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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

HEARING HELD
APRIL 20, 2011

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11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

I N D E X

WITNESSES	PAGE
John Maxson	14
Elizabeth Sherwin	23
Paul Rumler	28
Herschel Jackson	35
Alfred Ramirez	38
Randall Jacobs	43
Ted Johnson	49
John Wetzel	55
William Bloom	56
Dorothy Tribbett	65
Jon Zahm	66
Eric Anderson	73
Bill Long	76

E X H I B I T S

EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
---------	-------------	------

(No exhibits were marked.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
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9
10
11
12
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14
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Hearing held, pursuant to Notice, on the 20th day
of April, 2011, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and
3:40 p.m., at Rock Island City Hall, 1528 Third
Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 PRESENT:

2 Representative Frank Mautino, Chairman

3 Representative Jil Tracy, Republican Spokesperson

4 Representative Patrick J. Verschoore

5 Representative Richard Morthland

6 Representative Norine Hammond

7 Mr. Justin M. Cox, Assistant Counsel to the Speaker

8 Mr. Andrew G. Freiheit, Special Assistant to the
House Republican Leader

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20 COURT REPORTER:

21 Ms. Dorothy J. Hart, CSR, RPR

Illinois CSR No. 084-001390

22 Midwest Litigation Services

15 South Old State Capitol Plaza

23 Springfield, Illinois 62701

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1 (Hearing commenced at 2:07 p.m.)

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: The House Special
3 Redistricting Committee will come to order.

4 My name is Frank Mautino and I'm a member
5 of the Redistricting Committee and will be chairing
6 today's hearing.

7 I'd like to recognize the other members of
8 the Redistricting Committee. We will be joined by
9 Representative Jil Tracy and she is the Republican
10 Spokesman for the Redistricting Committee.

11 We're also honored to have members of the
12 General Assembly joining with us as well and I wanted
13 to thank Representatives Verschoore and Morthland for
14 being our hosts today. And I'd like to give them both
15 a chance to say hello and welcome.

16 Representative Verschoore.

17 REPRESENTATIVE VERSCHOORE: Well, first of
18 all, I'm really encouraged by the crowd. This is a
19 nice crowd. According to Representative Mautino, this
20 is his fourth one, and he said this is one of the
21 larger crowds he's had. So that shows a lot of
22 interest and I think that's what we're all about.
23 We want to get as many ideas as we can of what the
24 folks want and what they think we need to have. And

1 what the folks want and what they need to have is
2 redistricting.

3 So again, I thank you very much and I look
4 forward to hearing all the questions and answers that
5 will be provided for us here today and all the
6 speakers that are going to speak on behalf of this.

7 And with that, I'll turn it over to
8 Chairman Mautino.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: And, Rich, would
10 you like to say hello, make an opening comment?

11 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: Absolutely.
12 Thank you, Representative Mautino.

13 I too am very, very pleased that this
14 process is going forward, that at this stage it is an
15 open process where we are seeking the input of the
16 citizens, because that's the only way that we're going
17 to get a good representative map.

18 I very much appreciate Representative
19 Mautino for leading these proceedings. I appreciate
20 everybody coming out to the western coast of the state
21 of Illinois. And it feels very coast-like right now
22 with the current flooding.

23 But it's an honor to be privileged -- an
24 honor and a privilege to be able to take part in these

1 proceedings. And we just all want the best for our
2 state. And also, as we look toward having
3 congressional districts drawn this year, we want to
4 see the very best, most representative districts.

5 Thank you very much for letting us
6 participate.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you.

8 Is this mike being picked up? Can you
9 hear okay?

10 Great, thank you.

11 I'd also like to welcome Representative
12 Hammond. Thank you for joining with us today as well.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HAMMOND: You're welcome.
14 Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: At the end of
16 2010, the United States Census Bureau, as it does
17 every decade, released its 2010 population totals for
18 Illinois. The United States and Illinois Constitution
19 require that in the year following the census the
20 General Assembly must redraw the boundary lines of the
21 congressional, legislative, and representative
22 districts to account for population shifts over the
23 last decade. These hearings are part of that process.

24 The Redistricting Transparency and Public

1 Participation Act requires that we hold at least four
2 hearings throughout the state. Our intention is to
3 hold far more than that minimum number, and our goal
4 is to hear from as many people as possible and to
5 ensure the process is open to all residents of the
6 state. We are holding hearings throughout the state.
7 There are 15 that are currently scheduled. And the
8 idea behind this is to gain as much information as
9 possible as we undertake this important task.

10 We're guided in this endeavor by the U.S.
11 Constitution, which requires that we respect the one
12 person, one vote principle and draw districts of
13 substantially equal population. We also will comply
14 with the Federal Voting Rights Act, which requires us
15 to provide minorities with equal opportunity to
16 participate in the electoral process and elect
17 candidates of their choice.

18 At the state level, the Illinois
19 Constitution requires that districts be substantially
20 equal in population, compact, and contiguous.
21 Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights Act further
22 requires us to allow minorities a voice in the
23 electoral process after compliance with the Federal
24 Voting Rights Act and constitutional requirements.

1 Now, in addition to the legal
2 requirements, there are countless other factors that
3 play a role in the redistricting process and we want
4 to hear from you in considering all of them without
5 limitation. We're interested in any relevant
6 demographic information, such as social, political,
7 economic, religious, or any other characteristics that
8 are unique to your community or your organizations.
9 We are interested in maps of your community or
10 organizations as they're encompassed by relevant
11 precincts or voter tab districts or in any form that
12 you want to present them. We are concerned and want
13 to hear about interest groups as they exist within the
14 boundaries of the districts and concerns you have
15 regarding the current way the maps are -- boundaries
16 exist or providing any changes that you would like to
17 see made to those boundaries.

18 So, in short, we want to hear any
19 testimony that's relevant to the drawing of our new
20 map for congressional, legislative, and representative
21 districts. If you have a proposed map, we will take
22 that and consider it or proposed changes to existing
23 maps.

24 If you would like to draw your own map but

1 lack the capacity to do so, we have created two public
2 viewing stations, and these stations contain the
3 census and the mapmaking resources which you would
4 need to do in order to create your own map. One is
5 located in Springfield at Room 401 of the Stratton
6 Office Building and that's open Monday through Friday
7 from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. The second work station in a
8 joint effort with the Senate Redirecting Committee is
9 located on the seventh floor of the Bilandic Building
10 and that would be at 160 North LaSalle Street in
11 Chicago. You can schedule appointments to access
12 either public station by calling 217-558-3036. And
13 you may also submit any comments, information, or
14 proposed maps in person at those viewing stations.

15 Finally, you may submit any information or
16 comments to us by e-mail at ilredistricting@gmail.com.
17 And those numbers will be available at the table and
18 also on the screen.

19 We will transcribe the testimony of these
20 hearings and post that testimony at our website,
21 www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting. As I said, those
22 numbers and websites are available at the back table,
23 and you'll see them in the presentation.

24 As for today, we're going to begin with a

1 short slide show presentation. Following that, we
2 will have a number of witnesses who have already asked
3 to make testimony today. And then from that point,
4 once we go through those who have pre-booked for it,
5 anyone who has filled out a witness slip -- and those
6 are available at the table -- can come up and testify.
7 We'll bring the witnesses forward after that. And you
8 can let our staff know if you'd like to -- just any of
9 the staff at the table if you'd like to make testimony
10 as well today.

11 I wanted to thank you for coming here and
12 welcome another member of the Redistricting Committee,
13 who is the Republican spokesman. Jil Tracy has joined
14 with us. We appreciate you making the trip over
15 today.

16 Jil, would you like to make some comments?

17 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Well, thank you
18 very much.

19 I thank you for having us here today.
20 It's so nice to see so many of you in attendance in
21 the middle of a dismal Wednesday afternoon. We're
22 delighted to have the opportunity to present this
23 public forum to you on the redistricting.

24 I want to express my appreciation to the

1 Rock Island City Council and the city for
2 accommodating us, and Representative Pat Verschoore,
3 who represents many of you, and also Representative
4 Rich Morthland, one of my House colleagues, as well,
5 for hosting us today.

6 I'm also joined by Representative Norine
7 Hammond from Macomb and, as I said, Representative
8 Rich Morthland, and our counsel, Andrew Freiheit.

9 My name is Jil Tracy. I represent the
10 Quincy area, seven counties in west central Illinois.

11 I applaud the efforts of the committee for
12 putting together these informational hearings. It's
13 so important that we gather information from across
14 the state when we draw these maps that go on every ten
15 years. This is my fifth redistricting meeting in five
16 days. I've been in Champaign and East St. Louis
17 previous to this.

18 We know that the public -- what we've
19 heard overwhelmingly from the public so far -- and I
20 imagine that you will echo those sentiments -- is that
21 the public appreciates this input, but they likewise
22 want to have an opportunity for input once they see
23 the proposed maps. I think that you will agree with
24 me that that has got to be a component of these public

1 hearings. I urge all the witnesses today to ask that
2 we give you an opportunity to consider a map well in
3 advance of our House vote on the proposed -- the map
4 that will be drawn, and that you also ask for
5 supporting documentation and lists of criteria that
6 was considered from the public so that you can
7 understand the rationale behind the map that is drawn.
8 Also I would ask that you require us to show you the
9 mandates that we have followed under the Illinois
10 Voting Rights Act that was recently adopted in 2010.

11 Speaker Madigan has said this will be the
12 most transparent redistricting process ever and I'm
13 delighted to be a part of that. But likewise, I
14 invite the public to keep us in line with that and
15 demand that, that it is the most transparent, and that
16 you require input along this input process and, as I
17 said, after the proposed map. I think we've heard
18 from others in the other areas that I've been to that
19 two weeks at least would be a minimum of an
20 appropriate time to view a map, see how it impacts
21 your area, and if -- and then give us your proper
22 input at that time.

23 So thank you again. And I'll defer to my
24 colleague here, Representative Mautino.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, Jil.

2 And as for today, we're going to have a
3 slide show presentation.

4 One quick caveat as far as for the maps,
5 if you're going to be making your own map. Because of
6 security concerns, we'd ask that the maps be in a hard
7 copy of that map as opposed to using disks or flash
8 drives at those two public stations. So if you wanted
9 to present a map, please bring in a hard copy for
10 those as well.

11 We'll have a short presentation that talks
12 about what is going to be required from redistricting
13 and then specifically what the population changes have
14 occurred -- occurred in this area. And to do that
15 presentation, I'll bring forward John Maxson.

16 John, if you want to go ahead and take
17 that front podium.

18 MR. MAXSON: Good afternoon. I'm John
19 Maxson. I work with the Illinois House of
20 Representatives. I'm here to give you a brief
21 overview of the state's redistricting procedure. I'm
22 going to briefly discuss the procedures and background
23 of redistricting and the information on the Voting
24 Rights Act. I will also be going over the new state

1 redistricting guidelines as recently signed into law.
2 And finally, we'll look at the results of the 2010
3 census and see what those results say about your
4 community.

5 Redistricting is the process that ensures
6 that all Illinois residents are afforded equal
7 representation in the state legislature and federal
8 congress, as guaranteed by the United States
9 Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court held in a series
10 of rulings in the 1960s that congressional and state
11 legislative districts in each state must be of
12 approximately equal population, establishing the
13 principle of one person, one vote. As a result,
14 states redraw congressional and state districts every
15 ten years to reflect changes shown in the census.

16 The timeline for redrawing the state
17 legislative map is based on the Illinois Constitution.
18 On December 21st, data collected by the 2010 census
19 was delivered to the president. The full
20 block-by-block census profile of Illinois, which will
21 be used in the redistricting process, was released in
22 February.

23 The Illinois state legislature has the
24 initial responsibility of passing new congressional

1 and state maps. Both the state House and state Senate
2 must pass a plan with majority votes. The plan must
3 then be signed by the governor.

4 If a new map does not go into effect by
5 the constitutional deadline of June 30th, the
6 responsibility for creating the new map passes from
7 the legislature and governor to a legislative
8 redistricting commission.

9 The commission consists of eight members
10 with no more than four from the same political party.
11 A majority vote of five or more commission members
12 will constitute a final majority for a new map.
13 However, if the commission does not agree to a map by
14 September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will submit
15 two names, one from each political party, to the
16 Secretary of State, who will then choose one name at
17 random to serve as the ninth member of the commission.
18 Five of the nine commission members must agree to a
19 plan by no later than October 5th.

20 In order to understand how the census data
21 is used to draw a new district, we must note several
22 legal guiding principles.

23 First among these principles is equal
24 population. State law mirrors the federal one person,

1 one vote standard and mandates that congressional and
2 state districts contain substantially equal
3 population. As a result of the 2010 census, the
4 target population of each House district is 108,734
5 people, while the ideal population for a Senate
6 district is 217,468 people.

7 Federal and state law also require all
8 districts to be contiguous, which means that all parts
9 of a district must be next to each other, unless
10 connected by water. Annexations and unincorporated
11 areas of municipalities and counties sometimes mean
12 that communities are discontinuous. However,
13 congressional or state districts must be adjacent or
14 connected at all points.

15 A more difficult requirement to define is
16 compactness. There are at least 30 scientific ways to
17 measure how compact a district is, and there is no
18 statute or court precedent that identifies a single
19 standard. In theory, compactness focuses on the shape
20 of a district's boundaries, how spread out a district
21 is from a central core, or what the district's
22 population center of gravity is. In practice,
23 compactness is hindered by geography and on-the-ground
24 realities. So often the interpretations of

1 compactness involve more than a visual test.

2 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests
3 two of its House districts, also called representative
4 districts, within one of its Senate districts, also
5 called legislative districts.

6 Mapmakers will also look where possible to
7 follow existing political and geographic boundaries in
8 ways that will maximize a community's opportunities to
9 have its interests represented. As we know,
10 however, county, municipality, township, and natural
11 geographic boundaries are not always compact or
12 contiguous.

13 By studying census data and holding public
14 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of
15 residents from across the state, lawmakers look to
16 identify what are known as communities of interest. A
17 community of interest is a group of people
18 concentrated in a geographic area who are socially,
19 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously, or
20 otherwise alike and can be joined into a district to
21 most effectively have their voices heard. The factors
22 contributing to any particular community of interest
23 will vary throughout the state.

24 Federal law requires redistricting plans

1 to respect minority representation. The principles of
2 the Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent
3 the reduction of opportunities for minority
4 populations to participate in the electoral process.
5 However, districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis
6 of race.

7 Earlier this year, Governor Quinn signed
8 legislation to protect the representation of racial
9 and language minority groups. Senate Bill 3976 helps
10 to prevent minority fracturing or dividing
11 concentrations of minority groups among two or more
12 districts by requiring mapmakers to consider creating
13 crossover districts, coalition districts, and
14 influence districts.

15 A crossover district is a district in
16 which a large minority group may elect the candidate
17 of its choice with the help of members of a majority
18 group.

19 A coalition district brings together
20 multiple racial or language minority groups to elect
21 the candidate of their choice.

22 An influence district allows a group to
23 influence an election, even without being a majority
24 population in that district.

1 These new state law requirements come into
2 play after compliance with the federal law and the
3 U.S. Constitution requirements on redistricting.

4 In addition, the law ensures transparency
5 by requiring public hearings across the state, one of
6 which we're having right now. The hearings will
7 provide a space for residents to share their thoughts
8 on the redistricting process, which is a key component
9 to a map that best represents the people of Illinois.

10 At the end of our presentation we will
11 display an e-mail address on the screen where you can
12 submit your ideas for consideration, and the committee
13 will also be accepting written testimony and
14 documentation this afternoon.

15 So now that we've covered the
16 redistricting process, let's take a look at what the
17 census has to say about this area and that will be
18 used to draw our new districts. All of the maps
19 you're going to see are drawn using census blocks,
20 which are the smallest level of geography the Census
21 Bureau uses to report population data.

22 As of the 2010 census, the total
23 population of the state of Illinois is 12,830,632, as
24 compared to the state's 2000 population of 12,419,293.

1 That's an increase of 410,000 people. The counties
2 with the largest population growth by percentage are
3 Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, and Will.

4 Demographically speaking, Illinois has
5 seen a lot of change over the last decade. The white
6 population has risen by .06 percent to 8,167,753. The
7 African-American population meanwhile has fallen
8 statewide by .06 percent to 1,832,924. Illinois's
9 Hispanic population, however, has risen statewide by
10 32.5 percent to a total of 2,700,578. Illinois's
11 Asian population has risen statewide by 38 percent to
12 580,586.

13 Now let's look at what the census data has
14 to say about Rock Island County. In 2000 the area's
15 population was 149,374 people, losing 1,828 people
16 over the last decade. In the last ten years the
17 area's population has decreased to 147,546 people in
18 Rock Island County.

19 In 2010 the census reports the
20 African-American population was 13,289 people, an
21 increase of 2,029 people in the last decade.

22 The Hispanic population in Rock Island
23 County was 17,118 at the end of the 2010 census. This
24 is an increase of 6,758 people since the 2010 -- the

1 2000 census.

2 The 2010 census showed an Asian population
3 of 2,419, an increase of 895 people over the last
4 decade.

5 Now, as you can see here, the minority
6 population increased in the county despite the overall
7 population. Population changes varied throughout Rock
8 Island County. For example, Moline's African-American
9 population increased by 64 percent since 2000 and its
10 Asian population grew by 70 percent. The city of Rock
11 Island's Hispanic population grew about almost 57
12 percent and the Asian population increased by almost
13 135 percent to 680 people, while the overall
14 population of the city decreased.

15 Thank you very much for attending and
16 sharing your thoughts with the committee today. If
17 you have any comments, you can e-mail us at
18 ilredistricting@gmail.com or visit our website, which
19 is on the screen, for more information.

20 Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, John.

22 We will -- we're going to start now with
23 those who have requested testimony. And the first
24 person requesting testimony is Liz Sherwin

1 representing the NAACP of Rock Island. If you would
2 join us up front and then please state your name for
3 the court reporter and spell it so we can have an
4 accurate public record.

5 MS. SHERWIN: Good afternoon. I'm cold.
6 I guess winter is back with us.

7 My name is Elizabeth Sherwin, and it's
8 E-l-i-z-a-b-e-t-h S-h-e-r-w-i-n. I'm current
9 president of the Rock Island County NAACP. And I
10 would like to thank you guys for hosting this hearing
11 to give us an opportunity to discuss redistricting.

12 Nationally, the NAACP is very active in a
13 campaign to address redistricting across the country.
14 In fact, just this past weekend I came from a
15 conference in Hammond, Indiana, where they supplied us
16 with specific information on redistricting and things
17 that states should not do. So that is the information
18 that I'm going to share with you. I have it written
19 so I can leave copies with you. Also, I have some
20 brochures that they have created in an effort to help
21 states in redistricting. There are several concerns
22 that the NAACP has nationally and I'm going to address
23 those and present them to the committee.

24 One of the things that the NAACP has

1 observed over the past years is that nationally
2 specific areas redistrict in certain ways, and in many
3 instances these impact the ability of minorities,
4 including African-Americans, to have access to the
5 political process. And NAACP has identified three of
6 those practices that I will address and they have
7 named them. And I will leave a copy of this
8 information with you so if you find that they are
9 occurring, then you can address them and make sure
10 they don't.

