41:53 01:41:53

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Carter -- 01:41:54 01:41:55

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Okay. 01:41:55

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: -- has a motion to discharge and sent to the Committee of the Whole. 01:41:56 01:41:56

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Okay. And I'll hold my question then. 01:41:59 01:41:59

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you. Come -- 01:42:07

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come to the floor, and make your motion. 01:42:08

REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. 01:42:14

Speaker. 01:42:15

Members, this -- this bill is a bill that 01:42:15

has been in the -- in -- in the system for quite some 01:42:19

time, and it's -- it's not a new -- it's not a new 01:42:22

creature. It's a bill that creates two minority 01:42:25

districts in congress. And if it goes -- if you -- 01:42:29

if you allow the bill to go to committee to hold, 01:42:33

this body itself would have an opportunity to -- to 01:42:35

have a hearing on this bill, and it can be as soon as 01:42:38

this body wants it to be. 01:42:42

And so I'm asking that the bill not be -- 01:42:43

sit for another day because we have a time period. I 01:42:46

know there's efforts going. The -- the judge is 01:42:49

going to be hearing from lawyers tomorrow from the 01:42:52

House and the Senate, but we need to let everybody 01:42:54

know that we're moving this process along as fast as 01:42:59

we can. We have six days. 01:43:02

So if you vote to have it as a committee 01:43:04

to hold, you can have a committee to hold tomorrow. 01:43:06

We can sit as a committee to hold tomorrow and hear 01:43:09

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this bill out and resolve it one way or the other, and I suggest that that's what we do. 01:43:11 01:43:15

Otherwise, we're just trying to only hear one bill, one bill that does not comply even with the call and say, well, whatever the court does, I don't care. We'll just -- we'll rely upon the courts. 01:43:17 01:43:20 01:43:24 01:43:27

There are two branches -- there are three branches of government. The court is one branch. We -- we're the legislative branch. This is our responsibility. Let's not shrink from that responsibility because of politics. All right. 01:43:30 01:43:32 01:43:34 01:43:36 01:43:39

Our responsibility is to -- is to try to comply with the call. The call is to write a bill that has two predominant black districts in the congress. That's the call. 01:43:42 01:43:45 01:43:48 01:43:50

And -- and -- and this bill is within that call. If the chairman don't want to hear it in his committee, the whole committee should hear it. The House of Representatives should hear it. 01:43:52 01:43:55 01:43:57 01:43:59

I ask you to -- to vote in favor of having the House of -- of a whole? 01:44:01 01:44:04

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative 01:44:07

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Carter, do you want to take questions? 01:44:07

Representative Hughes, what do you ask? 01:44:09

REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. 01:44:12

Speaker. I -- I just want to get clarity. 01:44:13

Initially, Chairman Stefanski made a motion, and I 01:44:15

don't think we disposed of that motion, and now 01:44:18

Representative Carter is making a motion. So is it a 01:44:21

substitute motion? And what motion are we actually 01:44:23

voting on? 01:44:25

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It is a substitute 01:44:25

motion. 01:44:26

REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES: A substitute 01:44:27

motion. Thank you for the clarity. That's all I 01:44:28

needed. Thank you. 01:44:28

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:44:38

Question, Representative Phelps? 01:44:39

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Thank you, Mr. 01:44:42

Speaker. 01:44:43

Representative Carter, was it your 01:44:44

understanding before your amendment or seconding 01:44:44

motion? I -- I don't know where I am today. I'm 01:44:47

trying to understand this. Before you came up, was 01:44:49

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it your understanding that the motion that was brought forth by Representative Stefanski was just to discharge it, hear it as a committee as a whole, or are you saying he was just discharging it for it to lay over, then go to committee? 01:44:51 01:44:54 01:44:56 01:44:58 01:45:01

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: He moved -- I think he moved to discharge it. 01:45:05 01:45:05

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: And that means a lie over. 01:45:07 01:45:08

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: I think the chairman -- the chairman moved to discharge it which basically means that the -- the motion would not be scheduled for a hearing in his committee and that it can be read over, I guess, tomorrow; and -- and he can try to assign another committee, or you can have it heard as the committee as a whole. 01:45:08 01:45:08 01:45:13 01:45:16 01:45:18 01:45:22 01:45:24

The chairman is basically saying that he didn't -- doesn't want to have the -- hear the -- the bill for whatever reason. 01:45:26 01:45:28 01:45:31

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Right. 01:45:33

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Okay. 01:45:33

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: We didn't know 01:45:33

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where it -- we still -- 01:45:34

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: I don't know what 01:45:35

the reasons is. 01:45:35

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Okay. And if so - 01:45:36

- 01:45:37

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Maybe because he 01:45:37

don't think there's enough time. I don't know. 01:45:38

Maybe he's just not -- don't support the bill, or 01:45:40

maybe he just don't think -- he want -- he doesn't 01:45:42

want to hear the bill; so we know that. 01:45:45

So now I'm -- I substitute motion that we 01:45:47

have -- hear it as a committee as the whole since the 01:45:50

chairman has decided not to hear it. 01:45:52

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Thank you for that 01:45:55

clarity because I didn't know where the first one was 01:45:56

going, where it would end up. Thank you. 01:45:57

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:46:00

Representative Thomas for a question. 01:46:01

Representative Thomas: Thank you, Mr. 01:46:03

Speaker. I'd like clarification. If this is 01:46:05

recommitted to the Committee of the Whole, does the 01:46:10

dean preside in the chair? 01:46:14

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: It has been tradition that the dean would preside -- preside in the chair. 01:46:24 01:46:24 01:46:28

Representative Thomas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:46:29 01:46:30

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you. All right. Representative Gadberry. 01:46:30 01:46:33

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question. You and others have mentioned that this bill has been in the record for months, and you're talking about HB 1. Based on my analysis, the bill, I think you're talking about, which was introduced back in maybe February or March -- this one is a little different than that; so this one's only been on the record since it was introduced. 01:46:38 01:46:38 01:46:42 01:46:50 01:46:55 01:46:57 01:47:01 01:47:04

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Right. Right. The bill was just -- 01:47:06 01:47:08

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: So it hadn't been on there in months. 01:47:09 01:47:10

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Well, we all know about the numerous bills that were filed during the February reapportionment session. These -- this is 01:47:12 01:47:12 01:47:17

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one of the bills that was filed along with many others. It didn't get out of committee. It hasn't gotten a hearing. 01:47:21 01:47:25 01:47:27

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Right. 01:47:28

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: But -- but it was filed. 01:47:28 01:47:30

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: But it's a different bill. It's been tweaked. 01:47:31 01:47:31

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: It's -- it -- it's been -- well, I don't -- 01:47:34 01:47:35

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Based on my analysis, it's been tweaked from the original bill, I think -- 01:47:36 01:47:36 01:47:39

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Okay. 01:47:39

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: -- you're talking about. 01:47:40 01:47:40

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Okay. So maybe it had been tweaked. I -- I have no idea. 01:47:41 01:47:41

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: So I haven't looked at it, and I'm sure other House members haven't looked at it. So I'm -- that's my question. 01:47:44 01:47:44 01:47:46

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: Well, you didn't 01:47:50

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look at it when -- when you're allowed to be -- 01:47:51

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Yeah, I looked 01:47:53

at it. 01:47:53

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: You didn't look at 01:47:54

it when you allowed it to go to the committee, and -- 01:47:54

and you we're fine with it until the speaker -- until 01:47:58

the chairman said he didn't want to -- he wanted a 01:47:59

discharge committee. So all we're doing is -- you'll 01:48:01

get a chance to look at that bill and read that bill. 01:48:04

You will -- it's in the file already, but you'll get 01:48:06

a chance during the debate of the Committee of the 01:48:08

Whole to participate in what you think of that bill. 01:48:11

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Okay. I'll look 01:48:13

forward to that. Thank you. 01:48:14

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Boyd? 01:48:18

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Representative 01:48:21

Carter, I just want to be clear on -- on -- I'm -- 01:48:21

I'm so confused here right now. So when -- when I -- 01:48:24

when the chairman went up to discharge this bill, it 01:48:34

was simply because he was angry, I guess, with the 01:48:40

fact that we took a vote on HB 2. I've heard one of 01:48:47

the representatives in here say the judge can't order 01:48:52

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us to be here. It was the governor for us to be here. 01:48:55 01:48:57

So I -- I want to be clear that we are right now here debating and arguing and fighting on giving Louisiana citizens an opportunity to elect -- just the opportunity to elect an African American person; is that correct? Is that what I'm hearing? 01:48:58 01:49:00 01:49:05 01:49:11 01:49:14

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: One of the reasons why the governor made the call is -- that's why he vetoed the bill because he wouldn't have that happen. I want to -- I want to -- I want to withdraw my motion at this time. 01:49:16 01:49:16 01:49:19 01:49:21 01:49:23

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: I -- I don't think that you should. 01:49:24 01:49:24

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: I'm -- I'm going to withdraw the motion -- 01:49:25 01:49:26

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: I think you -- I don't think you should. 01:49:26 01:49:27

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: -- at this time. 01:49:27

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: I don't think you should. I think you should leave your motion because you are absolutely correct in what you're saying. 01:49:27 01:49:28 01:49:30

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It's just -- 01:49:32

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: But I -- I have my 01:49:33

reasons -- 01:49:33

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: -- confusing to me. 01:49:34

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: -- for doing so, 01:49:34

Representative Boyd. Mr. -- Mr. -- Mr. Speaker -- 01:49:34

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you. 01:49:38

REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: -- I'll withdraw 01:49:38

my motion. 01:49:38

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you, 01:49:39

Representative Carter. 01:49:39

To the floor, Stefanski. 01:49:40

REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI: Members, when - 01:49:44

- when we try to act in good faith and we try to 01:49:46

speed up this process and move things forward, it's 01:49:51

not just always about one party. It takes this 01:49:55

entire body. And I respect the vice chair's 01:49:59

explanation on why he was doing what he was doing, 01:50:02

but it highlights a point. 01:50:06

We're either going to try to expedite 01:50:08

this, and we're going to try to comply, or we're not; 01:50:11

and you can't have it both ways. Okay? And so, yes, 01:50:14

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I do take offense when my speaker's bill is objected to when we send one bill straight there without objection. I do. All right. 01:50:18 01:50:22 01:50:26

And I think we all -- you -- you have to remember, it's not just all about one party allowing the other to do something. It works both ways. And my motion was for that. It was to highlight that point that it takes both of us in order to be able to accomplish things in an expedited, collegial way. 01:50:28 01:50:31 01:50:34 01:50:37 01:50:41 01:50:44

With that said, the purpose that we're here and to show that we're going to -- we're going to expedite this process, I'm going to withdraw my motion and allow the bill to -- to be -- allow the -- the bill -- the vote that was made and the rules to continue to be suspended to send it to committee. 01:50:49 01:50:52 01:50:55 01:50:58 01:51:01 01:51:04

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:51:08

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Do you want to take questions? 01:51:10 01:51:11

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: No. He waives. All right. Next bill. 01:51:12 01:51:13

(No audio from 01:51:12 to 01:51:30)

HOUSE CLERK: House bill by Representative 01:51:34

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Ivey to amend Title 18 relative to congressional districts, provide for redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts, positions, and offices. That bill becomes House Bill 3. 01:51:36 01:51:38 01:51:40 01:51:43

And Representative Stefanski moves to suspend the rules to commit -- refer this bill to House And Governmental Affairs at this time. 01:51:45 01:51:47 01:51:49

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. All right. On your objection. 01:51:51 01:51:55

REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH: Members, we've suspended the rules on two bills. We've sent them to committee. I think that's enough, and let this one go through the regular course. So I do object. 01:51:59 01:52:00 01:52:01 01:52:05

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Ivey? Representative Ivey, do you want to come speak on the objection? 01:52:08 01:52:15 01:52:16

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:52:16 01:52:30

Members, on this objection, you know, it's always interesting when -- you know, you get to experience new things every day in the legislature, and it seems -- I get to experience more 01:52:30 01:52:35 01:52:37 01:52:39

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extraordinary events than maybe the average legislator here. 01:52:42 01:52:45

On this objection, I spent a lot of time on the map. It's not easy to draw these maps. And -- and, again, I've already stated the -- that I -- I personally believe the probability of failure is much greater than the probability of success with regard to the current mandate by the federal court as it currently stands. 01:52:47 01:52:50 01:52:54 01:52:57 01:52:59 01:53:02 01:53:06

I believe it is necessary for us to be able to -- in the committee process to discuss the instruments, the merits. The maps look very different. And -- and so I actually am unable to support HB 1 and SB 1 because of the -- the more significant disruption that it makes to multiple congressional districts. 01:53:11 01:53:15 01:53:20 01:53:23 01:53:26 01:53:31 01:53:35

I try to take an approach that would create fewer ripple effects and maintain more resemblance of what the current districts are. And so I believe that there is significant -- distinctly different approaches between HB 1, HB 3 and 4, which I've authored and then, of course, HB 2, which, in 01:53:37 01:53:40 01:53:42 01:53:46 01:53:50 01:53:57

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its current posture, resembles the map already passed. 01:54:01 01:54:03

And so, Members, I ask that you please oppose this objection. 01:54:04 01:54:08

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Ivey, do you want to take questions? 01:54:11 01:54:12

Representative Phelps? 01:54:14

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 01:54:17 01:54:18

Representative Ivey, is this a bill you had drawn last session? 01:54:18 01:54:20

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: No. 01:54:23

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Because I think -- It's not? 01:54:23 01:54:24

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: No. 01:54:25

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Okay. But you were -- 01:54:25 01:54:26

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: I wasn't able to complete it. It takes a lot of time. I focused on other maps, and -- and, again, I supported the map that we currently have. I supported the overturning of the veto. The reason why is I believe the map to 01:54:26 01:54:27 01:54:29 01:54:33 01:54:36

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be, absent some option that I saw on, you know, on that -- on a bill that was filed that I could support, I felt that it was the, you know, most -- best map I could support. 01:54:40 01:54:46 01:54:48 01:54:51

And so in lieu of, you know, showing up this special session with -- with no option I felt in good conscience I could support, I decided to complete my efforts and -- and bring the maps that I have. 01:54:53 01:54:56 01:54:59 01:55:02 01:55:05

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: And -- and does your -- does your map have two districts drawn? 01:55:06 01:55:07

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: It -- it does have with the federal court has required of us -- two black majority-minority districts. 01:55:11 01:55:13 01:55:17

REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Okay. And -- and I thank you for that. That is one of the questions, I think, that goes back to why we're here. We do want to hear the maps that have taken into consideration of the two districts. Thank you so much. 01:55:20 01:55:21 01:55:23 01:55:25 01:55:27 01:55:30

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. No more questions. All right. 01:55:33 01:55:36

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Representative Gadberry, do you have a question? 01:55:36 01:55:38

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: My question is the same -- I guess the same. I just want to clarify. This was not your map that you proposed back in March; correct? 01:55:44 01:55:45 01:55:47 01:55:52

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Correct. 01:55:54

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: HB 3. 01:55:55

REPRESENTATIVE IVY: There's -- there's been no map -- 01:55:55 01:55:56

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Does it meet all the criteria of redistricting? 01:55:57 01:55:57

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: I believe it does. 01:56:01

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: You believe it does? 01:56:02 01:56:03

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Yes, sir. 01:56:03

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Okay. 01:56:04

REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: All right. 01:56:05

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: All right. We're -- we're on -- 01:56:06 01:56:06

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. There are no more questions. 01:56:06 01:56:06

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REPRESENTATIVE IVEY: Thank you. 01:56:12

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 01:56:13

Representative Jenkins, why do you rise? 01:56:13

REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS: Point -- point of 01:56:16

order. Just what are we voting on again now? A lot 01:56:17

just passed. Is this on an objection, or is this to 01:56:19

pass the bill on rule suspension? Exactly where are 01:56:21

we right now? 01:56:24

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: To suspend the rules 01:56:27

to allow it to go to committee. 01:56:28

REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS: That's -- that's 01:56:30

what we're voting on now? 01:56:31

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: That's what you're 01:56:32

going to vote on. 01:56:32

REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. 01:56:33

Speaker. 01:56:33

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. All 01:56:34

right. There's a motion made to suspend the rules 01:56:36

and allow the HB 3 to go to committee. There was an 01:56:42

objection by Representative Seabaugh. 01:56:45

All those in favor of allowing it to go to 01:56:47

committee, vote yea. Those opposed, vote nay. The 01:56:49

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clerk will open the machines. 01:56:52

Members, go to your machines. Go to your 01:56:53

machines, Members. 01:56:56

Green, yes; Pressly, yes. 01:56:58

Are you through voting, Members? 01:57:02

All right. Close them up. 01:57:04

79 yeas, 16 nays, and the motion passes. 01:57:08

HOUSE CLERK: Refer to House And 01:57:13

Governmental. 01:57:14

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Referred to House 01:57:20

And Governmental. 01:57:21

HOUSE CLERK: House bill by Representative 01:57:21

Ivey to amend Title 18, provide relative to 01:57:22

congressional districts, provide for redistricting of 01:57:25

Louisiana's congressional districts, positions, and 01:57:28

offices. And that bill becomes House Bill 4. 01:57:30

And Representative Stefanski moves to 01:57:33

suspend the rules for the purpose of referring this 01:57:35

bill to House And Governmental Affairs at this time. 01:57:37

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Without 01:57:39

objection. 01:57:39

(No audio from 01:57:40 to 02:00:18)

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SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Announcements? 02:00:23

HOUSE CLERK: Mr. Speaker and Members, 02:00:26

House And Governmental Affairs will meet Friday, June 02:00:27

17th at 10:00 a.m., Committee Room 5 for the purpose 02:00:30

of hearing those House bills referred earlier this 02:00:33

afternoon. 02:00:36

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 02:00:39

(No audio from 02:00:49 to 02:01:41)

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 02:01:41

Representative Thompson for a motion. 02:01:42

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker and 02:01:46

Members, I move we are adjourned until 4:00 o'clock 02:01:46

Friday. 02:01:49

SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER: Without objection. 02:01:51

(No audio from 02:01:55 to 02:02:44)

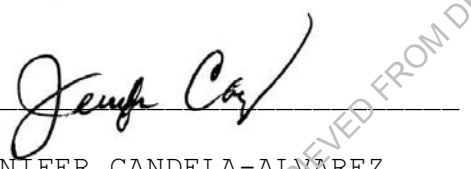
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Exhibit K

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Transcript of Louisiana House Chamber

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA HOUSE CHAMBER

REDISTRICTING

JUNE 17, 2022

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Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 15

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

REP. MAGEE: [Inaudible]. Quorum call members. Members, you through voting? 98 members in a quorum. The house will be open with prayer by Representative Harris.

REP. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker pro tem. You want me to lend you some hair after that haircut? I'm telling you, looks good. Look, many of y'all remember the story where Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fishes.

And part of that story that we don't focus on sometimes is what he said to his disciples after everybody got through eating, and I'm going to read you the verse. He said, when they had all had enough, he said to his disciples, gather up now the fragments, the broken pieces and that which are left over so that nothing maybe lost or wasted.

That was our Lord saying that. And we need to apply that to where we are today in this body and what happens this week and as we go forward with our work. This will all work out for the better if we have the right attitude and we ask God's help.

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We will not lose anything and it won't go to waste because we can use this to better this body, to better ourselves as legislators, and to better ourselves as a -- a state. No matter how it turns out. So let us pray. Lord, thank you for today. Thank you for assembling this body.

And you knew this body would be assembled before time even started, and you knew where we are and you're in control of everything, and I thank you for that. Lord, I thank you for each individual in this house.

I thank you for their mind, I thank you for their integrity, and I thank you for their hard work for the people of Louisiana. Lord bless us as we go through this process. Let it be for your glory and your glory only. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

REP. MAGEE: Representative Bourriaque will lead us in the pledge.

REP. BOURRIAQUE: I pledge allegiance to the flag --

HOUSE: Of the United States of America and to the Republic of which it stands. One nation, under God,

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indivisible, with Liberty and justice for all.

REP. MAGEE: Members, Representative Harris is going to give me the name of his wig guy so I can get fitted for a proper wig after this is over with. Representative Stefanski. Representative Jenkins.

REP. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We received news shortly ago that our city marshal, some of whom I think you have met, city marshal Charlie Caldwell, out of the city of Shreveport, was involved in a boating accident. He's presumed to be deceased. We can only hope for the best.

But under the circumstances we thought it would be appropriate to just take a moment of silence. I appreciate the members of the delegation from Shreveport Bossier [inaudible] that are standing here. Charlie's great man, had just a pleasant personality, was elected several times citywide and always extended a helping hand to everybody that he met.

Please keep Charlie and his family, city of Shreveport, the Marshal's office in the city of Shreveport, law enforcement in the city of Shreveport, in your prayers. Mr. Speaker pro tem, we ask for a

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moment of silence.

REP. MAGEE: Let's join Representative Jenkins in a moment of silence.

REP. JENKINS: Thank you.

REP. MAGEE: Members, we're going to stand at ease for a few minutes. All right. Before that we're going to go to morning order number four.

FEMALE 1: Wednesday, June 15th, 2022, the House of Representatives was called to order by the honorable Clay Schexnayder, speaker of the House of Representatives. The role being called, the following members --

REP. MAGEE: [Inaudible] defense can move to dispense the journal [inaudible]. And now members are going to stand at ease for a few minutes.

MALE 5: Mandie, what do you think's going on?

MS. LANDRY: What?

MALE 5: What do you think is going on? Cortez, the speaker, Ward and Duplessis.

MS. LANDRY: Well, Royce, isn't up there with them. You saw what happened --

MALE 5: I thought he was.

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MS. LANDRY: -- with Rick's -- he's down there. You saw what happened. He's trying to do the motion. You saw what happened with Rick's map.

MALE 5: No.

MS. LANDRY: So Rick board's map got out. They -- they sent it --

MALE 5: Oh, it [inaudible] out.

MS. LANDRY: They sent it to the Senate floor but with no -- no favorability or anything, just sent it, but his map has two majority morning and they're like [inaudible].

REP. MAGEE: Personal privilege, Representative Stefanski.

REP. STEFANSKI: Hey members, if I can -- if I can get your attention. This is -- this is on a somber note. Yesterday as -- as some of you may have noticed, there was a -- there was a church shooting in Birmingha- --Birmingham, Alabama, and that particular shooting as well as being a horrific tragedy affected somebody that's close to a lot of us.

Many of you know Lionel Rainey. He's -- he's been a friend of mine for a long time. And

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unfortunately his uncle, Walter Bartlett Rainey, was the -- one of the individuals that died yesterday in the church shooting. He was Lionel's father's brother. He was a veteran and -- and as -- as I'm told, one of the kindest people you will meet.

His wife, Linda, was actually by his side at -- - at the time he was shot and -- and believe it or not, they were attending a -- a potluck supper at the church when -- when the -- when the shooter came in. He is survived by two daughters and -- and hundred -- hundreds of people that love him.

So if you would join me, please remember, and pray for Lionel over these next, you know, coming days, weeks and -- and years. And if we could, Mr. Speaker, please have a moment of silence for his uncle, Walter Rainey.

REP. MAGEE: Right. Members, a moment of silence. Personal privilege, Representative Newell.

MS. NEWELL: I'm so glad to have y'all attention. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and members. No, we are not trying to pose a coup or anything. We came up here to recognize a holiday in

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this state and in this great nation.

In the 2021 regular session of the Louisiana legislature our dear friend representative, Larry Selders, along with the entire legislative black caucus authored House bill 554, which recognized Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday.

Juneteenth is a national freedom day, which celebrates the date of June 19th, 1865, where Major General Gordon Granger led the union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing the news that the civil war had ended and that the emancipation proclamation declared all those enslaved people to be free.

And Juneteenth is the day of learning, sharing, and honoring the history, culture and achievements of African Americans across the state and the nation in areas, including education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, politics, sports, civil, and human rights.

And today this is the day that we recognize in this great state of Louisiana. As I said in my testimony today, I don't know if the judge knew what she was doing and if it was just the divine

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intervention of our God and savior that allowed us to be here this week during the week of Juneteenth.

During the -- the day that we are recognizing Juneteenth, that we are again talking about and discussing the need for a second congressional district for minority, that's a minority majority congressional district. I don't know if that was in his divine plan, but I believe it was. And I hope we all take the time to think about that and to think about what this holiday represents for the African Americans in our state, and what it represents as the history to the state of Louisiana. And hopefully we can change the path and the trajectory of this state, starting today, and let this be the Juneteenth for all of us. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and members.

REP. MAGEE: Representative [inaudible] personal privilege.

FEMALE 4: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, please join me in wishing a happy, happy birthday to Representative Edmond Jordan. You're going to sing happy birthday? Yay. Happy birthday --

HOUSE: To you. Happy birthday to you. Happy

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birthday dear Edmond. Happy birthday to you.

FEMALE 4: Thank you.

REP. MAGEE: Representative Duplessis, for motion. Morning [inaudible].

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker

REP. MAGEE: One second, Rep Duplessis. One second. All right. Representative Jordan for motion. I -- I was going to sing happy birthday again. Thank you. Representative Duplessis for motion.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the committee on house and governmental and -- house and governmental affairs be directed to report House Bill 1 on today, June 17th.

REP. MAGEE: All right. Representative Stefanski on your objection.

