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REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 27, 2001 - 5:00 P.M.

LONG CENTER SPORTS COMPLEX

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- 1 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
- 2 SENATOR JACK LATVALA
- 3 SENATOR JIM SEBESTA
- 4 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
- 5 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL
- 6 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL
- 7 REPRESENTATIVE KIM BERFIELD
- 8 REPRESENTATIVE GUS MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
- 9 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE B. BYRD, JR.
- 10 REPRESENTATIVE GASTON I. CANTENS
- 11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CARASSAS
- 12 REPRESENTATIVE DONNA CLARKE
- 13 REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROW
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK
- 15 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY
- 17 REPRESENTATIVE FRANK FARKAS
- 18 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FASANO
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE HEATHER FIORENTINO
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE MARK G. FLANAGAN
- 21 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHNSON
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE CHARLIE JUSTICE

- 1 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE
- 2 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
- 3 REPRESENTATIVE FRANK PETERMAN, JR.
- 4 REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE WATERS
- 5 REPRESENTATIVE ROGER B. WISHNER
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PROCEEDINGS

1 SENATOR WEBSTER: If we could have your attention.
 2 We'd like to start the meeting, please. Good afternoon,
 3 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Daniel Webster, State
 4 Senator from District 12, chairman of the Senate
 5 Redistricting Committee. It's my pleasure to welcome you
 6 today to this public hearing. Representatives and Senators
 7 are here to listen to the residents of this area and to
 8 consider the input which is very important in this process.
 9 Since these are joint meetings, we have divided the
 10 responsibilities throughout the many public hearings that
 11 will be held around the state over the next several months.
 12
 13 It's my pleasure at this time to introduce
 14 Representative Johnnie Byrd who is chairman of the House
 15 Procedural and Redistricting Council. Actually, before I
 16 introduce him, I would like to introduce another special
 17 guest tonight who is a Pinellas County resident, my sister,
 18 Pam Brown, and her husband Bill, are here. Chairman Byrd,
 19 you're recognized to preside over today's meeting.
 20 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Chairman Webster. It
 21 is my pleasure to welcome you-all to this meeting, one of
 22 over 20 that we will be holding throughout the state of
 23 Florida this summer and fall. Let me first explain the
 24 procedures that we will use throughout these public
 25 hearings. This is a public hearing, the sole and only

1 purpose of which is to hear from the public on matters of
 2 redistricting. This is not a legislative committee meeting
 3 and the committee today will not take any legislative
 4 action in this or any subsequent public hearings.
 5 Instead, this is the public's forum where we have the
 6 opportunity to receive citizen input about your electoral
 7 districts. It will not be a time for legislative debate.
 8 All Representatives and Senators have numerous
 9 opportunities in the subsequent legislative committee
 10 meetings and the floor debates to address all of the
 11 members' concerns or wishes. Today, however, is for you,
 12 our constituents. We must not diminish your voice by
 13 taking up your valuable time with debate.
 14 Following my remarks legal counsel will give a general
 15 overview of the legal considerations in redistricting.
 16 Then our staff will provide some specific information about
 17 the 2000 census results in this region as well as the state
 18 of Florida at large. The rest of the time is reserved for
 19 you, the citizens.
 20 Every ten years after the completion of the updated
 21 national census the Constitution requires that the Florida
 22 Legislature redraw boundaries of all the districts of the
 23 Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and
 24 the U.S. Congressional districts. The Legislature will
 25 take this task in the next legislative session beginning in

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1 January 22nd, 2002 and ending on March 22nd, 2002. The
2 districts that we draw will first be used in the elections
3 in November of 2002.

4 Redistricting is an essential element our
5 representative democracy. We take on this job with
6 humility and due regard for the importance and the
7 difficulty of the task. We're also committed to a fair,
8 open, and inclusive process. These public hearings
9 represent the first step, just the first step in this
10 process. We appreciate that we are doing the work of the
11 people. We will hear from you. We want to help you
12 participate in a meaningful way in the process.

13 To encourage public participation, House Speaker
14 Feeney and Senate President McKay have scheduled these
15 public hearings. All members of the Legislature's
16 redistricting committees as well as local legislators have
17 been invited to these public hearings.

18 These hearings will be taped so that they can also be
19 made available to the other members of the Legislature.
20 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool for
21 public input. And we will broadcast select hearings on
22 Florida's public television stations. The web addresses
23 for the House and Senate legislative redistricting sites
24 are on the materials at the front desk. A link will also
25 be available from the Florida Legislature's web site,

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1 Online Sunshine.

2 The redistricting plan for the State House and Senate
3 will be passed in the form of a joint resolution by the
4 Legislature which will not be subject to the Governor's
5 approval or veto but will be reviewed by the Florida
6 Supreme Court.

7 The plan determining Congressional districts, on the
8 other hand, will not be reviewed by the Supreme Court but
9 will be subject to the Governor's approval or veto. I
10 encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000 census. It
11 is the essential building block on which Florida's
12 redistricting plans will be built. The United States
13 census web site is also available at the front desk.

14 Now we are here to listen and consider your voice. We
15 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us
16 craft your legislative districts. We will also encourage
17 written submissions in addition to the testimony during the
18 public hearing. Everyone who wishes to speak must make
19 sure to fill out a speaker's card, that's the only way we
20 will know if you wish to speak and after the hearing the
21 only way we will know who actually spoke. The cards are
22 also available at the front desk.

23 In addition, because we want to hear everyone, we must
24 limit your comments to four minutes. So we will limit your
25 comments to four minutes. On behalf of House Speaker Tom

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1 Feeney and Senate President John McKay and the members of
2 the Florida Legislature, I look forward to working with all
3 of you on this historic and important task.

4 At this time, I will recognize former Representative
5 Miguel DeGrandy who now serves as the House legal counsel
6 to give us an overview of the legal environment dealing
7 with reapportionment. You're recognized.

8 MR. DeGRANDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the
9 record, my name is Jim Scott. (Laughter.) Just kidding.
10 My name is Miguel DeGrandy. I just wanted to see if you
11 still pay attention to these things. I am counsel to the
12 Florida House of Representatives on reapportion and
13 redistricting matters. I'm here together with Jim Scott
14 who is counsel for the Florida Senate.

15 This morning I will be giving you a brief overview of
16 the law regarding reapportionment and redistricting for the
17 benefit of the members who have heard it before but also
18 for the benefit of the public. This presentation is by no
19 means intended to be a comprehensive and complete review of
20 the issue related to the topic but it is intended to give
21 you an introduction of the basic principles and constraints
22 that will guide the decision-making of our State
23 Legislature as it proceeds with this very important task.
24 The task of reapportionment and redistricting is a process
25 of dividing residents in a jurisdiction, in this case, the

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1 residents of the entire state of Florida into different
2 electoral seats or districts. Reapportionment and
3 redistricting are Constitutional requirements and both the
4 Florida Constitution and the United States Constitution
5 requires this process to commence every ten years after the
6 census.

7 Because of Florida's population increase over the last
8 ten years, Florida will have two additional members in the
9 United States Congress for a total of 25 seats. Therefore
10 with regard to Congressional districting the State
11 Legislature will need to create 25 new, separate and
12 contiguous districts to cover the entire state, one for
13 each of those members of Congress. The Legislature will
14 also need to divide the state into 40 state districts and
15 120 State House of Representative districts although the
16 Legislature may, if they choose, reduce the number of State
17 Senate and House districts to as low as 30 and 80
18 respectively.

19 The Florida Constitution also requires the State House
20 as well as State Senate districts be consecutively numbered
21 in either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory.
22 Commencing with these public hearings the State Legislature
23 will begin considering the opinion of Florida citizens.
24 Later on in the fall committees will begin, and in January
25 the full Legislature will begin the process of developing

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1 and considering different districting plans. As the
 2 chairman stated, the regular session ends in March of 2002.
 3 Although the legislative process can be concluded in the
 4 regular session for redistricting, the Constitution does
 5 provide for additional sessions in the event the work of
 6 the Legislature on redistricting is not completed within
 7 the regular session.

8 The Florida Constitution, in fact, requires the
 9 Governor to reconvene the Legislature in a special session
 10 in the event the redistricting plans are not adopted in the
 11 regular session. This special session on redistricting
 12 should not, would not exclude – excuse me, would not
 13 exceed 30 consecutive days.

14 From there the process becomes a little more
 15 technical. And let me attempt to explain the processes by
 16 breaking out the Congressional process first and the State
 17 legislative process. If during the regular or the special
 18 session reapportionment plans are adopted by the
 19 Legislature for Congress, the Governor has the opportunity
 20 to approve or veto the adopted plans. Under Section 5 of
 21 the Voting Rights Act, as we will discuss in a minute, the
 22 Justice Department or the United States Federal District
 23 Court for the District of Columbia must also review certain
 24 parts of the plan in a process known as preclearance.
 25 Now with respect to the State House and Senate seats,

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1 if the Legislature adopts redistricting plans then 15 days
 2 after passage the Florida Attorney General is required to
 3 petition the Florida Supreme Court for a determination of
 4 the validity of the Legislature's plan. If the Florida
 5 Supreme Court declares the Legislature's plan to be
 6 invalid, then the Constitution mandates that within five
 7 days of such determination the Governor must reconvene the
 8 Legislature in an extraordinary session of no more than 15
 9 days at which session the Legislature adopts a joint
 10 resolution conforming to the judgment of the Florida
 11 Supreme Court.

12 Assuming the regular and special sessions end without
 13 adoption of a redistricting plan for the State Legislature,
 14 the Attorney General must, pursuant to the Constitution,
 15 petition the Florida Supreme Court to commence
 16 deliberations on the establishment of a redistricting plan.
 17 Within 60 days of this petition the Florida Supreme Court
 18 must file an order setting forth such a plan. As with
 19 Congressional redistricting, there must also be a
 20 preclearance analysis on selected portions of Florida's
 21 plan.

22 In effect, to recap the two different processes with
 23 respect to Congressional redistricting, it is the Governor
 24 who is empowered by the Constitution to sign or veto the
 25 bill. And with respect to State redistricting, it is the

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1 State Supreme Court and not the Governor that will review
 2 the plan to determine its validity.

3 Now let's talk a little bit about redistricting
 4 principles. In adopting a redistricting plan, the
 5 Legislature will be guided by several factors. Some of
 6 those include the principle of one person, one vote and the
 7 requirements of the United States Constitution and Federal
 8 statutes. First the principle commonly referred to as one
 9 person, one vote developed from a series of landmark United
 10 States Supreme Court cases in the 1960s. And generally
 11 this principle stands for the proposition that each
 12 person's vote should count as much as anyone else's vote.

