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REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 1, 2001 - 5:00 P.M.

BROWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CENTRAL CAMPUS  
DAVIE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

MONA L. WHIDDON

COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE  
2 SENATOR SKIP CAMPBELL  
3 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN  
4 SENATOR MANDY DAWSON  
5 SENATOR ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA  
6 SENATOR STEVEN A. GELLER  
7 SENATOR RON KLEIN  
8 SENATOR JACK LATVALA  
9 SENATOR DEBBY P. SANDERSON  
10 SENATOR RONALD A. SILVER  
11 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ  
12 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER  
13 REPRESENTATIVE FRANK ATTKISSON  
14 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL  
15 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL  
16 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK  
17 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART  
18 REPRESENTATIVE ANDY GARDINER  
19 REPRESENTATIVE KENNETH ALLAN GOTTLIEB  
20 REPRESENTATIVE RON L. GREENSTEIN  
21 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER  
22 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE  
23 REPRESENTATIVE CONNIE MACK  
24 REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW J. MEADOWS  
25 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY G. MELVIN  
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1 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN  
2 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN  
3 REPRESENTATIVE NAN H. RICH  
4 REPRESENTATIVE STACY J. RITTER  
5 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY M. RYAN  
6 REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH  
7 REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR SOBEL  
8 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN  
9 REPRESENTATIVE ROGER B. WISHNER  
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1 PROCEEDINGS  
2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Before we begin the meeting, we  
3 would like to recognize the fact that this is the central  
4 campus of Broward Community College, and we have the  
5 president here that would like to give a welcoming  
6 statement. And Dr. Holton, you are recognized.  
7 DR. HOLTON: Thank you. I take instruction well.  
8 Thank you, Senator Webster. Welcome again, Senators and  
9 Representatives to, this is central campus, at Broward  
10 Community College. You are on the newest campus this  
11 morning and this is the oldest campus of B.C.C. We  
12 appreciate your effort, the time that you are giving to  
13 this important exercise here today. But we also appreciate  
14 your support for the community college system of Florida.  
15 We are committed to working to put Florida back to work and  
16 to help us get through these tough economic times, Senator.  
17 Thank you. Dr. Patricia Caldwell is the Provost to this  
18 campus. She may be back doing work backstage. But she is  
19 the one along with Barbara Pitman who deserves the credit  
20 for setting things up. Thank you.  
21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Good evening. I'm Daniel Webster,  
22 State Senator from District 12 and chairman of the Senate  
23 Reapportionment Committee. It's my pleasure to welcome you  
24 to this public hearing, one of many we're holding  
25 throughout Florida this summer and fall. Let me first  
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1 explain the procedure we'll be using for this hearing.  
2 This is a public. This is a public hearing, the sole  
3 purpose of which is to hear from the public on matters of  
4 redistricting. This is not a committee meeting. We will  
5 not be taking legislative action in this or subsequent  
6 public hearings. Instead, this is the public's forum where  
7 we have the opportunity to receive citizen input about  
8 their electoral districts.  
9 It's not a time for legislative debate. All  
10 Representatives and Senators will be given numerous  
11 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and on floor  
12 debates to address the members' concerns or wishes. Today,  
13 however, is for our constituents. We must not diminish  
14 their voice by taking up valuable time in debate.  
15 Following my brief remarks Counsel will give a general  
16 overview of legal considerations in redistricting. Staff  
17 will then provide some specific information about the  
18 census results in this region and the state. The rest is  
19 reserved for you, the citizens.  
20 Every ten years after the completion of the United  
21 States census, national census, the Constitution requires  
22 that the Florida Legislature redraw the boundaries for all  
23 the Florida House, Florida Senate, and United States  
24 Congressional districts. This Legislature will take up  
25 this task in the next legislative session which begins  
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1 January 22nd, 2002 and will end March 22nd, 2002. The  
 2 results of that redistricting will be used in the election  
 3 in November of 2002.

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

13 To encourage the public participation, Senate  
 14 President John McKay, House Speaker Tom Feeney have  
 15 scheduled 24 public hearings throughout the state. All  
 16 members of the Legislature's Redistricting Committee as  
 17 well as the local delegation members have been invited to  
 18 these public hearings.

19 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool  
 20 for public input and will broadcast select hearings on  
 21 Florida's public television stations. The web address for  
 22 the House and the Senate legislative redistricting are  
 23 available at the information table. A link will also be  
 24 available from the Florida web site.

25 The redistricting plan for the State House and State  
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1 Senate will pass in the form of a joint resolution. It  
 2 will not be subject to the Governor's approval or veto but  
 3 it will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court.

4 The plan determining Congressional districts will not  
 5 be reviewed by the Supreme Court but will be subject to the  
 6 Governor's approval or veto. I encourage everyone to  
 7 carefully review the 2000 Census, it is the essential  
 8 building block on which Florida's redistricting plans will  
 9 be built. The address for the United States census web  
 10 site is available at the information table.

11 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We  
 12 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us  
 13 craft your legislative district. We also encourage written  
 14 submissions in addition to the testimony during public  
 15 hearings. Everyone wishing to speak must fill out a  
 16 speaker's card, it's the only way we'll know who wishes to  
 17 speak, and after the meeting, we'll know who spoke.  
 18 Speaker's cards are available at the sign-in table.

19 We want to hear from as many people as possible,  
 20 therefore, we must limit comments to four minutes for each  
 21 person. On behalf of Senate President John McKay, House  
 22 Speaker Tom Feeney, and the members of the Florida  
 23 Legislature, I look forward to working with you on this  
 24 historic and important task.

25 At this time, I would like to recognize Richard Perez  
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1 who is the House counsel on redistricting. Mr. Perez, you  
 2 are recognized.

3 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record,  
 4 my name is Richard A. Perez and I'm counsel to the Florida  
 5 House of Representatives for reapportionment and  
 6 redistricting matters. I'm here together with my  
 7 colleague, Senator Jim Scott, who is counsel for the  
 8 Florida Senate. I will be giving you a brief overview of  
 9 the law regarding reapportionment and redistricting for the  
 10 benefit of the members as well as the public.

11 This presentation is by no means intended to be a  
 12 comprehensive or complete review of the issues relating to  
 13 the topic, but it is intended to give all of you an  
 14 introduction to the basic principles and constraints that  
 15 will guide the decision-making of our State Legislature as  
 16 it proceeds with this very important task.

17 The task of reapportionment and redistricting is the  
 18 process of dividing residents of a jurisdiction, in this  
 19 case, the residents of the entire state of Florida, into  
 20 different electoral seats or districts. Reapportionment  
 21 and redistricting are Constitutional requirements of both  
 22 the Florida Constitution and the United States  
 23 Constitution, require this process to commence every ten  
 24 years after the census.

25 Because of Florida's population increase over the last  
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1 ten years, Florida will have two additional members in the  
 2 United States Congress, a total of 25 seats. Therefore,  
 3 with regards to Congressional districting, the State  
 4 Legislature will need to create 25 separate, contiguous  
 5 districts to cover the entire state, one for each of those  
 6 members of Congress.

7 The Legislature will also need to divide the state  
 8 into 40 State Senate Districts and 120 State House of  
 9 Representative Districts. Although the Legislature may, if  
 10 they choose to, reduce the number of State Senate and House  
 11 Districts to as low as 30 and 80, respectively.

12 The Florida Constitution also requires that State  
 13 House and Senate Districts be consecutively numbered and  
 14 either, quote, contiguous, overlapping, or identical in  
 15 territory. Commencing with this public hearing process,  
 16 the State Legislature will begin considering the opinion of  
 17 Florida's citizens. Then legislative committees will  
 18 convene this fall, and beginning in January the full  
 19 Legislature will begin the process of developing and  
 20 considering different districting plans. The regular  
 21 session ends in March 2002.

22 Although the legislative process can be concluded in  
 23 the regular session for redistricting, the Constitution  
 24 does provide, the Florida Constitution, does provide for  
 25 additional sessions and review processes in the event that  
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1 the work of the Legislature on redistricting is not  
 2 completed within the regular session.  
 3 For example, the Florida Constitution requires the  
 4 Governor to reconvene the Legislature in a special session  
 5 in the event that redistricting plans are not adopted in  
 6 the regular session. This special session on redistricting  
 7 shall not exceed 30 consecutive days. From here, the  
 8 process becomes a little more tedious and technical. But  
 9 let me attempt to explain them by talking about the  
 10 Congressional process first and then the State legislative  
 11 process.  
 12 If during the regular session reapportionment plans  
 13 are adopted by the Legislature for Congress, the Governor  
 14 has the opportunity to approve or veto those plans. Under  
 15 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which we will discuss  
 16 further in a minute, the Justice Department of the United  
 17 States Federal District Court for the District of Columbia  
 18 must also review certain parts of the plan in a process  
 19 known as preclearance.  
 20 Now, with respect to the State House and Senate  
 21 districts. If the Legislature adopts redistricting plans,  
 22 then 15 days after passage, the Florida Attorney General is  
 23 required to petition the Florida Supreme Court for a  
 24 determination of the validity of the Legislature's plan.  
 25 If the Florida Supreme Court declares the Legislature's  
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1 plan to be invalid, then the Constitution requires that  
 2 within five days of such determination the Governor must  
 3 reconvene the Legislature in an extraordinary session of no  
 4 more than 15 days, at which session the Legislature adopts  
 5 a joint resolution conforming to the judgment of the  
 6 Florida Supreme Court.  
 7 Assuming the regular and special sessions end without  
 8 the adoption of a redistricting plan for the State  
 9 Legislature, the Attorney General must petition the Florida  
 10 Supreme Court to commence deliberations on the  
 11 establishment of a redistricting plan. Within 60 days of  
 12 this petition, the Florida Supreme Court must file an order  
 13 setting forth such a redistricting plan. As with  
 14 Congressional redistricting, there must also be a  
 15 preclearance analysis on selected portions of Florida's  
 16 plan.  
 17 In effect, to recap, the two different processes with  
 18 respect to Congressional redistricting, the Governor is  
 19 empowered by the Constitution to sign or veto the bill,  
 20 subject, of course, to legislative override. With respect  
 21 to State redistricting, it is the State Supreme Court and  
 22 not the Governor that will review the plan and determine  
 23 its validity.  
 24 Now, let's talk a little bit about redistricting  
 25 principles. In adopting a redistricting plan, the  
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1 Legislature will be guided by several factors. First, the  
 2 principle of one person, one vote. And, second, the  
 3 requirements of the United States Constitution and Federal  
 4 Statutes.  
 5 The principle commonly referred to as one person, one  
 6 vote, developed from a series of landmark United States  
 7 Supreme Court cases in the 1960s. Generally, this  
 8 principle stands for the proposition that each person's  
 9 vote should count as much as anyone else's vote.  
 10 In the context of redistricting this principle was  
 11 used to defeat the practice of several states in  
 12 maintaining districts for legislative offices that were  
 13 substantially different in population. The Supreme Court  
 14 concluded that significant disparities in district  
 15 population resulted in each vote in the district with  
 16 smaller population actually carrying more weight than the  
 17 vote of those in the larger districts. In effect, the one  
 18 person, one vote standard forbids major disparities in the  
 19 creation of Congressional and State Legislative Districts.  
 20 For Congressional Districts, the courts have  
 21 instituted the strictest standard. As rule of the thumb,  
 22 the population among different districts in one state  
 23 should be substantially less than 1 percent overall  
 24 deviation. Deviation is analyzed based on the concept of  
 25 ideal district size. For example, in the case of Florida,  
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1 if you take the state's total population and divide it by  
 2 25 Congressional Districts, the resulting number would be  
 3 the ideal size for each district in the state.  
 4 Again, Congressional districts should then be drawn to  
 5 be well within 1 percent of this ideal number. For State  
 6 Legislative districts, the courts have permitted a greater  
 7 deviation among districts and the courts have accepted  
 8 differences between districts of up to 10 percent total  
 9 deviation in certain circumstances.  
 10 Other important standards that factor into the  
 11 Legislature's consideration are set forth in the Voting  
 12 Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection Clause of the  
 13 United States Constitution. Section 2 of the Voting Rights  
 14 Act prohibits any practice or procedure including certain  
 15 redistricting practices that impair the ability of a  
 16 minority community to elect candidates of choice on an  
 17 equal basis with nonminority voters. Another section of  
 18 the Voting Rights Act, Section 5, applies to certain  
 19 jurisdictions that have previously met the criteria for  
 20 this type of review.  
 21 The courts have stated that Section 2 and Section 5 of  
 22 the Voting Rights Act entail a different processes of  
 23 analysis. Under Section 5, covered jurisdictions are  
 24 required to submit any proposed change to their practices  
 25 or procedures affecting voting, including any changes to  
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1 election districts resulting from redistricting for  
 2 approval by either the Attorney General of the United  
 3 States or the Federal District of the District of Columbia  
 4 prior to their implementation. This process is known as  
 5 preclearance.  
 6 In Florida, the covered jurisdictions include Collier,  
 7 Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe Counties. The vast  
 8 majority of preclearance requests are made directly to the  
 9 United State's Attorney General's Office and not through  
 10 the court process.  
 11 Preclearance is obtained through the Attorney  
 12 General's Office if the Attorney General effectively  
 13 indicates that the office has no objection to the change  
 14 or, if at the expiration of 60 days from submission, no  
 15 objection to the submitted change has been made by the  
 16 Attorney General.  
 17 Whether it is through the court proceeding or the  
 18 administrative process, through the Attorney General's  
 19 Office, the covered jurisdiction bears the burden of  
 20 demonstrating that the proposed voting change, quote, does  
 21 not have the purpose or will not have the effect of denying  
 22 or abridging the right to vote on account of race, or  
 23 color, or membership in a language minority group. The  
 24 analysis performed under Section 5 is also at times called  
 25 a retrogression analysis.  
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1 In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as some of us know well,  
 2 the legal rules regarding the redistricting and  
 3 reapportionment process are indeed complex. And this short  
 4 presentation can only provide very general guidance on some  
 5 of the delicate legal issues that will apply to the  
 6 process, some of which have not been fully decided by the  
 7 Courts. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my Senate colleagues  
 8 and the House legal team, we thank you for the opportunity  
 9 to make this presentation.  
 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Perez. At this  
 11 time, I would like to recognize Todd Thomson who is the  
 12 staff director for the House redistricting and Procedural  
 13 Council for some information about the 2000 Census  
 14 regarding the state and also this particular area. Mr.  
 15 Thomson.  
 16 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the  
 17 Chairman said, I'll give a brief overview of the Florida  
 18 census and then give a brief overview of the Broward County  
 19 area.  
 20 First of all, Florida's population has grown  
 21 dramatically over the past ten years. According to the  
 22 2000 Census, Florida has just under 16 million people and  
 23 has grown by over 3 million since the 1990 census. Florida  
 24 has grown at a rate of 23 and a half percent over the last  
 25 ten years. And as a result of this growth, Florida has  
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1 gained two new Congressional seats and a grand total now of  
 2 25.  
 3 The five most populous counties in Florida are  
 4 Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach, each having over a  
 5 million. Hillsborough and Pinellas, each over 900,000.  
 6 Flagler County experienced the fastest rate of growth  
 7 in the state of Florida over the last ten years at a 73.6  
 8 percent rate of growth. The top five counties and  
 9 percentage rate of growth over the last ten years are  
 10 Flagler, Sumter, Collier, Wakulla, and Osceola.  
 11 Jacksonville remained Florida's most populous city with a  
 12 population of just over 735,000. The five most populous  
 13 cities in the state of Florida are Jacksonville, Miami,  
 14 Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Hialeah.  
 15 The minority population in Florida has grown over the  
 16 last ten years. The African-American population in the  
 17 state of Florida is now over 2.3 million or 14.6 percent of  
 18 the state population. And the Hispanic population in  
 19 Florida is just under 2.7 million, which has actually  
 20 surpassed the African-American population as the largest  
 21 minority in the State of Florida. And the Hispanic  
 22 population makes up 16.8 percent of the state's population.  
 23 The median age in Florida has risen over the past ten  
 24 years to 38.7 years. This is an increase from 36.3 years  
 25 in 1990. Aged 65 plus, our seniors, are our most valuable  
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1 asset. And according to the 2000 Census we now have over  
 2 2.8 million Floridians age 65 and above. And while this is  
 3 an increase of over 400,000 since 1990, the actual  
 4 percentage of the population aged 65 and over has decreased  
 5 from 18.3 percent to 17.6 percent.  
 6 As Mr. Perez touched upon, the ideal population per  
 7 district is based on the total population of the state  
 8 divided by the number of districts within each chamber. In  
 9 the State House, 120 House districts, an ideal population  
 10 will be just over 133,000 people. An ideal State Senate  
 11 District with 40 districts would have just under 400,000  
 12 people per district. And an ideal population for a  
 13 Congressional District would be just over 639,000 people  
 14 per district.  
 15 Now, I'll give you a brief overview of the Broward  
 16 County area and its population growth. According to the  
 17 2000 Census, Broward County's population is now over 1.6  
 18 million people. This is a 29.3 percent increase over 1990  
 19 so Broward County hasn't grown faster than the state on  
 20 average. And the Fort Lauderdale population, according to  
 21 the 2000 Census, is just over 152,000 people.  
 22 Miami-Dade population, just over 2.25 million people.  
 23 According to the 2000 Census, this is a 16.3 percent  
 24 increase over 1990. And Monroe County population is now  
 25 just at 80,000. This is a 2 percent increase over 1990.  
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1 And Monroe County is Florida's slowest growing county in  
2 terms of percentage rate of growth of population.

3 You can find all this information and more at the  
4 Florida redistricting web sites which you can find at the  
5 information desk. The web addresses are at the information  
6 desk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen,  
8 as I stated earlier, we will be using speaker cards and  
9 these cards are available to you at the sign-in table. If  
10 you are going to speak, you need to fill out one of these.  
11 There also is a number in the lower right-hand corner which  
12 will be the number by which you will be speaking, so we  
13 will call you in ascending order.

14 We are also going to have some chairs up here, which  
15 would be -- and if you'll watch the screen, it will give  
16 you the next ten people to be on stage. That way, we can  
17 hurry to this particular microphone. Also, if you have a  
18 handicap of any kind and would need assistance to come onto  
19 the stage, if you'll see some of the staff on your right of  
20 the stage, they could assist you. If you can't do that,  
21 then we do have a microphone on the floor level that you  
22 could speak from. So just let us know. And then the  
23 screen will have the one that we will be calling. I'll  
24 also call you by number.

25 If you will come and you'll give your name and then  
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1 just begin to speak and we'll time you. We will give you  
2 the four minutes but we will let you know about 20 seconds  
3 before it is to run out that you need to wrap up. If you  
4 want to speak and you haven't signed up, you can get these,  
5 like I said, at the sign-in table.

6 We would also welcome any written information or  
7 submission you might have. If you have some in addition to  
8 your testimony, you can put it on this chair in front. If  
9 you have any handouts, be sure to put those there also to  
10 make sure that people get them. We appreciate you coming  
11 and we'll start by asking the first ten people, Numbers 1  
12 through 10, if you can come up on stage. But I'll call on  
13 Number 1 to begin his presentation.

14 And while we are doing that, we have an announcement  
15 from the Broward County delegation chairman, Representative  
16 Ritter. Representative Ritter, you are recognized.

17 REPRESENTATIVE RITTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First  
18 of all, I want to welcome the members of the committee to  
19 Broward County and let the members of the audience know  
20 that the Broward delegation has furnished refreshments for  
21 those of you in the audience on the upper level this  
22 afternoon. It's out the doors and to your right.

23 Secondly, many of you attended this morning's public  
24 hearing not far from here. I would like to let you know  
25 that if you have spoken this morning and put your comments  
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1 on the record it is not necessary for you to speak again  
2 this afternoon. Of course you are welcome to do so, but  
3 your comments are already on the record. And to prevent  
4 the duplication of your efforts, it isn't necessary for you  
5 to speak again this afternoon. Thank you very much. Thank  
6 you, Mr. Speaker.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: All right. Number 1.

8 MS. RALSTON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,  
9 distinguished committee members. My name is Ann Ralston.  
10 And it is a different speech. Well, this morning's record  
11 is different and I also feel tolerant, not quite so  
12 vertically challenged and more came out than this morning.

13 This is the second of the two meetings I attended so I  
14 can get eight minutes to participate in this democratic  
15 process. The use of my four minutes is dedicated to this  
16 very democratic process called redistricting. One noted  
17 interest is the fact that the meetings for Broward County  
18 are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. when the public goes to work and  
19 5:00 p.m. when they are just getting out of work and into  
20 rush-hour traffic.

21 Anyone having small children knows that dinner doesn't  
22 wait while Mom or Dad exercises their rights to address the  
23 government. And I want to stress "their government"  
24 because that's exactly what they are, what you-all are,  
25 their government. Each one of you got elected by us, the  
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1 public, based on what you say, believe, and do. And I am  
2 sorry to say that several elected officials say and do  
3 things quite differently before the election process than  
4 after getting into office.

5 I work hard for representation that does the right  
6 thing before and after an election. Although I cannot vote  
7 for Mark Weissman, Nan Rich, Eleanor Sobel, Debbie  
8 Wasserman-Schultz, Skip Campbell and others, I feel they  
9 best serve the interest of not only their community but  
10 Florida as a whole? Because of this district, I have and  
11 will continue to work hard to get them reelected because  
12 they do the right thing before and after being elected.

13 I can call these Representatives even though I can't  
14 vote for them and they do respond. How many of you respond  
15 to voters outside your district? Do you represent all of  
16 Florida or only those who can vote for you? Districts  
17 limit my voice to just two state-elected officials, Ken  
18 Gottlieb and Steve Geller, both are easily accessible,  
19 listen to their constituents, and work hard to fulfill the  
20 needs of their community. All of the above mentioned  
21 Representatives are dedicated to issues especially  
22 important in Broward County; education, children's issues  
23 and elder affairs.