11 The first is a condition called cracking.
12 And this is drawing district lines so that an area of
13 concentrated minority population which is large enough
14 for separate representation and constitute one or more
15 majority-minority or majority black districts is
16 divided and spread among several districts that are
17 predominantly white. And that in fact diffuses our
18 ability to have equal access.

19 The other is called cracking and that's
20 drawing district lines so that an area of concentrated
21 minority population which is large enough for separate
22 representation and constitute one or more
23 majority-minority or majority black districts is
24 divided.

1 The other is called packing and that's
2 drawing lines so that the minority population is
3 overly concentrated or packed into election districts.

4 Another is called stacking and that's
5 drawing district lines so that a large minority
6 population concentrated is included with a larger
7 white population for the purpose of or the effect of
8 depriving minority voters of a voting majority.

9 And lastly, we have been addressing the
10 issues of prisoners in certain census tracts. In
11 certain census tracts, as you know -- and in Illinois
12 most of these prisons are concentrated in rural
13 populations. And what has been happening we've
14 observed is that many time these counts for the
15 prisoners are used in these rural populations. And
16 most of these prisoners happen to be African-American
17 or Hispanic. So that kind of -- I guess what you
18 could say, it kind of dilutes the representation
19 because we feel that these people should be counted
20 from the cities and towns from which they come as
21 opposed to these rural prisons where they have ended
22 up being. And what it does, if a community is very
23 small and they have these prisons and they use this
24 population for a count, it artificially inflates the

1 political representation for that area because these
2 prisoners don't vote and they don't have access to
3 that community.

4 So we're again advocating that you work on
5 the process of redistricting that does not incorporate
6 these things that I discussed, the cracking, packing,
7 or stacking, and that the use of prison populations to
8 artificially inflate representation in rural areas
9 should not be done, and also to remember the one
10 person, one vote doctrine that mandates each election
11 district for a particular legislative body should
12 contain an equal number of citizens to ensure that
13 each citizen's vote is given equal weight in the
14 electoral process.

15 And thank you again for hosting this and
16 we appreciate you listening.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you. And
18 I'd appreciate it if you could give staff a copy of
19 the information to be included in the report. You can
20 just bring it up here.

21 I wanted to ask also, are there any
22 questions?

23 Yes, we do have a question. Would you be
24 available to --

1 MS. SHERWIN: Sure.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: -- answer a
3 question from Representative Tracy?

4 MS. SHERWIN: Sure.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you,
6 Ms. Sherwin.

7 One of my questions is -- and you said
8 you've just been to a conference of the NAACP. Did
9 you formulate or come to mind a percentage of minority
10 population that you believe would be required in a
11 district so that the minority population could elect a
12 candidate of choice?

13 MS. SHERWIN: One of the things we -- the
14 NAACP on the national level have developed some
15 software that we can get at that. But we had people
16 from eight states at this particular conference, so we
17 did not focus in on each individual state at that
18 point. But there is some software that we have
19 available that could probably get at that.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Okay. That's
21 something that I've been asking at each of these
22 hearings, just to determine what a minority population
23 would consider an appropriate percentage of
24 representation within a district so that they could --

1 you know, whether it be a community of interest or
2 whatever, how much it would take to get there.

3 MS. SHERWIN: But they do have some
4 software, and what I'll do is when I get back, I will
5 look that information up and get you in contact with
6 those people.

7 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you.

8 MS. SHERWIN: You're welcome.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: We'll next hear
10 from Tara Barney, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce. Is
11 Tara with us?

12 MR. RUMLER: She's not. I'll speak for
13 her if you want.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: If you wish, yes.
15 Welcome, sir. And also, when you finish, if you
16 wouldn't mind filling one of those out.

17 MR. RUMLER: Paul Rumler. I'm the
18 executive vice president of the Quad Cities Chamber of
19 Commerce. I apologize that Tara couldn't be with us
20 today.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I'm going to ask
22 you if you wouldn't mind spelling your name for the
23 court reporter.

24 MR. RUMLER: Last name is spelled.

1 R-u-m-l-e-r.

2 First off, welcome to Quad Cities. Thanks
3 for being here so that way we can talk with you and
4 hear some of your thoughts on the redistricting
5 process.

6 A little bit about the chamber. We are
7 the largest business organization in northwest
8 Illinois. We represent about 2,000 member businesses
9 and 85,000 employees. We just merged to actually be a
10 regional bi-state chamber of commerce. Before that,
11 for the last 20 years, we've been a regional chamber
12 on the Illinois side of the river. But the Quad
13 Cities is in two states, so now we're a chamber of
14 commerce in both Iowa and Illinois. And so we've been
15 planning our regional strategic plan so that way we
16 can take the benefits of our entire bi-state
17 population, which is about 400,000 people for our
18 metro area.

19 We're well served by Representative
20 Verschoore and Representative Morthland and Senator
21 Jacobs and with Congressman Schilling as our federal
22 partner.

23 We think that leveraging the districts
24 around our core population has serviced us very well.

1 We're looking at growing our area GDP by about three
2 billion over the next five years, growing jobs by
3 about 5,000. That's our plan for the next five years.
4 We need good core representation around that economic
5 region to help us in that. I think we've demonstrated
6 some great success.

7 We have the Rock Island Arsenal that you
8 might hear more about here today. While there aren't
9 many people who live on that island who aren't
10 stationed there, they work in our communities. That
11 island is in the center of our Mississippi River and
12 is shared by Iowa and Illinois equally. And that's
13 one of the examples that we like to use where we share
14 our representation. We want to make sure that it's
15 continuous -- continuously contiguous, so that way we
16 have clear lines of representation, so that way we can
17 work on that.

18 So we ask you not only to share the maps
19 in advance, but as you draw the districts, kind of
20 base them around the House representative districts
21 that you have. We think those have worked well for
22 us.

23 We're concerned about the 17th
24 congressional district the way that it looks. For us

1 to be the poster child of gerrymandering across the
2 country isn't the perspective that we want the
3 national person to have about the Quad Cities area.
4 We would like to promote the good quality, transparent
5 work that we do here and be able to talk positively
6 about the Quad Cities. So we would appreciate your
7 representation along that line. And again, we'd like
8 to see those maps at least two weeks ahead of time.

9 So with that, thank you very much for
10 being here today. I could answer any questions if you
11 have any.

12 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Yes,
13 Representative Morthland.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: Paul, thanks
15 again for coming today.

16 Just off the top and you mentioned the
17 17th and our congressional layout.

18 MR. RUMLER: Yes.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: You are -- I
20 know you're keenly aware of politics on both sides of
21 the river. Are there any other tips that we on this
22 side of the river could pick up from the other side of
23 the river other than the gross exaggeration, gross
24 example of the 17th of how we could, especially on a

1 legislative level, maybe serve this area better?

2 MR. RUMLER: Well, I think in Iowa they've
3 used a computer to generate the maps, so that way it
4 takes a little bit of the personal perception out of
5 it. They've reviewed them well in advance. But they
6 followed the geographic cities. They try not to split
7 counties in half if they don't have to or cities in
8 half if they don't have to. And I think locally here
9 the representative districts have done that fairly
10 well. They follow the county lines. They include as
11 many as they can. So I think they're doing some
12 things very well.

13 That's what I'd like to see continuing for
14 the congressional districts is to make sure that our
15 population is -- you talked about where it's centered.
16 We see the Quad Cities as that center part of our
17 congressional district. We see it as the center part
18 of our representative district which has been done so
19 well. So we'd like to continue that in the
20 congressional district as much as possible. We've
21 enjoyed that for many years, but we'd like to continue
22 to look at northwestern Illinois as that core economic
23 population base. That's what they do in Iowa.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you so

1 much.

2 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: I have a question.

3 Paul, I had the other day in Champaign a
4 gentleman from Danville coined the 17th congressional
5 district that you and I both share as the great
6 American fishhook, and I said that that's a great
7 depiction. It's actually the great Illinois fishhook.

8 MR. RUMLER: It's our Cape Cod.

9 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: So thank you. I
10 think, as you pointed out, it's been studied in
11 textbooks across the country and certainly I think in
12 this attempt we should be able to do better in that
13 regard.

14 MR. RUMLER: We were just in Springfield
15 as a chamber of commerce and we had a great
16 delegation, 40 representatives, business, labor, civic
17 leaders, and we were talking about redistricting to
18 everybody that we met with. It's one of our top
19 priorities here as a chamber of commerce in addition
20 to budget stabilization, economic growth and -- I'm
21 trying to think of the third one right now. It's a
22 better business climate with workers' comp. But
23 redistricting made the top four list. It's that
24 important to us that we make sure that we have clear,

1 consistent representation going forward so that we're
2 not on Cape Cod forever.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Right. And I'm
4 sure that you discussed that it's unfortunate that our
5 population has decreased and probably because of the
6 loss of manufacturing jobs and the like, which has
7 resulted in the loss of a congressional seat, which
8 dilutes our representation in Congress.

9 MR. RUMLER: It is. And we hope in ten
10 years we don't have to suffer any more population
11 loss. I think that's why we've gotten our act
12 together here locally with our strategic plan, and we
13 have good coalition support to grow our jobs and grow
14 our economy, but we need that support from our state
15 and federal partners as well who are representing us.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you. We hear
17 you and we will try to move in that direction in the
18 House. Thank you.

19 MR. RUMLER: Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: Thank you,
21 Paul.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: We will next hear
23 from Herschel Jackson and Herschel is representing the
24 Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living.

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Again, my name
2 is Herschel Jackson. I'd like to thank the committee,
3 Pat Verschoore, Representative Frank Mautino for
4 hosting this event and allowing us to be here to
5 participate in this project.

6 Again, I'm an independent living advocate
7 with Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living. I'm
8 here on behalf of the agency and on behalf of people
9 with disabilities.

10 Basically, one of our main objectives with
11 our agency, Center for Independent Living, is to
12 advocate for equal access to the political process and
13 encouraging more people with disabilities to become
14 registered voters so their voices can be heard.

15 One of the first things I would like the
16 committee to keep in mind is that one in five people
17 -- one of every five people have a disability, and
18 people with disabilities also do have the right to
19 vote. They have families. They have friends who, you
20 know, who also participate in the political process
21 and voting as well.

22 Even though people with disabilities make
23 up a small number of the voting -- at the voting
24 polls, due to the election code, they feel that their

1 voice would not be heard or that their vote won't
2 count. I think that what we really want to do, we
3 want to change that when you all think about
4 redistricting, changing -- redistricting the map in
5 making sure that people with disabilities can be
6 heard, will be heard, will be heard, and convincing
7 them that their vote will -- does count.

8 Another thing that we would like the
9 committee to see, to understand is that -- to remember
10 is that the rural communities have several -- have
11 housing units, several housing units within their
12 small communities that make up a mixture of people
13 with disabilities and other groups, such as senior
14 citizens, retired farmers, and so forth, and they all
15 have various level of income status, you know, and
16 they are at various different ages. We don't want to
17 redistrict and cause their voices to lose the areas in
18 the redistricting process or isolate them in a
19 separate category where it would be unfair to the
20 district in redistricting, and for the need to be
21 adequate representation from the rural population as
22 well as the disability -- people with disability
23 population when redistricting the map, and the map
24 needs to reflect the equal access of voting and to

1 benefit the political process for all.

2 One person -- again in mind, one person,
3 one vote should be the first consideration in every
4 redistricting conversation. Gerrymandering district
5 lines to benefit political parties or elected
6 officials should not be -- should be a factor in
7 drawing the district boundaries.

8 Again I'd like to thank the committee for
9 allowing me to participate, be a part of this and
10 participate and give testimony on behalf of people
11 with disabilities and the Illinois-Iowa Center for
12 Independent Living. I have written statements here
13 that I'd like to leave with you guys as well.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you very
15 much.

16 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: And you can just
18 leave those up here with us.

19 Questions of Mr. Jackson?

20 Okay. Seeing no further questions, thank
21 you very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Rick Seidler,
23 president and CEO of Trinity Regional Health Systems.
24 Mr. Seidler, if you would --

1 Mr. Ramirez, Alfred Ramirez, Greater Quad
2 Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Welcome,
3 Mr. Ramirez. If you would join us at the front and
4 please spell your name for the court reporter.

5 MR. RAMIREZ: It's Alfred, A-l-f-r-e-d,
6 Ramirez, R-a-m-i-r-e-z.

7 I come here representing the Greater Quad
8 Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, our board of
9 directors and our members, and I want to thank all of
10 our elected officials and local government officials
11 for hosting this public event to give us access to the
12 information as well as input into the process. Thank
13 you for that.

14 Our chamber is the only Hispanic chamber
15 for miles. We've been in existence two years. Our
16 members -- we are bi-state as well. Our members
17 emanate from here to Chicago and across into west --
18 into Muscatine, Iowa City, et cetera. We also even
19 have members out of Kansas City, Missouri. So there's
20 a big need for the chamber, for its businesses, for
21 its members.

22 We're unique in that we serve businesses
23 as well as educational organizations, government
24 organizations, non-profit organizations. We have very

1 close partnerships with organizations such as Casa
2 Guanajuato in this area, LULAC in this area. These
3 are Quad Cities groups, those groups who definitely
4 share an interest in this process. So in our coming
5 forward, we are not saying that we speak for them, but
6 we truly are representative of those organizations.

7 Between 2000 and 2010, as we saw earlier,
8 the Latino population in Illinois grew 33 percent to
9 what we saw is 2.7 million. Also, when we look at the
10 growth in Illinois, 16 percent of that growth was the
11 Hispanic population. At the same time, as the rest of
12 the population declined slightly, we all know that we
13 lost a congressional seat given our decline. We know
14 that it's documented that we would have lost a second
15 seat had it not been for the growth of the Hispanic
16 population. So we're proud that the population is in
17 fact impacting us on a national level as well state
18 and local level.

19 As Illinois now undertakes this 2011
20 redistricting, those who draw its maps must recognize
21 Latino population growth by ensuring that the maps
22 allow Latinos to effectively choose their elected
23 leaders. As was mentioned, the Voting Rights Act of
24 1965, the VRA, prohibits jurisdictions from creating

1 districts that through voting dilution prevent Latinos
2 and other protected populations from electing
3 candidates of their choice.

4 As mentioned also, and I'd like to
5 reiterate, is the other criterion that's extremely
6 important for you all to consider and that's the
7 consideration of communities of interest. Line
8 drawers must also try to keep together those
9 neighborhoods or geographic areas where residents have
10 shared views, interests, or characteristics. So
11 again, we need to be cognizant and mindful that there
12 are also shared views, interests, or characteristics
13 that need to be taken into consideration.

14 For Latinos, what a community of interest
15 means to us is that it could be a group of residents
16 whose children attend the same schools and face the
17 same challenges in obtaining a quality education. It
18 also can mean for us neighborhoods that use the same
19 transportation lines or access the same types of local
20 services, such as public parks or libraries. It can
21 be Latinos who work at the kinds of businesses that
22 have shared employment or economic concerns. So, as
23 we see, it's extremely important to look at the
24 communities of interest area as well when we look at

1 how we are to divide lines and not by sheer population
2 but the machinations how that community works.

3 Lastly is we call on Illinois -- the state
4 of Illinois to strictly comply with the VRA's
5 requirements during this year's redistricting process.
6 It's now time to make sure that Latinos can embrace
7 the opportunity to translate those census numbers into
8 full and fair representation. And it's also important
9 that our districts and populations as we move forward
10 given the redistricting enables us to elect officials
11 that truly represent the policy, legislation, and
12 budgetary concerns and decisions that impact our
13 populations.

14 I not only speak on behalf of the Hispanic
15 or Latino population, I also speak on behalf of any
16 underrepresented or disadvantaged populations that are
17 represented in this vote. And one of the questions
18 was asked about what would be an adequate percentage.
19 I think really it's going to have to be a case-by-case
20 look. Rather than come out with a broad, sweeping
21 percentage, we'll have to look at what the historic
22 and new paradigm shifts come in population related and
23 then make those decisions. So I think that's maybe
24 the tactic that we might employ.

1 The other thing is there's four national
2 groups that I'd like to mention because they have been
3 working on this issue and they might be helpful in the
4 process because they also have regional approaches as
5 well. LULAC is one. We have a local LULAC chapter
6 here, but at the national level they are involved in
7 redistricting. MALDEF is another. That's the Mexican
8 American Legal Defense Education Fund. They also have
9 offices in Chicago. The third is NALEO, the National
10 Association of Latino Elected Officials. And the
11 fourth is Southwest Voter Registration Education
12 Project. Those four areas -- and the record will
13 reflect that those four organizations have done a lot
14 of work on redistricting. Their software, their
15 stances, their suggestions might prove helpful at the
16 state level.

17 With that, I want to thank you all for
18 allowing us to be represented here today and for
19 input, and I welcome any questions, comments that I
20 can answer or take back.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Questions,
22 members of the committee?

23 MR. RAMIREZ: Thank you very much.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I'd like to

1 recognize also just joining with us Dennis Pauley, the
2 mayor of Rock Island. Mr. Mayor, thank you for
3 letting us -- for hosting us here.

4 REPRESENTATIVE VERSCHOORE: Also, Mayor
5 Don Welvaert from Moline is here, too.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for
7 having us.

8 REPRESENTATIVE VERSCHOORE: And County
9 Board Chairman Jim Bohnsack is back there also.

10 Thank you, gentlemen, for being here.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you.

12 We'll next hear from Randall Jacobs.

13 Mr. Jacobs, welcome.

14 MR. JACOBS: Thank you. Thank you very
15 much for hosting and being here and taking the
16 insights and ideas from voters.

17 I'm Randall Jacobs. That's R-a-n-d-a-l-l
18 J-a-c-o-b-s. Those who know me informally know me as
19 RJ.

20 I'm here today as an Illinois resident, a
21 taxpayer, and involved citizen. I have business
22 interests all over the United States and serve a
23 number of clients in this region.

24 So I'm here, though, to offer some insight

1 and some ideas to the commission for the Illinois
2 General Assembly. I would like to characterize these
3 as commonsense guidelines. And I think that the
4 voters on both sides of the aisle throughout have been
5 expressing a strong concern for commonsense solutions,
6 especially as it relates to legislative redistricting.

7 The law says that we must rework our state
8 legislative districts in keeping with fair
9 representation. That's been noted earlier. And this
10 year, obviously, we face the loss in Illinois of a
11 congressional seat. And so what I'm going to propose
12 here are simply my opinions, but they're based on some
13 thought, and I hope that they will be seen as a
14 progressive idea.

15 A lot of what I'm going to be saying here
16 in the next few minutes are probably reflective of
17 conversations that I've had with a lot of friends and
18 comrades across Illinois. And while they're not here
19 today to speak, perhaps I'm their voice.

20 Two considerations:

21 The first is that I would suggest that the
22 decision-makers, the commission take into account that
23 this is the 21st century and certainly in Illinois it
24 is. Legislative districts have become economic hubs.