REP. STEFANSKI: Yep. Members, we -- we debated the bill at length today. I think over -- over four hours. The committee made its decision and -- and as -- as chairman I'd asked you to respect the committee's decision. So I object.

REP. MAGEE: All right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes,

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it's true. Y'all saw we debated the bill quite extensively, but given that debate I think it would be great for this whole body to have an opportunity to debate it. So with that, I want to thank the chairman for he did run a great committee this morning, and I thank him for that, but I would like for the full body to have an opportunity to -- to debate that bill. So I would ask that we move on that motion.

REP. MAGEE: Right. Representative Duplessis makes a motion which Representative Stefanski objected to. All those in favor of the motion vote yay, those opposed to the motion vote nay. The clerk will open machines, members vote your machine.

Vote your machines, members. [Inaudible]. Still voting, members? You're still voting? All right. Close them up. 32 yays, 61 nays, and the motion fails to pass. All right. Representative Stefanski, personal privilege.

REP. STEFANSKI: Members, I, and originally in committee was talking about having a committee meeting tomorrow to debate the two bills that are still in committee. Due to the Senate still having an instrument

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in play it -- it doesn't make much sense when you work the timeline.

And so I'm going to ask this -- the speaker and I conferred and we are not going to have a committee meeting tomorrow. But I -- I believe the speaker will have further instructions about what the house is going to do should we be here to -- should there be an instrument for us to receive. So HMGA will not meet unless we need to for a Senate bill should that -- should that occur down the line in the next few days?

REP. MAGEE: All right. Representative Jenkins, you want personal privilege? All right. He does not. Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER: Yes. What if -- when, if something comes out of the Senate, when would we refer it over, tomorrow or Sunday? What --

REP. MAGEE: It would -- it would come over tomorrow.

REP. CARTER: All right.

REP. MAGEE: Thank you. All right. Personal privilege, Representative Glover. Oh, he's gone. Okay.

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Personal privilege, Representative Illg.

REP. ILLG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. My message is on a little more jovial note. We have -- the video has been sent to your laptop from the Hoopla, and if you want to see the best tackle in the game, Kyle Green about the 20 minute mark was pretty entertaining on Dr. Tate. So check your lap -- your chamber laptop. So you've got -- received an email about Hoopla, the hoopla video.

REP. MAGEE: Right.

REP. ILLG: So watch that this weekend.

REP. MAGEE: Representative Bagley, you need a personal privilege?

REP. BAGLEY: Just want a -- a question.

REP. MAGEE: Yes, sir.

REP. BAGLEY: Since we may or may not get a bill from the Senate, if we do not, what else can we do since Monday's the last day anyway, I mean, is there a plan here that --

REP. MAGEE: We'll work on that tomorrow when we see what the Senate does.

REP. BAGLEY: So we will meet tomorrow?

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REP. MAGEE: Yes.

REP. BAGLEY: Thank you.

REP. MAGEE: All right. All right. Representative Thompson for a motion.

REP. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker and members, I move we adjourn to in the morning at 11:00.

REP. MAGEE: Without objection.

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June 24, 2022

Chris Naaden

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Exhibit L

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Transcript of Louisiana House Chamber

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TESTIMONY OF THE

LOUISIANA HOUSE CHAMBER

REDISTRICTING

JUNE 18, 2022

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

Job No.: 453585

Pages: 1 - 10

Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

P R O C E E D I N G S

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: House will come to order. Members, vote your machines. Roll call. Vote your machines, members.

Vote your machines. You through voting? Gadberry, Pressly. Mine's not -- through voting, members? All right. Close them up. 89 members in the quorum. Today, members, the House will be opened in prayer by Representative Turner.

REP. TURNER: Hey. No -- no fried chicken prayer today. Hey. I do want to take a moment. I just want to say how proud I am and how fortunate I am to serve with each and every one of y'all. Thank you. Also will ask for your help in saying the Lord's Prayer if you'll follow along with me.

All right. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive those trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us. Lead us not to temptation but deliver us from evil. [inaudible] glory forever. Amen. Pretty good, members. Thank you.

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REP. SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Representative Romero will lead us in the pledge.

REP. ROMERO: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of --

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Morning hour four.

MS. FONTENOT: Friday, June 17th, 2022 the House of Representatives was called to order by the Honorable Tanner Magee, speaker pro tem of the House of Representatives. The roll being called, the following members --

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Thompson moves to dispense with the reading of the journal without objection so ordered. Morning hour five.

MS. FONTENOT: Mr. Speaker, members, messages from the Senate to the honorable speaker, members of the House of Representatives, I'm directed to inform your honorable body that the Senate has consented to adjourn sine die and asks the House of Representatives to do the same. Respectfully submitted, Yolanda Dixon, Secretary of the Senate.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: All right. Representative Stefanski?

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REP. STEFANSKI: Members, if you've been watching the Senate, as I indicated yesterday, based on where we are in the process with the amount of time that not only the federal judge has ordered but the governor made in his call, essentially, there was one instrument that could still make its way through the process.

I've been informed by the Senate that that bill has been returned to the calendar. So any efforts on our side to move a bill through the process would inevitably end in failure because there's just flat out not enough time. Based on that, Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would move that we inform the Senate that the House is ready to adjourn sine die. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Any objection to the motion of sine die? Representative Duplessis? Object?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Yeah. I'd like to raise an objection.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: All right. All in favor of --

REP. DUPLESSIS: [inaudible] Can I speak on my

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objection?

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: It's a non-debatable objection. All right. Representative Stefanski moves to object.

REP. STEFANSKI: To adjourn.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: To adjourn. Representative Duplessis moves to object. All those in favor of adjourning, vote yay. Those opposed, vote nay. The clerk will open the machines. Members, vote your machines. Pressly, yes. You through voting, members?

Speaker, yes. All right. You through voting? All right. Close them up. 53 yays, 29 nays and the motion passes. Members, we'll send a message to the Senate we are concluded with our work. All right. Who's [inaudible] who's -- Representative Hewitt? Senator Hewitt?

SEN. HEWITT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, we're here from the Senate to inform you that we have completed our work in the special session. We've worked all very hard and I appreciate the effort, but now I think it's time to sine die.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Thank you, Senators. Thank

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you for your hard work. Appreciate you. Yep. Announcement.

MS. FONTENOT: Members, the speaker appoints the following committee to notify the Senate that the House is ready to adjourn sine die, Representatives Mike Johnson, Huval, Turner, Coussan and Stefanski. Again, Representative Mike Johnson, Huval, Stefanski, Turner and Coussan. Please meet the Sergeant at Arms near the rear of the chamber.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Duplessis?

REP. DUPLESSIS: Mr. Speaker, in recognizing that we appear to be notifying the Senate, we've just been notified by the Senate, I did have my personal privilege button pressed. I would like to just ask for that opportunity to be recognized for personal privilege.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Well, and -- and we can do that but we're going to get our message across and then when we come back.

REP. DUPLESSIS: So we will recognize me for personal privilege?

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: I will.

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REP. DUPLESSIS: Thank you.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Coussan?

REP. COUSSAN: Mr. Speaker, members, we have informed the Senate that we are ready to adjourn sine die.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: All right.

REP. DUPLESSIS: Personal privilege. Well, the sheep are going to be separated from the goats. And when you look up and you say, when did I see you and feed you? When were you in prison and I visited you? When were you hungry and I fed you?

You know where the righteous are, you know where the just are, you know where the unjust and unrighteous are. I love you all, but again, we are so much better than what we're showing today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Representative Stefanski to the floor. He waives. Representative Thompson for a motion.

REP. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker and members, I move we adjourn sine die.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Duplessis objects. All

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those in favor of sine die, vote yay. All those opposed, vote nay. The clerk will --

FEMALE: [inaudible]

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Yes.

REP. WILLARD: What's the required vote to adjourn sine die?

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Simple majority.

REP. WILLARD: Of those present in voting or 53?

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: Simple majority of the members present.

REP. WILLARD: I request a lockout.

REP. SCHEXNAYDER: All right. 20 members joining Representative Willard in a lockout. Request for a lockout.

Vote your machines for a lockout. All right. Lockout is obvious. Members, quorum call. Vote your machines. Landry, yes. Mine's -- through voting, members? Firment. You through voting?

All right. Close them up. 63 members in a quorum. All right. All those in favor of sine die, vote yay. All those opposed, vote nay. The clerk will open

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the machines.

Members, vote your machines. Firment, yay. Landry, no. All right. Through voting? All right. Close it up. You voting no?

All right. Close the machine. 38 yays, 26 nays. The House is adjourned.

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I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 9 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



June 24, 2022

Chris Naaden

(453585, 6. House Chamber June 18)

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Exhibit M

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PRESS ROBINSON, et al., *Plaintiffs,* v. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for Louisiana, *Defendant.*	Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00211-SDD-SDJ Chief Judge Shelly D. Dick Magistrate Judge Scott D. Johnson
EDWARD GALMON, SR., et al., *Plaintiffs,* v. R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of State for Louisiana, *Defendant.*	Consolidated with Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00214-SDD-SDJ

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EXPERT REPORT OF M.V. HOOD III FOR REMEDIAL PHASE

I, M.V. Hood III, affirm the conclusions I express in this report are provided to a reasonable degree of professional certainty. In addition, I do hereby declare the following:

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

My name is M.V. (Trey) Hood III, and I am a tenured professor at the University of Georgia with an appointment in the Department of Political Science. I have been a faculty member at the University of Georgia since 1999. I also serve as the Director of the School of Public and International Affairs Survey Research Center. I am an expert in American politics, specifically in the areas of electoral politics, racial politics, election administration, and Southern politics. I teach courses on American politics, Southern politics, and research methods and have taught graduate seminars on the topics of election administration and Southern politics.

I have received research grants to study election administration issues from the National Science Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trust, and the Center for Election Innovation and Research. I have also published peer-reviewed journal articles specifically in the area of election administration, including redistricting. My academic publications are detailed in a copy of my vita that is attached to the end of this report. Currently, I serve on the editorial boards for *Social Science Quarterly* and *Election Law Journal*. The latter is a peer-reviewed academic journal focused on the area of election administration.

During the preceding five years, I have offered expert testimony (through deposition or at trial) in ten cases around the United States: *League of Women Voters v. Gardner*, 226-2017-cv-00433 (Hillsborough Superior Court), *Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute v. Ryan Smith*, 1:18-cv-357 (S.D. Ohio), *Libertarian Party of Arkansas v. Thurston*, 4:19-cv-00214 (E.D. Ark.); *Chestnut v. Merrill*, 2:18-cv-907 (N.D. Ala.), *Common Cause v. Lewis*, 18-CVS-014001 (Wake County Superior Court); *Nielsen v. DeSantis*, 4:20-cv-236 (N.D. Fla.); *Western Native Voice v. Stapleton*, DV-56-2020-377 (Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court); *Driscoll v. Stapleton*, DV-20-0408 (Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court); *North Carolina v. Holmes*, 18-CVS-15292 (Wake County Superior Court); and *Caster v. Merrill*, 2:21-cv-1536 (S.D. Ala).

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I am receiving $400 an hour for my work on this case and $400 an hour for any testimony associated with this work. In reaching my conclusions, I have drawn on my training, experience, and knowledge as a social scientist who has specifically conducted research in the area of redistricting. My compensation in this case is not dependent upon the outcome of the litigation or the substance of my opinions.

II. SCOPE AND OVERVIEW

I have been asked by counsel for Legislative Intervenors to provide a number of comparisons for a proposed remedial Louisiana congressional plan requested by the Court. In Section III, I examine district congruity using both population and geography-based comparisons. Section IV surveys district racial composition.[1] Finally, Section V presents a series of congressional district maps for various parishes under both the enacted and proposed remedial plans.

Note: Throughout this report I refer to different congressional plans. The plan challenged in this

[1] Data relied upon to compile this report were received through counsel.

matter is referred to as the enacted plan, or the 2022 plan. The previous plan from 2011 is the benchmark plan. Plaintiffs' proposed plan requested by the Court is labeled as the proposed remedial plan.

III. DISTRICT CONGRUITY ANALYSES

District core retention is one method available to compare two districting plans.[2] In Table 1, core retention is measured as the percentage of the population in a new district carried over from the corresponding 2011 (benchmark) district. As such, district core retention is a measure that ranges from 0 to 100.[3] The higher the percentage, the more a district is representative of its former self. For example, CD 3 in the enacted plan is comprised in whole from CD 3 in the benchmark plan, producing a core retention score of 100%.[4] Table 1 also presents mean (average) core retention values for the enacted and proposed remedial plans along with the standard deviation and range.

Table 1. District Core Retention Comparisons

District	Enacted	Proposed Remedial
1	97.9%	75.4%
2	98.8%	80.5%
3	100%	74.9%
4	93.8%	72.3%
5	89.1%	49.1%
6	98.5%	62.0%
Mean	96.4	69.0
S.D.	4.1	11.5
Range	10.9	31.4

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[2] The presence of a district core is closely linked to incumbent electoral success and, as such, is an important element related to protecting incumbents across a redistricting cycle. Retaining a population core representative of an incumbent's previous constituency helps ensure that voters keep the responsibility for reelecting, or not, the incumbent who has represented them.

[3] The calculations in Table 1 are based on total population.

[4] CD 3 was slightly larger than the ideal district size in 2020. As such, a small number of residents were shifted to CD 4 and CD 6 under the 2020 plan. The remainder of old CD 3 residents comprise the new CD 3.

Looking at the core retention scores for the enacted 2022 plan, most districts appear to be a close approximation of their corresponding configurations from the benchmark plan. The core retention scores for all six districts are housed in a narrow range from 89.1% to 100%. The mean (average) core retention score is 96.4%. Core retention for the proposed remedial plan is lower as evidenced by its mean score of 69.0. Comparing the core retention value for each district in the enacted plan to the corresponding district in the proposed remedial plan indicates higher core retention scores for the enacted districts as compared to the proposed remedial districts. For example, CD 5 in the enacted plan has a core retention score of 89.1%, as compared to CD 5 in the proposed remedial plan which has a score of 49.1%. Comparing the standard deviation statistics between the enacted and the proposed remedial plan indicates a higher degree of variance for core retention in the proposed remedial plan. In sum, under the enacted plan, 96% of constituents will have the ability to return their previous incumbent to office if they so choose. In contrast, the proposed remedial plan allows only 69% of constituents this same opportunity.

Another way to compare districts across different plans relies on what is known as the Similarity Index (S.I.).[5] While core retention can give one a sense of population shared between two districts, I will employ the Similarity Index in an effort to determine the degree to which districts from two different plans share a common geography. As with the core retention measure, the Similarity Index ranges from 0% to 100%. The higher the score, the more geographic overlap exists between the two districts under examination. The index relies on the following formula:

$$S.I. = c/(p+n-c)$$

where
c represents the total number of square meters the old district shares with the new district;
p is the total number of square meters in the old district;
and
n is the total number of square meters in the new district

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Table 2 compares the shared geography between the enacted and the proposed remedial plans to the benchmark plan using the Similarity Index. For the enacted plan, the average S.I. score is 88.3 which demonstrates a high degree of geographic congruence between the benchmark plan and the 2022 plan. With the exception of CD 6 (64.4%), the remaining five districts have S.I. scores that fall in the range from 87.8% to 99.3%. The mean value for the S.I. is 88.3%. Again, this is an indication, geographically speaking, that the congressional districts in the 2022 enacted plan strongly resemble the previous districts from the benchmark plan. S.I. scores for districts in the proposed remedial plan range from a low of 17.2% to a high of 59.8%, producing an overall average score of 43.5.

Comparing things on a district-by-district basis demonstrates that each district in the enacted plan has a higher Similarity Index score than the corresponding district in the proposed remedial plan. Stated concisely, districts in the enacted plan are more geographically congruent with their

[5] The Similarity Index is detailed in Gary W. Cox and Jonathan N. Katz. 2002. *Elbridge Gerry's Salamander: The Electoral Consequences of the Reapportionment Revolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (pp. 15,17).

corresponding district configurations from the benchmark plan than are the districts from the proposed remedial plan.

Table 2. District Comparisons-Geographic Similarity Index

District	Enacted	Proposed Remedial
1	88.4%	59.8
2	99.3%	35.7
3	95.9%	46.8
4	94.2%	51.4
5	87.8%	49.8
6	64.4%	17.2
Mean	88.3	43.5
S.D.	12.5	15.0
Range	35.0	42.6

Summary. This section has demonstrated that in terms of both population and geography, the benchmark and enacted plans are highly congruent. On these same metrics the proposed remedial plan deviates to a greater degree from the benchmark plan.

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IV. DISTRICT RACIAL COMPOSITION

In this section I document the percentage of Black population contained within each congressional district for the benchmark, enacted, and the proposed remedial plan based on 2020 Census data.[6] For these comparisons I calculate the percentage of the total population (Table 3) and the voting age population (Table 4) that is Black as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice.[7] The DOJ definition of Black combines all single-race Black identifiers who are also non-Hispanic with everyone who is non-Hispanic and identifies as white and Black. Specifically, the percentage of Blacks in the total population would be calculated as follows:

[Non-Hispanic, Black + Non-Hispanic, White and Black] / Total Population

Comparing the percentage Black in districts across the benchmark and enacted plans in Table 3 demonstrates a great degree of congruence. The absolute difference, by district, ranges from 0.0 to 1.3, producing an average difference of only 0.48. Looking at the proposed remedial plan, there is a greater degree of variance with absolute difference values ranging from 1.5 to 19.3, for an average difference of 7.5.

[6] The figures for the benchmark plan presented in Tables 3 and 4 use 2020 Census data.
[7] Additional documentation on this measure can be found at: "Guidance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. 10301, for redistricting and methods of electing government bodies." U.S. Department of Justice. September 1, 2021 and "OMB Bulletin No. 00-02-Guidance on Aggregation and Allocation of Data on Race for Use in Civil Rights Monitoring and Enforcement." Office of Management and Budget. March 9, 2000.

Using total Black population, there is one majority black district in both the benchmark and the enacted plans (CD 2 with a Black population of 59.1%). For the proposed remedial plan there are two majority Black districts (CD 2 and CD 5) ranging from 51.6% to 53.7% Black population.

Table 3. District Percentage Black Comparisons, 2020 Total Population

District	Benchmark	Enacted	Proposed Remedial
1	15.0%	13.7%	17.3%
2	**59.1%**	**59.1%**	**51.6%**
3	25.5%	25.7%	19.4%
4	34.4%	34.9%	32.9%
5	34.4%	34.4%	**53.7%**
6	25.6%	24.7%	17.6%

Table 4 examines the Black voting age population by district across the three plans. Again, the percentages for the benchmark and enacted plans are remarkably similar. In absolute value terms the differences across these two plans range from 0.1% to 1.2%, for an average difference of 0.5% across all six districts. Comparing the proposed remedial plan to the benchmark plan reveals a much greater degree of divergence on district racial composition. For example, comparing the proposed remedial to the benchmark plan, the Black VAP differences by district in absolute value terms range from 1.3 to 18.7, with a mean difference of 7.2.

Based on voting age population, both the benchmark and enacted plans contain one majority-Black district, CD 2, at 57.0% Black in both plans. The proposed remedial plan also contains a single majority-black district (CD 5 at 51.1%). District 2, at 49.7%, in the proposed remedial plan falls short of being a majority-black district.

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Table 4. District Percentage Black Comparisons, 2020 Voting Age Population

District	Benchmark	Enacted	Proposed Remedial
1	13.7%	12.5%	16.0%
2	**57.0%**	**57.0%**	49.7%
3	23.8%	23.9%	17.9%
4	32.6%	33.1%	31.3%
5	32.4%	32.3%	**51.1%**
6	24.1%	23.3%	16.4%

Summary. In terms of district racial composition, the 2022 enacted plan is highly analogous with the 2011 benchmark plan. There was a single majority-Black district in both districting schemes. As well, the proposed remedial plan only contains a single majority-black voting age population district (CD 5) with Black VAP considerably lower than CD 2 under the enacted plan (51.1% vs. 57.0% respectively).

V. MAPS

I was also asked by counsel to produce a set of maps for any parish split across congressional districts under the proposed remedial plan, but not under the enacted plan. Using this criterion, in this section I present congressional district maps for the following parishes: Ouachita, Rapides, Vernon, Lafayette, St. Tammany, and Iberia (Full-page maps are also appended to the end of my report). Figures 1 through 12 plot the aforementioned parishes under the enacted and proposed remedial congressional districting plans. In addition to Parish boundary lines, these maps also feature incorporated areas, as well as census designated places.[8]

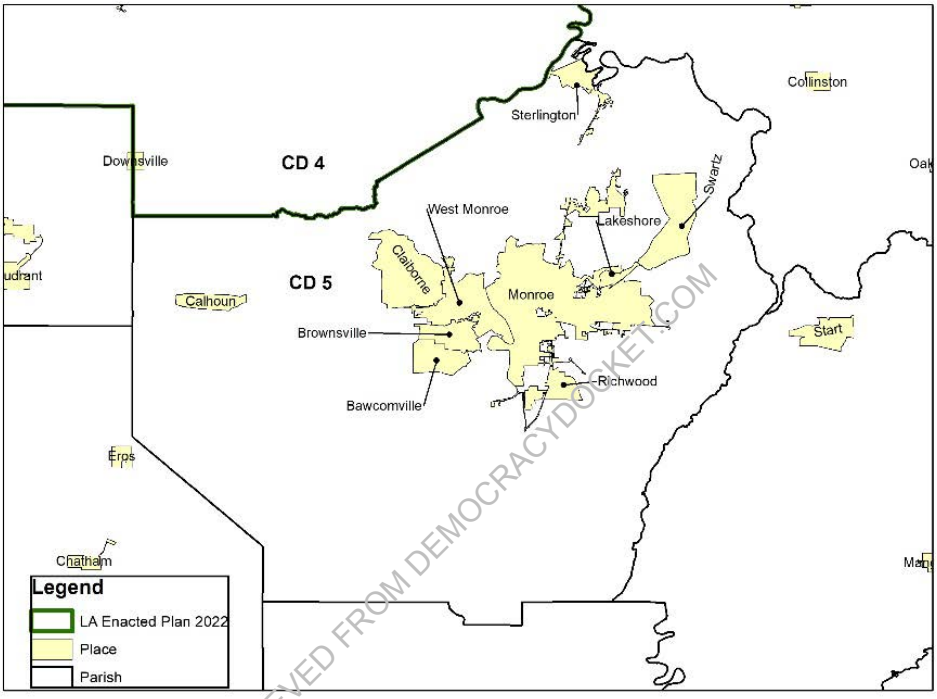
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[8] In these maps Census designated places (CPDs) are "statistical geographic entities representing closely settled, unincorporated communities that are locally recognized and identified by name." Source: "Census Designated Places (CPDs) for the 2020 Census-Final Criteria" at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/11/13/2018-24571/census-designated-places-cdps-for-the-2020-census-final-criteria. Mapping files obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files.html). Congressional plan shapefiles received through counsel.

Ouachita Parish

Figure 1 details Ouachita Parish under the enacted districting plan. Enacted plan district boundaries are displayed as green lines. Under the enacted plan, Ouachita Parish is wholly contained within CD 5.

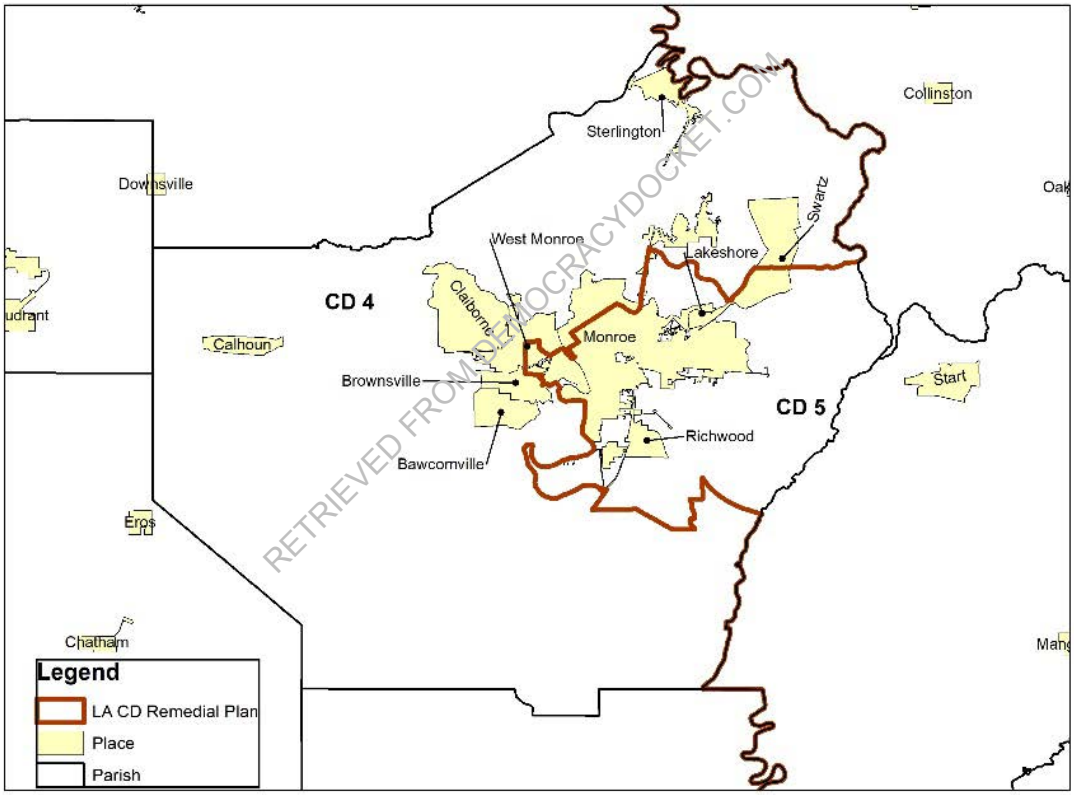
Figure 1. Ouachita-Enacted Plan



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Ouachita Parish under the proposed remedial plan is displayed in Figure 2. Here, district boundaries are presented as red lines. Under the proposed remedial plan, Ouachita Parish would be split into two congressional districts: CD 4 and CD 5. By VAP, 57.3% of the population would fall into CD 4 and 42.7% into CD 5. Within the parish, the Cities of Monroe and West Monroe would be split across these two districts, as well as the census designated places of Brownsville and Swartz. The City of Monroe would be split 23.5% into CD 4 and 76.5% into CD 5. West Monroe City is split 61.7% into CD 4 and 38.3% into CD 5 under the proposed remedial plan.

