

1 SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3 APRIL 18, 2011

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5
6 STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in
7 the above-entitled matter at the Illinois Math and
8 Science Academy, 1500 Sullivan Road, Aurora,
9 Illinois, commencing at 1:40 o'clock p.m.

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11 MEMBERS PRESENT:

12 REPRESENTATIVE LOU LANG, Chair

13 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD ACEVEDO

14 REPRESENTATIVE LINDA CHAPA LaVIA

15 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FORTNER

16 REPRESENTATIVE KAY HATCHER

17 REPRESENTATIVE LINDA HOLMES

18 REPRESENTATIVE PAM ROTH

19 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY SCHMITZ

20 REPRESENTATIVE DARLENE SENGER

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1 (Whereupon, the following
2 proceedings commenced at
3 1:40 o'clock p.m.)

4 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Good afternoon. This
5 House Special Committee on Redistricting shall come
6 to order.

7 My name is Representative Lou Lang. I
8 live in the Village of Skokie. I'm the Deputy
9 Majority Leader of the Illinois House of
10 Representatives, and I'm a member of the
11 Redistricting Committee and will be chairing
12 today's hearing.

13 I would like to recognize the following
14 members of the Illinois House who are present
15 today. To your far right, Representative
16 Darlene Senger, Linda Chapa LaVia, Representative
17 Edward Acevedo. And two down from me is
18 Mike Fortner, Kay Hatcher, Pam Roth, and
19 Tim Schmitz. Did I miss anybody down there? And
20 we have various staff people here helping out the
21 Committee today.

22 I would like to welcome everyone and thank
23 you for coming today. At the end of 2010, the
24 United States Census Bureau, as it does every
25 decade, released its 2010 population totals for

1 Illinois. The United States and Illinois
2 Constitutions require that in the year following
3 the census, the General Assembly must redraw
4 boundary lines at the congressional, legislative,
5 and representative districts to account for
6 population shifts over the last ten years. These
7 hearings are a part of that process.

8 The Redistricting, Transparency, and
9 Public Participation Act requires us to hold at
10 least four hearings throughout the state. Our
11 intention is to hold far more than that minimum
12 number. Our goal is to hear from as many people as
13 possible and to ensure that this process is open to
14 all residents of our state. We are holding
15 hearings throughout the state -- 15 are currently
16 scheduled -- to gain as much information as
17 possible as we undertake to support this Act.

18 We are guided in this endeavor by the
19 United States Constitution which requires that we
20 respect the One Person, One Vote principle and draw
21 out districts of substantially equal population.
22 We also will comply with the federal Voting Rights
23 Act which requires us to provide minorities an
24 equal opportunity to participate in the electoral
25 process and elect candidates of their choice.

1 At the state level, the Illinois
2 Constitution requires that districts be
3 substantially equal in population, compact, and
4 contiguous. Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights
5 Act further requires us to allow minorities a voice
6 in the electoral process after complying with the
7 federal and constitutional requirements that I have
8 just described.

9 In addition to these legal requirements,
10 there are countless other factors that play a role
11 in the redistricting process, and we want to hear
12 from you in considering all of them without
13 limitation. We are interested in any relevant
14 demographic information such as social, political,
15 economic, religious or any other characteristics
16 that are unique to your community or to your
17 organizations. We are interested in maps of your
18 community or organizations as encompassed by
19 relevant precincts or voter tabulation districts or
20 however you want to present them.

21 We want to hear your specific views on any
22 social, political, economic or religious interests
23 commonly held in your community, any specific
24 interest groups that exist, any concerns you have
25 regarding current redistricting boundaries, and

1 suggestions for the drawing of new boundaries.

2 In short, we want to hear any testimony
3 that is relevant to the drawing of our new
4 congressional, legislative, or representative
5 districts. If you have a proposed map, we will
6 take it and consider it.

7 If you want to draw your own map but lack
8 the capacity to do so, we have created two public
9 viewing stations where census and map-making
10 resources will be made available. One is located
11 in Springfield in Room 401 of the Stratton Office
12 Building, open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.
13 until 4:30 p.m. The second work station, a joint
14 effort with the Senate Redistricting Committee, is
15 located on the 7th Floor of the Bilandic Building
16 located at 160 North LaSalle in Chicago.

17 You can schedule an appointment to access
18 either public station by calling Area Code
19 217-558-3036. That's 217-558-3036. You may also
20 submit any comments, information or proposed maps
21 to us in person at those viewing stations.
22 Finally, you may submit any information or comments
23 to us by e-mail at ilredistricting@gmail.com.
24 That's ilredistricting@gmail.com.

25 We will transcribe the testimony of these

1 hearings and post that testimony on our Web site at
2 www.il.housedems.com/redistricting. That's
3 www.il.housedems.com/redistricting. Any
4 documentary evidence we receive be it written
5 testimony or other data or proposed maps will also
6 be uploaded on our Web site. Our only caveat is
7 that due to security concerns, we will not accept
8 maps on a disk or flash drive. We will ask for a
9 hard copy of that map.

10 As for today, we will proceed with a few
11 short welcomes, a short slide show presentation.
12 Following that brief presentation, we will have a
13 number of witnesses who have indicated in advance a
14 desire to testify, and we will hear from them
15 first. Given the number of interested parties, we
16 will ask that witnesses attempt to limit their
17 testimony to four to five minutes. We will bring
18 witnesses forward in group panels. If you have
19 written testimony prepared, we ask that you submit
20 that testimony to us and just briefly summarize it
21 in your oral presentation.

22 After the scheduled witnesses, anyone else
23 wishing to speak may do so. Every witness needs to
24 fill out a slip, stating your intention to provide
25 testimony for the record. If you have not done so,

1 please return to the sign-in table where you first
2 came in and make our staff aware of your wish. Our
3 intention is to allow everyone an opportunity to
4 speak. Again, if you wish to testify today,
5 whether you're a previously scheduled speaker or
6 not, you must fill out a witness slip in advance,
7 and please do that at this time.

8 Additionally, I would ask that all people
9 who are preparing to testify move to the front of
10 the room so that we can save time and transition
11 between witnesses.

12 Before we proceed, would the Minority
13 Spokesperson like to make any statements?
14 Mr. Fortner?

15 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair. I thank all of you for being here
17 today. I thank IMSA for helping host this very
18 important event, part of a series. We'll have
19 15 hearings over the span of nine days. We
20 certainly want to thank the Chair and the Chair of
21 the Committee for putting that together so that we
22 have a chance to hear you, the public, and help
23 that inform us as we seek to draw new legislative
24 boundaries for the coming decade.

25 Because this only comes around once a

1 decade, it's often overlooked, and this is an
2 important time to make sure that your voices become
3 a part of that record so that the effects that we
4 will draw include your comments and help us for the
5 ten years to come.

6 Now even though we have a lot of hearings
7 right now, one of the things that are not yet
8 scheduled are any hearings about a specific
9 proposed map that we would vote on. I would
10 certainly encourage the Chair of the Committee as
11 well as you, the public, to help us get those types
12 of hearings.

13 I'm encouraged that the Senate
14 Redistricting Committee has already spoken about
15 having hearings after a map is proposed. I think
16 that's going to be important. So not only do we
17 get your input as the map is put together, but we
18 have a chance for your reaction to these boundaries
19 as they're drawn.

20 Those hearings also, I would hope, will
21 have enough time so people can take a critical look
22 at that map. To that end, one of the comments that
23 the Chair made and came up on Saturday as well at
24 our first round of hearings had to do with the
25 format of the maps. Talking to our Republican

1 staff, we understand the concern about viruses and
2 other types of electronic problems that one might
3 get for a submission. I would ask the Chair to at
4 least provide a mechanism so that we can have
5 electronic formats where appropriate.

6 Having a mere picture of a map is useful,
7 but if one really wants to compare different maps
8 to see what would be most effective in meeting the
9 community's needs, some type of electronic format
10 to have the electronic boundaries would be
11 essential. So I would ask that as well.