24 Overcrowding, as we can see by the census, Broward has  
25 grown tremendously and the overcrowding in our schools is a  
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1 major issue. The budget, of course, and the condition that  
 2 it's in, education always seems to be the first to go.  
 3 Having said that, I implore you-all to schedule meetings  
 4 after these two public hearings to let the public see the  
 5 recommended new districts so we may, again, put our two  
 6 cents' worth in and have a say on critical matters that  
 7 will affect us for the next ten years.  
 8 Please expand my voice throughout the state, not just  
 9 to two districts. Leave Broward County districts alone so  
 10 that I may continue to enjoy the wonderful working  
 11 relationships that I've established. For now my voice is  
 12 heard beyond the confines of my district. Reducing  
 13 districts will limit our voices even more. Thank you.  
 14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 2.  
 15 MR. MERKL: Good afternoon. Thank you very much for  
 16 creating this opportunity to speak to the questions of  
 17 redistricting. My name is Jack Merkl. I am a Republican  
 18 candidate who is exploring the unseating of the honorable  
 19 Robert Wexler in District 19 of Florida. Redistricting is  
 20 key to this effort.  
 21 On September 5th, I presented a quantitative  
 22 redistricting plan to this group. I do not plan to repeat  
 23 that presentation today. Instead, I wish to speak to two  
 24 related issues. The first one is, Should there be more  
 25 public hearings once the Legislature draws preliminary  
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1 maps? My suggestion is, no. More on that in a minute.  
 2 Question No. 2, Should the Legislature established  
 3 criteria to evaluate alternative maps? My suggestion is  
 4 yes. Speaking to the first question, I oppose more  
 5 hearings after the Legislature draws preliminary maps  
 6 because it will prolong an already long process and delay  
 7 active campaigning. Furthermore, it is the Legislature's  
 8 job, and especially the Republicans in the Legislature, to  
 9 do this redistricting job. It is not a public job. We  
 10 might have that in Vermont or in Switzerland, but this is a  
 11 representative democracy here.  
 12 On the second question, I do favor the use and  
 13 publication of criteria to evaluate alternative maps. This  
 14 will make the Legislature's work more transparent and  
 15 reduce court delays that inevitably can be expected. I  
 16 suggest the following four points, as a first draft of the  
 17 criteria. As a first draft of the criteria for  
 18 redistricting the U.S. Congress, they are in order of  
 19 importance: First is, of course, to meet the legal  
 20 requirements. Some of these are simple, like making all  
 21 districts equal in population. Others are more complex  
 22 like maximizing minority voter power, which is required by  
 23 the 1965 Voting Rights Act.  
 24 Second -- and these, by the way, are in order of  
 25 importance, the four points. Give incumbent Republican  
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1 Congressmen an advantage of landslide proportions, that is  
 2 a 10 percentage point advantage in expected vote results.  
 3 That is the second priority, second criteria. Third, level  
 4 the playing field for Republican challenges and Democrat  
 5 majority districts.  
 6 And last, the last point is the letters, KISS, I think  
 7 that you are familiar with that, Keep it Simple. Keep it  
 8 simple as possible. It is inevitably going to be a complex  
 9 job, but I would implore you to avoid situations where one  
 10 district jumps over another or tries to adhere to precinct  
 11 lines and town lines and city lines wherever that is  
 12 possible. Thank you very much for your attention.  
 13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 3.  
 14 MR. DUNLOP: Mr. Chairman, assembled Representatives,  
 15 thank you for meeting with us this evening. I'm Randy  
 16 Dunlop from the Lauderdale Isles/Riverland area. We are in  
 17 the northeast quadrant of 595 and 441. Our neighborhood  
 18 has some serious concerns based on our political history  
 19 about this redistricting process and we are hoping that you  
 20 will take three important factors into consideration. One  
 21 of those is the continuity of a district's geography.  
 22 Mixing an eastern waterfront neighborhood such as ours  
 23 with a western suburb simply doesn't make sense. This sort  
 24 of thing leads to conflicts of interest. And we, in our  
 25 neighborhood, have suffered enough from this. We are  
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1 hoping that you will keep this in mind. And this brings us  
 2 to issue number two, be mindful of existing political  
 3 boundaries.  
 4 In the spirit of conflict of interest it is easy for a  
 5 city which has vast resources in lobbying capabilities and  
 6 influence with State and Federal Legislatures to overpower  
 7 small neighborhoods such as ours. If you were to attach  
 8 our neighborhood to a predominantly Davie or Plantation  
 9 district, our voice would not be heard. And the natural  
 10 conflict between cities in our county would create a  
 11 situation where we would, in effect, be disenfranchised.  
 12 Please keep in mind that it's important to keep the  
 13 continuity of existing city boundaries in line with these  
 14 districts that you are going to draw, to the extent that  
 15 you have the ability to do this.  
 16 Third, I think it's very important, and I speak for  
 17 our neighborhoods to the north in Melrose Park, to maintain  
 18 a core district whose ethnicity -- did I say that right --  
 19 is consistent. I think the commonality of interest that  
 20 I've seen written about so much is very important. Our  
 21 neighborhood is predominantly a waterfront neighborhood.  
 22 We want to be included with folks who have similar needs  
 23 and concerns. And although we are politically close to our  
 24 neighbors immediately to the north of us in the Melrose  
 25 Park area, they experience no such needs or interests. And  
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1 so it would not be prudent to have the same Representative  
2 take care of both neighborhoods.

3 I would like to speak now just briefly to three  
4 specific seats that we have a very strong interest in.  
5 There is a test in our neighborhood before you can move in,  
6 Jack Seiler is at one end of a bed of hot coals and you  
7 have to walk across that and shake his hand before you can  
8 move in. We are very proud of Jack. He's worked hard for  
9 us. We want to make sure that in some way we are able to  
10 keep Jack as our State Representative.

11 And in the last legislative session, all of you know  
12 who are at the State level, how hard Debby Sanderson worked  
13 for us on our annexation bill. Undoubtedly there will be a  
14 riot if we are not in her district next time around.

15 Lastly, I would like to speak to you about an issue  
16 that may be a little more difficult for you, but is  
17 incredibly important to us. On the issue of continuity of  
18 geography, the U.S. House of Representatives' person that  
19 we've seen in our district consistently over the years,  
20 even though he does not represent us, is Clay Shaw.

21 The river that runs through Fort Lauderdale runs into  
22 our neighborhood as well. Clay has stood up for us. He  
23 has stood behind us. He has worked for us. Even though we  
24 are not in his district, I have personal relationships as  
25 do many of the people in our neighborhood with he and his  
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1 I want to talk briefly about the FREDS program. Now  
2 the public has been told that the version of the State's  
3 FREDS program, the FREDS software that's now available, is  
4 a Beta version, a test version. Although, we are nearing  
5 the end of the public hearing process, it's evident that  
6 the final version will not be available for people to see  
7 and to work with. And while you are telling us what a  
8 great tool this FREDS is, you have not told us that from  
9 that software we cannot print a map. We can print the  
10 screen, but we can't print a map that's able to be  
11 submitted to you.

12 I wonder how many people in the room knew that if they  
13 used FREDS that they couldn't print out a map like that.  
14 Given how much the Republican-led Legislature has been  
15 touting the virtue of this program and why it will make  
16 this round of redistricting so much more readily accessible  
17 to the average Floridian than the last time around, I was  
18 shocked to find out that we had been misled. That if I  
19 can't print out a map that I used from FREDS and submit it  
20 to you for consideration, then what good is the program?

21 In looking over the F.A.Q.s this morning, the  
22 frequently asked questions, there are a lot of problems  
23 with the software that will cause many other problems with  
24 the software that people already have in their computers.  
25 I'm concerned that the Republican leadership in the  
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1 staff. We hope very strongly that because he represents a  
2 good portion of Fort Lauderdale, you will include us in  
3 that district. We believe that that will give us the best  
4 voice at the Federal level. How did I do? Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 4.

6 MR. FLEISCHER: Good evening. My name is Randy  
7 Fleischer. I am immediate past president of Broward County  
8 Young Democrats and I'm also the past legal counsel of the  
9 Florida Young Democrats. I live right here in Davie. And  
10 I understand the dominating force that's going to be  
11 driving this panel and I'm here to talk about preventing an  
12 almost certain abuse of power.

13 I want to remind you that this is a democratic  
14 society. That the goal of a representative government is  
15 to represent the people. This body has the means to  
16 provide the best representative government that we've ever  
17 had. We've got computer maps, we've got software. Any one  
18 of us in this room can draw maps.

19 Unfortunately, I fear that this body will promote the  
20 self-serving interests of the incumbent majority. I think  
21 that the will of the people, especially here in Broward  
22 County, is going to be ignored. You are going to ignore  
23 the input from our communities and deny a real opportunity  
24 for people to be informed and instead promote  
25 disinformation and gerrymandering for political gain.  
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1 Legislature is perpetrating a fraud on the public because  
2 FREDS doesn't tell what we can expect from the remainder of  
3 this process.

4 How can you ask the people to trust you when you pull  
5 a stunt like this? I believe that the maps are basically  
6 already drawn and the final version of FREDS is going to be  
7 used to tweak those districts to best suit the incumbent  
8 majority.

9 Given the embarrassment that we have suffered here in  
10 Broward and Florida after the November 2000 election, I and  
11 countless others like me wonder if the Republicans will be  
12 fair to Floridians and they'll do the right thing. But I  
13 feel that I'm sadly mistaken.

14 Simone Real was a French philosopher. She wrote in  
15 Gravity and Grace that evil, when we are in its power, is  
16 not felt as evil but a necessity or even a duty. I know  
17 that you are here because you have a duty to be here. But  
18 Simone Real wrote about the abuse of power and how the  
19 abusers will be overcome in time by those they have abused.  
20 In fact, what goes around does come around.

21 Ten years ago, the Democrats were the majority and  
22 they drew the districts. Now that the Republicans are in  
23 power, I believe that this majority will move unfettered to  
24 pleasure itself like dogs in the corner licking themselves  
25 because they can.  
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1 I urge you to listen to the testimony of those who  
 2 have taken the time to come here and to draw districts and  
 3 to testify based on respecting municipal and county  
 4 boundaries for communities of interest and for keeping  
 5 their incumbents together. And, again, I hope that you  
 6 will draw maps based on enfranchising the people and those  
 7 community interests and not disenfranchising Democratic  
 8 voters and our duly elected Representatives. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: What number is yours? I got them  
 10 out of order here I think. What is your number?

11 MR. VOSS: Five.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, you are recognized.

13 MR. VOSS: John Voss. Members of the Redistricting  
 14 Committee, I'm here to bring to attention some things  
 15 called history. I want to go back to our Founding Fathers  
 16 and bring to your attention that our Founding Fathers did  
 17 an awesome job in the Constitution, the framers. They made  
 18 one simple mistake, they left out the rights of a certain  
 19 select group of people. It cost us the Civil War a hundred  
 20 years later.

21 Then we go into the Reconstruction period after the  
 22 Civil War and again we left out a certain segment of our  
 23 population. And then we had the fiasco of our election  
 24 because that's where it started, after Reconstruction where  
 25 we again eliminated people from the voting.

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1 The Civil War was very costly but we did learn our  
 2 lesson because here we are today trying to develop and  
 3 protect the rights of our citizens of Florida. And I hope  
 4 that you keep this in mind, that history does and will  
 5 repeat itself. That if you don't do it right the first  
 6 time, it will come back to haunt us. And that is the  
 7 message that we have to learn from our previous founders,  
 8 our previous leaders.

9 If you do something based on fairness, if you do  
 10 something based on the right way to go something and not in  
 11 a political expediency, we have -- we have solid ground.  
 12 We have solid things that happen to our country we are very  
 13 proud of. But when we start playing games behind closed  
 14 doors, then it becomes a mishmash, chaos. And that's what  
 15 I want to bring to your attention. Several people brought  
 16 out some of my other ideas and they spoke a lot better than  
 17 I have.

18 But I just want to make sure that you understand that  
 19 it's in your hands, its' time to get beyond politics.  
 20 Please listen to the people. Understand that united we  
 21 can, divided we can't. And that's why I have got this  
 22 T-shirt on because it is telling you that we are not  
 23 Republicans in this situation, we are not Democrats in this  
 24 situation, we are Independents in this situation. We are  
 25 the people. And the people have to be heard. And we want

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1 you to reach back behind those closed doors and not come up  
 2 with closed minds. Please listen to the people and try to  
 3 do the best interest of Florida and you will find out that  
 4 you will mark your part in history.

5 The other thing that I want to point out is in my  
 6 district, 100, Eleanor Sobel does an excellent job. I just  
 7 want to make sure you understand that she's very involved  
 8 in the community. It seems like everywhere I'm at she's  
 9 there and she's very involved. And this is the kind of  
 10 representation that we need down here, and we need in  
 11 Florida. Somebody that's concerned, somebody who is  
 12 willing to do things that are necessary for our community.  
 13 And I want to thank you folks for giving me the chance to  
 14 express myself. But better than that, I want you to listen  
 15 to what I said. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 6.

17 MR. PUMILIA: Good evening. My name is Frank Pumilia.  
 18 I am a resident of the city of Margate. For the past eight  
 19 years I have served as chief examiner and chairman of the  
 20 Civil Service board. In the same period of time, I served  
 21 as the first vice-president of the Margate Association of  
 22 Condominiums representing 12,500 residents. For the past  
 23 five years, I served as the executive vice-president of the  
 24 Coalition of Florida Condominium Associations. From 1991  
 25 to 2000, I served as president and board member of Holiday

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1 Springs Condominiums 1 and 2. And for the past four years  
 2 I served as president of the Margate Democratic Club. Last  
 3 year I was elected Democratic Area Leader, District 3,  
 4 which includes the cities of Margate, Coconut Creek,  
 5 Deerfield and Pompano.

6 The purpose of my appearance here this evening is to  
 7 speak to this hearing board of the following: The laws of  
 8 our beautiful country mandate that a census of our  
 9 population be taken every decade to determine what, if any,  
 10 population change has been made in our cities, counties,  
 11 and/or states. As we all know, Federal revenue allocated  
 12 to the city, counties, and/or states, is on a per capita  
 13 basis.

14 The other important factor of the census is that the  
 15 total population of the state will determine the amount of  
 16 Congressional seats that state will have. The cities,  
 17 counties and states are also affected by population change.  
 18 Therefore, new lines are drawn so that everyone receives  
 19 equal representation at least. That is what this board  
 20 should be doing.

21 There are two different methods of drawing new lines,  
 22 one is the proper way, the other would be the improper way.  
 23 I would like to give you a scenario of what I'm alluding  
 24 to. The proper way would be to basically leave the lines  
 25 as they presently are. If a population change has been

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1 determined, you will either add to or deduct from the  
2 present lines. In so doing, you will leave that community  
3 pretty much intact. This is the acceptable way.

4 The improper way would be to dismantle the present  
5 lines and make changes that would separate the community  
6 completely. Some could misinterpret as political and call  
7 it gerrymandering. This would be unacceptable. I would  
8 further recommend that you draw these lines in the  
9 immediate future and show them to us as soon as they are  
10 done.

11 In closing, because of the terrible tragedy that  
12 occurred Tuesday, September 11, 2001, we Americans,  
13 regardless of political affiliation have changed our way of  
14 thinking and living. What seemed important before this  
15 tragedy now seems very unimportant. The most important  
16 issue today is for our President to secure peace for us,  
17 our families, our friends, and our neighbors throughout the  
18 world. All Americans must rally around our President to  
19 help him achieve this goal. Yes, it took a terrible  
20 tragedy to reunite us. I beg you, please do not do  
21 anything to jeopardize this. Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 7.

23 MR. LOCITRIE: Good evening. My name is Buddy  
24 Locitrie and I'm here representing the Broward Workshop.  
25 Broward Workshop is an organization of about 60 CEOs and  
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1 hard as you might imagine. All you've got to do is start  
2 at Pensacola and count 639,295 people and when you get to  
3 that, draw a line and then start another 639,295 people,  
4 it's easy, right?

5 The problem comes when you get into the parts of the  
6 state where there's extremely large concentrations of  
7 population and concentrations of ethnic groups. Broward  
8 County is not only the second largest most populous county  
9 in Florida, but like our neighbors to the north and south  
10 that's ranked one and three, we have large concentrations  
11 of various groups that need to be represented. Even here,  
12 it's not all that hard, my friends. All you have to do is  
13 look at numbers. The numbers speak for themselves.

14 We just ask that you not gerrymander the present  
15 Congressional district maps, an embarrassment even to those  
16 who love gerrymandering. There are triple wraparounds in  
17 south Dade. There's at least one double wraparound north  
18 of Orlando. There are some district lines that run down  
19 state roads or the Turnpike or I-95. Some of them run down  
20 rivers. It's just an embarrassment to Florida and we  
21 should straighten those out. If you straighten them out  
22 and count people, I have no concern at all that you will do  
23 the job correctly.

24 In central Broward, one of the speakers mentioned that  
25 we would like to keep the coastal districts a little bit  
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1 regional executives of corporations and firms that have  
2 offices here in Broward County. And that may sound like  
3 it's a Republican kind of organization, but I stand in  
4 front of you as a Democrat.

5 And a Democrat that wants to apologize perhaps. No  
6 one has greeted you here this evening. And I just want to  
7 welcome you to Broward County. We are happy you are here.  
8 We are happy you are having two hearings in Broward County.  
9 It's fine that they were 9:00 and 5:00. It wouldn't have  
10 mattered if it was noon or it was 11:00. We are just happy  
11 you are here. We are proud that you thought enough of us  
12 to have two hearings in Broward County.

13 It was my great privilege some years ago to head the  
14 staff of former Congressman Paul Rogers. And in that  
15 capacity I assisted him in the redistricting issues which  
16 came out of the 1960 redistricting, the Federal court  
17 redistricting that occurred in the mid '60s, because it was  
18 screwed up so badly in the 1960, the '72 redistricting, and  
19 then I also helped some of my friends that were his  
20 successors in the '82 and '92 redistricting.

21 And I only point that out because I have absolutely no  
22 concern that you-all know what your responsibilities are  
23 and that you will exercise them appropriately. It's an  
24 awesome responsibility. Your counsel told you you have to  
25 do it within 1 percent or so of population. It's not as  
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1 different than the others. That actually meets one of the  
2 strong minority needs we have here. The urban corridor of  
3 Broward and Palm Beach Counties probably needs to be  
4 protected as a district. The coastal ridge district  
5 probably needs to be protected as a district. And then you  
6 have the west side. It's not all that difficult. We just  
7 ask that you draw the lines as straight as you can. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 8.

10 MR. MEAD: Good afternoon -- good evening, whatever.  
11 My name is Richard Mead. I'm the president of the Coconut  
12 Creek Democratic Club. I have a short statement. I know  
13 that you have heard many of them today. So I'll be very  
14 quick and I'll submit it in writing to you later.

15 I have been a resident of Coconut Creek for over 24  
16 years. The city has over 42,000 citizens of whom 28,800  
17 are voters. The registration of the city voters are  
18 52 percent Democrat, 27 percent Republicans, and  
19 21 percent, no affiliation. It's important that you keep  
20 the integrity of the community foremost in the  
21 redistricting plans.

22 We are presently represented by Representative Ron  
23 Greenstein and Mark -- I'm sorry, Mark. And as you know,  
24 Ron has been doing a good job up there. You saw his  
25 write-up in the Miami Herald and I'm sure he showed it to  
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1 you. And I know this committee is not about personality, I  
2 ask you to do the minimum to change Districts 90 and 95.  
3 And not be tempted by gerrymandering. And as one of the  
4 speakers said earlier, he is here to unseat a person and  
5 that you are important in this. You are not important in  
6 unseating a person. That's not what you're here for.  
7 You're here to draw districts to represent us all. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 9.

10 MR. SPIVEY: Mr. Chair, legislators. My name is Eric  
11 Spivey and I am the Republican candidate for District 100.  
12 I'm pleased to be here to ask you for your commitment in  
13 preserving the gains that the African-American community  
14 has made during the past decade. After going more than 100  
15 years without representation at the Congressional level in  
16 Washington, D.C., we now have three African-Americans in  
17 Congress from the state of Florida. You cannot turn back  
18 the clock and dilute our voting strength. I am here to ask  
19 for your firm guarantee that you will not reduce or dilute  
20 African-American voting strength in Florida, particularly  
21 South Florida.

22 We also ask for this guarantee for State Senate and  
23 State House districts also. For ten years we fought the  
24 Democratic majority plans to only give us a limited ability  
25 to elect candidates of our choice. It wasn't until the

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1 minority party and Republicans joined with minority groups  
2 including the NAACP, the Lawyer's Committee for Civil  
3 Rights, and individual legislators like Connie Brown,  
4 Darryl Reeves, and Jim Carvort (phonetic), that our  
5 community got the voice in government that we deserve. And  
6 they had to go to court to give us our representation and  
7 our rights.

8 The elected Democratic majority refused to recognize  
9 our legitimate and deserved levels of representation for  
10 more than 100 years and specifically the past ten. All  
11 African-Americans are watching you to see if you will do a  
12 better job this time. We encourage you to keep all of the  
13 districts which encompass African-American communities of  
14 interest from being split or diluted. If there are other  
15 minority areas that have grown, we encourage you to  
16 strongly look at keeping them together also. To do  
17 anything less would be discriminatory in intent and effect.

18 And in closing, I would simply like to say, I ask each  
19 and every one of you to put your ears on. And by putting  
20 your ears on, that just simply means evaluate, analyze,  
21 review, and speculate as to why individuals are coming  
22 before you and asking for district lines to be redrawn.  
23 Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 10.

25 MS. STARR: Good evening. Please bear with me. My  
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1 name is Leslie Starr. I live in old Pompano. I am Senate  
2 District 31 and House District 90. I wasn't going to come  
3 here tonight because I wasn't feeling very well. But after  
4 reading this morning's papers, I felt that I had a great  
5 need to have to get up here and speak.

6 The papers mentioned the GOP is sending flyers to  
7 encourage people to come make sure their districts aren't  
8 carved out for political reasons. I'm too am here for the  
9 same reasons. I know Broward County has been a thorn in  
10 Tallahassee's side but let's not also change the present  
11 district in retaliation, as I've been hearing that's what  
12 they are looking to doing.

13 For example, and without naming some names, I  
14 understand that a potentially new Congressional district  
15 might be drawn to accommodate a legislator down in, I  
16 believe, Miami-Dade. This will change the districting and  
17 a big part of this district will also now go into Broward  
18 County. Does this truly fit the needs of the communities?  
19 I don't believe.

20 Another rumor changed listening -- to Deborah  
21 Wasserman-Schultz's or Nan Rich's district to encompass a  
22 good portion of the Everglades going out towards Naples.  
23 Does this area have much in common with the rest of the  
24 community that's being represented? Once again, I don't  
25 think so, and neither does, from what I hear, the west  
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1 coast of Florida.

2 When the redistricting is being drawn, please keep in  
3 mind that school districts are being affected. Please  
4 remember, school zones should be taken into consideration  
5 because in the end, the people that are truly being  
6 affected are our children, or should I say, our future.  
7 Thank you for your time.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 11.

9 MS. HATTAN: Good evening. I'm suffering from severe  
10 bronchitis and should be home but teaching school does that  
11 to you. My name is Caryl Hattan and I would like to  
12 welcome you to Davie, my town. I have lived here for 26  
13 years and I'm very proud of this district.

14 I would like to tell you about something that happened  
15 as I walked in today. Two or three people walked away and  
16 said, I cannot wait four hours to speak before this group.  
17 That is an atrocity, that is a shame. Four hours to speak  
18 before this group. There's got to be another way. There's  
19 got to be a better way. You're not answering questions,  
20 and that's your choice, but at least have a place where  
21 people can come where they don't have to sit and wait for  
22 four hours to get their opinions and their voices heard.