13 In the context of redistricting, this principle is
 14 used to defeat the practice that existed in several states
 15 of maintaining districts for legislative offices that were
 16 substantially different in population.

17 The Supreme Court concluded the significant
 18 disparities in district population resulted in each vote in
 19 the smaller district actually carrying more weight than the
 20 votes in the larger district. In effect, the one person,
 21 one vote standard prevents major disparities in the
 22 creation of Congressional and State legislative districts.
 23 The courts have given us some guidance on that point. And
 24 for Congressional districts, the courts have instituted the
 25 strictest standard.

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1 As a rule of thumb, population among different
 2 districts in one state should be substantially less than
 3 1 percent overall deviation. Deviation is analyzed based
 4 on the concept of the ideal district size. For example, in
 5 the case of Florida, if you take the state's total
 6 population as reported by the census and divide it by 25
 7 Congressional districts, the resulting number would be the
 8 ideal size for each district in the state.

9 Congressional districts should then be drawn to be
 10 well within this 1 percent of the ideal number. For State
 11 legislative districts, the courts have permitted a greater
 12 deviation among districts and the courts have accepted
 13 differences between districts of up to 10 percent total
 14 deviation in certain circumstances.

15 Other important factors, other important standards
 16 that factor into the Legislature's consideration are set
 17 forth in the Voting Rights Act of 1964 as amended and the
 18 Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution.
 19 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any practice
 20 or procedure including certain redistricting practices that
 21 impair the ability of a minority community to elect
 22 candidates of its choice on an equal basis with nonminority
 23 candidates.

24 Another section of the Voting Rights Act, Section 5,
 25 applies to certain jurisdictions that have previously met

1 the criteria for this type of review. The courts have
2 stated that Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights
3 Act entails a different process of analysis.

4 Under Section 5, covered jurisdictions are required to
5 submit any proposed changes to the practices or procedures
6 affecting voting which includes any changes to legislative
7 districts resulting in redistricting for approval by either
8 the Attorney General of the United States or the Federal
9 District Court of the District of Columbia. This has to be
10 done prior to implementation of those plans or procedures.

11 This process is therefore known as preclearance. And
12 in Florida the covered jurisdictions subject to
13 preclearance include Collier, Hardy, Hendry, Hillsborough
14 and Monroe Counties. The vast majority of preclearance
15 requests are made directly to the United States Attorney
16 General's Office. Preclearance is obtained if the Attorney
17 General effectively indicates that the office has no
18 objection to the change or if, at the expiration of 60 days
19 from submission, no objection to this admitted change has
20 been made by the Attorney General.

21 Whether it's through the court proceeding or the
22 administrative process through the Attorney General's
23 Office, the covered jurisdiction is the one who bears the
24 burden of demonstrating the proposed voting change, quote,
25 does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of

1 denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race
2 or color or membership in any language minority group. The
3 analysis performed under Section 5 is also at times known
4 as a retrogression analysis.

5 In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as some of us know, the
6 legal rules regarding the redistricting and reapportionment
7 processes are indeed complex. And this very short
8 presentation can only provide general guidance on some of
9 the delicate issues that will apply to the process, some of
10 which have not been fully decided by the courts.

11 Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my Senate colleagues and House
12 legal team, we thank you for the opportunity to make this
13 presentation and stand ready to assist you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Next we will hear a presentation
15 by Todd Thomson of the House Redistricting Committee.
16 Which will require legal aid and I think we'll have to exit
17 stage right for a moment so we won't be in the line of
18 fire. You're recognized.

19 MR. THOMSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will take a
20 second for the projector to warm up. (Pause.) I
21 apologize, due to the lighting in the room some may not be
22 able to see all of the presentation but I will try to go as
23 slow as possible in reading out numbers so everybody can
24 take those in.

25 Florida's population has grown over the last ten years

1 from about 13 million in 1990 to roughly 16 million as a
2 result of the 19 -- or excuse me, the 2000 census. This is
3 a growth rate of 23.5 percent. And as a result of this
4 growth, Florida has gained two new Congressional seats for
5 a grand total of 25 now.

6 Miami-Dade County is Florida's most populous county.
7 And as you can see, Pinellas County, where we are tonight,
8 is the fifth largest county in terms of population in the
9 state of Florida. Flagler County received the greatest
10 percentage rate of growth in the state of Florida between
11 1990 and 2000 and they grew at a rate of 73.6 percent. And
12 the five counties with the largest percentage rate of
13 growth were Flagler, Sumpter, Collier, Wakulla and Osceola.

14 Jacksonville remains Florida's most populous city.
15 St. Petersburg is fourth on that list with about 250,000.
16 Dealing with minority population: As a result of the 2000
17 census, the African-American population in Florida is about
18 14 and a half percent of the state's population and it is
19 now the number two minority behind Hispanics which now make
20 up 16.8 percent of the state's population. The median age
21 in Florida has risen to 38.7 years. This is an increase
22 from 36.3 in 1990.

23 Age 65-plus, our seniors, are an important group in
24 the state of Florida. We now have about 2.8 million
25 Floridians age 65 and above. And while this is an increase

1 of about 440,000 since 1990, the actual percentage of the
2 population age 65 and above decreased from 18.3 percent to
3 17.6 percent.

4 As Mr. DeGrandy touched on briefly, the populations
5 per district, the ideal population for a State House
6 district as a result of the 2000 census will be about
7 133,000 people. The ideal population for a State Senate
8 district will be about 400,000 people. And the ideal
9 population for a Congressional district will be about
10 639,000 people.

11 Now let me give you a brief overview of the Tampa Bay
12 area population. The city of Tampa is just over 300,000
13 people according to the 2000 census. It's the third most
14 populous city in the state of Florida. Hillsborough County
15 grew to just under 1 million people at about a 20 percent
16 rate of growth from 1990 to 2000 and Hillsborough now ranks
17 fourth in terms of population for those counties.

18 St. Petersburg is Pinellas County's most populous city
19 with a population of just under a quarter of a million
20 people. With a 4 percent increase over the 1990 population
21 St. Petersburg is now Florida's fourth most populous city.
22 Pinellas County is now at about 920,000 people, a rate of
23 growth of 8.2 percent. And Pinellas County ranks fifth in
24 terms of population for Florida's counties.

25 Pasco County, just to our north, has a population

1 according to the 2000 census of 344,765. This is a
2 22.6 percent increase over the 1990 population. Hernando
3 County, a population of 130,000, grew at a 29.4 percent
4 increase over 1990. Polk County's population now is
5 483,924, it's a 19.4 percent increase over 1990.

6 Citrus County, according to the 2000 census, had a
7 population of 118,085. This is a 26.3 percent increase
8 over the 1995 election. Manatee County to our south,
9 according to the 2000 census, has a population of 264,002.
10 This is a 24.7 percent increase over the 1990 population.

11 You can find all this information and more on the two
12 redistricting web sites. The House web address is
13 Floridaredistricting.org. And the Senate web address is
14 through the regular Online Sunshine, backslash, Senate
15 Redistricting. This -- the web sites will be on the
16 information that you pick up in the back. Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Staff Director
19 Thomson. And now, ladies and gentlemen, we move to the
20 public testimony. And what I will do is I will call out
21 your number on your appearance card. If you'll look at
22 your appearance card, it should be on the lower right side,
23 there is a number.

24 And we'll just go through in the order in which you
25 signed up and start with Number 1. Welcome to the

1 committee.

2 MR. McALARNEY: Good evening, Chairman Byrd, Daniel
3 Webster, and other members from the board here. My name is
4 Henry McAlarney. I'm here to represent Pasco County and
5 also Treasurer of the West Pasco Republican Club. It's
6 important that Pasco County hold onto its three legislative
7 seats. We in Pasco County enjoy having Congressman Mike
8 Bilirakis representing us for he has fought for our
9 veterans, schools, and senior citizens. We request that
10 when you redistrict you keep Mike Bilirakis in Pasco
11 County.

12 The Republican legislation is making a more open
13 process for the public than was done ten years ago. More
14 Republicans are serving on the House and Senate
15 Redistricting Committee than ten years ago, meaning more
16 members are directly involved in the process. Hearings are
17 being held in every area of Florida and this is opening a
18 legal process to everyone.

19 In my opinion, the 1992 redistricting by its nature
20 was Machiavellian. It produced racially districting
21 segregation. And it coined the word "bleaching" which is
22 wrong, wrong, wrong. So I call upon my learned friends to
23 do the right thing and to do an honorable job when
24 redistricting. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 2.

1 Welcome to the public hearing.

2 MS. LAW: Thank you. My name is Fay Law and I am a
3 member of the steering committee for People Over Politics,
4 our director would have been here but she has been blessed
5 with her first grandchild and so I'm taking her place.

6 I wish to thank all of you for the opportunity you
7 have provided to the public to hear their views on
8 redistricting that must take place in their community and I
9 certainly do not envy you for the task you have before you.
10 I'm sure you are aware of the petition that's currently
11 being circulated for signatures by People Over Politics.
12 One which would establish additional standards that are
13 currently required for legislative and Congressional
14 districts in our Florida Constitution.

15 We also have a petition where we would like to
16 establish an independent redistricting commission to
17 complete the work that you have to set about. Of course if
18 passed neither of these proposals would affect this current
19 work of this committee. So as a result, what we in People
20 Over Politics hope you will do is to apply the additional
21 standards we have proposed in our petitions into the
22 redistricting you are about to undertake and that is to
23 ensure that the districts you create are compact and
24 composed of contiguous territory avoiding the division of
25 counties wherever possible. Please do not dilute the

1 voting strength of any group based on race, religion, or
2 national origin. And do not draw lines that favor or
3 disfavor any incumbent, political party, or other person.

4 We are fully aware of the complexity of drawing
5 district lines to these standards. But it can be done and
6 is being done in other states. Obviously there may be many
7 ways in which to draw a particular legislative district.
8 All we ask is that every attempt be made to draw the lines
9 as close to these standards as you can.

10 Districts created to favor one person or one party
11 serve only that person or party not the voting public as a
12 whole. Districts that split minority groups to such an
13 extent that they have little or no voice in their
14 government also do a great disservice to a community.
15 Obviously reapportionment is a very political process.
16 Please make it as fair a one as you possibly can. Using
17 these standards will help to restore trust in our electoral
18 process and strengthen our representative government. The
19 work you do will affect our citizens for the next ten
20 years. We ask you do your job well. And thank you very
21 much for this opportunity to speak to you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 3.

