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SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 19, 2011

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in  
the above-entitled matter at the Zeke Giorgi State  
of Illinois Building, 200 South Wyman, Rockford,  
Illinois, beginning at 4:00 o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- REPRESENTATIVE FRANK MAUTINO, Chair
- REPRESENTATIVE MARLOW COLVIN
- REPRESENTATIVE CHUCK JEFFERSON
- REPRESENTATIVE JIM SACIA
- REPRESENTATIVE JOE SOSNOWSKI
- REPRESENTATIVE DAVE WINTERS
- SENATOR CHRISTINE JOHNSON

1           REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Good afternoon. I  
2 want to thank you everyone for coming today,  
3 especially the people that traveled here from  
4 distances to be part of this panel today. I want to  
5 thank the other Representatives that have come today  
6 and be part of this panel. I'd like to thank  
7 Representative Marlow Colvin, Assistant Majority  
8 Leader, Frank Mautino, Deputy Majority leader along  
9 with Jim Sacia who represents Stephenson County.

10           REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: And half of Winnebago,  
11 too.

12           REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Half of Winnebago.  
13 Dave Winters who is the other half of my District,  
14 the 3rd and 4th District, and Joe Sosnowski I  
15 understand is on his way. We got responses from  
16 about 200 people, and you can see they haven't all  
17 congregated yet, but we're going to go ahead and  
18 start because we believe in starting on time and  
19 hopefully finishing on time.

20           I want to especially take this opportunity  
21 to thank you each and every one of you for coming  
22 out today, taking time out of your business  
23 schedules to be here to be involved in the process.  
24 Our expert panelists will try and answer all your  
25 questions. And if they can't answer your questions,

1 they will make sure they take your name and phone  
2 number and get the answers for you. But I'm  
3 confident that they are going to be able to answer  
4 all your questions. They have done this now for a  
5 couple of days, and they have kind of traveled the  
6 State of Illinois.

7 So again, I just want to say welcome.  
8 Thank you for those of you of who don't know me.  
9 I'm Assistant Majority Leader, Chuck Jefferson, and  
10 I'm happy to have -- in the Rockford District.  
11 Oftentimes, Districts don't get to see the people  
12 that are going to testify to things that are  
13 happening in Illinois. But we have the privilege  
14 and the pleasure to have these two gentlemen here to  
15 try and answer all these questions. So again,  
16 Marlow and again Frank, I want to thank you both for  
17 taking the time out of your schedule to be here.

18 With that said, I turn it back over to  
19 Frank.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you,  
21 Representative. Can everyone hear okay? Okay.  
22 Great.

23 The House Special Committee on  
24 redistricting shall come to order. My name is Frank  
25 Mautino, and I'm a member of the Redistricting

1 Committee, and I'll be chairing today's hearing.  
2 I'd like to recognize the following members of the  
3 Redistricting Committee who are present today,  
4 Representative Marlow Colvin is also a member of the  
5 Committee. And I'd like to also recognize the other  
6 members of the General Assembly, thank  
7 Representative Jefferson for hosting us here today,  
8 Representative Sacia and Winters. And I know that  
9 Representative Sosnowski is on his way in. I thank  
10 him as well.

11 At the end of 2010, the United States  
12 Census Bureau, as it does every decade, released  
13 2010 population totals for Illinois. The United  
14 States and Illinois Constitution required that in  
15 the year following the census, the General Assembly  
16 must redraw the boundary lines for the  
17 Congressional, Legislative and Representative  
18 Districts to account for population shifts over the  
19 last ten years. These hearings are part of that  
20 process.

21 The Redistricting, Transparency and Public  
22 Participation Act requires us to hold at least four  
23 hearings throughout the state. Our intention is to  
24 hold far more than that minimum number. Our goal is  
25 to hear from as many people as possible and to

1 ensure the process is open to all residents of our  
2 state. We are holding hearings throughout the  
3 state -- 15 are currently scheduled -- to gain as  
4 much information as possible as we undertake this  
5 important task.

6 We are guided in this endeavor by the U.S.  
7 Constitution, and that requires that we respect the  
8 One Person, One Vote principle and draw districts of  
9 substantially equal population. We also will comply  
10 with the Federal Voting Rights Act which requires us  
11 to provide minorities an equal opportunity to  
12 participate in the electoral process and elect  
13 candidates of their choice.

14 At the state level, the Illinois  
15 Constitution also requires that districts be  
16 substantially equal in population, compact and  
17 contiguous. Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights Act  
18 further requires us to allow minorities a voice in  
19 the electoral process after compliance with the  
20 Federal and Constitutional requirements that I just  
21 mentioned.

22 Now, in addition to these legal  
23 requirements, there are countless other factors that  
24 play into the role of the redistricting process.

25 Now, we want to hear from you in considering all of

1 them without limitation. We are interested in any  
2 relevant demographic information such as social,  
3 political, economic, religious and other  
4 characteristics that are unique to your community  
5 and to your organizations. We are interested in  
6 maps of your community or organizations as  
7 encompassed by relevant precincts or voter  
8 tabulation districts and any other way that you'd  
9 like to present them.

10 We want to hear your specific views on any  
11 social, political, economic or religious interests  
12 commonly held in the community and specific interest  
13 groups that exist, any concerns that you have  
14 regarding our current redistricting boundaries or  
15 suggestions that you would have for drawing the new  
16 ones.

17 In short, we want to hear the testimony  
18 that's relevant to the drawing of our new  
19 Congressional Legislative and Representative  
20 districts. If you have a proposed map, you can turn  
21 those in to us, and we will take those and consider  
22 them as well. If you want to draw your own map but  
23 you don't have the capacity to do that, we have  
24 created two public viewing stations where both  
25 Census and map-making information are available.

1 And they are located in -- one is in Springfield in  
2 Room 401 of the Strattin Office Building. That's  
3 open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30  
4 to 4:30. And there is a second work station, and  
5 this is a joint effort with the Senate Redistricting  
6 Committee, and that is located at 160 North LaSalle  
7 Street in Chicago. That would be the 7th Floor of  
8 the Bilandic Building.

9           You can schedule an appointment to access  
10 either public station by calling 217-558-3036,  
11 217-558-3036. You may also submit any comments and  
12 information or proposed maps to us in person at  
13 those viewing sites. Finally, you can submit any  
14 information by E-mail at [ilredistricting@gmail.com](mailto:ilredistricting@gmail.com).  
15 We are going to have a short presentation where  
16 those numbers will be up on the board -- up on the  
17 screen behind us.

18           We will transcribe the testimony of these  
19 hearings and post it on the website which is  
20 [www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting). Any documentary  
21 evidence that we receive, whether it's written  
22 testimony or other data or proposed maps will be  
23 uploaded and available on that website. The only  
24 caveat -- the only thing that we ask is due to  
25 security concerns, if you would submit them in hard

1 copy as opposed to on a disk or a flash drive. And  
2 then that would be transcribed.

3 As for today, we are going to have a  
4 short -- a slide show presentation. Following that  
5 brief presentation, we will have a number of  
6 witnesses. Very fortunate, we have had about 17  
7 witnesses so far that are prefiled beforehand and a  
8 pretty good amount that are wanting to make some  
9 comment, and that's a good thing.

10 After the scheduled witnesses -- with the  
11 number of witnesses, we are going to ask that you  
12 limit your testimony to five minutes. And we will  
13 bring the witnesses forward who will be testifying  
14 to the podium right here. There is a mic, and it  
15 will all be transcribed.

16 After the scheduled witnesses, anyone else  
17 who wishes to speak may do so. We would just ask  
18 that you fill out one of these sheets. We will stay  
19 as long as we need to. We want to hear from  
20 everyone. If you have not done so, there is a  
21 sign-in table where those are available.

22 What I'd like to do is ask the Honorable  
23 Jim Sacia who is the Republican member of the panel  
24 to make some comments, and then we will go to Katie  
25 Langenfelter who is going to do about a 15-minute



1 presentation.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Frank.

3 I'd like to start by expressing my sincere  
4 appreciation to Frank Mautino for being here with  
5 us, Marlow Colvin and of course, Representative  
6 Jefferson. I think I can speak on behalf of Dave  
7 and Joe when I say that working with these three  
8 gentlemen in Springfield is truly a joy. They work  
9 very well with us across the aisle, and that gives a  
10 tremendous comfort level to tonight's meeting.