1 Maybe this is an extension of the community -- the
2 definition of community interests. But today we have
3 a need to maximize our economic opportunities in
4 Illinois. And we know better here in this part of the
5 state, western Illinois -- in some cases people call
6 it western Illinois, other people call it northwestern
7 Illinois, but we know better than to just say that
8 we're going to ride the coattails of Chicago. Our
9 regional economic future is impacted by redistricting.

10 Now, secondly, if we agree that healthy
11 legislative districts with their mix of urban and
12 rural populations have become economic hubs, then we
13 need to strengthen their voices in Springfield and
14 Washington.

15 As I said, in this region some of us call
16 ourselves western Illinois and other people refer to
17 the area as northwestern Illinois. But in the entire
18 last ten years, those of us that have been involved in
19 the community know that we've been creeping towards
20 establishing a vibrant regional economy. Other areas
21 of the state are trying to do the same. So doesn't it
22 make sense for the mapmakers to help with the process?
23 But how?

24 Our political leaders in Springfield can

1 do this by establishing congressional districts that
2 have a powerful mix of business and labor success
3 stories that will sustain ongoing growth, growth in
4 personal lives and business expansion and, yes, tax
5 dollars for reasonable but vital services. When we
6 look at this region of Illinois, realizing the state
7 is going to lose a congressional district, we cannot
8 afford to be left behind.

9 Here's a proposal I'm going to show you in
10 a moment that's based on commonsense as well as some
11 forward thinking: A new 17th congressional district
12 that includes the Quad Cities and the city of Peoria,
13 a district of 712,813 people with urban, rural,
14 manufacturing, and knowledge-based economies, academic
15 centers, all making for a powerful combination that
16 will give this region sustainability and build a more
17 robust future.

18 To illustrate my proposal, I developed a
19 map. I used some rather sophisticated software. I
20 will tell you this, though, in the interest of full
21 disclosure. I was trying to hit the mark of 712,811
22 people. I got 700 -- pardon me, I tried to get
23 712,813 people. I'm two people short. Here's the
24 map.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Now you see how
2 difficult the task is.

3 MR. JACOBS: Most definitely.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Our tolerances
5 are usually one or less. Pretty close.

6 MR. JACOBS: I'll leave -- I'll leave the
7 group here a copy of the map and a copy of my remarks.
8 Thank you for your time.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you very
10 much. And also do we have -- yep. We'll need you to
11 also sign your map.

12 MR. JACOBS: I will.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Autograph it for
14 us, if you would.

15 MR. JACOBS: Okay.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: This will become
17 part of the public record. It will be uploaded to the
18 website, as will all of maps that are presented or
19 even portions of maps.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: And it's in purple;
21 right? Right. To match the tie.

22 MR. JACOBS: The map? I'm sorry. Yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Right.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: For those of you

1 who wish --

2 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: You might want to
3 show the public.

4 MR. JACOBS: I didn't want to do a Vanna
5 White job.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I'm sure a lot of
7 people sitting in the audience are interested in that
8 drawing as well.

9 But this is also an example of what any
10 member of the public can do through those two stations
11 that we've created in both Springfield and Chicago.
12 It contains the same information, the census tracts
13 right down to the smallest unit, which is a census
14 block.

15 And thank you very much for doing that.

16 MR. JACOBS: All right. Somebody else
17 want to look at it or -- okay. Well, thank you for
18 your attention.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you very
20 much.

21 Any further questions of Mr. Jacobs?

22 Thank you.

23 Next we will hear from -- let's see -- Ted
24 Johnson. Mr. Johnson, seeking recognition. Welcome,

1 sir. If you'd join us up front, state your name and
2 spell it for our stenographer.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Easy name. Ted Johnson,
4 T-e-d J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

5 Welcome to the Quad Cities and thank you
6 for bringing the public hearing here.

7 I represent no organization, no political
8 party, or public interest group. I am just an
9 Illinois resident, an Illinois resident who's totally
10 embarrassed by our state's current congressional
11 district configuration.

12 As we talked earlier, the U.S.
13 Constitution prescribes that redistricting for
14 congressional districts is done every ten years
15 following the completion of the U.S. census to ensure
16 that each congressman represents a similar number of
17 constituents, the principle of one man, one vote no
18 matter where you live. States are given the
19 delineating responsibility and at the same time
20 determine the districts for state legislative bodies.

21 In Illinois the guiding principle behind
22 redistricting appears to be totally politically
23 driven, even though the state Constitution requires
24 contiguous, compact districts. When one looks at

1 current congressional districts for Illinois, it
2 provides a perfect visual example of gerrymandering,
3 dividing voting areas to the benefit of one party.
4 Both political parties have been guilty of this
5 practice, but it was never the intent of the
6 Constitution.

7 District 15 -- or, the 15th district
8 currently runs just south of Kankakee and ends in far
9 southern Illinois. The infamous 17th district runs
10 from Sterling, Illinois, down to Quincy, across to
11 Alton, and then east to just south of Decatur. The
12 19th district includes southern Springfield and
13 reaches almost to Cairo. Those who authored this map
14 should be ashamed, and we, the residents and the
15 voters, should be embarrassed and upset.

16 Our neighbors to the west in Iowa seem to
17 have redistricting tasks well in hand. They have an
18 initial map already formulated that they are now
19 taking around the state for public input.

20 In Illinois you are asking for input
21 without a map to react to, so we are left only to
22 react to the existing map that will change but what we
23 anticipate will happen in redistricting.

24 Districts should be contiguous and

1 homogeneous as possible. In redistricting, when
2 possible, counties should be left whole within
3 districts, and each district should contain at least
4 one urban center.

5 In a perfect world, a commonsense world,
6 redistricting could be accomplished in a matter of
7 hours without the necessity of public hearing or
8 political maneuvering. Take the 2010 U.S. census
9 information, enter it into a computer, then enter the
10 population number that each congressional district
11 should include, then enter any other parameters that
12 you might include, such as leaving counties whole or
13 the inclusion of an urban center in each district.
14 The computer would then generate the fairest, most
15 equitable redistricting plan possible. The plan would
16 make more sense, receive far less criticism, and take
17 far less time than the current process. An
18 interesting new concept for Illinois: fair,
19 impartial, and just makes commonsense.

20 Thank you for your time and consideration,
21 and I indeed hope that the new map is influenced more
22 by commonsense than political forces. Redistricting
23 should result in protecting the power of the voter and
24 not protecting the power of the party.

1 Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for
3 your comments. Questions?

4 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Could we ask you a
5 few questions?

6 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: We have some
7 questions.

8 Representative Morthland, go ahead and
9 start first.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: I do appreciate
11 your remarks very much. Thank you.

12 You talked about not having a map to
13 preview before we go forward. Let's say that part of
14 this process becomes citizen preview and comment on
15 the maps. What would you do?

16 MR. JOHNSON: What would I do? I guess
17 after the map that you all are going to come up with
18 is completed is I guess go around again with a public
19 hearing. I'm afraid that's the only other approach
20 that's out there. But each person is going to have
21 their own ideas.

22 That's why I kind of like the idea of the
23 computer in that it removes an awful lot of subjective
24 areas. I don't know how that impacts minority

1 representation and things like this. I think it's far
2 easier in the downstate area than it would be in
3 Chicago itself. Downstate I don't think you're going
4 to have that kind of issue. I really don't.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Representative
6 Tracy.

7 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: I appreciate your
8 comments. I was wondering then, you -- what you're
9 saying is you don't believe political information or
10 data or incumbent's residence should be taken into
11 account when drawing this map?

12 MR. JOHNSON: I don't see where in the
13 U.S. Constitution or in the state Constitution that
14 political entities were supposed to be a part of the
15 determination of districts.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: You know, we --
17 when I was in Champaign, there was a University of
18 Illinois law professor that expressed concerns that
19 perhaps there was already a map in existence, and that
20 concerned him because, one, if it were in existence,
21 which he presumed it was and the public wasn't being
22 given it in advance, but he was afraid that all this
23 would be for naught. And so, you know, all those
24 concerns were -- and, you know, I don't know if you

1 share any of those concerns as well.

2 MR. JOHNSON: I think in Illinois at times
3 as voters we all think that the efforts are for
4 naught. And I don't mean this as an affront to
5 Representative Verschoore or Representative Morthland
6 at all.

7 The fact is it seems like things are done
8 outside of our best interests at times.

9 You know, there is -- like you said, there
10 is a map, the existing map. Now, why anybody would
11 stand on the premise of endorsing that map goes beyond
12 good judgment. I would hope that the new map won't
13 have that same criticism.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you very
17 much.

18 Scott Terry will be next. Mr. Terry?

19 Ted, did you fill out a witness slip? If you
20 don't mind, when you get a chance, see John Mirkovic
21 or one of the guys. They'll get that set for you.

22 As we've gone through, we're still waiting for
23 a few people from the early agenda to get here, but
24 our next -- so I will go to these slips and then we'll

1 also go to open comment for other people.

2 Our next commenter will be John Wetzler -- or,
3 Wetzler. John Wetzler?

4 MR. WETZEL: Yeah.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Sorry about the
6 mispronunciation. If you'd join us up here and please
7 spell your name for the reporter.

8 MR. WETZEL: Thank you, Representative
9 Mautino. My name is John Wetzler, John, J-o-h-n,
10 Wetzler, W-e-t-z-e-l.

11 How fate intervenes, following
12 Mr. Johnson's comments. My comments are along the
13 same lines. I'm a native 69-year-long resident of the
14 state of Illinois, have pretty much the same
15 perceptions of the state today as Mr. Johnson does.
16 I'm a citizen, retired, continue to make our home in
17 the state. I would just like to comment on two or
18 three things.

19 First, to the question of the map, it's
20 much better to react to a draft than the existing map,
21 which is ten years old, as we've heard, and life has
22 changed in the state of Illinois since then. So I
23 would strongly urge that you come out with at least
24 the same number of hearings around the state with a

1 map that we can react on. And again, to emphasize
2 Mr. Johnson's comments, the map is for the people, not
3 -- not the legislators.

4 There was reference to our -- to our
5 neighboring state. That map is in fact signed. The
6 governor signed it yesterday. The first in the
7 nation. It was drawn by a computer. It ignored the
8 legislative will. There are two of the four
9 congressional districts -- Iowa lost one -- two of the
10 four who have incumbents living in the congressional
11 districts. So it ignored that. There are at least a
12 third of the House districts that have dual
13 incumbencies.

14 So please keep in mind that the vote is
15 for the -- that the map is for the individual voters.
16 And I wish you well in your task. I know it's no easy
17 task. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, sir.

19 We'll next hear from William S. Bloom.

20 Mr. Bloom, welcome.

21 MR. BLOOM: That's spelled B-l-o-o-m. Had
22 to fight my way through grade school with a name like
23 that.

24 Well, first, I'd like to thank the

1 committee for the opportunity to get up here and share
2 my thoughts. Like several of the other people who've
3 come up and testified, I feel like I'm here
4 representing the thinking of a lot of people.

5 My name is William Bloom, and with the
6 exception of a few years when John Deere decided to
7 ship me off to southwest Iowa, for my entire life I've
8 lived as a resident of Illinois. Now, I don't know
9 why John Deere sent me off to Iowa, but after some
10 period of time, I obviously corrected what I was doing
11 wrong because they allowed me to come back again.

12 I'm a grad -- undergrad -- I have an
13 undergraduate degree from Eastern Illinois University
14 and an undergraduate and MBA from Southern Illinois
15 University in Carbondale. Working with John Deere, I
16 lived in several different areas in Illinois. And so
17 between those two experiences, I can honestly say that
18 I know this state from the top to the bottom.

19 I have two objectives in what I hope to
20 achieve today. One is to point out the obvious and
21 that is that the redistricting process used in
22 Illinois to date doesn't work for its citizens, and
23 second, it's to advance an argument supporting the
24 western Illinois congressional district.

1 In the first objective, you'll have to
2 bear with me, I think you guys have heard the word
3 gerrymandering at some point in time during these
4 hearings. Wikipedia defines gerrymandering as a
5 practice of political corruption that attempts to
6 establish a political advantage by manipulating
7 geographic boundaries to create partisan,
8 incumbent-protected, and neutral districts.

9 In Illinois this process errs only in that
10 it defines the geographic boundary, in one case, the
11 width of a bike path or an alley which constitutes a
12 district's local boundaries. And that's actually -- I
13 think it is an alley in Springfield, if I'm not
14 incorrect. We split up neighborhoods to gather
15 clusters of similar voting people in one district and
16 move them out of another.

17 The practice is not restricted to one
18 political party, but the practice has to stop. The
19 practice perverts the rights of a citizen to pick
20 their representatives and replaces it with the right
21 of a politician to pick their voters. Gerrymandering
22 makes it much more difficult to provide constituent
23 services and to provide the proper attention for other
24 purposes to the extreme areas of a district.

1 We live within one of the most egregious
2 examples of a gerrymander, the Illinois 17th
3 congressional district. Can any of us honestly
4 explain why Pana, Illinois, is part of this district?
5 What does it have in common with the Quad Cities?
6 Does anyone here not agree that Pana has a lot more in
7 common with people who live in Shelbyville or Nokomis
8 or Taylorville than it does with the people in the
9 Quad Cities? Has anyone looked at a map to see just
10 how far the bulk of the 17th district really is from
11 Pana?

12 And I didn't pick Pana as an example
13 merely by looking on the map. When I worked for John
14 Deere, I lived in Effingham. I called on all the
15 dealers in that area and I know that area well.

16 This practice makes constituent services
17 much harder to adequately maintain for our elected
18 leaders. While I believe our representatives have
19 tried hard to cover this maze of constituents, I know
20 at least one of them never made it to Pana, Illinois,
21 during an elected two-year term.

22 Rather than sprouting arms and legs or
23 octopus-like tentacles, districts should have
24 boundaries that are logical and clearly defined

1 through geographic features and, where it's
2 appropriate, county lines. Districts need to consider
3 population, but they also have to be geographically
4 reasonable for a representative to effectively cover.
5 The 17th is the most obvious example of
6 gerrymandering, but, as some of the other witnesses
7 have pointed out, other districts have boundaries that
8 are at least questionable.

9 There's much to be said for the simple process
10 followed by our neighbors in Iowa. I would urge our
11 elected officials to put the needs of their
12 constituents ahead of their desire to be reelected and
13 adopt an unbiased process based on a systems approach
14 to drawing district lines. At least allow the basic
15 lines to be drawn by the system and then allow the
16 politicians to make very minor modifications where
17 it's appropriate.

18 When one looks at the map of Illinois and
19 its congressional districts, the contrasting size
20 between the postage-stamp districts in Chicago and the
21 vast districts downstate is striking. You have
22 districts that can be traversed in an afternoon on a
23 bicycle in one instance, the first instance, compared
24 with districts that really effectively are impossible

1 to cover in a day in a car in the second.

2 Western Illinois is an area which to me is
3 defined by common heritage, common farming practices,
4 and common economic activities. The Quad Cities makes
5 an excellent nucleus for a congressional district as a
6 population center of hundreds of thousands of people.
7 Above and beyond that, it is an outstanding commercial
8 hub with Deere and Company at its nexus, along with
9 corporate headquarters of Modern Woodmen and Royal
10 Neighbors. Hosts for other -- hosts of other
11 manufacturing companies in the area play a supporting
12 role. The population and economic power of this area
13 are things which acquire the close attention of a
14 locally located congressman.

15 If the population and the commercial
16 importance of the area does not justify having a
17 congressional district based in the Quad Cities
18 representing their interests, then consider the Rock
19 Island Arsenal. This facility has played an important
20 role in times of war, helping protect the interests of
21 the nation. In times of peace it requires particular
22 attention to keep its operation busy and to be
23 prepared for the next time of need. Having a
24 congressman in the Quad Cities ensures close attention

1 to this important facility. It ensures the arsenal
2 will be supported and will be ready the next time the
3 U.S. military needs it in time of war. If there is no
4 western Illinois congressional seat, can we guarantee
5 the same emphasis which our current congressman places
6 on the Rock Island Arsenal? To ensure proper
7 attention to the Rock Island Arsenal and all it offers
8 in employment and unique technology, it is logical to
9 keep a western Illinois congressional district with
10 the Quad Cities at its nucleus.

11 Finally, there are a number of rivers
12 which provide commercial opportunity and encourage
13 similar farming practices and also require particular
14 attention because of the seasonal danger of flooding,
15 which I think we're all familiar with right now.
16 Having a western Illinois district with a border that
17 constitutes the Mississippi encourages a congressman
18 to be cognizant of the commercial role it plays
19 knitting the area together and also the potential
20 danger it threatens with periodic floods.

21 If the western Illinois region was carved
22 up into parts of other districts with their centers
23 further east in the center of the state, would there
24 be sufficient attention placed on flood management and

1 maintenance of the river for navigation? The Rock
2 River and the Mississippi seem to coordinate their
3 flooding calendars. When one river threatens flood,
4 you can almost bet the other is doing it as well. So
5 it makes sense to keep the lower Rock and as much as
6 of the Mississippi as possible in the same
7 congressional districts.

8 To me, the western Illinois area is a
9 logical basis for a congressional district with
10 similar agricultural interests, similar opportunities,
11 and concerns for the river, and with the nucleus
12 formed by the commercial and population strength of
13 the Quad Cities. Its logical boundaries, where
14 possible, could be based on rivers or county lines.
15 That should retain as much of the Mississippi as
16 possible, but it should definitely not lose the -- but
17 it should definitely lose the tentacles surrounding --
18 to surrounding districts in order to ensure improved
19 constituent services to those areas.

20 Picking up the missing components from
21 Henry and Knox County, given their close proximity to
22 the Quad Cities, would make a lot of sense. Likewise,
23 Adams County could also be incorporated. While Quincy
24 is a logical piece of the district, south of that town

1 everything should be redistricted in my opinion.

2 As a district must be removed, I would
3 strongly recommend that the realignment start in Cook
4 County and consolidate one of the smallest
5 congressional districts, recognizing that this is a
6 large population concentration. If one of the
7 metropolitan Chicago districts is removed and the
8 other is expanded, the surrounding suburban districts
9 used to absorb the population, the result would be
10 geographically manageable congressional districts
11 downstate and Cook County still highly manageable as
12 well, do away with the tentacles, keep politics out of
13 the boundaries, and do what is right for the citizens
14 of Illinois.

15 Finally, I think that it would make sense
16 to use the same basic logic which would yield a better
17 congressional district be similarly applied to state
18 representative districts. If possible, state
19 representative districts should be aligned to fall
20 entirely within congressional districts to allow for
21 dotted-line communications between those offices. And
22 this would also allow easier concentration of
23 legislative forces at the state and federal level when
24 such a concentration is warranted.

1 One last item: I believe that
2 transparency must be a byword for this process.
3 Having proposed -- you know, several people have
4 proposed a map, a strawman map up there for people to
5 look at for at least two weeks in advance of the vote.
6 I think that's personally an excellent idea.

7 And I hope that the results of these
8 hearings are meaningful and not a fig leaf to cover
9 another round of backroom dealmaking at the expense of
10 the people of Illinois. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Questions?