Figure 2. Ouachita-Remedial Plan

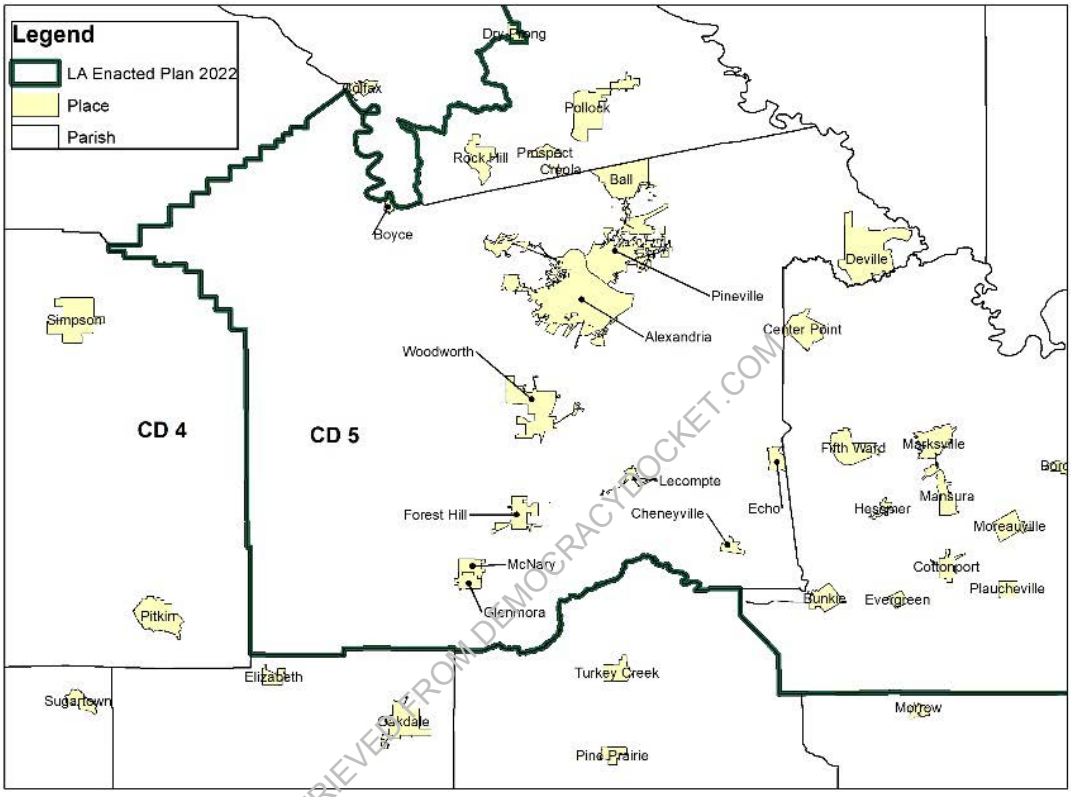


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Rapides Parish

Rapides Parish under the enacted plan is presented in Figure 3. Under this plan, the totality of Rapides Parish is located in CD 5.

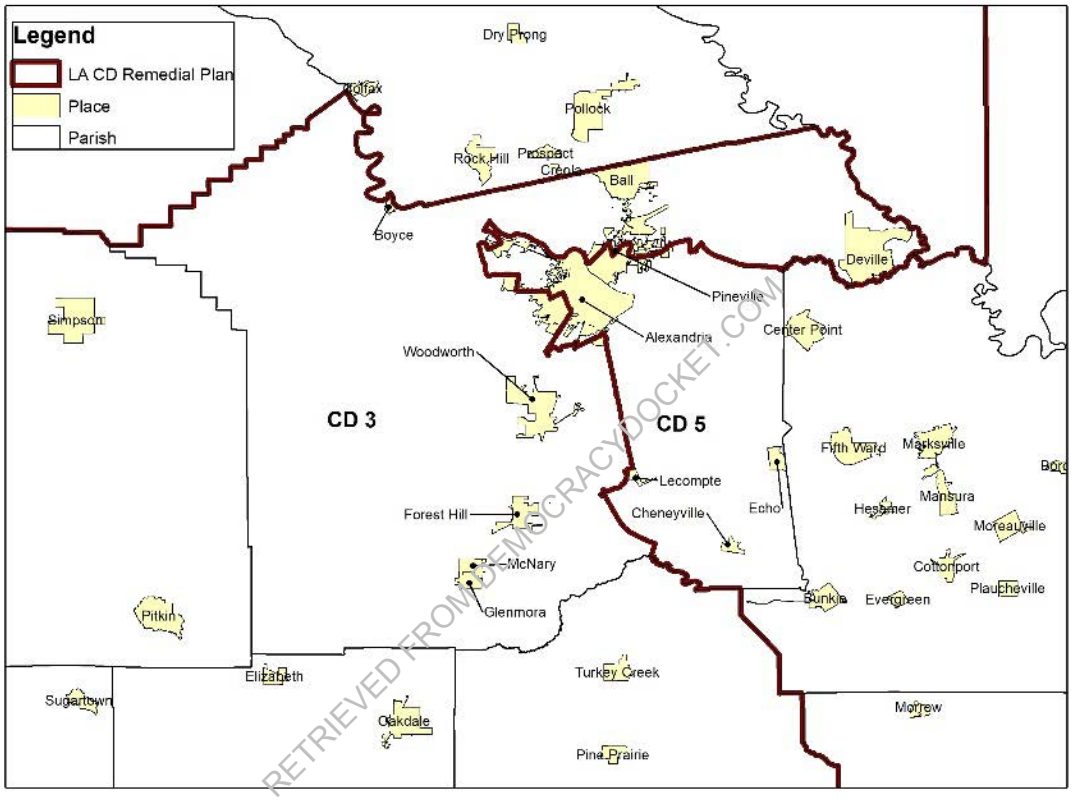
Figure 3. Rapides-Enacted Plan



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Under the proposed remedial plan (Figure 4) Rapides Parish is split between congressional district 3 and congressional district 5. Based on voting age population, 53.8% of Rapides Parish would be located in CD 3 and the remaining 42.7% in CD 5. Within the Parish, the cities of Alexandria and Pineville are also divided across CDs 3 and 5. The City of Alexandria would be divided 30.8% (CD 3) and 69.2% (CD 5); whereas the City of Pineville would be divided 34.5% (CD 3) and 65.5% (CD 5).

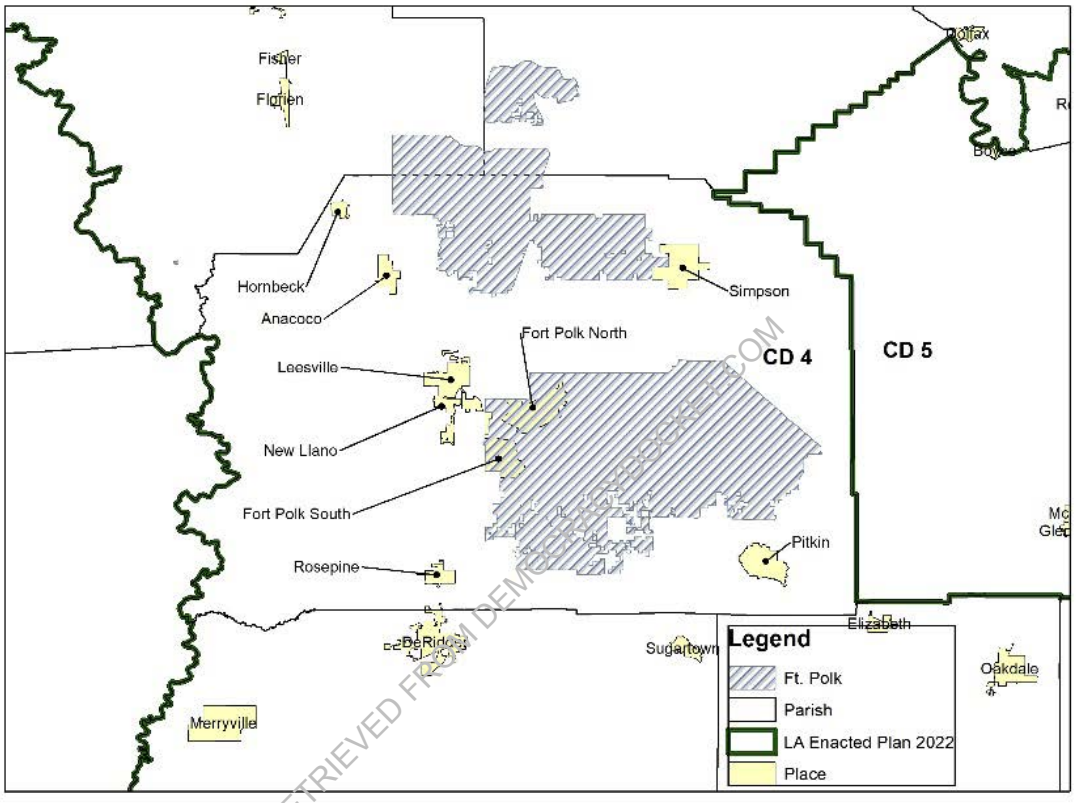
Figure 4. Rapides-RemedialPlan



Vernon Parish

For these maps, in addition to Census-designated places and incorporated areas, I have also plotted the boundaries for the Ft. Polk military installation using a gray cross-hatched pattern. Vernon Parish under the enacted plan is displayed in Figure 5. Here, the parish in its entirety is located within CD 4.

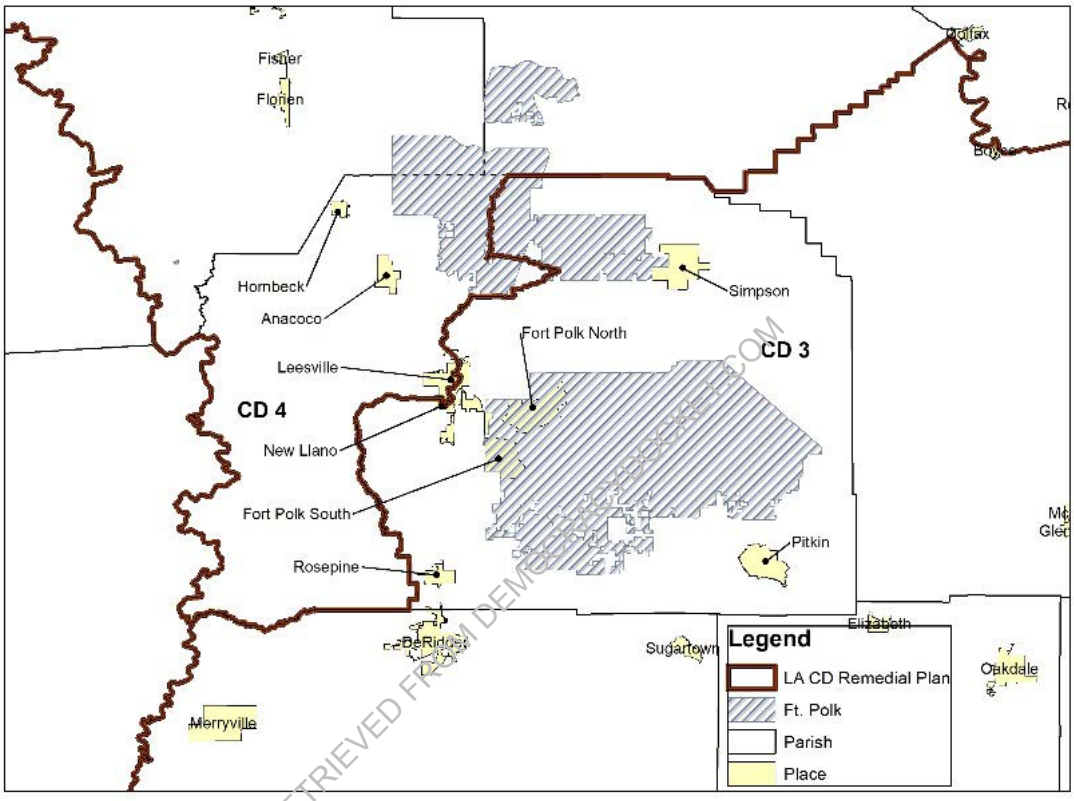
Figure 5. Vernon-Enacted Map



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In Figure 6, one can see that Vernon Parish would be divided across CD 4 and CD 3 under the proposed remedial plan. Under this plan 67.5% of the voting age population of Vernon Parish would be found in CD 3 and 32.5% in CD 4. In addition, within the parish the proposed remedial plan would also split the Ft. Polk military base as well as the City of Leesville and the Town of New Llano. Leesville would be divided 36.3% into CD 3 and 63.7% into CD 4.

Figure 6. Vernon-Remedial Map

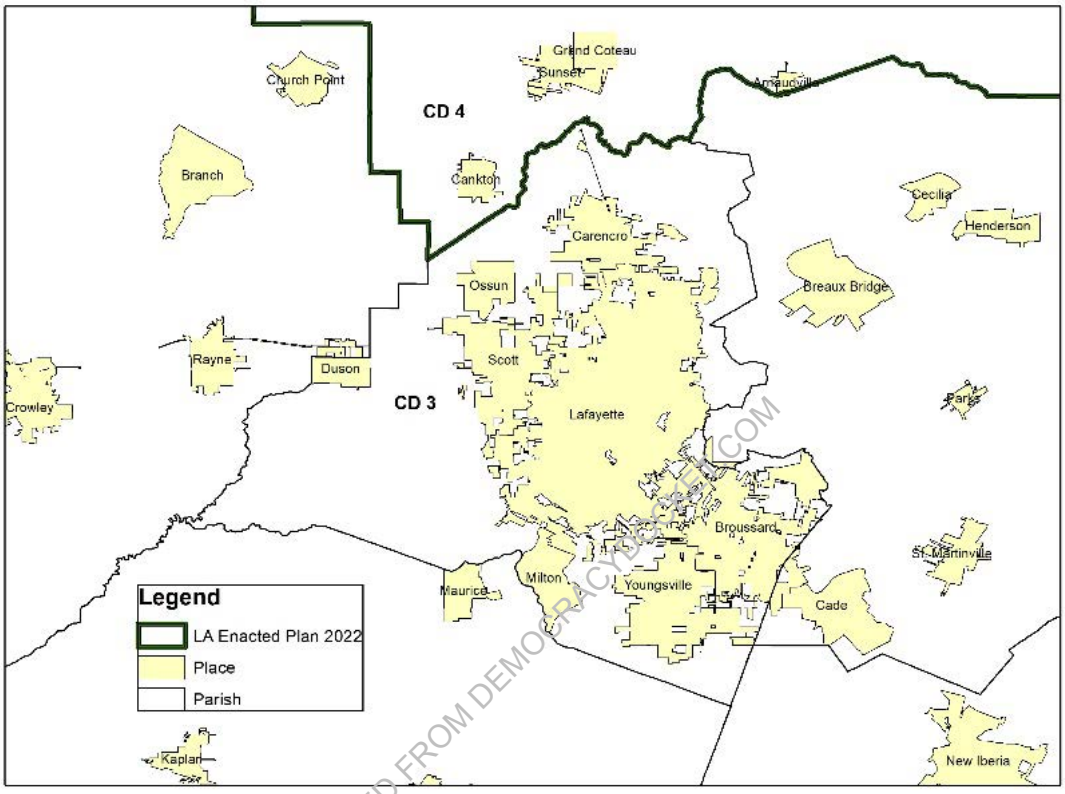


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Lafayette Parish

Figure 7 presents Lafayette Parish under the enacted map where is it keep intact within congressional district 3.

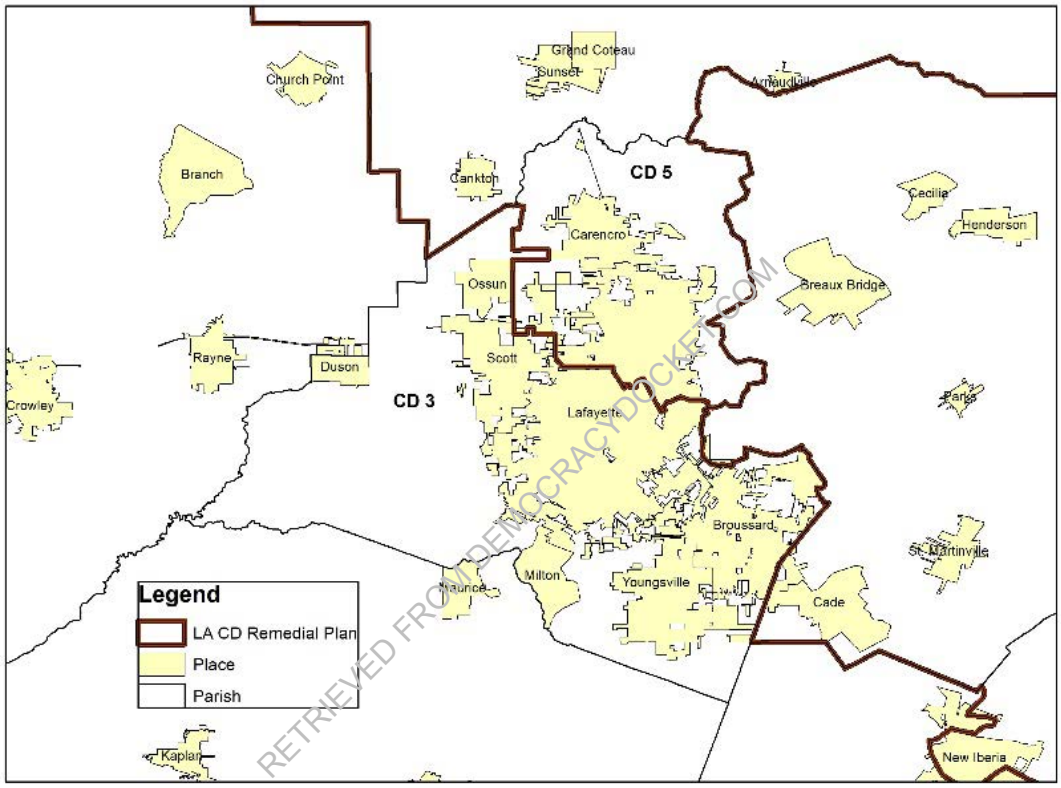
Figure 7. Lafayette-Enacted Map



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Under the proposed remedial plan (Figure 8), the parish would be split between CDs 3 and 5. By voting age population, 72.8% of Lafayette Parish would be located in CD 3 and 27.2% in CD 5. Within the Parish, the Cities of Lafayette and Scott would also be bifurcated between districts 3 and 5. The City of Lafayette would be divided 70.9% into CD 3 and 29.1% into CD 5 by voting age population, while the City of Scott would be split 91.8% into CD 3 and 8.2% into CD 5.

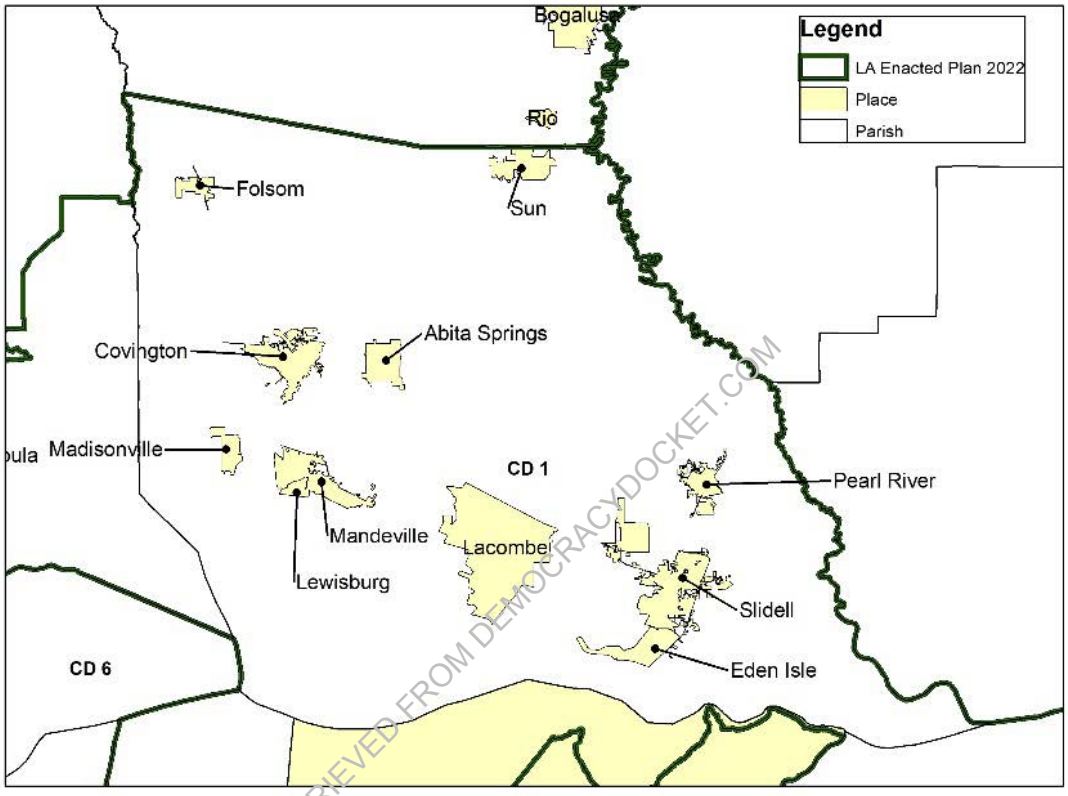
Figure 8. Lafayette-Remedial Map



St. Tammany Parish

Figure 9 examines St. Tammany Parish under the enacted plan. Under this plan, St. Tammany would be kept whole within the 1st congressional district.

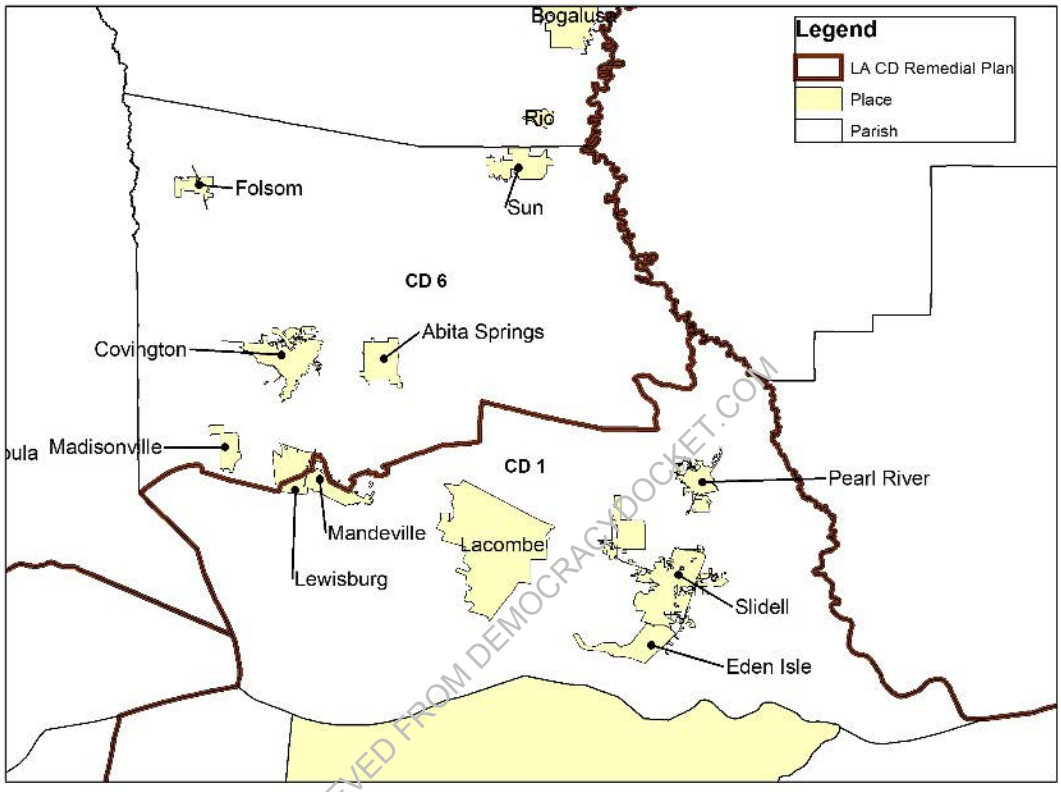
Figure 9. St.Tammany-Enacted Map



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In Figure 10, the parish, under the proposed remedial plan, would be divided almost evenly by voting age population between CD 1 (48.8%) and CD 6 (51.2%). Within the parish, the proposed remedial plan would split the City of Mandeville and the Census-designated place of Lewisburg. The City of Mandeville would be split 54.3% into CD 1 and 45.7% into CD 6.