11 I think a couple things need to be said.  
12 And first and most importantly, and again, knowing  
13 these three gentlemen as I do, I believe this will  
14 happen, and that is that the public will get to see  
15 a map before we vote on it. And you will get an  
16 opportunity to have input as to the way the ultimate  
17 map is drawn. I think that's very, very important.

18 Both sides of the aisle expect tremendous  
19 transparency. I think it's imperative for you, the  
20 citizens, to have your input. And we certainly look  
21 forward to that, not only tonight but as these  
22 gentlemen travel across the state and have these  
23 hearings and have input from folks such as yourself.

24 Finally, I'd really like to mention, I feel  
25 very pleased to have Andrew Freiheit with us, one of

1 our staff attorneys here as well, and Garrett as  
2 well is joining us to help us wade through some of  
3 the issues that we will be dealing with.

4 So with that, I'll turn it back to Frank  
5 Mautino. Thank you, Frank.

6 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Before we get  
7 started, I just want to take time and thank several  
8 elected officials for being here, County Chairman  
9 Scott Christiansen. Scott, wave your hand, Ann  
10 Thompson, Alderman. Ann Thompson, right here in the  
11 front row. George Ann Duckett, County Board, L. C.  
12 Wilson, County Board, Angie Gloral, County Board.  
13 Frank Beach, Alderman, Charlie Ligunas who is the  
14 IBEW building trades, Lynn Jacobson, Alderman and  
15 Phil Johnson with -- what township?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Machesney Park Trustee.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Carl Wasco.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Carl Wasco is here,  
19 Alderman, Carl. Thanks for coming. And any other  
20 elected officials? Our States Attorney just  
21 wandered in, Joe Bruscato.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Jerry Derrick.

23 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Jerry Derrick.  
24 Anyone else? Anyone else? Thank you all for  
25 coming, taking times out of your busy schedule to be

1 here today. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Katie, I'm going to  
3 turn the program over to you. Making a presentation  
4 on just what redistricting is and what laws we have  
5 to follow is Katie Langenfelter. Proceed.

6 KATIE: Hello. My name is Katie Langenfelter.  
7 I work for the Illinois House of Representatives.  
8 I'm here to give a brief overview of our state's  
9 redistricting procedure.

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

17 What is redistricting and why do we  
18 redistrict? Redistricting is the process that  
19 ensures all Illinois residents are afforded equal  
20 representation in the state legislature and Federal  
21 Congress as guaranteed by the United States  
22 Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court held in a  
23 series of rulings in the 1960s that congressional  
24 and state legislative the districts in each state  
25 must be of equal populations, establishing the One

1 Person, One Vote. As a result, states redraw  
2 congressional and state districts every ten years to  
3 reflect changes in population as shown by the  
4 Census.

5 The timeline for redrawing the legislative  
6 map is based on the Illinois Constitution.

7 On December 21, data collected by the 2010  
8 Census was delivered to the President. The full  
9 block-by-block Census program of Illinois which will  
10 be used in the redistricting process was released in  
11 February.

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

22 The Commission shall consist of eight  
23 members with no more than four from the same  
24 political party. A majority vote of five or more  
25 Commission members will constitute final approval of

1 a new map. However, if the Commission does not  
2 agree to a map by September 1, the Illinois Supreme  
3 Court will submit two names, one from each party, to  
4 the Illinois Secretary of State who will choose one  
5 more name at random to serve as the ninth member of  
6 the Commission. Five of the nine members of the  
7 Commission must agree to a plan no later than  
8 October 5.

9 In order to understand how the Census data  
10 is used to draw new districts, we must note several  
11 legal guiding principles. First among those  
12 principles is equal population. State law mirrors  
13 the Federal One Person, One Vote standard and  
14 mandates Congressional and State districts to  
15 contain substantially equal population. As a result  
16 of the 2010 Census, the target population of each  
17 House District is 108,734 residents, while ideal  
18 population for a Senate District is 217,468 people.

19 Federal and state law also require all  
20 districts to be contiguous, which means that all  
21 parts of the district must be next to each other  
22 unless connected by water. Annexations and  
23 unincorporated areas in municipalities and counties  
24 sometimes mean communities are discontinuous.  
25 However, Congressional and State districts must be

1 adjacent or connected at all points.

2 A more difficult requirement to define is  
3 compactness. There are at least 30 different  
4 scientific ways to measure how compact a district  
5 is, but no statute or court precedent identifying  
6 standard criteria of compactness. In theory,  
7 compactness focuses on the shape of the district's  
8 boundaries, how spread out a district is from a  
9 central core or what the district's population  
10 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is  
11 hindered by geography and on-the-ground realities.  
12 So, often the interpretation of compactness involves  
13 more than a visual test.

14 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests two  
15 of its House districts, also called Representative  
16 districts, inside one of its Senate districts, also  
17 called legislative districts.

18 Mapmakers will also look, where possible,  
19 to follow existing political and geographic  
20 boundaries in ways that maximize a community's  
21 opportunity to have its interests represented. As  
22 we know, however, county, municipality, township and  
23 national geographic boundaries are not always  
24 compact and contiguous. By studying Census data and  
25 holding public hearings like this to listen to the

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

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

18 Earlier this year, Governor Quinn signed  
19 legislation to protect the representation of racial  
20 and language minorities groups. Senate Bill 3976  
21 helps to prevent minority fracturing or dividing of  
22 a concentration of minorities among two or more  
23 districts requiring mapmakers to consider creating  
24 crossover districts, coalition districts or  
25 influence districts.

1           What are crossover districts, coalition  
2 districts and influence districts?

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

6           A coalition district brings multiple racial  
7 or language minority groups together to elect a  
8 candidate of their choice.

9           An influence district allows a group to  
10 influence an election outcome without being the  
11 majority population in a district.

12           These new state law requirements come into  
13 play only after compliance with Federal law and the  
14 U.S. and State Constitutional requirements under  
15 redistricting.

16           In addition, the law enures transparency by  
17 requiring public hearings across the state, one of  
18 which we are having right now. The hearings will  
19 provide the space for residents to share their  
20 thoughts on the redistricting process, a key  
21 component to creating a map that best represents the  
22 people of Illinois. At the end of the presentation,  
23 we will display an e-mail address on the screen  
24 where you can submit your ideas for our  
25 consideration. The Committee is also accepting



1 written testimony for documentation today.

2 So now that we have covered the  
3 redistricting process, let's take a look at the  
4 Census data that will be used to draw the new  
5 districts.

6 All of the maps you are going to see are  
7 drawn by using Census blocks, which is the smallest  
8 level of geography the Census Bureau uses to report  
9 population data. As of the 2010 Census, the total  
10 population of the State of Illinois is 12,830,632,  
11 as compared to the state's 2000 total population of  
12 12,419,293, an increase of about 410,000. The  
13 counties with the largest population by percentage  
14 increase since 2000 are Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall  
15 and Will Counties.

16 Demographically speaking, Illinois has seen  
17 a lot of change over the past decade. The white  
18 population has risen statewide by .6 percent to  
19 8,167,753.

20 Illinois' African-American population was  
21 fallen statewide by .6 percent to 1,832,924.

22 Illinois' Hispanic population, though, has  
23 risen statewide by 32.5 percent to a total of  
24 2,027,578.

25 Illinois' Asian population has also risen

1 statewide by 38.6 percent to 580,586.

2 Now, we will look at the Rockford Metro  
3 Area which consists of Rockford, Belvidere, New  
4 Milford, Loves Park and others that you will see on  
5 this map.

6 In 2000 the area's population was 245,218.  
7 In the last ten years, the area's population has  
8 increased to 256,172.

9 In 2000, the area's Hispanic population was  
10 21,937. In 2010, the Hispanic population -- the 2010  
11 Hispanic population shown here is 36,296. The  
12 Hispanic minority group is the largest minority in  
13 this area.

14 Now, here is a map of the area's  
15 African-American population. In 2000, this area's  
16 African-American population was 28,064. The total  
17 African-American population of the area for 2010 is  
18 33,737.

19 And finally, here is the map of the area's  
20 Asian population. In 2000, the Asian population was  
21 4,302. In the last ten years, the Asian population  
22 increased to 6,242.

23 Combined, the minority population of these  
24 cities is 76,275, nearly 30 percent of the area's  
25 total population.

1           Here are some slides showing more of the  
2 region, total population for 2000, 2010.

3           All right. Thank you very much for  
4 attending today's hearing and coming to share your  
5 thoughts and opinions with us. If you have any  
6 comments, you can e-mail us at  
7 [ilredistricting@gmail.com](mailto:ilredistricting@gmail.com) or visit our website  
8 [www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting). Thanks.