12 So, again, thank you. I look forward to
13 your comments about your communities and interest.

14 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: And your host legislator,
15 Linda Chapa LaVia.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CHAPA LaVIA: I want to thank
17 the House leadership for allowing us to have a
18 redistricting meeting in Aurora. I want to thank
19 everybody for coming out. It's an honor, pleasure
20 to be able to talk to you today, Leader Lou and
21 Leader Acevedo and Representative Fortner, the
22 Minority Spokesperson.

23 I would also like to take a couple minutes
24 to have Mr. Max McGee, the illustrious leader of
25 this institute give us a welcome as well. Thank

1 you.

2 DR. MCGEE: Great. Thank you. And I think, in
3 almost all cases, I should say welcome back to the
4 Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy where we,
5 as you read as you came in, are igniting and
6 nurturing creative, ethical, scientific minds that
7 advance the human condition.

8 It's an honor to introduce one of those
9 creative, ethical and scientific minds to you right
10 now, our Student Council President, Mr. Shawon
11 Jackson. Shawon? Shawon was recently honored in
12 the Illinois State Senate with a resolution
13 recognizing his accomplishments. Among those, he
14 will be representing Illinois at the National
15 Speech Competition in Texas. And he received a
16 full year -- four-year full-ride scholarship to
17 Princeton. And at the House Appropriations
18 hearing, they asked if he will be returning to
19 Illinois, and he's on the record of saying yes. So
20 we're proud of that.

21 After your deliberations, I would invite
22 you to attend -- to take a tour of the Illinois
23 Mathematics and Science Academy, if you have not
24 already done so, so you can see your return on
25 investment, see what the taxpayers of Illinois have

1 given us, and how we have helped return that many
2 times.

3 We were recently asked to present at the
4 Intel Visionary Conference in Washington, D.C., and
5 are returning May 10th for a congressional workshop
6 to see model schools really of the nation. That
7 would not have happened without your investment.
8 So thank you for your support.

9 In closing, you'll see, as you walk
10 throughout our campus, statements of our strategic
11 plan and our core beliefs. One of those beliefs is
12 diverse perspectives and rich understanding and
13 inspired creativity. We certainly have diverse
14 perspectives today. So I hope that that inspires
15 you and that you are inspired by being here at IMSA
16 where we really believe in problem-solving and
17 collaborative learning to tackle this significant
18 challenge of redistricting.

19 Thank you for your commitment. Thank you
20 for all you have done to support IMSA in the past,
21 present, and future, and our house is your house
22 and you're welcome back at any time. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you, Dr. McGee, and
24 thank you for your hospitality.

25 We will now proceed with the slide

1 presentation.

2 MR. FREY: Hello. My name is Dan Frey, and I'm
3 an employee of the Illinois House of
4 Representatives. I'm here to give a brief overview
5 of our state's redistricting procedure.

6 I'll briefly discuss the procedures and
7 background of redistricting and information on the
8 Voting Rights Act. I will also be going over the
9 new state redistricting guidelines recently signed
10 into law. Finally, we will look at the results of
11 the 2010 Census and what those results say about
12 your area.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: The court reporter would
14 like you to speak just a little louder.

15 MR. FREY: Redistricting is the process that
16 ensures all Illinois residents are afforded equal
17 representation in the state legislature and federal
18 Congress as guaranteed by the United States
19 Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court held in a
20 series of rulings in the 1960s that congressional
21 and state legislative districts in each state must
22 be of equal populations, establishing the principle
23 of One Person, One Vote. As a result, states
24 redraw congressional and state districts every ten
25 years to reflect changes in population as shown by

1 the census.

2 The time line for redrawing the
3 legislative map is based on the Illinois
4 Constitution. On December 21, data collected by
5 the 2010 Census was delivered to the President.
6 The full block-by-block census profile of Illinois
7 that will be used in the redistricting process was
8 released in February.

9 The Illinois State Legislature has the
10 initial responsibility of passing the new
11 congressional and state maps. Both the State House
12 and the State Senate must pass a plan with majority
13 votes. The plan must then be signed by the
14 Governor. If a new map does not go into effect by
15 the constitutional deadline of June 30, the
16 responsibility for creating a new map passes from
17 Legislature and Governor to the Legislative
18 Redistricting Commission.

19 The Commission shall consist of eight
20 members, with no more than four from the same
21 political party. A majority vote of five or more
22 Commission members will constitute final approval
23 of a new map. However, if the Commission does not
24 agree to a map by September 1, the Illinois Supreme
25 Court will submit two names, one from each party,

1 to the Illinois Secretary of State, who will choose
2 one name at random to serve as the ninth member of
3 the Commission. Five of the nine members of the
4 Commission must agree to a plan no later than
5 October 5th.

6 In order to understand how the census data
7 is used to draw new districts, we must note several
8 legal guiding principles. First among these
9 principles is equal population. State law mirrors
10 the federal One Person, One Vote standard and
11 mandates congressional and state districts to
12 contain substantially equal population. As a
13 result of the 2010 Census, the target population of
14 each House district is 108,734 residents, while the
15 ideal population for a Senate district is 217,468.

16 Federal and state law also require all
17 districts to be contiguous which means that all
18 parts of a district must be next to each other,
19 unless connected by water. Annexations and
20 unincorporated areas in municipalities and counties
21 sometimes mean communities are dis-contiguous.
22 However, congressional and state districts must be
23 adjacent or connect at all points.

24 A more difficult requirement to define is
25 compactness. There are at least 30 different

1 scientific ways to measure how compact a district
2 is, but no statute or court precedent identifies
3 standard criteria of compactness. In theory,
4 compactness focuses on the shape of the district's
5 boundaries, how spread out a district is from a
6 central core, or where the district's population
7 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is
8 hindered by geography and on-the-ground realities.
9 So, often the interpretation of compactness
10 involves more than a visual test.

11 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests
12 two of its House districts, also Representative
13 districts, inside one of its Senate districts, also
14 called Legislative districts.

15 Mapmakers will also look, where possible,
16 to follow existing political and geographical
17 boundaries in ways that maximize a community's
18 opportunity to have its interests represented. As
19 we all know, however, county, municipality,
20 township, and natural geographic boundaries are not
21 always compact and contiguous.

22 By studying census data and holding public
23 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of
24 residents across the state, lawmakers look to
25 identify what are known as communities of interest.

1 A community of interest is a group of people
2 concentrated in a geographic area who are socially,
3 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously
4 or otherwise alike and can be joined in a district
5 to most effectively have their voices heard. The
6 factors contributing to any particular community
7 interest will vary throughout the state.

8 Federal law requires redistricting plans
9 to respect minority representation. The principles
10 of the federal Voting Rights Act are in place to
11 prevent the reduction of opportunities for minority
12 populations to participate equally in the electoral
13 process. However, districts cannot be drawn solely
14 on the basis of race.

15 Earlier this year, Governor Quinn signed
16 legislation to protect the representation of racial
17 and language minority groups. Senate Bill 3976,
18 now known as Public Act 96-1541, helps to prevent
19 minority fracturing or dividing concentration of
20 minorities among two or more districts by requiring
21 mapmakers to consider crossover districts,
22 coalition districts or influence districts.

23 A crossover district is one in which a
24 large minority group may elect the candidate of its
25 choice with help from voters of the majority group.

1 A coalition district brings multiple
2 racial or language minority groups together to
3 elect a candidate of their choice.

4 An influence district allows a group to
5 influence an election outcome without being the
6 majority population in the district.

7 These new state law requirements come into
8 play only after compliance with federal law and
9 U.S. and State Constitutional requirements on
10 redistricting.

11 In addition, the law ensures transparency
12 by requiring public hearings across the state, one
13 of which we are having here now. The hearings will
14 provide a space for residents to share their
15 thoughts on the redistricting process, a key
16 component to creating a map that best represents
17 the people of Illinois.

18 At the end of this presentation, we will
19 display our e-mail address on the screen where you
20 can submit your ideas for consideration. The
21 Committee is also accepting written testimony or
22 documentation today.