23 I would like to remind you that you need to redistrict  
24 in the community of interest. Please keep it that way.  
25 It's better that way. People have a common goal. People  
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1 have a common rallying point. I would like to thank the  
 2 legislators in my community that have done so well for us.  
 3 I think that's all that I have got to say. So thank  
 4 you for coming. Also, that software, you've got to get it  
 5 on the Internet. Come on, guys, get with it. Get it on  
 6 the Internet so we can download it, we can use it. It's  
 7 useless if we have to go find it somewhere. Thank you.  
 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 12. Number 12,  
 9 you are recognized.  
 10 MR. LeMIEUX: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of  
 11 the committee, welcome to Broward County. My name is  
 12 George LeMieux. I'm a lifelong resident of Broward County,  
 13 born and raised here. And I'm also the chairman of the  
 14 Broward County Republican party. I'm here tonight on  
 15 behalf of more than 271,000 registered Republicans out of a  
 16 total of approximately 920,000 registered voters in  
 17 Broward.  
 18 Although we represent roughly one-third of the  
 19 registered voters in Broward County, of the 18 members of  
 20 the Legislature whose districts touch or impact Broward  
 21 County, only two of them, Senator Sanderson and  
 22 Representative Mack, are Republicans.  
 23 Why is this? It is the map that you see to your  
 24 right. It was the gerrymandering that occurred after the  
 25 1990 census where lines were drawn to specifically achieve

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1 the political purpose of electing Democrats not  
 2 representing community interest. This map or partisan  
 3 inkblot that you see before you divides cities, it divides  
 4 communities of interest, it does not have recognized  
 5 boundaries and it pays no heed to any of the significant  
 6 areas that people call communities in our area of Broward.  
 7 Representative Seiler will know this district well,  
 8 this is District 92. This three-headed hydra spreads  
 9 across Broward County and perhaps is the worst example of  
 10 political gerrymandering. Having knocked on more than  
 11 10,000 doors in this district back in 1998, I can tell you  
 12 it's extremely diverse. It has rural Davie, downtown Fort  
 13 Lauderdale, retirees on the beach, working-class folks. It  
 14 is as divided as the United Nations.  
 15 The one thing that I can say for it is that this  
 16 portion down here, which is connected right here, does take  
 17 into effect our maritime interest because to get to that  
 18 side, from one side to the other, would take a boat.  
 19 We trust that it will be better this time with you  
 20 folks drawing the lines. We want straight, common sense  
 21 lines. We want to keep cities together when possible. We  
 22 want to make sure that folks know where their districts are  
 23 and not have them divided in particular neighborhoods. For  
 24 example, places like Coral Springs and Parkland, which are,  
 25 in my argument, a community of interest, folks enjoy the

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1 same schools, the same parks, the same activities, involved  
 2 in the same civic affairs should be kept together.  
 3 The southwest portion of the county, places like  
 4 Pembroke Pines, Weston, western Davie, western Plantation,  
 5 share a common connection and concern. It is a more rural  
 6 part of our county and the folks there enjoy the same  
 7 activities, send their kids to the same schools, enjoy the  
 8 same community of interest, those areas should be kept  
 9 together.  
 10 Let me finally say in closing, it will take a lot to  
 11 redo what was done ten years ago to make sure the lines are  
 12 fair. I also want to speak to the fact that our great  
 13 congressman, Clay Shaw, in his district has had to  
 14 represent three counties in front of the United States  
 15 Congress which is too much for any one member who is trying  
 16 to bring back appropriations for basically half of the  
 17 state in trying to represent three counties. The portions  
 18 of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, and Palm Beach County,  
 19 while similar, are certainly distinct from the Dade County  
 20 portion of that district.  
 21 And my position to you on behalf of the people of  
 22 Broward County is that we have our Congressman, Clay Shaw's  
 23 district in Broward County and Palm Beach. Thank you very  
 24 much for your consideration.  
 25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 13. (Pause.)

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1 Number 14.  
 2 MS. CONNER: Okay, this time. Hi, my name is Janet  
 3 Conner. I live in Plantation, Florida. I often have to  
 4 speak representing teachers and other interests, but  
 5 tonight I'm speaking on behalf of my two children,  
 6 Katherine and Stephanie Conner. They are the last of my  
 7 four children remaining at home.  
 8 They attend school in a county that acquires an  
 9 average of 10,000 new students each year, that is roughly  
 10 the size of an average school district in this country,  
 11 which means that we are growing here by a school district  
 12 every year. Broward County faces a mammoth task as they  
 13 find a way to effectively teach all of these children,  
 14 including my own. The last thing we need are legislators  
 15 whose districts cross over into other counties.  
 16 Broward County needs Representatives, Senators, and  
 17 Congressmen concentrating on the interests of Broward  
 18 County alone. Honestly, if not for the citizens of Broward  
 19 County, then for the citizens of those other counties that  
 20 are affected. I've only been here for two years and I can  
 21 tell you that no matter what happens, Broward County  
 22 residents will make sure their voices are heard.  
 23 It would just seem unfair to me that if you encroach  
 24 in other counties, those other people will most likely be  
 25 left out in the cold. I believe Broward public education

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1 in general and my children in particular would be best  
2 served by legislators who are able to speak for Broward  
3 County and I ask that you take that into reconsideration as  
4 you redraw these maps. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 15.

6 MS. SOSA-DOUGLAS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,  
7 members of the committee, and welcome to Broward County.  
8 Thank you for this opportunity to address you as a Hispanic  
9 citizen of Broward County. My name is Georgette  
10 Sosa-Douglas and I was born in Panama. I am very grateful  
11 and honored and proud to be a citizen of the United States  
12 of America.

13 I was president of the Hispanic-American Law Students  
14 Association in law school. I am the past president of the  
15 Broward County Hispanic Bar Association where I continue to  
16 serve as a member of the board of directors. I am a member  
17 of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, the Latin Women --  
18 Empowering Latin Women. The Frank Vargas Hispanic  
19 Roundtable. And the Broward Community College Hispanic  
20 Advisory Board.

21 I have the honor of serving as the first Hispanic  
22 chairwoman of Broward County Community College -- the Board  
23 of Trustees of Broward Community College. But I appear  
24 before you today as a proud member of the Hispanic  
25 community of Broward County and a proud United States  
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1 citizen. The Hispanic community in Broward County has  
2 blossomed in the past few years since the last  
3 redistricting. The census counts us as 17 percent of the  
4 citizenry of Broward County, but our community maintains  
5 that the number of Hispanics is even greater.

6 Even by census figures, Coral Springs is 15.5 percent  
7 Hispanic; Miramar, 29.4 percent; Pembroke Park,  
8 28.2 percent; Pembroke Pines, 28.2 percent; and Weston,  
9 30.2 percent. I would like to take this opportunity to  
10 present -- I don't know to whom I turn this in as an  
11 exhibit -- the Miami Herald, Wednesday, March 28th, 2001,  
12 showing the increase of the Hispanic population in Broward  
13 County for the record.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Right there on the chair.

15 MS. SOSA-DOUGLAS: Thank you. We Hispanic citizens  
16 come from many countries but we share a common thread of  
17 unity. We speak Spanish at home, our heritage is Spanish.  
18 And our culture is a exquisite synthesis of Spanish and  
19 indigenous American-Indian and African influences.  
20 Regardless of what country we come from, many of us have  
21 come to this great country to escape political tyranny,  
22 social anarchy, and share your traditional American values  
23 of law, order, and political stability, and economic  
24 independence.

25 We have come here, like many other immigrants, seeking  
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1 a better life and appreciate the blessings of the political  
2 freedom and economic and educational opportunities that the  
3 United States of America has to offer. In the past,  
4 Broward County's large and concentrated Hispanic community  
5 has not had an opportunity to elect a candidate of our  
6 choice in the Congressional or state level because of the  
7 way the redistricting was drawn in the past. This is our  
8 opportunity with this Legislature to hear the voice of the  
9 Hispanic community and to give us a voice as well.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

11 MS. SOSA-DOUGLAS: I see African-American legislators  
12 before me but I see no Hispanics. And I appeal to you to  
13 work with us in solidarity to give us a voice as well. We  
14 have come from many countries but we share a common  
15 culture, cuisine, music, and history, and need our  
16 community voice in Broward County. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 16.

18 MS. CARLTON: Good evening, my name is Mary Carlton.  
19 I live on Pine Island Road in unincorporated Fort  
20 Lauderdale. I am a teacher in the Broward County school  
21 system.

22 Mr. Chair, the public is being told that you would  
23 broadcast select hearings on Florida's public television  
24 stations. Can you tell us, Mr. Chair, which hearings will  
25 be broadcast and why those particular hearings were  
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1 selected rather than all of the hearings being broadcast?  
2 Can you at least tell us whether this hearing or the other  
3 hearings being held this week in South Florida will be  
4 broadcast and if so, on which station and at what time?

5 Also, Mr. Chair, I would request that the list of  
6 those hearings which are to be broadcast be published on  
7 both the Senate's and the House's web sites along with  
8 identifying information for the TV station and the time of  
9 broadcast so that people who are not able to attend a  
10 hearing can at least find out what they missed by watching  
11 a rebroadcast of the hearings. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 18 -- or 17.

13 MS. KATZ: Honorable Chair, and members of the  
14 committee, I am Susan Katz. I reside in the city of  
15 Pembroke Pines located in southwest Broward County where I  
16 have the privilege to serve as a city commissioner in  
17 Pembroke Pines. I want to thank all of you for allowing me  
18 to share my concerns regarding redistricting and  
19 reapportionment in southwest Broward County.

20 I represent Pembroke Pines, as I said, a city of over  
21 140,000 residents located in southwest Broward County.  
22 Since the last redistricting ten years ago, this part of  
23 Broward has experienced an incredible surge in growth. My  
24 State Senator and the State Representatives in this area  
25 represent districts which are extremely large and in need  
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1 of downsizing. We probably have the largest districts in  
 2 this area.  
 3 Every ten years change is inevitable. The changing  
 4 districts in southwest Broward should not be an  
 5 extraordinarily difficult task. Due to the growth in  
 6 populations of cities like Miramar, Davie, Weston, Pembroke  
 7 Pines, and Sunrise compact districts should be easy to  
 8 draw. We are areas of common interest, our residents have  
 9 the same concerns.  
 10 Our schools have common feared patterns, are extremely  
 11 overcrowded. We have very large classrooms, the largest  
 12 high school in Broward County, with a 20-day count was  
 13 about 5600 students. And we have inadequate facilities,  
 14 whole ninth grade portables, at Flanagan High School and  
 15 probably one of the most extraordinarily overcrowded high  
 16 schools in the western Davie area as well.  
 17 We have thousands of senior residents. I, myself,  
 18 represent approximately 14,000 of them. And they have  
 19 common problems such as health care and a safe environment.  
 20 Because of our extraordinary growth, our roads and  
 21 expressways are becoming inadequate very quickly. We have  
 22 gridlock twice every day on the I-75, 595 corridor. We in  
 23 southwest Broward are a community of interest which is  
 24 growing larger every single day.  
 25 There is no need to gerrymander districts across  
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1 county lines due to our population explosion. Try to put  
 2 politics and partisanship a little bit aside and allow us  
 3 to have leaders that understand the needs of our  
 4 communities. It's not hard to do, we have them now, and if  
 5 you do this for us, it would provide us with better  
 6 government and better representation not only in my city in  
 7 Pembroke Pines, but in all of southwest Broward.  
 8 I thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity  
 9 to voice my concerns. And I must tell you that every one  
 10 of the State Representatives and my State Senator do an  
 11 excellent job in serving southwest Broward although I'm not  
 12 here to advocate for any of them in particular.  
 13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 18.  
 14 MS. CASTRO: My name is Anne McManis Castro and I want  
 15 to thank you-all for listening to us this afternoon. I was  
 16 born and raised in Broward County, Florida. I attended  
 17 school here in both public school and parochial school. I  
 18 attended BCC, University of Florida, Nova, Nova  
 19 Southeastern. I have a master's, I have a J.D., and I  
 20 explain all of that to you because I want you to know,  
 21 considering all that, I am a product of the Florida  
 22 educational system and I consider myself smart and  
 23 intelligent. I also consider the people behind me smart  
 24 and intelligent.  
 25 When I first decided to participate in this process,  
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1 the first thing I did was to try to gather information, I  
 2 am a businesswoman, that's what I do. I develop products  
 3 and services. So the first thing I do is I take my idea  
 4 and I go to my customers and I say, What will this do for  
 5 you? Will this work for you? What do you need?  
 6 So I called my Congressman's office and asked for  
 7 proposed maps and I was told there were none. I said,  
 8 Well, wait a minute, doesn't the voting start in September  
 9 for the primaries and people have to, I understand, file in  
 10 July? And he said, That's correct. So then I came here to  
 11 speak to your competency because if there are no maps, I'm  
 12 going to challenge it, which is disappointing. If there  
 13 are maps and you are not showing them to us, then I'm going  
 14 to challenge your honesty, which is even worse. And I  
 15 don't know what's better for all of you.  
 16 I know you-all work very hard. But honestly, with  
 17 respect, Senator Webster, when I listen to your opening,  
 18 what you were describing, isn't what I feel like I'm  
 19 participating in. In order for me to voice my concerns, to  
 20 tell you about my community of interest, to tell you who my  
 21 neighbors are, who I need to be with or I don't need to be  
 22 with, I need to see what you have on the plate. I need to  
 23 know what you're planning and I don't see that. And that's  
 24 very frustrating and very perplexing.  
 25 So then I sat here and I listened to the first few  
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1 speakers thinking maybe I'm missing something just in case.  
 2 But I think Speaker No. 2, Mr. Martel (sic) started to lay  
 3 it out for me, it is a political thing. It's not about  
 4 Florida residents. It's about party politics and who is  
 5 going to control what, where and for how long. That's the  
 6 biggest disappointment.  
 7 After September 11th, I think everybody in this room  
 8 changed, our priorities changed. And for once, we should  
 9 get it right. We should be open. We should be honest and  
 10 we should stick it out there for every Floridian to see so  
 11 they can make educated choices, educated decisions, and  
 12 come and speak before important people like you and make  
 13 valid comments that have meaning.  
 14 I give Mr. Perez and Mr. Scott credit. I'm sure these  
 15 hearings are legally, technically correct. I don't think,  
 16 however, they follow the spirit of the law for public  
 17 hearing process. I hope the first challenge, whether it's  
 18 Republican or Democrat, I don't care, for any new district  
 19 that comes out, I hope the first judge or justice worth  
 20 their salt will say, You know what, this wasn't done right.  
 21 We're going to start it all over and make it work.  
 22 I appreciate you listening to me and I do welcome you  
 23 to Broward County and I hope the rest of your stay is very  
 24 enjoyable. Thank you.  
 25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 19.  
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1 MS. BARTELMAN: Good evening. My name is Robin  
2 Bartelman and I am a commissioner in the city of Weston and  
3 I am also a resident of Senate District 32 and House  
4 District 97. And I have two areas that I would like to  
5 address tonight.

6 First, although as I understand it, you have not yet  
7 adopted criteria that will guide you during the actual  
8 drawing of the district maps, I urge you to include among  
9 the criteria you select, the traditional redistricting  
10 principle that says that you should respect municipal  
11 boundaries.

12 Broward County consists of some 30 different  
13 municipalities, some are larger than others, but none is so  
14 large that it should be divided among several districts.  
15 And although I represent the wonderful city of Weston, I  
16 think I speak for all municipalities when I say that each  
17 municipality constitutes a community of interest with its  
18 own unique means and characteristics. The residents live,  
19 work, and play together. They know each other and they  
20 share the same day-to-day issues and concerns. I urge you  
21 to respect these municipal boundaries and not divide cities  
22 among several House, Senate, and Congressional Districts.

23 By keeping a municipality intact within a single  
24 district, it will afford the residents of that municipality  
25 a stronger voice and therefore a better opportunity to have  
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1 their needs met and their concerns addressed, which I know  
2 for a fact each one of you is about.

3 The second area I would like to address is, I ask you  
4 to redraw the district lines so that Senate District 32 and  
5 House District 97 are strictly Broward County districts. I  
6 have heard speculation that the districts may be redrawn to  
7 extend west into Collier County. This would be a grave  
8 mistake and would do a tremendous disservice to both the  
9 residents of Broward County like myself and the residents  
10 of Collier County.

11 First, there is no need to extend the districts into  
12 any other county. The Senate district currently has over  
13 118,000 too many residents and the House district has over  
14 98,000 too many residents. And actually need to be reduced  
15 in size. Second, you should start from the premise that  
16 the core of the existing district should be preserved.  
17 This would mean maintaining the districts within Broward  
18 County.

19 And third, the interests of the residents of Broward  
20 County, the second largest county in the state, are  
21 different from the interests of the residents of Collier  
22 County. Residents of Collier County have far more in  
23 common with the residents of Lee County on the west coast  
24 than they do with Broward County here on the east coast.  
25 And it is my understanding that that is precisely what you  
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1 heard during your hearings in Naples and Fort Myers last  
2 week.

3 Fourth, not only should you respect the county lines  
4 which serve as a natural boundary for districts, we have a  
5 geographic boundary between Broward and Collier Counties  
6 with the wildlife preserve. The population numbers do not  
7 warrant expanding Senate District 32 or House District 97  
8 into Collier County.

9 The residents of Collier do not want to be a part of  
10 districts that stretch across the state from west and east.  
11 And the residents of Broward County similarly do not want  
12 to draw east/west districts. So I urge you to respect the  
13 traditional redistricting principles and respect the wishes  
14 of the people and redraw Senate District 32 and House  
15 District 97 as strictly Broward County districts. Thank  
16 you for your time.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 20. After Number 20, we  
18 will take a short break for our court reporter.

19 MR. TYNAN: Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me  
20 to be 20 and not Number 21 with the break. My name is  
21 Kevin Tynan. I'm a resident of District 97 and Senate  
22 District 32. I live in southwest Broward County. I live  
23 west of I-75. Some of us jokingly refer to that as east  
24 Naples from time to time. The last speaker up and I don't  
25 have a lot of difference in opinion, as it is important for  
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1 us to have common interests. She lives in Weston and I  
2 live in Pembroke Pines.

3 You also heard from one of my city commissioners  
4 earlier who also lives in Pembroke Pines and told you we  
5 have certain things in common, communities of interest.  
6 Let me tell you a little bit about myself because I really  
7 represent the typical resident in southwest Broward County.  
8 I live in a single-family home. I have two kids. It's a  
9 dual-income house. Both parents work. Luckily none of us  
10 commute to Dade County anymore. But I think you will find  
11 those of us who live in the southwest do commute a lot to  
12 Dade County.

13 I have two kids in the school system. Of course, I  
14 have a dog, a cat and all of that like everybody else does.  
15 I have schooled children. I'm active in all sorts of  
16 civic groups. I belong to homeowner's associations. I  
17 lose track sometimes of what I belong to. I have so many  
18 things on my plate. But I'm also active in sports and that  
19 runs across city lines. So, I have an opportunity to talk  
20 not only amongst my friends that live in my neighborhood,  
21 but people who live in different cities close to me.

22 We all believe the compact districts make sense, keep  
23 them together. And what's always troubled me -- and,  
24 again, I mentioned I'm in District 97 -- if you look at the  
25 map for District 97, you have a good hunk of southwest  
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1 Broward County. It shoots off. It shoots up around I-75  
 2 and dips in a nice straight line around Tamarac. I really  
 3 don't understand -- I do understand how it got there. But  
 4 what I don't understand is what my neighborhood has in  
 5 common with the residents of a condominium area up in  
 6 Tamarac. We really don't have that common interest. They  
 7 don't have schooled children as much. And certainly, the  
 8 residents alone are just totally different.

9 The last point I wanted to make, and certainly I  
 10 wasn't going to make this point earlier, but a speaker ago  
 11 I heard someone talk about the openness of the process.  
 12 I've been a resident of the state for a long time, since  
 13 1974, and I have been active in politics for a long time.  
 14 I recall the last redistricting. And I would like to  
 15 congratulate this committee for being more open. How many  
 16 people can say that they can actually go on the web site  
 17 and make their own map if they want to? That's never  
 18 happened before. And, again, I'd like to thank you for  
 19 your time and do enjoy your break. And I'm sorry for  
 20 Mr. Reyes who's going to have to wait now.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. We'll take a short break for  
 22 our court reporter and we'll be right back.

23 (Brief recess.)

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. I would like to recognize  
 25 Mr. Handel. You are recognized. Just a moment, let me  
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1 deliberation. It's called Nursing Home. I'm now in a  
 2 facility of minimal care and I wrote this poem and it is  
 3 apropos because you gentlemen are faced with a great  
 4 responsibility and this poem will give you an indication of  
 5 what path to follow. And the poem goes, So, I have lived  
 6 my life I think quite well, although it's not for me to  
 7 tell. I've done some good and often times misunderstood I  
 8 did the very best I could. Now, all of my friends are  
 9 gone, I have no regrets, I will not mourn, I have no time  
 10 to sorrow, I'm just an old man growing older waiting for  
 11 tomorrow.

12 Now, in your hands is my tomorrow, the tomorrow of the  
 13 constituents in Broward County and in other counties  
 14 concerned are in your hands. All I ask of you is that God  
 15 give you the intelligence and the will to do the public  
 16 good. And for that, I will thank you and say God bless you  
 17 all.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 21. I also want  
 19 to remind the public, if you will look for your number  
 20 coming up. Please come on the stage when you see it coming  
 21 up.

22 MR. REYES: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Carlos  
 23 Reyes. I'm speaking for myself although some of you know  
 24 me as chairman of the South Broward Hospital District also  
 25 known as Miller Health Care System.

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1 make sure that this is on. There we go. You are  
 2 recognized.

3 MR. HANDEL: Good evening, gentlemen, legislators, I  
 4 come before you today as an activist and as a poet. And so  
 5 I'm going to give you a little change of pace from all of  
 6 these numbers and figures and lines that you have been  
 7 looking at and which you will take to your dreams with you.  
 8 I will only ask you to consider three very basic things:

9 One, that when you make your districts and draw them  
 10 up, that all legislative districts be equal as far as you  
 11 can make them equal in the population of those districts.  
 12 Same goes for the Congressional and for the Senate  
 13 districts. Secondly, I beg you, please, see that the  
 14 interests of the people in the districts are equal and the  
 15 same for the Representatives to best represent their  
 16 future.

17 And thirdly, that you draw those lines geographically  
 18 so that access to the constituents are really accessible  
 19 and that the constituents have easy access to their  
 20 Representatives. And I'm not going to take up too much of  
 21 your time because we poets are very simplistic. We are  
 22 very short on words but we have large meaning to what we  
 23 say.

24 And I'm going to leave you with a little poem I wrote  
 25 that I think will be meaningful to you in your  
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1 First and foremost, I want to thank you for the  
 2 opportunity to speak with you. I think this is wonderful  
 3 to have such an open process where we can talk about this.  
 4 I love this because this is democracy in action. It gives  
 5 us an opportunity to get before you, to push you, to  
 6 massage you, to do what we need to do to get you to focus  
 7 on things that are going to help the community get better  
 8 representation.

9 My family has lived in Broward since 1970. We have  
 10 grown up here. I've gone to the local schools. I've gone  
 11 to a state university. In that effort, I have come back  
 12 home, I've been involved in a variety of organizations  
 13 community-wide. I'm the president of the Broward County  
 14 Hispanic Bar, president of the Latin Chamber. I was  
 15 chairman back in '82 of Kids Voting and a variety of other  
 16 organizations in the community.

17 I have lived throughout the county in Hollywood,  
 18 Pembroke Pines, Plantation, Weston, and now Miramar.  
 19 Redistricting, as far as I can tell, is the process of  
 20 trying to create, under particular rules and regulations, a  
 21 better representation for the people, trying to get the  
 22 elected leaders and Representatives to reflect the thoughts  
 23 of that community. I think the buzzword I keep hearing is  
 24 communities of interest.