9           REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, Katie.  
10 Appreciate the presentation.

11           We are joined by Senator Johnson who is  
12 going to join us at the table. We are honored to  
13 have you here. Anyone want to bring the lights up?

14           I'd like to go now to taking some public  
15 comments, and I would ask -- we are going to go  
16 first with the list of people who had pre-signed up,  
17 and then we have quite a few witnesses that wanted  
18 to make some comments on the current maps or any  
19 changes they'd like to see. So we will start out  
20 with Lenny Jacobson who is an alderman in the City  
21 of Rockford on behalf of Mayor Morrissey.

22           So Mr. Jacobson will join us at the front.  
23 Lenny, if you'd join us at the podium. And then for  
24 the record, state and spell your name for our court  
25 reporter.

1 MR. JACOBSON: Thank you. I will. Alderman  
2 Lenny Jacobson, L-e-o-n-a-r-d, Jacobson,  
3 J-a-c-o-b-s-o-n, 6th Ward Alderman City of Rockford.  
4 And with that, good afternoon.

5 An thank you for the opportunity to speak  
6 before you today on behalf of the Mayor Morrissey  
7 and the Rockford City Council. My name is Alderman  
8 Lenny Jacobson, and I have served on the City  
9 Council as alderman for the City of Rockford for  
10 over 28 years. I have been through many  
11 redistricting efforts, and I currently serve as  
12 chairman of the Redistricting Committee for the City  
13 of Rockford.

14 First, I would like to explain to you how  
15 we will be going about redistricting at the local  
16 level. Of course, the Mayor and the City Council of  
17 Rockford are responsible for using 2010 Census  
18 redistricting data to withdraw -- excuse me, to  
19 redraw boundaries of our municipal wards which will  
20 be used to elect a new City Council in the next  
21 election.

22 Localized Census data collected during the  
23 2010 Census process has been released for Illinois.  
24 This data will contain population demographic data  
25 for the entire City of Rockford as well as smaller

1 units such as Census tracks and Census plots. The  
2 Redistricting Committee that I chaired along with  
3 city staff will utilize existing geographic  
4 information system, GIS files, and this new  
5 population data to determine the current population  
6 size of all 14 wards and in turn, suggest any  
7 boundary revisions.

8 Population of all new wards should be  
9 within plus or minus four percent of the number that  
10 is equal to a total 2010 Census population for the  
11 City of Rockford divided by 14.

12 The wards that have experienced the  
13 greatest growth or in which growth is anticipated  
14 over the next ten years should have population  
15 totals at the low end of the average ward population  
16 number. In order to account for population growth  
17 until the next redistricting, minority  
18 representation is extremely important to us with  
19 regards to redistricting.

20 With any new redistricting, I will direct  
21 staff to include in the calculations for any new  
22 wards the percentage of minority population so that  
23 the committee can take this into account in making a  
24 recommendation to the full City Council. Public  
25 hearings of the proposed redistricting plan will be

1 held to obtain input from our citizens. The  
2 redistricting plan will be approved and submitted to  
3 the local Board of Education in advance of the next  
4 city election which will take place in April of  
5 2013.

6 Beyond our local redistricting process, how  
7 our State and Federal Legislative districts are  
8 redrawn is vitally important us to us as well.  
9 Currently, the entire City of Rockford is part of  
10 the 16th Congressional District of Illinois  
11 represented by Congressman Don Manzullo. At the  
12 Senate level, the City of Rockford is part of the  
13 67th, 68th and 69th Illinois House District  
14 represented respectively by Charles Jefferson, Dave  
15 Winters and Joe Sosnowski.

16 With respect to the Senate District, the  
17 City of Rockford is part of the 34th and 35th  
18 Illinois Senate District represented respectively by  
19 Dave Syverson and Christine Johnson.

20 As one of Illinois' largest cities and the  
21 center -- or the second largest metropolitan area in  
22 our state, it is important that Rockford's  
23 representation at the state and Federal level be  
24 unified in the smallest amount of legislative  
25 district as possible. That way, citizens of

1 Rockford can elect representatives that more  
2 directly reflect our community's interests and  
3 concerns.

4           It is critically important that boundaries  
5 are drawn to reflect our demographics and perhaps  
6 more importantly to reflect the urban issues and  
7 concerns that we deal with on a daily basis, whether  
8 that is unemployment, poverty, crime, education,  
9 infrastructure, economic development or the  
10 environment. With that said, district lines should  
11 be exact, contiguous and impartial to political  
12 party and incumbency. And district lines should  
13 follow county, township and municipal boundaries  
14 whenever possible.

15           At the local level, we will utilize a  
16 redistricting process that is data-driven,  
17 transparent inclusive to the public so that our  
18 final redistricting map reflects ample geographic,  
19 racial and political diversity for our entire  
20 community. We encourage the State of Illinois to  
21 follow these same principles when drawing the new  
22 Federal and State legislative districts in order to  
23 strengthen our democratic process.

24           Thank you again for the opportunity to  
25 comment on such an important topic for our State of

1 Illinois. Thank you folks.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Jacobson. Are there any questions from members  
4 of the committee? Thank you for your --

5 MR. JACOBSON: I have submitted a copy for your  
6 convenience.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Anyone who has written  
8 testimony as well, if you would, when you're  
9 finished giving testimony, please leave that -- a  
10 copy with the staff that will be included with the  
11 record as well. Ann Thompson-Kelly, Alderman, City  
12 of Rockford.

13 MS. THOMPSON-KELLY: I won't be speaking.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Okay. Thank you for  
15 joining with us.

16 Linda McNealey. Scott Christiansen,  
17 Chairman of Winnebago County. Mr. Christiansen,  
18 welcome. If you would state your name for the  
19 record and please spell it for our court reporter.

20 MR. CHRISTIANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County Board,  
22 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n-s-e-n. Pleased to be here.

23 One clarification on behalf of Metro  
24 counties, if I might, we just met recently in  
25 Springfield. The July 1 date is very tough for



1 County. Some of this block information is just  
2 starting to be available in doing our own maps. I  
3 don't know if there is something you can do with  
4 that legislative -- that makes it very tough because  
5 if we don't pass it July 1, we lose control, and  
6 that's not a good thing.

7 Beyond that, I would just appeal to a sense  
8 of fairness. The idea of minority representation is  
9 certainly important to us. We had a shift here in  
10 this County plus our Board now by virtue of a  
11 referenda overwhelmingly calling for single member  
12 districts and reducing the size of our Board from 28  
13 serving from -- two members from 14 districts each  
14 to a single member. And the Boards in those  
15 discussions, as we speak as, far as somewhere around  
16 20 seems to be the number. So it's going to have a  
17 whole different look to it than it has in the past.

18 Again, having said that, I know there was  
19 a -- you know, a fair map legislation last year that  
20 failed down there. I'm certain you're all honorable  
21 people. And my good friend, Jim Sacia,  
22 Representative I know always an upright citizen.  
23 But I got to say, and I think you'll understand, I  
24 mean, how serious are we about transparency and  
25 fairness? That's -- I think that's a legitimate

1 question.

2           There was an opportunity to go on record  
3 with that fair map vote last year that didn't get  
4 taken advantage of. So please, I guess I implore  
5 you, please don't make this an exercise in futility  
6 and just waste our time going around. We  
7 appreciate -- any time you are here, we will be here  
8 to give you input. But I'm concerned about an  
9 integrity of this process that ultimately ended up a  
10 handful of people take care of the situation anyway.

11           So with that, thanks for being in Winnebago  
12 County. We appreciate it, and get on that Worker  
13 Comp reform, please. Any questions?

14           REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you. Do we have  
15 any questions? Okay. Thanks for your kindness.

16           John Cabello, member of the Winnebago  
17 County Board. Mr. Cabello.

18           MR. CABELLO: Good afternoon. I was under the  
19 understanding that we had two minutes. So instead  
20 of talking real slow, I'll keep with the two  
21 minutes.

22           REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Fair enough, and if you  
23 would.

24           MR. CABELLO: My name is John Cabello, and I'm a  
25 member of the Winnebago County Board, recently

1 elected in November of 2010. Prior to that, I was  
2 an elected official with -- as Trustee for Harwood  
3 Township. Both these elected offices involved  
4 representing people who live in the current 68th  
5 House District. I also ran as a republican -- in  
6 the republican primary for the 68th House District  
7 seat.