23 MR. ZACHEM: Good afternoon. My name is Dave Zachem.
24 I reside in St. Petersburg, a little to the south of here.
25 And I'd like to bring to your attention three issues that

1 focus primarily and most singularly on Pinellas County.
2 I'm here representing myself today although I have
3 testified as a consultant in reapportionment in '72 in
4 Federal court and was involved in the '67 reapportionment
5 and several other reapportionment issues in the '60s and
6 '70s. There are three issues in Pinellas County that I
7 would like you who are going to be writing the House lines
8 to have an impact on those of us in Pinellas County.

9 One which is the single-most important issue in
10 Pinellas County is the potential loss of representation in
11 the House delegation and also in the Senate delegation. In
12 the House delegation I've spent a little bit of time on
13 this subject and I've presented a map here which is a
14 precinct map of Manatee County. I've indicated 34,653
15 population units in Manatee County that if added to
16 District 55 would reduce the burden of losing a voice in
17 the Pinellas County delegation.

18 I want to tell you I feel this is extremely important.
19 This is one of the very few areas where we can relieve the
20 pressure in Pinellas County of losing a House member. The
21 addition of 35,000 approximate population on the
22 District 55 would go a tremendous, a tremendous distance in
23 keeping us from losing a House member.

24 The second most important issue to us is we have one
25 district, District 54, in Mr. Carassas' district,

1 Representative Carassas, which I believe has an issue of
2 compactness. That district is so long it rolls right up
3 the west coast. It fails to consider communities that are
4 on the other side of the Intracoastal, which if one would
5 take into consideration both sides of the Intracoastal,
6 both the barrier island and the east side, this district
7 does not -- would not withstand the argument of
8 compactness.

9 The third issue has to do with something a little bit
10 more esoteric and that has to do with the city I reside in,
11 St. Petersburg, we have roughly a quarter of a million
12 people. You could divide that district into two House
13 districts, you could divide it into four districts, which
14 we would share our House member with other districts.

15 It is my opinion and the opinion of many people that
16 the more legislators you share a governmental unit with the
17 better your governmental unit does in Tallahassee. It is
18 just a sheer matter of numbers. If I've got four members
19 of the House to go talk to that represent precincts in the
20 city of St. Petersburg rather than two, I do better.

21 Not only that, with four members rather than two
22 members, the city covers a far greater number of committees
23 inside the deliberative body. Those are the three issues
24 that I wanted to bring to your attention. I thank you very
25 much and I will sit down. Have a good day.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 4.
2 Number 4. Welcome to the public hearing.

3 MR. NEHR: Thank you. My name is Peter Nehr and I
4 live in House District 47 in the town of Tarpon Springs.
5 I'm the president of the Betty Behone Association,
6 (phonetic) president of the upper Pinellas Republican Club
7 and also a candidate for Tarpon Springs City Commission and
8 as such has spoken to many of the citizens of our town, and
9 receive many opinions about the upcoming redistricting of
10 both the House and Senate.

11 And I'm here this afternoon to impress upon all of you
12 not to make the same mistakes regarding redistricting as
13 that were made in 1992. As you remember the Legislature at
14 that time in my opinion drew the lines in a very unfair and
15 haphazard way. Communities were split apart into different
16 districts. Some communities, including Tarpon Springs,
17 were split amongst different counties. And the district
18 lines went from being neat and compact to elongated,
19 illogical and gerrymandered. I'm asking you today not to
20 make those same mistakes.

21 As a citizen of Tarpon Springs, I'm requesting that
22 you consider putting Tarpon Springs once more into an
23 all-Pinellas district represented by the Honorable Gus
24 Bilirakis. Even though the Honorable Rob Wallace has done
25 an outstanding job as our Representative, I firmly believe

1 that by consolidating Tarpon Springs into one district our
2 citizens will be much better served as they will have one
3 Representative for the entire area.

4 Thank you again for allowing this to be a much more
5 open process than in the past and allowing the public to
6 participate and also allowing more legislators to be
7 directly involved in your decision. And last of all, I
8 want to thank you for making this redistricting process
9 both fair and citizen friendly. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 5.
11 Number 5. Welcome.

12 MS. VAN PELT: Thank you. I'm Toni Van Pelt. I'm
13 really happy that you started this process using the
14 practice of government in the sunshine and I'd like to be
15 assured that you plan on continuing that. I spent some of
16 my time this afternoon speaking with Joe (sic) Guthrie, who
17 is a very swell fellow, talking about the software for
18 redistricting. It costs \$20 for the disk and you have to
19 have a substantial outlay of cash to be able to afford the
20 computer system to actually put it up and running.

21 I talked to him about lessons. And he told me about
22 his help site and that he's putting together a program
23 of -- curriculum for you-all to train you on this very
24 complicated software that has been developed. He plans on
25 doing, at this time, a one-hour interrogatory lesson, a

1 90-minute advanced topics lesson and a 90-minute expert's
2 topics lesson. He talks about perhaps putting that up on
3 the web site so that the public can access that so that we
4 can gain this knowledge because this is a very complicated
5 system.

6 I also spoke to him about what access the public would
7 have to this software and then therefore to this process
8 and to be able to become intelligent and educated on
9 redistricting. And we talked about sending it to all the
10 public libraries or some of the public libraries in our
11 communities, in our counties. Also, we talked about
12 perhaps sending it to universities and junior college
13 libraries, places that would have the kind of hardware that
14 would be required to operate this system.

15 I also would like to recommend that there be a course
16 set up for the public of having instructors come to these
17 library sites and having public education set up to train
18 us in these different courses as this process goes on.
19 There cannot be government in the sunshine if it's so
20 complicated. I understand there's over 300 different sets
21 of criteria built into the software if we don't understand
22 how to use it. So our request to you today is to make sure
23 that we are educated and this is our recommendation on how
24 you do that. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 6. Number 6. The

1 Honorable Dennis Jones. Welcome.

2 MR. JONES: Thank you, Honorable cochairman, and
3 members. Let me say how refreshing it is really to be
4 through a reapportionment session in a
5 Republican-controlled Legislature. I'm probably one of the
6 few in this room that have been through reapportionment
7 twice under a Democratic-controlled environment. Let me
8 say, it's a lot different.

9 Back when we went through reapportionment in '81 and
10 '91, we didn't have access to computers. A lot of us
11 didn't even have access to the reapportionment floor where
12 the committees were taking place. So I commend you on
13 having this fair, open, legal process. But I'd like to
14 confine my remarks today just to Pinellas County.

15 Prior to 1981, this county served multimember
16 districts in an urban area, which means our county was
17 divided in half. Five House members ran in the south
18 county. Four ran in the north. And three Senators ran
19 countywide. We went through the reapportionment and took
20 the new lines in 1982. And I'd like to leave this. I know
21 your staff has it. I'll just leave it as an exhibit.

22 If you really look at those lines, at that time I
23 think the Democrats, at least for Pinellas County, did a
24 very fair job in having compact, concise districts that
25 meant some amount of sense to our citizens. Somewhere

1 along the line during the next ten years in 1992 something
2 happened. And this has to be a ridiculous method of
3 gerrymandering. In some cases communities were split four
4 ways. Members didn't know where they served and citizens
5 didn't know who their Representatives were.

6 So I would just ask you as you move forward in this
7 fair process, keep it on-line. Keep the citizens involved.
8 And most important, listen to them. They have good ideas.
9 And believe me, they want to know who their Representatives
10 are. They want districts that are compact. Keep
11 communities intact. And basically, they want to be part of
12 the process. And I thank you for being here today.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Thank you,
14 Representative Jones, for your service to your community in
15 the state of Florida. Number 7.

16 MS. STEVENS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I
17 appreciate having the opportunity to speak before you
18 today. My name is Barbara Stevens and I'm on the executive
19 committee of Pinellas County. I'm a precinct committee
20 woman for Precinct 306 and my district is District 54.
21 First of all today, I'd like to discuss for general
22 information, not for you but for the audience, what the
23 State Legislature has done concerning redistricting. And
24 then I would like to talk about my own district, 54.

25 As we all know from the founding of our country, we

1 have had elected Representatives to serve us on all levels
2 of government therefore, we are a representative democracy.
3 As we also know, our Florida Legislature is redrawing the
4 district lines for the State Legislature and the United
5 States House of Representatives. In drawing these new
6 districts our Constitutional requirements is to ensure that
7 each Representative or State Senator serves roughly the
8 same number of people based on the 2000 census.

9 As we also know, redistricting is and has been always
10 a controversial issue. However, I personally feel our
11 State Legislature is conducting a good and equitable
12 process. For example, the Republican Legislature is making
13 this a more open process for the public than was done ten
14 years ago. More legislators are serving on the House and
15 Senate redistricting committee than ten years ago meaning
16 that more members are actively involved in the process.

17 The Republican Legislature is making software
18 available to the public for \$20 so that anyone can draw
19 maps and make their own suggestions even from their home.
20 Ten years ago computer access was limited only to the
21 Democratic majority in the capitol and many Republican
22 legislators were not even allowed access to computers.
23 Hearings like this are being held all over the state of
24 Florida.