Figure 10. St.Tammany-Remedial Map



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Iberia Parish

Finally, Figures 11 and 12 detail Iberia Parish under the enacted and proposed remedial plan respectively. Under the enacted plan Iberia Parish is wholly contained within CD 3, while under the proposed remedial plan 46.4% of the voting age population would be located in CD 2 and 53.6% in CD 3. Under the proposed remedial plan, one city, New Iberia, is also split (67.7% in CD 2 and 32.3% in CD 3).

Figure 11. Iberia-Enacted Map

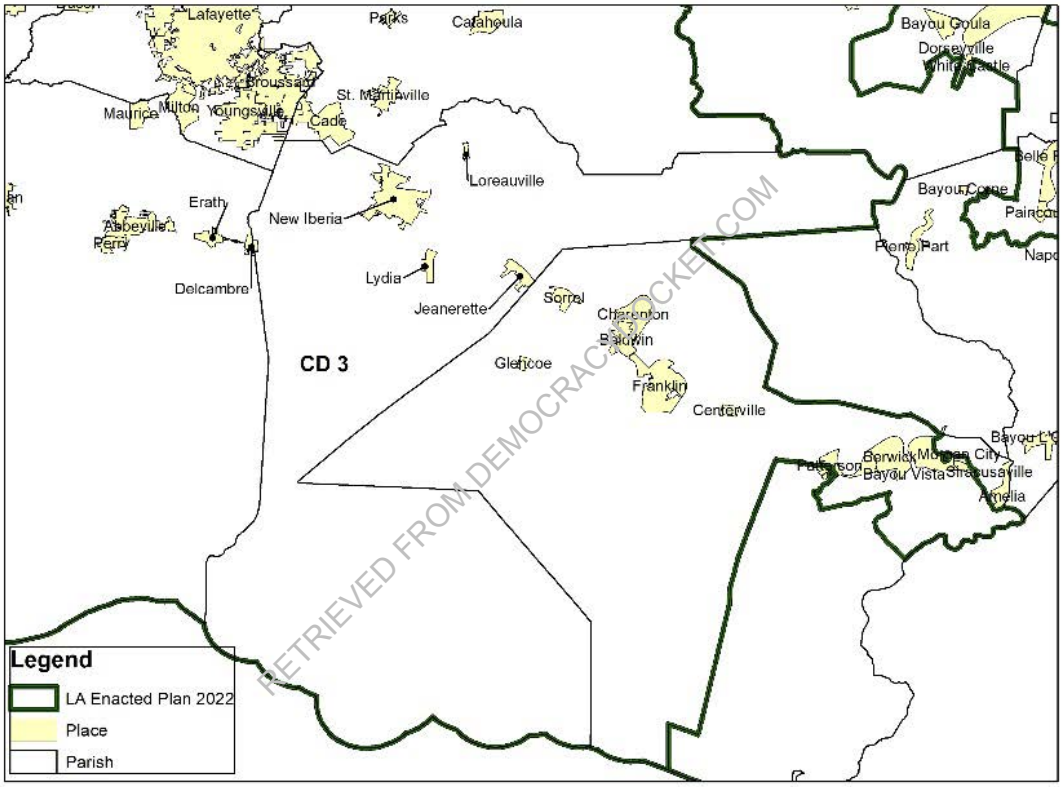
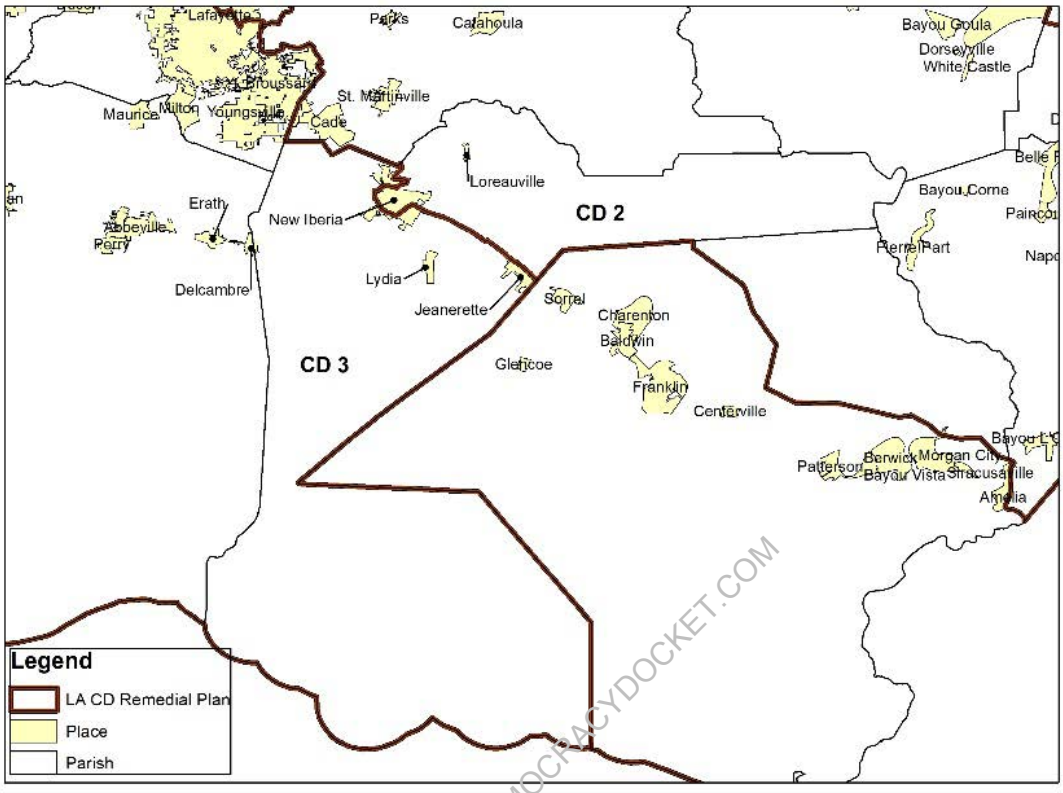


Figure 12. Iberia-Remedial Map

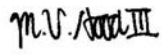


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VI. DECLARATION

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on June 27, 2022.



M.V. (Trey) Hood III

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EXHIBIT A

Curriculum Vitae
(June 2022)

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Academic Positions:
University of Georgia
Director, SPIA Survey Research Center, 2016-present
Director of Graduate Studies, 2011-2016
Professor, 2013-present
Associate Professor, 2005-2013
Assistant Professor, 1999-2005
Texas Tech University
Visiting Assistant Professor, 1997-1999

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Education:

Ph.D.	Political Science	Texas Tech University	1997
M.A.	Political Science	Baylor University	1993
B.S.	Political Science	Texas A&M University	1991

Peer-Reviewed Books:
Rural Republican Realignment in the Modern South: The Untold Story. 2022. Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

The Rational Southerner: Black Mobilization, Republican Growth, and the Partisan Transformation of the American South. 2012. New York: Oxford University Press. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris, co-authors).
[Softcover version in 2014 with new Epilogue]

Peer-Reviewed Publications:
"Partisan Schism in America's Newest Swing State." Forthcoming 2023. *Party Politics*. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Getting the Message: Opinion Polarization over Election Law." 2022. *Election Law Journal* 21(2): 124-134. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Tracking Hispanic Political Emergence in Georgia: An Update." 2021. *Social Science Quarterly* 102(1): 259-268. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"Switching Sides but Still Fighting the Civil War in Southern Politics." 2020. *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 10(1): 100-116. (Christopher Cooper, Scott H. Huffmon, Quentin Kidd, Gibbs Knotts, Seth C. McKee, co-authors).

"The Election of African American State Legislators in the Modern South." 2020. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 45(4): 581-608. (Charles S. Bullock, III, William Hicks, Seth C. McKee, Adam S. Myers, and Daniel A. Smith, co-authors).

"What's in a Name? Gauging the Effect of Labels on Third Party Vote Shares." 2020 (Online First). *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Why Georgia, Why? Peach State Residents' Perceptions of Voting-Related Improprieties and their Impact on the 2018 Gubernatorial Election." 2019. *Social Science Quarterly* 100(5): 1828-1847. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Palmetto Postmortem: Examining the Effects of the South Carolina Voter Identification Statute." 2019. *Political Research Quarterly* 73(2): 492-505. (Scott E. Buchanan, co-author).

"Contagious Republicanism in Louisiana, 1966-2008." 2018. *Political Geography* 66(Sept): 1-13. (Jamie Monogan, co-author).

"The Comeback Kid: Donald Trump on Election Day in 2016." 2019. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 52(2): 239-242. (Seth C. McKee and Daniel A. Smith, co-authors).

"Election Daze: Mode of Voting and Voter Preferences in the 2016 Presidential Election." 2017-2018. *Florida Political Chronicle* 25(2): 123-141. (Seth C. McKee and Daniel A. Smith, co-authors).

"Out of Step and Out of Touch: The Matter with Kansas in the 2014 Midterm." 2017. *The Forum* 15(2): 291-312. (Seth C. McKee and Ian Ostrander, co-authors).

"From Legal Theory to Practical Application: A How-To for Performing Vote Dilution Analyses." 2018. *Social Science Quarterly* 99(2): 536-552. (Peter A. Morrison and Thomas M. Bryan, co-authors).

"Race, Class, Religion and the Southern Party System: A Field Report from Dixie." 2016. *The Forum* 14(1): 83-96.

"*Black Votes Count*: The 2014 Republican Senate Nomination in Mississippi." 2017. *Social Science Quarterly* 98(1): 89-106. (Seth C. McKee, coauthor).

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"Sunshine State Dilemma: Voting for the 2014 Governor of Florida." 2015. *Electoral Studies* 40: 293-299. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Tea Leaves and Southern Politics: Explaining Tea Party Support Among Southern Republicans." 2015. *Social Science Quarterly* 96(4): 923-940. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris, co-authors).

"True Colors: White Conservative Support for Minority Republican Candidates." 2015. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 79(1): 28-52. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Race and the Tea Party in the Old Dominion: Split-Ticket Voting in the 2013 Virginia Elections." 2015. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 48(1):107-114. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris, co-authors).

"The Damnedest Mess: An Empirical Evaluation of the 1966 Georgia Gubernatorial Election." 2014. *Social Science Quarterly* 96(1):104-118. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"Candidates, Competition, and the Partisan Press: Congressional Elections in the Early Antebellum Era." 2014. *American Politics Research* 42(5):670-783. (Jamie L. Carson, co-author).
[Winner of the 2014 Hahn-Sigelman Prize]

"Strategic Voting in a U.S. Senate Election." 2013. *Political Behavior* 35(4):729-751. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Unwelcome Constituents: Redistricting and Countervailing Partisan Tides." 2013. *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 13(2):203-224. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"The Tea Party, Sarah Palin, and the 2010 Congressional Elections: The Aftermath of the Election of Barack Obama." 2012. *Social Science Quarterly* 93(5):1424-1435. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"Much Ado About Nothing?: An Empirical Assessment of the Georgia Voter Identification Statute." 2012. *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 12(4):394-314. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"Achieving Validation: Barack Obama and Black Turnout in 2008." 2012. *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 12:3-22. (Seth C. McKee and David Hill, co-authors).

"They Just Don't Vote Like They Used To: A Methodology to Empirically Assess Election Fraud." 2012. *Social Science Quarterly* 93:76-94. (William Gillespie, co-author).

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"An Examination of Efforts to Encourage the Incidence of Early In-Person Voting in Georgia, 2008." 2011. *Election Law Journal* 10:103-113. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"What Made Carolina Blue? In-migration and the 2008 North Carolina Presidential Vote." 2010. *American Politics Research* 38:266-302. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Stranger Danger: Redistricting, Incumbent Recognition, and Vote Choice." 2010. *Social Science Quarterly* 91:344-358. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Trying to Thread the Needle: The Effects of Redistricting in a Georgia Congressional District." 2009. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42:679-687. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Citizen, Defend Thyself: An Individual-Level Analysis of Concealed-Weapon Permit Holders." 2009. *Criminal Justice Studies* 22:73-89. (Grant W. Neeley, co-author).

"Two Sides of the Same Coin?: Employing Granger Causality Tests in a Time Series Cross-Section Framework." 2008. *Political Analysis* 16:324-344. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris, co-authors).

"Worth a Thousand Words? : An Analysis of Georgia's Voter Identification Statute." 2008. *American Politics Research* 36:555-579. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"Gerrymandering on Georgia's Mind: The Effects of Redistricting on Vote Choice in the 2006 Midterm Election." 2008. *Social Science Quarterly* 89:60-77 (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Examining Methods for Identifying Latino Voters." 2007. *Election Law Journal* 6:202-208. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"A Mile-Wide Gap: The Evolution of Hispanic Political Emergence in the Deep South." 2006. *Social Science Quarterly* 87:1117-1135. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"Punch Cards, Jim Crow, and Al Gore: Explaining Voter Trust in the Electoral System in Georgia, 2000." 2005. *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 5:283-294. (Charles S. Bullock, III and Richard Clark, co-authors).

"When Southern Symbolism Meets the Pork Barrel: Opportunity for Executive Leadership." 2005. *Social Science Quarterly* 86:69-86. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"The Reintroduction of the *Elephas maximus* to the Southern United States: The Rise of Republican State Parties, 1960-2000." 2004. *American Politics Research* 31:68-101. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris, co-authors).

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"One Person, [No Vote; One Vote; Two Votes…]: Voting Methods, Ballot Types, and Undervote Frequency in the 2000 Presidential Election." 2002. *Social Science Quarterly* 83:981-993. (Charles S. Bullock, III, co-author).

"On the Prospect of Linking Religious Right Identification with Political Behavior: Panacea or Snipe Hunt?" 2002. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 41:697-710. (Mark C. Smith, co-author).

"The *Key* Issue: Constituency Effects and Southern Senators' Roll-Call Voting on Civil Rights." 2001. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 26: 599-621. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris, co-authors).

"Packin' in the Hood?: Examining Assumptions Underlying Concealed-Handgun Research." 2000. *Social Science Quarterly* 81:523-537. (Grant Neeley, co-author).

"Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? Racial/Ethnic Context and the Anglo Vote on Proposition 187." 2000. *Social Science Quarterly* 81:194-206. (Irwin Morris, co-author).

"Penny Pinching or Politics? The Line-Item Veto and Military Construction Appropriations." 1999. *Political Research Quarterly* 52:753-766. (Irwin Morris and Grant Neeley, co-authors).

"Of Byrds[s] and Bumpers: Using Democratic Senators to Analyze Political Change in the South, 1960-1995." 1999. *American Journal of Political Science* 43:465-487. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris, co-authors).

"Bugs in the NRC's Doctoral Program Evaluation Data: From Mites to Hissing Cockroaches." 1998. *PS* 31:829-835. (Nelson Dometrius, Quentin Kidd, and Kurt Shirkey, co-authors).

"Boll Weevils and Roll-Call Voting: A Study in Time and Space." 1998. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 23:245-269. (Irwin Morris, co-author).

"Give Us Your Tired, Your Poor,...But Make Sure They Have a Green Card: The Effects of Documented and Undocumented Migrant Context on Anglo Opinion Towards Immigration." 1998. *Political Behavior* 20:1-16. (Irwin Morris, co-author).

"¡Quedate o Vente!: Uncovering the Determinants of Hispanic Public Opinion Towards Immigration." 1997. *Political Research Quarterly* 50:627-647. (Irwin Morris and Kurt Shirkey, co-authors).

"¿Amigo o Enemigo?: Context, Attitudes, and Anglo Public Opinion toward Immigration." 1997. *Social Science Quarterly* 78: 309-323. (Irwin Morris, co-author).

Invited Publications:

"Race and the Ideological Transformation of the Democratic Party: Evidence from the Bayou State." 2005. *American Review of Politics* 25:67-78.

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Book Chapters:

"The 2020 Presidential Nomination Process." 2021. In *The 2020 Presidential Election in the South*, eds. Branwell DuBose Kapeluck and Scott E. Buchanan. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. (Aaron A. Hitefield, co-author).

"Texas: A Shifting Republican Terrain." 2021. In *The New Politics of the Old South, 7th ed.*, Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell, editors. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"Texas: Big Red Rides On." 2018. In *The New Politics of the Old South, 6th ed.*, Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell, editors. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"The Participatory Consequences of Florida Redistricting." 2015. In *Jigsaw Puzzle Politics in the Sunshine State*, Seth C. McKee, editor. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press. (Danny Hayes and Seth C. McKee, co-authors).

"Texas: Political Change by the Numbers." 2014. In *The New Politics of the Old South, 5th ed.*, Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell, editors. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (Seth C. McKee, co-author).

"The Republican Party in the South." 2012. In *Oxford Handbook of Southern Politics*, Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell, editors. New York: Oxford University Press. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris, co-authors).

"The Reintroduction of the *Elephas maximus* to the Southern United States: The Rise of Republican State Parties, 1960-2000." 2010. In *Controversies in Voting Behavior*, 5th ed., David Kimball, Richard G. Niemi, and Herbert F. Weisberg, editors. Washington, DC: CQ Press. (Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris, co-authors).
[Reprint of 2004 *APR* article with Epilogue containing updated analysis and other original material.]

"The Texas Governors." 1997. In *Texas Policy and Politics*, Mark Somma, editor. Needham Heights, MA: Simon & Schuster.

Book Reviews:

The Resilience of Southern Identity: Why the South Still Matters in the Minds of Its People. 2018. Reviewed for *The Journal of Southern History*.

Other Publications:

"Provisionally Admitted College Students: Do They Belong in a Research University?" 1998. In *Developmental Education: Preparing Successful College Students*, Jeanne Higbee and Patricia L. Dwinell, editors. Columbia, SC: National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition (Don Garnett, co-author).

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NES Technical Report No. 52. 1994. "The Reliability, Validity, and Scalability of the Indicators of Gender Role Beliefs and Feminism in the 1992 American National Election Study: A Report to the ANES Board of Overseers." (Sue Tolleson-Rinehart, Douglas R. Davenport, Terry L. Gilmour, William R. Moore, Kurt Shirkey, co-authors).

Grant-funded Research (UGA):

Co-Principal Investigator. "Georgia Absentee Ballot Signature Verfication Study." Budget: $36,950. 2021. (with Audrey Haynes and Charles Stewart III). Funded by the Georgia Secretary of State.

Co-Principal Investigator. "The Integrity of Mail Voting in the 2020 Election." Budget: $177,080. (with Lonna Atkeson and Robert Stein). Funded by the National Science Foundation.

Co-Principal Investigator. "Georgia Voter Verification Study." Budget: $52,060. 2020. (with Audrey Haynes). Funded by Center for Election Innovation and Research.

Co-Principal Investigator. "An Examination of Non-Precinct Voting in the State of Georgia." Budget: $47,000. October 2008-July 2009. (with Charles S. Bullock, III). Funded by the Pew Charitable Trust.

Co-Principal Investigator. "The Best Judges Money Can Buy?: Campaign Contributions and the Texas Supreme Court." (SES-0615838) Total Budget: $166,576; UGA Share: $69,974. September 2006-August 2008. (with Craig F. Emmert). Funded by the National Science Foundation. REU Supplemental Award (2008-2009): $6,300.

Principal Investigator. "Payola Justice or Just Plain 'Ole Politics Texas-Style?: Campaign Finance and the Texas Supreme Court." $5,175. January 2000-Januray 2001. Funded by the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.

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Curriculum Grants (UGA):

Learning Technology Grant: "Converting Ideas Into Effective Action: An Interactive Computer and Classroom Simulation for the Teaching of American Politics." $40,000. January-December 2004. (with Loch Johnson). Funded by the Office of Instructional Support and Technology, University of Georgia.

Dissertation:

"Capturing Bubba's Heart and Mind: Group Consciousness and the Political Identification of Southern White Males, 1972-1994."

Chair: Professor Sue Tolleson-Rinehart

Papers and Activities at Professional Meetings:

"Rural Voters in Southern U.S. House Elections." 2021. (with Seth C. McKee). Presented at the Virtual American Political History Conference. University of Georgia. Athens, GA.

"Mail It In: An Analysis of the Peach State's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic." 2020. (with Audrey Haynes). Presented at the Election Science, Reform, and Administrative Conference. Gainesville, FL. [Virtually Presented].

"Presidential Republicanism and Democratic Darn Near Everything Else." 2020. (with Seth C. McKee). Presented at the Citadel Southern Politics Symposium. Charleston, SC.

"Why Georgia, Why? Peach State Residents' Perceptions of Voting-Related Improprieties and their Impact on the 2018 Gubernatorial Election." 2019. (with Seth C. McKee). Presented at the Election Science, Reform, and Administrative Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

"The Demise of White Class Polarization and the Newest American Politics." 2019. (with Seth C. McKee). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Austin, TX.

"The Geography of Latino Growth in the American South." 2018. (with Seth C. McKee). State Politics and Policy Conference. State College, PA.

"A History and Analysis of Black Representation in Southern State Legislatures." 2018. (with Charles S. Bullock, III, William D. Hicks, Seth C. McKee, Adam S. Myers, and Daniel A. Smith). Presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

Discussant. Panel titled "Southern Distinctiveness?" 2018. The Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

Roundtable Participant. Panel titled "The 2018 Elections." 2018. The Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Still Fighting the Civil War?: Southern Opinions on the Confederate Legacy." 2018. (with Christopher A. Cooper, Scott H. Huffmon, Quentin Kidd, H. Gibbs Knotts, and Seth C. McKee). The Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Tracking Hispanic Growth in the American South." 2018. (with Seth C. McKee). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

"An Assessment of Online Voter Registration in Georgia." 2017. (with Greg Hawrelak and Colin Phillips). Presented at the Annual Meeting of Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration. Portland, Oregon.

Moderator. Panel titled "What Happens Next." 2017. The Annual Meeting of Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration. Portland, Oregon.

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"Election Daze: Time of Vote, Mode of Voting, and Voter Preferences in the 2016 Presidential Election." 2017. (with Seth C. McKee and Dan Smith). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the State Politics and Policy Conference. St. Louis, MO.

"Palmetto Postmortem: Examining the Effects of the South Carolina Voter Identification Statute." 2017. (with Scott E. Buchanan). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

Panel Chair and Presenter. Panel titled "Assessing the 2016 Presidential Election." 2017. UGA Elections Conference. Athens, GA.

Roundtable Discussant. Panel titled "Author Meets Critics: Robert Mickey's Paths Out of Dixie." 2017. The Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

"Out of Step and Out of Touch: The Matter with Kansas in the 2014 Midterm Election." (with Seth C. McKee and Ian Ostrander). 2016. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"Contagious Republicanism in North Carolina and Louisiana, 1966-2008."(with Jamie Monogan). 2016. Presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"The Behavioral Implications of Racial Resentment in the South: The Intervening Influence of Party." (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2016. Presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

Discussant. Panel titled "Partisan Realignment in the South." 2016. The Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Electoral Implications of Racial Resentment in the South: The Influence of Party." (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2016. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA.

"Racial Resentment and the Tea Party: Taking Regional Differences Seriously." (with Quentin Kidd an Irwin L. Morris). 2015. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. San Francisco, CA.

"Race and the Tea Party in the Palmetto State: Tim Scott, Nikki Haley, Bakari Sellers and the 2014 Elections in South Carolina." (with Quentin Kidd an Irwin L. Morris). 2015. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

Participant. Roundtable on the 2014 Midterm Elections in the Deep South. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

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"Race and the Tea Party in the Old Dominion: Split-Ticket Voting in the 2013 Virginia Elections." (with Irwin L. Morris and Quentin Kidd). 2014. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Race and the Tea Party in the Old Dominion: Down-Ticket Voting and Roll-Off in the 2013 Virginia Elections." (with Irwin L. Morris and Quentin Kidd). 2014. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

"Tea Leaves and Southern Politics: Explaining Tea Party Support Among Southern Republicans." (with Irwin L. Morris and Quentin Kidd). 2013. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Orlando, FL.

"The Tea Party and the Southern GOP." (with Irwin L. Morris and Quentin Kidd). 2012. Research presented at the Effects of the 2012 Elections Conference. Athens, GA.

"Black Mobilization in the Modern South: When Does Empowerment Matter?" (with Irwin L. Morris and Quentin Kidd). 2012. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"The Legislature Chooses a Governor: Georgia's 1966 Gubernatorial Election." (with Charles S. Bullock, III). 2012. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"One-Stop to Victory? North Carolina, Obama, and the 2008 General Election." (with Justin Bullock, Paul Carlsen, Perry Joiner, and Mark Owens). 2011. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans.

"Redistricting and Turnout in Black and White." (with Seth C. McKee and Danny Hayes). 2011. Paper presented the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL.