25 Now, I am here today to pitch for you that the  
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1 southwest Broward County area has a distinctive community  
 2 of interest. In fact, I'm going to tell you who has a  
 3 distinctive accent. The Hispanic community of Broward  
 4 County has been growing since 1970. It is the largest,  
 5 fastest-growing community in Broward County and the nation.  
 6 Specifically, as I look at that community, I look at  
 7 Americans of all Hispanic backgrounds, Cubans, Puerto  
 8 Ricans, Venezuelans, Columbians, Ecuadorians, the whole  
 9 flag, if you will, of all of the Latin nations. I'm going  
 10 to ask you that you look very carefully at this corridor  
 11 that we say is starting with Weston, down south, through  
 12 Pembroke Pines, through Miramar. And despite some  
 13 representations, we have some affiliations into north Dade  
 14 frankly. And, in fact, you go from west of I-75, as far as  
 15 you want to take it, but it's logically the end of the  
 16 county, you are going to find a distinctive, clear segment  
 17 of the community you can look at and say it's compact, it's  
 18 definable and it's a community of interest.  
 19 I believe just as they said earlier and others are  
 20 going to say later after me, that it's time for the  
 21 Hispanic community to get -- to be able to participate in  
 22 the political process especially in Broward County. And  
 23 through your efforts you will be able to empower that  
 24 community to make their thoughts as part of the community,  
 25 be part of the larger community at large.  
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1 I am going to give you, I guess I'll ask that you  
 2 focus on that. That ultimately is part of your job as you  
 3 look out. And distinctively without a doubt, there is a  
 4 community of interest out west.  
 5 I wish you Godspeed in your work because I know  
 6 there's a lot of work before you. And I also really thank  
 7 you for the opportunity, not just from me at all, but to  
 8 listen to all these others that are going to have the same  
 9 position, the same voice, it is time for you to take the  
 10 step and let the Hispanic community of Broward County be  
 11 represented in our political system.  
 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 22. As Number  
 13 22 is coming up, is Commissioner Susan Starkey here? If  
 14 you are, we have your purse. If you would see  
 15 Representative Ritter or Representative Seiler. You are  
 16 recognized.  
 17 MR. SCHREIBER: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
 18 legislative delegation, I am Joe Schreiber, mayor of the  
 19 great city of Tamarac. I'm going to cut out the B.S., and  
 20 I'm going to address my remarks to the Republican majority  
 21 in the State Legislature. Our country is at war. In the  
 22 spirit of bipartisanship, we are all Americans working  
 23 together for victory. It is not Democrats or Republicans,  
 24 but Americans. I am asking you to be fair in your  
 25 deliberations, so that our county of Broward precincts are  
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1 not gerrymandered or emasculated. Make districts compact,  
 2 containing only contiguous territory. Avoid unnecessary  
 3 sprawls or zigzags. Where possible, avoid splitting,  
 4 counties, cities, subdivisions, and districts which favor  
 5 or disfavor any incumbent or challenger or political party.  
 6 Don't dilute a group voting strength based on race,  
 7 religion, skin color, ethnicity or national origin. Last  
 8 but not least, please be fair. Thank you for this  
 9 opportunity.  
 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 23.  
 11 MS. WALBERG SCHREIBER: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,  
 12 honored members of the Redistricting Committee. My name is  
 13 May Walberg Schreiber. I am the president of the Tamarac  
 14 Democratic Club and I have the distinct honor of being the  
 15 wife of the mayor of the city of Tamarac, the gentleman who  
 16 was just here before you. And it is a pleasure to be here  
 17 this evening to share some of my thoughts and concerns on  
 18 the redistricting and reapportionment of the State House,  
 19 the Senate, the U.S. House district, and all of the other  
 20 areas in which you are going to be forming a special,  
 21 special part.  
 22 We know that we have had enormous growth in Broward  
 23 County over the past 20 years. But we have heard that you  
 24 are thinking of taking part of our community and attaching  
 25 them to other counties. You cannot in all good conscience  
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1 do that. We beseech you not to draw lines and chop up our  
 2 districts to serve a political agenda. Please keep our  
 3 communities together as we have been in the past. Draw  
 4 your lines with our best interests in mind.  
 5 I want to thank you for this opportunity of speaking  
 6 to you and I hope that some of the things that all of us  
 7 have said here this evening will really sink in and that  
 8 you will do the right thing. Have a good one.  
 9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 24.  
 10 MS. GROSS: Good evening, my name is Jane Gross. I'm  
 11 president of the League of Women Voters of Florida. During  
 12 some of your previous hearings, you have heard from local  
 13 League presidents who have testified regarding district  
 14 lines and concerns in their particular counties. I would  
 15 like to address the impact of redistricting upon us  
 16 statewide.  
 17 Besides the principle of the one person, one vote, the  
 18 protections contained in the Voting Rights Act are designed  
 19 to prevent discrimination. This means that people drawing  
 20 lines must avoid corradng plans that result in diluting  
 21 minority voting strength. This dilution occurs when  
 22 concentrated minority populations are split between  
 23 districts, are overconcentrated in a district with results  
 24 that minorities have less chance than other voters to elect  
 25 their candidate of choice. This could be overcome with the  
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1 creation of so-called majority/minority districts that  
 2 equalize political opportunities.  
 3 Even though race can be a part of drawing lines, it  
 4 will be important to avoid violating traditional  
 5 redistricting principles with which you are very familiar.  
 6 Redistricting offers a unique opportunity to have an impact  
 7 on the political process of its very core. How district  
 8 lines are drawn will affect our ability to elect our  
 9 candidates of choice who will make decisions directly  
 10 affecting our community, our state, and perhaps the entire  
 11 nation.  
 12 It is a once-a-decade chance to maintain or alter the  
 13 political dynamic on elected bodies. The League especially  
 14 urges you to allow time for public input between markup  
 15 sessions. We also emphasize that the Legislature needs to  
 16 adopt governing standards for drawing lines in order to  
 17 provide all voters fair and equal representation. Voting  
 18 is one of our most cherished rights. Events from the 2000  
 19 presidential election have taught us all how precious that  
 20 right is while testing the public's competence in the  
 21 political process.  
 22 Redistricting is a way true meaning is given to the  
 23 right to vote. The League of Women Voters of Florida urges  
 24 you to create plans that afford all voters an equal  
 25 opportunity to take part in this priceless process. Thank  
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1 you for the opportunity to address you today.  
 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 26.  
 3 MR. ANDRADE: Good afternoon and welcome to Broward  
 4 County. My name is Fabio Andrade. I'm co-founder of the  
 5 Columbian-American Political Action Committee. I'm also a  
 6 member of the Columbian-American Chamber of Commerce in  
 7 Weston. I'm a resident of Weston. I'm also in the  
 8 coalition of Columbian-Americans across the state of  
 9 Florida --  
 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Could I stop you just a minute?  
 11 Could you tell me -- I think I'm confused on the number.  
 12 What is your number, 26?  
 13 MR. ANDRADE: Number 26. I was next up. Do you need  
 14 this form?  
 15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I have got it, okay. You didn't  
 16 look like Barbara. Okay. You are recognized.  
 17 MR. ANDRADE: Okay. I am also a member of the  
 18 Columbian-American Coalition which is a state organization  
 19 empowering Columbian-Americans to ensure proper leadership  
 20 and proper representation. I'm also a member of the  
 21 Columbian-American Coalition which is an organization  
 22 nationwide.  
 23 We are very concerned about growth to our community.  
 24 As you know, we have a tremendous number of growth in  
 25 Broward, especially in southwest Broward. We wanted to  
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1 make sure that this representation is proper and we  
 2 continue receiving proper representation from our leaders  
 3 in regards to our community. We are ready to be part of  
 4 our community and we look forward to ensuring that our  
 5 community stays within the southwest side of Broward  
 6 County. It is a very important county where we have been  
 7 able to grow. And there is a tremendous number of needs  
 8 that are unique to our area which is the southwest side of  
 9 Broward County.  
 10 We really need to make sure that our representation is  
 11 there. And we need to make sure that we find our  
 12 leadership so we can make sure that represents us properly  
 13 in the future. I want to thank you very much for listening  
 14 and coming here to talk to us and listening from us. And  
 15 we hope that you really take this and really listen to what  
 16 we are trying to do and what we are trying to look for in  
 17 our community. Again, thank you very much. That's all  
 18 that I have to say.  
 19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 27.  
 20 MS. KOBLER: Mr. Chairman, honored members of the  
 21 committee. If I stand back here, I can't read. Thank you  
 22 for being here, my name is Helen Kobler and I'm happy to be  
 23 here with you today. I am representing the Parkland  
 24 Democratic Club. My concerns are in the redistricting and  
 25 reapportionment of the State Senate and House. I strongly  
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1 feel that there's no need to break up districts for the  
 2 sake of giving politicians something to do. I realize some  
 3 redistricting will have to be done. It must be done for  
 4 the best interest of the communities and their districts.  
 5 We need more focus on education, on health care, economics,  
 6 on environment. We need to maintain our priorities. We  
 7 need to unite, not divide.  
 8 We need to remember our priorities which are already  
 9 where they are, like all Americans, stand united.  
 10 Redistricting, we stand -- I'm sorry, like all Americans,  
 11 united we'll stand, redistricting we will fall. Thomas  
 12 Paine says, If you come to enjoy freedom and what it brings  
 13 to your life, you must take that commitment and bring it to  
 14 others. We have 16 million people in Broward. Don't mess  
 15 with our success by putting in another half of a  
 16 Congressional seat due to our growth. Leave us alone.  
 17 We're not broken. Thank you very much for your time and  
 18 your patience. Have a nice day.  
 19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 28.  
 20 MS. POLLOCK: Good evening. I'm Clarice Pollock. I  
 21 live here in Hallendale and I am the president of Florida's  
 22 National Organization for Women. We are now part of a  
 23 diverse group of advocacy organizations who are very  
 24 concerned about the fairness of this process. The  
 25 reapportionment process now underway holds the possibility  
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1 of altering Florida's political landscape to the next  
 2 decade. Redrawing political boundaries based on new  
 3 population data is one of the most important duties of the  
 4 State Legislature. Floridians from all backgrounds and  
 5 geographic areas will be closely watching as this process  
 6 unfolds.

7 As we monitor this process, we will hold the  
 8 legislators in Tallahassee to this simple standard. Is  
 9 their plan and the processes that they are using to shape  
 10 it fair? Is it fair to all of the state citizens, to  
 11 members of all racial and ethnic groups, to all communities  
 12 of interest, to all residents of all parts of the state,  
 13 regardless of party affiliation?

14 Fairness means allowing the public to have meaningful  
 15 input into the reapportionment process. Fairness also  
 16 means ensuring that the public has the tools to review and  
 17 understand the redistricting plans and comment on them  
 18 accordingly and in a timely and meaningful fashion. And  
 19 fairness means a process and a plan that takes into  
 20 consideration the concerns of the state's diverse ethnic  
 21 communities, including African-Americans, Haitian, Asian,  
 22 and Hispanic communities.

23 Fairness means listening to the public and respecting  
 24 their sense of communities of interest, it means taking the  
 25 time to understand areas of concern based on environmental,  
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1 educational, social service, and other public policy  
 2 concerns. We are a diverse group of advocacy organizations  
 3 from various political viewpoints and from varying  
 4 geographical areas who demand fairness in the redistricting  
 5 process.

6 We ask that hearings be held in more areas so that  
 7 Floridians do not have to drive 200 miles just to have  
 8 their voice heard. We ask that political subdivision such  
 9 as cities and counties be considered more strongly in the  
 10 new proposal. We ask that the State Legislature commit to  
 11 holding public hearings after the plans are released so the  
 12 public can react to actual proposals. We ask that  
 13 sufficient time be provided before any legislative action  
 14 to allow the public to respond to all proposals that are to  
 15 be considered at all legislative meetings including  
 16 committee meetings and floor votes.

17 We ask that no plan be prepared or debated until after  
 18 a full public debate on specific guidelines are held and  
 19 guidelines are adopted and published. We ask that as a  
 20 minimum, these guidelines provide that districts meet all  
 21 legal and constitutional requirements and that they, as --  
 22 and they are as compact as possible considering the  
 23 necessity of protecting voting rights of minorities,  
 24 protecting communities of interests, and respecting  
 25 political subdivisions.  
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1 Finally, we ask that all legislative actions on  
 2 redistricting and reapportionment take place at times and  
 3 in locations that maximize citizen participation. As  
 4 Justice Potter Stewart said a half century ago, fairness is  
 5 what justice really is. In asking for fairness, we ask for  
 6 nothing more than justice and we demand nothing less.  
 7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 29.

9 MR. McMURTRIE: Good evening. Thank you and welcome  
 10 here to Broward County. My name is Dan McMurtrie and I'm  
 11 married to a teacher and I'm also a school board employee  
 12 in a paraprofessional position. I can go on and tell you  
 13 the things that I am, like left-handed, union and other  
 14 things, but that's not what we are here for today.

15 I am a resident of the 20th Congressional District,  
 16 29th Florida Senate district, and the 100th district of the  
 17 Florida House of Representatives. I've had the opportunity  
 18 to work with my politicians and most of them have become my  
 19 friends over the years. I request that you keep the core  
 20 districts intact. I realize that alignment is necessary  
 21 and we have picked up population. And we are also very  
 22 important and recognize how important the population is,  
 23 that is change. We are all a very diverse group of people.

24 What I would like to ask you today is, let us have the  
 25 opportunity to have input after you make your decision. I  
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1 understand this is a work in progress and not having any  
 2 maps at all is really quite scary, because to me, if you  
 3 hire the Department of Transportation to put a highway in  
 4 next to my house, you'd bring down maps, you'd bring down  
 5 surveys, you'd let me know which way I could possibly be  
 6 impacted. This way, it's like shooting arrows in the dark,  
 7 you don't know what you are getting.

8 I would like to ask you people that when this is all  
 9 done you bring back your findings to the public and give us  
 10 a chance to have input on it. The other thing I ask is  
 11 when you redraw your districts, I ask you use good common  
 12 sense, political boundaries that have been established such  
 13 as cities, school districts, so that one Legislature won't  
 14 have a district literally cross halfway through a building  
 15 where one side of the building is represented by one and  
 16 one the another.

17 Nor is it fair for a legislator to have to drive 200  
 18 miles to represent someone. Eleanor Sobel has been very  
 19 good working in District 100 and she gets out. I've worked  
 20 with other people like Ken Gottlieb, Mr. Geller here. All  
 21 very good people. I believe all you people up here are up  
 22 here with good intentions. And it's important to know that  
 23 we are watching and we also remember. And what I ask you  
 24 is redraw the districts so your money -- we don't have to  
 25 go to court. And you can put the money you save by tying  
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1 it up instead of giving it to the lawyers and lobbyists,  
2 you can give it back to the education system. You could  
3 give it back to the people who really deserve it and the  
4 working people who need it in this state, retired people  
5 and whoever else deserves it.

6 I realize that times are tough. And you have spent a  
7 lot of time here so I'm going to keep it short and remind  
8 you that you don't need to be coming down here just for a  
9 legislative session. You're always welcome to come to our  
10 house and visit and see just what working people live and  
11 do. And I've had politicians in my home and they know.

12 So what I would like to ask you is do the right thing,  
13 give us the opportunity to review the plan, because for the  
14 next ten years it will impact upon our lives. And the  
15 other thing is, look at the past mistakes. If you didn't  
16 like the way someone else drew the map, draw the map  
17 properly. I don't want it drawn with an Etch-A-Sketch.  
18 I'd like to have it drawn with thought and kindness and not  
19 party politics involved.

20 I think it's very key that you keep in mind that  
21 people made mistakes in the past and we have districts that  
22 look like a wino drew them where they are going everywhere  
23 but where they are representing the people. I am a working  
24 guy so I put it in plain text --

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.  
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1 I understand from the figures I've read that as far as  
2 the House seat is concerned, the numbers in District 98 are  
3 almost compatible to what they are supposed to be. I think  
4 we are about 3,000 voters over. I would ask you to try to  
5 keep the city of Sunrise intact as much as you can, the way  
6 it is now. And if possible, to try to square off parts of  
7 the city. Then Representative Wasserman-Schultz and I who  
8 were elected together in 1992 often have discussions about  
9 the fact that her district would stretch all the way from  
10 Miramar to Lauderhill, surrounding the western and northern  
11 parts of the city of Sunrise, put her in the areas where  
12 she really didn't know the district at all and came to me  
13 and relied upon me to help her.

14 And since that district, which is now Representative  
15 Rich's district is the seat that has to -- her office is in  
16 the city of Sunrise -- is a seat that has to lose so many  
17 votes, it is possible that that will square off the  
18 northern part of our district. The city of Sunrise has a  
19 community of interest obviously in and of itself. We are  
20 bordered on the north by the city of Tamarac, on the east  
21 by Lauderhill and on the south by Plantation, on the west  
22 by the conservation area and the Everglades.

23 And as other speakers -- I don't think it's likely for  
24 my city to somehow be pushed into a district in Collier  
25 County. But let me say for the record that the city of  
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1 MR. McMURTRIE: -- and I'll tell you what I like, do  
2 the right thing. Because we may not vote for you, but we  
3 know people who do vote for you.

4 And finally, I would like to have our districts done  
5 right so we are not a joke like we were after the 2000  
6 election fiasco. Do it right, do it proper, and keep up  
7 the good work. Thank you very much. Enjoy your stay here  
8 in South Florida.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 30.

10 MR. FEREN: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my  
11 name is Steven Feren. I am the mayor of the City of  
12 Sunrise and former member of the House of Representatives,  
13 District 98.

14 First of all, let me put the minds at ease of some of  
15 the members who are facing the end of their term due to  
16 term limits. I am living proof that there is, in fact,  
17 life after the Legislature.

18 I am here this evening to echo the sentiments of some  
19 of the other city officials who have spoken to you. The  
20 city of Sunrise has approximately 86,000 residents. We are  
21 presently served by three House members, Representative  
22 Rich, Representative Wishner who has most of the city, and  
23 Representative Meadows. And we have four Senators carving  
24 up the city of Sunrise; Senator Wasserman-Schultz, Senator  
25 Geller, Senator Campbell, and Senator Dawson.

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1 Sunrise does not have anything in common with Collier  
2 County other than the fact that I have a cousin who lives  
3 there. And that it takes me an hour and 15 minutes to get  
4 to her house and she lives all the way on the western side  
5 of Collier County.

6 So I would ask you to try to square off the districts  
7 and to try to keep the city of Sunrise and the surrounding  
8 community cities as cohesive as possible. Thank you very  
9 much. Enjoy Broward County.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Good to see you again.  
11 Number 31.

12 MR. FLURY: Good evening, my name is Pat Flury and I  
13 am the mayor of the city of Dania Beach. And if you  
14 promise me you will remember the name of the city of Dania  
15 Beach, I promise you I will be brief.

16 Dania Beach is a real small town, population of about  
17 27,000. All of Dania Beach is presently located within one  
18 State House district and one Senate district. So I'm here  
19 this evening to -- it was this afternoon, but now it is  
20 this evening -- and I'm here for, perhaps a selfish reason,  
21 and that is to ask you to refrain from carving up the city  
22 of Dania Beach. It is a very, very small city. It is  
23 Broward County's oldest city and truly one community with a  
24 very, very small-town environment.