8 I am very familiar with the district that I  
9 currently live in and with the needs of the people  
10 who reside in the District. I almost -- I'm almost  
11 a life-long resident of the area and currently serve  
12 on the Rockford police department as a detective.

13 As the Legislature contemplates, the  
14 boundaries of this and other districts, I think it  
15 is important that you provide opportunities like  
16 this for public participation and input throughout  
17 the process. People need to have a say in who  
18 represents them as well as the composition of the  
19 district.

20 The current 68th District is largely  
21 considered suburban. Though Rockford has its own  
22 unique challenges and concerns, the makeup of the  
23 district as it is currently comprised should remain  
24 largely intact. The suburban aspect of the district  
25 along with the rural areas are consistent in the

1 needs and wants of the residents of the district.

2 I think it is important to recognize the  
3 uniqueness of the needs of a city like Rockford as  
4 well as the needs of the majority of the people in  
5 the current district. And I think it is a  
6 disservice to a representative and to the  
7 constituents to limit the amount of issues that the  
8 representatives need to focus on.

9 I believe that a truly representative  
10 process needs to be undertaken here. I would  
11 suggest that the maps are drawn, that people in the  
12 districts get an opportunity to understand the  
13 process and to provide input.

14 Thank you for your time and opportunity to  
15 speak for you today.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, Mr. Cabello.  
17 No questions from the members of the Committee.

18 I would ask Elsie Wilson, member of the  
19 Winnebago County Board to join us.

20 MS. WILSON: I'll pass.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for coming in  
22 and joining us. John Guevara, member of the  
23 Winnebago County Board. Hello, John. Thank you for  
24 joining us.

25 MR. GUEVARA: Hello. It's a little cold, so I'm

1 going to keep my jacket on. My name is John  
2 Guevara, J-o-h-n, G-u-e-v as in Victor, a-r-a.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Proceed.

4 MR. GUEVARA: I was actually born in Chicago but  
5 moved to Winnebago County in 1983, lived in this  
6 area ever since, did a brief four-year stint in New  
7 Jersey for school. But other than that, I've been  
8 here. I live in northwest Rockford now. So I'm  
9 pretty much an urban guy. I am part of -- live in  
10 the 68th House District, like Mr. Cabello before me.  
11 But you know, my needs are a little more unique, I  
12 think, to that particular district than his are  
13 than -- than to most of the district.

14 But at the same time -- in the end,  
15 issues -- it depends on the issue, and we have to be  
16 willing to see what that funnel looks like and have  
17 those discussions similar to the discussion that we  
18 are having today, being willing to go and say okay,  
19 if we are going to talk about what districts are  
20 going to look like, are we willing to talk about  
21 what macro issues are and how important they are to  
22 the community. Are we going to talk about every  
23 single micro issue, probably not. What most folks  
24 are as concerned about how a sub-city is going to  
25 look in a certain geographic area. But macro

1 issues, definitely.

2 I was very pleased to hear about  
3 transparency and that the map would be -- or at  
4 least a very rough draft of the map would be in  
5 people's hands.

6 Transparency is a unique word. It should  
7 be a zero somewhere, but sometimes it can fade to  
8 opaqueness depending on certain factors. So  
9 openness I think is a word I would prefer. And the  
10 amount of time that folks have to see the map and  
11 putting it online so folks can have more time to  
12 view it would be an enormous -- put enormous amount  
13 of trust in the process and amount of faith in the  
14 process. And I think that is something to look  
15 forward to, and so it's something I look for.

16 Minority representation. I'm the chairman  
17 of the Winnebago County republican National Hispanic  
18 Assembly and interim Vice Chairman of the Illinois  
19 Republican National Hispanic Assembly and -- as such  
20 minority representation is important and should be  
21 considered, you know, across all races and  
22 ethnicities. And I do find that significant.

23 With that, I want to thank you for what  
24 you're doing here. I would love to see, as I said  
25 before, across -- a broader spectrum of issues.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Questions?

2 Representative Winters has a question, please.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: John, first, just to  
4 set it straight, we have asked for openness and  
5 having the map out in the public. We haven't yet  
6 got -- at least from the House, I don't believe  
7 there has been any public statement there is any  
8 time frame that they will be out there.

9 Ten years ago, I believe Currie 1 map, the  
10 initial map was out and was later revised. But your  
11 statement, you thanked us for the transparency, it  
12 has not yet been baked. It's not completely sure  
13 that we will have it out, unless Frank wants to tell  
14 us the day that it will.

15 Do we have -- and do we have any -- has  
16 there been any direction from the House leadership  
17 whether there will be public hearings on the  
18 proposed map before we see it in the General  
19 Assembly?

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: At this point, there  
21 haven't. We are -- right now, we are doing the  
22 information gathering. We are going to do 15  
23 meetings through here and then try and get together  
24 with the Senate to agree on nested districts for it.  
25 So it's impossible for me to -- I don't know what a

1 time frame would be. So we would hope to do that.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Is the Senate drawing a  
3 separate map at this point or --

4 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Well, they are actually  
5 having hearings at the same time that we are. And  
6 their public station is being utilized as well. And  
7 so, would our structure, we have to have nested  
8 districts. So that means two representative  
9 districts into one Senate district all have to be  
10 equal in size. It's pretty -- well, you're going  
11 through the same thing right now on the County  
12 Board. So you understand the issues.

13 MR. GUEVARA: Yes.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: And we will do our best  
15 for that.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Thanks, Frank.

17 MR. GUEVARA: Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: For the -- Norma Joseph  
19 is joining with us. Norma is the vice president of  
20 the Rockford NAACP. Welcome. Will you join us down  
21 front?

22 And I would also ask for our stenographer,  
23 if you could speak up a little bit into the mic. We  
24 are having a -- we need to get the information and  
25 people are speaking rather softly.



1 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Is it on?

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Yes, it is. Welcome.

3 MS. JOSEPH: Thank you. My name is Norma  
4 Joseph, N-o-r-m-a, J-o-s-e-p-h. And I am the First  
5 Vice President of the Rockford branch of the NAACP,  
6 and I'm also the second Chair for the Illinois State  
7 Conference of NAACP.

8 I'm here today to represent not only the  
9 Rockford branch but the Illinois State Conference of  
10 the NAACP with 37 branches throughout the State of  
11 Illinois.

12 Like others in this room, the members of  
13 the NAACP are extremely concerned with the  
14 redistricting process. We believe that the Illinois  
15 voting ranks -- Voting Act of 2011 promises a fair  
16 redistricting process for all registered minorities  
17 if it is properly implemented. We have read the  
18 Voting Rights Act of 2011 to require the Legislature  
19 to create a crossover, coalition or influence  
20 district where it is not feasible to create a  
21 majority minority district and where doing so is  
22 otherwise consistent with other redistricting edits  
23 in the United States Constitution.

24 The NAACP's position is that the Voting  
25 Rights Act of 2011 serves as a protection against

1 the gerrymandering of the black vote. Thus, our  
2 first minimum prerequisite for a fair redistricting  
3 process is that the Illinois Voting Rights Act of  
4 2011 be followed.

5           However, for a vote to be meaningful, it  
6 must be effective. And as stated by the  
7 African-Americans for Legislative redistricting, a  
8 vote is only as effective as the boundaries of the  
9 district in which it is cast. We too believe that  
10 the 2001 mapping was effective for African-American  
11 voters in Illinois and in most instances, agree that  
12 it should be maintained.

13           The 2001 map did help to produce the first  
14 black state Senate president in Illinois history.  
15 And it did create the district from which Barack  
16 Obama launched his U.S. Senate campaign which, in  
17 turn, made his precedency possible. And therefore,  
18 it is our also our position that this map is  
19 something to be proud of and that works, not only  
20 for African-Americans, but it works well for the  
21 State of Illinois as a whole and has an impact  
22 nationally as well.

23           Under the 2001 map, black legislators have  
24 chaired important committees such as insurance,  
25 elementary and secondary education, appropriations,

1 small business empowerment and workforce, housing,  
2 financial institutions, revenue, health, human  
3 services and pension and investments. Throughout  
4 the past decade, many of the hundreds of bills  
5 sponsored by the African-American Legislators have  
6 had a particular focus and impact on the minority  
7 communities throughout Illinois.