12 Thank you very much.

13 I would ask, too, if would it be possible
14 for the staff to get a copy of your testimony and some
15 of the boundaries that you set out as well.

16 MR. BLOOM: Sure.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thanks.

18 Dorothy Tribbett. Am I saying that
19 correctly?

20 MS. TRIBBETT: Yes.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Welcome, Dorothy.
22 Dorothy, welcome.

23 MS. TRIBBETT: My name's Dorothy Tribbett.

24 That's D-o-r-o-t-h-y T-r-i-b-b-e-t-t. And I've lived

1 here 20 -- 20 years some time ago and about five years
2 lately. And I'm from Decatur and I know that it is
3 difficult for people from there to figure out who to
4 vote for. And even -- I talked to my cousin today and
5 she lives within a few miles of this boundary, but
6 she's in the regular area and she lives in Decatur but
7 not in the voting section, and she didn't even -- she
8 didn't even know anything about this, you know. So
9 communication to the people that are voting must be
10 way down.

11 And I know that it's difficult to
12 represent people from clear down in Quincy and over in
13 Pana and in Decatur and represent us too. And it
14 probably costs an awful lot of money to campaign in
15 that area and it costs an awful lot of money to
16 communicate with the voters in that area. And I
17 really wish it would stop.

18 Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for
20 your comments.

21 We'll next hear from Jon Zahm, Henry
22 County Board member.

23 Welcome, Jon.

24 MR. ZAHM: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman

1 Mautino and committee.

2 I'm chairman of the ad hoc redistricting
3 committee of the Henry County Board and I wanted to
4 share some experiences that we had the last --

5 Oh, I'm sorry. Jon, J-o-n, Zahm, Z-a-h-m,
6 as in Mary.

7 As chairman of our ad hoc redistricting
8 committee of the Henry County Board, I wanted to share
9 some experiences we had in the last three months with
10 you and see if any of these practices might -- might
11 apply and be helpful.

12 We started in January having our first
13 public meeting and we had another meeting in February
14 and another in March. Our committee was equally
15 comprised of Democrat and Republican members. There
16 were two Democrats and two Republicans on this
17 committee, as well as some advisers, including the
18 county clerk, who was there to provide data for us.

19 What we ended up doing was considering
20 several different maps. We solicited maps from the
21 public, from county board members, from other places.
22 And the map that ended up passing was a two-district
23 map that split our county exactly in half north to
24 south. It was a map that was created by our GIS or

1 our computer department.

2 Actually, a Democrat member of our
3 committee had submitted the parameter of please split
4 the district -- split our county equally in half
5 without regard to where our incumbents live and come
6 up with, you know, with a map that doesn't take into
7 account any political boundaries. The map that they
8 came up with had twelve townships to the north and
9 twelve to the south, 25,000 people to the north and
10 25,000 to the south. The variance was .57 percent in
11 population.

12 And I will submit that map to that e-mail
13 address when I get home so everyone can see it.

14 But we looked at it and we found that it
15 was compact, we found it was contiguous, and that it
16 kept communities of interest together. To us, a lot
17 of our communities of interest are determined by
18 school district boundaries, and we found that this map
19 kept school districts almost perfectly together, where
20 a previous map that we'd operated with under the last
21 20 years, you know, split several school districts up.

22 So we think that by taking the politics
23 out of the process and getting a computer involved,
24 you know, with the GIS system, you know, can be very

1 advantageous, and we hope that you'll consider using
2 that process.

3 A couple other comments I'd like to make:

4 It's a good turnout today, but I think it
5 could be even better if the time were different. You
6 know, being 2 p.m. on a weekday, you know, makes it
7 difficult for our hardworking, taxpaying citizens that
8 have 9 to 5 or 8 to 4 type jobs to be here. I had to
9 take comp time to be here, but I thought it was
10 important enough to do so. But not everyone has the
11 ability to do that. So please consider for future
12 hearings maybe a Saturday morning or maybe an early
13 evening to attract more people.

14 As another comment I'd like to echo what
15 some other people have said. Let's please share these
16 maps for open hearings after they have been drafted.
17 Today is somewhat of a theoretical discussion. Later
18 we can have a realtime discussion with maps that are
19 out there.

20 Last, I'll conclude by mentioning two
21 local examples. In Henry County, where the current
22 system is failing us, the city of Geneseo has a
23 population of just about 6500 people, but it is split
24 in half, and we have two representatives, both good

1 representatives but two different representatives for
2 that area. And even Munson Township, which is a
3 population of just 400 people in the center of Henry
4 County, is split as well. And Representative
5 Morthland, who's my state representative, can vouch
6 for this because he has half of each of -- each of
7 those communities.

8 Thanks for your time.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: I have a couple
10 questions. Could I ask Jon a question?

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Jon, would you be
12 available for --

13 MR. ZAHM: Oh, absolutely.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: -- questions from
15 Representative Morthland?

16 MR. ZAHM: Yes.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: Thanks for
18 coming in today, Jon.

19 I just want to ask you your opinion as a
20 Henry County citizen. And yes, you live in the Osco
21 area. You're in my district. And we have this
22 curious situation where I am Bobby Schilling's state
23 representative and he is not his own congressman, and
24 yet he lives just minutes into Henry County and would

1 by any -- by any estimation be a Quad City resident.

2 How do you see if there is a Quad City
3 area -- an Illinois Quad City area based new
4 congressional district, how do you see Henry County's
5 relationship with that? I'm just curious what you
6 think.

7 MR. ZAHM: That's a good question. I was
8 sitting in the back there with two folks from Geneseo
9 who were asking me questions about the congressional
10 district, so we're going to talk about that today, so
11 that's a little bit of a segue into that.

12 Yeah, Bobby Schilling lives 15 minutes
13 from my home, and Randy Hultgren, though, is my
14 congressman, and Randy lives in Warrenville, Illinois,
15 about three hours from my home. So it is a very
16 crookedly drawn district between the 14th and the
17 17th. And in that case I won't put blame on just one
18 party. You know, what ended up happening in those
19 congressional districts is Congressman Hastert from
20 the Republican Party and Congressman Lipinski -- not
21 Dan but his dad, Bill -- a Democrat, got together, and
22 they drew those maps, and it was essentially an
23 incumbent protection plan as opposed to something
24 different.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: So again, let
2 me repeat my question. How do you feel -- how do you
3 feel Henry County belongs -- if there was an Illinois
4 Quad City based congressional district, how do you see
5 Henry County sitting? Just the whole -- and I know we
6 have two congressmen in Henry County but --

7 MR. ZAHM: Sure. I think Henry County is
8 probably more so tied in with Rock Island County and
9 western Illinois. I say that because of our
10 relationship with the Bi-State Regional Commission,
11 our relationship with the Quad City Regional Chamber
12 of Commerce, you know, and for those factors.

13 That's just a personal opinion. I happen
14 to be from eastern Illinois, so I can get along fine
15 that way, but speaking for my constituents, I'd say
16 the majority of people would be western Illinois for
17 Henry County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MORTHLAND: Thank you.

19 MR. ZAHM: Thanks. Any other questions?

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I'm a former
21 member of the 17th district when it came to Bureau
22 County.

23 MR. ZAHM: Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Okay. Let's see.

1 Eric Anderson will be our next person to present.

2 Eric, welcome. Please join us. Speak to
3 the reporter. Welcome. Proceed.

4 MR. ANDERSON: It's Eric Anderson, E-r-i-c
5 A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

6 I've lived in Illinois since more or less
7 1995, and I've found coming from the state of Kansas
8 that I thought things were kind of messed up and a
9 little bit backwards there and then I moved to
10 Illinois, and looking at Illinois politics, I'm -- I'm
11 frankly a little bit embarrassed to go home and tell
12 people there about what I've experienced here.

13 You all are going to have to make a lot of
14 difficult decisions this legislative session, mostly
15 regarding Illinois's lack of any money. And you're
16 going to probably make a lot of people unhappy, but a
17 lot of us are going to have to learn to live with
18 that, just based on how things are. This is one
19 process that I think you can make a lot of people
20 happy and you can really take the opportunity to look
21 at the interests of the people.

22 Several things have been brought up
23 previously today. The gerrymandering of the 17th
24 district, I mean isn't that in the dictionary right

1 next to gerrymandering? Seriously.

2 I think when you're looking at drawing the
3 congressional lines, you need to first take a GIS
4 approach to this. You need to look at county lines
5 and working county lines and trying to follow that and
6 see how close you can get. And secondly, I think you
7 need to look more -- or, look at ethnic divisions
8 after looking at our county line drawings.

9 We realize that the collar counties are
10 going to be receiving more representation now because
11 they are -- that is where the population has grown and
12 that things are going to be changing and districts are
13 going to be shifting.

14 These new lines should be drawn regardless
15 of party affiliation. They should also be drawn
16 regardless of incumbent residency. This I think is
17 imperative. In the state of Iowa they say this is
18 called term limits, okay, ignoring where the
19 incumbents are living, focusing on where the
20 population is based. I think this is something we
21 need to look at in Illinois all in all as a way to
22 keep people real and keep our representatives close
23 and representing us.

24 As a resident of Mercer County, I live in

1 Viola, Illinois. It's the flashing red light on
2 Highway 67. You can't miss it. We look at ourselves
3 as part of the Quad Cities and also look at Rock
4 Island County, Henry County, and parts of Knox County
5 even as part of the Quad City -- the greater Quad City
6 area. I think this is important in bringing together
7 a congressional district that represents this area.

8 Working with economic development as a
9 volunteer on an economic development board in Mercer
10 County, I think it's very important that our
11 representation is local. I can understand how our
12 representative would have to have multiple offices
13 across the state, when really that's a lot of money
14 going out for something that really shouldn't be
15 there.

16 I really hope that you all will take into
17 consideration how -- how easy of a decision this could
18 be and how much time you could save to be working
19 forward on some of the more difficult decisions that
20 you all are going to be facing in the coming months.

21 Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you very
23 much.

24 That completes the list of people who have

1 requested to give testimony today, but I'd like to
2 kind of open it up to anyone who would like to make
3 comment.

4 Please join us at the front, sir. Thank
5 you for filling out the form, and if you'd state your
6 name and spell it for the reporter.

7 MR. LONG: Don't worry, Bob. He always
8 thinks I talk too much. Far be it from me to have an
9 opportunity to say something and pass it up. It's
10 going to be short and sweet.

11 My name is Bill, B-i-l-l, Long, L-o-n-g,
12 50-year resident of Rock Island County, state of
13 Illinois.

14 And I can't help but think when I read
15 your article here and it says redistricting based on
16 population how easy your job could be if you just
17 followed that. First thing you do is say we're going
18 to take it with the population and then you're going
19 to turn around and you're going to carve out ethnic
20 groups and minority groups and try and put them in
21 some place that is advantageous to others or them. It
22 doesn't make sense.

23 You have population, you have numbers, you
24 have county lines, you have city limits, you have even

1 townships if you want to find a distinct line to do
2 that. And I don't think, as our previous speaker
3 said, that you ought to take into consideration --
4 first, you should take into consideration the
5 population. The ethnic groups and so forth shouldn't
6 be a part of it. And if nobody on the committee had
7 any idea what the county's political record was, it
8 would be so much easier, too.

9 And I can tell you that being in Rock
10 Island County for 50 years, if you don't think that
11 we, some of us, understand what minority pressure is,
12 try being a conservative Republican in Rock Island
13 County for 50 years. You'll know what minority
14 pressure is.

15 Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Somewhere in the
17 back of my head I just heard John Gianulis.

18 Thank you all for coming in and joining
19 with us.

20 I'd like to thank the members of the
21 staff, Representative Tracy.

22 We will be continuing on with the next
23 hearing in Peoria that will go tomorrow. As I said,
24 there'll be about 15 throughout the state.

1 We thank you for giving us your time and
2 your input as well.

3 And this hearing will now stand in recess.

4 And as I said, if you want to make any
5 comments in writing, we have the two stations, contact
6 the committee.

7 Thanks for coming in.

8 (The hearing recessed at 3:40 p.m.)

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<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>ability 24:3,18 69:11 79:8</p> <p>able 6:24 31:5 33:12</p> <p>about 5:22 9:13 14:12 15:3 20:17 21:14 22:11 29:6 29:8,17 30:1,3,8 30:23 31:3,6 32:15 33:17 36:3 41:18 52:12 55:5 66:1,8 69:23 71:9 71:10,15 73:12 77:24</p> <p>Above 61:7</p> <p>absolutely 6:11 70:13</p> <p>absorb 64:9</p> <p>academic 46:14</p> <p>accepting 20:13</p> <p>access 10:11 24:4 24:18 26:2 35:12 36:24 38:11 40:19</p> <p>accommodating 12:2</p> <p>accomplished 51:6</p> <p>According 5:19</p> <p>account 7:22 44:22 53:11 68:7</p> <p>accurate 23:4</p> <p>achieve 57:20</p> <p>acquire 61:13</p> <p>across 12:13 18:15 20:5 23:13 31:1 33:11 38:17 44:18 50:10 75:13</p> <p>act 8:1,14,21,24 13:10 14:24 19:2 34:11 39:23</p> <p>action 79:15</p> <p>active 23:12</p> <p>activities 61:4</p> <p>actually 29:9 33:7 58:12 68:2</p> <p>ad 67:2,7</p> <p>Adams 63:23</p> <p>addition 9:1 20:4 33:19</p> <p>address 20:11 23:13 23:22 24:6,9 68:13</p> <p>addressing 25:9</p> <p>adequate 36:21 41:18</p> <p>adequately 59:17</p> <p>adjacent 17:13</p>	<p>adopt 60:13</p> <p>adopted 13:10</p> <p>advance 13:3 30:19 32:5 53:22 57:23 65:5</p> <p>advantage 58:6</p> <p>advantageous 69:1 76:21</p> <p>advisers 67:17</p> <p>advocate 35:6,12</p> <p>advocating 26:4</p> <p>affiliation 74:15</p> <p>afford 46:8</p> <p>afforded 15:6</p> <p>affront 54:4</p> <p>afraid 52:19 53:22</p> <p>African-American 21:7,20 22:8 25:16</p> <p>African-Americans 24:4</p> <p>after 8:23 11:7 13:17 20:2 52:17 57:9 69:16 74:8</p> <p>afternoon 11:21 14:18 20:14 23:5 60:22</p> <p>again 6:3 13:23 26:4,15 31:7,15 35:1,6 37:2,8 40:11 52:18 56:1 57:11 72:1</p> <p>agency 35:8,11</p> <p>agenda 54:23</p> <p>ages 36:16</p> <p>ago 66:1</p> <p>agree 12:23 16:13 16:18 45:10 59:6</p> <p>agricultural 63:10</p> <p>ahead 14:16 31:8 52:8 60:12</p> <p>aisle 44:4</p> <p>Alfred 2:7 38:1,5</p> <p>aligned 64:19</p> <p>alike 18:20</p> <p>alley 58:11,13</p> <p>allow 8:22 39:22 60:14,15 64:20,22</p> <p>allowed 57:11</p> <p>allowing 35:4 37:9 42:18</p> <p>allows 19:22</p> <p>almost 22:11,12 50:13 63:4 68:19</p> <p>along 13:16 31:7 55:12 61:8 72:14</p> <p>already 11:2 50:18</p>	<p>53:19</p> <p>Alton 50:11</p> <p>always 18:11 76:7</p> <p>American 33:6 42:8</p> <p>among 16:23 19:11 24:16</p> <p>Anderson 2:14 73:1 73:4,4</p> <p>Andrew 4:8 12:8</p> <p>Annexations 17:10</p> <p>another 11:12 25:4 36:8 42:7 58:16 65:9 67:13,14 69:14</p> <p>answer 27:2 31:10 42:20</p> <p>answers 6:4</p> <p>anticipate 50:23</p> <p>anybody 54:10</p> <p>anyone 11:5 59:6,9 76:2</p> <p>anything 66:8</p> <p>apologize 28:19</p> <p>appears 49:22</p> <p>applaud 12:11</p> <p>applied 64:17</p> <p>apply 67:11</p> <p>appointments 10:11</p> <p>appreciate 6:18,19 11:14 26:16,18 31:6 52:10 53:7</p> <p>appreciates 12:21</p> <p>appreciation 11:24</p> <p>approach 52:19 60:13 74:4</p> <p>approaches 42:4</p> <p>appropriate 13:20 27:23 60:2,17</p> <p>appropriately 15:12</p> <p>April 1:11 3:16</p> <p>area 12:10 13:21 14:14 18:18 20:17 24:12,20 26:1 29:18 30:1 31:3 32:1 39:2,2 40:24 45:17 53:2 59:15 59:15 61:2,11,12 61:16 62:19 63:8 66:6,15,16 70:2 70:21 71:3,3 75:6 75:7</p> <p>areas 13:18 17:11 24:2 26:8 36:17 40:9 42:12 45:20 50:3 52:24 57:16</p>	<p>58:24 63:19</p> <p>area's 21:14,17</p> <p>argument 57:23</p> <p>arms 59:22</p> <p>around 29:24 30:4 30:20 50:19 52:18 55:24 76:19</p> <p>arsenal 30:7 61:19 62:1,6,7</p> <p>article 76:15</p> <p>artificially 25:24 26:8</p> <p>ashamed 50:14</p> <p>Asian 21:11 22:2,10 22:12</p> <p>asked 11:2 41:18</p> <p>asking 27:21 50:20 71:9</p> <p>Assembly 5:12 7:20 44:2</p> <p>Assistant 4:7,8</p> <p>Association 42:10</p> <p>attempt 33:12</p> <p>attempts 58:5</p> <p>attend 40:16</p> <p>attendance 11:20</p> <p>attending 22:15</p> <p>attention 48:18 58:23 61:13,22,24 62:7,14,24</p> <p>attorney 79:13</p> <p>attract 69:13</p> <p>audience 48:7</p> <p>authored 50:13</p> <p>Autograph 47:13</p> <p>available 10:17,22 11:6 26:24 27:19 70:12</p> <p>Avenue 3:18</p> <p>aware 31:20</p> <p>away 64:12</p> <p>awful 52:23 66:14 66:15</p> <p>A-l-f-r-e-d 38:5</p> <p>A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n 73:5</p>	<p>based 15:17 44:12 46:10 60:13 61:17 63:14 71:3 72:4 73:18 74:20 76:15</p> <p>basic 60:14 64:16</p> <p>Basically 35:10</p> <p>basis 19:5 63:9</p> <p>bear 58:2</p> <p>become 35:13 44:24 45:12 47:16</p> <p>becomes 52:14</p> <p>before 29:10 52:13</p> <p>begin 10:24</p> <p>behalf 6:6 35:8,8 37:10 41:14,15</p> <p>behind 8:8 13:7 46:8 49:21</p> <p>being 5:14 7:8 19:23 25:22 29:3 31:10 43:10,15 53:21 69:6 77:9 77:12</p> <p>believe 27:10 53:9 59:18 65:1</p> <p>belongs 72:3</p> <p>benefit 37:1,5 50:3</p> <p>benefits 29:16</p> <p>best 7:1,4 20:9 54:8 79:8</p> <p>bet 63:4</p> <p>better 32:1 33:12 33:22 45:4,7 55:20 64:16 69:5</p> <p>between 3:16 39:7 57:17 60:20 64:21 71:16</p> <p>beyond 54:11 61:7</p> <p>bicycle 60:23</p> <p>big 38:20</p> <p>bike 58:11</p> <p>Bilandic 10:9</p> <p>Bill 2:15 19:9 71:21 76:11</p> <p>billion 30:2</p> <p>bit 29:6 32:4 71:11 73:9,11</p> <p>bi-state 29:10,16 38:16 72:10</p> <p>black 24:15,23</p> <p>blame 71:17</p> <p>block 48:14</p> <p>blocks 20:19</p> <p>block-by-block 15:20</p> <p>Bloom 2:11 56:19 56:20,21 57:5 65:16</p>
<p>B</p>				
<p>B 2:19</p> <p>back 10:22 23:6 28:4 42:20 43:9 57:11 71:8 77:17</p> <p>background 14:22</p> <p>backroom 65:9</p> <p>backwards 73:9</p> <p>Barney 28:10</p> <p>base 30:20 32:23</p>				