"One-Stop to Victory? North Carolina, Obama, and the 2008 General Election." (with Justin Bullock, Paul Carlsen, Perry Joiner, Jeni McDermott, and Mark Owens). 2011. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting. Chicago, IL.

"Strategic Voting in the 2010 Florida Senate Election." (with Seth C. McKee). 2011. Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Political Science Association. Jupiter, FL.

"The Republican Bottleneck: Congressional Emergence Patterns in a Changing South." (with Christian R. Grose and Seth C. McKee). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA.

"Capturing the Obama Effect: Black Turnout in Presidential Elections." (with David Hill and Seth C. McKee) 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Political Science Association. Jacksonville, FL.

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"The Republican Bottleneck: Congressional Emergence Patterns in a Changing South." (with Seth C. McKee and Christian R. Grose). 2010. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Black Mobilization and Republican Growth in the American South: The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same?" (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2010. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Unwelcome Constituents: Redistricting and Incumbent Vote Shares." (with Seth C. McKee). 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta, GA.

"Black Mobilization and Republican Growth in the American South: The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same?" (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta, GA.

"The Impact of Efforts to Increase Early Voting in Georgia, 2008." (With Charles S. Bullock, III). 2009. Presentation made at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association. Callaway Gardens, GA.

"Encouraging Non-Precinct Voting in Georgia, 2008." (With Charles S. Bullock, III). 2009. Presentation made at the Time-Shifting The Vote Conference. Reed College, Portland, OR.

"What Made Carolina Blue? In-migration and the 2008 North Carolina Presidential Vote." (with Seth C. McKee). 2009. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Political Science Association. Orlando, FL.

"Swimming with the Tide: Redistricting and Voter Choice in the 2006 Midterm." (with Seth C. McKee). 2009. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"The Effect of the Partisan Press on U.S. House Elections, 1800-1820." (with Jamie Carson). 2008. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the History of Congress Conference. Washington, D.C.

"Backward Mapping: Exploring Questions of Representation via Spatial Analysis of Historical Congressional Districts." (Michael Crespin). 2008. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the History of Congress Conference. Washington, D.C.

"The Effect of the Partisan Press on U.S. House Elections, 1800-1820." (with Jamie Carson). 2008. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

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"The Rational Southerner: The Local Logic of Partisan Transformation in the South." (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2008. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Stranger Danger: The Influence of Redistricting on Candidate Recognition and Vote Choice." (with Seth C. McKee). 2008. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans.

"Backward Mapping: Exploring Questions of Representation via Spatial Analysis of Historical Congressional Districts." (with Michael Crespin). 2007. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Chicago.

"Worth a Thousand Words? : An Analysis of Georgia's Voter Identification Statute." (with Charles S. Bullock, III). 2007. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association. Albuquerque.

"Gerrymandering on Georgia's Mind: The Effects of Redistricting on Vote Choice in the 2006 Midterm Election." (with Seth C. McKee). 2007. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of The Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans.

"Personalismo Politics: Partisanship, Presidential Popularity and 21st Century Southern Politics." (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2006. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Philadelphia.

"Explaining Soft Money Transfers in State Gubernatorial Elections." (with William Gillespie and Troy Gibson). 2006. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"Two Sides of the Same Coin?: A Panel Granger Analysis of Black Electoral Mobilization and GOP Growth in the South, 1960-2004." (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2006. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston, SC.

"Hispanic Political Emergence in the Deep South, 2000-2004." (With Charles S. Bullock, III). 2006. Paper presented at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Charleston.

"Black Mobilization and the Growth of Southern Republicanism: Two Sides of the Same Coin?" (with Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). 2006. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"Exploring the Linkage Between Black Turnout and Down-Ticket Challenges to Black Incumbents." (With Troy M. Gibson). 2006. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

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"Race and the Ideological Transformation of the Democratic Party: Evidence from the Bayou State." 2004. Paper presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Citadel Southern Politics Symposium. Charleston.

"Tracing the Evolution of Hispanic Political Emergence in the Deep South." 2004. (Charles S. Bullock, III). Paper presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Citadel Southern Politics Symposium. Charleston.

"Much Ado about Something? Religious Right Status in American Politics." 2003. (With Mark C. Smith). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"Tracking the Flow of Non-Federal Dollars in U. S. Senate Campaigns, 1992-2000." 2003. (With Janna Deitz and William Gillespie). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"PAC Cash and Votes: Can Money Rent a Vote?" 2002. (With William Gillespie). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Savannah.

"What Can Gubernatorial Elections Teach Us About American Politics?: Exploiting and Underutilized Resource." 2002. (With Quentin Kidd and Irwin L. Morris). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Boston.

"I Know I Voted, But I'm Not Sure It Got Counted." 2002. (With Charles S. Bullock, III and Richard Clark). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association. New Orleans.

"Race and Southern Gubernatorial Elections: A 50-Year Assessment." 2002. (With Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris). Paper presented at the Biennial Southern Politics Symposium. Charleston, SC.

"Top-Down or Bottom-Up?: An Integrated Explanation of Two-Party Development in the South, 1960-2000." 2001. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"Cash, Congress, and Trade: Did Campaign Contributions Influence Congressional Support for Most Favored Nation Status in China?" 2001. (With William Gillespie). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association. Fort Worth.

"Key 50 Years Later: Understanding the Racial Dynamics of 21st Century Southern Politics" 2001. (With Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"The VRA and Beyond: The Political Mobilization of African Americans in the Modern South." 2001. (With Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. San Francisco.

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"Payola Justice or Just Plain 'Ole Politics Texas Style?: Campaign Finance and the Texas Supreme Court." 2001. (With Craig Emmert). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"The VRA and Beyond: The Political Mobilization of African Americans in the Modern South." 2000. (With Irwin Morris and Quentin Kidd). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"Where Have All the Republicans Gone? A State-Level Study of Southern Republicanism." 1999. (With Irwin Morris and Quentin Kidd). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Savannah.

"Elephants in Dixie: A State-Level Analysis of the Rise of the Republican Party in the Modern South." 1999. (With Irwin Morris and Quentin Kidd). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"Stimulant to Turnout or Merely a Convenience?: Developing an Early Voter Profile." 1998. (With Quentin Kidd and Grant Neeley). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"The Impact of the Texas Concealed Weapons Law on Crime Rates: A Policy Analysis for the City of Dallas, 1992-1997." 1998. (With Grant W. Neeley). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"Analyzing Anglo Voting on Proposition 187: Does Racial/Ethnic Context Really Matter?" 1997. (With Irwin Morris). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Norfolk.

"Capturing Bubba's Heart and Mind: Group Consciousness and the Political Identification of Southern White Males, 1972-1994." 1997. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"Of Byrds[s] and Bumpers: A Pooled Cross-Sectional Study of the Roll-Call Voting Behavior of Democratic Senators from the South, 1960-1995." 1996. (With Quentin Kidd and Irwin Morris). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

"Pest Control: Southern Politics and the Eradication of the Boll Weevil." 1996. (With Irwin Morris). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. San Francisco.

"Fit for the Greater Functions of Politics: Gender, Participation, and Political Knowledge." 1996. (With Terry Gilmour, Kurt Shirkey, and Sue Tolleson-Rinehart). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

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"¿Amigo o Enemigo?: Racial Context, Attitudes, and White Public Opinion on Immigration." 1996. (With Irwin Morris). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago.

"¡Quedate o Vente!: Uncovering the Determinants of Hispanic Public Opinion Towards Immigration." 1996. (With Irwin Morris and Kurt Shirkey). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association. Houston.

"Downs Meets the Boll Weevil: When Southern Democrats Turn Left." 1995. (With Irwin Morris). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Tampa.

"¿Amigo o Enemigo?: Ideological Dispositions of Whites Residing in Heavily Hispanic Areas." 1995. (With Irwin Morris). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Tampa.

Chair. Panel titled "Congress and Interest Groups in Institutional Settings." 1995. Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association. Dallas.

"Death of the Boll Weevil?: The Decline of Conservative Democrats in the House." 1995. (With Kurt Shirkey). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association. Dallas.

"Capturing Bubba's Heart and Mind: The Political Identification of Southern White Males." 1994. (With Sue Tolleson-Rinehart). Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Atlanta.

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Areas of Teaching Competence:
American Politics: Behavior and Institutions
Public Policy
Scope, Methods, Techniques

Teaching Experience:
University of Georgia, 1999-present.
Graduate Faculty, 2003-present.
Provisional Graduate Faculty, 2000-2003.
Distance Education Faculty, 2000-present.

Texas Tech University, 1993-1999.
Visiting Faculty, 1997-1999.
Graduate Faculty, 1998-1999.
Extended Studies Faculty, 1997-1999.
Teaching Assistant, 1993-1997.

Courses Taught:
Undergraduate:
American Government and Politics, American Government and Politics (Honors), Legislative Process, Introduction to Political Analysis, American Public Policy, Political Psychology, Advanced Simulations in American Politics (Honors), Southern Politics, Southern Politics (Honors), Survey Research Internship

Graduate:
Election Administration and Related Issues (Election Sciences), Political Parties and Interest Groups, Legislative Process, Seminar in American Politics, Southern Politics; Publishing for Political Science

Editorial Boards:
Social Science Quarterly. Member. 2011-present.

Election Law Journal. Member. 2013-present.

Professional Service:
Listed expert. MIT Election Data and Science Lab.

Keynote Address. 2020 Symposium on Southern Politics. The Citadel. Charleston, SC.

Institutional Service (University-Level):
University Information Technology Committee, 2022-present.

University Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2019-2022.

University Program Review Committee, 2009-2011.
Chair, 2010-2011
Vice-Chair, 2009-2010.

Graduate Council, 2005-2008.
Program Committee, 2005-2008.
Chair, Program Committee, 2007-2008.

University Libraries Committee, 2004-2014.

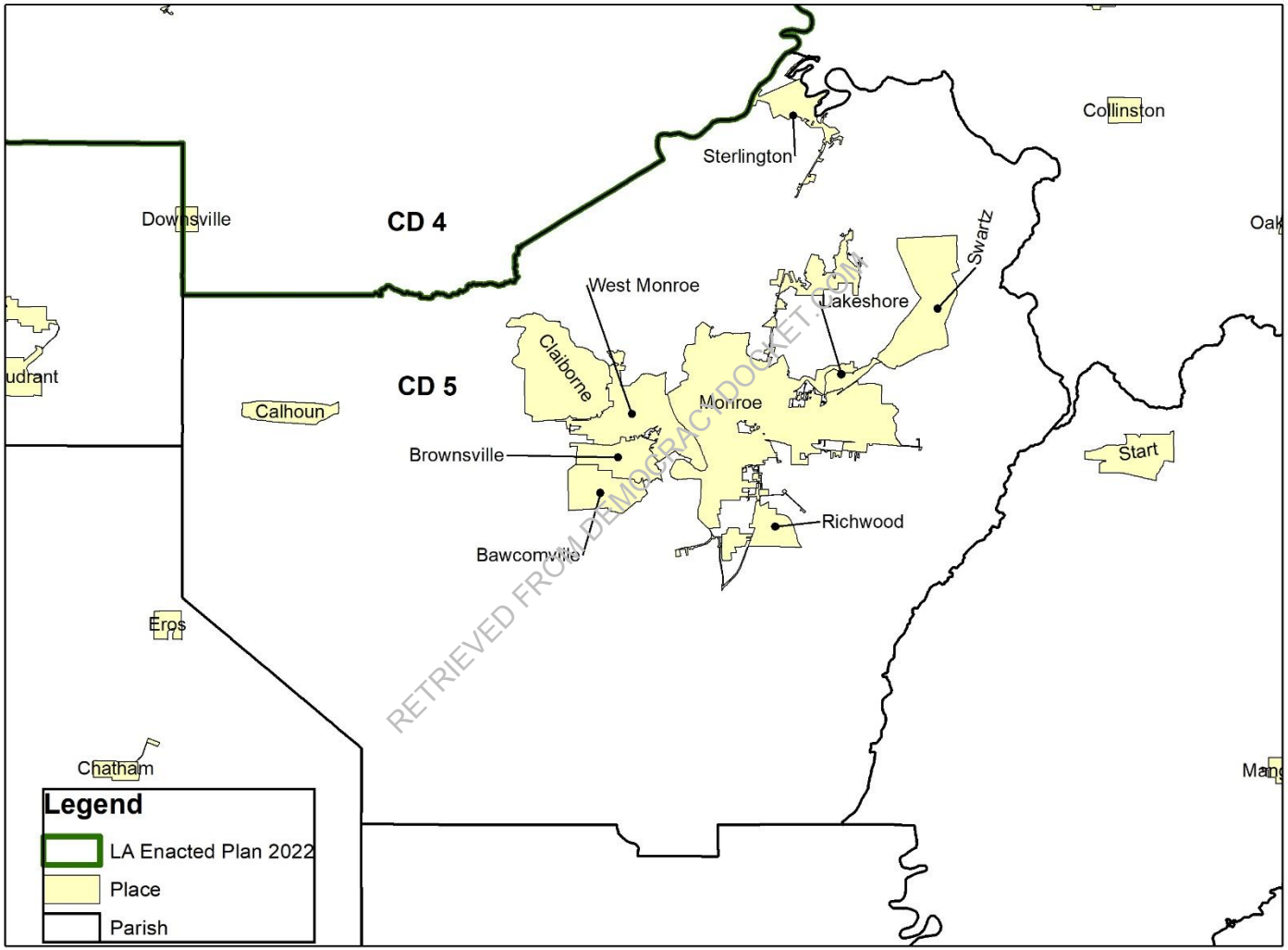
Search Committee for University Librarian and Associate Provost, 2014.

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Appendix: Full Page Parish Maps

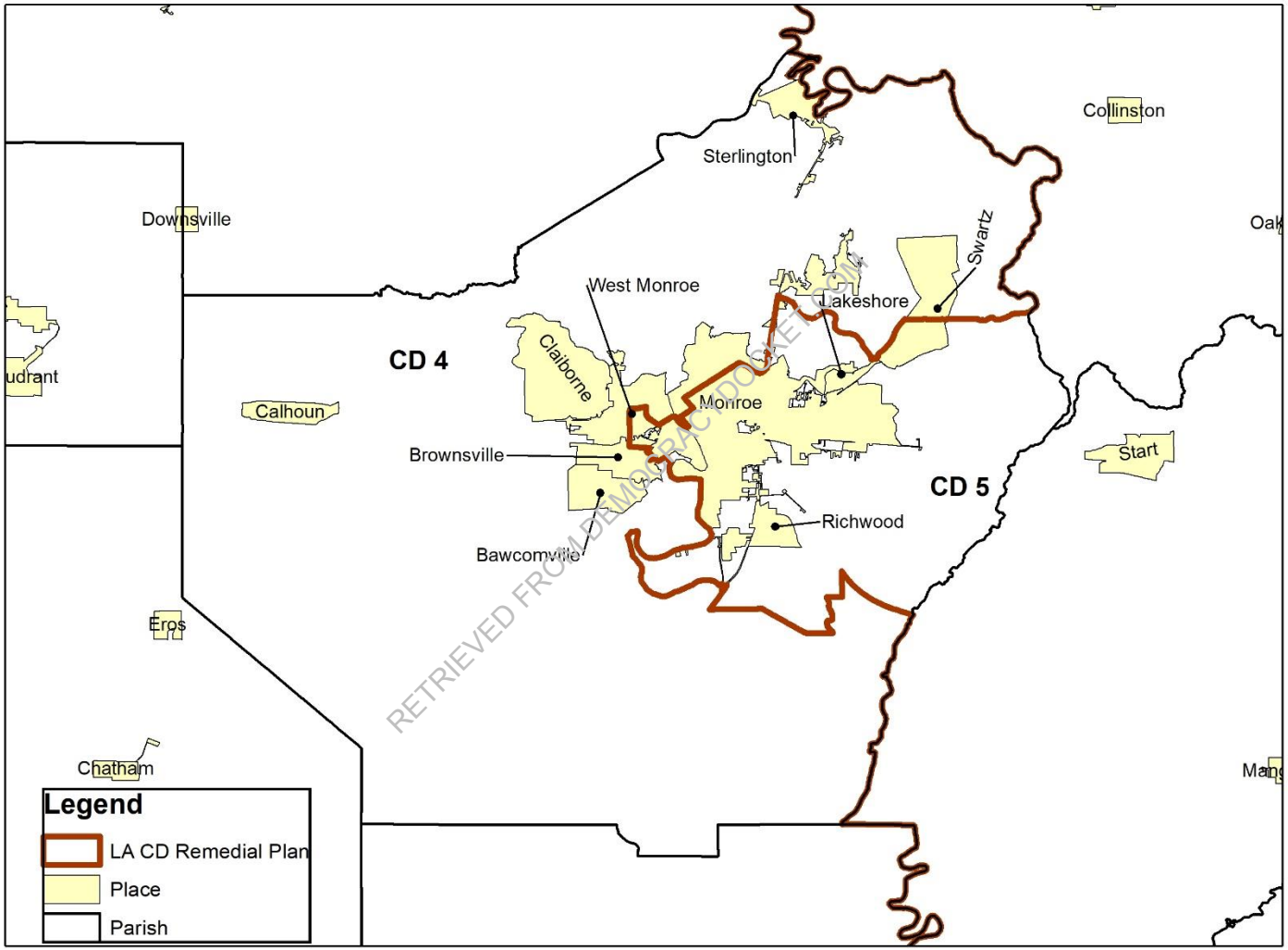
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Figure 1. Ouachita-Enacted Plan



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Figure 2. Ouachita-Remedial Plan



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Figure 3. Rapides-Enacted Plan