8 I would like to conclude this testimony by  
9 remarking on two other concerns. First, we  
10 understand it is the practice of Illinois to count  
11 prison inmates as residents of localities in which  
12 they are in prison. Because Black inmates are  
13 residents of localities in which they are in  
14 prison -- because Blacks and Latinos consist --  
15 constituents area disproportionately higher share of  
16 the State and Federal prison population in Illinois,  
17 we believe this practice is harmful to minority  
18 interests in the redistricting process.

19 Therefore, another minimum prerequisite for  
20 fair districting is to count inmates as residents of  
21 the locality from which they have come and to which  
22 most of them return. This is the current practice  
23 in other large racially diverse states such as  
24 Maryland and New York. It is inequitable to return  
25 them to communities without the resources to assist

1 them and successful reintegration which proves  
2 harmful to all of the residents in these communities  
3 and ultimately our society as a whole. We strongly  
4 urge that this policy be changed.

5 Finally, although we are aware that the  
6 Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 does not  
7 expressively apply to Congressional Districts, we  
8 assert that the same assertion afforded to the  
9 states does apply to Congressional redistricting as  
10 well. We believe as a final minimum prerequisite  
11 for fair redistricting that the Legislature should  
12 apply the basic framework of the Illinois Voting  
13 Rights Act of 2011 to its Congressional  
14 redistricting.

15 The NAACP is looking forward to  
16 participating in further hearings, and we thank you  
17 for your time. Hears a copy of my --

18 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
19 testimony. Do we have any questions? Thank you.

20 Next, we will hear from the President of La  
21 Voz Latina of Rockford, Patricia Gomez. La Voz.  
22 Welcome.

23 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you very much. And thank you  
24 for the opportunity to comment on the redistricting.  
25 I certainly agree with the speakers to appeal for --

1 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: If I could ask you if  
2 you would bring the mic a little closer.

3 MS. GOMEZ: I'm sorry. Okay.

4 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: Spell your name.

5 MS. GOMEZ: Yes. Patricia Gomez,  
6 P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, G-o-m-e-z, from La Voz Latina in  
7 Rockford, and I certainly agree with the speakers  
8 who spoke with fairness, compactness, contiguity  
9 representation of everyone. And then, I also wanted  
10 to encourage the State of Illinois to adhere to the  
11 principles of fairness for communities of interest.

12 And then I also -- the -- I think, you  
13 know, the conversation about redistricting should  
14 eliminate the purpose of elected officials which is  
15 to serve all of the persons who live in the State of  
16 Illinois. And so all of the persons are not  
17 necessarily all of the voters.

18 The Census counts all of the persons.  
19 There are children who don't vote. There are  
20 immigrants who don't vote. And yet, all of them are  
21 people who are represented and who you are elected  
22 to serve. Much of the growth in persons in Illinois  
23 has come from immigrants. If it were not for the  
24 immigrants, many of the districts would have  
25 actually lost a total number of people. And I have

1 numbers for every single district that I'll be able  
2 to submit in my written testimony.

3 I also want to talk about immigrants as  
4 being considered communities of interest under the  
5 Voting Act of 1965. And the -- so I appreciate the  
6 comments from the NAACP and also that MALDEF,  
7 Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
8 and other groups are very concerned about following  
9 through on the new Illinois Voting Rights Act of  
10 2011.

11 As described, this was signed in April,  
12 provides that in the redistricting process, lines  
13 shall be drawn to create crossover districts,  
14 coalition districts or influenced districts as was  
15 mentioned. And here is how they are defined. A  
16 crossover district is one where racial minority or  
17 language minority constitutes less than the majority  
18 of the voting age population but where this minority  
19 at least potentially is large enough to elect a  
20 candidate of its choice with help from voters who  
21 are members of the majority and who cross over to  
22 support the minority's preferred candidate.

23 A coalition district means a district where  
24 more than one group of racial minorities or language  
25 minorities may form a coalition to elect the

1 candidate of their choice.

2           And an influenced district is one where  
3 racial minority or language minority can influence  
4 the outcome of election even if the preferred  
5 candidate cannot be elected.

6           There was a -- there was a kind of a  
7 disturbing public letter yesterday in the Rockford  
8 Register Star. It was about redistricting for --  
9 the entire focus was on democrats and republicans,  
10 and, you know, if you want this guy to stay in  
11 power, you ought to do this. And I think that it  
12 kind of burned my biscuits, you know. It kind of  
13 upset me because I thought that's where the  
14 conversation is not supposed to go. This is a time  
15 to talk to children, to talk to everybody about what  
16 we stand for, about what representing the people  
17 stands for, about what people having rights stands  
18 for.

19           And it -- you know, it just -- what 200  
20 some years of history of our country means. And I  
21 think I was around during the Voting Act of 1965,  
22 and I appreciate people who, you know, did not have  
23 rights or did not feel represented. And so then we  
24 still continue making sure that everybody is  
25 represented.

1           Now, because -- it's because really, I  
2 think, of that Voting Rights Act of 2011 that we  
3 have these four public hearings in the State of  
4 Illinois. It would be good if there was some way in  
5 which people could participate a little more fully  
6 in the process and if there could be hearings after  
7 the lines are drawn or some way for people to  
8 continue to weigh in.

9           So I guess that was the main thing that I  
10 had to say, and I really appreciate very much your  
11 listening to my comments. And I'll send you a  
12 written copy. Thank you.

13           REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you. And we  
14 appreciate that. Any members questions? Thank you.  
15 And also, any members wishing to -- or anyone  
16 wishing to submit written testimony can do so with  
17 our staff and also the two -- two stations, and if  
18 you wish to draw maps and submit those, you may do  
19 those as well.

20           Next, we will hear from Mary Castro. Mary.

21           REPRESENTATIVE SOSNOWSKI: While she is coming,  
22 you mentioned as far as people being able to draw a  
23 map, is there information available at the table or  
24 somewhere where they can look at that the districts  
25 have changed? Indicating the numbers, I'm sorry.



1 REPRESENTATIVE: Will those be available on the  
2 website?

3 MR. KEIGHER: They are on the website.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: They are on the  
5 website, and we have the websites listed out on the  
6 table and also the addresses of the public stations  
7 where you can go and actually design your own map.  
8 We have had people come to these hearings. One,  
9 incidentally that -- not -- no disrespect to  
10 Representative Beaubien. We like Representative  
11 Beaubien, but in McHenry County, his house was not  
12 included in Representative Beaubien's district. So  
13 he brought a map of Frank Street, and he submitted  
14 that. And that we can go to that level of detail.  
15 So I mean, those are things out there that are  
16 available.

17 Is Mary here? We will go back to Mary.

18 Next, we would hear from Jane Klass. Is  
19 Jane with us, Klass.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: She is there.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Alvin Alexander. Is  
23 Alvin with us? Please, step to the mic. If you  
24 would speak directly into the mic just so that we  
25 can pick it up on the recordings as well as the

1 stenographer. Can you spell your name?

2 MR. ALEXANDER: Thanks. I'm Alvin Alexander,  
3 that's spelled A-l-v-i-n, A-l-e-x-a-n-d-e-r.

4 I'm here with concern for the process of  
5 redistricting. It tends to be a very partizan  
6 process and with failure of the process that was  
7 offered last year in the legislation.

8 My greatest concern is that for the  
9 citizens that they have a chance to review whatever  
10 map that's decided upon to review that and comment  
11 on it before a final decision is made. Again, I'm a  
12 resident of Rockford, long-life resident of  
13 Rockford. And in this County, we have -- are  
14 represented by large and small manufacturing base.  
15 We have a thriving airport system that's grown even  
16 in spite of the economic downturn. With the  
17 redistricting, this could change.

18 Losing state representatives and the  
19 support that could possibly even go to Peotone and  
20 continue seeing businesses migrate to surrounding  
21 states.

22 Again, I just hope that you will consider  
23 making this process as transparent and open to all  
24 people of the community. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, Alvin. Are

1 there any questions? Thank you for your comments.

2 Let's see. We will next hear from James  
3 Thompson. James, welcome, sir.

4 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: James is with  
6 the Winnebago County Republication Central  
7 Committee. Spell your name for the stenographer.

8 MR. THOMPSON: James Thompson, J-a-m-e-s,  
9 Thompson, T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

10 And no, I'm not the ex-governor.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I was holding back from  
12 actually saying that.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Uncle Jim and I don't look alike.  
14 Although, I knew your father, and I grew up where  
15 you are from, Mr. Mautino.

16 Good afternoon. My name is James C.  
17 Thompson. I'm a local attorney, and have been a  
18 resident of Winnebago County for over 22 years. I'm  
19 also Vice Chair of the County's Republican Central  
20 Committee serving in that office for five years and  
21 in the organization for 20 years. I thank you for  
22 the opportunity to speak today.