23 Now that we've covered the redistricting
24 process, let's take a look at the census data that
25 will be used to draw new districts. All of the

1 maps you are going to see are drawn by using Census
2 Blocks, which is the smallest level of geography
3 the Census Bureau uses to report population data.

4 As of the 2010 Census, the total
5 population of the State of Illinois is 12,830,632
6 as compared to the state's 2000 total population of
7 12,419,293, an increase of about 410,000. The
8 counties with the largest population by percentage
9 increase are Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, and Will
10 counties.

11 Demographically speaking, Illinois has
12 seen a lot of change over the past decade. The
13 white population has risen statewide by .6 percent
14 to 8,167,753. Illinois' African-American
15 population has fallen statewide by .6 percent to
16 1,832,924. Illinois' Hispanic population, though,
17 has risen statewide about 32.5 percent to a total
18 of 2,027,578. Illinois' Asian population has also
19 risen statewide by 38.6 percent to 580,586.

20 Now look at the Aurora-Naperville area.
21 These two cities lie within Kane, Kendall, Du Page,
22 and Will counties. In 2000, the area's population
23 was 280,419. In the last ten years, the area's
24 population has increased to 339,752. Here's a map
25 of the area's African-American population. The

1 total African-American population of the area was
2 26,582 as of the 2010 Census. The 2010 Hispanic
3 population numbers 89,383 and is concentrated
4 primarily in the City of Aurora. Finally, here's a
5 map of the area's Asian population. The 2010
6 population is 34,199. Combined, the minority
7 population of these cities is 150,434, nearly
8 45 percent of the total population.

9 Now here's a look of the maps of the wider
10 area which encompasses this public hearing. Here's
11 the 2000 total population. Here's the 2010 total
12 population. African-American population. Hispanic
13 population. And the area's Asian population.

14 Thank you very much for attending today's
15 hearing and sharing your thoughts with us. If you
16 have any comments, once again, the email is
17 ilredistricting@gmail.com or visit our Web site at
18 www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much. We
20 will now proceed with the first panel of witnesses.
21 Let me again suggest for anyone that might have
22 come in late, if you aren't scheduled to testify or
23 if you're not scheduled to testify but wish to,
24 please return to the table outside and fill in a
25 witness slip.

1 The first panel includes Mayor Tom
2 Weisner, Mayor of Aurora, and Jesse Vazquez, Kane
3 County Board, District 8. Mr. Vazquez is here.
4 Step forward, sir. You may both sit at the table
5 together and then we'll begin.

6 Whoever testifies at any time, please
7 state your name for the record and your title and
8 please spell your last name for the court reporter
9 so we know who you all are.

10 And let's begin with Mayor Weisner.

11 MAYOR WEISNER: Thank you very much. My name
12 is Tom Weisner. Last name is spelled
13 W-e-i-s-n-e-r. I am the Mayor of the City of
14 Aurora.

15 First and foremost, I want to thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman, and all the members of the General
17 Assembly or House of Representatives here in the
18 State of Illinois for affording the opportunity for
19 myself and the people of this area to voice their
20 interest and concerns relative to redistricting.

21 I would like to speak, if I could, first
22 and foremost, about the congressional
23 redistricting, and then I would move on to the
24 state redistricting issues.

25 As you may know, the City of Aurora is the

1 second most populous city in the State of Illinois,
2 and we have a population of about 200,000 people.
3 We are extremely diverse in terms of income, in
4 terms of ethnicity and culture, and in every
5 imaginable way I think. We are, indeed, a city by
6 the true definition as opposed to many of our
7 neighbors who might be more correctly termed as
8 suburbs or as bedroom communities. And because of
9 the uniqueness of the make-up of the City of
10 Aurora, I think it's important that we be
11 represented as a whole insofar as possible.

12 And so as it relates to congressional
13 districts, we would like to see the full 200,000
14 population of the city within a single district.
15 Furthermore, we would like to see our community
16 combined with other urban areas as opposed to
17 strictly rural areas. Because of our unique
18 maybe-up, our interests are somewhat singular and
19 unique and not similar in most ways to more rural
20 areas. And, therefore, as congressional districts
21 are made up, we would like to see that reflected by
22 the boundaries of the district which might include
23 the City of Aurora.

24 So there's two things that I think are
25 important. Number one, we would like to see our

1 entire population fall within one district; and,
2 secondly, we would like to see the district itself
3 reflect a more or less urban area because of the
4 uniqueness of the needs in such areas relative to
5 areas that may fall to the west of us. So that
6 would be our concern relative to the congressional
7 districts.

8 Relative to state districts, I would like
9 to preface my comments by saying that we feel that
10 we are well-represented by all of our state reps,
11 many of whom are here now today, and I welcome all
12 of you. I had the pleasure to see most of you in
13 Springfield last week, and I do want to welcome the
14 entire group here visiting Aurora today. We are
15 very glad to have you.

16 Relative to state representative
17 districts, what I think is obvious is that we have
18 enough population to create more than one state
19 representative district. In fact, we have nearly
20 enough, I believe, to create two districts. To the
21 extent that we can form -- the residents of Aurora
22 could form a majority of two districts, to the
23 extent that we can do that or that you can do that,
24 I think that would be beneficial, very beneficial
25 to our community.

1 As it relates to Senate seats, if that
2 were accomplished, then the nesting that was
3 referred to a few minutes ago, that Senate district
4 could actually be made up of two House of
5 Representative districts that are, in the majority,
6 Aurora residents. And I think that also would be
7 very beneficial to our community.

8 I want to stress once again that we are
9 the second largest city in the state, and we are
10 unique demographically in almost every way, again,
11 whether we're talking about ethnicity, culture,
12 income spreads, all those issues. We are truly an
13 urban center. It is critical that our
14 representation, be it in the state or be it in
15 Congress, that we are afforded, as that second
16 largest city, proper attention to our very unique
17 concerns.

18 So with that, I think that's all I have to
19 say today. And, again, I appreciate you being out
20 here today and affording us an opportunity to give
21 you input. Thank you very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
23 Mr. Vazquez, we do not have a witness slip for you.
24 So if you will provide that after your testimony,
25 we would appreciate it. Please proceed.

1 MR. VAZQUEZ: Thank you, Representative Lang
2 and Committee for having this public hearing.
3 Welcome to Aurora and the Fox Valley area.

4 As you know, I represent District 8 on the
5 county board which is the southernmost district in
6 the county. It covers Montgomery and Aurora.

7 I ask the committee simply to just keep in
8 mind the Voting Rights Act as you go through and
9 make up these boundaries and, as the Mayor said
10 earlier, possibly two districts could come out of
11 Aurora. I ask that you consider the heavy Hispanic
12 population and try to maintain that within one of
13 those districts. It's very important that we have
14 that type of representation as we have now with
15 Linda Chapa LaVia here.

16 In creating these boundaries, I also ask
17 that you don't do what many state reps did years
18 back. I think we were covered by five state reps
19 at one time in Aurora. They divided Aurora so bad
20 we didn't have any representation down in
21 Springfield. And we're lucky to have that now. So
22 I ask that you consider not dividing it as they did
23 in the past. I think it was 20 years ago where we
24 filed lawsuits because Aurora really was fragmented
25 quite a bit.

1 Being the second largest city in the State
2 of Illinois, I ask that you try to maintain that
3 representation as much as possible. I thank you
4 for your time and visiting Aurora.

5 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you. Mr. Vazquez,
6 Mr. Fortner has a question.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you. Just a
8 quick follow-up question. When you talked about
9 the Latino population for one district, are you
10 considering percentages similar to what would be in
11 Representative Chapa LaVia's district currently,
12 more or less?

13 MR. VAZQUEZ: I think the latest 2010 Census is
14 very clear. We have 81,000 Latino population in
15 the Aurora area. That's quite a bit. So I ask
16 that you take that number. It is compact. It is
17 largely on the east side of town, southern
18 Montgomery. A lot of them are going to be in my
19 district as well. So if you'll preserve those
20 areas as a minority district --

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: As a single district?