25 Our residents have a common interest in the  
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1 development of our marine industry where we have seen a  
 2 tremendous growth over recent years. Our city is home to  
 3 several mariners with marine storage, ship building, mega  
 4 yacht facilities and repair facilities.  
 5 Dania Beach also has a residential waterfront variety  
 6 of properties with ocean access from our eastern to western  
 7 boundaries. Our residents do have a common interest in  
 8 controlling growth, protecting our marine resources,  
 9 environment, and developing an economic base. We are the  
 10 little city that's tucked between the large city of Fort  
 11 Lauderdale as well as Hollywood. Just a tiny, little city.  
 12 And I know that you have a very, very big job to do, a  
 13 lot of responsibilities and you have taken a little bit of  
 14 flack here tonight. So I can't imagine that with your  
 15 tremendous responsibility that you wouldn't have an  
 16 interest in chopping up a little bitty town like Dania  
 17 Beach. So I ask you in all sincerity to please, please  
 18 give great consideration to our small town and I sincerely  
 19 hope that you will keep us whole. Thank you.  
 20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 32.  
 21 MS. STEPHENS: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, the  
 22 distinguished committee members and our hard-working  
 23 honorable legislation team. Thank you again for allowing  
 24 me to be here and I understand our directions quite well.  
 25 Yes, I was here this morning as you well know. So maybe  
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1 you are wondering, Sally, what are you doing here again  
 2 tonight aggravating everyone? Well, let me tell you.  
 3 Senator Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and Representative  
 4 Gottlieb will tell you, when you invite a senior citizen  
 5 from south Broward, they do show up. And she told me, You  
 6 can come to both sessions, Sally, if you want to. So,  
 7 guess what? Have car, will travel.  
 8 But I'm not going to give my entire spiel that I gave  
 9 this morning because I've already been told that the  
 10 reporter, the recorder, everything you say has been  
 11 recorded. But I was so excited, maybe some of the things  
 12 she missed so, just in case. Being a teacher, and an  
 13 administrator for 47 years, we always wrap up the end of  
 14 the day by some real important pointers that we want the  
 15 children to remember.  
 16 So since you are not children, I'm going the wrap up  
 17 about two sentences from this morning that I hope you will  
 18 remember and then I will remember to leave this report that  
 19 I told you about this morning. I told you earlier being a  
 20 senior citizen, you know, we always forget things half of  
 21 the time. So I'm going to put it down here now so I won't  
 22 forget again.  
 23 There is no doubt in my education mind that you will  
 24 do the right thing while concentrating on a level playing  
 25 field for all. I just know you will. And the undercount  
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1 that was so widespread among minority voters during the  
 2 2000 Census, you know who it impacted, the minority.  
 3 Therefore, I beg of you, please do not dilute the vote of  
 4 our minority population by not making adjustments to  
 5 address the census undercount. Mr. Chairman, may God bless  
 6 you and this wonderful delegation and wonderful committee.  
 7 May God bless Broward County and God bless America. Thank  
 8 you.  
 9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Now we have a team  
 10 effort, I believe. Number 33 and former Representative  
 11 Eggelletion, now Commissioner Eggelletion, is going to take  
 12 the --  
 13 (Off-the-record comment.)  
 14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No, he came on his own. He is  
 15 going to take the rest of the time. Go ahead.  
 16 MS. JOYNT: Good evening, members of the House  
 17 Redistricting Committee and welcome to Broward County. My  
 18 name is Audrey Joynt and I have lived in Hollywood for over  
 19 25 years. I love where I live. I happen to live on  
 20 Hollywood Beach.  
 21 I'm here as the president of the Hollywood Beach  
 22 Business Association. Our 100 members are all business  
 23 owners and all of our businesses depend on tourism. Some  
 24 of our major concerns are environmental, beach erosion and  
 25 renourishment. Our representative, Eleanor Sobel, has done  
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1 a fine job for tourism and for the businesses and  
 2 residential beach community along A1A. We want to keep her  
 3 there.  
 4 We would like to see District 100, Hollywood and  
 5 Hallendale Beach, kept whole. We are happy with our  
 6 district. It encompasses our entire beach community of  
 7 interest. I don't know all of you, but I have had occasion  
 8 to speak to Senator Geller and of course Representative  
 9 Sobel has been a godsend to us. And I knew Ken Gottlieb  
 10 when he was in the Hollywood City Commission. I just want  
 11 to thank all of you for letting us have this time and we  
 12 appreciate it.  
 13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Commissioner  
 14 Eggelletion.  
 15 COMMISSIONER EGGELLETTION: Thank you, Senator, Chair  
 16 of this committee and other committee members and members  
 17 of the Florida Legislature. It wasn't too long ago that I  
 18 stood in front of a group very similar to this in this  
 19 county and advocated for minorities in this county. I come  
 20 to you again and I remember doing the hearings particularly  
 21 in Tallahassee at the now, it was then House member then,  
 22 moved to the Senate and now House member again, Mario  
 23 Diaz-Balart asked a question with respect to the members in  
 24 Dade County.  
 25 Let me say that in reverse, Representative  
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1 Diaz-Balart, and that is, Broward County has grown in the  
 2 last ten years, it has grown expedientially. We are now a  
 3 county of 1.6 million people.  
 4 Of that 1.6 million people, minorities make up  
 5 41 percent of the voting electorate of this county. That  
 6 minority of that 41 percent happens to represent those of  
 7 the African diaspora: Those from the Caribbean,  
 8 particularly the east and west Indies as well as Haiti, as  
 9 well as those from Hispanic-speaking Caribbean countries.  
 10 I would suggest to you that fundamental fairness only  
 11 says that those minorities should take 41 percent of the  
 12 seats in this county. As you advocated in Dade County ten  
 13 years ago, we are advocating the same here tonight. In  
 14 doing so, we hope that as you define your criteria for  
 15 drawing your district lines here in the state of Florida,  
 16 we hope that part of that criteria will clearly respect the  
 17 numbers of persons within the county that you do adhere to  
 18 the one man, one vote principle and that you pay close  
 19 attention to the Voting Rights Act, particularly Sections 2  
 20 and 5.  
 21 In addition, I would just like to say that it's so  
 22 important that that 41 percent is respected because they  
 23 all make up a unique community of interest. And when we  
 24 define that, you will see that the cultural norms, the  
 25 social/economic income of those particular individuals as  
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1 well as the music and other morays and forays that are  
 2 particularly important to those minorities are respected.  
 3 So, I know you have a daunting task in front of you.  
 4 I hope you do it well. I know you will respect all of the  
 5 traditional voting principles. And thank you so much for  
 6 allowing me to be appear in front of you. Thank you and  
 7 God bless you.  
 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Good to see you.  
 9 Number 34.  
 10 MS. CLARK-REID: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and members  
 11 of the State Legislature. I am Commissioner Gwendolyn  
 12 Clark-Reid, commissioner in the city of Deerfield Beach,  
 13 Florida. And I see my two representatives, my Senator,  
 14 Mandy Dawson, and my House Representative, Mark Weissman,  
 15 here and I am very happy to see them.  
 16 I am the first vice-president of the Broward League of  
 17 Cities. I am a member of the Florida League of City's  
 18 board of directors as well as the National League of City's  
 19 board of directors. I'm also past president of the Florida  
 20 Black Caucus of the local elected officials. And a board  
 21 member of the National Black Caucus of local elected  
 22 officials. I just want to say that this evening I have  
 23 some points that I would like to bring to you and ask you  
 24 that you consider this in making up your criteria when you  
 25 are redrawing the lines.  
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1 A lot of you know that the census figures are not  
 2 accurate. You know that there were people who were not  
 3 counted in the census. So I personally would like you to  
 4 take under consideration those persons who you do know  
 5 about that are in your districts and were not counted.  
 6 I also want you to keep people with common interests  
 7 together. They have a need to have representation that  
 8 reflects their interests. Compactness, the district should  
 9 be kept as compact as possible. I also would like to see  
 10 that you give us the best chance to have representation  
 11 that truly reflects the communities of interest.  
 12 I am concerned about this hearing, both hearings that  
 13 were held today because they are both being held in the  
 14 south part of Broward County. The north county area feels  
 15 slighted and I will say that. I live in the first city  
 16 across the Palm Beach County line in Broward County. And  
 17 it took me about 40 minutes to get here, to get down to  
 18 this hearing. And the hours of the hearing are not  
 19 conducive to have other residents and residents who I know  
 20 would participate in these hearings come.  
 21 So I would just like to say I hope this isn't an  
 22 example of your fairness, that all of these are held in  
 23 south county. I would ask that you be mindful of the rest  
 24 of Broward County. Thank you.  
 25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 35.  
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1 MS. ALBER: Hello everyone and thank you very much for  
 2 giving me this opportunity to be here and express my  
 3 feelings. As you can see, I don't have nothing written  
 4 down. Because whatever I'm going to tell you, I'm going to  
 5 tell you from the bottom of my heart.  
 6 The reason that I'm here today is because I want to  
 7 express how upset I am that whatever person wanted to  
 8 connect in Hialeah with Pembroke Pines and Weston, this is  
 9 totally -- I mean, unfair. We Hispanics in Broward County  
 10 are completely different from the ones in Dade. We are  
 11 very happy there with our representation in Broward County.  
 12 We are very happy with Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, she's  
 13 doing such a great job.  
 14 And now if they want some changes for our  
 15 representation, they should be brought in the district.  
 16 This, Broward County, is 99 percent Democrats. We don't  
 17 want to be connected with Dade County. Our properties are  
 18 better than Dade County. We speak English. The people  
 19 from Hialeah, they move into Broward County for a better  
 20 life, a better environment. We don't want to be there,  
 21 it's like going backwards. This is a slap in the face to  
 22 the Hispanics. This is an insult.  
 23 I believe that this is a political motivation. See,  
 24 they don't have enough Republicans to run the district, so  
 25 they should run in the districts that they have enough  
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1 people to vote for. But please do not do this to our  
2 community.  
3 Hispanics in Broward County are multicultural. We  
4 speak more than three languages. We speak English. We  
5 want to be equal. Nobody runs the show here in Broward  
6 County. We all are equal. We're from Peru, Columbia,  
7 Venezuela, Argentina, 21 countries in Broward County. And  
8 we are very happy in the way we run it. Nobody runs the  
9 show here. We all run it at the same time. We are equal.  
10 Please, whatever you are going to do, think about it.  
11 We don't want to go backwards. We want to go forward.  
12 Prosperity is the name of the game. I came from Columbia  
13 because I want a better life. I don't want to believe in  
14 Hispanic for polarity, I want to be American, that's why  
15 I'm here. And the people who leave from Hialeah from here  
16 it's because they want to feel American. Those people from  
17 Equator, Chile, Argentina, they tell me the same. Hey, I'm  
18 leaving from Miami or Hialeah because I want to speak  
19 English. And that's why we are here, please. Thank you,  
20 and I hope you think twice. This is a slap in the face for  
21 the Hispanics. We don't want to go backwards, we want to  
22 go forward. Thank you.  
23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 36.  
24 MR. JABOUIN: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and members of  
25 the community. My name is Patrick Jabouin and I reside in  
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1 the city of Sunrise where we have State Representative  
2 Roger Wishner and my Senator is Debbie Wasserman-Schultz.  
3 But as a resident of Sunrise, I also belong to a larger  
4 community which is the minority community of Broward  
5 County.  
6 So I'm also concerned about certain other districts as  
7 a district of Senator Mandy Dawson, or the district of Matt  
8 Meadows, State Representative Matt Meadows, as well as  
9 State Representative Chris Smith. Because when we looked  
10 at the demographics in Broward County -- and of course not  
11 to forget Senator Geller. But when we looked at Broward  
12 County, the demographics has changed drastically since the  
13 last census in 1990. And you know by now that Broward  
14 County is drastically becoming the melting pot.  
15 I'm originally from the country of Haiti. I'm a  
16 Haitian-American. So I wear many hats as far as the  
17 concern in the minority community where it might be  
18 different in other communities because we are also  
19 concerned regarding integration issues. Accessibility to  
20 government services which may not be in other communities.  
21 So it's important to us that when you go through this  
22 process that, please, be fair.  
23 We want -- we want to see fairness not only does -- it  
24 is important to keep the actual, I would say the  
25 representation that we have right now, because we have  
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1 voted for them, we want them to do the best work to  
2 represent us and also there are certain cultural  
3 sensitivity issues that is important to these communities.  
4 So it is important that when you look at the minority  
5 community that you are concerned with the rights of the  
6 minorities.  
7 According to the Federal law, we understand that it's  
8 not just a matter of just drawing your maps regarding race  
9 and other issues, but those concerns are real and it is  
10 evident. So, please, I am here tonight not only to voice  
11 my opinion but I'm sure as politicians, because I've heard  
12 other people say, Look, you are only wasting your time  
13 because regardless of what you say or what you do, chances  
14 are those maps are drawn already.  
15 I would like to say, No, my politicians wouldn't do  
16 that to us. This is not formality, this is for real. They  
17 want to hear our input. They want to hear from the people  
18 and the people who have put them in office. And we are  
19 asking you to please to take that into consideration.  
20 When we are looking at the community, we are talking  
21 as well as their education, bilingual, Hispanics, as well  
22 as Creole speaking within those communities. So those are  
23 important issues that somebody else, unfortunately, as you  
24 draw the map a different way, these people might fall by  
25 the wayside. We are the undercounted individuals within  
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1 that community as well.  
2 So, please, do not dilute our vote. It is important  
3 that we are growing. As Commissioner Eggleston had  
4 mentioned, 41 percent of Broward County, the minorities is  
5 growing. So please do the right thing and keep it intact.  
6 Thank you.  
7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Number 37.  
8 MS. SUMNER: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and Broward  
9 delegation. When you get old and have a handicap, see what  
10 you get, you can speak from the floor and I don't have to  
11 come up there on that stage because I'm wearing a great big  
12 therapeutic boot and it would be a little difficult for me.  
13 But I do have some things that I want to say to you  
14 because most of you that I know and have worked with in  
15 your campaigns, I know that you-all been doing an excellent  
16 job but you've got a hard job ahead of you. And a few  
17 things that I wanted to make you aware of is that we know  
18 you are going to be undergoing redistricting. The question  
19 that I have for you, Mr. Chair, is whether the State will  
20 be looking at what is happening at these local  
21 redistricting efforts and giving serious consideration of  
22 what people have expressed at the local level as to what  
23 they want to see in terms of redistricting.  
24 If this is not a part of your plan, I would strongly  
25 urge you to make it a part of your plan for proceeding and  
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1 to look at the concerns and issues raised at the local  
 2 level by reviewing the minutes of the meetings and the  
 3 transcript of the public today.  
 4 I know it is a long way to Tallahassee. We can't  
 5 attend very many meetings. And we hope that when you take  
 6 this into consideration, that you will, will give thought  
 7 to all of the statements that are being made here. I  
 8 happen to be a political activist in Sunrise too. I live  
 9 in Sunrise Lakes, one of the biggest voting groups that we  
 10 have. I'm also vice-president of the West Broward  
 11 Democratic Club with over 1,000 members, which is possibly  
 12 the largest club in the state.  
 13 And I'm hoping that you will not, follow in the  
 14 statement of my mayor, that you will not be splitting up  
 15 Sunrise, that you will take into consideration that one of  
 16 the most important issues we have are our senior citizens.  
 17 I hope that every district has senior citizens in it so  
 18 that things like this will not appear in our papers that,  
 19 List of Seniors Awaiting Care, Gross Crisis, Need for Aid  
 20 Passes State's Ability to Pay.  
 21 If all of you will put senior citizens into your  
 22 districts, I think that we can get more aid for the  
 23 seniors, I have been involved with seniors and law  
 24 enforcement for the last four years chairing a group in  
 25 Broward County that works with them, educating and helping  
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1 them. But we can't help them if you don't help us. You've  
 2 got to keep these districts into the position of where  
 3 seniors become a very important issue with you.  
 4 And I just hope that this is what you will be doing.  
 5 When you redistrict, you will be giving us that  
 6 opportunity, working with us. Do not split Sunrise Lakes.  
 7 Do not have good people running against each other. Please  
 8 take that into consideration and I welcome the opportunity  
 9 of talking to you tonight and ask again, senior citizens  
 10 are a big concern to me since I am one. But I know you  
 11 will be one some day. But right now, I'm doing things for  
 12 those that are ahead of you.  
 13 So please, please put in your districting that you  
 14 will be taking into consideration all the needs of the  
 15 seniors and that each and every one of you get your share  
 16 of taking care of them. Thank you very, very much.  
 17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 38.  
 18 MS. EFFMAN: Good evening. My name is Barbara Effman.  
 19 I am a 25-year resident of Broward County which, in this  
 20 county, makes me practically a native. I'm president of  
 21 the largest political club in the state and it is my honor  
 22 and privilege to address this body today. It's my honor  
 23 and privilege to be a voting resident of the greatest  
 24 country of the world, from one of the greatest and best  
 25 states in the nation within a wonderful county.  
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1 I'm proud to be from Sunrise, Florida where we take  
 2 our voting very seriously. Many of our precincts we have  
 3 90 percent voter turnout. We vote in every election, every  
 4 runoff at every level. We also love our delegation. We  
 5 are a family. And while we disagree on many issues, we  
 6 work together as a team to accomplish a strong and viable  
 7 community.  
 8 My goals are much like yours. We all want what is  
 9 best for our citizens. We all want fairness. While you  
 10 shrink our districts because of our thriving population,  
 11 please keep in mind the following issues: One -- and I  
 12 don't think anyone said this before -- but please be sure  
 13 the incumbents live in their own districts.  
 14 Two, insure, whenever possible, that our elected  
 15 Representatives represent one county, Broward County. Try  
 16 not to let district lines cross county lines. We argue in  
 17 a county.  
 18 Three, don't force incumbents to run against each  
 19 other either within our party or between our parties. We  
 20 all work together well regardless of our party affiliation.  
 21 Four, whenever possible, don't split up cities and  
 22 neighborhoods. In Sunrise, we have 86,000 residents. We  
 23 are represented by three Congresspersons, four Senators,  
 24 and three State Representatives.  
 25 We are a large enough county to have our own  
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1 representation. We must work together as a team and not  
 2 against each other. Thank you--all for your time, your  
 3 leadership, and fairness on our behalf. Good night.  
 4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Number 39. (Pause.)  
 5 Number 39. Number 40.  
 6 MS. McCORMICK: Good evening, Mr. Chairman. And good  
 7 evening, members of the Legislature, welcome to Davie. My  
 8 name is Rusty McCormick and I am here tonight to represent  
 9 the Griffin Civic Association of which I've been president  
 10 for several years. I've also been a resident of Broward  
 11 County for over 20 years, I came in 1979. I'm employed by  
 12 the Broward County Sheriff's Office, I work in the Criminal  
 13 Investigations Division.  
 14 I also am a member of where I live. We have a Davis  
 15 Isles Homeowner's Association. I have been on their Board  
 16 of directors at different times. I live in the western  
 17 part of Dania Beach and I want to thank you very much for  
 18 allowing me to vote to become a part of that city. I lived  
 19 in unincorporated Broward County for almost 20 years.  
 20 I didn't feel I had a very big vote in Broward County.  
 21 And as the Legislature, you allowed annexation. I had the  
 22 right to vote which city I wanted to go in. I voted for  
 23 Dania Beach. They welcomed us with open arms. We are only  
 24 7,500 people in that annexed area. So we're on the western  
 25 edge of Dania Beach. So we joined that 27,000 people in  
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1 that small little city.

2 But like I said, they welcomed us as a family. We are

3 a part of that residence. We are old; we are young; we are

4 black; we're white; we're Hispanic, but we work together,

5 we play together and we live together as a community and as

6 a big family.

7 So, we are in House District 99, we are in Senate

8 District 29. Those Representatives come to our meetings.

9 They tell us what's going on in Tallahassee. They say,

10 What do you need in your community? We have a great

11 rapport with them. So, please, when you are redrawing

12 these districts, remember that. Our concerns are that we

13 want to stay a family. We are very diversified but we are

14 a community, a small community, but we think that we can

15 have a great influence in Tallahassee if you leave us

16 together as a family. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Number 41.

18 MS. CRUISE: Mr. Chairman, members of the

19 Redistricting Committee, hello. My name is Sarina Cruise.

20 I'm 24. I'm a student at Florida Atlantic University and I

21 live in Davie, Southwest Ranches. I'm here representing

22 several different interests. First and foremost, I would

23 like to dispel the notion that all Hispanics are the same

24 political orientation regardless of nationality. In fact,

25 I'm a strong Democrat and less than a quarter of the

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1 Hispanics in Miami-Dade County are of a different political

2 persuasion than myself.

3 I look to the ideology first before ethnicity when I

4 choose my candidates. Secondly, women's rights and

5 equality, equality in general, regardless of gender and

6 ethnicity are very important to me above anything else.

7 Some of the organizations that I work with in Broward

8 County and in South Palm Beach County are Women in

9 Distress, Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach County,

10 and Insight, which is a women against violence

11 organization. But it works specifically with women of

12 color.

13 And I also interned with State Senator Debbie

14 Wasserman-Schultz who has been a mentor to me and I can't

15 even describe the ways. She is a friend and she is like I

16 said, somebody I look up to. And that's why I'm proud to

17 say that I am a constituent of Senate District 32. And I

18 would like to remain one of her constituents. And I would

19 like to see that my district stays within Broward County, I

20 think that's very important.

21 I also want to say that the neighboring counties to

22 Broward County are very different. I think that we are

23 lucky as citizens of Broward County because this is a

24 progressive county. This is a county that likes to hear

25 individuals speak. And it likes to represent them and all

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1 of their different interests, like myself. I think that's

2 important that we keep that integrity. And I think it's

3 important that we keep the accuracy of our representation.

4 So, again, I would like to thank you. I know my

5 speech is brief but it's from my heart. And at 24 years

6 old, I think I have an advantage because I'm young and

7 because I'm interested. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. What was your number,

9 ma'am?

10 MS. CRUISE: Forty-one.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Did you change with someone?

12 MS. CRUISE: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: What was your original number?

14 MS. CRUISE: Twenty-six.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Thank you. Number 42.

16 MS. GLASSER: Good evening and thank you for giving me

17 the opportunity to address you-all. My name is Diane

18 Glasser and I am the national committeewoman for the

19 Florida Democratic Party and the state committeewoman for

20 the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee. I am a

21 resident of Tamarac. I consider myself to have a

22 countywide and statewide perspective.

23 One of my biggest concerns for the current

24 redistricting process is that the Legislature will redraw

25 the district lines from the western Broward County

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1 districts to go across the state to Collier County. That

2 would be a huge mistake. And would do a tremendous

3 disservice to both the residents of Broward County and

4 residents of Collier County.

5 First, there is no need to extend the districts into

6 any other county. The districts in western Broward County

7 have had explosive growth and now have plenty of residents.

8 Most of them actually have to reduce in size. Second, you

9 should start from the premise that the core of the existing

10 districts should be preserved. This would mean maintaining

11 the districts within Broward County.

12 Third, the interests of the residents of Broward

13 County, the second largest county in the state, are

14 different from the interests of the residents of Collier

15 County. Residents of Collier County have far more in

16 common with residents of Lee County on the west coast than

17 they do with Broward County on the east coast. And it's my

18 understanding that that is precisely what you heard during

19 your hearings in Naples and Fort Myers last week.

20 Fourth, not only should you respect the county lines

21 which serve as natural boundaries for districts, we have a

22 geographic boundary between Broward and Collier County with

23 the wildlife preserve. The residents of Collier County do

24 not want to be a part of districts that stretch across the

25 state from west to east. And the residents of Broward

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1 County feel exactly the same way. So I urge you to respect  
 2 the traditional redistricting principles and respect the  
 3 wishes of the people and redraw the western boundary county  
 4 districts as strictly Broward County districts.  
 5 In light of what has happened in the last few weeks,  
 6 it is time we set partisan politics aside. Let us take a  
 7 page from Congress and the Federal government and do right  
 8 by our people, the fair thing. People and their needs  
 9 should be your first priority. How lucky we are, we people  
 10 that live here in these United States, where anybody from  
 11 any walk of life can come and speak to their Legislature  
 12 and ask for whatever their needs may be.  
 13 In light of all of this, I will say something that the  
 14 President says at the end of every speech, God bless  
 15 America, God bless Florida, God bless Broward County and  
 16 God bless you-all.  
 17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. At this time, we are  
 18 going to take a break for our court reporter and it will be  
 19 a short break. Thank you.  
 20 (Brief recess.)  
 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. If everyone will come back  
 22 we will start. Number 43.  
 23 MR. DRAKE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members of  
 24 the committee. My name is Kwan Drake and I am a teacher.  
 25 And I am also third vice-president of the Northwest  
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1 Democratic Club. And more importantly, I'm a resident of  
 2 Broward County. I would like to thank all of you for  
 3 allowing me to voice my concerns pertaining to the  
 4 redistricting issue. As a resident of this county, I'm  
 5 aware of how redistricting plays a major role in  
 6 determining proper representation in the State House, State  
 7 Senate and U.S. House.  
 8 The Representatives who we elect are the ones who can  
 9 better convey the concerns of our common interest that  
 10 affects our community. House district such as District 93  
 11 represented by the Honorable Chris Smith and District 94  
 12 represented by the Honorable Matt Meadows are districts  
 13 that we cannot afford to lose in our county. These two  
 14 officials represent their districts in great esteem and  
 15 provide a voice from their respective communities.  
 16 The Honorable State Senator, Mandy Dawson, of District  
 17 30 is a wonderful display of leadership and demands respect  
 18 for the people of her community. She serves as a beacon of  
 19 hope for the underprivileged and disadvantaged constituents  
 20 of her community. The Honorable Congressman Alcee Hastings  
 21 of Congressional District 23 says his district is bigger,  
 22 it has no bounds. He's a champion for all citizens that  
 23 look for equality within the law. That's why your  
 24 committee must maintain these political subdivisions and  
 25 not divide them into other districts.  
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1 You need to maintain our incumbents who represent our  
 2 interests. We do not plan -- we do not want a plan that  
 3 retrogresses our representation in government. You must  
 4 maintain our communities of interest. It serves no purpose  
 5 in joining communities together where the constituents do  
 6 not see eye to eye on important issues such as education  
 7 and health care.  
 8 In fact, if we have the numbers, it will serve well if  
 9 your committee was to create a new district combining  
 10 Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach. These two communities  
 11 share similar interests that's going to be accomplished in  
 12 all fairness and still maintain our political subdivision  
 13 and keep our incumbents in office.  
 14 In making your decision, please take into account that  
 15 there was an undercount of about 200,000 minority citizens  
 16 done by the census officials in our state. I believe there  
 17 are enough citizens in Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach to  
 18 create such a new political district. As a registered  
 19 voter and taxpayer, I stress that we have a chance to see  
 20 the new redistricting maps before they are adopted.  
 21 In conclusion, our districts are configured in a  
 22 manner that maximizes effective representation. I stress  
 23 to this committee in all fairness, please do not retrogress  
 24 representation in our State and Federal government. Thank  
 25 you for your time and hearing my concerns.  
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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 44.  
 2 MR. JABOUIN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of  
 3 the committee, I have two things that I really want to  
 4 talk -- first of all, let me introduce myself. My name is  
 5 Jean Jabouin. Standing here with several hats on although  
 6 you might not see them right now. I'm here as one as a  
 7 talk show host who perhaps gets a chance to hear several  
 8 individuals within this community, especially within  
 9 Broward County, an underserved population, one that is  
 10 predominantly of African descent and the African diaspora.  
 11 And also specifically from the Caribbean region.  
 12 I hear a lot of their concerns daily. And one thing  
 13 that we, in discussing this issue of redistricting, what  
 14 was pointed out was two things are important for them to  
 15 understand about redistricting. One, redistricting is all  
 16 about allocation of power, political power, that is.  
 17 Obviously, if you control the lines, you control quite a  
 18 bit, you control access to power, you control who is  
 19 represented, who is not represented, and you control  
 20 whether or not we, as historically disadvantaged  
 21 communities, will continue to face obstacles and barriers.  
 22 We are wondering what's going to happen with all of  
 23 this control that you have in your hands. And with all  
 24 good sense we have to wonder because I have heard a lot of  
 25 people come up here and echo several things, specifically  
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1 the issue of fairness. We continue to hear this word being  
2 said to you. And I have to ask you, I hope you're not  
3 taking it as an affront, it's just that we are truly  
4 concerned as citizens of this great county and of this  
5 great state.