23 We believe that it is imperative that the  
24 redistricting process incorporates and maintains  
25 what works in our state and eliminates what does not

1 work. It is difficult to address a topic in a  
2 vacuum, as there are no proposed maps which have  
3 been released for the public to review.

4 To afford our citizens the proper input for  
5 such a process, there should be an abundance of  
6 transparency in the redistricting plan, including  
7 public hearings such as this once a map has been  
8 proposed allowing ample time for public review,  
9 comment and consideration before any vote by a  
10 committee of the Legislature on a new map.

11 Based on Representative Sacia's comments, I  
12 think that we can expect something along those  
13 lines.

14 Winnebago County is comprised of one major  
15 metropolitan area, Rockford, several smaller cities,  
16 Loves Park, Roscoe, Rockton, Machesney Park,  
17 villages and rural communities. Its neighboring  
18 counties are similar as each has a larger city,  
19 Freeport in Stephenson County, Belvidere in Boone  
20 and Rochelle in Ogle County and many smaller cities  
21 and rural communities.

22 As a result, each county in this region has  
23 a cross section of a variety of citizens and  
24 businesses, urban and rural residents, large  
25 corporations and smaller companies, sole

1 proprietorships and farmers. We have certainly  
2 opportunities for higher learning, choices in  
3 education at other levels and entertainment or  
4 leisure events ranging from county fairs to golf  
5 courses to symphonies to nationally known artists.

6           As a result what benefits the area as a  
7 whole, benefits all as a whole. We are not  
8 comprised of one type of business or citizen. And  
9 it is our diversity that makes this area a desirable  
10 place to live. We in Winnebago County presently are  
11 represented by three state Senators and four  
12 Representatives many of whom are here today.  
13 Representative Winters, Jefferson, Sosnowski as well  
14 as Senator Syverson and Johnson represent the  
15 majority of our county's population, while Senator  
16 Tim Bivins and Representative Sacia represent the  
17 western portion of Winnebago County.

18           The current map provides each  
19 representative has one major municipality in his  
20 district, although Rockford is divided in two due to  
21 its size. And most include smaller cities in rural  
22 areas that create a fair cross section of the  
23 populous. Each Senator is similarly situated with  
24 both major municipal residents and with rural and  
25 small communities.

1           It is imperative to maintain the present  
2 level of representation in Springfield for the  
3 Winnebago County area. The Rockford metropolitan  
4 region contains two large a populous to be served by  
5 only two Legislative districts, and both Winnebago  
6 and Boone Counties have shown an increase in  
7 population as have other regions in the state. This  
8 is unlike Chicago which with an over 200,000  
9 reduction in its citizens, should lose two  
10 representative districts.

11           The combination of our current districts  
12 result in Winnebago County representation that  
13 includes those who represent Freeport and Belvidere  
14 and DeKalb. This allows for a strong presence in  
15 Springfield for those interests in Northwestern  
16 Illinois, that northern part of downstate Illinois.

17           Given Rockford is the largest municipality  
18 in the state outside Cook and the collar counties,  
19 the current boundaries generate a group of  
20 legislators that have both municipal and rural  
21 centers, large and small companies in their  
22 district. Both of the halves which make up Illinois  
23 and which must be allowed to continue in a stronger  
24 voice at the capital.

25           Separating the County into a different

1 district makeup could divide this current area  
2 pitting Belvidere against Rockford on such common  
3 items as high-speed rail or other transportation and  
4 business interests. And it would certainly harm the  
5 constituents in the area of the area in so doing.

6 A redistricting map which preserves the  
7 current boundaries or which modify those only as  
8 necessary to comply with population requirements  
9 will maintain a strong and vibrant voice for  
10 northwestern Illinois in Springfield. Not only will  
11 it promote the goals and benefits of the citizens of  
12 the Winnebago County area, but it would also benefit  
13 the state in general due to the unique -- pardon me  
14 unique makeup of the area and a combination of large  
15 and small business and municipal organizations.

16 I hope that another meeting of this type  
17 will be called after a map is proposed by the House  
18 to allow for meaningful input. A decade ago in  
19 addition to the statewide hearings a website allowed  
20 citizens to view proposals and contact legislative  
21 leaders directly. I hope that site will be coming  
22 up shortly.

23 Despite the promise of transparency, I have  
24 concerns. I do hope that this process does not  
25 follow the example of democratic leadership in

1 Washington where we pass a bill and then let people  
2 read it including the Legislators.

3 Again, I thank you for your time, and I  
4 will submit a copy of my written comments.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you. Questions?  
6 Thank you. Appreciate your comments.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Mary Lo Castro,  
9 welcome. Thank you. Speak directly into the mic so  
10 we can get to a good voice level for you. Spell  
11 your name for the recorder.

12 MS. CASTRO: Good evening. My name is Mary Lou  
13 Castro, M-a-r-y, L-o-u, C-a-s-t-r-o. We were  
14 supposed to have Nancy Gonzalez representing LULAC.  
15 She is our local president. But she had an  
16 emergency in the family. So I'll be short and  
17 simple.

18 The idea that -- first of all, Chicago  
19 called us, LULAC Chicago, saying that we really  
20 don't have a 50 percent representation area in order  
21 to focus with, you know, that redistricting with  
22 respect to the elections. And yet, we need you to  
23 know that Rockford, the metro county, city, they  
24 have been diverse, they have been diverse forever.  
25 I've been here forever. And yet, the representation



1 even on your table isn't there.

2 I'm representing the Hispanic community of  
3 of this area, northern Illinois. We have a lot of  
4 issues. And they are not being focused. Nobody is  
5 approaching us. The idea of understanding our  
6 culture is very important. The idea of running for  
7 an election, the majority of the Hispanic community  
8 is Catholic. Catholics don't run for political  
9 positions. And why, because -- but Hispanic --

10 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Not Hispanic.

11 MS. CASTRO: Not Hispanic. And we let or allow  
12 our leaders in the church, you know, guide us more  
13 than anything, especially with issues as we all know  
14 within immigration. Huge issue nationally. And it  
15 hasn't been addressed.

16 And you know, we are working with 1960s  
17 immigration issues in the 2011 era. The idea that  
18 we know that there are positions that we don't need  
19 to get elected in, administration of city, some  
20 county positions, and yet we still don't see any  
21 representation. And if there is one like Mr. John,  
22 earlier, it's -- he's too individual. He's too on  
23 his own and probably controlled, literally.

24 We don't have in the City Council or the  
25 justice system a Hispanic judge or you know, any

1 assistance with respect to building up the trust  
2 that we lost. We lost that trust a long time ago  
3 because the issues aren't being looked upon. Even  
4 if we have a redistricting, I don't see or hear any  
5 promises or any actual proper talk with respect to  
6 getting this done accordingly to what the  
7 district -- redistricting map is going to show.

8           So like I said, I hope this is going to be  
9 justifiable, done correctly, democratically or  
10 republicanly or whatever, that's Spanglish for you.  
11 But we hope with time we will get closer and begin  
12 to communicate because that's the biggest issue,  
13 lack of communication, lack of knowledge of our  
14 community and more than anything, lack of trust.  
15 And that's never going to be built up if nobody  
16 approaches the Hispanic community. We are being  
17 kept in a corner.

18           So that's all I need to say for right now.  
19 Any questions, feel free to contact us.

20           REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Questions?  
21 Representative Sacia.

22           REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: I find your testimony  
23 very interesting. And just your comment that you  
24 feel that we don't -- when I say we, I mean I'm  
25 being collective, here don't reach out enough to the

1 Hispanic community, do you reach for us, and do  
2 you -- if -- when you do, do you feel that we are  
3 not responsive? I think -- you know, I -- that  
4 needs to be said.

5 MS. CASTRO: Yeah. We have had Hispanics run  
6 locally. And the only votes they get are from  
7 Hispanics. They don't get any other community  
8 voting for them. And this is a republican  
9 individual that was running. So there is a lack of  
10 thinking because they are Hispanic, they don't have  
11 any knowledge or they are not educated or they  
12 shouldn't be in any position.

13 So we -- we have run for several positions,  
14 and yet, the vote isn't there. And I think it's the  
15 lack of our culture that they don't -- they are not  
16 aware of it.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: I find that extremely  
18 interesting, and I'm certainly not debating you.  
19 But you know, we have seen the African-American  
20 community make very strong inroads. And I  
21 personally feel -- well, if you -- I'm sure you saw  
22 the map earlier. The Hispanic growth throughout the  
23 Rockford area is very, very significant.