22 MR. VAZQUEZ: Yes, sir.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much, sir.

25 The next panel are two aldermen from

1 Aurora, Scheketa Hart-Burns, Alderman of the
2 7th Ward, and Stephanie Kifowit, Alderman from the
3 3rd Ward.

4 ALDERMAN KIFOWIT: Alderman Hart-Burns had to
5 leave.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITZ: Mr. Chairman, I had a
7 question. We were together in Marengo on Saturday.
8 If we're receiving all this input and data from
9 them testifying before the Committee, is there
10 going to be a point in time where there's going to
11 be a work product produced from the Committee
12 that's going to go back out to the public?

13 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: The exact process for
14 public scrutiny of the final product is yet to be
15 determined; but, surely, we expect to have public
16 participation. We expect to have participation on
17 both sides of the aisles. I don't have an exact
18 answer for your question as this is still a work in
19 progress.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITZ: And I know we're
21 operating under public act to get the input today
22 -- and I apologize, Stephanie -- but driving back
23 from Marengo on Saturday, we're going to have 15
24 hearings where we're receiving all this input, and
25 everyone that took the time out for every one of

1 these hearings to come out I think should be
2 afforded a chance to say we're going to hopefully
3 produce an act on such and such a date and when
4 that occurs.

5 And I know you don't have that date right
6 now, but can we get some assurance when that work
7 product is released that there will be public
8 hearings done throughout the state and there will
9 be a vote from the Commission so we can bring it
10 back to everyone that took the time out to come
11 listen to this today?

12 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: I will pass your comments
13 on that. It will be made part of the record, and
14 we'll get back to you on that issue.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITZ: Soon?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: As soon as I have an
17 answer, you will have an answer.

18 REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITZ: Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Alderman Kifowit.

20 ALDERMAN KIFOWIT: Unfortunately, Alderman
21 Scheketa Hart-Burns had a prior engagement at
22 2 o'clock and had to leave, but her district and my
23 district are abutting and we have similar issues.
24 So I spoke with her. So my comments are reflected
25 in some way, shape or form of her comments.

1 So I want to thank you and thank the
2 Committee for coming to Aurora. I know that the
3 Mayor already emphasized that we are the largest
4 city outside of Chicago in the State of Illinois
5 which I think is phenomenal; and, as you know, we
6 had a demographic shift. So we're over 40 percent
7 Hispanic.

8 The key is -- I'm also on the board for a
9 downtown redevelopment, the Aurora Downtown
10 Redevelopment Board, and one of the issues with
11 Aurora is its sense of identity. The City of
12 Aurora is in four counties, Kane, Kendall, Du Page,
13 and Will. We also have varying demographics from
14 very affluent to impoverished in our city.

15 The near east side of which Alderman
16 Scheketa Hart-Burns and I represent has a school
17 district that is over 80 percent free-and-reduced
18 lunch, over 80 percent Hispanic population, and
19 definitely has many, many challenges being a school
20 district with demographics such as that.

21 Definitely the foundation of our state
22 going forward of our nation, of our city is in our
23 youth, educating our youth and making sure that
24 opportunities are afforded to individuals that have
25 less means that you and I might have, and we need

1 to make sure that we have representation of those
2 individuals as a whole, of individuals that can
3 definitely and unequivocally meet those needs of
4 those individuals as well.

5 My ward individually is over 50 percent
6 Hispanic. I represent the near east side of
7 Aurora, and it is imperative to keep that group
8 together to get representation to meet the needs of
9 the lower income of the people that are struggling
10 day to day.

11 From the Aurora downtown perspective, we
12 struggle with an identity for Aurora. This happens
13 because we are so large. We have multiple
14 representatives. We have multiple state senators
15 that come in and out of Aurora. And I mirror what
16 the Mayor said. We need to find a commonality. We
17 need to get an identity. And being in four
18 counties and being in five school districts, it's
19 very difficult to have a sense of community, sense
20 of identity; and, therefore, it would be very, very
21 important to have the representation to the
22 minimalist so that we can have four sets of
23 representatives, four sets of senators that we can
24 go to instead of having individuals representing
25 piecemeal of the city.

1 We are a very large city. We have a lot
2 of needs, but we also need to be cohesive, and we
3 need to be thought of as one huge city instead of
4 being segregated out.

5 So with that, I do appreciate the time
6 that you gave me, and given that I represent the
7 east side of Aurora, we do need to make sure that
8 we keep that group, that demographic together
9 because we have many, many challenges, and we need
10 to make sure that we have good representation for
11 those individuals that are less fortunate, that
12 definitely are struggling day to day, but
13 definitely need to have representation.

14 And we do. I'm not saying we don't have
15 good representation now, we do; but we need to
16 maintain good representation in this state.
17 Considering the budget crisis, considering the cuts
18 that are being proposed affects us more than
19 others. And we need to make sure that we have
20 strong representation that is cohesive, that is one
21 person that we can go to, one or two people
22 depending on how the map goes, and that they can be
23 responsive to our needs.

24 So thank you, Representative Lang and the
25 Committee, for coming to Aurora.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much. We
2 would ask that you prepare a witness slip for us.

3 ALDERMAN KIFOWIT: I will.

4 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for being here.

5 Would the next two witnesses please come
6 up together? Marilyn Michelini, Montgomery Village
7 President, and Mark Guethle, North Aurora Village
8 Trustee and also 14th Congressional District
9 Democratic Committeeman. Mr. Guethle is not here.
10 So please proceed.

11 MS. MICHELINI: I want to thank the Committee
12 for providing this opportunity.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Excuse me, can you
14 first --

15 MS. MICHELINI: Okay. My name is
16 Marilyn Michelini. I will spell the last name.

17 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Madam President, can you
18 speak into the microphone, please? Move it towards
19 you. Thank you.

20 MS. MICHELINI: M-i-c-h-e-l-i-n-i. I'm the
21 Village President of Montgomery. I have been in
22 office since 2001 as President. I'm in my third
23 term which will end in 2013.

24 I have lived in Montgomery for over
25 50 years. My children attended all the east side

1 public schools. I have a background myself in
2 nonprofit public services. I first became a
3 Trustee for the Village of Montgomery in 1987, and
4 I have served in that capacity until I became
5 President in 2001.

6 In Montgomery, we have a multitude of
7 governing boundaries. I know you heard this, but
8 we do as well. Our population is 18,400. We have
9 24 governing bodies. We straddle Kane County and
10 Kendall County with the majority of our population
11 now in Kendall. The Census of 2010 found us as one
12 of the largest, highest increases in population
13 with a 237 percent increase since 2000. This is a
14 huge increase.

15 Not only do we have a fragmented area, we
16 also have three House districts. We have the 30th,
17 the 83rd and the 84th. We have two Senate
18 districts, the 25th and the 42nd.

19 I am concerned about having another
20 district added; and, certainly, it would be ideal
21 to have less districts in my city. We need a
22 district that's familiar with Montgomery. We need
23 a go-to person. I am notorious for writing
24 letters, five letters at a time frequently. I know
25 that you all have heard from me.

1 The largest concern I have is these LGDF
2 funds. This is money that's returned to the
3 Village from sales tax that is generated in our
4 area. This money is not the state's money to
5 balance their budget, but it's my tax money that we
6 are entitled to via a law made in 1969. The
7 Village is to receive 10 percent, and we cannot
8 take less. This amounts to over 480,000 of our
9 entire budget.

10 I believe we need to further encourage
11 transparency in providing us a map so that we're
12 able to share with our constituents on the
13 redistricting, at least two weeks, to be able to
14 give us time to view the changes and the map and
15 make comments that would eventually be voted upon
16 by our area. I'm concerned that our districts will
17 be lumped together with other communities that have
18 different interests than those that we serve.

19 And I really want to thank you for your
20 time today. I have a very brief statement. Again,
21 thank you for providing the forum for us.