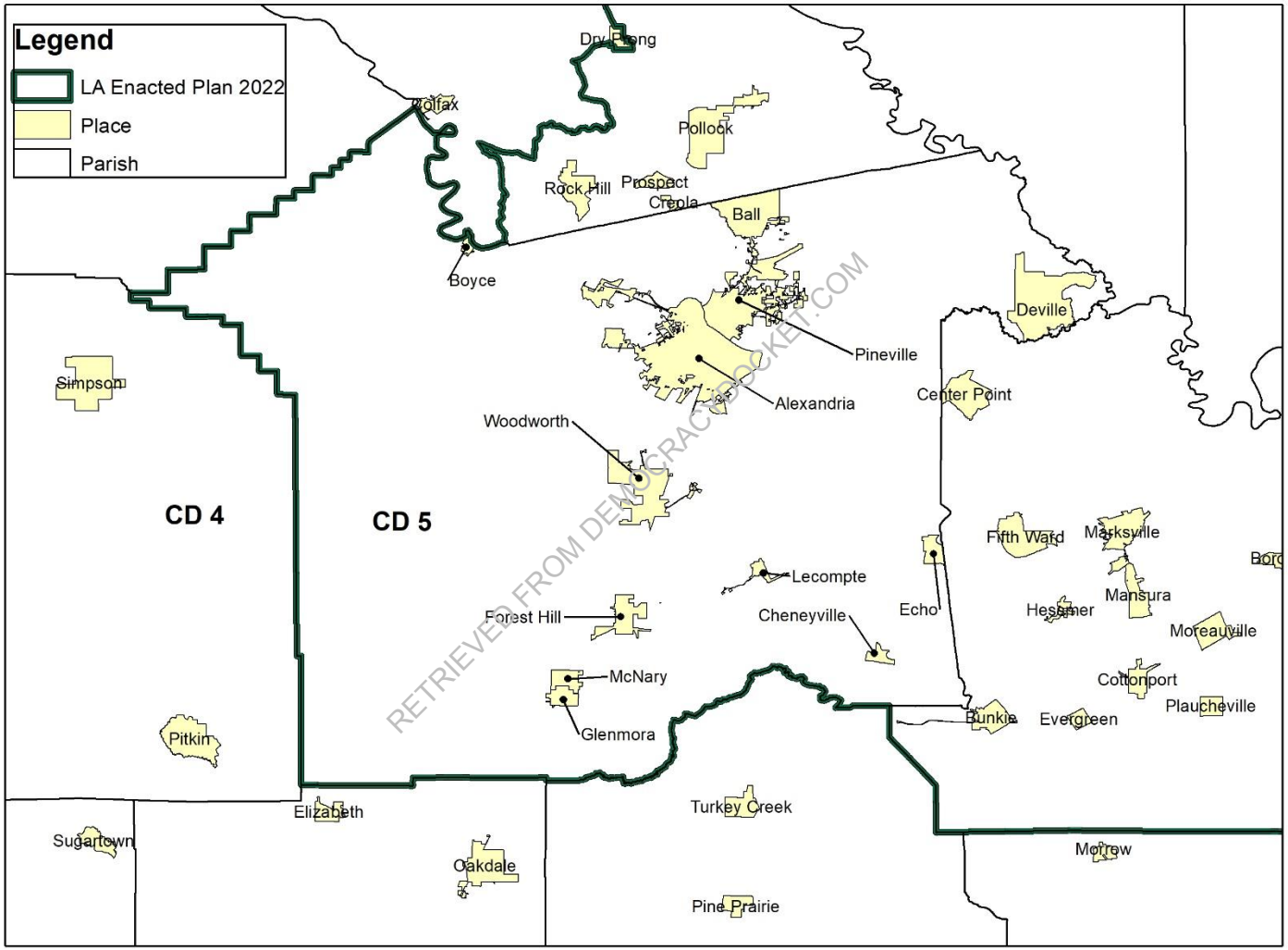


Figure 4. Rapides-RemedialPlan

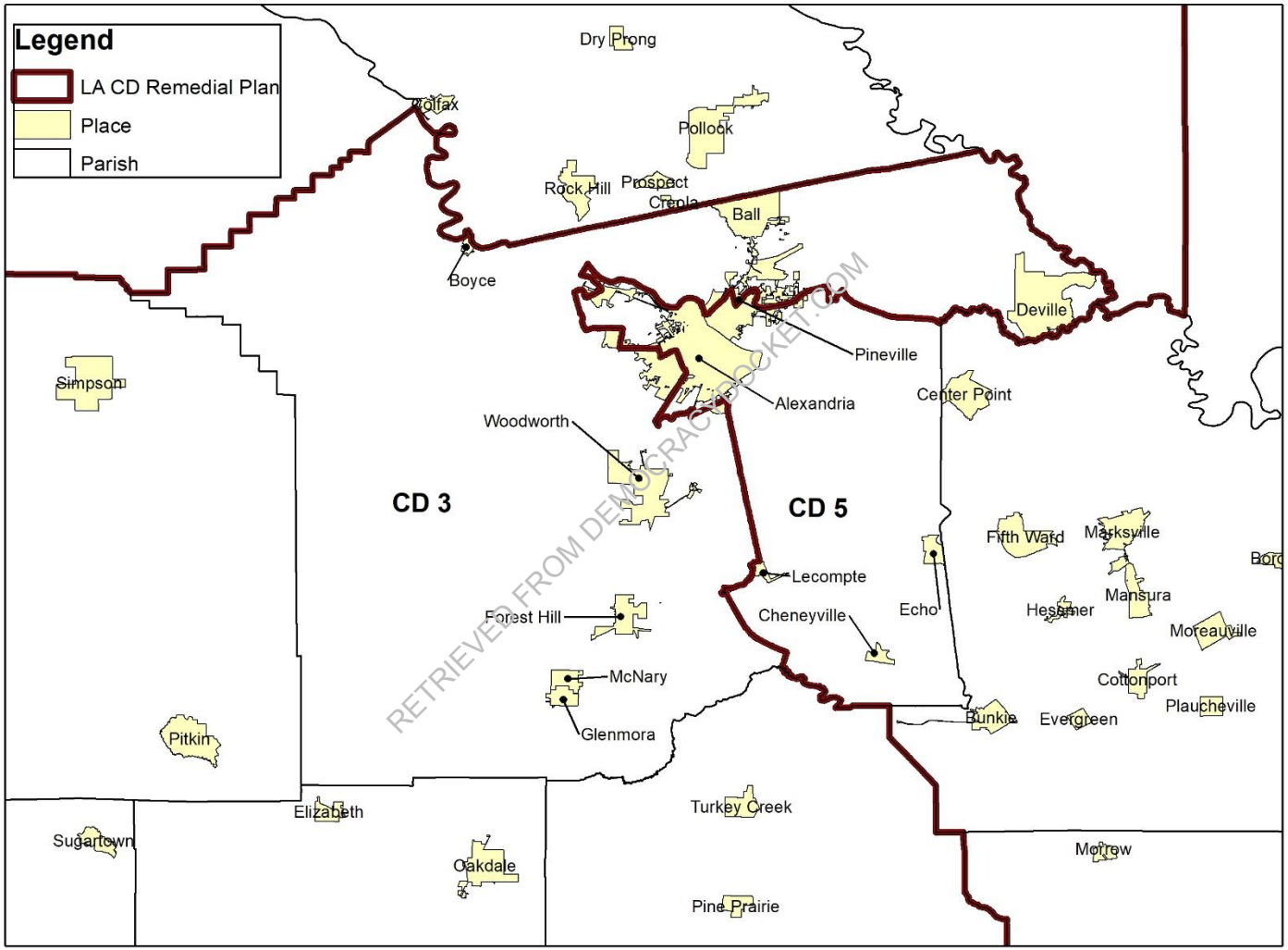


Figure 5. Vernon-Enacted Map

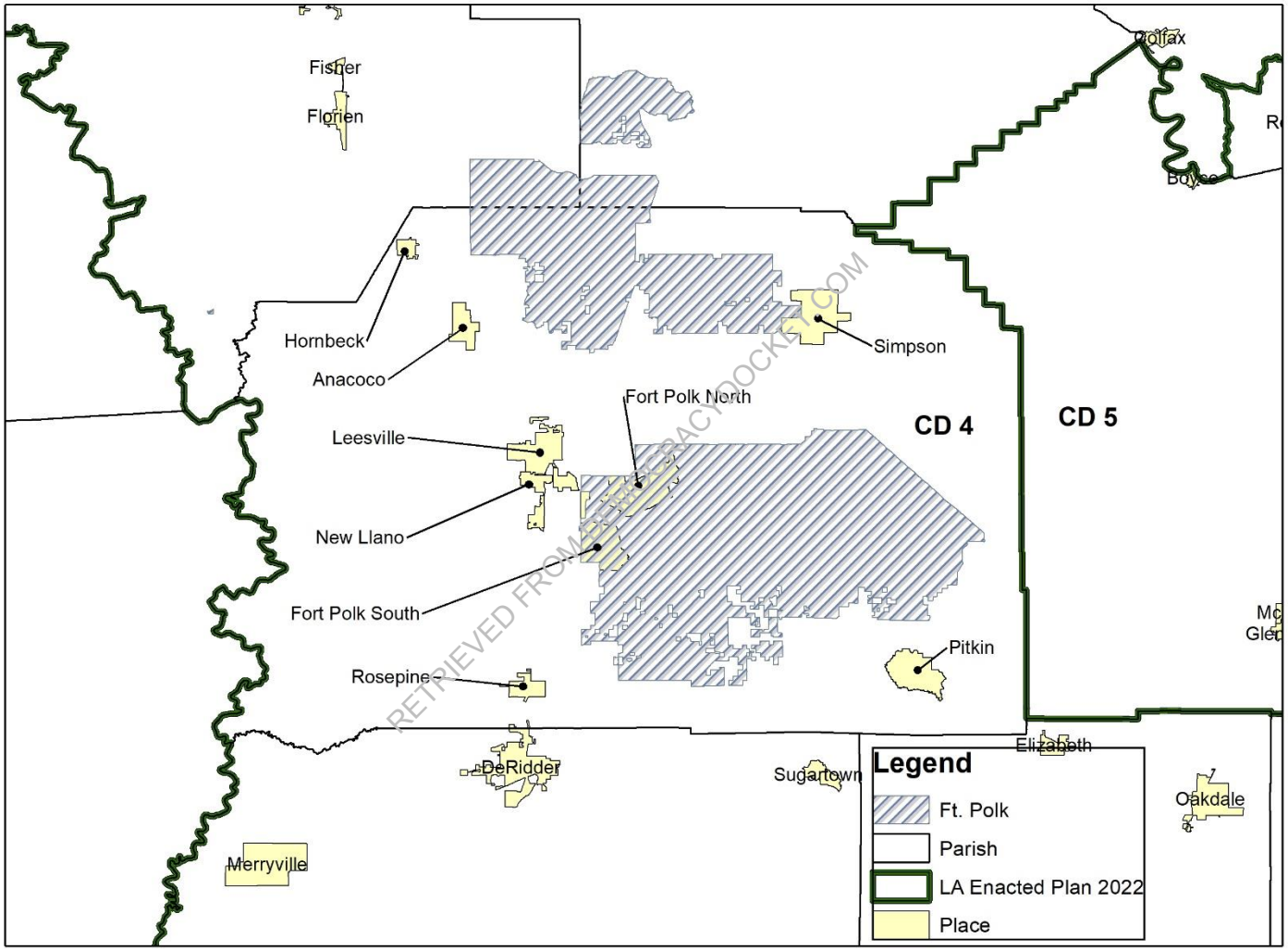


Figure 6. Vernon-Remedial Map

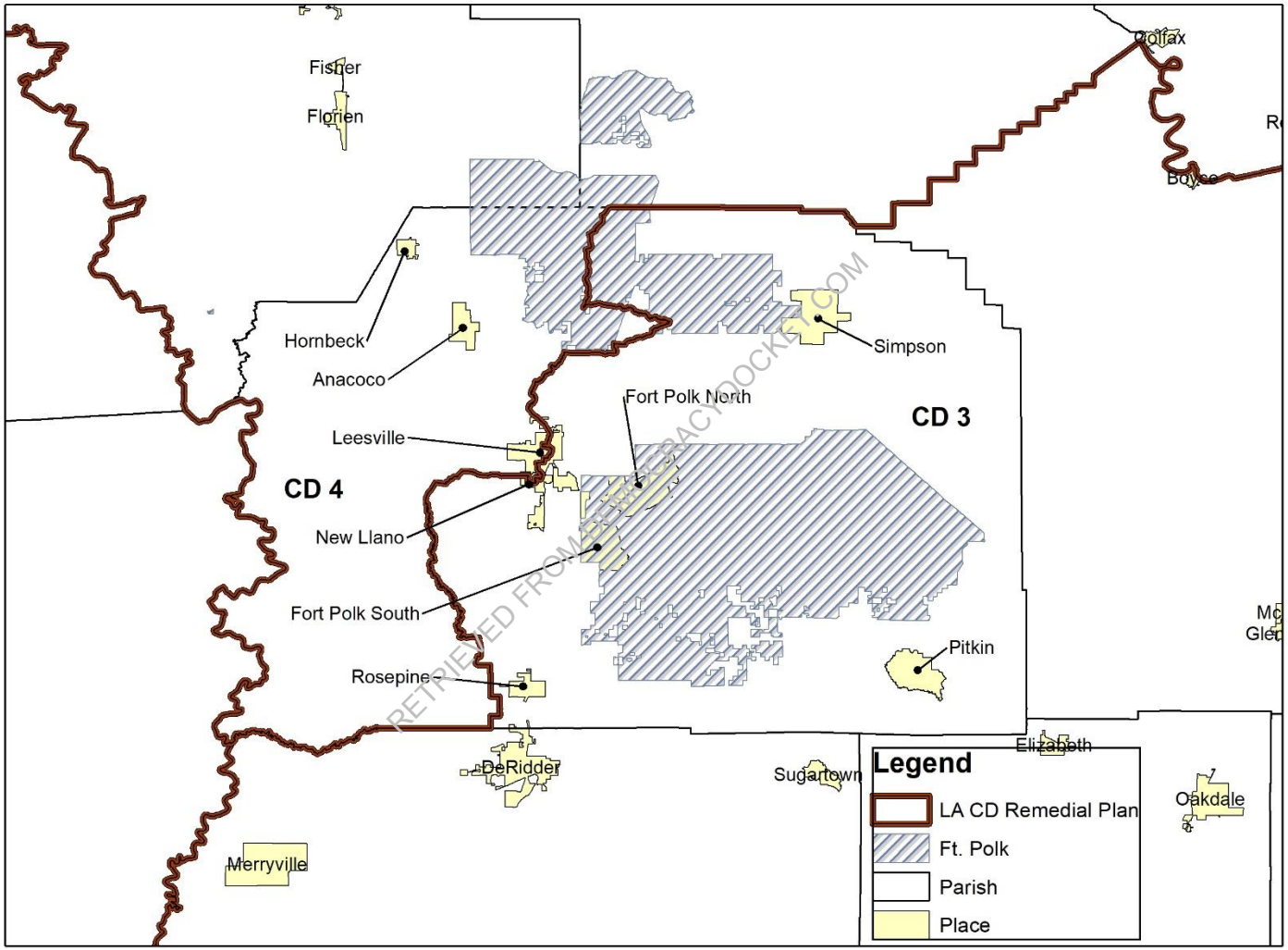


Figure 7. Lafayette-Enacted Map

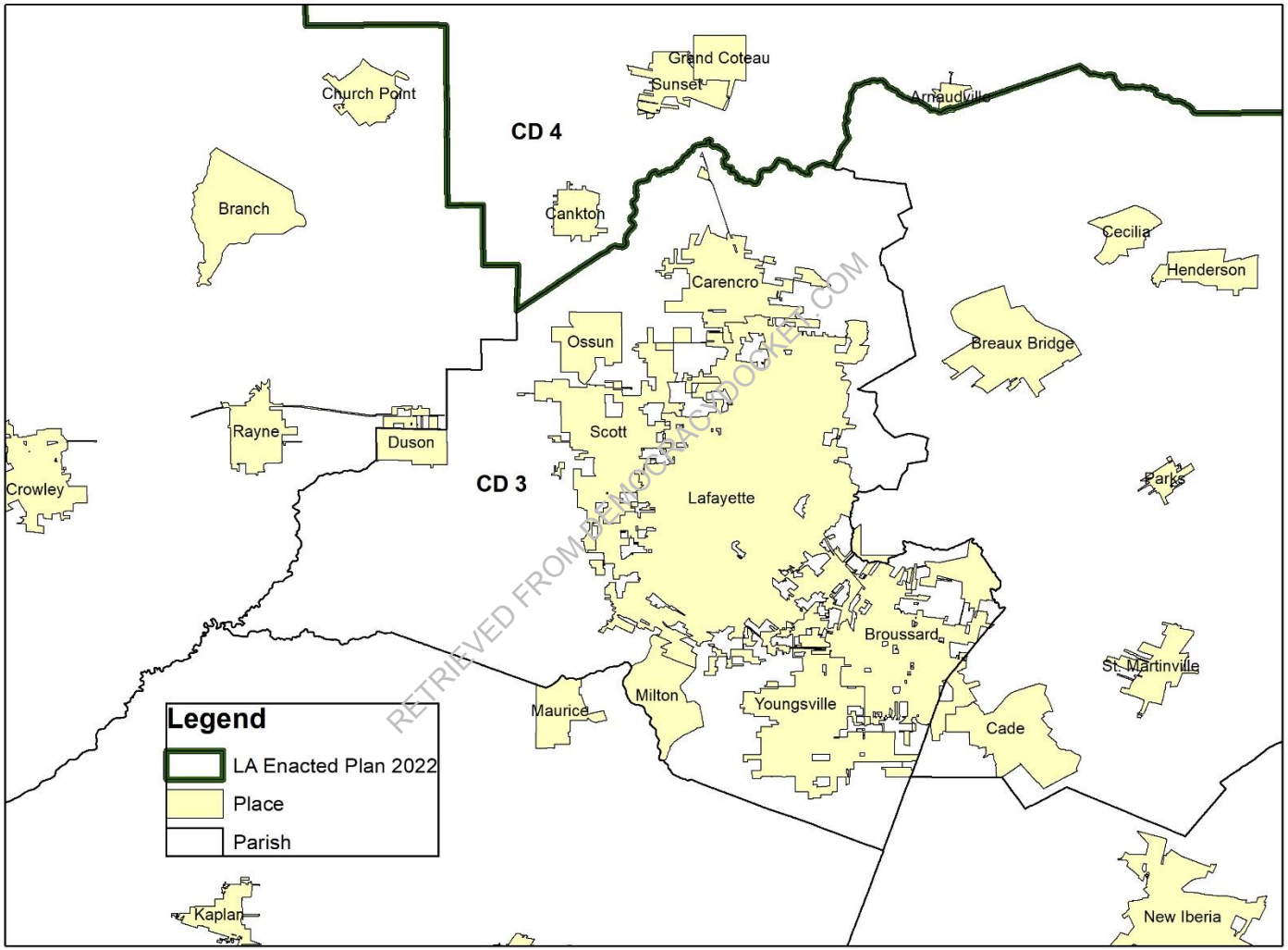
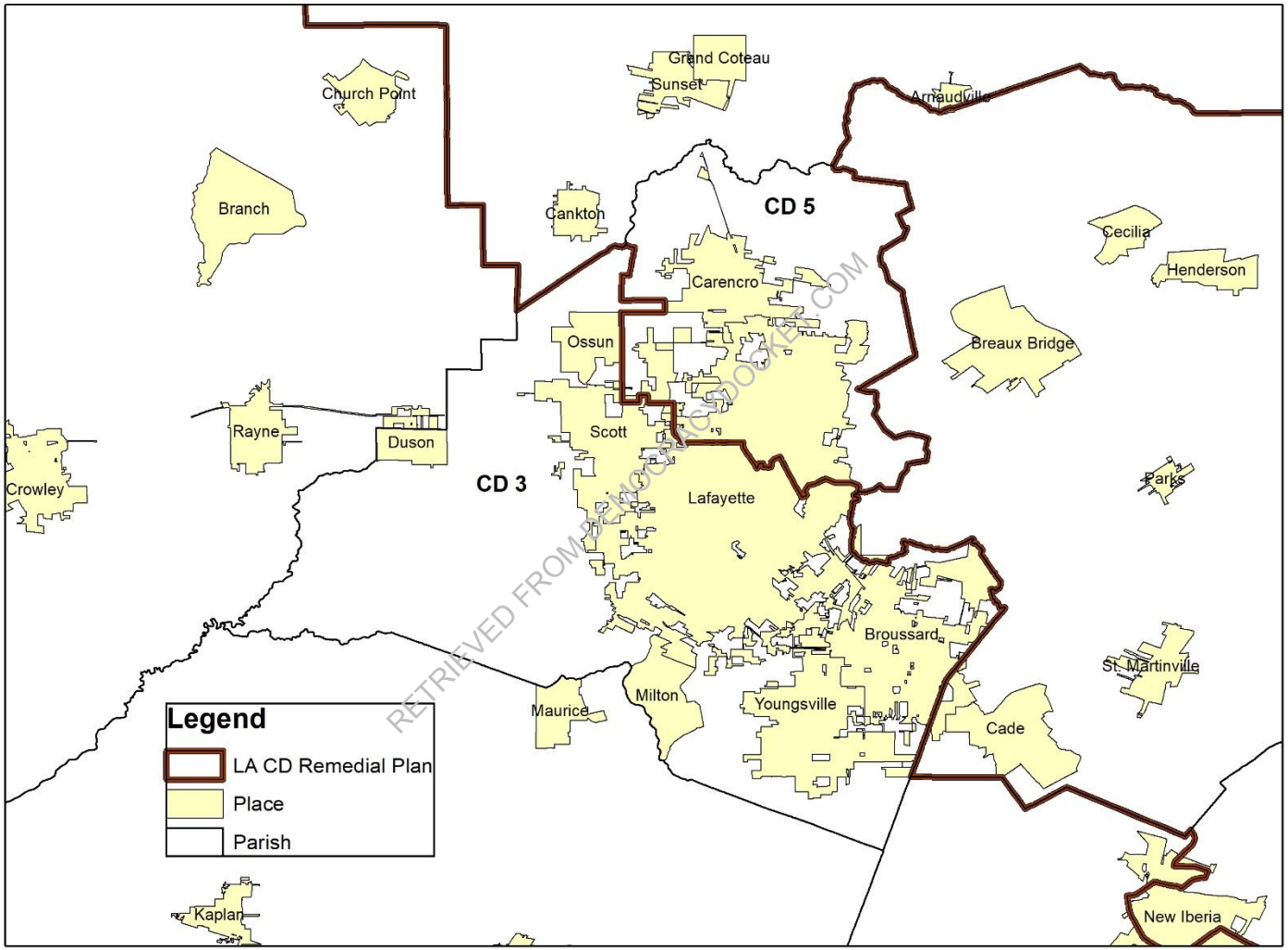
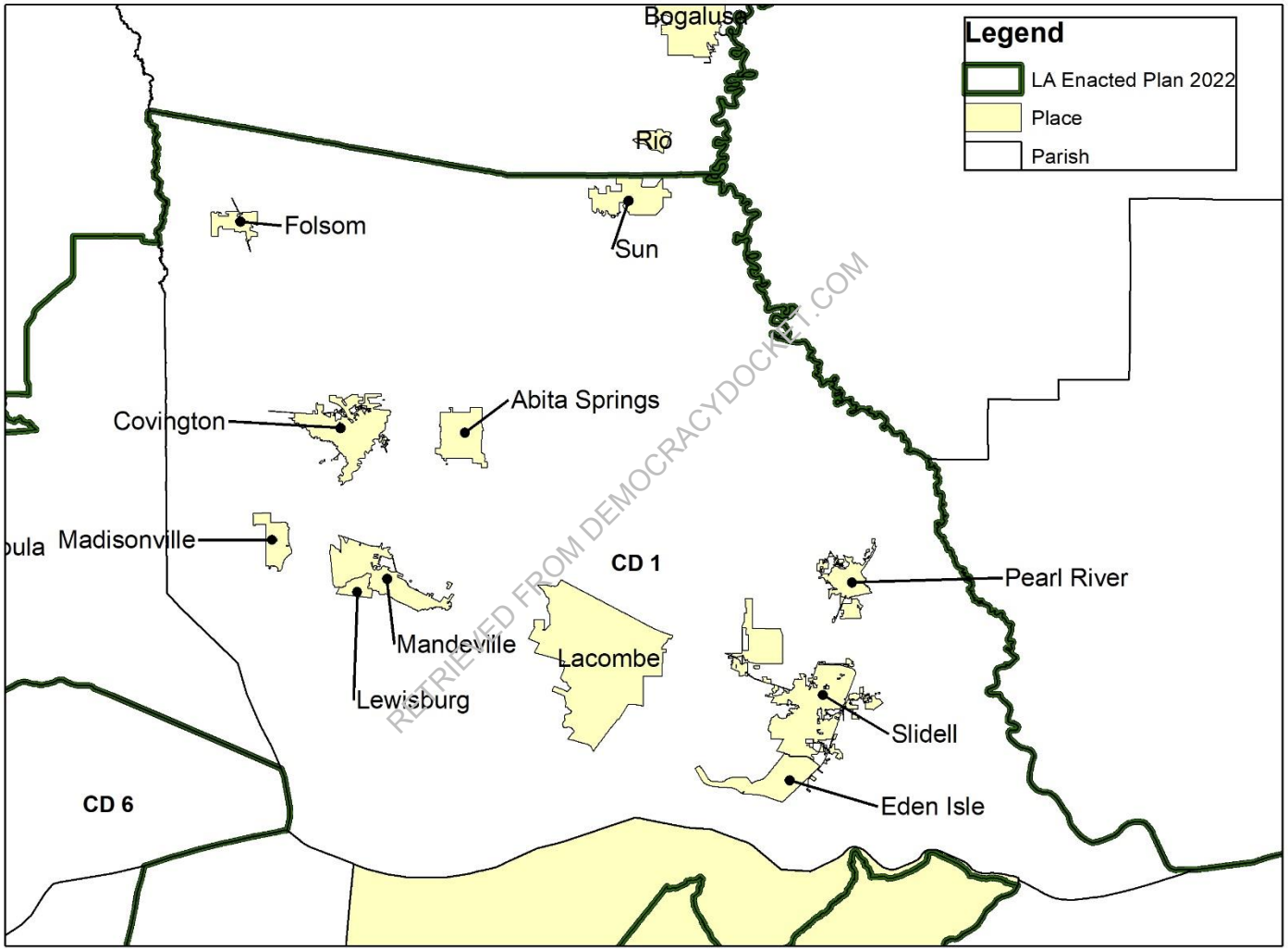


Figure 8. Lafayette-Remedial Map



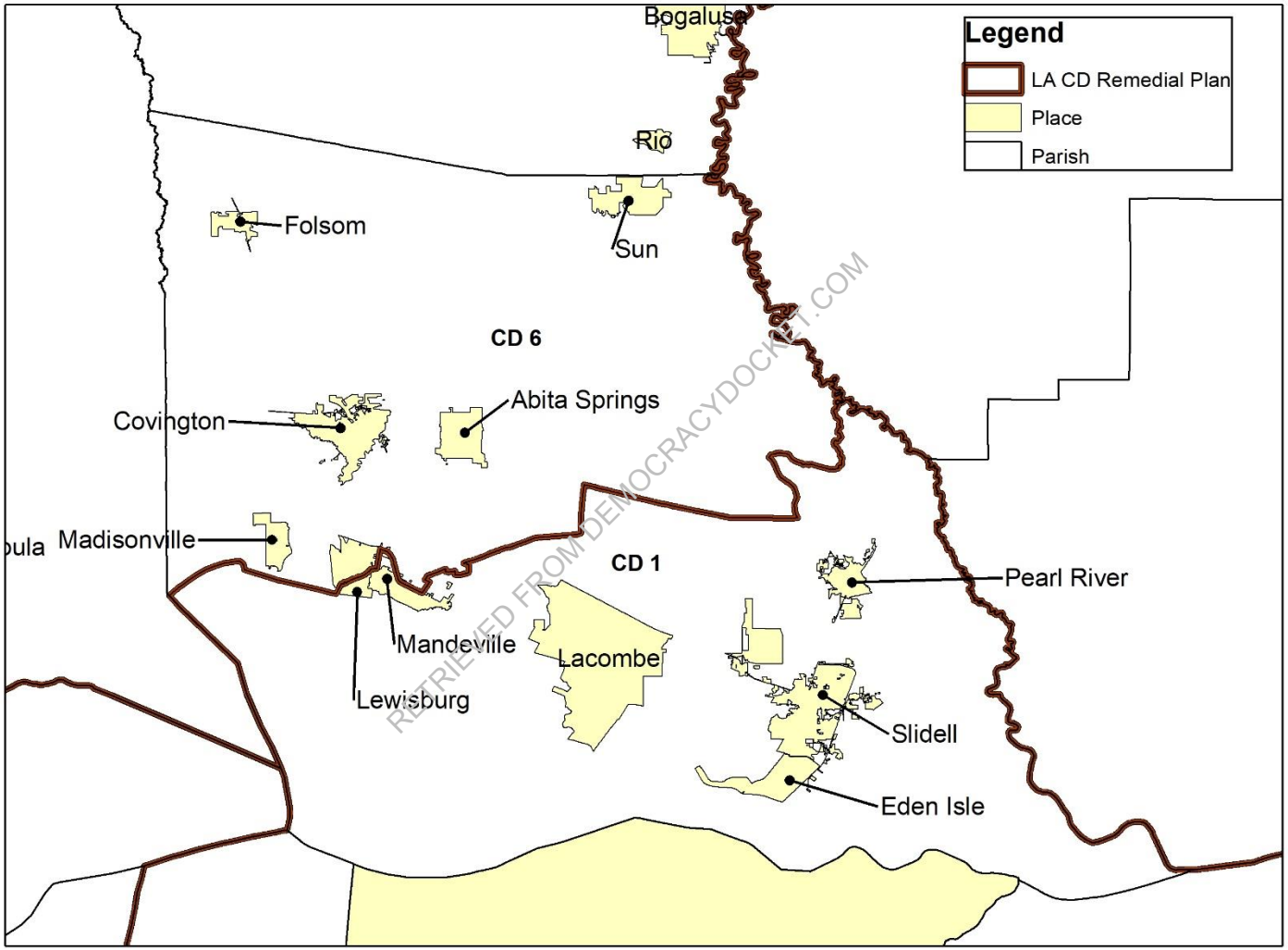
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Figure 9. St.Tammany-Enacted Map



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Figure 10. St.Tammany-Remedial Map



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Figure 11. Iberia-Enacted Map