<p>board 38:8 43:9 66:22 67:3,8,21 75:9 Bob 76:7 Bobby 70:22 71:12 bodies 49:20 body 26:11 Bohnsack 43:9 Boone 21:3 border 62:16 both 5:14 16:1 29:14 31:20 33:5 44:4 48:11 50:4 69:24 bottom 57:18 boundaries 9:14,15 9:17 17:20 18:7 18:11 37:7 58:7 58:12 59:24 60:7 63:13 64:13 65:15 68:7,18 boundary 7:20 58:10 66:5 brief 14:20 briefly 14:22 bring 11:7 14:9,15 26:20 bringing 49:6 75:6 brings 19:19 broad 41:20 brochures 23:20 brought 73:22 budget 33:20 budgetary 41:12 build 46:16 Building 10:6,9 bulk 59:10 Bureau 7:16 20:21 72:21 business 29:7 33:16 33:22 43:21 46:2 46:4 businesses 29:8 38:20,22 40:21 busy 61:22 byword 65:2 B-i-l-l 76:11 B-l-o-o-m 56:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>Cairo 50:13 calendars 63:3 call 41:3 45:5,6,15 called 18:3,5 24:11 24:19 25:1,4 59:14 74:18 calling 10:12</p>	<p>came 23:14 68:8 72:21 campaign 23:13 66:14 candidate 19:16,21 27:12 candidates 8:17 40:3 capacity 10:1 Cape 33:8 34:2 Capitol 4:22 car 61:1 Carbondale 57:15 carve 76:19 carved 62:21 Casa 39:1 case 58:10 71:17 cases 45:5 case-by-case 41:19 category 36:19 cause 36:17 caveat 14:4 census 7:16,19 10:3 15:3,15,18,20 16:20 17:3 18:13 20:17,19,20,22 21:13,19,23 22:1 22:2 25:10,11 41:7 48:12,13 49:15 51:8 center 17:22 30:11 32:16,17 34:24 35:7,11 37:11 51:4,13 61:6 62:23 70:3 centered 32:15 centers 46:15 62:22 central 12:10 17:21 century 44:23 CEO 37:23 certain 24:2 25:10 25:11 certainly 33:11 44:23 CERTIFICATE 79:1 Certified 79:4 certify 79:7 cetera 38:18 chairing 5:5 chairman 4:2 6:8 43:9 66:24 67:2,7 challenges 40:17 chamber 28:10,18 29:6,10,11,13 33:15,19 38:2,8 38:14,14,20 72:11</p>	<p>Champaign 12:16 33:3 53:17 chance 5:15 54:20 change 21:5 36:3 50:22 changed 55:22 changes 9:16,22 14:13 15:15 22:7 changing 36:4 74:12 chapter 42:5 characteristics 9:7 40:10,12 characterize 44:2 Chicago 10:11 38:17 42:9 45:8 48:11 53:3 60:20 64:7 child 31:1 children 40:16 choice 8:17 19:17 19:21 27:12 40:3 choose 16:16 39:22 cities 25:20 28:10 28:18 29:2,13 31:3,6 32:6,7,16 38:2,8 39:3 46:12 49:5 59:5,9 61:4 61:17,24 62:10 63:13,22 75:3 citizen 43:21 52:14 55:16 58:19 70:20 citizens 6:16 26:12 36:14 57:22 64:13 69:7 citizen's 26:13 city 3:17 12:1,1 22:10,14 38:18,19 46:12 69:22 71:1 71:2,3 72:4,11 75:5,5 76:24 civic 33:16 clear 30:16 33:24 66:12 clearly 59:24 clerk 67:18 clients 43:23 climate 33:22 close 39:1 47:5 61:13,24 63:21 74:6,22 clusters 58:15 coalition 19:13,19 34:13 coast 6:20 coast-like 6:21 coattails 45:8</p>	<p>Cod 33:8 34:2 code 35:24 cognizant 40:11 62:18 coined 33:4 cold 23:5 collar 74:9 colleague 13:24 colleagues 12:4 collected 15:18 combination 46:15 come 5:3 11:6 20:1 25:20 27:9 38:7 41:20,22 52:17 55:23 57:3,11 68:5 coming 6:20 11:11 31:15 39:4 70:18 73:7 75:20 77:18 78:7 commenced 5:1 comment 6:10 52:14 55:1,17 69:14 76:3 commenter 55:2 comments 10:13,16 11:16 22:17 42:19 52:3 53:8 55:12 55:12 56:2 66:20 69:3 78:5 commerce 28:10,19 29:10,14 33:15,19 38:2,8 72:12 commercial 61:7,15 62:12,18 63:12 commission 16:8,9 16:11,13,17,18 44:1,22 72:10 committee 1:3 3:3 5:3,5,8,10 10:8 11:12 12:11 20:12 22:16 23:23 35:2 35:16 36:9 37:8 42:22 57:1 67:1,3 67:8,14,17 68:3 77:6 78:6 common 59:5,7 61:3,3,4 commonsense 44:3 44:5 46:10 51:5 51:19,22 communicate 66:16 communication 66:9 communications 64:21 communities 17:12</p>	<p>18:16 30:10 36:10 36:12 40:7,24 68:16,17 70:7 community 9:8,9 15:4 18:17,22 25:22 26:3 28:1 40:14 41:2 45:1,2 45:19 community's 18:8 comp 33:22 69:9 compact 8:20 17:17 18:11 49:24 68:15 compactness 17:16 17:19,23 18:1 companies 61:11 Company 61:8 compared 20:24 60:23 completed 52:18 completes 75:24 completion 49:15 compliance 8:23 20:2 comply 8:13 41:4 component 12:24 20:8 components 63:20 comprised 67:15 computer 32:3 51:9 51:14 52:23 56:7 68:1,23 comrades 44:18 concentrated 18:18 24:13,20 25:3,6 25:12 concentration 64:6 64:22,24 concentrations 19:11 concept 51:18 concern 44:5 concerned 9:12 30:23 53:20 concerns 9:14 14:6 23:21 40:22 41:12 53:18,24 54:1 63:11 conclude 69:20 condition 24:11 conference 23:15 27:8,16 configuration 49:11 congress 15:8 34:8 congressional 7:3 7:21 9:20 15:10 15:14,24 17:1,13 30:24 31:17 32:14</p>
---	---	--	---	--

<p>32:17,20 33:4 34:7 39:13 44:11 46:1,7,11 49:10 49:14 50:1 51:10 56:9,10 57:24 59:3 60:19 61:5 61:17 62:4,9 63:7 63:9 64:5,10,17 64:20 71:4,9,19 72:4 74:3 75:7 congressman 29:21 49:16 61:14,24 62:5,17 70:23 71:14,19,20 congressmen 72:6 connected 17:10,14 conservative 77:12 consider 9:22 13:2 19:12 27:23 40:6 60:2 61:18 69:1 69:11 consideration 20:12 37:3 40:7,13 51:20 75:17 77:3 77:4 considerations 44:20 considered 13:6 considering 9:4 67:19 consistent 34:1 consists 16:9 consolidate 64:4 constituent 58:22 59:16 63:19 constituents 49:17 59:19 60:12 72:15 constitute 16:12 24:14,22 constitutes 58:11 62:17 Constitution 7:18 8:11,19 15:9,17 20:3 49:13,23 50:6 53:13,13 constitutional 8:24 16:5 contact 28:5 78:5 contain 10:2 17:2 26:12 51:3 contains 48:12 contiguous 8:20 17:8 18:12 30:15 49:24 50:24 68:15 continue 32:19,21 55:16 continuing 32:13</p>	<p>77:22 continuous 30:15 continuously 30:15 contrasting 60:19 contributing 18:22 conversation 37:4 conversations 44:17 convincing 36:6 Cook 64:3,11 coordinate 63:2 copies 23:19 copy 14:7,9 24:7 26:18 47:7,7 65:14 core 17:21 29:24 30:4 32:22 corporate 61:9 corrected 57:10 correctly 65:19 corruption 58:5 costs 66:14,15 Council 12:1 counsel 4:7 12:8 79:10,13 count 25:24 36:2,7 counted 25:19 counties 12:10 17:11 21:1 32:7 51:2,12 74:9 countless 9:2 country 23:13 31:2 33:11 counts 25:14 county 18:10 21:14 21:18,23 22:6,8 23:9 32:10 43:8 60:2 63:14,21,23 64:4,11 66:22 67:3,8,18,21,23 68:4 69:21 70:4 70:20,24 72:3,5,6 72:7,8,17,22 74:4 74:5,8,24 75:4,4,4 75:10 76:12,24 77:10,13 79:3 county's 71:4 77:7 couple 69:3 70:9 court 4:20 15:9 16:14 17:18 23:3 28:23 38:4 cousin 66:4 cover 59:19 60:4 61:1 65:8 covered 20:15 Cox 4:7 cracking 24:11,19</p>	<p>26:6 create 10:4 58:7 created 10:1 23:20 48:11 67:24 creating 16:6 19:12 39:24 creeping 45:19 criteria 13:5 criterion 40:5 criticism 51:16 54:13 crookedly 71:16 crossover 19:13,15 crowd 5:18,19 crowds 5:21 CSR 4:21,21 culturally 18:19 curious 70:22 71:5 current 6:22 9:15 23:8 49:10 50:1 51:17 62:5 69:21 currently 8:7 50:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>D 2:1 dad 71:21 Dan 71:21 danger 62:14,20 Danville 33:4 data 15:18 16:20 18:13 20:21 21:13 53:10 67:18 date 57:22 day 3:15 33:3 61:1 days 12:16 deadline 16:5 dealers 59:15 dealmaking 65:9 decade 7:17,23 21:5 21:16,21 22:4 Decatur 50:11 66:2 66:6,13 December 15:18 decided 57:6 decision 75:17 decisions 41:12,23 73:14 75:19 decision-makers 44:22 decline 39:13 declined 39:12 deceased 21:17 22:14 34:5 Deere 57:6,9,15 59:14 61:8 Defense 42:8 defer 13:23</p>	<p>define 17:15 defined 59:24 61:3 defines 58:4,10 definitely 39:3 47:3 63:16,17 definition 45:2 degree 57:13 delegation 33:16 delighted 11:22 13:13 delineating 49:19 delivered 15:19 demand 13:15 Democrat 67:15 68:2 71:21 Democrats 67:16 demographic 9:6 Demographically 21:4 demonstrated 30:5 Dennis 43:1 department 68:1 depiction 33:7 depriving 25:8 DESCRIPTION 2:20 desire 60:12 despite 22:6 determination 53:15 determine 27:22 49:20 determined 68:17 developed 27:14 46:18 development 75:8,9 dictionary 73:24 different 36:16 57:16 67:20 69:5 70:1 71:24 difficult 17:15 47:2 58:22 66:3,11 69:7 73:14 75:19 diffuses 24:17 dilutes 25:18 34:8 dilution 40:1 direction 34:17 79:10 directors 38:9 disabilities 35:9,13 35:18,22 36:5,13 37:11 disability 35:17 36:22,22 disadvantaged 41:16 disclosure 46:21</p>	<p>discontiguous 17:12 discuss 14:22 23:11 discussed 26:6 34:4 discussion 69:17,18 disks 14:7 dismal 11:21 display 20:11 distinct 77:1 district 16:21 17:4 17:6,9,17,20 18:20 19:15,15,19 19:22,24 24:12,20 25:5 26:11 27:11 27:24 30:24 32:17 32:18,20 33:5 36:20 37:4,7 46:7 46:11,13 49:11 50:7,7,9,12 51:3 51:10,13 57:24 58:15,24 59:3,4 59:10 60:14 61:5 61:17 62:9,16 63:9,24 64:2,17 68:4,18 70:21 71:4,10,16 72:4 72:21 73:24 75:7 districts 7:3,4,22 8:12,19 9:11,14 9:21 15:11,14 17:2,8,13 18:3,4,4 18:5 19:5,12,13 19:13,14 20:18 24:15,16,23 25:3 29:23 30:19,20 32:9,14 40:1 41:9 44:8,24 45:11 46:1 49:14,20,24 50:1,24 51:3 53:15 56:9,11,12 58:8 59:23 60:2,7 60:19,20,21,22,24 62:22 63:7,18 64:5,7,8,10,18,19 64:20 68:19,21 71:19 74:12 district's 17:20,21 58:12 divide 41:1 divided 24:16,24 dividing 19:10 50:3 divisions 74:7 doctrine 26:10 documentation 13:5 20:14 documented 39:14 doing 32:11 48:15</p>
--	--	--	--	--

<p>57:10 63:4 67:19 dollars 46:5 Don 43:5 done 26:9 32:9,18 42:13 49:14 54:7 Dorothy 2:12 4:21 65:18,21,22,23 79:4 dotted-line 64:21 down 48:13 50:10 66:10,12 downstate 53:2,3 60:21 64:11 draft 55:20 drafted 69:16 draw 8:12 9:24 12:14 16:21 20:18 30:19 39:20 drawers 40:8 drawing 9:19 24:12 24:20 25:2,5 37:7 48:8 53:11 60:14 74:2 drawings 74:8 drawn 7:3 13:4,7 19:5 20:19 56:7 60:15 71:16 74:14 74:15 drew 71:22 driven 49:23 drives 14:8 dual 56:12 due 35:24 during 41:5 58:3 59:21 D-o-r-o-t-h-y 65:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>E 2:1,19 each 15:11 16:15 17:4,9 26:10,13 27:17,21 49:16 51:3,10,13 52:20 70:6,6 earlier 19:7 39:7 44:9 49:12 early 54:23 69:12 easier 53:2 64:22 77:8 east 12:16 50:11 62:23 eastern 57:13 72:14 easy 49:3 56:16 75:17 76:16 echo 12:20 69:14 economic 9:7 30:4 32:22 33:20 40:22</p>	<p>44:24 45:3,9,12 61:4,12 75:8,9 economically 18:19 economies 46:14 economy 34:14 45:20 education 40:17 42:8,11 educational 38:23 effect 16:4 25:7 effectively 18:21 39:22 60:4,24 Effingham 59:14 effort 10:8 23:20 efforts 12:11 54:3 egregious 59:1 eight 16:9 27:16 either 10:12 elect 8:16 19:16,20 27:11 41:10 elected 37:5 38:10 39:22 42:10 59:17 59:21 60:11 electing 40:2 election 19:23 25:3 26:10 35:24 electoral 8:16,23 19:4 26:14 Elizabeth 2:4 23:7 emanate 38:17 embarrassed 49:10 50:15 73:11 embrace 41:6 emphasis 62:5 emphasize 56:1 employ 41:24 employed 79:11,13 employee 79:12 employees 29:9 employment 40:22 62:8 enables 41:10 encompassed 9:10 encourage 62:12 encouraged 5:18 encourages 62:17 encouraging 35:13 end 7:15 20:10 21:23 endeavor 8:10 ended 25:21 67:19 67:22 71:18 endorsing 54:11 ends 50:8 enjoyed 32:21 enough 24:13,21 69:10</p>	<p>ensure 8:5 26:12 49:15 62:6 63:18 ensures 15:5 20:4 61:24 62:1 ensuring 39:21 enter 51:9,9,11 entire 29:16 45:17 57:7 entirely 64:20 entities 53:14 equal 8:13,15,20 15:6,12 16:23 17:2 24:18 26:12 26:13 35:12 36:24 equally 30:12 67:14 68:4 equitable 51:15 Eric 2:14 73:1,2,4 errs 58:9 especially 31:24 44:6 essentially 71:22 establish 58:6 establishing 15:12 45:20 46:1 estimation 71:1 et 38:18 ethnic 74:7 76:19 77:5 ethnically 18:19 even 19:23 35:22 38:18 47:19 49:23 66:4,7,8 69:5 70:2 75:5 76:24 evening 69:13 event 35:4 38:11 ever 13:12 every 7:17 12:14 15:14 35:17 37:3 49:14 everybody 6:20 33:18 everyone 68:13 69:10 everything 64:1 exactly 67:23 exaggeration 31:23 example 22:8 31:24 48:9 50:2 59:12 60:5 examples 30:13 59:2 69:21 excellent 61:5 65:6 exception 57:6 executive 28:18 EXHIBIT 2:20 exhibits 2:21</p>	<p>exist 9:13,16 existence 38:15 53:19,20 existing 9:22 18:7 50:22 54:10 55:20 expanded 64:8 expansion 46:4 expense 65:9 experienced 73:12 experiences 57:17 67:4,9 explain 59:4 express 11:24 expressed 53:18 expressing 44:5 extension 45:1 extreme 58:24 extremely 40:5,23 E-l-i-z-a-b-e-t-h 23:8 e-mail 10:16 20:11 22:17 68:12 E-r-i-c 73:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>face 40:16 44:10 facility 61:19 62:1 facing 75:20 fact 23:14 24:17 39:17 54:7 56:5 factor 37:6 factors 9:2 18:21 72:12 failing 69:22 fair 41:8 44:8 51:18 fairest 51:14 fairly 32:9 fall 64:19 fallen 21:7 familiar 62:15 families 35:19 far 8:3 12:19 14:4 50:8 51:16,17 53:1 59:10 76:8 farmers 36:14 farming 61:3 62:13 fate 55:11 features 60:1 February 15:22 67:13 federal 8:14,23 15:7 16:24 17:7 18:24 19:2 20:2 29:21 34:15 64:23 feel 25:19 35:24 57:3 72:2,3 feels 6:21</p>	<p>few 44:16 52:5 54:23 57:6 66:5 fifth 12:15 fig 65:8 fight 56:22 figure 66:3 fill 54:19 filled 11:5 filling 28:16 76:5 final 16:12 finally 8:21 10:15 15:2 62:11 64:15 financially 79:14 find 24:8 77:1 fine 72:14 finish 28:15 first 5:17 16:23 22:23 24:11 29:2 35:15 37:3 44:21 52:9 55:19 56:6 56:24 58:1 60:23 67:12 74:3 76:17 77:4 fishhook 33:6,7 five 12:15 16:11,18 30:2,3 35:16,17 66:1 flash 14:7 flashing 75:1 flood 62:24 63:3 flooding 6:22 62:14 63:3 floods 62:20 floor 10:9 focus 27:17 focuses 17:19 focusing 74:19 folks 5:24 6:1 71:8 follow 18:7 32:10 74:5 followed 13:9 32:6 60:10 76:17 following 7:19 11:1 49:15 55:11 forces 51:22 64:23 foregoing 79:7 forever 34:2 form 9:11 76:5 formed 63:12 former 72:20 formulate 27:9 formulated 50:18 forth 36:14 77:5 forum 11:23 forward 6:4,14 11:7 14:15 34:1 39:5 41:9 46:11 52:13</p>
---	--	---	--	---