22 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much. If
23 you would provide a copy of your written statement
24 to the Committee.

25 MS. MICHELINI: Sure.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much. We
2 appreciate your attendance.

3 The next panel is Christina Campos, Aurora
4 Township Supervisor, and Rene Cruz, Aurora Hispanic
5 Chamber of Commerce. Are either of those folks
6 here? Please step forward. Please provide a
7 witness slip to us after your testimony.

8 MR. CRUZ: I will. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Please proceed. Spell
10 your last name for the court reporter.

11 MR. CRUZ: My name is Rene Cruz, R-e-n-e,
12 C-r-u-z. I am an attorney here in Aurora for the
13 last 15 years, but I'm also the elected president
14 of the Aurora Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Thank
15 you all for coming to Aurora.

16 I'll mirror some of the comments from
17 Stephanie Kifowit as well as the Mayor. One thing
18 I would add is that Aurora, itself, more than
19 50 percent of the businesses are Hispanic basically
20 as well. Hard-working individuals. Pay their
21 taxes. We need to make sure that we have the
22 representation that represents that money that's
23 generated for the public coffer as well. I would
24 ask that you take that into account, and ultimately
25 make sure that those persons who -- not only the

1 people that need the help, but the numbers that are
2 generating from the income gets spent adequately.
3 Thank you very much again for coming out. And I
4 will provide a witness slip.

5 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for being with
6 us today.

7 The next witness is Christopher Devane.
8 When you get settled, will you state your name for
9 the record and spell your last name and let us know
10 if there's an organization that you represent.

11 MR. DEVANE: Absolutely. My name is
12 Christopher Devane. I'm president of the Big
13 Stick. Big Stick is a map company. I am a
14 cartographer.

15 I drew the congressional districts myself
16 here, and it's the easiest, most logical
17 congressional district map in Illinois history. I
18 drew it according to county, township lines. The
19 map is according to the Constitution, compact,
20 contiguous, and substantially equal in population.

21 Anyone in this auditorium can tell me what
22 county they live in and, within 5 seconds, I could
23 tell them which congressional district they're in.
24 No one can do that with our present map. You can
25 tell me where the county is, I can tell you what

1 district you're in.

2 Inside Cook County -- if you tell me
3 inside Cook County and outside the City of Chicago,
4 if you tell me what township you're in, I'll tell
5 you what district you're in. From Devon Avenue in
6 the city to North Avenue is the northernmost
7 district in the city; from north to Sox Park is the
8 middle district; from Sox Park to the city boundary
9 at 135th is the third city district.

10 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Well, thank you for your
11 testimony. Can I expect that you'll be leaving
12 that map with our staff?

13 MR. DEVANE: I would like to adjust it and then
14 I can forward it to your office.

15 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: That's fine. You have
16 the information, and the staff will be happy to
17 work with you so that you can provide your
18 information to us and perhaps the demographic data
19 that you relied upon to create the map.

20 MR. DEVANE: Absolutely.

21 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much, sir.
22 We appreciate your attendance here.

23 The next two witnesses, please come up
24 together, are Bill Catching from the Aurora
25 Township Democrats and Linda Finger from AARP. I

1 see Bill, but I do not see Linda.

2 MS. FINGER: I do not wish to testify.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Linda has decided not to
4 testify. That's fine. Mr. Catching, please state
5 your name for the record, spelling your last, and
6 please proceed.

7 MR. CATCHING: Yes. Good afternoon. My name
8 is Bill Catching, C-a-t-c-h-i-n-g. I serve as
9 Chairman of the Aurora Township Democrats, serve on
10 the Board Township including parts of Montgomery
11 and North Aurora as well as south Aurora with the
12 exception of the Du Page County section. I still
13 have the honor of serving as the ward township
14 trustee, a position that I was elected to two years
15 ago.

16 First off, I would like to welcome
17 everyone, once again, to Aurora, and thank you for
18 having this opportunity to speak before you.

19 I don't envy the task before you today and
20 before you this year. It's very tricky to redraw
21 political boundaries, and transparency needs to be
22 part of the process.

23 Having said that, it's difficult to
24 comment on this process without more information
25 being provided. The Web site contains the current

1 state of the maps, albeit piecemeal, and access to
2 the census data, but no information even about the
3 length or the size of the new federal and state
4 districts. A good deal of information was
5 presented today but was not available on the Web
6 site. I would hope you would update it to reflect
7 that information.

8 What is known is obviously that we will --
9 the state will lose a congressional seat. It's
10 very obvious also that Aurora and the surrounding
11 suburbs and cities continue to grow while Chicago
12 and the rural areas for the most part lost
13 population. What I will offer is some input about
14 the current districts and how they impact Aurora.

15 When it comes to the current Congressional
16 14th District, I would suggest, with all due
17 respect to the other counties, they represent very
18 different demographics and have very different
19 concerns than we do here in Aurora. Aurora has
20 much more in common with so-called satellite cities
21 such as Elgin and Joliet and even Naperville, to
22 some extent, than the Aurora counties that I named
23 earlier.

24 The smaller bedroom communities that
25 surround the city, such as Montgomery and North

1 Aurora, share many of Aurora's concerns not only
2 because of our shared history and proximity, but
3 because of our demographics. And my hope is that
4 the new congressional district that serves Aurora,
5 and I would very much hope that the district
6 encompasses all of Aurora, would draw heavily if
7 not entirely from the suburban and urban areas
8 nearby.

9 With respect to the state districts, I
10 would echo the Mayor's comments and a couple of the
11 other speakers' comments. We have a population to
12 house two House districts as well as a Senate
13 district. Currently, we're represented by three
14 state senators. While some may see that as a
15 strength, a couple of those state senators only
16 serve a little piece of Aurora. And while I'm
17 certain they don't ignore us, or the
18 representatives in those districts don't ignore us,
19 I know certainly from my time in the Mayor's office
20 of the City of Aurora, Representative Tim Schmitz
21 from Batavia did his best to help Aurora.

22 Home is where the heart is, and we have
23 the opportunity, it's the second largest city, to
24 have two representatives and senators both from the
25 City of Aurora. We are a city with a rich history.

1 We're home to the first public school district in
2 Illinois. We're a city of both old neighborhoods
3 and new subdivisions. We're also a city with
4 tremendous diversity with a significant
5 African-American population and a growing Latino
6 population who want a voice in their government at
7 all levels.

8 Again, I don't envy the task before the
9 committee. I, again, applaud the Committee for
10 holding this hearing, but it's very difficult to
11 speak in other than generalizations without a map.
12 It's my hope that you will produce a map in the
13 very near future, and I believe we would again have
14 a chance to comment once those maps have been drawn
15 and presented to the public. Thank you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you, sir. And if
17 you are reading from a prepared statement, if you
18 could provide that to the committee, we would
19 appreciate it. Mr. Fortner has a question.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: As a trustee here in
21 Aurora, one of the things that would help us, and
22 perhaps you have some insight, is if there were to
23 be two districts primarily for Aurora and the
24 Mayor's further comments, how do you perceive that
25 happening?

1 MR. CATCHING: I mean, the traditional split,
2 the old-fashioned split is east/west, you know,
3 divided by the river. The demographics really
4 probably don't make that work well.

5 Again, there is a significant number of
6 people on the far east side which I think does not
7 balance the district if you split it down the
8 middle by the river. That's the old-fashioned
9 traditional rivalry. We have the oldest football
10 rivalry in the state, the east/west game.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I ask that because I
12 know that was the old way and --

13 MR. CATCHING: It doesn't make those numbers
14 work. I don't know how you would make that work.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: That echoes some
16 comments from the Hispanic representation panel.
17 There's a population on both sides of the river
18 that's largely intact. Is that your feeling as
19 well?

20 MR. CATCHING: I think you've seen a good
21 growth of the Hispanic population on the west side.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: There's some on both
23 sides of the river, too.