24 That being said, you know, I think if you  
25 feel the good candidates, the opportunities will be

1 there, and certainly -- I guess -- I hope I'm not  
2 naive, but I think that Hispanics would have the  
3 same opportunity that a Caucasian or an  
4 African-American or whoever would have. So I just  
5 find your comments quite interesting.

6 MS. CASTRO: Yeah. And like I said, it's  
7 because of the religious effect. We are not so much  
8 into the running for election position, but we are  
9 very concerned that in other areas where you don't  
10 have to run for positions, that the representation  
11 isn't there. It's zero.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: But I still go back to  
13 the comment you made earlier that we need to reach  
14 out to you. I think if you reach out to us, you'd  
15 be surprised, I really do.

16 MS. CASTRO: Yeah. We have reached out. We  
17 have been there. We have paid our taxes. We  
18 have -- you know, abide by the laws like everybody  
19 else. We are following. And with the  
20 African-American community, with the Civil Rights  
21 issues also, and we are still not being placed as  
22 equals.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: I'd also like to make a  
25 comment. I don't need the mic probably, but we

1 already have a Hispanic, John Guevara, on the  
2 Winnebago County Board. Republican Jori Padilla ran  
3 against Chuck several years ago, another Hispanic  
4 leader in this community. I served on the La Voz  
5 Latina Board for probably eight or ten years, I  
6 don't think how long with, Pat.

7 I think you have -- you have inroads.  
8 Maybe you don't have many candidates. But the thing  
9 is get engaged politically. The Hispanic numbers in  
10 this metropolitan area are as large as the  
11 African-American numbers. We would love to see a  
12 primary.

13 MS. CASTRO: We are larger. But the idea that,  
14 you know -- thank God Pat is with us and has held  
15 ground, but she is not Hispanic. And the idea of  
16 understanding the Hispanic community, you have to  
17 have at least some blood in order to represent the  
18 community. And nothing against, Pat, she is a  
19 wonderful person and yet, on the Board also there is  
20 very few Hispanics at those levels.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: I believe it's close to  
22 half on the Board is Hispanic.

23 MS. CASTRO: And also the community, the Spanish  
24 community is more Mexican, from Mexico than from any  
25 other Latin American country or any Latin speaking

1 individual.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Well, just stay  
3 engaged, that's the message.

4 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON: I guess I have a  
5 question. You said none of the Legislators have  
6 reached out to you guys?

7 MS. CASTRO: Only Mr. Chuck Jefferson. He's  
8 backing us up. He's family. He's not only a rep,  
9 but he's family. You're welcome. Thank you for  
10 being here.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
12 comments. Okay.

13 For those who are pre-signed for comments,  
14 we have finished that portion of the agenda. Ryan,  
15 is it Brauns, Brauns, is here with us, and he is the  
16 Chairman of the City of Rockford Board of Election  
17 Commissioners. Brian, welcome.

18 MR. BRAUNS: Good evening, Senator,  
19 Representatives. My name is Ryan Brauns, R-y-a-n,  
20 last name B as in boy, r-a-u-n-s as in Sam.

21 Thank you for your time, and thank you for  
22 listening to today.

23 I take no position on the merits other than  
24 to say -- to urge expedition. From the election  
25 Commission's standpoint, we would like to see the

1 map come out as quickly as possible. I don't know  
2 if you have a deadline or if you've established a  
3 time certain when the map would be out. But from  
4 the Election Authority's standpoint, it takes at  
5 least 30 days to incorporate the new boundaries in  
6 order to change the codes, to log every voters on  
7 new information, get new ID cards out, et cetera.

8           We have other maps that we would be dealing  
9 with, and the County Board is making their maps as  
10 well. We have the City municipal map and the  
11 Rockford public schools will be following in 2012.  
12 So it's really your map and the County Board map  
13 that we'd like to get as quickly as possible and  
14 with petitions going to be passed probably in  
15 August, it's -- we are looking at 30 days prior to  
16 that, very minimum. So we are looking at a map some  
17 time in July, if we want to do it to the best of our  
18 ability and as accurately as possible.

19           Of course, we will deal with whatever you  
20 send us, and we will get the job done. But I'm here  
21 to encourage you do it as quickly as possible  
22 preferably sometime in July.

23           REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you, sir.

24           MR. BRAUNS: That's all I have.

25           REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: We would make a

1 prediction that there will be a map available for  
2 you by May 31 because it takes republican votes  
3 after that date. Okay. So --

4 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Well, that's the first  
5 target date within -- once then -- once you get  
6 beyond May 31, then you get to June 1, then a  
7 commission is formed which will be very similar to  
8 the 1992 map.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: Right.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: And the 2002 map where  
11 it went through the commission process. In 1992, it  
12 went to court. And actually, I think it was about  
13 three weeks from your print date it was finally  
14 settled. So we are aware of the deadlines.

15 MR. BRAUNS: All right. And we know -- we know  
16 you have very heady concerns in dealing with the  
17 maps. Sometimes when the Election Authority is --  
18 we feel like an afterthought. We'd like to become a  
19 forethought. Thank you very much.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: This is the portion  
21 that we call jump ball. We have gone through the --  
22 those who have asked to testify after the list  
23 itself. And I'd like to open it up to anyone who  
24 has joined with us who would like to come up and  
25 make a comment. We have an open mic.



1           Like I had said for everyone else, please  
2           identify yourself. Speak strongly into the mic so  
3           we can also pick it up on the recording. Everything  
4           will be transcribed, available on the websites  
5           including maps, testimony, and provide us with any  
6           written testimony. Ma'am, proceed.

7           MS. DUCKETT: First, I want to say that I did  
8           sign up earlier. You didn't call on me. Thank you.  
9           Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee for allowing  
10          me to speak.

11          REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Your name.

12          MS. DUCKETT: George Anne Duckett. That's  
13          George, G-e-o-r-g-e, next word is Anne, capital  
14          A-n-n-e, and then Duckett, D-u-c-k-e-t-t. And I'm  
15          the Chairman of the Northwestern Illinois Political  
16          Black Caucus, and I'm also the Winnebago County  
17          Board democratic caucus chair.

18                 I've come here today to ask you to keep in  
19          mind that this country has traveled to -- a long  
20          road and for opportunity for minority voters. The  
21          passing of the Voting Rights Act under the  
22          leadership of President Lyndon Johnson was not an  
23          easy task for one of the most monumental  
24          accomplishments of the United States of America.

25                 Due to the fact that minorities no longer

1 can be denied the right to vote, more  
2 African-Americans and Latino, Hispanics and other  
3 minorities are seeking to run for public office.  
4 This has allowed more minorities to be elected and  
5 represent a voice that was seldom heard in the  
6 political chambers at the local, state or Federal  
7 level of government.

8           The Voting Rights Act was made -- has made  
9 America a better place for me to live and has  
10 persuaded many young men and who are fighting three  
11 different wars to fight for this privilege, and they  
12 are willing to die for it.

13           Once again, I have -- once again, the time  
14 has come to redistrict our legislative boundaries.  
15 I believe this process is also important for  
16 minorities to feel they are part of the voting  
17 process. Minorities should also feel that they have  
18 the opportunity to elect their candidate.

19           Districts should not be broken up and  
20 diluted so that minorities feel as they -- as voters  
21 they have no power. The racial makeup of these  
22 districts can be blamed on past discrimination and  
23 redlining when it came to housing. These voters  
24 should not be denied their opportunity to have a  
25 strong voting district due to past injustices. That

1 is why it is imperative that the Committee sees the  
2 importance of minority participation in elections in  
3 selecting the new districts.

4 I hope by me coming here today I can remind  
5 you that the vestiges of discrimination of the past  
6 should not continue, and we must look to the future  
7 and make the redistricting a tool to encourage  
8 people to exercise their voting privileges with  
9 enthusiasm and patriotism.

10 But there is something else that I noticed  
11 today when I came in. And as I looked up there, I  
12 thought about an old song, it's rhythm and blues,  
13 called, "It's a Man's World." And I was so happy  
14 when Senator Johnson came in. Because, see, that's  
15 important, too, for a voice from women when we talk  
16 about these issues because there are some issues  
17 that go at a local level, state level and Federal  
18 level that include women. And I think we do get out  
19 there and vote, guys.