25 In addition, Republicans are soliciting testimonies,

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1 inputs, maps and plans to be submitted electronically by
2 way of E-mail which will allow for a more open process and
3 for a more public review of the plans as the process
4 progresses. All formally submitted plans will be posted on
5 the Legislature's web site making these plans available for
6 public review.
7 And hearings, as we well know like this hearing, are
8 being held all over the state of Florida. Therefore we can
9 say that Republican legislators are committed to a fair, to
10 an open, and to a legal process. I'd like now to talk
11 about my District 54. I'm very fortunate to live in House
12 District 54 with a very capable John Carassas as my State
13 Representative. I agree with Mr. Carassas who has proposed
14 that the district remain essentially the same despite its
15 length which includes all the beach communities from
16 Clearwater Beach to Tierra Verde.
17 The communities along the barrier islands and near the
18 Intracoastal have more in common with each other than their
19 counterparts further inland. Many of their needs and their
20 community interests are similar and they know these needs
21 will be responded to by their Representative with whom they
22 have bonded and with whom they can easily identify. The
23 stronger the community, the more easily the community to
24 work together with their Representatives.
25 Therefore, I propose that District 54 remains

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1 essentially the same. Thank you for this opportunity to
2 speak before you.
3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 8.
4 MR. JIROTKA: Members of the committee on
5 apportionment, welcome. My name is George Jirotk. I'm an
6 attorney here in Clearwater and in Tampa with the law firm
7 of Fowler, White, Gilewide, and Banker. Two of my clients
8 are the Republican party of Florida and the Pinellas County
9 Republican Executive Committee. I reside at 1120 North
10 Boulevard in Belleaire Shore. I was going to read a
11 prepared statement, somewhat lengthy but then I saw half my
12 legislative delegation here and I don't want to have any
13 trouble with them so I'll abbreviate it. (Laughter.)
14 Ladies and gentlemen, you have a large responsibility
15 to fulfill in redrawing the voting districts of the state
16 of Florida. The legislative branch is the people's voice
17 in government. Given this, I find it odd that various
18 groups, well intentioned no doubt, are championing or
19 supporting something called Return Florida's Government to
20 the People by creating a reapportionment board.
21 The movement towards a reapportionment board in my
22 opinion does just the opposite. It takes away power from
23 the people by placing this responsibility of redrawing
24 voting districts in the hands of a potentially unelected,
25 unaccountable board. The Florida Legislature is

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1 Constitutionally, politically, and otherwise well
2 representative of the people of the state of Florida.
3 There could be no better body in my opinion to handle this
4 job.
5 Additionally, you are being asked by many to respect
6 municipal boundaries, keep communities of interest intact,
7 and have districts that are compact and square. We share
8 that goal. But we are also aware that while it's a fair
9 goal, a laudable goal, it sounds simpler than it is and may
10 be harder to accomplish than one may think. For instance,
11 throughout Florida the boundaries of many municipalities
12 are often strange in appearance resulting from haphazard
13 annexations and other attempts at, if we can use the word,
14 "gerrymandering."
15 I'm aware of this on a firsthand basis because I was
16 for the better part of a decade on something called the
17 Pinellas County Planning Council which was an attempt
18 created by the Legislature and voters of Pinellas County to
19 get the various municipalities in the county government to
20 work together here in Pinellas.
21 Additionally, we have residents in Pinellas County who
22 live around their municipalities with street addresses when
23 in fact -- with city street addresses, I beg your pardon,
24 but who, in fact, live outside these city limits. We also
25 have unincorporated communities, quite large ones, like

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1 Palm Harbor. None of these have legal boundaries as such
2 defining them, thereby making it hard to keep them intact
3 or uniting them with other communities to form legislative
4 districts. In closing, allow me to urge you and the entire
5 Legislature to draw compact districts defined by our major
6 roadways and natural boundaries not only for your sake but
7 for the sake of the public trust and confidence. Thank
8 you.
9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 9.
10 MR. COLLINS: Good afternoon, cochairman and members
11 of the committee. My name is Ed Collins and I live in
12 Trinity, Florida in Pasco County. Today is a good day. I
13 got \$300 from George Bush and that's the first time that's
14 happened in my life. I'm here primarily to request you
15 give serious consideration for a Senate district for Pasco
16 County, Florida. If you look at the Senate district maps
17 you'll find Pasco County is comprised of three Senate
18 districts: District 10, which is heavy Hernando County
19 populous; District 13, which is heavy Hillsborough County
20 population; and District 19, which is heavy Pinellas
21 County.
22 We currently have three Senators who do an outstanding
23 job for us. But as your staff pointed out, the population
24 has grown 22.6 percent. We're currently at around 350,000.
25 And we think it's about time that we had the ability to

1 elect a Senator who is a resident of Pasco County.

2 I'm a former county commissioner and on one hand as a
3 speaker had mentioned earlier, the more Representatives you
4 have, the better it is for the county. And I'd like to say
5 it's rather difficult to make rounds to three Senators when
6 you can have the opportunity to go to one.

7 In addition, there are a lot of conflicts that can be
8 created when you have a Senator representing multiple
9 counties. We had a specific situation back in the 90s
10 involving water between Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco
11 County. And Senator Latvala did an outstanding job in
12 leadership in resolving those so-called water wars. But
13 the potential for conflicts is there and we ask you to
14 seriously consider giving Pasco County its own Senate
15 district.

16 Finally, before I leave, I'm also a trustee of Pasco
17 and Hernando Community College and I'd like to take this
18 opportunity to thank the Legislature for the funding
19 increases that we have seen over the last five years. It's
20 good to see that education is a priority regardless what
21 the media says in Tallahassee and particularly community
22 college funding. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 10.
24 Number 10.

25 MS. ROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the

1 over 100 miles to make sure that we were here to fulfill
2 our duties as citizens. I want to thank you for your
3 consideration and we will trust that we will hear from you
4 and from -- with our concerns. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 11.

6 MS. ROSEN: Good afternoon, committee and
7 Representatives. My name is Doris Rosen I live in Port
8 Richey which is in Pasco County. I have three wishes which
9 I would like to share with you. The first one is I would
10 like to see a woman President of the United States.

11 The second wish is, I would like to see a woman
12 Governor of Florida. And the third wish, I wish we would
13 take the redistricting process out of the hands of the
14 incumbents and their parties by either instituting clear
15 criteria that map-makers must follow or by establishing
16 independent nonpartisan commissions.

17 I speak that as a dedicated Democrat where I think
18 that this whole process should be nonpartisan. I believe
19 that hearings be held in more areas so that Floridians do
20 not have to travel so far. I think it should be better
21 publicized in the paper. An address would help, you know.
22 Many of us from outside the area did not know where the
23 Long Center was. And there are many people in Pinellas who
24 don't know where the Long Center is either.

25 I believe the State Legislature commit to holding

1 Joint Redistricting Committee for the opportunity to
2 address you today. My name is Joann Ross. I live in
3 Hudson, Florida. I'm here with a number of groups. And I
4 am also the copresident of Pasco National Organization for
5 Women. We are joining with others here today to urge the
6 committee to establish standards that incorporate the basic
7 elements of fairness into this challenging and very
8 important process of developing new maps for political
9 boundaries.

10 I was going to comment on Pasco County because some of
11 the larger counties have not had meetings or hearings in
12 the area such as Pasco, Polk, Brevard, and Seminole.
13 Mr. Collins did a good job of addressing that. I have a
14 few questions. My concern today is assuring access to the
15 redistricting plans and allowing public comment on them
16 following the final map drawing that is critical to a
17 standard of fairness and inclusion for Florida's citizens.

18 We recommend that the joint committee schedule public
19 hearings in addition to the current schedule that you
20 provide for an opportunity to respond to the maps that have
21 been drawn. Will you schedule meetings outside of
22 Tallahassee after the maps are drawn? Many people would
23 not be able to afford to travel to Tallahassee or to take
24 time off work. And as it is today, there were no hearings
25 in Pasco. Many of us have traveled during working hours

1 public hearings after plans are released so that the public
2 can react to actual proposals. I believe that no plan be
3 prepared or debated until a full public debate on specific
4 guidelines is held and guidelines are adopted and
5 published.

6 And last but not least, Pasco County has been chopped
7 up, diced and sliced. And three telephone area codes only
8 give more support to that. Based on the new population
9 census figures, Pasco County deserves their own
10 representation. The numbers speak for themselves. Thank
11 you for this opportunity.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 12.

13 MS. STEINMAN: Good afternoon. My name is Pearl
14 Steinman. I'm from Pasco County, District 46, and I've
15 been there for a long time, 26 years to be exact. I want
16 to thank you for allowing me to speak today. However, I
17 was wondering why there wasn't a meeting scheduled in Pasco
18 County. I had to come all the way to Clearwater, that's a
19 long way.

20 Pasco County has grown 22.6 percent since 1990 with a
21 population of 344,765. It seems Pasco County is always
22 treated as a stepchild. There should have been a meeting
23 in Pasco. However, I will ask you now to please make the
24 redistricting process a very public one with full news
25 media coverage and allow input from all citizens and let's

1 make it fair. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 13.

3 MS. KOUALICK: Good afternoon. I'm Doris Koualick. I
4 live in New Port Richey in Pasco County, State House
5 District 46, Senate 19. I came to New Port Richey 49 years
6 ago. I've seen a lot of change in that time and I've been
7 against most of it. Air-conditioning and mosquito control
8 doesn't go into that category.

9 When I came here Jim Crow was very much alive. I
10 lived through all of those terrible times when we changed
11 things here in Florida and I remember them. When you
12 redistrict, I hope you will try hard to get the proper
13 franchise to those citizens who were so long denied their
14 voting rights. After the last presidential election the
15 nation is watching us. Rise above politics. Do your job.
16 History will judge you. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 14. Number 14. Number
18 14. Okay. Number 15.

19 MS. MILLER: Good evening. I'm Janice Miller. I'm
20 from Oldsmar, Pinellas County. I really don't want to
21 waste everybody's time. I thought maybe I could say
22 something different that would encourage you to bring back
23 the integrity and the honesty that some of the citizens
24 believe that any of the legislators possess anymore. But
25 everyone has spoken so eloquently here that all I could do

1 is reiterate what I've heard thus far. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 16.
3 Number 16. Number 17.

4 MS. BAILEY: Hello. I'm Carol Bailey representing the
5 League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County. First of
6 all, we want to thank you, the leadership of
7 reapportionment, for extending opportunities for the public
8 comment across the state of Florida. These district
9 groupings represent the cornerstone of our representative
10 democracy and it's only fitting that the public should have
11 significant input into the process.

12 In the past, reapportionment has taken place in closed
13 rooms with little input by citizens, incumbent legislators
14 monitored the process to make sure that their districts
15 guaranteed their reelection. This political gamesmanship
16 resulting in what's known as gerrymandering that resulted
17 in ridiculous-looking districts that broke up communities
18 solely for the benefit of incumbent legislators and the
19 political party in power.

20 One of our districts in Pinellas covers a piece of
21 suburban Pinellas plus rural counties -- or rural areas in
22 Manatee and Hillsborough. Such a district makes it hard
23 for a single legislator and unfair for candidates having to
24 campaign in a district covering three or four counties.
25 Because of the inherent conflict of interest when

1 legislators draw their own districts, the reapportionment
2 plans could face legal challenges at the tremendous cost of
3 taxpayers also.

4 The League believes that the reapportionment process
5 needs to be as open and accessible as possible to the
6 public and to the press. The League strongly recommends
7 the following fair redistricting standards. First, the
8 districts should be drawn as equal in population as
9 possible. The district lines should be drawn to form
10 districts that are compact and composed of contiguous
11 territory respecting county and municipal lines whenever
12 possible.

13 The districts should be drawn so as not to dilute the
14 voting strength of any group based on race, religion, or
15 national origin. Districts should not be drawn to favor
16 any person or political party. The districts should be
17 single-member districts including 25 Congressional
18 districts; 40 State Senate districts; and 120 State House
19 districts. Once again, the League congratulates you for
20 organizing these public hearings and thanks for the
21 opportunity for input.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 19. Number 19.