24 MR. CATCHING: Yes, although it's predominantly
25 the east side for now, if you look at the census.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITZ: I had one quick one.
3 The divide, probably in the '90s, wasn't so much
4 the geographic of the river, but it was the school
5 district boundaries that was the dividing line for
6 the east and the west. You know, if you're taking
7 the city, the governmental body -- would you
8 suggest going back to maybe the school district or
9 -- Aurora Township is all in one. So that could
10 probably have more leaders. Would you go to that
11 school at that level?

12 MR. CATCHING: Very much so. I think although
13 Prestbury and Sugar Grove is a little different.
14 They certainly share the same concerns of
15 District 129 there, and, in that way, certainly
16 forms natural constituencies.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITZ: Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for your
19 testimony.

20 MR. CATCHING: Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Appreciate it. The next
22 two witnesses are Arthur Velasquez, League of the
23 United Latin-American Citizens and Martin Torres
24 with the Latino Policy Forum. Please step forward,
25 gentlemen.

1 Mr. Velasquez, I will ask you to go first
2 and then please state your name and spell your last
3 name for the court reporter.

4 MR. VELASQUEZ: My name is Arthur Velasquez,
5 V-e-l-a-s-q-u-e-z, and I got a long one here. I
6 listened to you guys and I'll make it short, but I
7 will give you a copy of what I'm saying.

8 I would like to emphasize some of the
9 issues that I think are so important. But let me
10 start by telling you that I am the President of
11 LULAC which is the League of United Latin-American
12 Citizens. It is the oldest Hispanic civil rights
13 organization in the nation. We have -- it was
14 started in 1929 because of education and the civil
15 rights discrimination that was going on in Texas,
16 and it spread all over the nation.

17 We were also responsible for setting
18 milestones all through the nation and California.
19 We won a lawsuit that established a precedent for
20 Brown vs. The Board of Education that went to the
21 Supreme Court. If it hadn't been for LULAC, it
22 wouldn't have happened. And so we do have a long
23 history of being involved. We also were
24 instrumental in making sure that we have -- we
25 worked with Lyndon Johnson. We got the Headstart

1 Program through and the issues involved there.

2 We've been here a long time.

3 You already heard and you, yourself, have
4 established the rules what is required for
5 redistricting, and I hope that you go through
6 there. I can tell you that -- and, by the way,
7 we'll say the same thing. We know the Hispanic
8 population is growing in Aurora. It has. It
9 continues. I think Alderman Kifowit stated that
10 School District 131 is 86 percent Hispanic. And we
11 are working with her, hoping that we can get down
12 there.

13 But more than anything, we need to make
14 sure that we continue to have a compact district,
15 one that will allow us to elect our representatives
16 of our own choosing. And this is most important to
17 us.

18 As far as the congressional district, the
19 same thing. We don't need -- you know, one time
20 when I first came to Aurora 40 years ago, we had
21 five sitting reps representing Aurora. And you
22 know what? It didn't work. It just did not work
23 right. We had a heck of a time for a long time to
24 try to get anything done. We just had no voice at
25 all. And one time it was during -- we were mostly

1 in Kendall County and the Joliet area there, and we
2 can't afford that anymore.

3 We do have an opportunity to elect our own
4 representatives of our own choosing. And we live
5 in a compact area where we know what we can do
6 that. I would also like to ask that both in the
7 state redistricting and for the congressional
8 districts also that we are able to see the maps at
9 least a couple of weeks before they're voted on so
10 that we can have some input into that. It is most
11 important that we do this. I know that sometimes
12 we have committees and they go off their maps and
13 vote on them, and before we know it, they're done,
14 and there was no input to the last -- yes, the last
15 map that was drawn. And we certainly want to make
16 sure that this doesn't happen here again.

17 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
18 testify. Like I said, we'll continue to work with
19 you. We work together with MELMAC which is a part
20 of the Latin American Association. We'll be
21 working with you, and whatever we can to help you,
22 we would be most glad to do so. Thank you very
23 much.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you, Mr. Velasquez.
25 You will provide a copy of your written statement?

1 MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Mr. Torres?

3 MR. TORRES: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
4 distinguished members of this Committee. My name
5 is Martin Torres, T-o-r-r-e-s. I am a policy
6 analyst at Latino Policy Forum. The Latino Policy
7 Forum is a nonprofit research and advocacy
8 organization focused on reach-out education,
9 housing, immigration, and community engagement. A
10 major part of our community engagement is as a
11 co-convener of the Illinois Latino Agenda, which is
12 a 49-member coalition of Latinos serving Latino
13 nonprofit organizations from throughout the region.
14 And the major priority for the Illinois Latino
15 Agenda is increasing representation at all levels
16 in state government.

17 As such, we've spent a tremendous amount
18 of time focusing on the census information,
19 reviewing different maps in order to put forth a
20 series of legislative district boundaries that
21 support Hispanic and Latino voter rights throughout
22 the state.

23 I would like to briefly share some
24 information regarding Latino population over the
25 last ten years and then review a series of maps

1 with you. I have submitted the materials, a series
2 of slides, demonstrating Latino population growth,
3 and I know others have talked about this as well
4 giving their testimony, but I would just like to
5 make one point, and that's the Latino population
6 growth has saved Aurora from losing a second
7 congressional seat, and I think that should be
8 recognized, as a result of the Latino population
9 growth here in Aurora during the apportionment
10 process, and I've submitted some materials and
11 information, and you can go through that
12 information at your leisure.

13 The Latino Policy Form has been
14 collaborating with the 49 members of the Illinois
15 Latino Agenda as well as the Draw the Line Illinois
16 coalition in order to recommend a map to the
17 legislature that upholds and strengthens the voting
18 rights of Latino and other minority residents
19 throughout the state. The maps that I presented
20 for you today include one Latino majority district
21 located here in Aurora as well as six Latino
22 influence or coalition districts located in
23 different suburbs throughout the region. These
24 maps have been adopted by the members of the
25 Illinois Latino Agenda, but have not been formally

1 adopted by the Draw the Line Coalition and others;
2 however, we are working towards that, and a map or
3 other maps will be sent to you at a subsequent time
4 this week.

5 On the Aurora map, and I believe you have
6 the information in front of you, this would create
7 a district that would constitute roughly 66 percent
8 of the total population and 60 percent of the
9 voting-age population within the district.

10 Although the Latino population within the current
11 district boundaries has grown enough to become a
12 Latino-majority district, the new district
13 boundaries enable the district to capture a more
14 substantial portion of Latino concentrations which
15 is essential to strengthening the voting power here
16 in the district.

17 If you look in the Franklin Park region,
18 which is the second map, this is actually a new
19 Latino influence district which encompasses
20 Franklin Park, Stone Park, Melrose Park, parts of
21 Addison. Also covers O'Hare. And this new
22 district enables residents in suburban communities
23 that are Latino saturated and have experienced
24 significant Latino population growth to come
25 together within one district in order to

1 accommodate their shared interests.

2 We also recommend the creation of a new
3 Latino influence district that includes Elgin and
4 Carpentersville. If you take a look at the map
5 that I have submitted, the Latino population growth
6 is roughly 56 percent and a voting-age population
7 of 49 percent. If we think about adding
8 Carpentersville, the Latino population in those
9 communities will increase by 45 percent and
10 52 percent, respectively, during the last decade.
11 Given the concentration of Latinos in each of these
12 municipalities, we believe that these legislative
13 boundaries best position the Latino residents in
14 these areas to support candidates that reflect
15 their interest and values.

16 In other suburban regions, we recommend
17 the creation of Latino influence and coalition
18 districts in and around Waukegan, Joliet, Evanston,
19 and Rockford.

20 Lastly, I'd just like to touch on
21 transparency and the redistricting process. All
22 Illinoisans deserve an opportunity to view and
23 comment on maps that are being considered by the
24 General Assembly before they are voted upon.
25 Absent the opportunity to view and comment on

1 proposed legislative district boundaries, the
2 Latino Policy Forum is unconvinced that incumbent
3 legislators will keep the best interests of the
4 Latino community in mind.