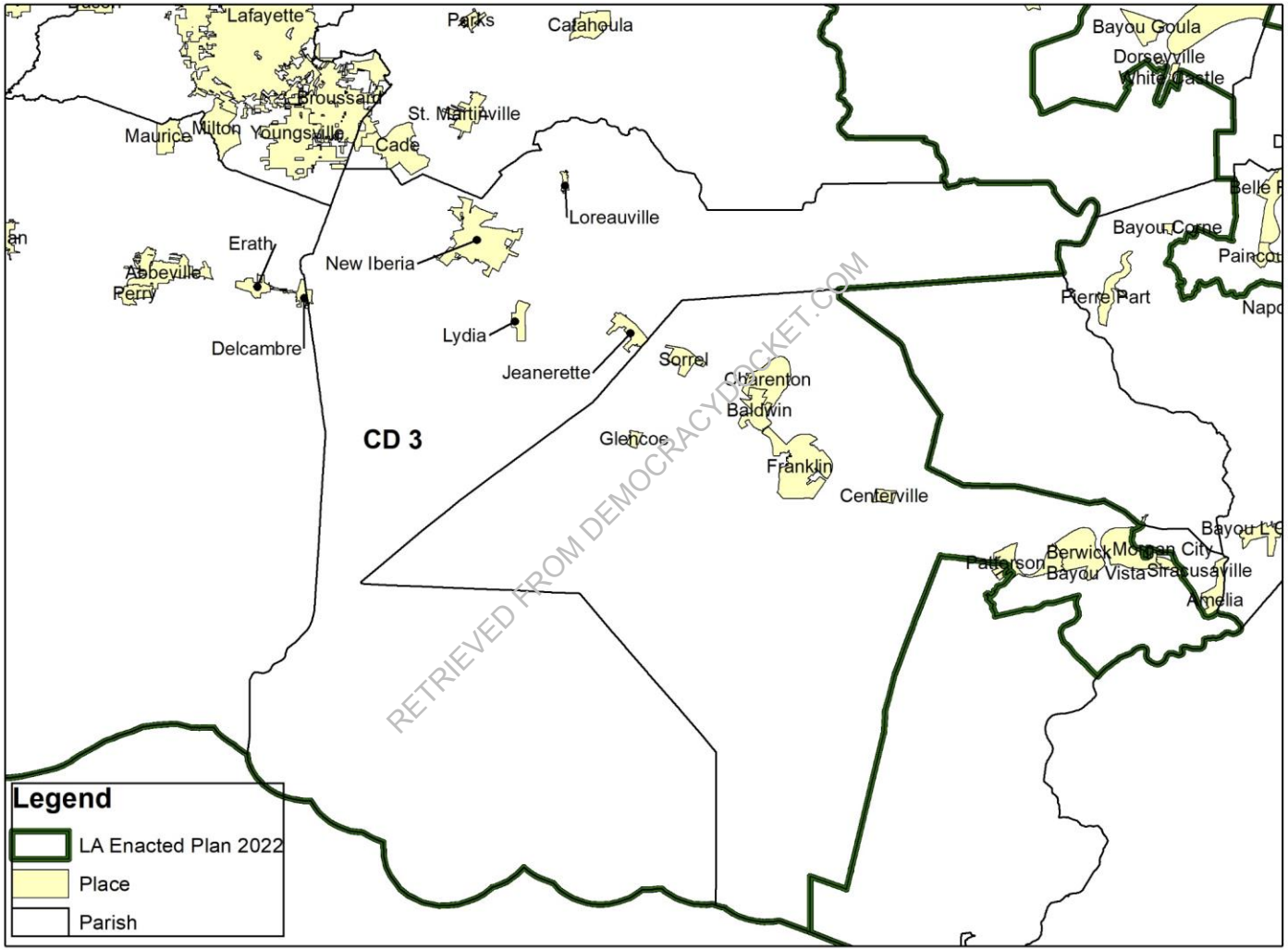
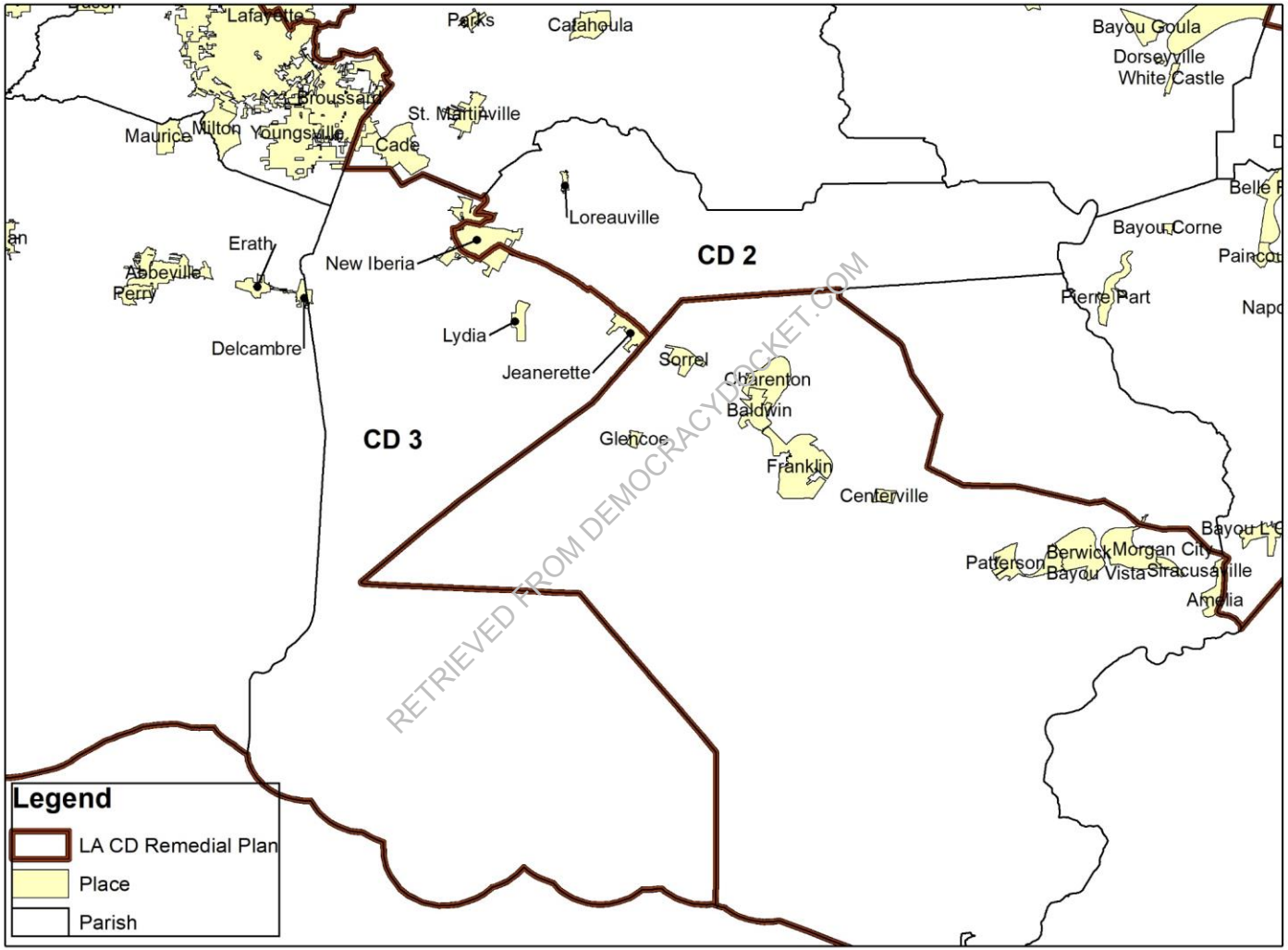


Figure 12. Iberia-Remedial Map



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Exhibit N

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ROUGH DRAFT

N O T I C E

This transcript is an UNCERTIFIED ROUGH DRAFT TRANSCRIPT ONLY. It contains raw output from the court reporter's stenotype machine translated into English by the court reporter's computer software, without the benefit of proofreading. It may contain untranslated steno outlines, mistranslations (wrong words), and misspellings. These and any other errors will be corrected in the final transcript. Since this rough draft transcript has not been proofread, the court reporter cannot assume responsibility for any errors therein.

This rough draft transcript is intended to assist attorneys in their case preparation and is not to be construed as the final transcript. It is not to be read by the witness or quoted in any pleading or for any other purpose and may not be

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filed with any court.

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this is a deposition in the matter of Robinson versus Ardoin.

MR. FARR: I'll just identify myself for the record. My name is Tom Farr. With me in the room is Alyssa Riggins. We're both partners with Nelson Mullins, and we're representing the Secretary of State.

^ WITNESS NAME,

having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. FARR:

Q Dr. Handley, can you hear me?

A I can.

Q Nice to see you today.

Would you let me know if you don't understand any of the questions I ask, either because I'm not speaking clearly or because I've asked a stupid question? And if you do that, I'll try to rephrase my question. All right?

A Yes.

Q And I don't think this is going to take a long time. But if you need to take a break at

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some point in time, just let me know. That's perfectly okay with me. All right?

A Yes.

I'm sorry. Is there a way -- people are flashing in and out. It's a little bit

distracting. I don't know --

Never mind. Sorry. Go ahead.

(A discussion was held off the record.)

MR. FARR: Thanks, Dr. Handley.

And please let me know if you're having any issues, because we want to accommodate you, make this as easy as possible. So just give me a holler.

I'd like to call up as Exhibit 1 in this deposition document number 225-2, which I believe is Dr. Handley's remedial report. Can we put that on the screen so Dr. Handley can see that.

A/V TECH: Yes. Please stand by.

(Exhibit Handley-1 marked for identification and attached to the transcript.)

BY MR. FARR:

Q Dr. Handley, I want to ask you some questions about your remedial report, which is the reason why we're here today. I first want to start off by asking you about two different tests

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that you have performed in your report.

There's one mention on page 2 of your report called, District-Specific, Functional Analysis of Remedial Map.

Do you see that?

A I don't see it on the screen.

Now I see it on the screen.

I also have a copy of my report here.

Q Okay. Why don't you refer to your report. That will make it quicker.

A Thank you. Yes.

Q Thank you very much.

So on page 2, you've got a test you call, District-Specific, Functional Analysis of Remedial Map. And then on page 3, you've got a test called, Calculating the Black Voting Age Percentage Needed to Elect Black-Preferred Candidates.

Is that a fairly accurate description of your report?

A I would say that's fairly accurate. I'm

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not sure I would call those tests, but those are the titles of those two sections, yes.

Q Okay. What would you call them instead of tests?

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A I'm not really sure. I haven't thought of a word to do this. I mean, it's --

Q If you don't have a specific word and I happen to use the word "test," you'll know what I'm speaking of, okay?

A Yes.

Q So I wanted to ask you, what is the difference between these two tests or measurements that we find in your report? What does one do versus what does the other one do?

A So table number 1 looks at the recalculated or recompiled election results for the actual district with the VAP set as what the

district is set at, which is about a little over 51, about 52 percent Black voting age population.

So this is what the recompiled election results indicate that that particular district at 52 percent Black voting age population.

Then when I'm discussing calculating the Black voting age population needed to elect, I am sliding the black voting age population away from 51 and down as far as -- let me see the table -- I think it's as far as 40 percent and up as high as 55 percent.

MR. FARR: Could I ask a question. Could

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I get the volume turned up on Dr. Handley, please.

Okay. Thanks.

Q Dr. Handley, are both of these tests or whatever word applies to them, are they both

considered a functional analysis?

A I would say yes. I'm not sure that we have a distinct definition of what a functional analysis is. But in my mind, it looks at election results.

Q Okay. Well, how would you define a functional analysis?

A As I said, I think it looks as election results, would the Black-preferred candidate actually win.

Q Okay. So I want to now talk about the district-specific analysis that you've done on Mr. Fairfax's remedial map.

Is that similar to the test or analysis you performed in your prior reports?

A You're referring to the effectiveness analysis in Table 1?

Q Table 1, yes, ma'am.

A That is precisely the same. The only thing that's changed is that the district is slightly different in configuration.

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Q Okay. What is meant by "effectiveness score"?

A That's the word that I use to indicate the percentage of the district -- of the elections as recompiled in that district that the Black-preferred candidate would win, it's effective in electing the Black-preferred candidate.

Q So you have an effectiveness score 1 and 2. What are the differences between those two?

A I analyzed 15 contests that included Black candidates, and all of those contests, the candidate preferred by Black voters was, in fact, one of the Black candidates, if there were more than one black candidate.

The first score, score number 1, looks at all 15 contests and looked to see if the Black-preferred candidate would win that contest or proceed to the runoff.

And the percentage that you see next to each district is the percentage of the

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15 elections that the Black-preferred candidate would either win outright with 50 percent of the vote or proceed to the runoff.

The effectiveness score, number 2 looks

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at what would happen if there are only two candidates. So let's say in the effectiveness score number 1, our Black-preferred candidate makes it to a runoff, what's likely to happen in the runoff.

And in that instance, I have to focus on just those elections with two candidates. And that's what you have in effectiveness score number 2.

(Cross-talk.)

Q Okay.

A It looks at the percentage of cases of

elections that the Black-preferred candidate would have won in a two-contest situation.

Q Okay. And you're the one who selected which contests to evaluate, or did someone else do that for you?

A I looked at all contests that had Black candidates since 2015. So it's -- I mean, I said I want to look at all contests that have Black candidates, and then it's the elections themselves that dictated which would be included and which wouldn't under those conditions.

Q Okay. Can white candidates be the preferred candidates of choice for

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African-American voters?

A They can.

Q And could the results of your effectiveness test be changed if you included

other contests in your analysis besides the ones you selected?

A The ones I selected were selected specifically because they gave Black voters an option. They didn't have to vote for the Black candidate. In all these instances, they did, but they didn't have to. There were examples in Congressional elections where the Black-preferred candidate was not the Black candidate.

Q Okay.

A My effectiveness score is based on those elections in which Black voters had the opportunity to vote for a Black candidate.

Q You could have included some elections where the Black-preferred candidate was a white Democrat, and you didn't do that; is that correct?

A Again, my definition of "effectiveness" is, in situations where Black voters have the option to vote for a Black candidate, what happens.

Q But you could have done the same study

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for contests involving a white Democrat, correct?

A Yes, it's correct. I would not do that in this case, but I could have.

Q Have you done that in other cases where you have used a contest that has a white Democrat as an example of a contest where the Black-preferred candidate either won or lost an election?

A Where the Black candidate either won or lost an election.

Do you want to repeat that?

Q Sure.

In other studies that you've performed, have you ever used a contest where the Black-preferred candidate was a white Democrat and not a Black person?

A Yes. Certainly in states where there are no Black candidates who ran, the only option would be to include white candidates, yes.

Q In Mr. Fairfax's remedial plan, you

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looked at both Congress District 2 and Congressional District 5; is that correct?

A I produced effectiveness scores for all six districts, including 2 and 5.

Q Okay. And it appears to me that the

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results for Congressional District 2 are more effective than the results for Congressional District 5; is that correct?

A The Black-preferred candidate won more contests in both instances in District 2 than in District 5.

Q Do you have an opinion that explains this difference?

A The Black-preferred candidate is more likely to win in District 2 than in District 5.

Q Did you ever study why that's so?

A I did a racial Black voting analysis of

Congressional elections and statewide elections, of the Congressional elections in Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5, not District 1. But I looked at Congressional elections in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and voting was less polarized in District 2 than in 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Q Okay. So to make sure I understand that, you believe that voting in the area encompassed by Congressional District 2 is less polarized than in the area encompassed by Congressional District 5; is that correct?

A Not exactly.

The Congressional elections themselves

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were less polarized. The statewide elections were still polarized, but there was more white crossover voting.

Q We'll get to that in a second because I want to make sure I understand how you define "polarized voting."

So let's now turn to page 3, in the section that's titled, Voting Patterns in Remedial District 5.

And in that section, you use a term, starkly racially polarized.

Can you tell me what that means.

A It means there is a very large difference between Black support for Black-preferred candidates and white support for white -- for Black-preferred candidates. The white support for Black-preferred Black candidates is very low.

Q Is there ever an instance where polarized voting is not starkly racially polarized voting?

A Do you mean in Louisiana, or do you mean when I've done these analyses in other places? There's certainly many places where it's not starkly polarized.

Q I'm just trying to understand. Can you have polarized voting -- let's start over.

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What is the definition of "polarized voting"? I've always thought it meant that a majority of the whites voted for a different candidate than the majority of Blacks.

Is that an accurate definition?

A No, I wouldn't say that. I would say that's true if you were talking about two candidates, but a lot of these elections aren't two candidates.

So I would say that the definition is white voters voting alone would elect a different candidate than Black voters voting alone.

Q So that's polarized voting.

What's the difference between that and starkly racialized polarized voting?

A "Starkly" is an adjective saying that the difference is quite stark; in other words, there's a big difference.

Q How do you -- when does it cross the line between just polarized voting and starkly

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racialized polarized voting?

A Well, for example, when I looked at elections in Virginia where you consistently have 40 percent -- the voting is polarized and Blacks would have elected different candidates, but you

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have white crossover vote to the tune of 40 percent. That is not starkly polarized.

When you have crossover vote to the tune of 10 percent, that is starkly polarized.

Q Is there a difference between the way you could categorize polarized voting in a district where the Black-preferred candidate can win with less than 50 percent black voting age population versus a district where the Black-preferred candidate cannot win without the BVAP being over 50 percent?

A Voting can be polarized in either instance.

Q Excuse me? I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?

A Voting could certainly be polarized in both instances.

Q Is there a difference in the type of polarization? Is one of them -- are they both starkly racially polarized, or is one of them --

A I don't know without seeing the percentages.

Q Excuse me? I'm sorry. I apologize, Dr. Handley. Could you repeat that.

A I wouldn't know without knowing the

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percentages. The word "starkly" was attached to the difference between the white support and the Black support -- Black voter support for the

Black-preferred candidate.

The hypothetical you just gave me doesn't give me enough information to answer that question.

Q Okay. So in terms of how you would define "polarized voting," you don't see a difference between a district where a Black can be elected with less than 50 percent Black voting age population versus one which requires that the district be over 50 percent for the Black-preferred candidate to win?

A In both instances, it's quite possible that voting was racially polarized.

Q Is the level of racial polarization the same in both of those districts?

A Define "level of polarization." What do you mean by "level"?

Q Well, in one district, the Black candidate needs to have a district that's at least 50 percent Black voting age population to be able to win the election, while in the other district, the Black voting age population can be under

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50 percent.

So does that indicate any difference in the level of polarization rates in those two types of districts?

A Every contest could be polarized in both of those.

Q But are they the same rate in both or a different rate?

A It could be a hundred percent -- every contest could be polarized in both instances.

Q What do you mean by "polarized"?

A Black and white voters are supporting different candidates. If they had voted separately, they would have elected different candidates.

Q Okay. So are more white voters supporting the candidate preferred by the Black candidate in a district that's under 50 percent than the percent of white voters supporting the

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Black-preferred candidate in a district that's over 50 percent?

A It's possible.

Q Well, isn't it not only possible, isn't it likely, Dr. Handley?

A Oh, you know, you also have to take into

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account turnout rates and the degree of Black cohesion. So no, it's not always the case that that would be so.

Q Okay. In your profession, what does the term "white crossover voting" mean?

A It is a reference to whites who are supporting the Black-preferred candidate when most whites are not. In other words, it's the degree of white support for the Black-preferred candidate, assuming that the majority of whites did not support that candidate.

Q Okay. And districts in which a Black-preferred candidate can win with less than 50 percent Black voting age population, is it fair to call those districts crossover districts?

A That's not a term that I use.

Q You've never heard that before?

A I might have. I'm not really sure. I don't use that term.

Q Are you aware of any other experts in your field who have used the term "crossover district"?

A No.

Q I want you to tell me what Appendix A to your report is.

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A Appendix A is the results of the racial Black voting analysis, just those precincts that

fall within the District 5 in the remedial map.

Q Okay. And you did not do a similar appendix for Congressional District 2 in the remedial map, did you?

A That's correct.

Q And you had the data and the time available to you to perform the same analysis that's in Appendix A for District 5 for remedial District 2, did you not?

A No, I don't have very much time, sir.

Q So why didn't you do that analysis for Congressional District 2?

A I wasn't asked to do that. I was asked whether Congressional District 5 could go below 50 percent and still elect the candidate of choice. And so I used the analysis that you see, and I think it's in Table 2, to answer that question.

Q Do you have an opinion on whether the Black-preferred candidate in Congressional District 2 could be elected in a district with less than 50 percent black voting age population?

A I have not done the analysis, so I don't

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have an informed opinion in the sense that I haven't done the analysis.

Q Do you have any opinion?

A Well, I would speculate that the Black-preferred candidate could win minus 50 percent. But as I said, I didn't do the analysis.

Q If you had done the same analysis for Congressional District 2 that you've done in this report for Congressional District 5, you could have answered that question, correct?

A I could have done the same analysis for Congressional District 2 in the remedial plan as Congressional District 5, that's correct.

Q And you could have determined the level of Black population that was needed for the Black-preferred candidate to win that district in Congressional District 2, correct?

A I could do exactly the same analysis that

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I did for 5 that I did for 2.

Q Okay. Now, I want to look at the section in your report called, Calculating the Black Voting Age Population Needed to Elect Black-Preferred Candidates.

Are you there?

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A Yes.

Q And I think we agreed that this can be called a functional analysis?

A Yes.

Q And you did not perform this type of analysis in your prior reports, did you?

A In this case, that's correct.

Q And we've just -- we've also agreed that you didn't perform this type of analysis for Congressional District 2 in the remedial plan?

A Correct.
Q If you had performed this analysis for Congressional District 2, you could have determined whether Blacks could elect their preferred candidate in that district with less than 50 percent Black voting age population; is that correct?
A Is that -- I think that's the same question you asked me before. Is there a difference between that question and your earlier question?
Q Well --
A Am I missing something?
Q You can answer the question, Dr. Handley. It's not -- the purpose is not for you to ask me

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questions. You can answer or decline to answer. It's up to you.

A I'm trying to understand if it's a different question or not, if I've missed something.

Do you want to repeat the question, please?

Q Sure.

If you performed this analysis, this calculating the black voting age population needed to elect Black-preferred candidates, if you had done that for Congressional District 2 in the remedial plan, you could have determined whether Blacks could elect their candidate of choice with less than 50 percent Black voting age population; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q If Blacks could elect their candidate of choice in New Orleans, in a New Orleans-based Congressional district that was less than 50 percent Black voting age population, would that indicate the presence of significant white crossover voting in that district?

A Yes. Most likely, yes.

Q And would you still consider voting in

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that district that I've just described racially polarized?

A Yes. Again, you have to have racial polarization to have white crossover voting. That's the definition, in my mind anyway, of crossover voting. It means the majority of whites are voting for someone else.

Q Would you -- in a district such as I've just described in New Orleans, would there be starkly racially polarized voting in that type of district?

A If -- I don't actually know, off the top of my head, if I ever knew what the percentage of white crossover voting is.

But, I mean, if you want to give me an example, I think if you've got, say, 35 percent white crossover voting, that is not starkly polarized.

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Does that answer your question?

Q Sure.

What if they could win -- the Black candidate could win the district if there was 20 percent white crossover voting? Would that be starkly racially polarized voting at that point?

A The adjective "stark" does not mean

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anything about who's winning or losing. It simply means there is a very large difference between who white voters and Black voters are supporting.

Q Well, then, what I'm having trouble understanding in your testimony is, when does it cross the line between polarized voting and starkly racially polarized voting?

A When there's a very large difference between white support for the Black-preferred candidate and Black support for the

Black-preferred candidate.

Q And how do you define "very large difference"?

A Well, if it's -- for example, let's look at Table -- Appendix A, and let's go down (inaudible) white support. I'm going to start down in 2019 because there's two candidates here. It's 5.7 percent. It's 6. -- it's 6.6 percent. It's 8.5 percent. Then it's 9.3 percent.

And just reading the percentage of whites voting for the Black-preferred candidate, those are very low numbers. And there's a very high percentage of Blacks voting for the Black-preferred candidate.

That's stark.

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If it were 35 percent, that would not be

stark.

Q Would it be stark if it was 25 percent?

A I don't think I would use the word "stark" unless, you know, you're talking about one contest in which it's 25 and the rest of the contests it's 5.

Q So what -- again, I'm having a hard time understanding. When does it become -- at what point does it become starkly racially polarized versus when it's just racially polarized?

A When the difference is stark. When there's a very large difference. There's -- I'm not going to be able to pinpoint it for you. I'm just going to say, 6 percent is pretty stark and 25 percent, 30 percent is not stark.

Q Okay. But other than that, you can't explain to me when something crosses the line from being polarized to starkly racially polarized?

A No. It's an adjective I used to describe very polarized voting. I could have said "dramatically polarized." I could have said "very, very polarized." Or I could have just said "starkly polarized."

Q Do you think it's fair to say that the

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polarization rate is higher in those parts of remedial District 5 other than Baton Rouge than it is in Baton Rouge or New Orleans?

A I did not separate out Baton Rough from remedial map District 5. What I can tell you is that voting is starkly polarized in remedial map District 5. I can't tell you about Baton Rough in particular. I did not look at Baton Rough in particular; I looked at the district that -- the size of which is necessary to actually create a Congressional district.

Q But you didn't look to see whether polarized voting was starkly racially polarized voting in either Baton Rough or New Orleans?

A I did not do a racial bloc voting analysis of Baton Rough. I did not do one of New Orleans.

Q Okay. Now I want to turn to your

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calculations for CD5 in your report. You say that the purpose of this analysis was to determine the Black voting age population necessary to provide Black voters with an opportunity to elect their preferred candidates in this starkly polarized area of the state.

Do you recall saying that?

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A I'm still getting there.

Yes, that's correct.

Q What does the term "necessary" mean?

A Here it means, does the Black-preferred candidate get enough votes to be elected consistently?

Q How would you define "elected consistently"?

A Well, we would look down the Table 2, and

we would see how many times the Black-preferred candidate actually won the election under various Black VAP scenarios.

Q So if the Black-preferred candidate won a majority of the elections, would that be considered elected consistently, under your definition?

A It would be elected the majority of the elections. In a majority of the elections, a Black-preferred candidate would win if the district was 52 percent Black VAP.

Q That helps. Thank you.

Now turn to page 4 of your report, and I want to read part of it into the record, if I may.

It's on page 4 in the first full paragraph, there's a sentence that says, If voting

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is racially polarized but a significant number of

white voters typically crossover, in quotation marks, to vote for Black voters' preferred candidate, it may be the case that crossover voting can compensate for depressed Black turnout relative to white turnout. If this is the case, Black voters need not make up at least 50 percent of the voters in an election for the Black-preferred candidate to win. On the other hand, without significant white crossover voting, a Black VAP of 50 percent, or even higher, may be necessary to elect the candidates of choice for the Black voters.

Did I read that correctly?

A Yes.

Q So my question is, if a Black-preferred candidate can win in a district with less than 50 percent Black voting age population, does that mean, based upon what I just read from your report, that there is a significant white crossover vote in that district?

A I think you're ignoring part of the sentence.

So part of it rests on the turnout. If the turnout was comparable, then yes, that would

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be true. But let's say white turnout was very depressed, that wouldn't be true.

So you're not giving me enough variables there to answer that question.

Q We can go to the report and your Table 2, I think it's called, Dr. Handley. But none of the elections that you studied were elections involving white turnout that was lower than the Black turnout.