23 MS. JONES: Good evening. My name is Charyll Jones
24 and thank you for this opportunity to speak. I would like
25 for you to keep into consideration the redistricting of

1 making stronger and building stronger communities and
2 families and by not allowing a few to make decisions in
3 other communities where they don't have a clue exactly of
4 the needs of that particular community.

5 And the districting, the way it's planned, sometimes
6 excludes certain communities according to race, or gender
7 or class. And I'm asking you that when you're
8 brainstorming to take into consideration to not allow any
9 of the isms to take place in the districting when you
10 decide about the redistricting. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Did we skip 18?
12 Number 18. Number 20. Number 20.

13 MR. WOLFE: Hello. My name is William Wolfe. I'm a
14 resident of Largo. I'd like to call your attention to this
15 Wall Street Journal article from April 23, 2001. I'll
16 submit it as part of the record today. It's entitled, "The
17 Ghost of Elbridge Gerry. It's written by Mr. John H. Fund
18 who is a member of the Wall Street Journal's editorial
19 board.

20 You can also find this article on Opinionjournal.com.
21 Mr. Fund talks about Elbridge Gerry, the first
22 gerrymanderer who was Governor of Massachusetts in 1812,
23 drew a district that resembled a salamander and his
24 opponents named that particular district after him.

25 Today, block-by-block computer maps allow the party in

1 power to create maps drawn to allow elected officials to
2 choose their voters rather than the other way around.
3 Mr. Fund goes into the possibilities for gerrymandering and
4 then looks at the intimate commission alternative and the
5 alternative within the state of Iowa where redistricting is
6 done by a professional staff of the Legislature.

7 The professional staff is charged with maintaining the
8 unity of counties and cities and creating compact districts
9 without regard to the previous election results. By law
10 they cannot take into account where incumbents live or any
11 demographic information other than population. Mr. Fund
12 calls on states to adopt standards that prevent the worst
13 gerrymandering abuses by demanding contiguity and
14 compactness.

15 Last year, he says, Arizona became the sixth state to
16 have a commission draw its political boundaries. So
17 Mr. Fund of the Wall Street Journal editorial board is in
18 favor of having these commissions draw the boundaries.
19 Fund states, Upon leaving office Ronald Reagan promised
20 that he would devote time and energy to, quote, tell the
21 American people the truth about how the electoral process
22 has been distorted, unquote, by gerrymandering, this voice
23 still, others must take up the call. I'm here to take up
24 the call today. I call on you to stop the gerrymandering.

25 People Over Politics organization is the organization

1 state Supreme Court to apportion. I urge you to go to the
2 People Over Politics web site, www.peopleoverpolitics.com.
3 You will find there that virtually every newspaper in the
4 state has endorsed these initiatives. I urge you to
5 legislatively pass these initiatives and put them on the
6 ballot before the next election. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 21.

8 MS. REESE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, State
9 legislators. I'd like to thank you for this opportunity
10 for letting me address you this afternoon. My name is
11 Luanne Reese and I work at Bon Secours in St. Petersburg
12 and we have both skilled nursing and assisted living. And
13 I was thinking maybe you didn't have skilled nursing and
14 nursing home issues to grapple with but it sounds like
15 you'll have something to replace it this coming year. And
16 I would like to thank you on behalf of all of Florida's
17 elders for the job you did do in helping us with reform for
18 nursing homes.

19 Many of the things that have been covered by other
20 people here have been talked about and are very valid
21 issues. One thing I would like to touch upon is the things
22 that make things different especially for a district like
23 mine. I live on one side of Gandy Boulevard and work on
24 the other side of Gandy Boulevard and it puts me with a
25 whole different sets of legislators. I had the wonderful

1 within the state of Florida that is in the process of doing
2 something about that. We have a table right outside with
3 these petitions. I hope everyone here today will go out to
4 that table and sign these petitions.

5 One calls on the Constitution to require that not only
6 should districts have equal population, they should also be
7 compact and composed of contiguous territory, avoiding
8 division of counties where possible. Districts shall not
9 dilute voting strength of any group based on race, religion
10 or national origin. And districts shall not be drawn to
11 favor or disfavor any incumbent political party or other
12 person. That's Amendment 1 of People Over Politics. I'd
13 also placed this into the record.

14 Amendment 2 of People Over Politics creates a
15 17-member independent commission replacing the Legislature
16 to apportion legislative and Congressional districts
17 following the census. State officials, members of
18 Congress, lobbyists, party officers, relatives or employees
19 are ineligible. Commissioners swear not to seek office in
20 such districts or be paid lobbyists for four years.

21 Sixteen members --

22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You have 30 seconds.

23 THE WITNESS: -- by majority/minority parties select a
24 17th member. All elections require three-fifths' votes.

25 Adopting a redistricting plan within 180 days requires the

1 opportunity to work with Mr. Bilirakis' father in
2 Washington as well as seeing Mr. Young when I go up to
3 Washington.

4 I'd like for you to consider when you are
5 redistricting is to look at places, although Representative
6 Berfield does a fantastic job for us in our district, is to
7 look at compacting those districts to have us working into
8 the St. Petersburg district so that things we look at in
9 the St. Petersburg area, diversity issues specifically, are
10 things that we would look at that might be different in a
11 Clearwater or a Largo area.

12 The Sisters of Bon Secours, who I most happily
13 represent, wants to make sure that people are treated
14 fairly, people are treated with respect, and people are
15 represented equally. I encourage you to take all this into
16 consideration when you are doing your redistricting. We
17 stand ready to assist you in any of the issues that you
18 might have consideration of.

19 I encourage you to call us in the home districts,
20 reach out to us, and ask us the challenge we may face if
21 something was redistricted one way or the other. We love
22 being a part of the process and we look forward to being a
23 part of the process. Thank you very much for your time and
24 all of your efforts.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 22.

1 Number 23.

2 MR. RUSHING: Good evening, Cochairman, and
3 distinguished members of the Senate and Legislature. My
4 name is Steve Rushing and I was born and raised here in
5 Pinellas County and had the privilege of serving as a
6 county judge here in Pinellas County for ten years. I'm
7 now a resident of Pasco County. So I would like to also
8 echo the sentiments of Representative Jones and some of the
9 other people that did it much more eloquent than me and
10 thank you for taking your time and energy to be here today
11 to give the public this opportunity to have input into the
12 system.

13 I know you have a lot of hard choices before you. I'd
14 just like to talk about two easy, or relatively easy,
15 choices you may have about Pasco County. First one I would
16 ask you to consider, letting Pasco County have its own
17 Senate seat with your parameters of about 400,000 for a
18 Senate seat. They have a population now of 344,000. That
19 would seem like that would make a lot of sense under all
20 the guidelines you have.

21 Also, I would ask that if at all possible, you try to
22 keep at least the three Representatives in Pasco County
23 pretty much the way they are. At least certainly don't add
24 a fourth one. So thank you-all very much for your time and
25 I salute you in your efforts.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 24.

2 MR. ALLRED: Good evening. My comments tonight will
3 focus on political representation. Political
4 representation of all voters, not just merely a few of the
5 voters. Myself, for example, I'm a political minority.
6 I'm registered to vote but in neither political party,
7 major political party. I have no political representation
8 in Tallahassee or in Washington, D.C. There are many
9 others like me, a majority of all voter eligibles in fact.
10 My State Representative, State Senator and U.S.
11 Representative represents some folks but I assure you, not
12 me and not many others.

13 The notion that a voter can be well represented by
14 someone that they, the voter, differ with on significant
15 and/or fundamental issues is absurd. The notion treats
16 voters as ratifiers and not selectors which we all pretend
17 they are. Well there are winners and losers in politics.
18 So many voters shouldn't be electoral losers all the time.
19 At the very least everyone that wants to be represented
20 should be. It is to this end that I come to you today with
21 the suggestion that goes beyond criticism of a
22 winner-take-all single-member district. But first, a word
23 about districts. They are usually draw in such a way that
24 they transcend the obvious advantages they have for major
25 parties. They are also drawn to be safe for one major

1 party or another. I live in such a district.

2 Last year no incumbent was running for the state
3 House, the seat that I live in. And more than one person
4 actually ran for the office which is these days rather
5 uncommon. In any event, there was -- all the candidates
6 from the district I lived in were all Republicans. I don't
7 happen to be Republican so I couldn't vote in the primary
8 and I did get an opportunity to vote in a runoff. I
9 under-voted though because I couldn't really tell,
10 fundamentally tell, the difference between the two
11 candidates.

12 So the incumbent in the district I live in had stated
13 his desire to see the district changed very little. It
14 disturbs me greatly that officeholders essentially pick the
15 constituents and not the other way around. I also
16 understand that there exists a federal law that has our
17 U.S. Representatives elected from single-member districts.
18 This requirement dates back to 1967 and there's not much
19 you can do about that, they have to be single member
20 districts.

21 What I do not understand, given that -- there are
22 voters that vote for losing major party candidates and
23 there are voters that vote for non-majority party
24 candidates and there are people who under-vote, and there
25 are people voting for winning candidates that they voted

1 for only to deny the other rival from getting the
2 electoral -- their legislative franchise. All these votes
3 all put together, I believe, comprise a majority, a real
4 majority, of people that are not represented. I'll get to
5 it --

6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You have 30 seconds.

7 MR. ALLRED: Reapportioning single-member districts is
8 your task and I ask that you give consideration to the idea
9 that still retains single member districts unrepresentative
10 though they are simply to -- I recommend -- I would have
11 you recommend to the legislative powers a new option for
12 voters, that is a voter opting out and going to the
13 district and remaining within the tolerances of the one
14 man, one vote system. I think it's somewhat possible to
15 have people in districts of their own choosing.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you for coming out.
17 Number 25.

18 MS. WHEATLY GILIOTTI: Mr. Chairman, and committee
19 members, my name is Diane Wheatly Giliotti and I reside in
20 Palm Harbor in Pinellas County and I represent only myself
21 today because you have given me the opportunity to express
22 a citizen's view on redistricting. I urge you to craft new
23 districts that are compact and follow county and municipal
24 boundary lines to the extent possible to create districts
25 of almost equal population levels. Thank you for your

1 openness.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Twenty-six.