<p>75:19 found 68:14,15,18 73:7 four 8:1 16:10 33:23 42:1,12,13 56:8,10 fourth 5:20 42:11 fracturing 19:10 Frank 4:2 5:4 35:3 frankly 73:11 Freiheit 4:8 12:8 Friday 10:6 friends 35:19 44:17 from 8:4 9:4 10:7 11:3 12:7,13,19 13:6,18 14:12 16:6,10,15 17:21 18:15 23:14 25:20 25:20 27:3,16 28:10 31:22 33:4 34:14,23 36:21 38:17 39:24 40:2 43:5,12,16 48:23 50:10 54:23 56:19 57:13,14,18 59:10 63:20 66:2,3,12 66:21 67:20,21,21 70:14 71:8,13,15 71:19 72:14 73:7 76:8 front 14:17 23:2 38:3 49:1 76:4 full 15:19 41:8 46:20 Fund 42:8 further 8:21 37:20 48:21 62:23 79:12 future 45:9 46:17 69:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>G 4:8 gain 8:8 gather 12:13 58:14 GDP 30:1 General 5:12 7:20 44:2 generate 32:3 51:14 Geneseo 69:22 71:8 gentleman 33:4 gentlemen 43:10 geographic 18:7,11 18:18 32:6 40:9 58:7,10 60:1 geographically 60:3 64:10 geography 17:23</p>	<p>20:20 gerrymander 59:2 gerrymandering 31:1 37:4 50:2 58:3,4,21 60:6 73:23 74:1 getting 68:23 Gianulis 77:17 GIS 67:24 68:24 74:3 give 5:14 13:2,21 14:20 23:11 26:18 37:10 38:11 46:16 76:1 given 26:13 39:13 41:10 49:18 53:22 63:21 giving 78:1 go 11:4 12:14 14:16 16:4 52:8,13,18 54:24 55:1 73:11 77:23 goal 8:3 goes 54:11 going 6:6,14,16 10:24 14:2,5,12 14:22,24 20:19 22:22 23:18,22 28:21 34:1 41:19 44:11,15 45:8 46:7,9 52:17,20 53:3 71:10 73:13 73:16,17 74:10,12 74:13 75:14,20 76:10,17,18,19 gone 54:22 good 6:17 14:18 23:5 30:4 31:4 34:13 54:12 69:4 69:24 71:7 gotten 34:11 government 38:10 38:23 governor 16:3,7 19:7 56:6 grad 57:12 grade 56:22 gravity 17:22 great 7:10 30:6 33:5 33:6,7,15 greater 38:1,7 75:5 grew 22:10,11 39:8 gross 31:23,23 group 18:17 19:16 19:18,22 40:15 47:7 49:8 groups 9:13 19:9,11</p>	<p>19:20 36:13 39:3 39:3 42:2 76:20 76:20 77:5 grow 34:13,13 growing 30:1,2 grown 74:11 growth 21:2 33:20 39:10,10,15,21 46:3,3 Grundy 21:3 Guanajuato 39:2 guarantee 62:4 guaranteed 15:8 guess 23:6 25:17 52:16,18 guided 8:10 guidelines 15:1 44:3 guiding 16:22 49:21 guilty 50:4 guys 23:10 37:13 54:21 58:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>H 2:19 half 32:7,8 67:23 68:4 69:24 70:6 Hall 3:17 Hammond 4:6 7:12 7:13 12:7 23:15 hand 50:17 happen 25:16 50:23 72:13 happening 25:13 71:18 happy 73:20 hard 14:6,9 59:19 harder 59:17 hardworking 69:7 Hart 4:21 79:4 Hastert 71:19 having 7:2 11:19 20:6 43:7 52:12 61:16,23 62:16 65:3 67:12 head 77:17 headquarters 61:9 Health 37:23 healthy 45:10 hear 7:9 8:4 9:4,13 9:18 28:9 29:4 30:8 34:16,22 43:12 48:23 56:19 66:21 heard 12:19 13:17 18:21 35:14 36:1 36:6,6,6 55:21 58:2 77:17</p>	<p>hearing 1:10 3:15 5:1,6 6:4 23:10 49:6 51:7 52:19 77:23 78:3,8 hearings 7:23 8:2,6 10:20 12:12 13:1 18:14 20:5,6 27:22 55:24 58:4 65:8 69:12,16 held 1:10 3:15 15:9 hello 5:15 6:10 help 19:17 23:20 30:5 45:22 76:14 helpful 42:3,15 67:11 helping 61:20 helps 19:9 Henry 63:21 66:21 67:3,8 69:21 70:3 70:20,24 71:4 72:3,5,6,7,17 75:4 her 28:13 heritage 61:3 Herschel 2:6 34:23 34:23 35:2 highly 64:11 Highway 75:2 him 53:20 hindered 17:23 Hispanic 21:9,22 22:11 25:17 38:2 38:8,14 39:11,15 41:14 historic 41:21 hit 46:21 hoc 67:2,7 hold 8:1,3 holding 8:6 18:13 home 55:16 68:13 71:13,15 73:11 homogeneous 51:1 honestly 57:17 59:3 honor 6:23,24 honored 5:11 hope 34:9 44:13 51:21 54:12 57:19 65:7 69:1 75:16 hosting 12:5 23:10 26:15 35:4 38:11 43:3,15 hosts 5:14 61:10,10 hours 3:16 51:7 71:15 House 1:2 3:2 4:8 5:2 12:4 13:3 14:19 16:1 17:4 18:3 30:20 34:18</p>	<p>56:12 housing 36:11,11 hub 61:8 hubs 44:24 45:12 Hultgren 71:13 hundreds 61:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>idea 8:8 44:14 52:22 65:6 77:7 ideal 17:5 ideas 5:23 20:12 43:16 44:1 52:21 identified 24:5 identifies 17:18 identify 18:16 ignored 56:7,11 ignoring 74:18 Illinois 1:1 3:1,18 4:21,23 6:21 7:18 7:18 8:18,21 12:10 13:9 14:19 15:6,17,20,23 16:14 18:2 20:9 20:23 21:4 25:11 29:8,12,14 30:12 32:22 33:7 39:8 39:10,19 41:3,4 43:20 44:1,10,18 44:23 45:4,5,6,7 45:16,17 46:6 49:9,9,21 50:1,9 50:10,20 51:18 53:18 54:2 55:14 55:22 57:8,13,14 57:16,22,24 58:9 59:2,4,20 60:18 61:2 62:4,9,16,21 63:8 64:14 65:10 71:3,14 72:3,9,14 72:16 73:6,10,10 74:21 75:1 76:13 79:2,7,19 Illinois's 21:8,10 73:15 Illinois-Iowa 34:24 35:7 37:11 illustrate 46:18 ilredistricting@g... 10:16 22:18 imagine 12:20 impact 24:3 41:12 impacted 45:9 impacting 39:17 impacts 13:20 52:24 impartial 51:19</p>
---	--	---	--	---

<p>imperative 74:17 importance 61:16 important 8:9 12:13 33:24 40:6 40:23 41:8 61:19 62:1 69:10 75:6 75:10 impossible 60:24 improved 63:18 include 32:10 51:11 51:12 included 25:6 26:19 includes 46:12 50:12 including 24:4 67:17 inclusion 51:13 income 36:15 incorporate 26:5 incorporated 63:23 incorrect 58:14 increase 21:1,21,24 22:3 increased 22:6,9,12 incumbencies 56:13 incumbent 71:23 74:16 incumbents 56:10 68:5 74:19 incumbent's 53:10 incumbent-prote... 58:8 indeed 51:21 independent 34:24 35:6,7,11 37:12 Indiana 23:15 individual 27:17 56:15 infamous 50:9 inflate 26:8 inflates 25:24 influence 19:14,22 19:23 influenced 51:21 informally 43:18 information 8:8 9:6 10:13,15 12:13 14:23 22:19 23:16 23:17 24:8 26:19 28:5 38:12 48:12 51:9 53:9 informational 12:12 initial 15:24 50:18 input 6:15 12:21,22 13:16,16,22 38:12 42:19 50:19,20</p>	<p>78:2 insight 43:24 insights 43:16 instance 60:23,23 instances 24:3 intent 50:5 intention 8:2 interest 5:22 9:13 18:16,17,22 28:1 39:4 40:7,14,24 46:20 49:8 68:16 68:17 interested 9:5,9 48:7 79:14 interesting 51:18 interests 18:9 40:10 40:12 43:22 45:2 54:8 61:18,20 63:10 73:21 interpretations 17:24 intervenes 55:11 invite 13:14 involve 18:1 involved 42:6 43:21 45:18 68:23 Iowa 29:14 30:12 32:2,23 38:18 50:16 56:9 57:7,9 60:10 74:17 island 3:17,18 12:1 21:14,18,22 22:8 23:1,9 30:7,9,11 43:2 61:19 62:6,7 72:8 75:4 76:12 77:10,12 Island's 22:11 isolate 36:18 issue 42:3 53:4 issues 25:10 item 65:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>J 4:4,21 79:4 Jackson 2:6 34:23 35:1,2 37:16,19 Jacobs 2:8 29:21 43:12,13,14,17 47:3,6,12,15,22 48:4,16,21 January 67:12 Jil 4:3 5:9 11:13,16 12:9 14:1 Jim 43:9 job 48:5 76:16 jobs 30:2 34:6,13 69:8</p>	<p>John 2:3,10 14:15 14:16,18 22:21 54:20 55:2,3,9,9 57:6,9,15 59:13 77:17 Johnson 2:9 48:24 48:24 49:3,3 52:16 53:12 54:2 54:15 55:15 Johnson's 55:12 56:2 join 23:2 38:3 49:1 55:6 73:2 76:4 joined 5:8 11:13 12:6 18:20 joining 5:12 7:12 43:1 77:18 joint 10:8 Jon 2:13 66:21,23 67:5 70:10,11,18 judgment 54:12 June 16:5 jurisdictions 39:24 just 7:1 11:8 23:14 26:20 27:8,22 29:9 31:16 33:14 37:17 43:1 45:7 49:8 50:8,11 51:19 55:17 59:9 69:23 70:3,19,24 71:5,17 72:5,13 73:18 76:16 77:17 justify 61:16 Justin 4:7 J-a-c-o-b-s 43:18 J-o-h-n 55:9 J-o-h-n-s-o-n 49:4 J-o-n 67:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p>Kane 21:3 Kankakee 50:8 Kansas 38:19 73:7 keenly 31:20 keep 13:14 35:16 40:8 56:14 61:22 62:9 63:5 64:12 74:22,22 keeping 44:8 Kendall 21:3 kept 68:16,19 key 20:8 kind 25:17,18 30:19 52:22 53:4 73:8 76:2 kinds 40:21 knitting 62:19</p>	<p>know 11:8 12:18 18:9 25:11 28:1 31:20 35:20 36:15 39:12,13 43:18,18 45:4,7,19 52:24 53:16,23,24,24 54:9 56:16 57:8 57:18 59:15,19 65:3 66:2,8,8,11 68:6,21,24,24 69:6,6 71:18 72:5 72:12 77:13 knowledge-based 46:14 known 18:16 Knox 63:21 75:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>labor 33:16 46:2 lack 10:1 73:15 language 19:9,20 large 19:16 24:13 24:21 25:5 64:6 larger 5:21 25:6 largest 21:2 29:7 LaSalle 10:10 last 7:23 21:5,16,16 21:21 22:3 28:24 29:11 45:18 65:1 67:4,9 68:20 69:20 lastly 25:9 41:3 lately 66:2 later 16:19 69:17 Latino 39:8,21 41:15 42:10 Latinos 39:22 40:1 40:14,21 41:6 law 15:1 16:24 17:7 18:24 20:1,2,4 44:7 53:18 lawmakers 18:15 layout 31:17 Leader 4:8 leaders 33:17 39:23 45:24 59:18 leading 6:19 leaf 65:8 learn 73:17 least 8:1 13:19 17:16 31:8 51:3 55:23 56:11 59:20 60:8,14 65:5 leave 23:19 24:7 37:13,18 47:6,6 leaving 51:12 left 46:8 50:21 51:2</p>	<p>legal 9:1 16:22 42:8 legislation 19:8 41:11 legislative 7:21 9:20 15:11,17 16:7 18:5 26:11 32:1 44:6,8,24 45:11 49:20 56:8 64:23 73:14 legislators 56:3 legislature 15:7,23 16:7 legs 59:22 less 47:5 51:16,17 73:6 let 11:8 72:1 letting 7:5 43:3 let's 20:16 21:13 48:23 52:13 69:15 72:24 level 8:18 20:20 27:14 32:1 36:15 39:17,18 42:6,16 64:23 leveraging 29:23 libraries 40:20 life 55:21 57:7 light 75:1 like 5:7,14 6:10 7:11 9:16,24 11:8 11:9,16 18:14 23:10 30:13 31:4 31:7 32:13,19,21 34:6 35:2,15 36:8 37:8,13 40:4 42:2 42:24 44:2 52:22 53:1 54:7,9 55:17 56:22,24 57:2,3 69:3,14 76:1,2 77:20 likewise 12:21 13:13 63:22 limitation 9:5 limits 74:18 76:24 line 13:14 31:7 40:7 74:8 77:1 lines 7:20 24:12,20 25:2,5 30:16 32:10 37:5 40:19 41:1 55:13 60:2 60:14,15 63:14 74:3,4,5,14 76:24 Lipinski 71:20 list 33:23 75:24 listen 18:14 listening 26:16 lists 13:5</p>
---	--	---	--	--