6 Obviously, African-Americans and all people of African  
7 descent have to be concerned because of what happened  
8 recently in the last elections, political elections. We  
9 don't want what has happened in the past to continue to  
10 happen. We are looking for a way for our votes and our  
11 rights to be obviously met and our rights to be really at  
12 the forefront of your minds as not only in the forefront of  
13 our minds.

14 I would like to think that you would like to correct  
15 all problems that have been in the past. It should not be  
16 our responsibility. We are not the ones with the  
17 expertise. We are not the ones with the staffs that should  
18 be doing the research that you have done. You know the  
19 numbers more than we do. You should be the one -- and I'm  
20 putting the onus on you as opposed to on us. I think it is  
21 unfair when we put it on the individuals.

22 So I stand here before you representing at least  
23 500,000 strong in Broward County, I'll tell you that much.  
24 Why am I saying these numbers? Whatever numbers you have  
25 heard from the census are obviously wrong. 500,000,  
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1 because we believe that the numbers have been incorrect for  
2 quite some time and no one has taken that challenge to  
3 heart as well.

4 Let me take off that hat and the next one is talk  
5 show, and I hope you get a chance to listen to it on -- you  
6 can hear it actually on the web and hopefully you will get  
7 a chance to participate as well. I would love to have you,  
8 Mr. Chairman, especially on the show so that people can get  
9 a chance to know about this process.

10 This process is obviously an important one, but it's  
11 not, in our estimation, considering the attendance here  
12 today, it has not been, well, let's just say represented in  
13 the fairness of what we would like to have seen.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.

15 MR. JABOUIN: Thirty seconds left. Let me take off  
16 that other hat and put on my chairperson hat of the school  
17 advisory council of Northside Elementary School.  
18 Twenty-third Congressional District is where this school is  
19 located and it's represented by Alcee Hastings. We want to  
20 say, leave that particular Congressional district as is.  
21 It is a large immigrant population. Any attempt to alter  
22 the configuration of this district would be to the  
23 detriment of the overall democratic process.

24 I want to say something about Haitians, but of course,  
25 we don't have time. But I'll tell you this. You know the  
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1 numbers, you know the facts more so than we do. I just  
2 hope that in your good conscience and of course in your  
3 goodwill that you will continue to do the work of the  
4 people. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 45.

6 MR. COX: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and members of this  
7 most distinguished committee. My name is Timothy Cox. I'm  
8 vice-president of Broward Estates Civic Association. I  
9 reside in State Senate District 31 and House District 94.  
10 I am before you tonight asking in all fairness that you  
11 keep our district intact.

12 Our district is a minority district made up of people  
13 who share the same common goals economically, educationally  
14 and socially. Over the past ten years I have noticed a  
15 great change in Districts 93, 94, and, of course, Senate  
16 District 31. There is a tremendous improvement to the  
17 district. Big-named companies are coming back to the  
18 neighborhoods. Small businesses are improving. People are  
19 improving their homes. The schools are improving  
20 dramatically. And the infrastructure throughout the  
21 district is being upgraded.

22 This enhances the quality of life for all people. And  
23 it also makes people proud because we have elected  
24 officials such as Mandy Dawson, Matt Meadows, and Chris  
25 Smith. We have somebody that we can relate to and that  
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1 gives us a great sense of pride. Everyone feels included  
2 and this is a good example of how citizens and those in  
3 government work together for the common good.

4 Normally in a hearing such as this you hear a lot of  
5 complaints about what you didn't do and all of the things  
6 that you have done wrong. Well, I am here tonight to tell  
7 you that you did something right when you established  
8 Districts 94, 93, 31. And I would like to say personally  
9 thank you, Mandy Dawson. Thank you, Matt Meadows. Thank  
10 you, Chris Smith. Thank all of you and please keep those  
11 districts intact.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 46.

13 MR. PETERSON: Good evening, my name is Dale Peterson  
14 and I live in Weston. I've listened very carefully to my  
15 fellow citizens as they have talked this evening and I just  
16 wanted to bring up very briefly two points. The first is,  
17 I have heard a lot of people talk about compact, simple  
18 districts that surround communities of interest. And this  
19 makes a lot of sense, this is motherhood and apple pie.

20 When you look at the current map of Broward County and  
21 the districts, clearly we don't have that. So what I would  
22 urge is that you not be restricted based on the current  
23 districts and that you really do the radical changes if  
24 they are required to create compact, simple communities of  
25 interest in our districts. And the reason I do this, and I  
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1 know that there's been a number of points to you that  
 2 contradict this, is that failure to do this will, in  
 3 effect, grandfather in gerrymandering of the past, and I  
 4 don't think that's something we want to do. That was the  
 5 first point.  
 6 The second point is, and I have heard some other  
 7 people bring this up. But Broward County in many ways is  
 8 an east/west county. And western Broward County is very  
 9 unique. And rather than create rectangles running  
 10 horizontally across the county, I would urge you to look at  
 11 blocking groups of western and eastern regions together.  
 12 For example, Weston has a great deal in common with  
 13 western Pembroke Pines and western Davie and Southwest  
 14 Ranches. You can look, there is a lot of growth in that  
 15 area. I think the 97th District was the one that is over  
 16 by the most number of voters if I looked at the statistics  
 17 right. So, we have a lot in common out there and we have a  
 18 lot more in common with the western side of a lot of  
 19 communities and cities than we do with eastern ones. So I  
 20 would urge you to either look at vertical rectangles or  
 21 squares blocking together western and eastern groups. And  
 22 thank you for your time.  
 23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 47.  
 24 MR. McCORMICK: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and members  
 25 of the committee. My name is William McCormick, president  
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1 of the Fort Lauderdale National Association for the  
 2 Advancement of Colored People.  
 3 I do not have to tell you the interest my organization  
 4 has in the redistricting process. We play a lead role in  
 5 the redistricting in challenging the results ten years ago.  
 6 We stand ready to challenge the process and results again  
 7 as we believe they do not take into account the interest of  
 8 many Floridians. There are many citizens who feel  
 9 disenfranchised because of the way districts have been  
 10 drawn, sometimes denying the opportunity to elect  
 11 candidates of their choice.  
 12 We want to first express that we would have preferred  
 13 tonight to hear from you as well as you hear from us. We  
 14 would have liked you to share with us the criteria you  
 15 intend to use, the criteria you will use to draw the State  
 16 and Congressional lines. But as it was referenced at the  
 17 onset, this is a one-sided hearing with the public doing  
 18 all of the talking and with us at least hoping you will be  
 19 doing most of the listening.  
 20 So, given your procedures, let me begin by stating  
 21 that in addition to the legal requirements, you should  
 22 include the following information as part of the criteria  
 23 you use in drawing district lines: First, you should take  
 24 into consideration the characteristics that define the  
 25 common interest of a community. We are specifically  
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1 interested in sharing concerns and identities such as  
 2 income levels, cultural cohesiveness, housing, et cetera.  
 3 Now, you recognize that these communities of interest  
 4 cross political subdivisions so that you should not  
 5 necessarily consider city and county boundaries as you draw  
 6 districts. And there will be no consideration of reducing  
 7 the current number of the Florida House and Senate seats  
 8 from 120 and 40 members. That you recognize that the  
 9 minority population in Broward County has grown  
 10 significantly in the last ten years to justify the drawing  
 11 of another Florida House seat with the ability to elect  
 12 candidates of our choice.  
 13 That you establish criteria for drawing lines early  
 14 and that the public be made aware of the principles guiding  
 15 the process and be allowed to make comments on them. That  
 16 as maps are considered, they be made available to the  
 17 public for review and comments. And once a plan evolves,  
 18 there will be an opportunity to evaluate and provide input.  
 19 Mr. Chair, and members of this committee, thank you  
 20 for allowing me to speak tonight. As my organization holds  
 21 all public meetings on this issue, we reserve the  
 22 opportunity to provide you with additional written  
 23 comments. We will continue to monitor this process to  
 24 ensure that it is fair and it takes into account the  
 25 diversity of our county and this state. The Fort  
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1 Lauderdale branch of the NAACP with the support from our  
 2 national office, the regional office, and the Florida state  
 3 branches, will participate in this process to protect and  
 4 enhance the opportunity for minority groups.  
 5 We are eager to do so understanding that there are  
 6 political conflict. The NAACP's role will be to ensure, to  
 7 the best of our ability, through the working relationship  
 8 with you or through court action to maintain the integrity  
 9 in this process. Thank you.  
 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 48.  
 11 MR. CUMBERBATCH: Good evening, Mr. Chair, members of  
 12 the panel, welcome to Broward County. I hope that after  
 13 your task is finished we here in Broward County can say  
 14 thank you for coming to Broward County, that is important.  
 15 This committee here is charged with a serious  
 16 responsibility that will impact all citizens. Please make  
 17 sure that you do not further disenfranchise minorities.  
 18 We need representation. Proper representation will  
 19 help to bring some of these sources necessary for the  
 20 survival of our communities. Members, be fair, be  
 21 equitable, be honest and then be political. I reside in  
 22 Congressional District 20, State 32, Rep 98. I have had  
 23 the opportunity to meet with all of my Representatives and  
 24 I'm happy. However, I share the concerns of most of my  
 25 citizens and all the prior speakers here.  
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1 After the debacle of November 2000, we need to be sure  
2 that a fair and equitable method is applied to the  
3 redistricting process. We will not accept districts that  
4 are designed to accommodate political expediency at the  
5 expense of our communities. We demand the right to voice  
6 our concerns and the ability to make our contribution to  
7 the process.

8 It is essential that we receive notice of all of the  
9 hearings, that we may make arrangements to attend all of  
10 these hearings. Mr. Chair, as a concerned Floridian, I  
11 have been here now for 11 years, I am involved in the  
12 political process and I apologize for not identifying  
13 myself when I first got here. My name is Frank  
14 Cumberbatch. I am a member of the Peruvian Democratic  
15 Club. I'm also the treasurer of the Peruvian cultural  
16 coalition. We need you to be cohesive. Draw the lines  
17 with your eyes open. Please give us the representation  
18 that we so deserve so that we may avoid what has transpired  
19 in the past. I thank you for your time.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 49. (Pause.) Forty-nine.  
21 Fifty.

22 MR. KELRICK: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members  
23 of the committee. My name is Scott Kelrick. I'm 16 years  
24 old and in the 10th grade. I was born and have lived in  
25 Hollywood, Florida my entire life. And I'm concerned about  
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1 the fact that my community may be redistricted. A district  
2 needs to be represented by somebody whose interests lie in  
3 the specific district. I feel that Representative Sobel  
4 has a great deal of interest in my district. She and I  
5 live in the same community and I know that she cares about  
6 students in her district.

7 Representative Sobel cares about improving education  
8 and she has the best interest of kids in mind.  
9 Representative Sobel has given me personal attention. I  
10 visit and talk with her often in her office near my house.  
11 I was given the privilege to go to Tallahassee and learn  
12 about the legislative process. While in Tallahassee I was  
13 able to see Representative Sobel in action fighting hard to  
14 serve the needs of the people in our district.

15 I hope that you will keep District 100 intact because  
16 Representative Sobel is doing such a good job for us. In  
17 the end, District 100 is a community within itself and we  
18 have great representation. Thank you for your time.

19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 51. (Pause.) Fifty-one.  
20 Fifty-two.

21 MS. GOLD: Good evening, honorable Committee Chair,  
22 and members, legislators, Senators. I am Lori Gold of  
23 Hollywood. Thank you for taking time away from your lives  
24 and families to meet with us in Broward County on the  
25 redistricting issue. Occurring once every ten years, the  
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1 redistricting process is a critical, integral cornerstone  
2 of our definition of democracy. Another critical attribute  
3 of our democracy is fairness and fairness belies several  
4 principles that must be employed in the redistricting  
5 process.

6 Frequency, timing, location, and access to meetings.  
7 There are only 24 meetings being held across the entire  
8 state of Florida of which seven are at a time when working  
9 people cannot attend. In populous South Florida, a total  
10 of five meetings have been scheduled for the four counties  
11 and in four counties I'm including Monroe, which we all  
12 know is not terribly populous. And only one is accessible  
13 to working people and this is the one.

14 Secondly, a level playing field. We, the citizens of  
15 Florida, who are the people to be served from this process  
16 have not been treated to the guiding principles of the  
17 redistricting session. In other words, you, our elected  
18 Representatives, will be making decisions on the design,  
19 size, configuration, density and other factors of our  
20 representation without giving us a clue as to the rhyme or  
21 reason behind the decisions.

22 If our elected officials intend to make redistricting  
23 decisions that effect us, we, the represented, then the  
24 credibility of the decision-making process depends upon the  
25 guiding principles used. If we are not permitted in this  
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1 democracy to analyze the situation based upon a common set  
2 of guiding principles, then your credibility falls by the  
3 wayside.

4 Third, review an input to the process. In the  
5 interest of fairness, credibility, and democracy, we need  
6 requests, are entitled to, and must be afforded an  
7 opportunity to review and provide input to the  
8 redistricting decisions made on our behalf. In other  
9 words, maps. Otherwise, the process would be less than  
10 fair, less than credible and less than democratic. In  
11 short, it would be a sham.

12 Specific to our community, I urge you to serve the  
13 best interest of our communities in Hollywood and elsewhere  
14 in enabling district designs that are contiguous and  
15 compact and respect the needs and common interests of our  
16 respective communities. In my case, I am in District 101,  
17 Represented by Kenny Gottlieb, though I also consider  
18 myself represented by Eleanor Sobel in District 100, so I  
19 guess I have the best of both worlds.

20 And, in that case, using the criteria of compactness,  
21 contiguousness, and common interests, keep Eleanor's  
22 district intact. And as Kenny has a little part of  
23 Miami-Dade County, as we all know there is little in common  
24 between the two.

25 Congressional District 22, which runs 90 miles down  
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1 the east coast and goes through three counties and is a  
2 mile, a mile and a half across widthwise, as anybody who  
3 looks at a map, if it leaves you scratching your head,  
4 there's good reason. State Senate District 29, we have  
5 little in common with Collier and Hendry Counties, that  
6 being we in Broward County -- can I just sum up?

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I think you did. Thanks a lot for  
8 appearing. We have got to get moving, really. Number 53.

9 MR. GARNER: I promise to be brief. My name is Eric  
10 Garner and I'm proud to stand before this committee today.  
11 I came here to talk about the southwest portion of Broward  
12 County, a great place to live. As you know, we are one of  
13 the fastest-growing regions in the United States. This  
14 rapid growth has created great challenges for our local and  
15 state leaders, especially in representation.

16 Currently our House district is divided among seven  
17 cities with extremely divergent populations, from  
18 retirement communities, to working class, to extremely  
19 affluent. This district today would not pass the Supreme  
20 Court's test. So it's my hope that southwest Broward,  
21 including the city of Weston and Southwest Ranches, and the  
22 communities of west Davie and west Pembroke Pines, will  
23 form a new district, one of convergent philosophies yet  
24 ethnically diverse, of like-mindedness. And when it comes  
25 to the idea of a community, that is the definition. Thank

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1 you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 54.

3 MR. TRUEX: Good evening, my name is Tom Truex. I  
4 live in Davie, about a half mile south of here. I'm in  
5 House District 99 and Senate District 32. I'm also a  
6 member of the Davie Town Council. First of all, I would  
7 like to welcome you-all to the beautiful town of Davie,  
8 home to the South Florida Educational Complex. Also home  
9 to the incomparable Davie Rodeo. I would like to also  
10 thank you-all for this process which I think is very open  
11 and fair. And I think it is an excellent chance for the  
12 members of the community to get a chance to interact and  
13 speak to you-all.

14 The main reason I'm here is to talk about the town of  
15 Davie. And Davie, as it is, I believe, is split into local  
16 nonsensical districts really. One of them, in the  
17 northeast corner is the one that had the map with all of  
18 the goofy gyrations. I know in southeast Davie where I  
19 live, it is a district, Mr. Ryan's district, and he is a  
20 nice fellow and Dania is a nice place to be, but I don't  
21 think Dania has a whole lot in common with southeast Davie.

22 So I have three things really that I want to ask  
23 you-all to do and they're simple. Number one is I believe  
24 it's time to throw out all of these silly gerrymandered  
25 districts that we have and really start with a clean slate.

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1 Second thing is I agree with a lot of folks that have  
2 spoken this evening, I think we do need relatively compact  
3 districts, although I don't think we should be slaves to  
4 those.

5 And, also, another thing I am going to agree with a  
6 lot of folks that have spoken is I think it's paramount  
7 that we keep together these communities of interest. In  
8 Davie, for example, I do think that western Davie has a lot  
9 in common with western Pembroke Pines, areas of Weston, and  
10 I do not believe we need to be a slave to this concept of  
11 only one district per town. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 55.

13 MR. SIEGEL: Senator Webster, gentlemen, ladies of the  
14 delegation, thank you, again, for allowing me to talk to  
15 you. My name is Herman Siegel. I'm the vice-president of  
16 COPA Organization. What does COPA mean? It means  
17 Condominium Owners of Pembroke Pines Association. That's  
18 32 different condominium associations which represents  
19 about 13- to 15,000 people. And we have represented Ken  
20 Gottlieb, Senator Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, and Peter  
21 Deutsch.

22 When I had a little problem, I approached  
23 Representative Gottlieb and not only did I approach him he  
24 was lucky enough to have a bill pass because of what  
25 concerns I brought to him. That bill had to do with the --  
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1 (inaudible) he made the bill, he got it passed in both  
2 houses and it was passed by the government. So it's not  
3 just for condominium owners, but it's for homeowners, for  
4 the entire state.

5 So when you approach someone who is your  
6 Representative in your state -- and I have also brought a  
7 concern to Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. She tried to get a  
8 bill through, unfortunately, it failed. But she will try  
9 again because her concern is -- I brought a concern to  
10 Congressman Peter Deutsch, he's put a bill through also and  
11 it's working its way through the Congress. Whether it'll  
12 pass or not, I don't know.

13 But the important thing is that our State  
14 Representatives, whether they are Representatives,  
15 Senators -- Steve Geller used to be our Representative  
16 before he became a State Senator. And when I call him and  
17 I need his help to help with something, he's there. When I  
18 call Ron Greenstein, he's there. When I call Nan Rich he's  
19 also there to help when I need them and I'm not ashamed to  
20 get on the phone and get them and twist their arms if I  
21 need to. So let's keep Broward County Broward County.  
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Number 56. (Pause.)  
24 Fifty-seven.

25 MR. CALDWELL: My name is KC Caldwell. I'm the  
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1 community (inaudible) vice president for the Broward County  
2 Young Democrats. I live in Plantation, Florida and I will  
3 tell you, I am pretty impressed that you guys are able to  
4 sit so long because those chairs don't look very  
5 comfortable.

6 And if someone asked me on September the 10th if I was  
7 going to come to this meeting I would say, Maybe. If  
8 someone asked me on September 12th, I would say,  
9 Absolutely. The reason being is that as I watched those  
10 two World Trade Center Towers implode, I realized that  
11 there are people out there for the first time in my life  
12 that are able to act on their hatred of our representative  
13 democracy and able to be a threat to us. And the price of  
14 maintaining our representative democracy is eternal  
15 vigilance.

16 The vigilance doesn't apply just to terrorists, it  
17 also applies to those people within our government who will  
18 turn the process of the Constitutions we have and the  
19 democracy against itself to strengthen their one party rule  
20 or through the process of gerrymandering and unfair  
21 political practices.

22 This commission has a little concern from me on two  
23 points. The first being that you are here to meet with  
24 10 percent of the population of Florida, which is Broward  
25 County, the second largest county in Florida. But yet you  
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1 are only spending less than 5 percent of your time here,  
2 that is a concern.

3 The second concern I have is that we can't comment on  
4 the districts. A dialogue is supposed to be a two-way  
5 conversation. You are getting a lot of input from us, and  
6 I'm sure probably more than you want, but we are not  
7 hearing what you want to do. We don't know what your  
8 criteria is. We don't know what type of maps you are going  
9 to draw for us. It's hard to comment on something you  
10 don't know or you can't see.

11 As I said a few moments ago, September 11th had a  
12 really big impact on me. And the reason being, as I'm sure  
13 it did for everybody else, is that, I realized, as I said,  
14 for the very first time, our way of life is under attack.  
15 And I would ask you to consider this, 138 years ago Abraham  
16 Lincoln said these words when our way of life was once  
17 again under attack and he said this: We here, highly  
18 resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that  
19 this nation under God shall have a rebirth of freedom, and  
20 that government of the people, by the people, and for the  
21 people shall not perish from this earth. It would be a  
22 disgrace to honor the 6- to 7,000 dead in New York and  
23 Washington, D.C. to continue doing politics as usual and  
24 gerrymandering during this process of redistricting,  
25 instead I would ask you to commit yourself to, one,  
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1 maintaining and improving the communities of common  
2 interest. And, two, base the new districts under fairness  
3 and community desires rather than on some narrow political  
4 agenda. In other words, think of it as patriotism instead  
5 of partisan. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Fifty-nine -- fifty-eight, I'm  
7 sorry.

8 MS. THOMAS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. And  
9 I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the  
10 committee for allowing me to speak and voice my opinions  
11 regarding redistricting. I'm Frankie D. Thomas. I'm a  
12 retired HRS administrator, I'm president of the Northwest  
13 Democratic Club and first vice-president of the Broward  
14 County Democratic Executive Committee. And I'm first  
15 vice-president of the Broward County Council of Democratic  
16 Presidents.

17 I am aware that districts must be based on a  
18 multiplicity of factors; however, you must also be  
19 sensitive to the common bond of groups within districts. I  
20 would like to go on record here and now by asking you to  
21 take into consideration these factors. Those of common  
22 interest, social, economic, health and well-being, as well  
23 as educational needs. When we have a Mandy Dawson and a  
24 Debbie Wasserman-Schultz representing us in Tallahassee,  
25 they know the needs because they are indeed products of the  
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1 system and speak from shared experiences.

2 When we have a Chris Smith, a Nan Rich, a Matt Meadows  
3 speak about the social conditions, the economic needs, and  
4 the housing conditions, they know from where they speak and  
5 can articulate accurately the needs of the community  
6 because they have indeed lived it, they have worked it.  
7 When we have an Alcee Hastings and a Peter Deutsch speak of  
8 the needs to forge bonds with communities around the world,  
9 they speak from experience and knowledge and that is  
10 important to the entire world to make it a better place.

11 Indeed, Congressman Hastings foresaw the threat of  
12 terror long before others fully understood even the meaning  
13 of the word. So if you draw the maps with these conditions  
14 in mind, commonalities, keeping the people of like  
15 interests together, keeping our Representatives who  
16 understand and know the terrain from which folks they --  
17 for which they fight, in short, we would like for them to  
18 stay.

19 We would like basically for our Representatives to  
20 remain as they are. That's all that I ask. I think that  
21 if you do this, you will be fair, and you will be fair in  
22 your deliberations. And if you are fair, then you will do  
23 justice.

24 The last thing that I would like to request is that  
25 after you go to Tallahassee and draw the tentative lines  
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1 that you come back and give us an opportunity to have some  
 2 input about the lines as you have drawn them. And even if  
 3 we don't agree with that, with the lines that you have  
 4 drawn, at least you will know how we feel and possibly what  
 5 to expect. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 59.