3 MR. HOLLADAY: Thank you, Chairman Byrd. My name is
4 Tim Holladay from New Port Richey, that's in Pasco County.

5 I enjoyed driving down here. It's nice to have the
6 hearings here. I remember now why I moved away 15 years
7 ago. I'm a State Farm agency. I've been well represented
8 by Representative Fasano and State Senator Latvala. I
9 appreciate their great, great work that they have done in
10 the last few legislative terms. And I agree with
11 Representative Jones, it's great to have a Republican
12 legislature reapportionment.

13 I come from Georgia and in Georgia when they used to
14 say reapportionment, that meant one thing, no Republicans.
15 You could always count on that. And it's good to have that
16 here. A lot friendlier faces around here. Good to see the
17 folks here. I thought it was interesting the train went
18 by. Because in the last two reapportionment hearings, you
19 could just hear the train whistle because you knew what was
20 going to happen -- (Laughter.) At least we're open and
21 we're going to be open about it in front of everybody.

22 I'd like to ask also that the House district in Pasco
23 remain the same. We have three excellent Representatives,
24 Representatives Fiorentino, Fasano, and Littlefield. And,
25 again, we appreciate the work that Senator Latvala has done

1 but he promised us we'd get our own State Senate seat and
2 we're looking forward to getting a State Senate seat.
3 (Laughter.) He's done everything else he said he was going
4 to do.

5 And finally with a 23 percent increase in our
6 population, we'd like to see the Congressional district
7 seat redrawn a little bit. Hopefully we could have
8 northern Pinellas and all Pasco included in that. Thank
9 you again for allowing this hearing and thank you for your
10 hard work. We appreciate it.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 27.

12 MS. MOSLEY: Hello. My name is Mary Mosley and I live
13 in Tarpon Springs. I wish to thank the chairman and the
14 members of the House Redistricting Committee for the
15 opportunity to speak regarding the reasons that I feel that
16 Tarpon Springs should be included in District 48. There's
17 been a lot of people that have spoken today very well on
18 compactness and fairness and I don't want to duplicate
19 that. But at present, it is difficult for many of us to
20 try and meet with our Representative who is more than
21 30 miles away in Tampa.

22 I would like to ask you to include Tarpon Springs in
23 District 48 in Pinellas County. And I'd like to say a few
24 things about why we'd want to talk to our Representative
25 that's a little different than the normal community.

1 Tarpon Springs has a lot of problems that are unique and
2 not found in other areas. The community has 65 miles of
3 coastal waterfront. Most states cannot boast having this
4 amount of coastal area.

5 What attracts tourists and booms development also
6 requires sensitivity and thoughtful oversight which has not
7 happened. It's problems which have -- sorry. A river
8 meanders through the center of our community. The health
9 of the environment is important to the economy which is
10 tourism, number one. And, number two, a fishing industry,
11 both sport and commercial.

12 At this time we have no one who is local to diligently
13 protect our interests. We also have the 12th most
14 polluting power plant in the state of Florida. And even
15 the Department of Protection (sic) knows where the imported
16 spanned oil comes from or what the power plants' emissions
17 may contain. On the other hand, Representative Bilirakis
18 is from the area and does understand local concerns. He
19 has done a good job for the people of his district since
20 comments regarding his representation have always been
21 favorable. Representative Bilirakis is available and
22 responsive.

23 But should Mr. Bilirakis move on, it would make far
24 more sense to incorporate Tarpon Springs near Pinellas
25 County. And many of us could reach our State

1 Representative more readily. Thank you for your time and
2 consideration.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 28.

4 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me
5 the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Tom
6 Anderson and I'm the mayor of the city of Dunedin. Last
7 week, I was up at the Florida League of Cities and gave
8 them a briefing on redistricting. And what I plan to do
9 today is give you a very brief briefing that I had given to
10 them.

11 During that session we did have a session that
12 addressed the top ten lobbying tips from elected officials.
13 One of which was, Let your message be clear and simple in
14 three sentences. Mine is going to be in one sentence.
15 Tell the legislator what they would like to -- what you
16 would like them to do for you; what, when, where, the why
17 and the who can wait. And leave a handout if you have one.
18 And I have a handout which I would like to leave.

19 My one sentence is, Redistricting committees should
20 keep cities and communities with a common interest wholly
21 within one district as compact and contiguous as possible
22 to ensure a good representation for our communities. For
23 example, in the city of Clearwater we currently have, I
24 believe, five Representatives in the one city. In addition
25 to that, we have the beach communities. I spoke to many of

1 the mayors up at the Florida League of Cities, about a half
2 a dozen or so in the beach communities, and they are
3 anxious to keep that area in one district because they have
4 a common interest and a common concern. So with that,
5 thank you for giving me the opportunity.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 29.

7 MS. GEORGIO: Good evening. My name is Barbara
8 Georgio. I live in Largo and I'm a member of the American
9 Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. I
10 want to thank the committee for holding this public
11 hearing. I would note, however, that the vast majority of
12 your hearings are being held during the middle of the
13 workday which is not convenient for the working public to
14 attend.

15 Further, I am lucky this hearing is taking place in
16 Pinellas County when AFSME members and other workers in
17 Brevard, Seminole, and Pasco Counties might well be
18 affected by the process thus far have no opportunity to
19 participate in a public hearing.

20 I would ask that as this process moves forward you
21 strive to make it more open and more accessible and that
22 all information is easily available to the public, posting
23 all information on the Legislature's web site including any
24 maps made available to the legislative leadership would be
25 helpful. I'm also concerned that the most accurate census

1 data be used during the redistricting process.

2 News reports indicate that over 200,000 Floridians
3 were missed by the 2000 census and we know that minority
4 groups are disproportionately represented in this
5 undercount. Since Florida was one of only four states not
6 providing precinct level data to the Census Bureau, I would
7 suggest that to compensate for these possible attendant
8 problems the Legislature consider utilizing adjusted census
9 data which is more representative of minority populations.

10 I would hope that as the Legislature begins the
11 redrawing process that you would honor traditional
12 redistricting principles such as keeping together
13 communities of interest. A case in point is Congressional
14 District 11. Although I am not a resident of this
15 district, I understand the incumbent, Congressman Jim
16 Davis, has done an excellent job representing the diverse
17 yet linked communities of interest that make up
18 District 11.

19 The current makeup of this district not only holds
20 together communities of interest in the Tampa area, but
21 also meets the test of compactness and it respects
22 political lines are being maintained only within
23 Hillsborough County. The bottom line has been the
24 communities in Congressional District 11 have had
25 representation that reflects their interest. I would urge

1 you to keep these basic communities of interest together in
2 Congressional District 11 by ensuring that downtown Tampa
3 remains intact within the district and that in redrawing
4 any lines districts stay within Hillsborough County.

5 And lastly, I'm a state employee and I just want
6 everybody to know on this committee that I and many, many
7 state employees are frustrated and disillusioned with this
8 present administration. And thank you for the opportunity
9 to testify.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 30.

11 MS. HERNDON: Good afternoon. My name is Joan Herndon
12 and I'm on the town council of Indian Shores and I'm here
13 to ask you to please do not divide our 54. District 54 is
14 just like we like it and we have the same problems, goals.
15 We have a new legislator this year, John Carassas. He
16 jumped in with both feet. He's mastered our issues. He's
17 working so hard for us. We don't want to lose him but we
18 don't want to be separated either.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 31.

20 MS. CLAUSEN: First of all, I want to thank you for
21 the opportunity to speak and for your allowing me to be
22 here. I'm Marlene Clausen. I live on the barrier island
23 of Indian Shores and I'm representing Indian Shores
24 Property Owners and also the Central Florida Republican
25 Club.

1 First of all, I would like to thank our Honorable
2 Dennis Jones for superbly representing us the past years
3 and also our wonderful Honorable John Carassas is doing a
4 great job too. Now I could speak four minutes about Jones
5 and another four minutes about John, but I don't want to
6 take all the time talking how wonderful they are.

7 I would like to tell you a little bit about the
8 barrier isles. In case you're not familiar, the barrier
9 isles is made up of ten communities from Clearwater Beach
10 all the way down to St. Pete Beach and Tierra Verde. Now
11 we're a little bit unique in that we have all the beaches
12 mainly in this area of Pinellas County. And because of
13 that we are a very unique community. We have some of the
14 needs, some of the goals different from other parts of
15 Pinellas County. We want to work with all of Pinellas
16 County because these isles are not only important to those
17 of us who live there but the whole county and the state of
18 Florida.

19 Tourism is important to everyone in this particular
20 room in Pinellas County and the whole state. And as a
21 result, we need to all work together. We have a community
22 of ten communities. Government of the big city which is
23 the barrier island government council which works together
24 superbly to meet the needs of this area. We have been
25 lucky to have two Representatives who also have been

1 available and have worked fantastically with us to make our
2 beaches better and better which is better for everybody,
3 not just for those of us who live there.

4 It's important that we keep our one Representative to
5 represent the whole area. District 54 not only
6 represents -- it's not only represented just on the barrier
7 islands though. As Barbara Stevens mentioned earlier, it
8 represents over the bridge, 54 isn't just on the islands.
9 And so we work together and all the things that are
10 important for one side of the water, it's important for the
11 other side of the water over the bridge.

12 So different from what one of the people had
13 mentioned, we don't have to be divided by water. Bridges
14 are important in all kinds of communication and what's good
15 for all of us. I think it's important that we keep our
16 district one district representative. He, along with all
17 the people who live in that community, know the interest,
18 the issue, the problems, all which are somewhat unique to
19 our area but which need to be served so they are good for
20 all of us. Please don't take John Carassas from us. We
21 need him and he's doing a great job. Thank you very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 32.

23 MR. PROVENZANO: Mr. Chairman, members of the
24 legislative delegation, we welcome you to northern Pinellas
25 County. Those of you who are normally here anyway, and

1 those of you who are visiting, welcome. I thank you for
2 this opportunity to come and address you today. I thank
3 you for the opportunity of holding this series of public
4 meetings. I know the process isn't perfect.

5 I guess to make it perfect, you could have two or
6 three meetings in each of the 67 counties and a meeting at
7 every municipality but that would probably take us well
8 into the next millennium if we needed to do that. So we're
9 going to make do with the process as we have it right now
10 and I commend you for doing a very good job in trying to
11 open the process up to as many people as possible.

12 I'm a Representative -- I am a citizen of northern
13 Pinellas County and as such, the one issue I want to deal
14 with or ask you to deal with in considering your
15 redistricting of the legislative seats for the area is the
16 fact if you take a look at northeast Pinellas County and
17 northwest Hillsborough quite honestly, but I'm going to
18 speak to northeast Pinellas County. Tampa Road has just
19 been opened. Tampa Road is causing a major mushrooming of
20 growth and development in northeast Pinellas County.
21 Northwestern Hillsborough also has its growth areas.