<p>Litigation 4:22 little 29:6 32:4 71:11 73:9,11 live 30:9 49:18 59:1 59:7 68:5 70:20 73:17 74:24 lived 57:8,16 59:14 65:24 73:6 lives 46:4 66:5,6 70:24 71:12,14 living 34:24 35:6,7 35:11 37:12 56:10 74:19 Liz 22:24 local 38:10 39:18 40:19 42:5 58:12 69:21 75:11 locally 32:8 34:12 61:14 located 10:5,9 61:14 logic 64:16 logical 59:24 62:8 63:9,13,24 Long 2:15 76:7,11 look 6:3 7:2 15:2 18:6,15 20:16 21:13 28:5 32:22 39:9 40:23,24 41:20,21 46:6 48:17 65:5 73:20 74:4,7,7,21 75:2,3 looked 59:9 68:14 looking 30:1 59:13 73:10 74:2,8 looks 30:24 49:24 60:18 lose 36:17 46:7 63:16,17 losing 21:15 loss 34:6,7,11 44:10 lost 39:13,14 56:9 lot 5:21 21:5 42:13 44:15,17 48:6 52:23 57:4 59:6 63:22 66:14,15 68:16 73:13,16,17 73:19 75:13 Louis 12:16 lower 63:5 LULAC 39:2 42:5,5 L-o-n-g 76:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>M 4:7 machinations 41:2 Macomb 12:7</p>	<p>made 9:17 33:23 59:20 Madigan 13:11 main 35:10 maintain 59:17 maintenance 63:1 majority 16:2,11,12 19:17,23 24:15,23 25:8 72:16 majority-minority 24:15,23 make 6:10 11:3,9 11:16 24:9 30:14 32:14 33:24 35:22 36:12 41:6,23 45:22 51:16 55:16 60:16 63:22 64:15 69:3 73:13,16,19 76:2,22 78:4 makes 51:19 58:22 59:16 61:4 63:5 69:6 making 11:14 14:5 36:5 46:15 MALDEF 42:7 man 49:17 manageable 64:10 64:11 management 62:24 mandates 13:9 17:1 26:10 maneuvering 51:8 manipulating 58:6 manufacturing 34:6 46:14 61:11 many 5:23 8:4 11:20 12:3 24:2 25:14 30:9 32:11 32:21 map 6:17 9:20,21 9:24 10:4 13:2,3,7 13:17,20 14:5,7,9 15:17 16:4,6,12 16:13 20:9 36:4 36:23,23 46:19,24 47:7,11,22 50:13 50:18,21,22 51:21 52:12,17 53:11,19 54:10,10,11,12 55:19,20 56:1,2,5 56:15 59:9,13 60:18 65:4,4 67:22,23,24 68:6 68:7,12,18,20 mapmakers 18:6 19:12 45:22 mapmaking 10:3</p>	<p>maps 9:9,15,23 10:14 12:14,23 14:4,6 16:1 20:18 30:18 31:8 32:3 39:20,21 47:18,19 52:15 67:20,20 69:16,18 71:22 March 67:14 mark 46:21 marked 2:21 Mary 67:6 match 47:21 matter 49:18 51:6 Mautino 4:2 5:2,4 5:19 6:8,9,12,19 7:7,15 13:24 14:1 22:21 26:17 27:2 28:9,14,21 31:12 32:24 34:22 35:3 37:14,17,22 42:21 42:24 43:6,11 47:1,4,9,13,16,24 48:6,19 52:2,6 53:5 54:16 55:5,9 56:18 65:11,17,21 66:19 67:1 70:11 70:14 72:20,24 75:22 77:16 maximize 18:8 45:3 Maxson 2:3 14:15 14:18,19 may 10:13,15 19:16 maybe 32:1 41:23 45:1 69:12,12 mayor 43:2,2,4 maze 59:19 MBA 57:14 mean 17:11 40:18 54:4 73:24 meaningful 65:8 means 17:8 40:15 measure 17:17 meeting 12:15 67:13,13 member 5:4 11:12 16:17 29:8 48:10 66:22 68:2 72:21 members 5:7,11 16:9,11,18 19:17 38:9,16,16,19,21 42:22 67:15,21 77:20 mention 42:2 mentioned 31:16 39:23 40:4 mentioning 69:20 Mercer 74:24 75:9</p>	<p>merely 59:13 merged 29:9 messed 73:8 met 33:18 metro 29:18 metropolitan 64:7 Mexican 42:7 middle 11:21 Midwest 4:22 might 30:8 41:24 42:3,15 48:2 51:12 67:10,10 mike 7:8 miles 38:15 66:5 military 62:3 million 39:9 mind 27:9 28:16,22 35:16 37:2 54:20 56:14 mindful 40:11 minimum 8:3 13:19 minor 60:16 minorities 8:15,22 24:3 minority 19:1,3,9 19:10,11,16,20 22:5 24:13,21 25:2,5,8 27:9,11 27:22 52:24 76:20 77:11,13 minutes 44:16 70:24 71:12 Mirkovic 54:20 mirrors 16:24 mispronunciation 55:6 miss 75:2 missing 63:20 Mississippi 30:11 62:17 63:2,6,15 Missouri 38:19 mix 45:11 46:2 mixture 36:12 Modern 61:9 modifications 60:16 Moline 43:5 Moline's 22:8 moment 46:10 Monday 10:6 money 66:14,15 73:15 75:13 months 67:9 75:20 more 8:3 16:10,11 17:15 18:1 19:11 22:19 24:14,22 30:8 34:10 35:13 46:16 51:16,21 58:22 59:6 69:13 72:8 73:6 74:7,10 75:19 morning 69:12 Morthland 4:5 5:13 6:11 12:4,8 29:20 31:13,14,19 34:20 52:8,10 54:5 70:5 70:9,15,17 72:1 72:18 most 7:4 13:12,15 18:21 25:12,16 47:3 51:14 59:1 60:5 mostly 73:14 move 34:17 41:9 58:16 moved 73:9 much 6:3,18 7:5 8:8 11:18 22:15 28:2 31:9 32:20 33:1 37:15,21 42:23 43:15 47:10 48:15 48:20 52:11 54:17 55:14,20 58:22 59:17 60:9 63:5 63:15 65:12 75:18 75:23 76:8 77:8 multiple 19:20 75:12 municipalities 17:11 municipality 18:10 Munson 70:2 Muscatine 38:18 must 7:20 15:11 16:2,2,18,21 17:9 17:13 39:20 40:8 44:7 64:2 65:2 66:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>N 2:1 NAACP 23:1,9,12 23:22,24 24:5 27:8,14 NALEO 42:9 name 5:4 12:9 16:16 23:2,7 28:22,24 35:1 38:4 49:1,3 55:7,9 56:22 57:5 76:6 76:11 named 24:7 names 16:15 name's 65:23 nation 56:7 61:21</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>national 27:14 31:3 39:17 42:1,6,9 nationally 23:12,22 24:1 native 55:13 natural 18:10 naught 53:23 54:4 navigation 63:1 necessity 51:7 need 5:24 6:1 10:4 30:4 34:14 36:20 38:20 40:11,13 45:3,13 47:10 60:2 61:23 74:3,4 74:7,21 needs 36:24 60:11 62:3 neighborhoods 40:9,18 58:14 neighboring 56:5 neighbors 50:16 60:10 61:10 neither 79:10 nests 18:2 neutral 58:8 never 50:5 59:20 new 9:19 14:24 15:24 16:4,6,12 16:21 20:1,18 41:22 46:11 51:18 51:21 54:12 71:3 74:14 next 17:9 28:9 30:2 30:3 34:22 43:12 44:16 48:23 54:18 54:24 55:2 56:19 61:23 62:2 66:21 73:1 74:1 77:22 nexus 61:8 nice 5:19 11:20 nine 16:18 ninth 16:17 nobody 77:6 Nokomis 59:7 non-profit 38:24 Norine 4:6 12:6 north 10:10 67:23 68:8,9 northwest 29:7 northwestern 32:22 45:6,17 Notary 79:6,18 note 16:21 noted 44:9 Notice 3:15 nucleus 61:5 62:10 63:11</p>	<p>number 8:3 11:2 26:12 35:23 43:23 49:16 51:10 55:24 62:11 numbers 10:17,22 41:7 76:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>objective 58:1 objectives 35:10 57:19 observed 24:1 25:14 obtaining 40:17 obvious 57:20 60:5 obviously 44:10 57:10 occurred 14:14,14 occurring 24:9 October 16:19 octopus-like 59:23 off 29:2 31:16 57:7 57:9 offer 43:24 offers 62:7 Office 10:6 offices 42:9 64:21 75:12 officials 37:6 38:10 38:10 41:10 42:10 60:11 often 17:24 Oh 67:5 70:13 okay 7:9 27:20 37:20 47:15 48:17 72:24 74:18 old 4:22 55:21 once 11:4 12:22 one 5:20,20 8:11,12 10:4 12:4 14:4 15:13,13 16:15,16 16:24 17:1 18:2,4 20:5 23:24 24:14 24:22 26:9,10 27:7,13 28:16 30:13 33:18,21 35:10,15,16,17 37:2,2,3 41:17 42:5 47:5 49:17 49:17,24 50:3 51:4 53:20 54:21 56:9 57:20 58:10 58:15,17 59:1,20 60:18,23 63:3 64:4,6 65:1 71:17 73:18 ongoing 46:3</p>	<p>only 6:16 30:18 38:14 41:14 50:21 52:19 58:9 on-the-ground 17:23 open 6:15 8:5 10:6 55:1 69:16 76:2 opening 6:10 operated 68:20 operation 61:22 opinion 64:1 70:19 72:13 opinions 44:12 opportunities 18:8 19:3 45:3 63:10 opportunity 8:15 11:22 12:22 13:2 23:11 41:7 57:1 62:12 73:20 76:9 opposed 14:7 25:21 71:23 order 5:3 10:4 16:20 63:18 organization 29:7 49:7 organizations 9:8 9:10 38:23,24,24 39:1,6 42:13 Osco 70:20 other 5:7 9:2,7 13:18 17:9 24:19 25:1 31:21,22,23 33:3 36:13 40:2,5 42:1 45:6,16,20 51:11 52:19 55:1 57:2 58:23 60:6,7 61:10,10 62:22 63:4 64:8 67:21 69:3,15 72:19 others 13:18 76:21 otherwise 18:20 79:14 ought 77:3 ourselves 45:16 75:2 out 6:20 11:5 17:20 28:16 32:4 33:10 38:19 41:20 52:20 54:19 55:23 57:20 58:16 60:7 64:12 65:15 66:3 68:23 69:19 75:14 76:5 76:19 outcome 79:15 outside 54:8 outstanding 61:7 over 6:7 7:22 11:14</p>	<p>14:24 21:5,16 22:3 24:1 30:2 43:22 66:12 overall 22:6,13 overly 25:3 overview 14:21 overwhelmingly 12:19 own 9:24 10:4 14:5 52:21 70:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>packed 25:3 packing 25:1 26:6 PAGE 2:2,20 Pana 59:4,6,11,12 59:20 66:13 paradigm 41:22 parameter 68:3 parameters 51:11 pardon 46:22 parks 40:20 part 6:24 7:23 13:13 32:16,17 37:9 45:4 47:17 52:13 53:14 59:4 75:3,5 77:6 participate 7:6 8:16 19:4 35:5,20 37:9 37:10 Participation 8:1 particular 18:22 26:11 27:16 61:21 62:13 parties 37:5 50:4 79:11,13 partisan 58:7 partner 29:22 partners 34:15 partnerships 39:1 parts 17:8 62:22 75:4 party 16:10,15 49:8 50:3 51:24 58:18 71:18,20 74:15 pass 16:2 76:9 passes 16:6 passing 15:24 67:22 past 23:14 24:1 Pat 12:2 35:3 path 58:11 Patrick 4:4 Paul 2:5 28:17 31:14 33:3 34:21 Pauley 43:1 peace 61:21 people 8:4 17:5,6</p>	<p>18:17 20:9 21:1 21:15,15,17,20,21 21:24 22:3,13 25:19 27:15 28:6 29:17 30:9 35:8 35:13,16,17,18,22 36:5,12,22 37:10 45:5,6,16 46:13 46:22,23,23 48:7 54:23 55:1 56:2 57:2,4 58:15 59:7 59:8 61:6 65:3,4 65:10 66:3,9,12 68:9 69:13,15,23 70:3 72:16 73:12 73:16,19,21 74:22 75:24 Peoria 46:12 77:23 percent 21:6,8,10 21:11 22:9,10,12 22:13 39:8,10 68:10 percentage 21:2 27:9,23 41:18,21 perception 32:4 perceptions 55:15 perfect 50:2 51:5 perfectly 68:19 perhaps 44:19 53:19 period 57:10 periodic 62:20 person 8:12 10:14 15:13 16:24 22:24 26:10 31:3 37:2,2 52:20 73:1 personal 32:4 46:4 72:13 personally 65:6 perspective 31:2 perverts 58:19 pick 31:22 58:19,21 59:12 picked 7:8 Picking 63:20 piece 63:24 place 19:2 76:21 placed 62:24 places 62:5 67:21 plan 16:2,2,19 29:15 30:3 34:12 51:15,15 71:23 planning 29:15 plans 18:24 play 9:3 20:2 61:11 played 61:19 plays 62:18</p>
--	---	--	--	---

<p>Plaza 4:22 please 14:9 23:2 38:4 55:6 56:14 68:3 69:11,15 73:2 76:4 pleased 6:13 podium 14:17 point 11:3 27:18 57:20 58:3 pointed 33:10 60:7 points 17:14 policy 41:11 political 9:6 16:10 16:15 18:7 24:5 26:1 35:12,20 37:1,5 45:24 49:7 50:4 51:8,22 53:9 53:14 58:5,6,18 68:7 77:7 politically 49:22 politician 58:21 politicians 60:16 politics 31:20 64:12 68:22 73:10 polls 35:24 population 7:17,22 8:13,20 14:13 15:12 16:24 17:3 17:4,5,22 19:24 20:21,23,24 21:2 21:6,7,9,11,15,17 21:20,22 22:2,6,7 22:7,9,10,11,12 22:14 24:13,21 25:2,6,7,24 27:10 27:11,22 29:17,24 32:15,23 34:5,10 36:21,23 39:8,11 39:12,16,16,21 41:1,15,22 51:10 60:3 61:6,12,15 63:12 64:6,9 68:11 69:23 70:3 74:11,20 76:16,18 76:23 77:5 populations 19:4 25:13,15 26:7 40:2 41:9,13,16 45:12 portions 47:19 positively 31:5 possible 8:4,9 18:6 32:20 51:1,2,15 63:6,14,16 64:18 65:13 post 10:20 postage-stamp</p>	<p>60:20 poster 31:1 potential 62:19 power 51:23,24 61:12 powerful 46:2,15 practice 17:22 50:5 58:5,17,18,19 59:16 practices 24:6 61:3 62:13 67:10 precedent 17:18 precincts 9:11 predominantly 24:17 premise 54:11 prepared 61:23 prescribes 49:13 present 4:1 9:12 11:22 14:9 23:23 73:1 presentation 10:23 11:1 14:3,11,15 20:10 presented 47:18 president 15:19 23:9 28:18 37:23 pressure 77:11,14 presumed 53:21 pretty 47:5 55:14 prevent 19:2,10 40:1 preview 52:13,14 previous 12:17 68:20 77:2 previously 73:23 pre-booked 11:4 principle 8:12 15:13 49:17,21 principles 16:22,23 19:1 priorities 33:19 prison 26:7 prisoners 25:10,15 25:16 26:2 prisons 25:12,21,23 privilege 6:24 privileged 6:23 probably 27:19 34:5 44:16 66:14 72:8 73:16 procedure 14:21 procedures 14:22 Proceed 73:3 proceeding 79:11 proceedings 3:24 6:19 7:1 79:8</p>	<p>process 6:14,15 7:23 8:5,16,23 9:3 13:12,16 15:5,21 19:4 20:8,16 24:5 26:5,14 29:5 35:12,20 36:18 37:1 38:12 39:4 41:5 42:4 45:22 51:17 52:14 57:21 58:9 60:9,13 65:2 68:23 69:2 73:19 Professional 79:5 professor 53:18 profile 15:20 progressive 44:14 prohibits 39:24 project 35:5 42:12 promote 31:4 proper 13:21 58:23 62:6 proposal 46:9,18 propose 44:11 proposed 9:21,22 10:14 12:23 13:3 13:17 65:3,4 protect 19:8 61:20 protected 40:2 protecting 51:23,24 protection 71:23 proud 39:16 prove 42:15 provide 8:15 20:7 58:22,23 62:12 67:18 provided 6:5 provides 50:2 providing 9:16 proximity 63:21 public 7:24 10:1,12 11:23 12:18,19,21 12:24 13:6,14 14:8 18:13 20:5 23:4 38:11 40:20 47:17 48:3,10 49:6,8 50:19 51:7 52:18 53:21 67:13 67:21 79:6,18 purple 47:20 purpose 25:7 purposes 58:24 pursuant 3:15 put 60:11 71:17 76:20 putting 12:12 p.m 3:16,17 5:1 10:7 69:6 78:8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>Quad 28:10,18 29:2 29:12 31:3,6 32:16 38:1,7 39:3 46:12 49:5 59:5,9 61:4,17,24 62:10 63:13,22 71:1,2,3 72:4,11 75:3,5,5 quality 31:4 40:17 question 26:23 27:3 33:2 55:19 70:10 71:7 72:2 questionable 60:8 questions 6:4 26:22 27:7 31:10 37:19 37:20 41:17 42:19 42:21 48:21 52:3 52:5,7 65:11 70:10,14 71:9 72:19 quick 14:4 Quincy 12:10 50:10 63:23 66:12 Quinn 19:7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>race 19:6 racial 19:8,20 Ramirez 2:7 38:1,1 38:3,5,6 42:23 Randall 2:8 43:12 43:17 random 16:17 Randy 71:13,14 rather 41:20 46:19 59:22 rationale 13:7 reaches 50:13 react 50:21,22 55:20 56:1 read 76:14 ready 62:2 real 74:22 realignment 64:3 realities 17:24 realize 74:9 realizing 46:6 really 5:18 36:2 41:19 53:4 59:10 60:24 66:17 73:20 75:13,14,16 realtime 69:18 reasonable 46:5 60:4 receive 51:16 receiving 74:10 recently 13:10 15:1</p>	<p>recess 78:3 recessed 78:8 recognition 48:24 recognize 5:7 39:20 43:1 recognizing 64:5 recommend 64:3 record 23:4 42:12 47:17 77:7 red 75:1 Redirecting 10:8 redistrict 24:2 36:17 redistricted 64:1 redistricting 1:3 3:3 5:3,5,8,10 6:2 7:24 9:3 11:12,23 12:15 13:12 14:12 14:21,23 15:1,5 15:21 16:8 18:24 20:3,8,16 23:11 23:13,16,21 26:5 29:4 33:17,23 36:4,4,18,20,23 37:4 39:20 41:5 41:10 42:7,14 44:6 45:9 49:13 49:22 50:17,23 51:1,6,15,22 57:21 67:2,7 76:15 redraw 7:20 15:14 redrawing 15:16 reduced 79:9 reduction 19:3 reelected 60:12 refer 45:16 reference 56:4 reflect 15:15 36:24 42:13 reflective 44:16 regard 33:13 68:5 regarding 9:15 73:15 regardless 74:14,16 region 30:5 43:23 45:15 46:6,16 62:21 regional 29:10,11 29:15 37:23 42:4 45:9,20 72:10,11 registered 35:14 79:5 Registration 42:11 regular 66:6 reiterate 40:5 related 41:22 79:10</p>
---	--	--	---	---

<p>relates 44:6 relationship 71:5 72:10,11 relative 79:12 released 7:17 15:21 relevant 9:5,10,19 religious 9:7 religiously 18:19 remarks 47:7 52:11 remember 26:9 36:9 removed 64:2,7 removes 52:23 repeat 72:2 replaces 58:20 report 20:21 26:19 reporter 4:20 23:3 28:23 38:4 55:7 73:3 76:6 79:1,5,5 reports 21:19 represent 12:9 29:8 41:11 49:7 66:12 66:13 representation 15:7 19:1,8 24:14,22 25:18 26:1,8 27:24 30:4,14,16 31:7 34:1,8 36:21 41:8 44:9 53:1 74:10 75:11 representative 4:2 4:3,4,5,6 5:2,9,16 5:17,19 6:9,11,12 6:17,18 7:4,7,11 7:13,15,21 9:20 11:17 12:2,3,6,7 13:24 14:1 18:3 22:21 26:17 27:2 27:3,5,20 28:7,9 28:14,21 29:19,20 30:20 31:12,13,14 31:19 32:9,18,24 33:2,9 34:3,16,20 34:22 35:3 37:14 37:17,22 39:6 42:21,24 43:4,6,8 43:11 47:1,4,9,13 47:16,20,23,24 48:2,6,19 52:2,4,6 52:8,10 53:5,5,7 53:16 54:5,5,14 54:16 55:5,8 56:18 60:4 64:18 64:19 65:11,17,21 66:19 70:4,5,9,11 70:14,15,17,23 72:1,18,20,24</p>	<p>75:12,22 77:16,21 representatives 1:2 3:2 5:13 14:20 33:16 58:20 59:18 69:24 70:1,1 74:22 represented 18:9 41:17 42:18 representing 23:1 34:15,23 38:7 57:4 61:18 74:23 represents 12:3 20:9 49:16 75:7 Republican 4:3,8 5:9 11:13 67:15 71:20 77:12 Republicans 67:16 requested 22:23 76:1 requesting 22:24 require 7:19 13:8 13:16 17:7 62:13 required 14:12 27:10 requirement 17:15 requirements 8:24 9:2 20:1,3 41:5 requires 8:1,11,14 8:19,22 18:24 49:23 61:21 requiring 19:12 20:5 residence 53:10 residency 74:16 resident 43:20 49:9 49:9 55:13 57:8 71:1 74:24 76:12 residents 8:5 15:6 18:15 20:7 40:9 40:15 50:14 resources 10:3 respect 8:11 19:1 responsibility 15:24 16:6 49:19 rest 39:11 restricted 58:17 result 15:13 17:3 51:23 64:9 resulted 34:7 results 15:2,3 65:7 retain 63:15 retired 36:14 55:16 reviewed 32:5 rework 44:7 Rich 6:9 12:4,8 Richard 4:5 Rick 37:22</p>	<p>ride 45:8 right 6:21 20:6 33:21 34:3 35:18 47:21,21,23 48:13 48:16 58:20 62:15 64:13 73:24 rights 8:14,21,24 13:10 14:24 19:2 39:23 58:19 risen 21:6,9,11 river 29:12 30:11 31:21,22,23 63:1 63:2,3,11 rivers 62:11 63:14 RJ 43:19 robust 46:17 Rock 3:17,18 12:1 21:14,18,22 22:7 22:10 23:1,9 30:7 43:2 61:18 62:6,7 63:1,5 72:8 75:3 76:12 77:9,12 role 9:3 61:12,20 62:18 Room 10:5 round 65:9 Royal 61:9 RPR 4:21 rulings 15:10 Rumler 2:5 28:12 28:17,17,24 31:18 32:2 33:8,14 34:9 34:19 runs 50:8,9 rural 25:12,15,21 26:8 36:10,21 45:12 46:13 R-a-m-i-r-e-z 38:6 R-a-n-d-a-l-l 43:17 R-u-m-l-e-r 29:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>S 2:19 56:19 same 16:10 39:11 40:16,17,18,19 45:21 48:12 49:19 54:13 55:13,14,24 62:5 63:6 64:16 SANGAMON 79:3 Saturday 69:12 save 75:18 saw 39:7,9 saying 39:5 44:15 53:9 65:18 says 44:7 76:15 schedule 10:11 scheduled 8:7</p>	<p>Schilling 29:21 71:12 Schilling's 70:22 school 56:22 68:18 68:19,21 schools 40:16 scientific 17:16 Scott 54:18 screen 10:18 20:11 22:19 seasonal 62:14 seat 34:7 39:13,15 44:11 62:4 second 10:7 39:14 57:23 61:1 secondly 45:10 74:6 Secretary 16:16 section 66:7 security 14:6 see 7:4 9:17 10:23 11:20 12:22 13:20 15:3 20:19 22:5 31:8 32:13,16,17 36:9 40:23 47:1 48:23 53:12 54:20 59:9 67:10 68:13 71:2,4 72:4,24 74:6 Seeing 37:20 seeking 6:15 48:24 seem 50:16 63:2 seems 54:7 seen 21:5 44:13 segue 71:11 Seidler 37:22,24 Senate 10:8 16:1 17:5 18:4 19:9 Senator 29:20 senior 36:13 sense 45:22 51:16 63:5,22 64:15 76:22 sent 57:9 sentiments 12:20 separate 24:14,21 36:19 September 16:14 series 15:9 Seriously 74:1 serve 16:17 32:1 38:22 43:22 served 29:19 serviced 29:24 services 4:22 40:20 46:5 58:23 59:16 63:19 session 73:14</p>	<p>set 54:21 65:15 seven 12:10 seventh 10:9 several 16:21 23:21 24:16 36:10,11 57:2,16 65:3 67:20 68:21 73:22 shape 17:19 share 20:7 23:18 30:13,18 33:5 39:4 54:1 57:1 67:4,8 69:15 shared 30:12 40:10 40:12,22 sharing 22:16 sheer 41:1 Shelbyville 59:7 Sherwin 2:4 22:24 23:5,7 27:1,4,6,13 28:3,8 shifting 74:13 shifts 7:22 41:22 ship 57:7 short 9:18 11:1 14:11 46:23 76:10 Shorthand 79:5 show 11:1 13:8 14:3 46:9 48:3 showed 22:2 shown 15:15 shows 5:21 side 29:12 31:22,22 sides 31:20 44:4 sign 47:11 signed 15:1 16:3 19:7 56:5,6 similar 49:16 58:15 62:13 63:10,10 similarly 64:17 simple 60:9 simply 44:12 since 21:24 22:9 55:22 73:6 single 17:18 sir 28:15 49:1 56:18 76:4 sitting 48:7 71:8 72:5 situation 70:22 size 60:19 slide 11:1 14:3 slightly 39:12 slip 11:5 54:19 slips 54:24 small 25:23 35:23 36:12 smallest 20:20</p>
--	--	---	--	---