20 The other thing that I was listening to was  
21 about transparency. And you hear this all the time  
22 on the other party in -- is the majority. And so it  
23 kind of tickles me because I heard Scott come up,  
24 Christiansen and he's talking, we are working on  
25 redistricting now, but you know what, the Chairman

1 of the Democratic caucus hasn't been told that.

2           So you know what I'm saying is that it all  
3 kind of -- I guess it -- I don't know if it's a  
4 domino effect going down or going up, I don't know  
5 what happens. But I think that we all have to  
6 remember that we want Americans and people voters  
7 and residents to feel that it's important to vote.  
8 And part of the reason why they don't think it's  
9 important because they think everybody has already  
10 decided what they are going to do anyway.

11           I want this to be a process. And that's  
12 why I'm here today, to make sure that we make an  
13 inclusion of everyone. I'd like to see you come  
14 back and say this is what we plan do without  
15 deciding yet because I think this is important, too.

16           But I also remember that -- or think about  
17 it that right now, our president is going through  
18 the same rigamarole of well, there is no  
19 transparency, but they've forgotten when that other  
20 guy was in office, there was no transparency there  
21 either.

22           So all I can say is that I'm so glad you  
23 came. I'm so glad you've given all of us a voice in  
24 this process. And I hope and pray that it gets  
25 better and better every year or every ten years.

1 Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: George Anne, thank you  
3 very much for your comments. And I'm sorry, you did  
4 sign the witness slips.

5 MS. DUCKETT: I sure did.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Absolutely. And I  
7 appreciate your testimony. That was my fault.

8 MS. DUCKETT: That's okay.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you for coming.

10 MS. DUCKETT: You can make mistakes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Further comments as  
12 it's free. If you would like to come in, sir. Step  
13 up to the mic, and tell us your name.

14 MR. STARKS: My name is Marshall Starks,  
15 S-t-a-r-k-s.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you.

17 MR. STARKS: All right. You know, it brings to  
18 mind the definition of leadership, and then we go  
19 into gerrymander. Another definition. You got a  
20 lawyer up there? Can he give the definition of  
21 gerrymandering?

22 MR. FREIHEIT: Can I give you the definition of  
23 gerrymandering?

24 MR. STARKS: Yes, please.

25 MR. FREIHEIT: Not offhand, sir.

1           REPRESENTATIVE WINTERS: But you know when you  
2 see it.

3           MR. FREIHEIT: You know it when you see it.

4           MR. STARKS: Wow. Well, leadership is defined,  
5 what have you done for me lately. That's the  
6 definition of leadership, according to the way in  
7 which it has been established within this state.  
8 What have you done for me lately.

9                   Now, what occurs is every ten years, there  
10 is a Census. And with the Census, there becomes  
11 different districts that encompass different  
12 political ideas. And I think that this -- is this  
13 what the process is about here, I think. I believe.  
14 I believe.

15                   Now, how is it going to affect democratic  
16 parties, republican parties? How is it going to  
17 affect people? Democratic parties, republican  
18 parties are composed of people, and people have  
19 different needs, different wants. There are a bunch  
20 of people losing jobs out there. I'm throwing these  
21 things out, and I want feedback, hopefully.

22                   What made this area great? What made this  
23 area great? The people. The people made it great.  
24 There were a lot of very wealthy individuals --  
25 individuals -- a lot of wealthy individuals. We

1 aren't corporate like Chicago. We are not corporate  
2 like Chicago. We are individual families that were  
3 wealthy beyond. And then when the kids grew up and  
4 old folks passed on, the kids moved to Connecticut.  
5 That's where they are right now, Connecticut. Big  
6 time.

7 Well, I throw that out there. And these  
8 are things that are seeding inside of me. So I'm  
9 just bringing them out, and I'm throwing them all  
10 out because they involve what is -- what is  
11 happening now.

12 All of a sudden, the situation is changing  
13 and rearranging, and that always happens in life.  
14 It's happened in my life. It's happening probably  
15 in you all's life that are older. But that's what  
16 happens within the society, it changes and  
17 rearranges. And it's our intelligent decisions  
18 today. Tomorrow, we can say I'm sorry, like a lot  
19 of people right now are saying, I'm sorry because  
20 the economy is all messed up.

21 But being sorry is just sorry. I throw  
22 that out there. I say that within the constraints  
23 of how I have seen your redistricting pol -- or  
24 suggestions, I guess. Are they suggestions or are  
25 they real?

1 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: The constraints that we  
2 have to work with here, they are very real.

3 MR. STARKS: They are very real.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Your districts, Currie  
5 1, Currie 2 maps that is what we have right now.

6 MR. STARKS: And they are changing then  
7 rearranging.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Are down to basically a  
9 difference of maybe one person. So it's pretty  
10 close. And the Constitution says we have to have  
11 them that tight. So a Senate district and a House  
12 district together may have a difference of only one  
13 or two. That's a very tight -- and every time that  
14 changes, that impacts how much money is coming for  
15 roads, for bridges for schools, for --

16 MR. STARKS: And that's based on --

17 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: That's kind of why we  
18 are doing this.

19 MR. STARKS: And that's based upon the Census,  
20 right?

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: That's based upon the  
22 Census which have to be numerically basically the  
23 same.

24 MR. STARKS: Yes.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: As compact and



1 contiguous as possible within those constraints, and  
2 they have to guarantee that minority groups aren't  
3 disenfranchised.

4 MR. STARKS: So I still want to know the  
5 definition of gerrymandering.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Okay. Well, as far  
7 as --

8 MR. STARKS: Can somebody.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I'll leave that to the  
10 lawyers. I drove here trying to --

11 MR. STARKS: It used to be --

12 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Making it fit within  
13 those constraints, I think that's what --

14 MR. STARKS: Right. Right. And I am saying  
15 that things are changing and rearranging. And that  
16 happens all the time. It ain't something that just  
17 going to stay steady.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: I appreciate that.

19 MR. STARKS: Well, I'm just throwing it out to  
20 you. You guys got it, I guess. It's your ball.  
21 It's in your court.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Thank you so much.  
23 Appreciate your comments, sir.

24 MR. STARKS: Yeah.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Further comments?

1 Great.

2 Well, I want to thank everyone for coming  
3 out today. The -- there is 15 of these meetings. I  
4 think there is another one in Chicago tomorrow, and  
5 one in Rock Island. We have had them as far south  
6 as East St. Louis. Representative Colvin and I were  
7 in East St. Louis last night and then up to here.

8 So we'd like to hear your comments. Please  
9 utilize the websites, call our staffs, either staff,  
10 republican or democrats, it doesn't matter, you can  
11 submit items. Any member of the Redistricting  
12 Committee can accept changes in the maps, changes  
13 you'd like to see.

14 So thank you for being a part of this. I'd  
15 like to ask Jim Sacia if he'd like to make any  
16 closing comment, and thank you for giving your time  
17 and yourselves.

18 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Frank.

19 In closing, I, again, would like to thank  
20 you Frank and Marlow for traveling the distance to  
21 be out here with us and to our staff as well, Andrew  
22 Freiheit and the staff members who are here on  
23 behalf of the democratic parties.

24 Again, I just want to reiterate, the folks  
25 that are here tonight have an excellent working

1 relationship across the aisle. And we beg for that  
2 transparency as you do. And I know that the ladies  
3 and gentlemen who are here tonight will work very,  
4 very hard on that. And I'd just like to put a  
5 special thank you for Senator Christine Johnson for  
6 joining us as well. It was very kind of her to give  
7 her time to be part of those of us in the -- what do  
8 they call it, the lower House by you folks or  
9 something?

10 MR. COLVIN: House of commons.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: Okay. At this time,  
12 the hearing is going to stand in recess. I want to  
13 thank everyone for their participation, especially  
14 for the young lady in the first row. I hope you  
15 enjoyed the day. I hope we didn't put you to sleep.  
16 Thanks for coming.

17 If you need information on where you can go  
18 to those websites, it's available at the front table  
19 or contact us. Have a good evening, folks.

20 (Whereupon the proceedings were  
21 adjourned at 5:30 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )

2 ) SS:

3 COUNTY OF McHENRY )

4

5 JUDY CARLSON, being first duly sworn,  
6 on oath says that she is a court reporter doing  
7 business in the State of Illinois; and that she  
8 reported in shorthand the proceedings of said public  
9 hearing, and that the foregoing is a true and  
10 correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken  
11 as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings given at  
12 said public hearing.

13

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15 Certified Shorthand Reporter

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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