22 But this small little pocket that crosses that county
23 line gives us the sole remaining area of large developable
24 land. This is going to be a booming growth area. It is
25 going to put a strain on our financial resources and our

1 natural resources as well in the few coming years. I
2 request you consider making sure we do have ample
3 representation that can focus on this area because the
4 future is what we all need to be looking at. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 33. Number 33.

6 MR. CRETEKOS: My name is George Cretekos and I'm here
7 representing Congressman Bill Young who has to be in
8 Washington. I submitted a statement from the Congressman
9 for the record but he asked if I might read a brief
10 summary.

11 Mr. Chairman, I want to welcome you and the members of
12 your committee to Pinellas County this evening and thank
13 you for holding this public hearing on redistricting for
14 Congressional and State legislative districts. You are to
15 be commended for holding similar hearings throughout the
16 state to give the people the opportunity to offer their
17 thoughts and their suggestions.

18 Having been a part of this process as a member of the
19 State Senate and as a member of Congress, I've always found
20 the State Legislature has done a good job in completing the
21 difficult task of drawing our boundaries for our
22 Congressional districts. It is not only a technically
23 difficult job, but also a politically difficult one. And I
24 would not attempt to suggest how you should do it. In
25 addition to the obvious population requirement, I believe

1 it's important to create Congressional districts that are
2 as compact as possible and to the maximum extent possible
3 preserve the integrity of city and county boundaries.
4 Again, let me thank you for the work you are undertaking to
5 fulfill the Constitutional requirement to create fair and
6 equally populated districts. Thank you very much.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thirty-four.

8 MR. BUNTINE: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My
9 name is Bill Buntine. I'm the president of the Second
10 Amendment Club of America and I live in Pasco County.
11 First I'd like to thank you. I know it's been a long day
12 so I'll keep my remarks brief and let you get out of here
13 tonight, I promise you that.

14 First, I want to correct the people of Pasco that
15 spoke before me. We have four Representatives, not three.
16 I mean, David Russell is a Representative, he's serving.
17 Am I right, Gus?

18 REPRESENTATIVE BILIRAKIS: That's right.

19 MR. BUNTINE: Okay. But on that issue, I'd like to
20 see that seat cut and go to Hernando County because it only
21 encompasses a small part of northern Pasco and I think the
22 residents would be well served by having three
23 representatives in Pasco County.

24 Now a lot of people came up here and never thought
25 Pasco is the 11th largest county in the state now and we're

1 growing and we do need our own Senate seat. And
 2 respectfully, Jack, you know how I feel about you and the
 3 rest of the delegation in Pasco. You treat us with honesty
 4 and fairness and there's no question about that. And we
 5 respect you for that and I come to Tallahassee and I
 6 couldn't be more pleased. I don't remember a hearing in
 7 1991. I don't know what happened.

8 Now I want to come to the critical issue and please
 9 listen to me on this and pay attention to this,
 10 Representatives. This has to do with our Congressional
 11 district. We have a Congressional district in Pasco County
 12 that runs from Gainesville all the way to Holiday. Holiday
 13 borders with Pinellas. Now if I didn't know better, I
 14 would have thought Bill Clinton put this district together.
 15 I really mean that but I know he wasn't there in 1991.

16 So this district, we don't get proper representation
 17 and we truly need it. And I know the body up there in
 18 Tallahassee has treated everyone fairly. And I'm sure in
 19 your good wisdom you'll do a good job. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 35.

21 MR. TOWNSEND: Good evening, Chairman Byrd, members of
 22 the committee and to the legislators who serve up here in
 23 Pasco County. My name is Hugh Townsend. I come here
 24 mostly as a citizen. However, I also serve as the chairman
 25 of the Republican Executive Committee of Pasco County as

1 past. We also have Senator Victor Crist who is currently
 2 doing a wonderful job and who has most recently been
 3 elected. But we are carved up between Pinellas, Hernando,
 4 and Hillsborough County. And given the demographics and
 5 the population, I wish to see that we have our sole
 6 representation on a senatorial level.

7 Our State and House Representatives have done an
 8 excellent job and I look forward to continuing those seats.
 9 And as noted previously, we have a very unusual
 10 Congressional district that I hope to see also realigned
 11 and reapportioned in a more fair manner so as to give
 12 access to all parties to that particular Congressional seat
 13 so they do not have to travel long distances. And as for
 14 tonight, this was not indeed a long distance. I have
 15 occasion to travel down here quite a bit.

16 So I thank you for making this an open public hearing
 17 and for coming to this region and allowing the people to
 18 come forward and speak and put their views forth. And I
 19 hope you'll take it all into consideration and I look
 20 forward to an excellent job and I know we'll get the proper
 21 districting. Thank you very much and have a good evening.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 36.

23 MS. LEWNES: Good evening, Chairman, and
 24 Representatives of this committee. My name is Jacqueline
 25 Lewnes and I didn't really know I'd be speaking this

1 the vice president of the Greek Orthodox Church, St. George
 2 in Pasco County. And also I have been the previous
 3 president of the Hunter's Ridge Homeowner's Association.
 4 In all capacities, I get to hear from many, many diverse
 5 groups of both political factions.

6 What I wish to speak on tonight is the issue of
 7 creating a senatorial seat here and solely for Pasco
 8 County. We learned in the census that we had roughly
 9 345,000 residents in Pasco County. That number could
 10 easily have increased in that time. But more salient is
 11 the point that we have 25,000 new home starts already
 12 committed to the Pasco County Government Center with a bare
 13 minimum of two residents per household. We should meet the
 14 minimum standard for a senatorial seat in very sort order.

15 Much has been said about the number of
 16 Representatives. The best way to remember it is like a
 17 Thanksgiving turkey. Pasco has been carved up and passed
 18 out in so many different directions, that it's time that we
 19 consolidate. And for that reason, I come before you
 20 tonight and ask that in the redistricting that we find it
 21 possible to district a Senate seat solely in Pasco County
 22 giving all the people of Pasco County a senatorial seat
 23 that is not divided.

24 I wish to thank Senator Jack Latvala, Senator Ginny
 25 Brown-Waite for the excellent work they've done in the

1 evening but I am. Anyhow, I am representing myself as a
 2 citizen and I was asked this evening by Joan Deck who is
 3 the head of Concerned Women for America, in Pasco County,
 4 which is the largest women's group in the nation and has
 5 600,000 members nationwide if I'd speak for them also this
 6 evening. And I thank you for the wonderful job you're all
 7 doing.

8 First I'd like to say I heard some people speaking
 9 about needing committees to do this work and I really hope
 10 you wouldn't turn these meetings over to any independent
 11 committees because they're not accountable to the voting
 12 public and have them redistrict our area would be unjust to
 13 the people who elected you. You are accountable to the
 14 people who trust you to do the best job.

15 Also, I would like to speak up as a member of Pasco
 16 County and we heard a lot of gripes about people finding it
 17 inaccessible to get here this evening. I thank you for
 18 making it a centralized location. I think we all should be
 19 thankful that you're not up in Tallahassee and that you
 20 came here and we've heard lot of people from Pasco so it
 21 must not have been that impossible to do. So I thank you
 22 for that.

23 Also, to reiterate the words of Mr. Ed Collins who
 24 spoke earlier and Hugh Townsend that you heard before me,
 25 Pasco County has had a 22 percent increase in population.

1 My husband is in the new construction business and every
2 day we have new developments going in and we just keep it
3 building, building, building. And our population will keep
4 growing to 22 percent. I'm hoping that you will -- sorry,
5 I'm hoping you will consider giving us a Senate district of
6 our own in Pasco. We really do need it. And I think it's
7 very important to the people and I think the past census
8 shows it's justifiable.

9 Also, on a private note, I don't know where the lines
10 will be drawn but I hope that as many people here that
11 spoke this evening, that they will not cut us out of the
12 representation of the Honorable Michael Bilirakis. More
13 than any other Representative, he's overwhelmingly received
14 by votes not just Republicans but Democrats alike. He's
15 gone above and beyond his call of duty and Pasco loves him
16 and we don't want to lose him. And beyond that, I just
17 want to state once again we do trust your ability to do
18 what's honorable and we know you'll not just do what's fair
19 for Pasco but for all the state and I thank you again this
20 evening. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 38.

22 MS. DECK: Good evening. Thank you so much for
23 inviting us to speak to you. We (sic) are very gracious
24 and we appreciate that. I am Joan Deck of whom Jackie
25 spoke and I'm here as a citizen as well as representing

1 Concerned Women for America. Thank you so much to our
2 Representative Mike Fasano, for all the help he's given us.
3 And also for Mike Bilirakis. I hope the redistricting will
4 not cut us out of either one of these and we also urge you,
5 as so many have said, to give Pasco County a Senate seat
6 here in the state. I will not reiterate the number of
7 things. I just want to thank Jackie for speaking for our
8 group and for herself and I thank you again because I know
9 the time you spend in doing these things. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 39.

11 MS. LOGGINS: I have nothing to add to what's been
12 said already.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 40.

14 MR. RADCLIFFE: Members of the committee, my name is
15 Harold Radcliffe. I'm the mayor, serving my fifth term as
16 mayor of the town of North Redington Beach. Our town is on
17 the barrier island of Pinellas County you heard several
18 people speak of. We're in District 54. John Carassas is
19 doing an excellent job, the new kid on the block. About 12
20 years ago elected officials of the ten beach communities on
21 barrier the island got together because they had common
22 problems and we formed a group called the Barrier Islands
23 Governmental Council, very nice acronym, Big C. And we
24 have worked diligently. I happen to be a charter member of
25 that group and been on it ever since it was formed.

1 We do not want our work that we have done over these
2 many years of consolidating, of the problems and solving
3 the problems that we have which are common to all of us.
4 You can mention things such as renourishment and former
5 Representative Dennis Jones, he's still there, did a
6 yeoman's job as you-all know in the Legislature. And we
7 wish to continue this on. And I think it would be very,
8 very bad if the ten beach communities were split in order
9 to throw a few onto the mainland and across the bay as
10 someone else mentioned. As someone else mentioned, our
11 district does include the barrier island but it also does
12 include some of the mainland. So I ask you to look at it
13 very carefully. It is ten municipalities which can be one
14 group in purpose. And I ask you to keep the division -- to
15 keep those ten together however you finally split it up.
16 Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Number 41.

18 MS. STAMBAUJE: Good afternoon. I'm Debbie Stambauje.
19 I'm the president and CEO of the Tampa Bay Beaches' Chamber
20 of Commerce. And on behalf of our 1100 members and Florida
21 directors, and our ten beach communities, I'm here tonight
22 to ask you not to change District 54 on the beach.