5 The Latino Policy Forum calls upon the
6 members of this Committee to schedule an additional
7 set of public hearings after maps have been drafted
8 by the legislature with two weeks to review prior
9 to a floor vote. Given that advocates will be
10 sharing preferred maps with you throughout the
11 remainder of this process, I respectfully ask that
12 you show us yours. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for your
14 commentary and your written report. I just have
15 one question.

16 Attached to the report is a membership of
17 the Illinois Latino Agenda. There are members of
18 the Latino Policy Forum, your group; is that
19 correct?

20 MR. TORRES: Latino Policy Forum co-covenes
21 with the Illinois Latino Agenda, and so we are --
22 we're members of the coalition, correct.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: So that each and every
24 one of these 49 groups signed off on the testimony
25 you have given today?

1 MR. TORRES: Yes. We've had a series of
2 working group meetings over the past month or so
3 with member organizations getting their input as
4 appropriate. We've been working together to come
5 to consensus on these districts.

6 What I haven't provided you with is a
7 series of district boundaries that are specific to
8 Chicago with significant Latino population. We'll
9 be working on submitting those this week.

10 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you. I look
11 forward to it.

12 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Mr. Torres, a question
13 I have for you is about your discussion of the
14 Franklin Park map that you showed us, and you prove
15 the influence district, but looking at your
16 numbers, I see that it's 62, almost 63 percent
17 total Latino population and over 56 percent of
18 voting-age population.

19 Based on the definition that was presented
20 earlier, influence would have meant typically
21 unable to elect a candidate of choice but able to
22 be with the process. Do you think that -- do you
23 think that that district is not strong enough to
24 elect candidates of choice?

25 MR. TORRES: The Voting Rights Act doesn't put

1 forth a type of threshold of minority and majority
2 districts. It is a view point of the members of
3 the Illinois Latino Agenda that in order to provide
4 Latino residents a choice, the threshold would be
5 above 65 percent total population.

6 When we think about Latino population,
7 there are a few things to be considered. First,
8 the voting-age population at this point would be --
9 for Latino population is less than the total
10 population for the area. The Latino population is
11 very young. So that's one thing to consider.

12 The other is that in the Latino community,
13 the voting population is voting-age population.
14 And so if a district is less than 65 percent, it
15 wouldn't be a majority district. With that said,
16 there are no hard and fast rules around this
17 percentage. Certainly the municipalities that have
18 a longer history of Latino residency in the area
19 may or may not have residents with stronger
20 connections than with cities with larger citizen
21 population residents.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Representative Chapa
24 LaVia.

25 REPRESENTATIVE CHAPA LaVIA: Mr. Torres, you

1 had mentioned -- you coined a phrase about minority
2 districts includes African-American and Hispanic
3 and Asian. What was that term you used?

4 MR. TORRES: I believe coalition district.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CHAPA LaVIA: Coalition
6 district.

7 MR. TORRES: Correct. In the Waukegan area, if
8 we look at that map, we would have the coalition
9 district of African-Americans.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CHAPA LaVIA: Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you, gentlemen.
12 Again, if you have written comments, make sure
13 staff sees you.

14 The next two witnesses are Mary Kay Betz
15 from the Autism Society of Illinois and Fran Caffee
16 from the Sierra Club. Are you both here? Are
17 either of you here? Apparently not.

18 Next witness is Lillian Perry from the
19 Citizen for Neighborhood Improvement, and Bob Rose,
20 Citizen Action USA. And I see neither of these
21 witnesses either. Are you here? Do either of the
22 people I mentioned wish to testify?

23 MS. PERRY: Representative Lang, if you would
24 permit such, I have a slight handicap.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Why don't we pass you a

1 microphone from up here.

2 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Please take your time and
4 we'll bring it to you. Thank you for being here.

5 MS. PERRY: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Lillian Perry. I live at 538 North May Street,
7 Aurora, Illinois, and I am the Chairman of Citizens
8 for Neighborhood Improvement and other groups
9 within the city.

10 I'm here today because -- well, one, I'm
11 taking a look at this Committee, and I don't see a
12 black face. So I don't know why there isn't. The
13 total Committee I have been told does have blacks
14 on it, and that's Yarborough.

15 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Before you proceed, let
16 me indicate to you that this full Committee has two
17 African-American members. We have 15 hearings
18 going on around the state. Some are happening
19 simultaneously. Not every member could be at every
20 Committee meeting. But I assure you that the group
21 you're concerned about is well-represented on the
22 Redistricting Committee.

23 MS. PERRY: Thank you, sir. I would like for
24 you to be cognizant of not destroying what we have
25 in Aurora in regards to the black community. We

1 worked well. The area, Ward 6, Precinct 6, County
2 Board 6 at the present time, to my last looking,
3 had the largest black population in the city. They
4 have moved from east to west. As of 2010, I have
5 not checked that, but as of the last time I looked
6 at it, it was the largest area of blacks living in
7 Ward 6. I would like that to stay together.

8 However, the question in my mind is where
9 the minority population is concerned. We in Aurora
10 have an Aurora Election Commission which is
11 separate from the county. We have our own election
12 commission, and I see the money increase coming
13 forward by which to run the Aurora Election
14 Commission. And with the Hispanic population
15 growing, we need that money for education. And I
16 would hope no one would think about getting rid of
17 it because we are too large at this point by which
18 not to have an Aurora Election Commission by which
19 to teach and educate in order to have the voting
20 process continue.

21 So I am asking all of these things of you
22 and be cognizant of making sure that everything is
23 as equally done and spread as possible. Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for your
25 comments. We appreciate that.

1 I want to make sure. Is Bob Rose here?

2 Bob Rose is not here.

3 The next witness is Whitney Woodward from
4 the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. State
5 your name for the record.

6 MS. WOODWARD: Hi. My name is
7 Whitney Woodward, W-h-i-t-n-e-y, W-o-o-d-w-a-r-d.
8 I represent the Illinois Campaign for Political
9 Reform. ICPR is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public
10 interest that researches and advocates for
11 transparency and accountability in government and
12 politics.

13 We are pleased that the House, through
14 this Committee, has already committed to going
15 above and beyond the requirements established by
16 Senate Bill 3976, a bill signed into law in March
17 which requires each chamber to hold four public
18 hearings on the remapping. In addition, we're
19 happy to note that the House, in addition to the
20 Senate, has increased opportunities for public
21 involvement outside of this hearing process through
22 the creation of the mapping work stations and the
23 establishment of informational Web sites.

24 However, this Committee has yet to commit
25 to the most important transparency component that

1 can be offered to the people of Illinois, the
2 public vetting and editing of draft legislative and
3 congressional district maps. We echo the call that
4 many of today's speakers have made about the
5 importance of sharing these draft maps with the
6 public, and I would like to build on those
7 comments.

8 As we explained during the debate on
9 Senate Bill 3976 this past winter, it's not only
10 the quantity of public hearings, but the quality of
11 those hearings that matters. While the gathering
12 of public comments can provide valuable guidance to
13 map drawers, the pre-map input by itself does not
14 provide enough sunshine.

15 As outsiders to the actual mapping
16 process, the public has no idea if or how the
17 information taken by this Committee will be weighed
18 against other suggestions and whether residents'
19 guidance will be incorporated into the final
20 districts. But by providing an opportunity for
21 residents to view maps before they have been
22 finalized and by considering their proposed changes
23 in an open forum, this Committee can answer those
24 questions.

25 After completing the scheduled public

1 hearings this Committee has planned around the
2 state, concluding with the one in the Capitol a
3 week from today, this Committee should release
4 drafts of the state House, Senate, and
5 congressional district maps through the Committee's
6 Web site. The maps should be distributed in a
7 commonly available format such as a PDF in addition
8 to a block equivalency file so that parties with
9 access to mapping software can view those programs
10 to analyze those districts and offer specific
11 changes.

12 Along with the release of draft districts,
13 the Committee should publish tables describing the
14 demographics of the districts and explain your
15 text, outlining why the districts are drawn the way
16 they are. This narrative will help residents
17 understand the often complex reasons behind
18 district shapes and possibly forestall some
19 questions and opposition.