7 MS. BIEDERMAN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, committee  
 8 members, elected officials and my fellow citizens. My name  
 9 is Donna Biederman and I live with my husband and my little  
 10 girl at 3040 N. 73rd Terrace in Hollywood. For those of  
 11 you who are not familiar with the area, which many of you  
 12 aren't, my home is located in the west part of Hollywood,  
 13 which is District 100. We refer to this area as Driftwood,  
 14 while others refer to it as the forgotten part of the city.  
 15 That is, until our State Representative, Eleanor Sobel,  
 16 took the time to come out and meet our neighbors by hosting  
 17 a coffee at my home.

18 I invited several of my neighbors to attend but any of  
 19 you that own a home know that you probably meet the  
 20 next-door neighbors and the ones across the street, but you  
 21 very rarely know the rest of the block. Well, I didn't  
 22 expect very many people to attend but we set up a table  
 23 with refreshments and several chairs in the front yard in  
 24 order to attract some of the neighbors that I didn't know.

25 It was early evening and still daylight. People were  
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1 just getting home from work or walking their dogs or just  
 2 going for a leisurely stroll around the neighborhood.

3 Representative Sobel was definitely not shy about  
 4 asking them if they'd like to join us. Surprisingly, many  
 5 of them did indeed and had plenty to say. I was beside  
 6 myself because I didn't expect my neighbors to even care  
 7 enough to want to participate let alone voice their  
 8 concerns. Representative Sobel seemed to put them in some  
 9 kind of trance and the discussion continued to flow very  
 10 smoothly.

11 I have spoken to many political officials and  
 12 candidates in the past and their major concern was that the  
 13 west Hollywood area doesn't vote, that's very important.  
 14 When asked why they don't vote, many of my neighbors said  
 15 that they don't know any of the candidates or the elected  
 16 officials, so, why would they even bother to take the time  
 17 to go out and vote.

18 Now many of them know Representative Sobel and trust  
 19 in her. They know that she's not forgotten our  
 20 neighborhood and works hard to tend to our needs and  
 21 concerns. She attends our civic association meetings,  
 22 conducts group talks at local facilities. Is in tune with  
 23 our drainage issues, has played an integral role in our  
 24 crime watch programs and youth athletic league. And yet  
 25 it's truly helped to increase our property value. I know  
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1 this is true, because a home only one door down from me was  
 2 increased -- it was sold for \$25,000 more than what I  
 3 bought my home for and I live on a corner lot with a pool.

4 The highest concern for myself and many of my  
 5 neighbors are our children. And Representative Sobel cares  
 6 about our children and has helped to get us parks in our  
 7 area and believes strongly in the importance of a good  
 8 education as she is a former schoolteacher.

9 Her role as a city commissioner in Hollywood has given  
 10 her the experience and firsthand knowledge of the needs of  
 11 our area. She's made it a priority to visit and become  
 12 acquainted with the people that she's so vigorously  
 13 represented. So these reasons alone makes it necessary for  
 14 her district to remain intact. She's not only represented  
 15 the people but has encouraged voting in an area where the  
 16 desire has not been for years.

17 We know Representative Sobel. We know what she stands  
 18 for. We know who she stands with and we are pleased with  
 19 her performance and the representation that she provides us  
 20 in Tallahassee. The redistricting of District 100 would  
 21 feel like losing a neighbor and friend and will most  
 22 definitely split the community where actual progress is  
 23 being made. While I understand the importance of having a  
 24 Representative to serve only a certain number of people, it  
 25 would be wise not to sacrifice the well-being of our  
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1 citizens and voters to do so. With this, I implore you to  
 2 consider allowing District 100 to remain as is. God bless  
 3 us. God bless our country. God bless District 100. Go  
 4 Eleanor. Go, Kenny. Go, Debbie.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 60, 61, 62. We are going to  
 6 take a break after this one for our court reporter.

7 MR. BIEDERMAN: Good evening. My name is Kevin  
 8 Biederman. I am an elected commissioner with the Central  
 9 Broward Water Control District, Zone 5, which encompasses  
 10 the Driftwood areas of Davie and Hollywood.

11 During the 2000 election, I spent many hours  
 12 canvassing the neighbors and attending homeowners' and  
 13 civic association meetings in this area. Time and time  
 14 again, I heard positive comments about our district's  
 15 Representative, Eleanor Sobel of District 100. I promise  
 16 it is different. I have also witnessed her work in  
 17 progress and she indeed represents our citizens and our  
 18 concerns in all areas of the Florida Legislature.

19 With regard to redistricting, I believe it would be an  
 20 injustice to move the lines of District 100, thus affecting  
 21 these residents that rely on her to properly represent  
 22 their needs. We understand and realize that due to the  
 23 growth of the population, redistricting is necessary, as we  
 24 have done the same thing in Central Broward Water Control  
 25 District. But we don't have to separate our district and  
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1 community if we only need to add residents to this  
 2 particular district, District 100. Please keep District  
 3 100 together and add the necessary residents to comply with  
 4 the state law and Representative Sobel will represent them  
 5 with the same enthusiasm and dedication that she currently  
 6 provides our residents.

7 You must remember to serve the people, not the people  
 8 serving government. The fair process would be for the  
 9 Representative of the respected counties to divide the  
 10 lines, not Representatives from other counties drawing  
 11 their fate of another county which they are unfamiliar  
 12 with.

13 In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your  
 14 time, your dedication in serving all of Florida, and your  
 15 concern of all of our concerns. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. At this time we'll take  
 17 a short break.

18 (Brief recess.)

19 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Could members of the audience  
 20 and also committee members take your seats? All right.  
 21 Let's proceed, please, with Number 63. (Pause.) Number  
 22 63. Number 64. Number 65. (Pause.) Number 66.

23 MS. FINK: Good evening, Chairman, and legislative  
 24 members. My name is Mecla Fink and I'm a South Florida  
 25 native. I am a long-time resident of Broward County and I  
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1 am the mayor of the newest town in Broward, Southwest  
 2 Ranches. I come before you tonight -- and by the way, I  
 3 know where you are now. I was just there recently. You  
 4 are between a rock and a hard place. And when I was there,  
 5 it was extremely difficult because no matter what you do,  
 6 it is going to be wrong in someone's eyes.

7 So what you have to do is what all Americans do, even  
 8 our President who says, We don't go for revenge, we go for  
 9 justice. And you have to look for the just position in  
 10 this. What can you do for your state and the members in  
 11 all of the counties in the state? For us in Southwest  
 12 Ranches -- by the way, when the mayor of Dania Beach says  
 13 she only has 27,000 members and she is such a small town, I  
 14 have to share with you that Southwest Ranches thinks we're  
 15 a large town and we have 7,000, but it is all depending on  
 16 your ego, you know.

17 But at any rate, I ask that you not tear Southwest  
 18 Ranches, as little as we are, apart and drag us into  
 19 another area, but that you keep our boundary within Broward  
 20 County. But as the people from Weston and west Pembroke  
 21 Pines and Southwest Ranches now are saying to you, we have  
 22 a great deal in interest. We are a community of interest,  
 23 and we have been served well. We are a diverse interest in  
 24 a way. But we have Representatives and a Senator -- a  
 25 Representative and a Senator who are sensitive to the  
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1 requirements both of the sophisticated municipality that  
 2 Weston is, which is a beautifully planned community, to the  
 3 growing metropolis that is Pembroke Pines to the rural  
 4 cowboys that constitute Southwest Ranches.

5 And I ask you to be fair to provide -- let the people  
 6 speak. Bring it forward after you draw your maps and let  
 7 them speak. Americans don't get so angry about whatever  
 8 you do. It is when you don't let them have a say in it and  
 9 when you don't let them give you their opinion.

10 All right. I'll keep this short. And I wish to say  
 11 to you that after I voted for districting when the  
 12 gentleman came up to me and said, I'll see that you are  
 13 never elected again. I said to him, and that is. Thank  
 14 you. Thank you, thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Sixty-nine. You're recognized,  
 16 sir.

17 MR. METZ: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
 18 Redistricting Committee. My name Abraham Metz. I am here  
 19 on behalf of the Broward County Young Republicans and I  
 20 first want to give recognition to our delegation that is  
 21 here which is Connie Mack, Jr., Debbie Sanderson, Clay and  
 22 Jim Scott.

23 I came prepared tonight initially to talk about  
 24 numbers. As you can see, I have done my research well with  
 25 all of the statistics, maps, but I'm going to change the  
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1 tone and not occupy your time because we are not here to  
 2 talk about numbers, we are here to talk about fairness but  
 3 also implementing fairness into a dynamic environment that  
 4 we live in and an ever-changing environment that we live  
 5 in.

6 We want to change the old gerrymandering districting.  
 7 We want to give opportunities for giving -- a personal  
 8 example of myself. When I went to my House Rep and my  
 9 Congressional leaders and my Senate Reps for guidance, for  
 10 help on issues, I didn't get the service that I had looked  
 11 for. Yet when I reach out to Debbie Sanderson's office, to  
 12 Connie Mack's office and to Clay Shaw, I get the answers  
 13 and help that I need.

14 I lived in eastern Pembroke Pines, or what is called  
 15 old Pembroke Pines, served by U.S. Congressional District  
 16 20, Florida Senate 32, and Florida House 99. None of those  
 17 members gave me the time or the guidance that I sought. So  
 18 I'm here to say, we need to start making changes that are  
 19 smart and sensible, drawing the lines that make sense, keep  
 20 them compact, keep the core of the community together, we  
 21 share common community interests.

22 I certainly don't share any interest with people in  
 23 Century Village and certainly west of 75. I am on the  
 24 extreme eastern side of Pembroke Pines, just on the west  
 25 side of University and we share more in common with the  
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1 people towards the water. And I would like to see some  
2 changes and some new lines drawn. Thank you very much for  
3 your time. God bless us all.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you. Number 70.

5 MR. ECKLESTEIN: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
6 committee, my name is Wally Ecklestein (phonetic) and I am  
7 a resident of Broward County. And of some importance to  
8 some of you, I'm also a super voter in Broward County so  
9 I'm very concerned about what's happened here today.

10 I'm really honored to be here. I know my voice to  
11 some of the others that have come out and to speak about so  
12 many different topics. One really hits my heart there.

13 And that is the special bond that's developed between the  
14 people of Broward County and our elected Representatives.

15 When you look at the margins of victory that they usually  
16 have, it shows that they are supported strongly by their  
17 constituents. Therefore, I implore you to maintain the  
18 core of their districts that are presently in place, that  
19 would be fair.

20 And that's why I come to you tonight, I wanted to  
21 speak a little bit more about fairness. I hope you're  
22 guided overwhelmingly by that principle. We all know the  
23 party that controls the Legislature and the Governorship is  
24 the Republican party yet the last election showed the  
25 Democrats comprised half the State of Florida, and by some  
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1 state is undergoing redistricting right now. I would like  
2 to ask that you look at what's happening at these local  
3 redistricting efforts and give serious consideration to  
4 what people have expressed at the local level as to what  
5 they want to see in terms of redistricting.

6 I would strongly urge you to make it a part of your  
7 plan for proceeding and to look at the concerns and issues  
8 raised at the local level by reviewing the minutes of the  
9 meetings and transcripts of public hearings at local  
10 jurisdictions in their local redistricting committees.  
11 This is one way to ensure that you have a firm grasp of the  
12 local communities of interest that should be taken into  
13 consideration.

14 The second thing I would like to ask is that while  
15 this committee has not yet adopted criteria to govern the  
16 drawing of maps, I believe that it's safe to say that  
17 incumbency protection will be one of those criteria whether  
18 it's expressly stated or not. That being the case, in  
19 addition to getting access to the final version of the  
20 redistricting software, one of the other pieces of  
21 information that members of the public who are going to  
22 draw proposed districts will need, is the resident's  
23 address of incumbent legislators so that when we draw  
24 districts we don't inadvertently draw them in a way that  
25 puts incumbent legislators in the same district.

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1 counts, maybe a little bit more than half. Yet Republicans  
2 control almost two-thirds of the seats in the Legislature  
3 and 15 of the 23 Congressional seats.

4 I hope that this process will not increase the GOP  
5 grip on power. I hope that Floridians will not continue to  
6 have a representation where one-half of them are only  
7 represented by one-third of the Legislature. I hope that  
8 you will consider what is best for each community. We  
9 don't want to have our districts chopped up, drawn apart to  
10 fit some political agenda. We just want what's fair and we  
11 want a fair outcome.

12 I thank you for your time. I thank you for your  
13 attention, and I implore you to please be fair. Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Number 71.

15 MS. ROSE: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and members of the  
16 committee. My name is Amy Rose and many of you from the  
17 Broward legislative delegation may know me as the  
18 vice-president of the Broward Young Democrats or as the  
19 vice-president of the Florida Young Democrats or as the  
20 aide to Broward County Commissioner Sue Gunsburger  
21 (phonetic). But I'm here tonight as a resident of Broward  
22 County who's concerned about the integrity of our  
23 democratic process.

24 I would like to address two points with you this  
25 evening. As we are well aware, every jurisdiction in the  
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1 Even though some of our incumbent legislators are term  
2 limited and cannot run again for the same office, as we are  
3 well aware, it's not unusual for members of the House to  
4 run for the Senate and for members of the Senate to run for  
5 Congress and so on. For that reason, it's important for  
6 anyone drawing districts to have residency information for  
7 all incumbents, not just those that are term limited.

8 While I can certainly appreciate that legislators may  
9 not want their home addresses published, at a minimum we  
10 need to have the number of the precinct in which they vote  
11 and the zip code of their home address. When I checked  
12 this afternoon, this information was not yet published on  
13 either the Senate or the House web sites.

14 I would like to request that this critical information  
15 be made available to the public so that when we do draw  
16 maps they won't be rejected because we inadvertently drew  
17 two incumbents into the same district. I'd like to thank  
18 you for your time this evening.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you very much. Number 72.  
20 Number 75. Number 76. Number 77. Is 76 here? Number 77.  
21 You are recognized, sir.

22 MR. FOULKES: Thank you. Good evening. Mr. Chair, I  
23 have the complete text of my testimony here and I will  
24 leave it here for the record. Roland Foulkes is my name.  
25 I am a native Floridian born and raised in Fort Lauderdale  
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1 and currently live in unincorporated, not yet annexed,  
 2 Broward County where I have maintained residence since the  
 3 1960s. Though I have lived and worked in over 50 nations  
 4 around the world, Fort Lauderdale has been my  
 5 permanent/legal address for over 40 years.  
 6 My Congressional district is 23, Alcee Hastings; State  
 7 Senate District 30, Mandy Dawson; House of Representatives,  
 8 Matthew Meadows, 94; and Precinct 32-Z, Broward Estates. I  
 9 am an American of African descent. My ancestors were  
 10 slaves and free men in this territory, the Caribbean, and  
 11 the southeast area of this country.  
 12 I am a seventh-generation Floridian on my mother's  
 13 side, long before Florida became the 27th state in 1845.  
 14 Both of her grandmothers, my great grandmothers, were  
 15 non-reservation Seminole Indians. And I am a  
 16 third-generation Floridian on my father's side. His  
 17 father, my grandfather, Arthur A. Folks, was born in the  
 18 Bahamas and is a recognized pioneer, an official pioneer of  
 19 Broward County. My Spanish-speaking paternal  
 20 great-grandfather arrived in the Bahamas from Honduras.  
 21 Several thousand of my relatives are buried throughout this  
 22 state so my roots are deep in Florida and in south Florida  
 23 particularly.  
 24 I'm a graduate of Pine Crest Preparatory School in  
 25 Fort Lauderdale, Cornell University and University of  
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1 California at Berkeley. I have served as a legislative  
 2 page in the Florida Senate in Tallahassee, a legislative  
 3 staff member in the United States Senate in Washington,  
 4 D.C., a legislative researcher and staff member in the  
 5 United Nations World Health Organization in Geneva,  
 6 Switzerland.  
 7 I'm a medical anthropologist by trade and a political  
 8 legal anthropologist by interest. I'm founder, president  
 9 and CEO of Global Solutions Unlimited and vice-chair of the  
 10 multiethnic advisory board of the Broward County Commission  
 11 so I'm sensitive to and aware to the many issues that  
 12 define the political processes from the global to the local  
 13 of which redistricting is but one.  
 14 Any enterprise is built by wise planning, become  
 15 strong through common sense and profits by keeping abreast  
 16 of the facts, Council King Solomon over four millenia ago  
 17 in Proverbs in the living Bible, both wisdom, knowing and  
 18 doing what is right and common sense were his professional  
 19 and personal goals. From governing a far flow 10th century  
 20 B.C. kingdom to constructing oppilant palaces and a great  
 21 temple, from commanding armies, caravans, and shipping  
 22 fleets, to mining copper and gold, from stewardship of  
 23 billions of shekels in silver, iron, ivory, and gems  
 24 received from such distant monarchs as the Queen of Sheba  
 25 to parlaying 3,000 proverbs and over 1,000 lyrics into a  
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1 publishing empire according to First Kings.  
 2 Common sense is regrettably not so common, noted  
 3 philosopher Francois Marie Arouet de Voltaire. Webster's  
 4 Dictionary defines common sense as sound --  
 5 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thirty seconds.  
 6 MR. ROSSEN: -- judgment that is independent of  
 7 specialized knowledge, training or the like. Normal,  
 8 native intelligence, if you will. Common sense is the  
 9 measure of the possible for Swiss philosopher Henri  
 10 Frederic Amiel.  
 11 Basically, let me get to the point, I urge you as King  
 12 Solomon did, use wisdom, common sense and demographic and  
 13 ethnographic facts that emerge from the census 2000 to do  
 14 what is right as you have as we complete this process of  
 15 remapping, the legislative feature of our great and  
 16 overwhelmingly diverse state. As you create our  
 17 legislative map for the remainder of this decade, as you  
 18 look at it, as you ponder it, as you study it, as you  
 19 debate it, as you vote it and approve it, I ask that you  
 20 draw on that --  
 21 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: If you could wind it up, we are  
 22 over the time limit.  
 23 MR. ROSSEN: Thank you. Draw on that innate ability  
 24 within you to stop, stand back and ask, Does this map make  
 25 sense and will it work.  
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1 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Thank you very  
 2 much.  
 3 Number 78. Good evening, sir, you are recognized.  
 4 MR. PIERRE: Good evening. My name is Manes Pierre  
 5 and I am a teacher. I am on the board of directors of the  
 6 Florida State Teach All (phonetic) which is an organization  
 7 of over 30,000 teachers who operate on behalf of students  
 8 whose native languages are not English.  
 9 I am also the chair of the Leadership Circle of  
 10 Broward, which is a political action committee, which we  
 11 oppose any county-wide attempt to increase economic  
 12 violence in Broward County. I am also a softball coach.  
 13 I'm a storyteller, I am a Ph.D. student at Nova University  
 14 in conflict analysis and resolution.  
 15 As you can see, I represent many walks of life.  
 16 First, like most of you in this world, today I am an  
 17 American. As Americans, we believe in fairness and public  
 18 discussions like this one tonight. Although I am  
 19 privileged to be speaking here tonight, I urge you not to  
 20 treat this hearing as a formality. Instead, use it as a  
 21 measuring device to make informed and well-planned  
 22 decisions.  
 23 As a minority, I implore you not to create district  
 24 maps that constitute partisan political dreams. Instead,  
 25 create maps that will deal with the reality of diverse  
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1 communities that have common interests. I live in the city  
 2 of Lauderdale Lakes and we have seen tremendous growth in  
 3 minority representation. I would like to see that  
 4 representation remain the same on the national and state  
 5 level. We need people who will fight to protect our  
 6 interests and bring dollars into our community.

7 Lastly, but most importantly, I am of Haitian heritage  
 8 and there's no one who has done more in recent history for  
 9 the Haitian people than Congressman Alcee Hastings. Time  
 10 and time again, this man has spoke for many of my people  
 11 and our unique needs.

12 As an American and as a minority, as a Haitian, I  
 13 appeal to your sense of fairness and ask that your  
 14 decisions be informed and representative of all walks of  
 15 life. In light of our recent situation in America we  
 16 realize that in sorrow and war we seem to come together. I  
 17 would like to inspire you to continue to see this  
 18 cooperation for redistricting as a nation coming together,  
 19 as a community coming together, as a community building for  
 20 the future of all Americans, not just for some Americans,  
 21 not just for some Americans on the other side, but for all  
 22 Americans in one boat. Thank you very much, ladies and  
 23 gentlemen, for your attention this evening. Once again,  
 24 have a good night.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Number 79.  
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1 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. You guys tired yet? My  
 2 name is Levi Williams. I live in Oakland Park, Florida and  
 3 I'm not going to take long because you haven't given me  
 4 long. But Martin Luther King said back in the 1960s, he  
 5 said, Great people sometimes sleep through a great  
 6 revolution and in doing so, they fail to take advantage of  
 7 changing events, in changing the way they do business,  
 8 changing the way they think about things. Thus, missing  
 9 the great revolution.

10 Well, here in Florida, we have seen a great  
 11 revolution, a social revolution, we have a diverse and rich  
 12 community, something that's happening to the rest of the  
 13 country, it just happened to hit us first. Now, as we look  
 14 at drawing these lines, I know there are maps that have  
 15 been made, we have to take into consideration the  
 16 communities that make up this great social revolution and  
 17 make sure that the lines provide an opportunity for  
 18 representation from all areas whether they be  
 19 African-American, Haitian, Hispanic, or otherwise.

20 And just for a little bit of history, you know, ten  
 21 years ago, the Democratic majority issued a plan that gave  
 22 a limited ability to elect diverse representation. It took  
 23 groups coming together such as the NAACP, the Lord's  
 24 Committee (phonetic) on Civil Rights, the Republican Party,  
 25 Kareem Brown, Darryl Reece (phonetic) following a suit to  
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1 demand full representation. Ten years has passed, the  
 2 paradigm shift has occurred in our community. Let's make  
 3 sure that we do what is right and take advantage of the  
 4 rich and diverse community we have, the differing skills,  
 5 points of views that will make us that much better and push  
 6 us that much further. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Number 80.  
 8 Good evening, you are recognized.

9 MS. HANSEN: Good evening, I'm Jean Hansen. I'm  
 10 former chairman of the Republican Party of Broward County  
 11 and former state committeewoman. Now I am just a plain  
 12 citizen. I have testified before these types of hearings  
 13 before for fairness, it's really amusing to sit here and  
 14 listen to people who want fairness. I mean, everybody is  
 15 telling you what a hard job you have, you've got a piece of  
 16 cake because any plan that you come up with will be better  
 17 than the one that we have got now, any one. So, they can  
 18 claim that they are going to sue you all over the place.

19 I want to give you a little bit of history on  
 20 reapportionment in past years in Broward County. In 1980,  
 21 Bill Glen was the chairman of the Republican Party of  
 22 Broward County. And when reapportionment came in 1981, he  
 23 told me that he made a deal with the Democrats that he  
 24 wanted a safe seat for Debbie Sanderson, Jim Scott and Clay  
 25 Shaw and the Democrats could have all of the other seats.  
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1 And the part of the agreement was that they would never  
 2 work for other legislators against Democrats and that's  
 3 what happened.

4 So, we were unrepresented. You know, there's been a  
 5 lot of talk about minorities. The Republican Party of  
 6 Broward County is a large minority. I feel I have had no  
 7 representation, including when I was chairman of the party.  
 8 And when I was chairman of the party and there was going to  
 9 be redistricting of the county commission, I had someone  
 10 draw up a fair plan that had several minority districts in  
 11 it and I brought it to the NAACP. Well, they didn't want  
 12 any part of it because it had a couple of Republican  
 13 districts in it too.