<p>48:13 64:4 social 9:6 socially 18:18 software 27:15,18 28:4 42:14 46:19 solely 19:5 solicited 67:20 solutions 44:5 some 11:16 23:19 27:14,18 28:3 29:4 30:6 32:11 43:24 44:1,12 45:5,15 46:10,19 52:6 57:9 58:3 60:6 65:14 66:1 67:4,9,17 69:15 75:19 76:21 77:11 Somebody 48:16 something 27:21 71:23 74:20 75:14 76:9 sometimes 17:11 somewhat 69:17 Somewhere 77:16 sophisticated 46:19 sorry 47:22 55:5 67:5 south 4:22 50:8,11 63:24 67:24 68:9 68:10 southern 50:9,12 57:14 southwest 42:11 57:7 space 20:7 speak 6:6 28:12 39:5 41:14,15 44:19 73:2 speaker 4:7 13:11 77:2 speakers 6:6 speaking 21:4 72:15 Special 4:8 5:2 specific 23:16 24:2 specifically 14:13 spell 23:3 38:4 49:2 55:7 76:6 spelled 28:24 56:21 spelling 28:22 split 32:6 58:14 67:23 68:3,4,21 69:23 70:4 spokesman 5:10 11:13 Spokesperson 4:3 spread 17:20 24:16 Springfield 4:23</p>	<p>10:5 33:14 45:13 45:24 48:11 50:12 58:13 sprouting 59:22 ss 79:2 St 12:16 stabilization 33:20 stacking 25:4 26:7 staff 11:8,9 26:18 65:14 77:21 stage 6:14 stances 42:15 stand 54:11 78:3 standard 17:1,19 start 22:22 52:9 64:3 started 67:12 state 1:1 3:1 4:22 6:20 7:2 8:2,6,6 8:18 12:14 14:24 15:7,10,11,14,16 15:23 16:1,1,1,16 16:24 17:2,7,13 18:15,23 20:1,5 20:23 23:2 27:17 34:14 39:17 41:3 42:16 44:7 45:5 45:21 46:6 49:1 49:20,23 50:19 53:13 55:14,15,17 55:22,24 56:5 57:18 62:23 64:17 64:18,23 70:5,22 73:7 74:17 75:13 76:5,12 77:24 79:2,6,19 statements 37:12 states 7:16,18 15:8 15:14 18:2 23:17 23:21 27:16 29:13 43:22 49:18 statewide 21:8,9,11 state's 14:21 20:24 49:10 station 10:7,12 stationed 30:10 stations 10:2,2,14 14:8 48:10 78:5 status 36:15 statute 17:18 stenographer 49:2 Sterling 50:10 still 54:22 64:11 stop 58:18 66:17 stories 46:3 strategic 29:15 34:12</p>	<p>Stratton 10:5 strawman 65:4 Street 10:10 strength 63:12 strengthen 45:13 strictly 41:4 striking 60:21 strong 44:5 strongly 55:23 64:3 studied 33:10 studying 18:13 subjective 52:23 submit 10:13,15 16:14 20:12 68:12 submitted 68:3 substantially 8:13 8:19 17:2 suburban 64:8 success 30:6 46:2 suffer 34:10 sufficient 62:24 suggest 44:21 suggestions 42:15 supplied 23:15 support 34:13,14 supported 62:2 supporting 13:5 57:23 61:11 supposed 53:14 Supreme 15:9 16:14 sure 24:9 27:1,4 30:14 32:14 33:24 34:4 36:5 41:6 48:6 65:16 72:7 surrounding 63:17 63:18 64:8 sustain 46:3 sustainability 46:16 sweeping 41:20 sweet 76:10 system 60:15 68:24 69:22 systems 37:23 60:13 S-h-e-r-w-i-n 23:8</p>	<p>76:18 77:3,4 taken 40:13 53:10 79:8 takes 32:4 taking 43:15 50:19 68:22 talk 29:3 31:5 71:10 76:8 talked 32:15 49:12 52:12 66:4 talking 33:17 talks 14:11 Tara 28:10,11,19 target 17:4 task 8:9 47:2 56:16 56:17 tasks 50:17 tax 46:4 taxpayer 43:21 taxpaying 69:7 Taylorville 59:8 technology 62:8 Ted 2:9 48:23 49:3 54:19 tell 46:20 73:11 77:9 ten 12:14 15:15 21:16 34:9 45:18 49:14 55:21 tentacles 59:23 63:17 64:12 term 59:21 74:18 Terry 54:18,18 test 18:1 testified 57:3 testify 11:6 testimony 9:19 10:19,20 11:3,9 20:13 22:23,24 37:10 65:14 76:1 textbooks 33:11 thank 5:13 6:3,12 7:5,7,10,12,14 11:11,17,19 13:23 14:1 22:15,20,21 23:10 26:15,17 27:5 28:7 31:9 32:24 33:9 34:16 34:18,19,20 35:1 35:2 37:8,14,16 37:20 38:9,12 42:17,23 43:2,6 43:10,11,14,14 47:8,9 48:15,17 48:19,22 49:5 51:20 52:1,2,11 54:14,15,16 55:8</p>	<p>56:17,18,24 65:10 65:12 66:18,19,24 66:24 72:18,23 75:21,22 76:4 77:15,18,20 78:1 thanks 29:2 31:14 65:17 70:8,17 72:19 78:7 their 8:17 18:21 19:21 20:7 35:14 35:24 36:1,7,11 36:17 39:22 40:3 42:14,14,15 44:19 45:11,13 52:21 58:20,21 60:11,12 61:18 62:22 63:2 63:21 theoretical 69:17 theory 17:19 thereto 79:14 thing 36:8 42:1 76:17 things 23:16,24 26:6 27:13 32:12 35:15 53:1 54:7 55:18 61:13 73:8 73:18,22 74:12 think 5:22,24 12:23 13:17 29:23 30:5 30:21 32:2,8,11 33:10,11,21 34:11 36:2,3 41:19,23 44:3 53:1,3 54:2,3 58:2,13 62:15 64:15 65:6 68:22 69:4 71:6 72:7 73:19 74:2,6,16 74:20 75:6,10 76:14 77:2,10 thinking 46:11 57:4 thinks 76:8 third 3:17 33:21 42:9 56:12 though 35:22 43:24 46:20 49:23 71:13 thought 44:13 69:9 73:8 thoughts 18:14 20:7 22:16 29:4 57:2 thousands 61:6 threatens 62:20 63:3 three 24:5 30:1 55:18 67:9 71:15 through 10:6 11:4 40:1 48:10 54:22 56:22 60:1</p>
---	---	---	--	--

<p>throughout 8:2,6 18:23 22:7 44:4 77:24 tie 47:21 tied 72:8 time 13:20,22 25:14 31:8 39:11 41:6 47:8 49:19 51:17 51:20 57:10 58:3 61:23 62:2,3 66:1 69:5,9 70:8 75:18 78:1 timeline 15:16 times 54:2,8 61:20 61:21 tips 31:21 today 5:14 6:5 7:12 10:24 11:3,10,15 11:19 12:5 13:1 14:2 22:16 28:20 30:8 31:10,15 42:18 43:20 44:19 45:2 55:15 57:20 66:4 69:4,17 70:18 71:10 73:23 76:1 today's 5:6 together 12:12 19:19 34:12 40:8 62:19 68:16,19 71:21 75:6 tolerances 47:4 tomorrow 77:23 top 31:16 33:18,23 57:18 total 20:22 21:10 totally 49:9,22 totals 7:17 toward 7:2 towards 45:19 town 63:24 towns 25:20 township 18:10 70:2 townships 68:8 77:1 tracts 25:10,11 48:12 Tracy 4:3 5:9 11:13 11:17 12:9 27:3,5 27:20 28:7 33:2,9 34:3,16 47:20,23 48:2 52:4 53:6,7 53:16 54:14 77:21 transcribe 10:19 TRANSCRIPT 3:24 translate 41:7</p>	<p>transparency 7:24 20:4 65:2 transparent 13:12 13:15 31:4 transportation 40:19 traversed 60:22 Tribbett 2:12 65:18 65:20,23,23 tried 46:22 59:19 Trinity 37:23 trip 11:14 truly 39:6 41:11 try 32:6 34:17 40:8 76:20 77:12 trying 33:21 45:21 46:21 74:5 turn 6:7 76:19 turnout 69:4 twelve 68:8,9 two 10:1 13:19 14:8 16:15 18:3 19:11 29:13 31:8 38:15 44:20 46:23 48:10 55:17 56:8,9 57:17,19 65:5 67:16,16 69:20,24 70:1 71:8 72:6 78:5 two-district 67:22 two-year 59:21 type 69:8 types 40:19 typewriting 79:9 T-e-d 49:4 T-r-i-b-b-e-t-t 65:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>unbiased 60:13 under 13:9 68:20 79:9 undergrad 57:12 undergraduate 57:13,14 underrepresented 41:16 understand 13:7 16:20 36:9 75:11 77:11 undertake 8:9 undertakes 39:19 unfair 36:19 unfortunate 34:4 unhappy 73:16 unincorporated 17:10</p>	<p>unique 9:8 38:22 62:8 unit 48:13 United 7:16,18 15:8 43:22 units 36:11,11 University 53:17 57:13,15 unless 17:9 uploaded 47:17 upset 50:15 urban 45:11 46:13 51:4,13 urge 13:1 55:23 60:10 use 25:23 26:7 30:13 40:18 64:16 used 15:21 16:21 20:18 25:15 32:3 46:19 57:21 64:9 uses 20:21 using 14:7 20:19 69:1 usually 47:5 U.S 8:10 15:9 20:3 49:12,15 51:8 53:13 62:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>Vanna 48:4 variance 68:10 varied 22:7 various 36:15,16 vary 18:23 vast 60:21 Verschoore 4:4 5:13,16,17 12:2 29:20 35:3 43:4,8 54:5 very 6:3,13,13,18 6:21 7:4,5 11:18 22:15 23:12 25:22 29:24 31:9 32:12 37:14,21 38:24 42:23 43:14 47:9 48:15,19 52:11 54:16 60:16 65:12 68:24 71:15 75:10 75:22 vibrant 45:20 vice 28:18 view 13:20 viewing 10:2,14 views 40:10,12 Viola 75:1 visit 22:18 visual 18:1 50:2</p>	<p>vital 46:5 voice 8:22 36:1 44:19 voices 18:21 35:14 36:17 45:13 volunteer 75:9 vote 8:12 13:3 15:13 16:11 17:1 26:2,10,13 35:19 36:1,7 37:3 41:17 49:17 56:14 65:5 66:4 voter 9:11 42:11 51:23 voters 25:8 35:14 43:16 44:4 50:15 54:3 56:15 58:21 66:16 votes 16:2 voting 8:14,21,24 13:10 14:23 19:2 25:8 35:21,23,23 36:24 39:23 40:1 50:3 58:15 66:7,9 vouch 70:5 VRA 39:24 VRA's 41:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>waiting 54:22 want 5:23,24 6:1 7:1,3 9:3,12,12,18 11:24 12:22 14:16 28:13 30:14 31:2 36:2,3,16 38:9 42:17 48:2,4,17 70:19 77:1 78:4 wanted 5:12 11:11 14:8 26:21 67:3,8 war 61:20 62:3 warranted 64:24 Warrenville 71:14 Washington 45:14 wasn't 53:21 water 17:10 way 6:16 9:15 29:3 29:15 30:15,16,24 32:3 56:22 66:10 72:15 74:21 ways 17:16 18:8 24:2 website 10:20 22:18 47:18 websites 10:22 Wednesday 11:21 weekday 69:6 weekend 23:14</p>	<p>weeks 13:19 31:8 65:5 weight 26:13 welcome 5:15 7:11 7:13 11:12 28:8 28:15 29:2 38:2 42:19 43:13 48:24 49:5 56:20 65:21 65:22 66:23 73:2 73:3 well 5:12,17 7:12 11:10,17 12:4 13:2 14:10 29:19 29:24 30:21 32:2 32:5,10,12,19 34:15 35:21 36:22 37:13 38:12,16,23 39:17 40:24 42:5 46:10 48:8,17 50:17 54:1 56:16 56:24 59:15 63:4 64:12 65:15 67:17 70:4 78:2 Welvaert 43:5 were 2:21 33:14,17 53:14,20,24 67:16 69:5 71:9 73:8 79:8 west 12:10 38:17 50:16 western 6:20 45:5,6 45:16 57:24 61:2 62:4,9,16,21 63:8 72:9,16 Wetzel 2:10 55:3,3 55:4,8,9,10 Wetzler 55:2 wanted 5:12 11:11 15:2 28:9 41:21 43:12 47:10 54:24 56:19 66:21 we're 5:11,22 6:16 8:10 9:5 10:24 11:21 14:2 20:6 22:22 26:4 29:13 29:19 30:1,23 34:1 38:22 39:16 45:8 54:22 62:15 71:10 76:17 we've 12:18 13:17 20:15 25:13 29:11 29:14 30:5 32:20 34:11 38:15 45:19 48:11 54:22 55:21 while 17:5 22:13 30:8 44:18 59:18 63:23</p>
---	--	---	--	--

<p>white 21:5 24:17 25:7 48:5 whole 51:2,12 72:5 who've 57:2 width 58:11 Wikipedia 58:4 William 2:11 56:19 57:5 winter 23:6 wish 28:14 48:1 56:16 66:17 witness 11:5 54:19 witnesses 2:2 11:2,7 13:1 60:6 wondering 53:8 Woodsmen 61:9 word 58:2 work 10:7 14:19 26:4 30:10,17 31:5 40:21 42:14 57:22 worked 30:21 59:13 workers 33:22 working 42:3 57:15 74:5 75:8,18 works 41:2 world 51:5,5 worry 76:7 wouldn't 28:16,22 writing 78:5 written 20:13 23:18 37:12 wrong 57:11 www.ilhousedem... 10:21 W-e-t-z-e-l 55:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <hr/> <p>X 2:1,19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>Yeah 55:4 71:12 year 7:3,19 19:7 44:10 years 12:15 15:15 21:16 24:1 29:11 30:2,3 32:21 34:10 38:15 45:18 49:14 55:21 57:6 66:1,1 68:21 77:10,13 year's 41:5 yep 47:10 yesterday 56:6 yield 64:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/>	<p>Zahm 2:13 66:21 66:24 67:5 70:13 70:16 71:7 72:7 72:19,23 Z-a-h-m 67:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <hr/> <p>06 21:6,8 084-001390 4:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>1st 16:14 1,828 21:15 1,832,924 21:8 1-800-280-3376 4:24 108,734 17:4 12,419,293 20:24 12,830,632 20:23 13,289 21:20 135 22:13 14 2:3 18:2 14th 71:16 147,546 21:17 149,374 21:15 15 4:22 8:7 50:7 71:12 77:24 15th 50:7 1528 3:17 16 39:10 160 10:10 17th 30:23 31:17,24 33:4 46:11 50:9 59:2,10 60:5 71:17 72:21 73:23 17,118 21:23 19th 50:12 1960s 15:10 1965 39:24 1995 73:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2 69:6 2,000 29:8 2,029 21:21 2,419 22:3 2,700,578 21:10 2.7 39:9 2:00 3:16 2:07 5:1 20 1:11 29:11 66:1,1 68:21 20th 3:15 2000 20:24 21:14 22:1,9 39:7 2010 7:16,17 13:10 15:2,18 17:3</p>	<p>20:22 21:19,23,24 22:2 39:7 51:8 2011 1:11 3:16 39:19 21st 15:18 44:23 217 4:23 217,468 17:6 217-558-3036 10:12 23 2:4 25,000 68:9,10 28 2:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>3:40 3:17 78:8 30 17:16 30th 16:5 32.5 21:10 33 39:8 35 2:6 38 2:7 21:11 3976 19:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>4 69:8 4:30 10:7 40 33:16 400 70:3 400,000 29:17 401 10:5 410,000 21:1 43 2:8 49 2:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>5 69:8 5th 16:19 5,000 30:3 50 77:10,13 50-year 76:12 522-2211 4:23 55 2:10 56 2:11 57 22:11 68:10 580,586 21:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>6,758 21:24 62701 4:23 64 22:9 65 2:12 6500 69:23 66 2:13 67 75:2 680 22:13 69-year-long 55:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/>	<p>70 22:10 700 46:22 712,811 46:21 712,813 46:13,23 73 2:14 76 2:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>8 69:8 8,167,753 21:6 8:30 10:7 85,000 29:9 895 22:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>9 69:8</p>
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