23 As there are large amounts of tourists here in the
24 Chamber in Pinellas County, we encompass 24 miles of
25 beaches serving ten beachfront communities from Belleair to

1 St. Pete Beach. Although our Chamber's prime mission is
2 tourism and putting heads in beds, our Chamber takes on an
3 active role to work hand in hand with our city and county
4 government on issues that do and will affect us in the
5 future.

6 Because tourism is our number one industry in Pinellas
7 County, the beaches are the economic engine that drive the
8 Tampa Bay area. As Pinellas County's population continues
9 to grow and more and more visitors chose to become
10 permanent residents in our already built-out beach
11 communities, we are -- it will be very important for our
12 chain of islands to face more and more challenge. Although
13 the following issues affect the entire county, the beach
14 communities are by far impacted the most.

15 Issues like beach cleanup, beach renourishment,
16 transportation issues for residents, employees, and
17 tourists. Economical, environmental, and ecological
18 issues. FEMA, coastal construction line issues, utility
19 issues such as water, trash, and disposal. Natural and
20 manmade disasters like hurricanes and oil spills. And most
21 of all, our ability to continue to be a premier vacation
22 destination. These are the common threads that link our
23 beach communities. It's imperative we continue to have one
24 district and representation that will speak directly for
25 today's and tomorrow's issues and we hope John will

1 continue to be that representation. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Forty-two.

3 MS. RILEY: Good evening. I'm Nancy Riley and 41
4 years ago I moved to Pinellas County. And as Republican
5 state committeewoman for Pinellas County, I have to tell
6 you I'm excited as heck that for the first time in modern
7 history that this once-in-a-decade opportunity is taking
8 place with a Republican Legislature in both chambers, so
9 I'm very excited about that.

10 I would like to speak to you about the United States
11 Congressional seat. In Pinellas County, we're extremely
12 blessed to have two great, wonderful Congressmen serving
13 us, Congressman Bilirakis and Congressman Bill Young. I
14 live in District 602, I live in Feather Sound. And if you
15 look at the map, we're off surrounded by water and it
16 continues with St. Petersburg on both sides. We're in an
17 unincorporated area. We have a Clearwater address.
18 St. Petersburg phone, Largo water and sewer. So we're kind
19 of all spread around there. But because we do have the
20 address of Clearwater, people think of us as Clearwater.

21 But we're very close to St. Petersburg and I
22 understand that with your count that the bottom part,
23 District 10 I guess, has to gain some constituents and nine
24 must lose some. So I'm offering to you that Feather Sound
25 that's clearly to the east and south of the district would

1 be considered to go into Congressman Bilirakis' district.
2 Also, I'm a Realtor. So if you have any concerns or
3 questions about where the neighborhoods are, which cities
4 are connected and where neighborhoods are, ask a Realtor,
5 we'd be happy to help you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 43.

7 MR. DONALDSON: Good evening. I want to thank the
8 committee for the opportunity to have this hearing. We
9 want to say we're also gracious that these hearings are
10 open. We hope that they will continue even after the lines
11 are drawn. Couple of things we want to address. One is
12 House District 55. We do not think Pinellas County should
13 be attached to Hillsborough County as a result of the two
14 roads and I think that's a shame. And we understand what
15 that is about.

16 The other is the Senate district. Senate District 21
17 should not be one where one would need a helicopter in
18 order to run in that district. If you want to be a
19 candidate in Senate District 21, if you look at the
20 district as it's presently drawn on a map, you will need a
21 helicopter to be able to campaign. So we appreciate giving
22 consideration for both those items in talking about
23 reapportionment. Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Forty-four.

25 MR. LAWTON: Good evening, I'm Dwight Lawton from

1 south St. Petersburg. And the gentleman before me covered
2 what I was going to say about 55, District 55. And Senate
3 District 21. I won't repeat that.

4 Reapportionment has been said many ways, I think it
5 needs to be repeated this late in the afternoon. It means
6 who gets elected. And in 1978 -- or 1998 rather, 7 of 21
7 Senate seats were contested. In 1998 only 47 of 120 seats
8 in the House were contested. So that means to me that's
9 not representative government and has to do with what's
10 happening with this gerrymandering. Districts that are
11 distorted such as 55 and 21 and others that you heard about
12 certainly confuse the voters. I get confused as to who my
13 Representative is. And it makes it very expensive and
14 difficult for these candidates to campaign. And they -- I
15 think it's a great difficulty that they represent their
16 constituents.

17 I am really concerned to keep the openness of this
18 going on, that the public needs availability as has been
19 mentioned before for the software and to how this process
20 is going forward and we definitely need time between --
21 after we do markup. So we're going to have to have two
22 more workshops in my opinion if we're going to find out
23 about what's going on and keep in touch with that. I
24 myself, if I were you, I would certainly hope that this
25 17-member commission becomes a valid issue and it's voted

1 for because I think that's the only way I'll have any
2 confidence that the proper job was done. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Forty-five. Forty-five.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Good evening. Hello.
5 Everybody asleep? My name is Earnest Williams. I'm a city
6 councilman with the city of St. Petersburg. Welcome to
7 Pinellas County. Many of my friends I see sitting on the
8 panel here today and we've had an opportunity to work
9 together. We're very appreciative of you being here and
10 holding these hearings.

11 Let me tell you what I'd like to see happen. One of
12 the things I'd like to see happen in this process is that
13 we continue the effort of diversity. Diversity, I think,
14 is the strength of this state. So as you deliberate in
15 terms of drawing districts, I hope that you'll keep that in
16 mind that African-Americans, women, Asians, Hispanics and
17 others make up this wonderful great state that we have here
18 and that you look at that as part of what you are putting
19 together here so that we continue that.

20 This issue is not really a political or partisan issue
21 but it is a people issue. It is about what is best for the
22 state of Florida. We're beginning to look at global
23 issues. I just got back from Japan and one of the things I
24 talked about was the region, not just my city. That's what
25 I hope you will do when you make your deliberations, that

1 you will talk about what is best for the state of Florida
2 as we move into the 21st century. Because what you do here
3 will have a tremendous impact on our future. Florida is
4 valuable all over the state. It is not just politics, it's
5 about what is best for the people and the economy of this
6 state. So I'm hoping that you will look at this and also
7 will work with many of the coalitions that are out there
8 that have worked with you in the past and that you will
9 take that into consideration in your deliberations. Thank
10 you for being here and have a good evening.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Number 46.

12 MR. BUSSELL: Good afternoon to the committee and each
13 of you who has this task of redrawing 25 Congressional
14 districts, 120 House seats and 40 Senate districts in a
15 state where everybody wants their own. You have a
16 tremendous chore. I am Leon Bussell. I'm the chairperson
17 of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP branch's
18 Redistricting Committee. I have a written statement that
19 I'll leave with you. But I would ask that this committee
20 do a couple of things for us.

21 And one of those things, quite frankly, is this
22 committee offer us the same openness and opportunity to
23 work with you in developing districts that we had in 1991
24 and '92. It's very important that input from every area of
25 this state be allowed to take place in all of the

1 discussions that go on and I think that last time was a
2 very good example of how that can work when it's allowed
3 to.

4 Secondly, I would ask that as you look at redrawing
5 the political map of the state of Florida that as you look
6 at what we did the last time you remember the phrase, No
7 regression. It's extremely important for us for those
8 voters, those communities that were actually given an
9 opportunity the last go-around to elect candidates of their
10 choice that they retain that opportunity as we go forward
11 with this round of redistricting. And I would remind us
12 that last time we were talking about an endless opportunity
13 for some of you. This time there is term limits. And so
14 when we say to you very seriously, Think beyond your term,
15 think about the future, that you do that.

16 Finally, I hope that you would consider foremost in
17 your deliberations the fact that your job is to provide an
18 opportunity for every voter to have an opportunity to elect
19 candidates of their choice to public office and that as you
20 draw those districts you keep that in mind. You keep in
21 mind the philosophy that everybody ought to have that
22 opportunity to influence the election of people that they
23 chose to elective office. Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Now ladies and gentlemen, we
25 conclude the public testimony. And at this time, we would

1 ask if any of the members of the committees would like to
2 make a statement. And I think we'll begin with any of the
3 members of the Pinellas delegation. I think John Carassas,
4 Representative Carassas, should make a statement. You're
5 recognized.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CARASSAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Had some good supporters in the room tonight. Thank you.
8 I think we are on the right track here, the public meetings
9 and public input, and I am proud to be a part of it here in
10 Pinellas County. I know how hard a lot of the other
11 members have worked going around our great state to listen
12 to the public.

13 I think commonality of communities, commonality of
14 interests is something that we should look at and I think
15 it's something we will look at. I think we've heard that
16 today notwithstanding the folks from my own beach district
17 which I appreciate coming out. I think we've heard that by
18 a lot of other districts, senatorial districts in our area
19 and Congressional.

20 I just thank you, Johnnie Byrd, for the opportunity to
21 speak today and thank you for the opportunity to speak
22 before my constituents.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative.
24 Representative Peterman.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PETERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

1 would like to say that this is really a great opportunity
2 for folks to come out and express themselves. And what I
3 really enjoy about this is the fact that many of the
4 diverse citizens and what they want and I think that's
5 extremely important. As we go through this process the
6 word "fairness," that word is really an important part,
7 that we are fair in looking at each legislative district,
8 especially in the Pinellas County area. So I want to thank
9 the group for coming, my colleagues, and the folks who came
10 out today. Want to move forward as one group here in the
11 state of Florida.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you Representative.
13 Representative Waters.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Thank you, Chairman Byrd. I
15 just wanted to share with the public that my House seat,
16 District 51, my office received quite a few phone calls and
17 correspondence either through the mail or E-mail on the
18 redistricting process. So lots of folks are getting their
19 input to the legislators other than coming in person and I
20 appreciate that and I ask that as many folks do that that
21 want to. I welcome it with open arms. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Other members?
23 Other members? All right. We'll stand adjourned. Thank
24 you.

25 (Hearing adjourned at 7:05 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA:

3 COUNTY OF LEON:

4 I, KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, Court Reporter, certify that I
5 was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing
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8 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.

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10 KRISTEN L. BENTLEY
11 Court Reporter
12 Division of Administrative Hearings
13 The DeSoto Building
14 1230 Apalachee Parkway
15 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060
16 (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675
17 Fax Filing (850) 921-6847
18 www.doah.state.fl.us
19
20
21
22
23
24
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