14 So, instead, they took the Democrat plan, which had  
 15 one minority district in it but that happened to also be  
 16 the Republican district. So they then got a white Democrat  
 17 as their Representative. So there's talk about fairness  
 18 but they don't really mean fairness. It's like they say,  
 19 We don't want gerrymandering, but who gerrymandered? Their  
 20 Representatives. Who is up here? All of the power  
 21 brokers, the condominium people.

22 When I first moved here before the condominiums were  
 23 in power, you go to a condominium with all of your  
 24 candidates, the people had a chance to hear all of the  
 25 candidates. Of course people get elected now by 80 percent  
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1 of the vote because nobody has a chance to hear anybody  
 2 else, and that isn't right.  
 3 You know, all of this talk about minorities, on my  
 4 street, I have a Haitian, a couple of Haitians. I've got  
 5 Mexicans, I've got Cubans. I mean, we've got lawsuits  
 6 against the City of Fort Lauderdale so-called for  
 7 discrimination because they don't hire Haitians, well, I  
 8 got my Haitian neighbor a job at the city.  
 9 So, you know, let's talk reality. And there's been --  
 10 it's been in the paper that the plan, if these -- if the  
 11 Democrats don't get what they want in this reapportionment,  
 12 Jim Scott is going to not get a safe district, well, good,  
 13 because he votes with them all of the time. So the  
 14 Republicans are not represented on the county commission.  
 15 So, please keep that in mind. Give us some Republican  
 16 seats here and good look.  
 17 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Number 81. Number 82.  
 18 Number 83. Good evening, sir, you are recognized.  
 19 MR. FERGUSON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members  
 20 of the committee. My name is Cleveland Ferguson. III and  
 21 I am a practicing local attorney and a visiting professor  
 22 of law at Nova Southeastern University Shepherd Law Center.  
 23 As a resident of Broward County, we all know that the  
 24 work of this committee is important as its impact will be  
 25 felt for a decade to come. In your considered efforts to  
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1 be fair in the redistricting process, without regard to  
 2 party politics, it is essential that while you consider  
 3 maintaining our districts in accordance with contiguity and  
 4 compactness, it is paramount that communities of interest  
 5 be preserved.  
 6 Whether the community is bound by common public policy  
 7 concerns, culture or language, public education or historic  
 8 preservation to name a few, these districts enable our  
 9 current elected officials to target our concerns and  
 10 maximizes their representation of our interests. From  
 11 Representative Chris Smith in District 93, did very good  
 12 work on election reform and advocating for voting  
 13 privileges for those who have had their rights restored, to  
 14 Senator Debbie Wasserman-Schultz in District 32 and Matt  
 15 Meadows' representation on crib safety issues, from Senator  
 16 Dawson in District 30, who is a constant defender of the  
 17 underserved and underrepresented in health and human  
 18 services, to Congressman Alcee Hastings gathering a rally  
 19 on the steps of the U.S. Capitol attracting legislative  
 20 support for financial relief for the victims of the major  
 21 earthquake in India some months ago.  
 22 These persons not only advocate based upon their  
 23 personal beliefs but also accurately reflect the ideals and  
 24 interests and the wishes of their respective communities.  
 25 Their districts should be preserved because the communities  
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1 of interest are of like mind and spirit. Their values are  
 2 admirably and professionally reflected in the continued  
 3 representation of legislators like the ones I just  
 4 mentioned.  
 5 As a further example, while Senator Dawson represents  
 6 tens of thousands of people in Palm Beach and Broward  
 7 Counties, she recently took the time without regard to  
 8 party affiliation and advocated vociferously on behalf of  
 9 two individuals in front of a taxpayer-supported board in  
 10 Broward County. And in her representation, she not only  
 11 articulated a standard of fairness and responsibility in  
 12 which that taxpayer board should follow, but also  
 13 communicated that those in her district supported the ideal  
 14 of fairness and responsibility, again, without regard to  
 15 party affiliation.  
 16 South Florida needs that kind of leadership to  
 17 continue. And though Senator Dawson's district is woefully  
 18 undercounted, she represents households and individuals  
 19 with shared interests. This should be considered and  
 20 respected when returning to Tallahassee and engaging in  
 21 your legislative analysis.  
 22 In conclusion, contiguity, traveling throughout the  
 23 district without crossing into another, and compactness,  
 24 honoring the physical integrity of municipality boundaries  
 25 are important; however, each district should be viewed in  
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1 the overall context of communities of interest. And  
 2 maintaining the districts of our incumbents while also  
 3 accounting for undercounts should be paramount.  
 4 Our incumbents represent us in a learned and  
 5 considered manner across ethnic, socioeconomic, religious  
 6 and even party lines. South Florida is truly a microcosm  
 7 of the United States and we have the political leadership  
 8 that ensures that our interests get a fair review. Thank  
 9 you for your time.  
 10 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Number 84.  
 11 Number 85. Number 86. Number 87. Number 88. Number 89.  
 12 Good evening, you are recognized, ma'am.  
 13 MS. SHERWOOD: Good evening, I'll try to speak loudly,  
 14 as I am vertically challenged. My name is Linda Sherwood  
 15 and I am a 40-year resident of Broward County. So I hope  
 16 to speak for Broward County and I know that we have been  
 17 here for more than four hours and you have had your  
 18 four-hour this morning session. And I think that we are  
 19 all here hoping that we are not spinning our wheels and  
 20 that we are not speaking to the wind.  
 21 We know that the Democrats do not want any of the  
 22 lines moved and the Republicans do, that each party is  
 23 looking for their own interests. But let me remind you  
 24 this, that each one of you here represents all of the  
 25 people of Florida, whether they are Democrat or Republican.  
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1 The Broward County delegation is one of the most  
2 excellent and powerful delegations in the Legislature and  
3 we are very proud of them. And we do know that the  
4 northern and central parts of Florida kind of look at south  
5 Broward as an alien nation, a culture that you do not  
6 understand. But as I have sat here for the past four  
7 hours, there have been recurring themes that I hope you  
8 will listen to.

9 And that is, I have heard at least a thousand times  
10 the word "fair." I have heard the words "justice." I have  
11 heard the words, "don't cross county lines." And I have  
12 heard the words, "keep cities intact and whole." And  
13 that's why I am here. I am a citizen of Hollywood,  
14 Florida. We have three Representatives, two with small  
15 portions, that's Representative Kenny Gottlieb who's doing  
16 a wonderful job and Representative Tim Ryan who is doing a  
17 wonderful job.

18 The majority of our district is representative by  
19 Representative Eleanor Sobel who I must commend for all of  
20 her good work. Hollywood is a unique city, one that has  
21 contiguity, one where the people have commonality. And to  
22 attempt to try to divide Hollywood in any way would really  
23 be a drastic, drastic change to Hollywood that would hurt.

24 So, we are asking you to keep Hollywood whole. We  
25 want to be able to know our Representatives.  
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1 Representative Gottlieb and Representative Sobel both were  
2 commissioners of the city of Hollywood. They have  
3 interests, integral interest in the people, the citizens of  
4 Hollywood. This is what the citizens of the state are  
5 looking for, they want to be able to take five minutes to  
6 drive over to their Representative's office and open the  
7 door and let them know what they need.

8 Senator Debbie Wasserman-Schultz comes to our civic  
9 meetings, to our club meetings. This is important to us.  
10 It lets us know that our voice is being heard in  
11 Tallahassee. That is what your job is. You have been  
12 elected by us to represent us, to represent the needs of  
13 the people of Florida. Please do not neglect your duty to  
14 represent what we are asking in Broward County. Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you very much.  
16 Number 90. Good evening, sir, you are recognized.

17 MR. ARREAZA: Hi, my name is Alex Arreaza and I have  
18 been a resident of Broward County for over 20 years. I  
19 know that you have been listening to a lot tonight and I  
20 will try to make this short and to the point.

21 I have been a resident here for over 20 years. I grew  
22 up in this community. Twenty years ago I walked across  
23 this same stage to get my AA degree where you are sitting  
24 here today. And just like this school has changed a lot  
25 over the last 20 years, so has Broward County. The beauty  
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1 about this is change is good, it gives hope.

2 Twenty years ago, there was a handful of Hispanics in  
3 Broward County. We didn't have much representation.  
4 Today, we make up 18 percent of the county. Today, the  
5 Hispanic population is not only a large one here in Broward  
6 County, but it is really completely different than  
7 everywhere else in the state. You probably, here in  
8 Broward County, have Representatives from every Spanish  
9 speaking country, Cubans, Venezuelans, Columbians and they  
10 are very diverse, their interests. But at the same time,  
11 we have our common interests.

12 We all come from other countries. We have all come  
13 here and made this our homes. We have raised our families,  
14 and we have the interests that is a little different with  
15 other communities. But we are here to make a better life.  
16 We are here to pursue the American dream like all of the  
17 other immigrants that come to the country.

18 What I'm asking you is -- and as people before me  
19 spoke about fairness and justice and you have heard this a  
20 lot tonight, but I tell you that being on the scene  
21 speaking, I have known -- I have spoken to many of you and  
22 I'll tell you, I have a lot of confidence in the group that  
23 you will do what's right. You will do it because over the  
24 years, the change has benefited us. I see a lot of you,  
25 when I've pointed out things, when we have spoken of  
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1 issues, you have heard me out and that gives me hope and I  
2 have the confidence that you are going to be able to make  
3 these district lines in a manner that is fair, that will  
4 give the Hispanic community the voice that they need, that  
5 they need because the Hispanic community has issues that  
6 are more particular to us. And like I said, I believe that  
7 the group will do what's fair. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Let me just ask you a question.  
9 I called for Number 90 and you are not Number 90.

10 MR. ARREAZA: Yes, I was.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: No. You were 99. We will  
12 figure it out. Okay. Thank you. So, we will just get on  
13 track here then. Now, Number 90. You're recognized, sir.

14 MR. CROSSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
15 committee, our distinguished Broward delegation. I had a  
16 prepared speech and I had a lot of stuff that I wanted to  
17 say tonight but it was going to be redundant and it's  
18 really kind of hard not to say the same thing over and over  
19 and over again. But what we have heard tonight is whose ox  
20 is gored. Please don't gore my ox. Please preserve my  
21 area, my thing, whatever it is, you know.

22 But I think one of the things that really sunk into  
23 me, what happened on September 11th. Because what it  
24 proved to me is that we are all Americans, we are all here  
25 for one thing, to stand up for what is right, to make sure  
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1 that everybody is represented equally, and to try to  
2 preserve what we have all fought for. We heard tonight  
3 many -- we have heard tonight, fairness, the word  
4 "fairness" used over and over again.

5 But one of the things that we -- one of the things  
6 that I think we really need is access. We need to make  
7 sure that we have accessibility to our legislators, to our  
8 Congresspeople. We need to make sure that they have the  
9 same access to us. They come to us and ask us, What do you  
10 need? What do you want? It doesn't make any difference  
11 who you are in the area. Gerrymandering is dangerous.  
12 Especially with you create something that we saw earlier  
13 tonight. We need to have easy accessibility to our people.

14 I know that it's easy to try to gerrymander by party  
15 lines, to preserve certain parties, to maintain power in  
16 the House and the Senate. But I really think that one of  
17 the things we need to preserve is accessibility. We need  
18 to make sure we have people who will represent us. I know  
19 it's going to be difficult to achieve, but if you set the  
20 districts up, the districts will do the right thing and  
21 they will put the right people in power.

22 So, what I ask the committee to do is look at that  
23 principle that we are Americans and make it so that we can  
24 have the right people to represent us in office. Thank you  
25 very much.

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1 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. We have 85  
2 waiting over there; is that correct? If you miss your  
3 turn, from now on, you'll have to wait until the end but  
4 we'll make this one exception. Let's do that and then  
5 we'll go back.

6 MR. DURDEN: I am really impressed. You guys are real  
7 troopers. You really are. To the chairs and members of  
8 the Senate and House Reapportionment Committees, my name is  
9 Greg Durden. It is my pleasure to serve as president of  
10 the T.J. Reddic Bar Association, Broward's African-American  
11 Bar Association. This association is extremely interested  
12 in this redistricting process with Congressional and  
13 Florida legislative districts. And we intend to be  
14 actively involved with this process as it evolves over the  
15 next several months.

16 While we trust that you will carry forward the  
17 Constitutional mandate in keeping with the laws of  
18 government redistricting, as attorneys, we are mindful that  
19 laws can be interpreted differently and that you can follow  
20 the letter of the law but ignore its intent. I understand  
21 that you do not plan to address tonight the criteria that  
22 will guide you through this process.

23 Let me state for the record that this is regrettable  
24 for it is difficult for the public to provide you with  
25 input without first knowing how you plan to proceed. This  
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1 being the case, I can only share with you what I believe  
2 must be taken into consideration in developing your  
3 criteria. Districts should be drawn taking into  
4 consideration the common threads that bind neighborhoods,  
5 making them truly communities. These commonalities include  
6 socioeconomic status, voting for fairness and other areas  
7 of common areas of interest.

8 With this guiding principle, we expect districts to be  
9 drawn irrespective of geographical boundaries, recognizing  
10 those common interests that transcend cities and county  
11 boundaries. Why is this important? Because when citizens  
12 exercise a Constitutional right to vote, they must be  
13 allowed to elect candidates of their choice. They should  
14 have candidates who recognize and can address their  
15 interests without the potential for conflicting or  
16 dissimilar interest from less than harmonious concerns. We  
17 hope that you will include these basic components among the  
18 criteria to be the standards for undertaking this most  
19 political process. Thank you very much.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you. Ninety-one.  
21 Ninety-three. Ninety-four. Ninety-five. Good evening,  
22 sir, you are recognized.

23 MR. WILCOX: Good evening, my name is Daryl Wilcox. I  
24 am a concerned citizen who also happens to be a lawyer and  
25 a member of the T.J. Reddic Bar Association. I was born  
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1 and raised in Fort Lauderdale. I am currently a Federal  
2 Public Defender. Before that, I was a State Public  
3 Defender in the Broward County Public Defender's Office.  
4 And before I went to law school, I was a middle school band  
5 director at Adams Middle School.

6 My father was one of the first three African-American  
7 policemen in Fort Lauderdale, wasn't a policeman very long.  
8 He took a test in 1952 just to prove that African-Americans  
9 could pass the test. I want to say to you something that  
10 is very important, that you take into consideration common  
11 interests such as people who have children that live -- who  
12 attend failing schools. That you also take into  
13 consideration people who have a common interest who live in  
14 communities with high disproportionate criminal activity  
15 and a disproportionate rate of juvenile crime in  
16 particular.

17 People that live in communities with high  
18 unemployment, poverty and otherwise economically depressed  
19 communities, people who live in communities where there is  
20 a high mortality rate due to their inaccessibility to  
21 appropriate health care. These people need a voice, a  
22 single voice, that speaks directly to those concerns. They  
23 need to be -- their vote cannot be diluted. These people  
24 need to be kept together because they need the most  
25 protection.

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1 I'm going to close now and I ask that you respect the  
2 Voting Rights Act and do what you know in your hearts is  
3 right and do what you know in your heart is fair. Thank  
4 you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Number 96.  
6 Number 97. Ninety-seven, correct? You're recognized.

7 MS. SCHWARTZ: I got here at 5:30. I really didn't  
8 think that I would be last. Members of the Committee, I  
9 think the Chair is not here, members of the Legislature, my  
10 name is Elaine Schwartz. I'm a resident of Hollywood and  
11 you have heard a lot of enthusiastic Hollywoodians cheering  
12 our Representatives. And I could do the same quickly in  
13 the interest of brevity. I will make four points.

14 First is, Hollywood is represented, as Linda Sherwood  
15 mentioned, in the Senate by Steve Geller in District 29;  
16 Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, District 32; in the House by Ken  
17 Gottlieb in District 101. And Tim Ryan in District 99 as  
18 well as Eleanor Sobel which makes up the majority of  
19 Hollywood. This is a real community, communities of  
20 interest that were put together for the past at least 20  
21 years since I've been here. It works well. They're really  
22 wonderful access. And with the interest that our  
23 Representatives have in our parks and our police and our  
24 safety, we really would like you to consider keeping these  
25 districts the way they are.

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1 of the campaigns in my party which it doesn't matter if you  
2 are a Democrat or a Republican, it is the same thing.

3 I find it very difficult to understand why the  
4 districts are designed that way. It is so difficult for  
5 our Representatives to represent all of these people  
6 because districts is not equally divided. And I do  
7 appreciate what you are going to do, but please pay  
8 attention because we have the schools that are left out,  
9 they are not in districts. They cannot earn money or have  
10 the kill (sic) in certain areas. It is the poverty in  
11 certain areas. So, please, when you draw the lines on the  
12 new redistrict, make sure, I think, we should stay in the  
13 counties.

14 If the county is large enough, like how are you going  
15 to divide 10,000 people to each district? 15,000 people to  
16 each district? How are you going to divide them? That's  
17 what you have to look into because when each district has  
18 to be represented and the Representative should go out and  
19 look for the wealthiest district is not (inaudible) -- each  
20 area has to go Pompano, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach. How  
21 much does man can do for all of these towns, it is  
22 difficult, look at Sunrise. It goes Boca and it goes  
23 Delray.

24 In the campaign in '96, others really -- I said my  
25 God, how are we going to make it? It is very difficult.

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1 The first one point about Broward County is we really  
2 believe that Broward County is a very strong community and  
3 we should try not to cross county lines. Another community  
4 of interest that I'm involved in, as I practice as a elder  
5 law attorney, and these Representatives who live in  
6 communities that are near the elderly and their issues know  
7 their constituents and we should try to keep this type of  
8 access which was just mentioned as well. I don't want to  
9 be repetitive.

10 Ten years ago I visited the reapportionment room up in  
11 Tallahassee in the capitol. It is a daunting task. It is  
12 a difficult task. And it's hard to recommend something  
13 without seeing something on the table. And I strongly  
14 hope, as my last point, that you will, when you come up  
15 with a plan that we -- eight hours here and you are doing  
16 it all over the state, but we would love to have input  
17 then. Please consider having us come back and talk over  
18 what your plans are. Thank you very much.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you very much. Number  
20 98. Number 100. Ma'am, you are one 100? You are  
21 recognized.

22 MS. SALAZAR: Good evening. My name is Paula Salazar.  
23 I represent District 13 in Deerfield Beach. I'm very happy  
24 to see this came after all to the decision to do this. I  
25 have been in Florida for 22 years and I am involved in most  
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1 This is not a political arena. This is for the people of  
2 this county and all of the counties in Florida. Now, we  
3 have 64 or 67 districts in all of Florida. If we have to  
4 make a 105, we make 105 if that's going to help this state.  
5 Thank you very much.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you. Number 101. Number  
7 102. Number 103. Number 105. Number 106. Number 107.  
8 Okay, that concludes our cards for tonight. And seeing no  
9 other cards, we obviously, if members of the delegation  
10 feel compelled to speak, we will recognize the members of  
11 the delegation. So why don't we see if somebody is  
12 compelled to speak.

13 Representative Seiler, you're recognized, sir.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SEILER: Just briefly. I want to thank  
15 you-all for coming down. Even though that district does  
16 look a little different, this is my district here. This is  
17 part of the part that goes well. But in any event, thank  
18 you for coming down to Broward County, to the Chair, to the  
19 members of the Senate and members of the House. And most  
20 importantly, we thank everyone that came out tonight to  
21 speak, the 107 people that signed up to speak. We  
22 appreciate you coming out to speak. And it's late so just  
23 have a good night.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Representative  
25 Meadows. You don't have to speak, but you, of course, are  
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1 welcome to.  
 2 REPRESENTATIVE MEADOWS: I just wanted to say, to  
 3 repeat what he said, welcome to Broward County. And I  
 4 understand the common thread that ran through most of the  
 5 speeches of fairness, community interest, and the ethnic  
 6 background of individuals and compactness of districts and  
 7 make sure that you take a look at those when the lines are  
 8 being drawn in the districts. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, sir. Senator  
 10 Wasserman-Schultz.

11 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
 12 Once again, welcome to Broward and thank you for sharing  
 13 your day with us. The only thing I want to add to what I  
 14 said this morning, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sorry that  
 15 Chairman Webster is not here, but I want to thank him for  
 16 adding a second public hearing in Broward County. It's  
 17 clear between the two hearings where there were 181  
 18 speakers who signed up to speak to address this body and  
 19 give us their input on how they think the districts' lines  
 20 should be drawn as the second largest county in the state,  
 21 that was warranted and we truly appreciate the decision to  
 22 give all the constituents the opportunity to have their  
 23 voices heard.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you. Senator Geller, you  
 25 are recognized.  
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1 SENATOR GELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's too late  
 2 to welcome you to my district, but I would like to thank  
 3 you for having come to my district. I think you have seen,  
 4 this area, Davie, the educational complex is certainly a  
 5 vibrant area. I'd like to thank again, individually, all  
 6 of the members in the committee for coming here and also  
 7 thank all of the members for coming to my district. I  
 8 personally thank you for doing so. So thank you again.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you, Senator.  
 10 Representative Ryan.

11 REPRESENTATIVE RYAN: I waive my remarks.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Representative Sobel, before the  
 13 bus leaves, you are recognized.

14 (Laughter.)

15 REPRESENTATIVE SOBLE: I want to say thank you to the  
 16 committee who listened to the testimony today, to the  
 17 people who testified today. I know you-all know about  
 18 District 100 now in Hollywood and Hallendale Beach. And  
 19 any time you want to come back down here and visit, please  
 20 feel welcome and thank you again.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you. Representative  
 22 Gottlieb.

23 REPRESENTATIVE GOTTLIEB: Mr. Chairman, earlier, I  
 24 basically said I wanted to say something after we had the  
 25 second meeting. I just want to say, I mean, being a

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1 freshman and going through this for the first time, and I  
 2 know when I was up in the north and going to some of the  
 3 meetings, a lot of people said, Well, it was their fault,  
 4 you know, the people who created this problem. I think we  
 5 are all new and I think someone said, Let's start with a  
 6 clean slate, and I think we all are.

7 I think from the discussions and listening and talking  
 8 to colleagues, I think that we're all here to listen to  
 9 exactly what the people throughout the state are telling us  
 10 what they want for their communities and they know best.  
 11 These are the people that live and breathe all day long,  
 12 that live in these communities, that know their  
 13 Representatives. We heard, obviously, some testimonials  
 14 and some of them, who knows how they came about those  
 15 testimonies, but they were wonderful for certain  
 16 Representatives that obviously these people have good  
 17 connection with.

18 And I think if we go back to our respective committees  
 19 when this is all said and done and we utilize all of the  
 20 information that these people have given us and all of the  
 21 valuable knowledge that they have given us about their  
 22 districts and their community, I think we're going to be  
 23 able to create some really, really good lines and I think  
 24 that we're all going to be able to work together to make  
 25 sure that there is the compactness, contiguousness, and the  
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1 similar makeup of the districts across the state of  
 2 Florida.

3 I just want to say that I'm extremely impressed with  
 4 not only the people who spoke before us but also this group  
 5 of legislators who I think are going to do a wonderful job  
 6 in making sure that the State of Florida and the districts  
 7 are drawn in the right way for all the people of Florida.  
 8 Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BALL: Thank you. Any further  
 10 comments? No further comments, then we are adjourned.  
 11 (Meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE  
2

3 STATE OF FLORIDA:

4 COUNTY OF LEON:

5 I, MONA L. WHIDDON, Court Reporter, certify that I  
6 was authorized to and did stenographically report the  
7 foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and  
8 complete record of my stenographic notes.

9 DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

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