Am I correct in that?

A That's correct, yes.

Q Is that right?

A Yes.

Q Okay. So if the white turnout was not depressed and Blacks were winning districts with less than 50 percent Black voting age population, would that indicate the presence of significant

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white crossover voting in that district?

A I would say usually. I would think so. But maybe there are instances when the level of Black cohesion -- I mean, I think the answer is yes. I can't think of an example off the top of my head where it wouldn't be. But I don't want to categorically -- without knowing all the variables, don't want to say there wouldn't be an

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instance of that.

But usually, it's the case that if Black-preferred candidates are winning with less than 50 percent of the vote, there is white crossover voting.

Q And significant white crossover voting, correct?

A Well, if you mean by "significant" there is sufficient white crossover voting to elect the

Black-preferred candidate in less than 50 percent, yeah. I mean -- but, I mean, "significant" as I used it here might be 30 percent, 35 percent. There wasn't an endgame in mind when I said "significant."

Q By on page 4 of your report, you used the word, significant number of white voters.

Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q And so what did that mean when you said that in your report?

A Well, that's some hypothetical. It may be 30 percent; it may be 35 percent; it may be 40 percent. But it's certainly more than, say, 5 or 10 or 15 percent.

Q Okay. So you would agree that if Blacks

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were cohesive and if the white turnout was not depressed, a district that allowed a Black-preferred candidate to win with less than 50 percent black voting age population would indicate the presence of significant white crossover voting; is that right?

A Again, yes. There may be exceptions to that. But as a general rule, I can't think of what they would be. And I would say yes.

Q Okay. Now, Dr. Handley, I want to turn to your Table 2. And you let me know when you've got that in front of you.

A I have it.

Q Just in general, could you tell me what this table is designed to portray.

A This takes the information from the -- from Appendix B, the racial Black voting analysis, and it inserts into -- this is just algebra. So I'm looking at how the Black-preferred candidate would do in the very specific conditions of remedial District 5 with the voting patterns and turnout patterns of remedial District 5, how that candidate would do in a district if you dropped the number down to 40 percent, if you put it at 45, if it was at 50 percent, and if it was

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55 percent.

So you can see, using algebra, how the Black -- what percentage of votes the Black-preferred candidate would get in each of these conditions.

Q So when you say, Congressional District 5, are you actually using the geography of the remedial District 5 in this analysis?

A That's correct.

Q And then you're just leaving everything alone as far as the statistics for the district except you're changing the Black voting age population to be at 40 percent, 45 percent, or 50 percent; is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. Tell me about the first column about the candidates. Could you explain that,

please.

A So you see these are the contests. Next to that, you see the race of the Black-preferred candidate.

Is that the column you're referring to?

Q Yes. Tell me why you picked -- I think you told me that you only picked races with Black candidates. So you don't need to repeat that.

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I think you've broken this chart into three different sections. Could you tell me about the two-candidate contests, the contests with more than two candidates, and the contests with more than one Black candidate. What do those represent?

A Those are just the number of major party candidates in a contest. That's an organizational

principle. The analysis is done the same.

However, there is a caveat. Those last two contests, in which there were more than one Black voter and Black -- more than one Black candidate, and Black voters divided their support, and, therefore, were not cohesive.

They were cohesive behind Black candidates, plural, but not a single Black candidate. There was actually no percentage Black voting age population in which the Black-preferred candidate would win.

So essentially, those two contests are not included in my discussion because those candidates simply wouldn't have won.

Q Okay. Now, tell me about the section of this chart that deals with turnout rate. Explain that to me, please.

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A So the turnout of VAP, you can see that for Black voters and for non-Black voters. That's just the percentage of Black voters who turned out to vote in that election, and the percentage of non-Black voters who turned out to vote in that election. That's not an estimate. We know turnout by race. So that's simply reporting a number that we know.

Q Do they have registration by race in Louisiana?

A They do.

Q Okay. So in the turnout chart, you're just getting the percentage by dividing the number of registered African-Americans who turned out to vote against their voting age population; is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. Got you. All right.

And then tell me about the column at the end where you've got the percent of Black population preferred candidate would have to -- would have received if the district was 55 percent, 50 percent, 45 percent, and 40 percent. Explain that to me, please.

A So given the turnout rates, given the

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degree of cohesion, and given the crossover voting, calculating this out, I can determine, by putting in to this spreadsheet a 55 percent, 50, 45, and 40 percent, the percentage of votes the Black-preferred candidate would get in that particular contest.

Q And would you agree that the results you've reported could be different if you had included statewide elections where the preferred candidate was a white Democrat for elections such as the 2012 and 2016 presidential race, the two governor races for Governor Edwards, which I think were 2015 and 2019?

You would have reported different results for whether the Black-preferred candidate would win at these different racial percentages if you

had included this other race.

Am I correct about that?

A You would be correct if white voters were much more willing to vote for white Democrats than Black Democrats. I didn't do that analysis. But under those circumstances, if you had white voters more willing to vote for white Democrats than Black Democrats, yes, it would change.

Q Next question is, I see that you used

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increments of 5 percent when you were attempting to evaluate what percent of Black voting age population would be needed for the Black candidate to win the district.

Why did you choose increments of 5 percent?

A Basically, to simplify the table. I mean, you could calculate it for a bunch more

percentages, but these are estimates anyway.

I don't want to give the impression that, you know, somehow -- it just seemed to me -- this was a decision that I made -- that increments were the best way to do this, and I just chose 5 percent increments.

Q Have you ever testified in other cases, Dr. Handley, to the effect that a district that's, say, 46 to 49 percent can be one in which Blacks can effectively elect their preferred candidates?

A Probably. There are certainly a lot of places in which Black-preferred candidates can get elected with less than 50 percent of the vote. And I've worked in some of them. So I'm sure I've found -- I don't know what the percentages are, but I've certainly found percentages less than 50, yes.

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Q And didn't you find that was the case for an Ohio Congressional district that connected Cleveland to Akron in a case you testified in a few years ago, that that district didn't have to be 50 percent?

Q

A That's correct.

Q And didn't you also recently give a report in an Ohio legislative case where you stated that Senate districts in Hamilton county could be created with less than 50 percent and still be an effective district for Blacks to elect a preferred candidate choice?

A No, I don't believe so.

Q You didn't do that?

A I think I found that you did need 50 percent.

Q Oh, you did?

A I don't -- maybe I'm misremembering.

Q We'll check on that before you testify, and I'll have those reports if we need to have them. If you're right, then we won't talk about it again.

Now, I want to look at your just at the

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part of your chart involving the two candidate

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contestses. And I think that's nine elections.

Is that a fair statement?

A Yes.

Q And if I look at the comparisons between what you're projecting let's just say for U.S. president, November 2020, what's what you're projecting the percentage of the vote will be based upon the percent of the Black population, it appears to me that the percentage of the vote goes up about four points for every 5 percent increase in the Black voting age population.

Is that a fair statement?

A Possibly. I couldn't look at that, but possibly.

Q Okay. So if that's correct?

A You mean here in this particular -- this

line, right, the president; is that correct?

Q I'm looking at your report, and I'm looking at say for president, 2020, you said (inaudible) in a district that's 45 percent is 49.6 percent but if it goes up to 50 percent, the percent of the Black vote is 53.4 percent?

A That's correct. You're fading in and out, however, I want to say. I don't know what's going on with the microphone.

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Q Oh, thanks, Dr. Handley. I appreciate that. I'll just try to repeat that.

Just looking at U.S. president, November 2020, you report that in a district that has got 45 percent Black voting age population, the percent of vote that the Black-preferred candidate would receive is 49.6; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And then if you go to the left, you say that if the district is increased to 50 percent Black, the percent of the vote that the Black-preferred candidate would receive is 53.4 percent.

Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q So that's close to a four-point difference, right, in percent of the vote?

A Four-point, did you say?

Q Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q Okay. So if you look at the other eight races, isn't it pretty fair to say that there is a consistent increase of about 4 percent of the percentage of the vote when you increase the district black percent from 45 to 50 percent?

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A Yes.

Q Okay. So then if you --

(Cross-talk.)

A Yeah, yes.

Q Okay. So then if you divide 4, which is the percent of the increase in the vote percentage by 5, which is the percent by which you've increased the black voting age population, again, these are just estimates, would you get about a 0.8 increase in the percent of the vote received for every 1 percent increase in the black voting age population. Is that a fair statement?

A Yes. That's not how this is done, but it's true that if you divided 4 into 5, 4 is about 0.8 of 5. Yes, that's true.

Q Okay. So now let's look at what you reported for the 2020 presidential race. You reported that in a district that was 45 percent black, that the percent of vote by the Black-preferred candidate was 49.6 percent; is that correct?

A Yes.

Q So let's just raise that Black percent to 46 percent. If you had studied this district at

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25 46 percent, would that not result in about a 0.8

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1 percent increase in the percent of the vote
2 received by the Black-preferred candidate?
3 A Let me -- first of all, let me not --
4 let's not focus on that contest. And let's make
5 it clear that actually we would have to do that
6 for all of these contests. And I think what
7 you'll find is, at 50 percent, only a majority of
8 the elections are won by the Black-preferred
9 candidate.
10 So the way that this is done is, I'm
11 going to look down the 50 percent column and I'm
12 going to see how many elections were won or lost.
13 And I'm only at six of the nine at 50 percent.
14 Now, by the time we get to the actual
15 composition of the district, which is 51 percent,

we're up at 7 elections.

But the focus is not on a single election. It's, let's go down the column and let's see.

So if you wanted to go down that column and let's add 0.8 to each of those, we would still find that the majority of the contests would not be won, not at 46, 47, 48, and barely at 50.

So I mean, we could play this game. But the fact is that you're not going to get a

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majority of the contests until you're over 50 percent.

Q Let's revisit that, Dr. Handley.

For the nine elections at 45 percent, you are projecting that the Black-preferred candidate would win three of nine. Is that correct?

A At 45 percent.

Q Yes. Is that correct?
A That's correct.
Q And then you've got two districts or two elections, president 2020 and Secretary of State for 2015 where you're reporting that the percent of vote received by the Black-preferred candidate in a district that's 45 percent Black VAP would be 49.6 percent and 49.5 percent.
Do you see that?
A Yes.
Q So are you telling me that based upon your analysis that if you raised the Black percent to 46 percent if that was the percent in the district, are you saying that those two districts would not then perform for Black-preferred candidates?
A No. What I'm saying is that the lieutenant governor at 41.6, the Attorney General

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at 43, the treasurer at 45.3, and the treasurer at 47.6 would not elect.

Q Right. But that's not my question.

If the district -- if percentage of black population in a district was raised to 46 percent, do you not agree that the percent of vote received by the Black-preferred candidate under your analysis of the 2020 presidential election would exceed 50 percent?

A So I didn't do this at 46 percent.

So if we look your -- what was it, 0.8 and added it, those two elections would also elect. But without really doing it at 46 or 47 or 48 or 49, I can't answer that. All I can tell you is that 50, you don't even get a majority. And you don't get a substantial number of elections until you hit 55 percent.

Q Well, Dr. Handley, you told me previously that you thought a district would be effective and have the necessary Black population if the Black-preferred candidate could win a majority of the elections.

Do you recall saying that?

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A I thought I said if they were elected consistently.

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I'm not sure what the courts think an effective minority district is. I'm giving you the numbers here and I'm telling you that at 50 percent, you would win six out of the nine contests. At 51 percent, you're up at 7 out of the nine contests. At 55 percent, you're doing better.

Q That's not my question. We're not focused on how many Black-preferred candidate wince at 50 percent or 55 percent.

I'm asking you, isn't it not true that if you had -- if the consistent increase in vote share that we see on your chart for every time you raise the Black percent 5 percent, if that would occur again, if you just raised the district

percent by 1 percent, is it not true that the Black-preferred candidate would win the 2020 presidential election and the 2015 Secretary of State election?

A Without doing the analysis, I don't know that for a fact. But adding 0.8 to it would put them over 50 percent. That is --

Q Okay. That's fine.

And that would mean under those circumstances the Black-preferred candidate would

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win a majority of those nine races; is that right?

A Yes. Well, they would win the same as if it were 50 percent. That's correct.

Q Okay. Thank you.

Now, just a few more questions about your report. Is Black turnout normally higher in

federal elections or off-year state elections?

A Could you mean in general in the United States? What do you mean?

Q Well, you told me how you calculated turnout. Is the turnout rate, if you took the number of registered voters who voted in Louisiana in federal elections or the I think it's called a blue moon election when there's only a U.S. Senate seat up, if you looked at the years when there were federal elections and you did a turnout analysis by dividing the number of Black registered voters by voting age population, would the turnout for Black voters be higher in federal elections or in off-year state elections?

A I could probably answer that question by looking at earlier reports. But I don't know off the top of my head.

I suspect it would be federal elections. But I mean, with the Louisiana system, it's really

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hard to say when your federal elections are sometimes in, I don't know how this works, in December. I mean, I don't really know.

Q Well, if we look at your Table 2, the highest turnout rate of Blacks occurred in the 2020 presidential election.

Is that a fair statement?

A Yes. I said yes. I'm sorry. I think you might not have heard my answer.

Q Okay. Thanks. But you, having agreed that the turnout for the presidential election was higher than for the off-year state elections, you only included one federal election in your group of nine contests that you analyzed?

A That's correct. There was only one federal election that -- no, wait a minute.

So there's a U.S. Senate contest in 2020, right? That's the same election.

Q Well, you told me you didn't count the Senate election, and my question was focused only on the nine two-candidate contests that you looked at.

You only used one federal election

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amongst those contests, two-candidate contests; is that right?

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A Yes.

Q All right. Then you used the 2018 Secretary of State election. Do you know whether that was an off-year election for -- or let me rephrase that.

I understand that the statewide offices in Louisiana are elected in odd years. Do you have that same understanding?

A Yes.

Q So do the Secretary of State election in 2018 was the equivalent of a special election. It wasn't a normally scheduled statewide election, was it?

A I assume not.

Q And do you have an opinion on whether turnout rates in what would be an off-year election for statewide office are higher or lower than the turnout rates for statewide elections held normally in the odd numbered years?

A Well, I can see here that the turnout of Blacks and non-Blacks is lower in 2018. But not as low as it is in 2017. But that must have been a special election as well. I guess it varies depending on what you're talking about.

Q Well, it's accurate to say that the

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turnout rates you report for the Secretary of State election for 2018 is the second lowest turnout rate amongst the nine two-candidate contests you studied?

A Yes.

Q Now, in performing this study,

Dr. Handley, did you take into account the quality of the candidates, name ID, their history of having been elected in public office previously, things like that? Did you analyze those sorts of factors?

A No. I only looked at whether Black voters supported the candidates, which you can see that they did.

Q Okay. Thank you.

Did you take into account the amount of funding available to the respective candidates?

A Again, no. I only looked at whether Black voters supported those candidates, which they did regardless of the funding or the quality of the candidate or whatever. These were clearly candidates preferred by the Black voters.

Q If you had a choice between studying polarization rates in an election that involved equally funded candidates both of whom were

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quality candidates versus an election where one candidate dramatically outspends the other candidate, would you have a preference of which one of those elections you'd want to study to look at polarization issues?

A I would not, no. It I might be more interested in what visible candidates, if we actually knew the race of the candidates. But it's quite often that white candidates have more funding available to them than Black candidates. So I wouldn't segregate on the basis of campaign funding, no.

Q I'll move on to I want to ask you some questions about Dr. Palmer's report.

The first thing I'd like to call up, please, you'll get an exhibit on your computer screen. R, what I want to talk to you about.

MS. BRANNON: I'm just going to obviously you can ask your questions but I'm going to object on the basis of relevance because obviously her testimony here is not going to be about anything in Dr. -- her testimony at the hearing this week

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is not going to be anything about Dr. Palmer's report. But you can --

MR. FARR: Understand. Thank you.

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So if you can court reporter, I'd like for you to pull up just so Dr. Handley can look at it document number 225-1, which I guess we could label as Exhibit 2A for this deposition.

A/V TECH: Please stand by.

(Exhibit ^ marked for identification and attached to the transcript.)

BY MR. FARR:

Q I'd like for you to go to page 3 as it's indicated on the top of the page with the Court filing, 3 of 48.

(Reporter interruption.)

MR. FARR: Whoever is pulling the

document up must have misunderstood me. I'm trying to pull up document 225-1, filed on 0-6-22-22, page 3 of 48, in case number 3:22-CV-00211-SDD-SDJ.

(Reporter interruption.)

MR. FARR: It would be Dr. Fairfax direction's remedial report.

(Exhibit ^ marked for identification and attached to the transcript.)

BY MR. FARR:

Q I'd like to have Dr. Handley look at a

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map on page 3 of 48. That's it.

Dr. Handley, have you looked at that map before?

A No.

Q Yes?

A No. No, I have not.
Q So you don't know whether that's direction Dr. Fairfax's remedial map?
A That's correct. I do not.
Q I'm sorry, ma'am. You don't know whether it is or it isn't?
A That's correct. I do not.
MR. FARR: I'd now like to turn to Dr. Palmer's report, which is document number 169108, and I'd like to turn to page 24 ever 35. Mark.
A/V TECH: This being introduced as an exhibit?
MR. FARR: Yes.
A/V TECH: So this will be 3?
MR. FARR: Yes.
A/V TECH: One moment, please.
(Exhibit ^ marked for identification and attached to the transcript.)
THE WITNESS: Would it be all right to

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take a break now?

MR. FARR: Yes, ma'am. Let's do that.

(Recess from ^ ^ a.m. ^ p.m. until ^ ^ a.m. ^ p.m.).

MR. FARR: Can we call up Dr. Palmer's report. And I wanted to get table 16, which we would mark as Exhibit 4 for this deposition.

BY MR. FARR:

Q Dr. Handley, do you have that table? Can you see it on your screen?

A I can see it on the screen.

Q I'll just represent to you, this is a table that was prepared by Dr. Palmer. It's titled vote shares of Black-preferred candidates under the illustrative maps. I'll represent to you that the maps that Dr. Palmer was looking at were drawn by Mr. Cooper.

I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions about this and then I want you to respond to some testimony by Dr. Palmer.

Do you notice, in looking at table 16, that Dr. Palmer looked at some other elections

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besides those that you evaluated in your -- in the nine election set of two-candidate contests?

A Yes.

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Q And is it true that he looked -- at the 2012 U.S. presidential election, 2014 U.S. Senate, 2015 commissioner of agricultural, 2015 treasurer, 2015 Attorney General, 2015 governor, between 16 president, 2016 Senator, and 2019 governor?

Did I read that correctly?

A You went a little fast, but I got most of them, yes.

Q And you didn't look at any of those elections?

A Like I said, you went through those fast. But I don't think so.

Q Do you have any objection to Dr. Palmer

looking at these elections in preparing a racial polarization report?

A Do I have any objection.

(Cross-talk.)

Q Right. Is there anything inappropriate from the perspective of an expert in your field that he did by looking at the elections listed on table 16?

A I focused on elections that include Black candidates if there are a sufficient number of Black candidates. Apparently he does not.

Q Okay. All right. I'd now like to?

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MR. FARR: I'd like to pull up the testimony at the preliminary injunction hearing of Dr. Palmer, please. And I would like to go to page 267 of that testimony.

(Exhibit ^ marked for identification and

attached to the transcript.)

BY MR. FARR:

Q All right. Thank you.

Can you read that, Dr. Palmer, or excuse me, Dr. Handley, are you able to read that screen?

A Yes.

Q Okay. I'll represent to you that this is from examination by one of my co-counsel, Ms. McKnight, of Dr. Palmer related to the chart we just looked at. So I'd like to ask the question, and if you don't mind, I'd like for you to read the answer.

So I'm going to start on line 14. So now understanding that under map one, CD5 has been drawn to the level of 50.04 percent any part Black population, do you have an understanding of how much of this vote percentage -- of these winning vote percentages for CD5 are made up of white voters?

And his answer was?

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A You would like me to read it?

Q Yes, ma'am, if you can.

A It ranges, but usually a few percentage points would be my guess.

Q Okay. And what do you base that guess on?

A Well, in some of them the percentage is below that number. And so I don't know to the degree that's about white crossover voting versus different levels of support from Black voters. There is going to be variations in both dimensions. In some it's higher and so the same problems. So we don't know exactly from this table what the percentages are.

Q Okay. So you can't tell this court what the percentage of white vote share is for the CD5 victories. Correct?

A I'm sorry. Can you say that again?

Q The question is on line three, okay --

A Okay, I can't see. This isn't showing anymore. We have to scroll down.

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Q Please scroll up to 268.
I'll repeat the question.
Okay. So can't tell this court what
percentage of the white vote share is for the CD5

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victories, correct?
A I'm sorry. Where are you? So you can't
tell this Court what the percentage of -- okay.
Not necessarily.
Q Okay. Is it true that CD2 and CD5 could
likely be drawn at below 50 percent black voting
age population and still elect Black-preferred
candidates?
A Based on this table, yes.
Q All right. And then referring back to
that table, you can look at it if we need to call
it up, Dr. Handley, but isn't it true that
Dr. Palmer included all the races that you studied

in your set of the nine two-candidate contests?

A I don't know. It could be. I didn't look at that.

Q Okay. Well, we'll just the record there will show that it did.

Based upon this testimony that we just read, do you have any --

MS. BRANNON: I'm going to object. She said she didn't look at that. So if you wanted her to answer a question about it, you have to call back up that exhibit. The record shouldn't reflect what you think it said. If you're going

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to ask her about it, you can call back up the page and she can answer your question.

MR. FARR: That's fine. I'm just trying to save people time because the answer is going to

be very obvious.

Could you please call up exhibit I think it's exhibit -- Palmer's report, Exhibit 3, I think. Table 16. Which is on page 24 of 35. Got it?

Okay, there you go.

So Dr. Handley, is it not true that besides the races that he studied that you didn't pick, he also studied all the races that you selected and analyzed from your report in your nine-contest set? Is that correct.

A Let me check.

How do I know from this which month it is? I mean, what if --

Q You're welcome to look at your chart two in your report to compare the election contests you used versus table 16.

A Okay. Maybe we can just get through them one by one.

So I see the U.S. president.

Lieutenant governor, 2015.

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And Secretary of State, yes.

Treasurer, 2017, yes.

Secretary of State, 2018, yes.

Secretary of State, 20-19, yes.

Treasurer, 2019.

Assuming that there's not one in November and then October, I would say that we looked at the same ones. But I can't be certain because the months aren't there. But it looks like they're the same, yes.

Q So going back to Dr. Palmer's testimony where he says, if you call back Exhibit 4, page 268, Ms. McKnight's question was, okay, is it true that CD2 and CD5 could likely be drawn below 50 percent BVAP and still elect Black-preferred candidate? And the answer is was based on this table, yes.

My question is, do you have any basis for disputing Dr. Palmer's testimony?

A Well, again, he looked at a lot of contests that included only white candidates, and

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it appears that white voters that are willing to vote for white Democrats more than they are for Black Democrats.

So I would say that I'm not sure that I

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would reach the same conclusion. It's weighing contests in which clearly there must be less polarization if the Democratic -- the Black-preferred candidate is white than if the Black-preferred candidate is Black.

Q Let me rephrase my question.

Based upon what you know now about Louisiana, do you have any information to dispute Dr. Palmer's testimony?

A I think I did just answer that, didn't I? I said --

Q No, you said what you would do. I'm not

asking about what you would do. I'm saying, based upon what you have done and based upon what you know about Louisiana, do you currently have any information to dispute Dr. Palmer's testimony?

A I believe that it is harder for a Black preferred Black Democrat to get elected than a white preferred -- I believe that white preferred Black candidates -- candidates preferred by Black voters get more votes from white if they're white.

So it might be the case that a white Democrat could win but a Black Democrat could not.

Q Okay.

Q Dr. Handley, I've just got one more

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question to maybe follow up.

Looking at your study of Mr. Fairfax's remedial District 5, have you made any analysis of whether District 5 will perform in the 2022

election?

A Yes, to the extent that you see in tables 1 and 2. Those are attempts to predict, and I believe that the remedial map District 5 provides Black voters with an opportunity to elect.

MR. FARR: I have no further questions.

MS. BRANNON: There's no redirect.

COURT REPORTER: Anything else for the record?

MR. FARR: Not for the defendants.

MS. BRANNON: No redirect from the plaintiffs.

COURT REPORTER: Is there anything else for the record at all?

MR. FARR: I'd like to thank Dr. Handley.

COURT REPORTER: Before we leave, can I just confirm your transcript orders. I have a request for delivery tomorrow and a rough draft.

MR. FARR: Correct.

COURT REPORTER: And Ms. Brannon?

MS. BRANNON: Same request, and you can

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send it to the ACLU at my address, both a rough whenever, and then a final one tomorrow would be great.

COURT REPORTER: Does anyone else on the call need any transcript services?

MS. FREEL: The AG's office would like a copy, please.

COURT REPORTER: Yes. The request by the other parties is for delivery tomorrow. Do you need it tomorrow?

MS. FREEL: That's fine. Whatever everyone else is doing.

COURT REPORTER: Everyone else is receiving it tomorrow. Do you want to order it for delivery tomorrow?

MS. FREEL: Yes, that is fine.

COURT REPORTER: Anyone else else?

Okay. Thank you everyone.

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