20 The active release of draft maps for
21 public input will send a loud message to Illinois
22 residents that there's nothing to hide in this
23 remap process and that you are willing to discuss,
24 defend, and adjust your map with your constituents.

25 We salute the Senate Redistricting

1 Committee's indication that it will hold two public
2 hearings on draft maps, and we ask that this body
3 match that chamber by holding two such meetings
4 several days after the release of a map at which
5 public comments on draft districts can be gathered
6 and changes made to the final product in advance of
7 a vote.

8 The General Assembly has more than six
9 weeks before its scheduled adjournment May 31st.
10 That gives this body ample time to complete pre-map
11 hearings, release draft maps for public vetting,
12 and then hold additional meetings to consider
13 feedback. It should come as no surprise to you
14 that thanks to advances in technologies, media
15 coverage, and community engagement, the 2011 remap
16 cycle will be subject to unprecedented scrutiny.
17 It is both in the public interest and your interest
18 as lawmakers to proceed with this redistricting in
19 a meaningful transparent and accountable way. We
20 applaud the steps the General Assembly has taken in
21 this direction but will continue to advocate for
22 this outstanding sunshine component we feel is
23 quite valuable.

24 While it may seem impossible to pass a map
25 that pleases all individuals and interest groups,

1 it's quite possible for you to pass a map where the
2 public has ample time to study and influence.

3 ICPR looks forward to working with this
4 Committee and all members of the General Assembly
5 in ensuring that the public is given a meaningful
6 role in this process. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for your
8 comments, and if you will provide your written
9 comments to staff.

10 MS. WOODWARD: Sure. I have doodlings on this
11 one, but I'll get you a clean one.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: We'll take it with your
13 handwritten notes if you wish. Thank you very much
14 for your time today.

15 Next witness is -- I see Mark Guethle has
16 come into the room. Do you still wish to testify,
17 sir?

18 MR. GUETHLE: Yes.

19 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Please step forward.
20 Mark is a North Aurora Trustee and the Democratic
21 14th Congressional District Committeeman. When you
22 get to the table, sir, please state your name and
23 spell your last name for the court reporter.

24 MR. GUETHLE: First name is Mark. Last name is
25 Guethle, G-u-e-t-h-l-e. So is Aurora -- I got one

1 question really. Is Aurora big enough for a Senate
2 district? No?

3 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Well, we're here
4 listening, sir. As I understand, Aurora is
5 slightly too small for a full Senate district.

6 MR. GUETHLE: That was really my own question
7 since we're in Aurora. A lot of people are asking
8 me is Aurora big enough for our own Senate
9 district. And if so, if that's the case and it
10 isn't, we would like to see it drafted as close to
11 Aurora as possible and have the Senate district and
12 two House reps in that area, general area.

13 Not a lot of people have called me and
14 talked to me about redistricting, but in the Aurora
15 area, people would like to see us stay together as
16 much as possible in the same area and just expand
17 however you can to make it one Senate district
18 close to Aurora. That's about all.

19 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you, sir. We
20 appreciate it. The next witness is Patricia Fee
21 from NCTV Channel 17. When you get settled, please
22 state your name and spell your last name.

23 MS. FEE: I have to put my glasses on so I can
24 see.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: We'll give you the extra

1 time to do that.

2 MS. FEE: Hello. My name is Patricia Fee,
3 F-e-e, I live at 1530 White Eagle Drive in
4 Naperville. We've lived there for almost ten
5 years. We have a unique situation that we pay
6 taxes to both Aurora and Naperville. So we pay to
7 both.

8 I'm very involved with the community and I
9 sit on several boards including the NCTV Channel
10 17, membership chair of the White Eagle Golf Club,
11 and my husband and I started out with the lacrosse
12 club sports team at Waubensee Valley two years ago.
13 I am also involved at the state and national level
14 and educating Republican women to become interested
15 in politics. Sorry, I have a cold.

16 We are very happy with our state
17 representative, and I think she does a great job in
18 serving the people in our community. Our State
19 Representative represents a diverse district, three
20 cities, and two school districts. One of our
21 cities still has business coming in, and the other
22 city suffers a lot with business going out. It's a
23 very difficult time and she represents us really
24 well, and I would not like that change to go.

25 I would like to stress that it is

1 important to have a transparent process with
2 redistricting as, ultimately, it affects the voters
3 and the taxpayers. My opinion is, as taxpayers and
4 the voters, I should see the map and comment on the
5 map, the final map before it is voted on for all of
6 us. Our state needs to be more transparent with
7 the people of Illinois.

8 I appreciate your time, and please show
9 that people of Illinois a fair and equitable
10 mapping process.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you for your
12 attendance. If you can provide your written
13 statement to our staff, it would be greatly
14 appreciated.

15 MS. FEE: Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: The next witness is
17 Dan Di Santo from the City of Naperville. As all
18 witnesses, please state your name and spell your
19 last name, sir.

20 MR. DI SANTO: My name is Dan Di Santo. Last
21 name is two words, D-i S-a-n-t-o. Representative
22 Lang and members of the Committee, thank you for
23 having this public hearing today.

24 My name is Dan Di Santo. I am the
25 assistant to the city manager at the City of

1 Naperville. I'm happy to be here on behalf of the
2 City of Naperville. Naperville is the fifth
3 largest community in Illinois. The most recent
4 census saw our population increase. However, it's
5 probably the last time that we'll see significant
6 increases as Naperville is approaching build-out.
7 So what we have in Naperville today is likely to be
8 the population or close to it we have in Naperville
9 in the future.

10 Currently, we have nine total legislators
11 representing the City of Naperville. However,
12 there are two main districts that represent the
13 majority of Naperville residents, I would say
14 probably about 97 percent of them, and that's on
15 the east and the west half. We have two
16 representatives and two senators.

17 And I'm here today basically to say that
18 we think this system works. We're happy with the
19 representation that we have, and that our residents
20 currently -- it's pretty easy to tell which
21 legislator that you could talk to represents you
22 specifically depending on where you live, east or
23 west side of Naperville. And the ability to have a
24 majority represented by these few members of the
25 General Assembly I believe is a little more

1 transparent representative from the public's
2 perspective and works well.

3 We believe in maintaining larger
4 districts, rather than being segmented. It allows
5 our public to be represented better in a more
6 cohesive way. And that is not to say that some of
7 the representatives and senators that have smaller
8 places in Naperville, we also appreciate them.
9 Representative Fortner has been very involved in
10 Naperville's issues as well.

11 And we find it -- the system that we have
12 currently with several smaller districts but two
13 main larger districts works very well. The City of
14 Naperville looks forward to seeing a draft map at
15 the time it's available. And thank you, again, for
16 holding these hearings and listening to what we
17 have to say.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LANG: Thank you very much. We
19 appreciate your testimony.

20 Next witness is Gabriella White. Well,
21 this says record of appearance. Would you wave so
22 we know where you are? Looks like she left.

23 That completes all the witness slips I
24 have. Are there any additional witnesses who would
25 like to testify before the Redistricting Committee?

1 Anyone in the audience, feel free to raise your
2 hand. Don't be shy. I see no hands for the
3 record.

4 I want to thank everyone for their
5 participation. We look forward to receiving
6 additional comments and suggestions to our public
7 access stations and over the Internet; and, with
8 that, the hearing will now stand in recess.

9 We thank the Math and Science Academy for
10 their hospitality and all of you for your
11 attendance. Thank you.

12 (Off the record at 3:03 p.m.)
13 (Which were all the proceedings
14 had in the above cause this date
15 and time.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF W I L L)
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5 ANNA M. MORALES, as an Officer of the
6 Court, says that she is a shorthand reporter doing
7 business in the State of Illinois; that she
8 reported in shorthand the proceedings of said
9 public hearing, and that the foregoing is a true
10 and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
11 taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
12 given at said public hearing.

13 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set
14 my verified digital signature this 20th day of
15 April, 2011.

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Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter