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ILLINOIS REDISTRICTING 2011
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE HEARING

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS HAD
HELD IN WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS
April 19, 2011

BEFORE: LOU LANG, Chairman
RITA MAYFIELD, State Representative
ELAINE NEKRITZ, State Representative
SIDNEY MATHIAS State Representative
MICHAEL FORTNER, Minority
Representative

[The public hearing commenced at 1:00 p.m.]

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1 CHAIRMAN LANG: Good afternoon. The
2 special House on Redistricting will come to order.
3 I am Representative Lou Lang from Skokie,
4 Illinois, the Deputy Majority Leader of the
5 Illinois House and Member of the Redistricting
6 Committee.

7 I will be chairing today's hearing.
8 I would like to recognize the following members
9 of House of the Redistricting Committee who are
10 present today.

11 On your far right is Representative
12 Rita Mayfield from this area.

13 [Applause.]

14 CHAIRMAN LANG: That's the first time a
15 legislator has gotten applause.

16 [Laughter.]

17 CHAIRMAN LANG: So, let's applaud
18 Representative Mike Fortner, Representative Elaine
19 Nekritz and Representative Sidney Mathias from
20 Buffalo Grove.

21 [Applause.]

22 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you all for being
23 here today. I would like to welcome everyone and
24 thank you for coming.

1 At the end of 2010, the United States
2 Census Bureau, as it does every decade, released
3 its 2010 population totals for Illinois.

4 The United States and Illinois
5 constitutions require that at the year following
6 the Census, the General Assembly must redraw the
7 boundary lines of the Congressional Legislative
8 and Representative Districts to account for the
9 population shifts over the last 10 years. These
10 hearings are a part of that process.

11 The Redistricting Transparency of
12 Public Participation Act requires us to hold at
13 least four hearings throughout the State.

14 Our intention is to hold far more
15 than that minimum number. Our goal is to hear
16 from as many people as possible and to ensure that
17 this process is open to all residents of our
18 State. We are holding hearings throughout the
19 State. 15 are currently scheduled. This is to
20 gain as much information as possible as we
21 undertake this important task.

22 We are guided in this endeavor by the
23 United States Constitution, which requires that we
24 respect the one man, one vote principle and draw

1 districts of substantially equal population.

2 We also will comply with the Federal
3 Voting Rights Act, which requires us to provide
4 minorities an equal opportunity to participate in
5 the electoral process and elect candidates of
6 their choice.

7 At the State level the Illinois
8 Constitution requires that districts be
9 substantially equal in population, compact and
10 contiguous.

11 Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights
12 Act further requires us to allow minorities a
13 voice in the electoral process after compliance
14 with the Federal and Constitutional requirements
15 that I have just described.

16 In addition to these legal
17 requirements, there are countless other factors
18 that play a role in the restricting process. And
19 we want to hear from you in considering all of
20 them without limitation.

21 We are interested in any relevant
22 demographic information such as social, political,
23 economic, religious or any other characteristics
24 that are unique to your community or to your

1 organization.

2 We are interested in maps of your
3 community or organizations as encompassed by
4 relevant precincts or voter tabulation districts
5 or however you want to present them.

6 We want to hear your specific views
7 on any social, political, economic or religious
8 interests commonly held in the community, any
9 specific interest groups that exists, any concerns
10 you have regarding current redistricting
11 boundaries and suggestions for the drawing of new
12 boundaries.

13 In short, we want to hear any
14 testimony that is relevant to the drawing of our
15 new congressional legislative or representative
16 districts.

17 If you have a proposed map, we will
18 take it and consider it.

19 If you want to draw your own map, but
20 lack the capacity to do so, we have created two
21 public viewing stations where census and
22 map-making resources will be made available. One
23 is located in Springfield in Room 401 at the
24 Stratton office building open Monday through

1 Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

2 The second work station, a joint
3 effort with the Senate Redistricting Committee is
4 located on the 7th floor of the Blandic Building
5 located at 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago.

6 You can schedule an appointment to
7 access either public station by calling
8 217-558-3036. That is 217-558-3036.

9 You may also submit any comments,
10 information or proposed maps to us in person at
11 those viewing stations.

12 Finally, you may submit any
13 information or comments to us by e-mail at
14 ilredistricting@gmail.com That is
15 ilredistricting@gmail.com.

16 We will transcribe the testimony at
17 all of these hearings and post the testimony on
18 our website. That website is
19 www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting. Once again, it
20 is www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

21 Any documentary events we received,
22 be it written testimony or other data or proposed
23 maps will also be uploaded to our website.

24 Our only caveat is that due to

1 security concerns, we will not accept maps on a
2 disk or or a flash drive. We will ask for a hard
3 copy of that map.

4 As for today, we will begin with
5 short slide show presentation.

6 Following that brief presentation, we
7 will have a number of witnesses who have indicated
8 in advance a desire to testify and we will hear
9 from them first.

10 Given the number of interested
11 parties, we will ask that witnesses limit their
12 testimony to four minutes.

13 We will bring witnesses forward in
14 group panels. If you have written testimony
15 prepared, we would ask that you submit that
16 testimony to us and just simply summarize it in
17 your oral presentation rather than reading it to
18 us.

19 After the scheduled witnesses, anyone
20 else wishing to speak may do so.

21 Every witness needs to fill out a
22 slip stating your intention to provide testimony
23 for the record.

24 If you have not done so, whether you

1 were previously scheduled or not, please return to
2 the sign-in table outside the door where you first
3 came in and make our staff available of your wish
4 and prepare a witness slip for our records.

5 It is our intention to allow everyone
6 an opportunity to participate.

7 Would Mr. Fortner care to make any
8 statements?

9 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair, and I thank all of you for coming out
11 on a damp and dreary day for a very important
12 process.

13 It only comes up once every 10 years.
14 Redistricting is a chance that shapes how the
15 legislature can perform for the next 10 years, how
16 your voice will be heard in matters both in
17 Springfield and the Illinois Delegation of
18 Congress.

19 I want to applaud the Committee and
20 the leadership for going beyond the four hearings
21 that were called for by law to schedule the 15
22 hearings that we have during the span of nine
23 days.

24 This is actually the third day of

1 hearings that we are going to be taking, hearings
2 that run from way up here in the northeast corner
3 of the State all the way down to Southern
4 Illinois.

5 But as important as these hearings
6 are to get information to help guide this
7 Committee, that information I think will be lost
8 if we don't have a chance to also have hearings
9 after a graph map is proposed.

10 The law doesn't call for any. I am
11 very encouraged that the Senate Redistricting
12 Committee has already announced they intend to
13 have at least two hearings after there is a
14 proposed map for consideration.

15 I would hope you, the public, share
16 that same concern, and we would like to get your
17 comments not just on the communities that effect
18 you that we need to know about but also once that
19 map is drawn how does that impact your
20 communities. So I hope that you will make those
21 feelings known to the Committee.

22 Also, beyond just the maps of
23 discussion another thing that is currently missing
24 in our Illinois law is how does one get to the

1 map. So if you have ideas for what the criteria,
2 what should shape, how we draw the map beyond
3 district communities, that is important not in the
4 law. There is nothing that compels the drawing
5 not to have that. So I think I would like to see
6 that and hope that is shared by you, the public,
7 as well.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Certainly this is
9 so far very pertinent, and we had a lot of great
10 testimony. I look forward to your testimony as
11 well.

12 I do want to repeat a comment I made.
13 On the Republican side we have identified machines
14 that we think are secure enough to handle
15 electronic files, but those who worked with
16 electronics media the data can be embedded.

17 It's also a most important way to
18 build a match, one proposal verses another by
19 looking at the actual electronic line.

20 So, again, I would encourage the
21 Chair to take that to leadership that comment that
22 I think that we need a mechanism to be able to see
23 those electronic format files.

24 Again, my thanks to all of you. My

1 thanks also to the City of Waukegan for hosting
2 this. I look forward to your comments.

3 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you, Representative.
4 Representative Mayfield.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD: I just briefly
6 want to thank everyone for taking the time to come
7 out today.

8 I am very excited to have this
9 opportunity for open discussion regarding the map
10 process. This is new to me, so I am looking
11 forward to learning the process.

12 I am very looking forward to hearing
13 all of your comments. Again, this right here
14 affects all of us. So your comments are very
15 important. You have a voice.

16 This is your opportunity to express
17 what it is that you are concerned about; and, as
18 you know, I am always willing to listen to what it
19 is you have to say. And, again, just thank you so
20 much for everything.

21 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you, Representative
22 Mayfield.

23 We are now going to proceed with the
24 slide show presentation; but before we do, just as

1 a reminder, if anybody is going to testify,
2 whether we had your name previously or not, please
3 return outside if we don't have a witness slip
4 from you and fill one out. We need that for the
5 record. Thank you very much and we will proceed
6 with the slide show.

7 MR. SHEA: My name is Travis Shea, and I
8 work for the Illinois House of Representatives.

9 I am going to give you a brief
10 overview of our State's redistricting procedures.
11 I will briefly discuss procedures and background
12 of redistricting and information on the Voting
13 Rights Act.

14 I will also be going over the new
15 State redistricting guidelines recently signed
16 into law.

17 And finally, we will look at the
18 results of the 2010 census and what those results
19 say about the Waukegan Metro area.

20 Redistricting is a process that
21 insures all Illinois residents are afforded equal
22 representation in the state legislature of Federal
23 Congress as guaranteed by the United States
24 Constitution.

1 The U.S. Supreme Court held a series
2 of ruling in the 1960's that Congressional and
3 State legislative districts in each state must be
4 of equal populations establishing the principle of
5 one person, one vote.

6 As a result, States redraw
7 congressional and State's District every 10 years
8 to reflect changes in population and shown by the
9 census.

10 The time line for redrawing the
11 legislative map is based on the Illinois
12 Constitution.

13 On December 21st data collected by
14 the 2010 census was delivered to the president.

15 The full block by block census
16 profile of Illinois, which shall be you used in
17 the redistricting was released in February.

18 The Illinois State legislative has
19 the initial responsibility of passing the new
20 congressional and State's legislations. For State
21 House and state Senate must pass the plan with
22 majority votes. Its plan must then be signed by
23 the Governor.

24 If a new map does not go into effect

1 by the Constitutional deadline of June 30th,
2 responsibility for creating a new map passes from
3 the legislature, the Governor, to a legislative
4 Redistricting Commission.

5 The Commission shall consist of eight
6 members with no more than four from the same
7 political party.

8 The majority vote of five or more
9 Commission members will constitute final approval
10 of a new map.

11 However, if a Commission does agree
12 to a map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme
13 Court will submit two names, one from each party
14 to the Illinois Secretary of State who will then
15 choose one name at random to serve as a ninth
16 member of the Commission.

17 Five of the nine members of the
18 Commission must agree to a plan no later than
19 October 5th.

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

23 First among these principles is equal
24 population. State law mirrors the Federal one

1 person, one vote standard and mandates

2 Congressional and state District to contain

3 substantially equal population.

4 As a result of the 2010 Census, the

5 target population of each house district is

6 180,734 residents. While the ideal population for

7 a Senate district is 217,468 resident.

8 Federal and State law also require

9 all districts to be contiguous, which means that

10 all parts of a district must be next to each other

11 unless connected by water.

12 Annexations and unincorporated areas

13 and municipalities and counties sometimes mean

14 communities are discontinuous

15 However, congressional and state

16 districts must be adjacent or connected at all

17 points.

18 A more difficult requirement to

19 define is compactness. There are at least 30

20 different scientific ways to measure how compact a

21 district is, but a statute or core precedent

22 identified standard criteria of compactness.

23 In theory, compactness focuses on the

24 shape of the district's boundaries and how far a

1 district is from a central core or where the
2 district's population center of gravity is.

3 In practice, compactness is hindered
4 by geography and on the ground realities. So
5 often the interpretation of compactness involves
6 more than a visual test.

7 Illinois is one of 14 states that
8 nest two of its house districts also called
9 representative districts inside one of the Senate
10 Districts that is also called a legislative
11 district.

12 The map will also look where possible
13 to the follow existing, local and geographical
14 boundaries in ways that maximize a community's
15 opportunity to have its interest represented.

16 As we know, however, county,
17 municipality, township and national geographic
18 boundaries are not always compacted contiguous.

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

24 The community of interest is a group

1 of people concentrated in a geographic area who
2 are socially, culturally, ethnically,
3 economically, religiously or otherwise alike and
4 can be joined in the district most effectively to
5 have their voices heard.

6 The factors contributing to any
7 particular community ventures will vary throughout
8 the state.

9 The Federal Law requires
10 redistricting plans to respect minority
11 representation.

12 The principles of the Federal Voting
13 Rights Act are in place to prevent the reduction
14 of opportunities for minority populations to
15 participate equally in the electoral process.

16 However, districts cannot be drawn
17 solely on the basis of race.

18 Earlier this year Governor Quinn
19 signed legislation to protect the representation
20 of racial and language minority groups.

21 Senate Bill 3976 helps to prevent
22 minority fracturing or dividing a concentration of
23 minorities among two or more districts by
24 requiring map makers to consider creating

1 cross-over districts, coalition districts or
2 influence districts.

3 What are cross-over districts,
4 coalition districts or influence districts?

5 A cross-over district is one in which
6 a large minority group may elect a candidate of
7 its choice with help from voters of the majority
8 group.

9 A coalition district brings multiple
10 racial or language minority groups together to
11 elect the candidate of their choice.

12 And finally, the influence district
13 allows a group to influence an election outcome
14 without being the majority population in the
15 district.

16 These new state law requirements come
17 into play only after compliance with federal law
18 and U.S. and State Constitutional requirements on
19 redistricting.

20 In addition, the law insures
21 transparency by requiring public hearings across
22 the State, one of which we are having right now.

23 The hearing will provide a space for
24 residents to share their thoughts on the

1 redistricting process, a key component to creating
2 a map that best represents the people of Illinois.

3 At the end of the presentation, we
4 will display an e-mail address on the screen where
5 you can submit your ideas for consideration.

6 The Committee is also accepting
7 written testimony or documentation today.

8 So now that we have covered the
9 redistricting process, let's take a look at the
10 Census data that will be used to draw new
11 districts.

12 All of the maps you are going to see
13 are drawn by using Census blocks which are these
14 smallest level of geography the Census Bureau uses
15 to report population data.

16 As of the 2010 Census, the total
17 population of the State of Illinois is 12,830,632.
18 That is compared to the State's 2000 population of
19 12,419,293, an increase of about 410,000.

20 The county with the largest
21 population by percentage increases since 2000 are
22 Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties.
23 Demographically speaking, Illinois has seen a lot
24 of change over the past decade.

1 The white population has risen
2 statewide by 0.6 percent to 8,167,753.

3 Illinois' African-American population
4 has fallen statewide by 0.6 percent to 1,832,924.

5 The Illinois Hispanic population, though, has
6 risen statewide by 32.5 percent to a total of
7 2,027,578.

8 Illinois' Asian population has also
9 risen statewide by 38.6 percent to 580,586.

10 Now we will take a look at Waukegan
11 and its surrounding communities of Beach Park and
12 Zion. In 2000, the area population was 122,895.
13 In the last 10 years the area's population has
14 increased to 127,129.

15 Here is a map of the area's
16 African-American population. In 2000 the
17 African-American population was 22,940. In 2010
18 the African-American population of the area was
19 25,051.

20 This is the area's second largest
21 minority group and is dispersed throughout the
22 Metro area.

23 In 2000, the area's Hispanic
24 population was 44,630.

1 In 2010, the Hispanic population
2 shown here is 57,790, and that is just in the City
3 of Waukegan. The Hispanic minority group is the
4 largest minority in the Metro area.

5 And finally, here is the map of the
6 area's Asian population. In 2000 the Asian
7 population for this area was 3,729. In the 2010
8 Census report the Asian population is 5,028.
9 Combined the minority population of these Cities
10 is 87,869 nearly 70 percent of the total
11 population.

12 Thank you very much for attending
13 today's hearing and sharing your thoughts and
14 opinions with us.

15 If you have any comments you can
16 E-mail at ilredistricting@gmail.com or visit our
17 website www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting for more
18 information. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much for
20 that presentation.

21 We will now proceed with the first
22 group of witnesses. I discussed panels earlier.
23 This room isn't set up for panels, so we will
24 simply call you up one at a time.

1 Again, if you are going to testify,
2 we need a witness slip from you.

3 When you testify, when you come up to
4 the podium, state your name and what organization
5 you represent and please spell your last name for
6 the court reporter.

7 The court reporter will be taking
8 down everything that you say. The first witness
9 will be Leon Rockingham, the Mayor of North
10 Chicago.

11 MR. ROCKINGHAM: Thank you very much, and I
12 do appreciate this opportunity to present to you
13 the Redistricting panel.

14 Again, my name is Leon Rockingham. I
15 am the Mayor of North Chicago, and I do want to
16 say that during that presentation I don't know why
17 North Chicago wasn't included.

18 I see you went to Waukegan, Zion and
19 Park City, but North Chicago has a very big
20 influence in the 60th District.

21 But we did do a resolution, and I
22 would like to read it into the record today.

23 It says the resolution of the North
24 Chicago City Council for re-districting of seats

1 in the Illinois General Assembly Resolution
2 No. 2011-976.

3 Whereas, the City of North Chicago is
4 a home rule municipality existing under the laws
5 of the State of Illinois, Section 6 of Article VII
6 of the State of Illinois and the Illinois
7 Municipal Code; whereas, the City of North Chicago
8 has been a part of the 60th Illinois legislative
9 district of the General Assembly; and whereas, the
10 60th Illinois legislative district was created
11 following the 2000 census; and, whereas, the 60th
12 Illinois legislative district was specially drawn
13 to reflect the minority populations of
14 African-Americans and Latinos in the
15 Waukegan/North Chicago communities; and whereas,
16 Lake County, Illinois has a population of over
17 700,000 people, but has only one minority member
18 of the Illinois General Assembly; and whereas, the
19 courts have recognized the importance of
20 establishing legislative districts, both in the
21 Congress and the State houses, to reflect the
22 minority population of areas, and it is important
23 that minority communities have representation in
24 the Illinois General Assembly.

1 Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved
2 by the Mayor and City Council for the City of
3 North Chicago, Lake County, Illinois, that the
4 City of North Chicago deserves to remain as part
5 of a legislative district that includes the City
6 of Waukegan because of a similar ethnic
7 representation in both communities and so as not
8 to deny minority representation in the Illinois
9 General Assembly.

10 Be it further resolved that the City
11 of North Chicago will oppose any Redistricting
12 following the 2010 census that would dilute the
13 minority representation in the Illinois General
14 Assembly.

15 Be it further resolved that the Mayor
16 is directed to present a copy of this resolution
17 to any public hearing concerning redistricting and
18 that the position of the City of North Chicago
19 should be made known to all interested parties who
20 are responsible for redistricting the legislative
21 districts following the 2010 census.

22 The ayes on this Aldermen Fisher,
23 Kneeland, Devost, Allen, Abrams, Runnels. There
24 was no nays and there was no one absent or not

1 voting. This was adopted on the 18th day of April
2 2011, signed by Leon Rockingham, Jr., Mayor of
3 City of North Chicago and attested by Lori L.
4 Collins, City Clerk. Thank you very much. I
5 would like to put this into the record.

6 CHAIRMAN LANG: Staff will take that from
7 you, the gentleman right over here.

8 Thank you, Mayor, and I appreciate
9 your attendance today.

10 The next witness is Angelo Kyle, Lake
11 County Commissioner.

12 CHAIRMAN LANG: Commissioner Kyle, we do
13 not have a witness slip from you, so when you are
14 finished with your comments, we will take that
15 from you.

16 Thank you very much and please
17 proceed when you are ready.

18 MR. KYLE: Thank you.

19 First of all, I want to thank the
20 Committee for the opportunity to present this
21 afternoon, and we thank you for your concern and
22 concentration in our community.

23 I wanted to briefly analyze the
24 census data which the gentleman so capably

1 presented.

2 We do understand that there have been
3 some shifts in the population in our community.

4 As indicated, there have been some
5 shifts particularly in the minority community
6 where we do understand that people are moving
7 North to the Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha area
8 where it is less expensive to live in the
9 Wisconsin area.

10 We do also understand a bulk of our
11 population is also moving to the western part of
12 the County, and even there have been some direct
13 decrease in the population. So we just wanted to
14 make sure as the Mayor of North Chicago has
15 already indicated, we wanted to make sure that the
16 minority voters are not disenfranchised and to
17 make sure that the minority voting concentration
18 as reflected by the census tracts are not diluted
19 and that we continue to comply with the Federal
20 Voting Rights Act which is already in place.

21 Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
23 testimony, Commissioner.

24 The next witness is Patricia Jones

1 from Waukegan Township. Patricia Jones. Well,
2 when she returns, she will get her opportunity.

3 The next witness is we have a representative from
4 the Lake County Latino Coalition. Isabel Anadon.

5 MS. ANADON: My name is Isabel Anadon from
6 the Latino Policy Forum.

7 CHAIRMAN LANG: Please state your name and
8 spell your last name.

9 MS. ANADON: Good afternoon, distinguished
10 members of the Committee. My name is Isabel
11 Anadon. I-s-a-b-e-l A-n-a-d-o-n. I am a policy
12 analyst with the Latino Policy Forum.

13 The Latino Policy Forum is the only
14 organization in the Chicago-area that facilitates
15 the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public
16 decision-making.

17 Its goals are to improve education
18 outcome, advocate for affordable housing, promote
19 just immigration policies, and engage diverse
20 sectors of the community.

21 A major component of the Forum's
22 community engagement role is its role as
23 co-convener of the Illinois Latino Agenda, a 49
24 member coalition of Latino nonprofit

1 organizations.

2 One of the Illinois Latino Agenda's
3 primary concerns is representation at various
4 levels in state government.

5 Since 2000, the Latino community
6 expanded by 33 percent or nearly 500,000 people
7 over the past decade.

8 This growth represents the largest
9 population increase among all racial/ethnic groups
10 in Illinois.

11 In fact, Latinos now represent close
12 to 16 percent of the total population. I will
13 also submit power points slides for you to
14 illustrate these points.

15 A strong example of this growth is
16 found in Lake County, which saw an increase of
17 over 50 percent in the Latino population since
18 2000.

19 In Waukegan specifically, there was
20 an increase of over 40 percent in the Latino
21 population, it's close to over 8,000 new
22 residents.

23 2010 Census data also shows that
24 without the growth of the Latino population,

1 Illinois would have in fact lost two congressional
2 seats at the Federal level.

3 The Latino policy forum has been
4 collaborating with the 49 members of the Illinois
5 Latino Agenda as well as the Draw the Line
6 coalition in order to recommend a map to
7 legislature that upholds and strengthens the
8 voting rights of Latino and other minority
9 residents throughout the state.

10 I will be submitting maps today
11 outlining the suburban Latino district that
12 includes the One Latino majority district in
13 Aurora and six Latino influenced or coalition
14 districts in Franklin Park, Waukegan,
15 Elgin/Carpentersville, Joliet, Evanston and
16 Rockford.

17 Although these maps have been adopted
18 by our members, they have not been formally
19 adopted by the Draw the Line Coalition or other
20 advocates at this point.

21 However, we are collectively working
22 together to come to an agreement on a consensus
23 map that serves the interests of all minority
24 residents in the state, which will be submitted at

1 a later hearing.

2 Lastly, I would like to comment on
3 transparency and the redistricting process.

4 All Illinois residents deserve an
5 opportunity to view and comment on maps being
6 considered by the General Assembly before they are
7 voted on.

8 Absent this opportunity, to view and
9 comment on proposed legislative district
10 boundaries, the Latino Policy Forum is unconvinced
11 that incumbent legislators will keep the best
12 interests of the Latino community in mind.

13 Therefore, the Latino Policy Forum
14 calls upon the members of this committee to
15 schedule an additional set of public hearings
16 after maps have been drafted by the legislature
17 with a minimum of two weeks to review prior to a
18 final vote.

19 Given that advocates will be sharing
20 their preferred maps with you throughout the
21 remainder of this process, I respectfully ask that
22 you show us yours. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LANG: Before you step away from
24 the podium, Representative Fortner has a question.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair. Thank you, Ms. Anadon.

3 First of all, you talked about the
4 map for the suburban areas. We have seen that
5 presented in earlier hearings as well.

6 I just wanted to see if you had an
7 update on the status of when you might see the map
8 for the city districts from the proposed forum or
9 the other associated groups?

10 MS. ANADON: We are working on them.
11 Because there have been a number of other hearings
12 scheduled, we are hopefully getting more in
13 updates later this week.

14 MS. ANADON: But, as you know, there are 49
15 members of the coalition. So there is a bit of a
16 logistical challenge in getting everyone around
17 the table.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Do you anticipate
19 or do you have a target that you might be able to
20 submit via here on Thursday of this week? That is
21 the last date that we have hearings here in
22 Chicago that are currently scheduled.

23 MS. ANADON: I can't say that we will have
24 it by Thursday. We will have it by the last house

1 hearing in Springfield on the 25th.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: One other
3 question.

4 Towards your description of the
5 general goals, in general would your coalition
6 prefer a district which Latino population had an
7 opportunity to let the candidate of choice or one
8 of which it had an influence over the outcome of
9 the preferred candidate would not be able to win?

10 MS. ANADON: We just wanted to make sure
11 that the districts that are drawn will keep the
12 Latino community in tack as much as possible.

13 The maps that I submit will show
14 that, so that the Committee can elect a candidate
15 by its choice.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much. You
18 will provide staff a copy of your written
19 statement. We very much appreciate that and
20 appreciate your attendance today.

21 Next witness is Maria Jonas,
22 representing the Latino Families and Citizens.

23 Please state your name and spell your
24 last name.

1 MS. JONAS: My name is Maria J-o-n-a-s. I
2 am Executive Director of Community Organization
3 called Hispanic-American community education and
4 services.

5 Our mission is to continue assisting
6 families to become citizens so they can get
7 citizenship, and in Lake County we have many
8 Americans over 6,000 new citizens and voters.

9 We would like to ask for the maps to
10 continue being for the families to stay together
11 in the community to be a highest participant in
12 the election process.

13 So, in other words, we want the maps
14 to be very inclusive and also to allow us to
15 continue working as coalitions with other
16 African-American citizens.

17 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much.

18 The next witness is Julie Contreras.
19 Please state your name and spell your last name
20 for the record and tell us the name of the
21 organization that you represent.

22 MS. CONTRERAS: Julie Contreras J-u-l-i-e
23 C-o-n-t-r-e-r-a-s. I represent the league of
24 Latin American Citizens, President of LULAC of

1 Waukegan and Commissioner LULAC's National
2 Immigrant Affairs Committee here in the United
3 States of America.

4 The League of United Latin Americans
5 citizens is the eldest and largest Latino
6 organization in the United States of America today.

7 LULAC is a part of the Illinois
8 Latino Agenda, which consists of 49 members
9 coalition of Latino not-for-profit organizations
10 who are working to protect the voting rights of
11 Latino residents in the State of Illinois.

12 The coalition is a voice for all
13 Latino Voters in the State of Illinois, and we
14 wish to support a progressive environment that
15 identifies and assures the availability for the
16 Latin American voters to elect candidates of their
17 choice in the new legislative boundaries of the
18 State of Illinois.

19 It is a known fact that the growth of
20 the Latino community in Waukegan justifies a
21 Latino district.

22 The Latino population has grown to
23 53% in the City of Waukegan and 50% of the Voting
24 Age Population. This is a factual significant

1 number that in no way can be ignored.

2 The minority voting rights are
3 protected under the United States of America
4 Voting Rights Act of 1965.

5 The Illinois Voting Rights Act of
6 2011 requires for the protection of minority
7 communities the creation of influence coalition
8 and cross-over districts.

9 On April 17th here in Waukegan I had
10 the pleasure to meet the Toledo family of
11 Waukegan, Illinois. Parents who migrated over
12 from Mexico over 30 years ago to the U.S. to
13 became U.S. Citizens, homeowners and business
14 owners as well.

15 I have had the wonderful pleasure to
16 meet the four children they have raised here in
17 Waukegan, Illinois.

18 All four graduated from Waukegan High
19 School and today are all college graduates from
20 DePaul University in the State of Illinois.

21 Two work as teachers in the Waukegan
22 School Districts and the other two serve as
23 professionals in society. All reside in the
24 County of Lake.

1 In speaking with them as registered
2 voters, they felt that the need was profound for
3 Latinos to be identified with you establishing the
4 new maps and the redistricting today would help
5 their community for the future.

6 Ladies and Gentleman of the House of
7 Redistricting Committee, it is a known fact to
8 each of you that the Latino Community of Waukegan
9 contributes to the State of Illinois economy and
10 enriches our diverse society to provide a viable
11 ability for the Latin American Community.

12 To elect candidates of their choice
13 through the development of new legislative
14 boundaries is consistent with our democratic
15 boundaries of liberty and justice.

16 Absent such a system and the
17 practical voting districts with inappropriate
18 representation, and many of our fellow Latin
19 American voters will be regulated to secondary
20 class treatment; and you as a legislative body
21 will allow the continuation of many discriminatory
22 practices that occur in this area, this will
23 misrepresent the Latin American community here in
24 the State of Illinois.

1 I leave you with a known fact that
2 one in every six individuals in this nation today
3 is of Latino descent.

4 The Latin American Community of
5 Illinois awaits your progressive reform as you
6 develop and implement the new maps.

7 Together we must assure that we do
8 not leave the year 2011 without significant
9 achievements within the area of ensuring a
10 political voice for the Latino Community in
11 Waukegan and the entire State of Illinois.

12 We as LULAC request that a public
13 hearing take place regarding the redistricting
14 maps prior to any legislative vote in both the
15 House of representatives and the Senate of the
16 State of Illinois.

17 We thank you all for your time and
18 consideration to this matter.

19 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much for
20 your testimony; and if you have a written
21 statement, can you provide it to staff, please.

22 The next witness is Del Parra.

23 CHAIRMAN LANG: I understand that Patricia
24 Jones has returned to the room, so Patricia.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. PATRICIA JONES: I thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Redistricting
4 Committee and also a special acknowledgement to my
5 favorite representative Rita Mayfield.

6 My name is Patricia Jones, J-o-n-e-s,
7 and I am the Waukegan Township Supervisor.

8 From March 1, 2010 to February 2011,
9 Waukegan Township saw a total of 6,594 clients,
10 all soliciting general assistance, specifically,
11 financial support with rent, utilities, food,
12 prescription drugs and transportation.

13 We have two transitional housing
14 facilities, Staben Center for men and the Staben
15 House for women. We operate one of the busiest
16 senior centers in Lake County.

17 Park Place provides over 40,000 units
18 of necessary offering vital services to the senior
19 citizens each year.

20 I am here today to voice my concern
21 that the redistricting be done with the spirit of
22 strengthening the "least of these" as often
23 referred to by the late Representative Eddie
24 Washington and, strengthening the Black and Latino

1 voter.

2 As mentioned in your earlier
3 presentation, the Illinois Legislature voted and
4 approved the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011,
5 and we appreciate you for your support.

6 Governor Quinn signed it on March 7th
7 2011. The first part of SB 3976 aims at keeping
8 special communities of interest from being divided
9 or diluted and the 2nd part encourages
10 redistricting transparency and public
11 participation.

12 To assist you with accomplishing the
13 goal of the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011, I
14 would like to share some data regarding Waukegan
15 Township in an effort to educate those attending
16 this hearing to understand my concern.

17 Waukegan Township is one of the most
18 diverse and progressive townships in Lake County
19 and serves a diverse population as mentioned in my
20 earlier comments.

21 Waukegan Township serves part of the
22 City of Waukegan, part of the City of North
23 Chicago, and parts of Park City and Beach Park.
24 Waukegan Township is 21.1 square miles with a

1 population of 92,805, with a fairly large minority
2 population made up of Black and Latino citizens
3 who are of voting age.

4 I am here to implore you to use your
5 influence to affect the outcome of the
6 redistricting, especially in the communities I
7 referred to is because of the population shift
8 that has occurred during the last 10 years.

9 Currently, Waukegan Township is made
10 up of 21% Black, 46.6% Hispanic or Latino, and 27%
11 White (non-Hispanic) and 5% other racial groups.

12 With 67.6% of our Township population
13 represented by Black and Brown citizens, it is
14 imperative that the redistricting of our
15 congressional, State Senate, State Representative
16 and County Board Districts continue to reflect and
17 encourage the election of people of color as
18 opposed to weakening their power.

19 Conversely, having the opportunity to
20 elect persons -- not of color -- but who can
21 relate to the economic, educational and cultural
22 realities of these communities.

23 Understanding that of the 6,594 cases
24 seen by Waukegan Township in a year, 747 new,

1 formerly employed and 466 were reopened cases.
2 Understanding that 480 individuals and counting
3 utilize our program designed to provide
4 ex-offenders with the tools and skills needed to
5 become gainfully employed.

6 I close by asking that you remember
7 when deciding how to redraw the district lines
8 that you assure equal representation for your
9 constituents in compliance with the one-person,
10 one-vote principle" of the 1965 Voting Rights Act,
11 and that you pay special attention to the Voting
12 Rights Act while drawing the redistricting plans
13 so they do not unfairly dilute minority voting
14 strength. Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
16 testimony,

17 Mr. Fortner.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chair. Ms. Jones.

20 MS. JONES: Yes sir.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: In talking about
22 the Voters Right Act, should the maps be drawn
23 first in your opinion first to seek to draw
24 majority/minority districts before we get to

1 things like coalition or influence districts or
2 the other way around?

3 MS. JONES: I think you will find that they
4 coincide. The majority district and our
5 particular community consist of the minority,
6 which consists of the special groups.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Let me rephrase
8 that.

9 If there is a way of doing single
10 racial or ethnic group majority/minority
11 districts, should that take precedence over the
12 drawing of coalition or influence districts?

13 MS. JONES: In my personal opinion, I would
14 say yes.

15 I made reference to the late state
16 Representative Eddie Washington. Had the map not
17 been redrawn in 2001, we would not have been
18 successfully been voted the first African-American
19 ever to represent that county. So because of
20 that, I would say yes.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you very
22 much.

23 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you and will you
24 provide your written statement to my staff.

1 MS. PATRICIA JONES: I shall.

2 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you.

3 The next witness is Rose Feder,
4 co-president of the League of Women Voters of
5 Highland Park. I hope I pronounced your name
6 correctly.

7 MS. FEDER: You did actually. Good
8 afternoon. My name is Rose Feder, spelled
9 F-e-d-e-r. As you said, I am co-president of the
10 League of Women Voters of Highland Park.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to
12 share some thoughts with you about the League of
13 Women Voters and the 2011 redistricting process of
14 the Illinois General Assembly.

15 Redistricting is an important and
16 vital democratic process and one which cannot be
17 taken lightly.

18 The League of Women Voters is a
19 nonpartisan political organization that encourages
20 informed and active participation in government,
21 works to increase understanding of major public
22 policy issues and influences public policy through
23 education and advocacy.

24 We neither support nor oppose any

1 political party or candidate for public office.

2 The League of Women Voters of
3 Illinois has for many years promoted a set of
4 redistricting principles as well as a process that
5 is timely and orderly and includes the following
6 elements: a formal, announced timetable; the
7 availability of information and related data to
8 all who wish to participate in the process; ample
9 opportunities for expert testimony, public
10 reaction and input into the proposed maps;
11 compromise among partisan representatives;
12 avoidance of a partisan stalemate and drawing of
13 maps which offer voters a choice of candidates in
14 elections.

15 The public should be allowed to see
16 and comment on any new maps that are drawn by the
17 Illinois General Assembly at least two weeks
18 before they are voted on by the Senate and House
19 during this session of the General Assembly.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
22 comments, and we would like a copy of your written
23 statement if you can provide it to us.

24 The next witness, is Phillip J.

1 Carrigan, representing Democrats United for
2 Fairness (D.U.F.F.).

3 MR. CARRIGAN: Thank you very much.

4 My name is Philip Carrigan, and I
5 live in the City of Waukegan in the 60th
6 representative district.

7 I compliment the committee on having
8 many more hearings mandated for and would endorse
9 the post-draft election map to be also reviewed by
10 Citizens of Zion.

11 I would talk about the 60th District
12 in the sense that it's a community rich in
13 minorities that are Latino and Black.

14 I think it's important that that
15 richness be preserved as best it can with the
16 redistricting.

17 The services that are provided as
18 Township Supervisor Stella Jones indicated are
19 nested here in this County and northeastern County
20 and benefiting minorities, part of which is a
21 significant fraction of the residents of the 60th
22 district.

23 The other considerations with other
24 geographical spots in the 60th district are more

1 complicated at least in my mind, but the overall
2 complexion of the 60th district should be
3 preserved. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
5 testimony.

6 The next witness is Stella Jones also
7 representing Democrats United for Fairness.

8 MS. STELLA JONES: Good afternoon again. I
9 would like to thank the Committee also for
10 allowing me to stand before you. My name is
11 Stella Jones J-o-n-e-s.

12 Chairman and Committee, DUFF is an
13 organized body of people formed out of the need
14 for representation for the people by the people,
15 because the people were not being represented.

16 The late State Representative Eddie
17 Washington was a co-founding member who himself
18 fought tirelessly for the injustices strategically
19 placed upon the people.

20 As quiet kept as it may be, it was
21 the result of the census 2000 and the
22 redistricting of 2001 that afforded the
23 opportunity for the first ever African-American to
24 be elected from Lake County, Illinois to the

1 Illinois House of Representatives.

2 The 60th District, which encompasses
3 Waukegan, North Chicago and Parts of Park City are
4 all inclusive and representative of the people
5 that live in the 60th District.

6 As we look at the numbers from the
7 2010 census let's not erase the lines of
8 opportunity that has been afforded the people and
9 etch in a saturation of the probability.

10 As each district is drawn up, it is
11 imperative that those inclusive in each district
12 represent the great majority of the people.

13 Even though Lake County grew by a
14 little over 9%, you will find it was with more of
15 the majority that already existed.

16 To move the lines South or West to be
17 inclusive of its population would then include
18 many who understand very little, if any, of the
19 lack of fair housing, high recidivism rates,
20 alarming graduation rates, namely, a lack thereof,
21 unfair voting practices, lack of voter
22 participation and etc.

23 When voting parties and issues are
24 before the people, the people that it will affect

1 the most, should have clear opportunities to draw
2 from their communities, persons of clear
3 representation of what affects them.

4 Redistricting can remove the
5 opportunities it gave us in 2001. Waukegan and
6 North Chicago clearly has one of the highest
7 unemployment rates in the U.S.; but as I speak is
8 losing its Employment Services representative.

9 No services need to leave this area.
10 We stand in great need of retaining old and adding
11 new services.

12 On behalf of Democrats United for
13 Fairness, I ask that the 60th District continue to
14 reflect in its boundaries representation of the
15 people and that by doing so they are afforded a
16 chance to continue to have a voice in matters that
17 are uniquely suited to the people.

18 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
19 testimony.

20 The next witness is Reverend Robert
21 B. Evans, North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance.

22 REVEREND EVANS: I am passing.

23 CHAIRMAN LANG: The gentleman wishes not to
24 testify.

1 The Next scheduled witness is Karen
2 Cartsens from the NAACP.

3 MS. CARTSENS: Good Afternoon, ladies and
4 gentlemen. As stated, my name is Karen Cartsens
5 spelled C-a-r-s-t-e-n-s, and I serve as President
6 of the Lake County Branch of the NAACP.

7 I am here today to represent the
8 NAACP Illinois State Conference as well, with its
9 37 branches throughout the State of Illinois.

10 Like others in this room, we are
11 extremely concerned with the redistricting
12 process.

13 Allow me to begin by stating that we
14 do believe that the Illinois Voting Rights Act of
15 2011 hereafter referred to as IVRA is a promise of
16 a fairer redistricting process for all racial
17 minorities, if it is properly implemented.

18 We have read the IVRA to require the
19 legislature to create a crossover coalition or
20 influence district where it is not feasible to
21 create a majority/minority district, and where
22 doing so is otherwise consistent with their
23 redistricting laws and the United States
24 Constitution.

1 The NAACP's position is the IVRA
2 serves as a protection against the gerrymandering
3 of the black vote.

4 The NAACP's position is that
5 majority/minority districts must be able to select
6 a candidate of the community's choice.

7 The NAACP's position is that no
8 retro-gression occurs during the redistricting
9 process; that communities of interest remain
10 intact during this process and that this process
11 refrains from voter any dilution.

12 Thus our first minimum prerequisite
13 for a fair redistricting process is that the
14 Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 be followed.

15 However, for a vote to be meaningful,
16 it must also be effective; and, as stated by the
17 African-Americans for Legislative Redistricting, a
18 vote is only as effective as the boundaries of the
19 district in which it is cast.

20 We, too, believe that the 2001
21 mapping was effective for African-American voters
22 in Illinois, and in most instances, agree that it
23 should be maintained.

24 The 2001 map did help to produce the

1 first black State Senate President in Illinois
2 history, and did create the district from which
3 Barack Obama launched his U.S. Senate campaign,
4 which in turn made his presidency possible; and,
5 therefore, it is also our position that this map
6 is something to be proud of, and that works, not
7 only for African-Americans but it works well for
8 the State of Illinois as a whole, and has an
9 impact nationally.

10 Under the 2001 map, black state
11 legislators have chaired important committees such
12 as Insurance, Elementary & Secondary Education
13 Appropriations, Small Business Empowerment &
14 Workforce, Housing, Financial Institutions,
15 Revenue, Health & Human Services, and Pensions and
16 Investments.

17 Throughout the past decade, many of
18 the hundreds of bills sponsored by
19 African-American legislators have had a particular
20 focus and impact on minority communities
21 throughout Illinois.

22 I would like to conclude my
23 statements by remarking on two other concerns for
24 the NAACP.

1 First, we understand that it is the
2 practice in Illinois to count prison inmates as
3 residents of the localities in which they are
4 imprisoned.

5 Because blacks and Latinos constitute
6 a disproportionately high share of the state and
7 federal prison population in Illinois, we believe,
8 this practice is harmful to minority interests in
9 the redistricting process.

10 Therefore, another minimum
11 prerequisite for fair redistricting is to count
12 inmates as residents of the locality from which
13 they have come, and to which most of them will
14 return.

15 This is the current practice in other
16 large, racially diverse states such as Maryland
17 and New York.

18 It is unfair to return them to
19 communities without the resources to assist them
20 in a successful reintegration, which proves
21 harmful to all of the residents in these
22 communities, and ultimately our society as a
23 whole, and we strongly urge that this policy be
24 changed.

1 Finally, although we too are aware
2 that the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 does
3 not expressly apply to Congressional
4 redistricting, we assert that the same discretion
5 afforded to the states should apply to
6 Congressional Redistricting as well.

7 We believe, as a final minimum
8 prerequisite for fair redistricting, that the
9 legislature should apply the basic framework of
10 the IVRA to its Congressional redistricting.

11 The NAACP is looking forward to
12 participating in this process and we thank you for
13 your time.

14 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
15 testimony, before you walk away, a couple of
16 things.

17 First we are going to need a copy of
18 your written statement.

19 Second, you made a comment about
20 counting prisoners where they live rather than in
21 the prison.

22 I just wanted you to know for
23 informational purposes, we do have a bill in the
24 General Assembly to do that sponsored by

1 Representative Lashawn Ford from Chicago. But I
2 want to know the Bill was voted on twice and
3 failed twice.

4 MS. CARTSENS: Well, certainly, the NAACP
5 would like to work with you further to have it
6 back on the floor for a vote and work with the
7 that legislature to see that it's passed. I
8 commend you, Mr. Chair, for bringing that to the
9 forefront. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for bringing
10 that to the forefront.

11 CHAIRMAN LANG: Perhaps staff can give you
12 the Representative Ford's number so you can be in
13 touch with him.

14 MS. CARTSENS: Absolutely.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD: I co-sponsored
16 that bill. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you, Representative
18 Fortner.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you
20 Ms. Carstens. I think I understood your
21 statement. I just want to make sure I was clear
22 on it.

23 You said that the preference would be
24 for majority/minority districts with the elected

1 candidate chose before one got to the influence of
2 coalition districts that were described in the
3 Illinois Voting Rights Act. Is that correct?

4 MS. CARTSENS: That is the position of the
5 NAACP.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

7 Does your organization have an
8 opinion about whether or not the current level of
9 black representation in the General Assembly is it
10 appropriate proportional or would you feel to the
11 current demographics in the State of Illinois?

12 MS. CARTSENS: No, I think there needs to
13 be an increase in representation.

14 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you very
15 much.

16 MS. CARTSEN: You're welcome.

17 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
18 testimony today.

19 The next witness is Douglas Williams
20 from the Round Lake Board of Education, District
21 116 School Board Member.

22 Good Afternoon sir.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. My
24 name is Douglas Williams W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

1 I am here as a board member for the
2 Round Lake School Board District 116 but not
3 representing or speaking for the School Board,
4 just to make that clear.

5 Just a few observations, I would have
6 to agree that the Waukegan area really either
7 needs to remain in tact or grow.

8 I will give you just a comparison.
9 In the Round Lake area we gained Latino
10 population, but we have no Latino representation.

11 I am on a school board of 70 percent
12 Latino students, and I am the only Latino on the
13 school board.

14 We gained population in all four of
15 the Round Lake areas in Hainesville; and, again,
16 we have no mayors, I think one trustee, no
17 congressman or women, no State reps or State
18 senators.

19 So actually I would see the Waukegan
20 area extended West to encompass more of the growth
21 of the Latino community in the western part in the
22 Round Lake area that would be one option. Or the
23 other option would be really just to add on
24 another set of area district that will cover the

1 Round Lake area and the growth in the Latino
2 population.

3 As far as the nonprofit groups,
4 Waukegan influences the Round Lake area because
5 they do have non-profit groups that have been
6 established and are more than willing to come West
7 to really try to service the Latino community.

8 I could tell you that I also work in
9 families service that deals with senior
10 population, and their biggest challenge right now
11 is trying to serve the Latino seniors in the Round
12 Lake area because of the lack of representation
13 and delivery of services.

14 So, I would support the Waukegan area
15 remaining in tact or growing, but I would see an
16 advantage of it growing West to really encompass
17 the growth in the Latino population to really one
18 day possibly have a Congress women or a
19 Congressman and a State senator or State reps; but
20 as it is right now because of the lack of Latino
21 involvement, even though we are growing, it's
22 really going to be difficult and you are going to
23 see stagnation and really a lack of prosperity in
24 the Round Lake area if something is not done in

1 the western part encompassing Waukegan.

2 So, that is my observation after
3 living nightmares in Hainesville and working with
4 Senator Maguel DiVia and Congressman Gutierrez in
5 Chicago in which we had the same problem, but more
6 committee involvement took time, but really the
7 only way I see it now is Waukegan expanding west
8 to encompass the growth in the western part of the
9 of Lake County.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
12 testimony. It is much appreciated.

13 The next witness is Judy Masterson.
14 Perhaps she will arrive later.

15 The next witness is Yolanda Shannon
16 Albert. Thank you for your attendance today.

17 MS. SHANNON-ALBERT: Good afternoon. Thank
18 you for your time.

19 My name is Yolanda Shannon-Albert,
20 and I represent actually two fairly large medical
21 clinics.

22 One is in Waukegan. It is the
23 Intervention Arms Medical Center on 1616 Grand
24 Avenue, and the second one is North Chicago Health

1 Center, which is on 1809 South Sheridan Road.

2 The reason why I am here is I
3 actually am representing Lisa Fields, who is the
4 Executive Director of both centers as well as the
5 lead physician assistant for both facilities.

6 The problem that we are having is
7 that the Waukegan facility, the 1616 Grand Avenue
8 facility is fully functional. We serve a huge
9 underserved population of patients.

10 We are getting recognized. We are a
11 site for the National Health Service Corp. So, we
12 are getting qualified and Board-certified
13 physicians to work at that facility. We are
14 combining wonderful services there.

15 The problem that we are having is
16 that our other sister facility, the North Chicago
17 Health Center, is only a couple miles away from
18 the facility.

19 It has also seen a large population
20 of medically underserved patients, and we are
21 suffering severely because we cannot continue to
22 provide the good quality services and not turn
23 patients away and not have the North Chicago
24 facility designated from a HIPPA standpoint. So

1 we are asking if that could be considered, the
2 North Chicago Health which is 1809 South Sheridan
3 Road to be included in that.

4 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
5 testimony.

6 Illya Sheyman. I hope I pronounced
7 your name correctly?

8 MR. SHEYMAN: It's close enough. Hello, I
9 am Illya Sheyman S-h-e-y-m-a-n. I am a resident
10 of Waukegan and a product of Buffalo Grove and a
11 community organizer who has organized all what are
12 currently the 8th, 9th, and 10th Congressional
13 Districts.

14 What I would like to do today is
15 provide a bit of testimony about the communities
16 of shared interest in the area and to highlight
17 what I see as two critically important outcomes of
18 the redistricting process.

19 First that the City of Waukegan
20 remain unified in one district on both the State
21 and Federal level so that its unique needs are
22 reflected in both Springfield and Washington, DC,
23 and; second, that on the federal level,
24 communities along Lake Michigan, and on either

1 side of I-94 and Route 41 that have shared
2 interests on federal issues be drawn in one
3 Congressional District.

4 On the first point, as I mentioned,
5 Waukegan is my adopted home. I first started
6 spending time here in 2006 organizing with parents
7 and students, teachers and administrators, labor
8 leaders and small business owners to shine a
9 spotlight on a broken school funding system that
10 leaves too many children behind.

11 I quickly fell in love with the
12 residents of this city and its rich history.

13 As the 9th largest city in the state
14 and the Seat of Lake County, with over 89,000
15 residents, Waukegan is a place where a diverse and
16 vibrant community of Caucasians, Latinos,
17 African-Americans and people from every background
18 live, work, and learn side by side every day.
19 yet, Waukegan is also a community with a set of
20 critical and unique challenges that must be
21 addressed; unemployment rates that, along with
22 North Chicago's, rival some of the highest not
23 just in the state, but in the nation; over 1,100
24 vacant homes, the vast majority due to

1 foreclosures; a public school system in need of
2 significant increases in state and federal
3 funding; and a large community of repatriates
4 coming out of the criminal justice system in need
5 of community support and anti-recidivism programs
6 just to mention a few.

7 This issue was put in stark relief
8 for me at a meeting just yesterday when I learned
9 that, as we speak, the Illinois Department of
10 Employment Security is withdrawing its part-time
11 staff presence from the Waukegan.

12 It's my understanding that due to the
13 State's budget situation, non-regular IDES staff
14 are being laid off one day per week in Grayslake,
15 which means that consequently Waukegan who had
16 spent one to two days here now are being called
17 back to work in Grayslake. And this isn't
18 happening due to a lack of need.

19 Now, this is at a time when we are
20 looking at an average of 15 ex-offender
21 registering by IDES per month out of Waukegan.

22 So when it comes to the needs of the
23 City of Waukegan, I am here to advocate that this
24 entire community must remain one district on both

1 the state and federal level so our voice can be
2 heard in the halls of Springfield and Washington
3 DC.

4 We need to make sure that the outcome
5 of redistricting is that we can continue to
6 maintain a strong voice like Rep. Mayfield's in
7 Springfield and have a powerful advocate in
8 Washington, D.C., to reverse cuts like these and
9 help meet the needs of our community.

10 Yet, even as we recognize the unique
11 needs of the City of Waukegan, it's also important
12 to note that on the federal level, despite
13 important demographic and economic differences,
14 Waukegan is part of a community of shared interest
15 along with other villages, towns and cities along
16 the shores of Lake Michigan and on either side of
17 I-94 and Route 41.

18 Just to name a few of these federal
19 interests: High Speed Rail: President Obama's
20 vision for a High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail
21 Program includes a need for significant
22 improvements, and along with them jobs in the
23 Chicago-Milwaukee corridor to ultimately achieve
24 110 miles per hour services.

1 As of now, it is estimated that
2 Amtrak's Hiawatha line carried nearly 800,000
3 passengers between Milwaukee and Chicago last year
4 and with gas prices what they are, we are likely
5 to see that grow significantly. Managing this
6 multi-year development effort and ensuring it
7 takes into consideration the needs of local
8 communities the rail system passes through will
9 require vigilance and oversight in Washington,
10 D.C.

11 National Coast Zone Management; From
12 mitigation of invasive species, to habitat,
13 ecosystems and natural area restoration, removal
14 of toxins, removal of impairments in areas of
15 concerns like Waukegan Harbor, and sustainable
16 economic development; there is a whole host of
17 issues around Lake Michigan that have to be
18 addressed by these communities working in concert
19 with each other.

20 Roads, when it comes to traffic and
21 road construction, the Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee
22 Corridor is also one of four "Priority Corridors"
23 throughout the country when there are ongoing
24 investments and tests of new technologies to study

1 and help manage the flow of traffic in these
2 metropolitan areas.

3 These questions, along with ones of
4 sustainable economic development, crime, water
5 management, and many more will require significant
6 attention from the federal government and that
7 sort of focus can only come if the entire set of
8 communities along Lake Michigan, and on either
9 side of I-94 and Route 41 including Waukegan,
10 Zion, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Buffalo Grove,
11 Deerfield, Northbrook, and others that have shared
12 interests on such federal issues are placed in one
13 Congressional District and have one strong voice
14 advocating for us.

15 To conclude, I would like to once
16 again thank Representatives Lang, Mayfield and
17 Nekritz for hosting this hearing and express my
18 hope that these two priorities are taken under
19 consideration as the final district maps are
20 created. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much for
22 being here today.

23 Norma Jensen AARP.

24 MS. JENSEN: I pass.

1 CHAIRMAN LANG: The lady wishes not to
2 testify; but just for the record, Representative
3 Elaine Nekritz has joined us. Thank you
4 Representative.

5 Jim Zegar.

6 MR. ZEGAR: Pass

7 CHAIRMAN LANG: He passes.

8 Mary Trohas.

9 (No response.)

10 Michael Carbone. Thank you and you can
11 correct me when you get to the podium. Thank you.

12 MR. CARBONE: First of all, thank you for
13 letting me come here.

14 CHAIRMAN LANG: Please state your name for
15 the record.

16 MR. CARBONE: My name is Michael Carbone
17 District 52. First of all, I am also on the
18 school board if that matters.

19 One of the things that I find
20 interesting is that being on the school board in
21 my district we have over 32 different languages
22 spoken. I think that says a lot; and to disrupt
23 that type of community, it could be very
24 disruptive to the community.

1 We need to look at our foreclosures,
2 the jobless markets; and in the district where we
3 live, one out of two homes are in foreclosure.
4 That is up from last year, which is 33 percent one
5 out of 3 homes and that is rising.

6 To disrupt this even further in
7 changing the lines and redrawing the maps I think
8 will give more disruption to our community.

9 I mean there is a lot of people that
10 just walked away from homes. Obviously you all
11 know this.

12 For me as a concerned citizen, what
13 benefits us from redistricting these maps when
14 they are already set in place?

15 I have to ask I know these maps once
16 they are drawn, and I would like to ask this
17 Committee is there going to be another hearing
18 where we come back and speak after we see the maps
19 drawn.

20 I don't know I can respond to that,
21 but I would like to have it on the record. But so
22 with all due respect, if you can do that when the
23 maps are drawn, we can have a hearing. I would
24 appreciate that.

1 I would like to be able to speak as a
2 citizen of the community to see how that map is
3 drawn and how it's going to effect us and so you
4 can hear our input.

5 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you. We appreciate
6 your comments and your questions. Please stay by
7 the microphone, if you would, sir.

8 To answer your inquiry, creating maps
9 is a long and painstaking process.

10 We are having more public input into
11 the map-making process than we have ever had, in
12 fact almost four times as much as the statute
13 requires.

14 But because of the long and tedious
15 nature of this process and because of the time
16 line, we are unsure at this time as to what will
17 happen after these 15 hearings.

18 The 15 hearings will conclude next
19 Monday, and we will move on and determine what the
20 next part of the timetable here.

21 Mr. Fortner.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you. You
23 mentioned you are on the School Board. I just
24 wanted you to say for the record what committee

1 you are on?

2 MR. CARBONE: It's District 46, Grays Lake
3 School District.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you for your
5 service there.

6 MR. CARBONE: You are very welcome, it's a
7 thankless job as they say.

8 CHAIRMAN LANG: The next witness is Tony
9 Raymond.

10 MR. RAYMOND: Good Afternoon, my name is
11 Tony Raymond R-a-y-m-o-n-d. I live at 57 Country
12 Cove Lane in Lake Villa, in the 62nd legislative
13 district; and I am very privileged or honored to
14 be here speaking to all of you.

15 One thing that I have been very
16 concerned about is maintaining districts that
17 serve the public good. And District 62 is one of
18 those districts that I think is well-designed,
19 it's well-balanced.

20 I would like the committee to
21 consider keeping that balance intact.

22 As Mr. Carbone just indicated, I
23 think it's absolutely essential that we have
24 sufficient time to review and comment on these

1 maps after they have been designed.

2 It almost seems a disservice to the
3 public to have us make comments before being able
4 to see the proposed maps; and while 15 hearings is
5 good, 15 hearings after you have seen the proposal
6 is even better.

7 So, I would like to respectfully
8 suggest that we can do better, and I would like
9 the Committee to take that into consideration.

10 District 62 includes all or part of
11 Gurnee, Grays Lake, Third Lake, Round Lake
12 Heights, Round Lake Beach, Lake Villa, and
13 Linenhurst.

14 These communities share similar
15 social economic conditions, and they are a compact
16 block of homes that passes the visual test that
17 you indicated is one of the things you would look
18 at.

19 It is a good mix of commercial and
20 industrial districts, and it is important to
21 maintain that balance.

22 Also it has a great diversity
23 racially and otherwise. So, it is important that
24 we maintain that.

1 Syed Kole is our representative in
2 District 62 and Susie Schmidt is our senator in
3 District 31 and they both have been strong
4 advocates for fiscal responsibility and
5 environmental protection, two things that are very
6 important to me personally.

7 Job creation and taxes are two
8 issues, as I said, as I indicated earlier, that
9 are also important to us and we need to retain
10 these two hard working law makers in our district.

11 I was also thinking about some of the
12 special issues that face us in our legislative
13 district and as you know there is a proposal for a
14 Highway 53 extension, and I believe that that
15 could have a potential impact upon how these
16 boundaries are drawn.

17 So I also believe it would be
18 detrimental to the residents of District 62 to
19 split the area up or to lump it in with any other
20 district.

21 The Grand Avenue corridor, as many of
22 you may know, is very important for us
23 commercially; and I would like to see the
24 residents and the businesses in that area be

1 contiguous.

2 So in summation, key points here: We
3 need to have a formal proposal and we need to make
4 sure that not only do we show the boundaries but
5 we have a clear rationale on why the boundaries
6 are as they are.

7 This is very important to us as
8 citizens because we may not necessarily have all
9 of the information to understand why a boundary is
10 drawn the way it is.

11 So, if this committee could provide a
12 rationale as to why the boundary changes are
13 important to the process, this would be absolutely
14 important for me.

15 And then lastly sufficient time for
16 us to review and comments on the proposal and to
17 have a subsequent hearing for us then to make
18 public comment. This would be very important.
19 Thank you for your time.

20 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you, sir; and if
21 those are written comments, could you provide them
22 to our staff.

23 MR. RAYMOND: They are handwritten.

24 CHAIRMAN LANG: The next witness is Raymond

1 True from the Republican Assembly of Lake County.

2 MR. TRUE: I thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
3 name is Raymond Steven True T-r-u-e. I am the
4 Chairman of the Republican Assembly of Lake
5 County.

6 I have been in Lake County for 35
7 years, and I served 36 years with the United
8 States Air Force both active duty and reserve,
9 acquiring 6000 hours flying C130's.

10 I have been a precinct committeeman
11 in my precinct for the last 10 years.

12 I would like to put my comments
13 pretty much on a tactical basis how redistricting
14 effects a lot of people, and I would like to
15 extend a personal note to the chairman for his
16 tolerance not stopping anybody that was reading
17 prepared statements like they frequently do in
18 Washington when you watch C-span and people have
19 10 pages to read. The Chairman would say "Can you
20 summarize that, please."

21 [Laughter.]

22 MR. TRUE: There have been many points made
23 about the transparency in this process, and I
24 think it goes to what the Chairman has said and

1 that is people would like to see of course the map
2 that they are going to be subject to and you
3 comment very well spoken in that it's going to
4 take some time to finish that map.

5 I would like to echo a previous
6 comment have said that we would like to see that
7 map if we could and possibly have as long as two
8 weeks to look at it before it actually goes into
9 effect. I know that that's a lot. But I think
10 that would help the process.

11 A lot of people have come forward
12 with statements about how they see this and how
13 they see that.

14 I have had an opportunity over the
15 last 10 years to work very closely with our chief
16 clerk in Lake County who was responsible for
17 running the elections, and I would like to bring
18 some comments up that that association does cause
19 me to share with them.

20 While we sit here and draw maps,
21 these 481 precincts in Lake County and the bane of
22 things goes back to my Native area, I came from
23 Massachussetts and those gentlemen that you
24 probably remember from high school history called

1 gerryman, he came from the State of Massachusetts
2 and he became infamous for the term we use called
3 gerrymandering. And I know that nobody on this
4 Committee wants to be guilty of signing off on any
5 gerrymandering.

6 But what it causes our elective clerk
7 to run into. I am in precinct 177. I just went
8 there and voted recently on April 5th, and I
9 happened to noticed up on the wall there that they
10 had the ballot for that precinct. In one precinct
11 there were eight different ballots for that
12 precinct.

13 Some time you have a school district,
14 you have an elementary school district, you have a
15 high school school district, you have the fire
16 district, you have the library districts; and you
17 have to keep that in mind when you draw these
18 things out.

19 In Lake County we have two
20 congressional districts, the 8th Congressional
21 District and the 10th.

22 And it so happens in the 10th
23 congressional district we actually have some split
24 precincts. Part of a precinct is in the 8th

1 Congressional District, and part of the precinct is
2 in the 10th Congressional District.

3 I would plead with you, do all you
4 can not to split precincts. It just makes a
5 terrible problem for the clerk that manages the
6 election process.

7 And I know that this is something
8 that you can't control. 865 school districts, all
9 drawing their boundaries and all the library
10 districts also drawing their boundaries.

11 They probably come into the process
12 after you finish your diligent work, but it
13 effects the voters that go in.

14 If you ask a voter how many different
15 districts they are in, I could give you a thousand
16 dollars that not one of them could answer all of
17 the elective districts that they are in. So
18 please keep that in mind.

19 I want to go out on a final comment.
20 It should be about 705,000 to 710,000 population
21 in each congressional district.

22 It just so happens that Lake County
23 population now is about 705,000.

24 Wouldn't it be wonderful if Lake

1 County had their own congressional district?

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
4 comments, sir.

5 Our next witness is Steve Bishop.
6 Joan and Carl Seifert. Please step forward. I
7 don't have a witness slip for Carl.

8 With your permission, can I just add
9 him to yours?

10 MS. SEIFERT: My name is Joan Seifert
11 S-e-i-f-e-r-t.

12 MR. SEIFERT: And Carl Seifert.

13 MS. SEIFERT: This is a very new kind of
14 thing for me and my husband to get up here in
15 front of this Board and speak to you about of all
16 this redistricting.

17 One of the reasons we find it almost
18 difficult to talk about is because it is so
19 confusing.

20 As Mr. Carbone was speaking and he
21 was kind of concerned or thinking about what
22 District he was in, I was shouting in the back
23 "You are in District 62." That is because that is
24 my district, our district. But he is not in 62.

1 Even though he is in the District 46 School Board,
2 I'm in district 46 School Board, so I assumed that
3 he was also in District 62. Not true. He is in
4 52.

5 Now, as I mentioned before, we are
6 kind of newbies to this whole political process,
7 but burning with desire to know and interest to
8 know what goes on. So, one of the things is the
9 whole transparency issue.

10 I am awake, I am watching, I am
11 looking and I sincerely will be tracking what the
12 recommendations of this board is, are and I
13 absolutely wish and hope that you give all of us
14 an opportunity to comment on the districts that
15 are drawn.

16 For each of us of all the eloquent
17 speakers before me to have an opportunity to say
18 their peace.

19 How pathetic it would be if we just
20 stood here and flapped our gums and we are never
21 given an opportunity to speak to the actual map.

22 That has to happen. There are people
23 that want this that should at least have the
24 opportunity to go back over the map.

1 Truthfully it being time consumption
2 and a lot of trouble doesn't mean anything to me.
3 This is America, people. This is how we do things
4 it cannot be one sided. We the people need to
5 speak. Thank you.

6 MR. SEIFERT: I only have a couple of civil
7 comments. I hope that this cardiographic exercise
8 isn't a futile attempt in political expediency.

9 I really hope all of the people who
10 are involved in this process exercise more than
11 just transparency, in our certain integrity.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you, Mr. & Mrs.
14 Seifert.

15 The next witness is Dave Pfeiffer. I
16 am not sure if he is here. Is Don Costella here?
17 Mary Ann Oaks. The next witness is Martha
18 Stamper.

19 MS. STAMPER: Hello, I am Martha Stamper
20 S-t-a-m-p-e-r, and I want to thank you for taking
21 this time to collect your citizen's input. I have
22 two redistricting requests.

23 One is that to draw the district maps
24 in a way that encourages contested races.

1 I recognize that financially,
2 emotionally and it's physically taxing to run for
3 office and I respect those that have the courage
4 and energy to pursue their convictions and serve
5 their community.

6 But districts with residents of only
7 one party do not serve our community in my
8 opinion, just incumbency.

9 When there is a contested race, the
10 citizens get a sense that their vote matters and
11 so they participate more, regardless of what party
12 they are affiliated with.

13 Candidates in contested races must
14 make more of an effort to talk to their potential
15 constituents, not just their core supporters, or
16 their main campaign donors.

17 Inasmuch much as a contested race
18 might sound like it would increase political
19 fighting, I think it does the opposite.

20 Because, in order to win, a candidate
21 must appeal to a broad spectrum of the population.
22 The people will be able to provide more of a check
23 and balance on extreme ideology that only
24 represents a few residents.

1 The political parties, themselves,
2 might actually be able to function better because
3 they will be able to provide more of a check on
4 the other side.

5 I think the State of Illinois should
6 have a map that represents the people, not the
7 party. Voters should choose a politician rather
8 the politicians choose their voters.

9 My second request is for a map that
10 respects boundaries such as towns and school
11 districts.

12 Towns work hard to serve their
13 community, but all of that organization and effort
14 has no say in Springfield if they are split up
15 into many different districts.

16 This would actually make the
17 politician's job easier since it is easier to
18 track the progress of a few towns or fewer school
19 districts than it is to try to understand the
20 needs of several of them.

21 I understand that, even if you agree
22 with me, it would be impossible to follow my
23 advice perfectly.

24 But we only have a once chance a

1 decade chance to get this right. Please try to
2 serve the people, not the political parties.
3 Thank you for listening.

4 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
5 statement.

6 Will you provide that written
7 statement to our staff? Thank you.

8 We have a question by Representative
9 Nekritz.

10 REPRESENTATIVE NEKRITZ: Where did you
11 live?

12 MS. STAMPER: Long Grove.

13 CHAIRMAN LANG: The next witness is Frank
14 Kanap.

15 MR. KANAP: Thank you Members of the House
16 for this opportunity to speak. Thank you. My
17 name is Frank Kanap. I am a lifelong resident of
18 Lake County, grew up in Waukegan and moved out to
19 Lindenhurst in 1985.

20 I work with the organizing for
21 America and have been a member of the Lake County
22 Democratic party for about 20 years. I have been
23 in politics a long time and I know this is a
24 contentious issue.

1 I have to say that I am in favor of
2 Redistricting.

3 I know there are some special
4 interest groups that want to put this issue on the
5 ballot next November and failed. So, I disagree
6 with them obviously.

7 I feel the legislatures are better
8 equipped to draw the maps as well as the overall
9 districts.

10 I recently performed a study of 100
11 households in District 62, which covers the part
12 that I covered was Lake Villa, Lindenhurst and
13 Antioch, which is the Western Lake County.

14 I went door to door. I have the
15 results, and 90 percent favor the
16 legislatures/governor hindering the redistricting
17 in the maps. Only 10 percent favor putting this
18 issue on the ballot.

19 All 100 residents stated they would
20 like more transparency as well as having the issue
21 of diversity in District 62 addressed.

22 50 percent of the residents of the
23 100 that were evaluated didn't know who their
24 state rep was due to the fact that the way the

1 township is set up, it is so widespread.

2 In conclusion, 80 favored eliminating
3 townships all together and consolidating the
4 existing governing municipalities.

5 That is all I have. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much for
7 your testimony.

8 Next witness is Linda Sittig.

9 MS. HEWITT: Linda had to leave. Is it
10 okay if I make a comment for her?

11 CHAIRMAN LANG: Of course, as long as you
12 fill out a witness slip when you complete your
13 testimony.

14 CHAIRMAN LANG: State your name and spell
15 your last name.

16 MS. HEWITT: Diane Hewitt, H-e-w-i-t-t, I
17 represent District 2 and the Lake County Board
18 which encompasses all of Village of Beach Park.

19 Linda Sittig is a Trustee for the
20 Village of Beach Park and just a quick statement
21 that she has written down for me.

22 The Village of Beach Park, because we
23 are a fairly new village having incorporated in
24 1989, we cover approximately 7 1/2 square miles.

1 We do not levy any municipal tax. We are still in
2 the process of growing and growing quickly, I
3 might add.

4 We have shared resources and interest
5 with surrounding communities. As a village, we
6 prefer to remain intact versus a division of the
7 village. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much.

9 The next witness is Wendy Warden.
10 I'm sorry, I am having trouble reading your
11 handwriting. It must be me.

12 Please state your name and spell your
13 last.

14 MS. WARDEN: My name is Wendy Warden
15 W-a-r-d-e-n. And I am here because I wear many
16 hats in my community.

17 I most of all want to talk about the
18 Round Lake area.

19 I am the first vice chairlead to
20 district democrats and independents, a service and
21 disclaimer.

22 I am also the founder and president
23 of the Round Lake area community foundation or the
24 Avon Township Foundation Community and vice

1 president of the Round Lake area Friends of the
2 Parks Foundation.

3 So I do a lot of work on the grounds
4 with people in my community. I want to echo
5 things that Doug Williams said about our
6 community.

7 The Round Lakes are split by two
8 Senate Districts, 26 and 31, three House
9 Districts, 61, 62 and 51; and part of the
10 unincorporated Round Lakes, the newer parts are
11 actually in 52.

12 So we are really split by four house
13 districts. We are split by five county boards
14 seats and four different townships that really
15 serves to disempower our voters.

16 Voters really get discouraged because
17 they don't know what senate district they are in.
18 They don't know what house rep district they are
19 in. They don't know what township they are in.
20 We have a phenomenal need in that district.

21 The reason I brought up the community
22 foundations that I am part of is through the Avon
23 Township Community Foundation we serve at our food
24 pantry 2,600 people on average of a month. That

1 represents 681 of families in our community.

2 We have seen population in growth in
3 the Hispanic community of 38.9% when you combine
4 the four Round Lake Communities. They need a
5 unified voice.

6 We can't do anything with the
7 boundaries here or the townships or won't even
8 talk about the library and school board district
9 that they have to know about.

10 But we can do something about the map
11 the Senate and the State's reps. So my plea is
12 please unify this community. Start where you can
13 and make a positive change. They really need a
14 voice. I do know the 8th district side. I don't
15 know about the 10th district side. Rita may be
16 able to echo on this.

17 The Round Lakes represent the most
18 underperforming block of voters in the 8th
19 district.

20 I would also wager that we also have
21 documentation or I know you all should know how to
22 find that.

23 I would also wager to venture that we
24 have the highest number of unregistered voters in

1 those communities because they are so fragmented
2 and people are representatives who don't take the
3 time to spend a lot of time on the ground there
4 because it is so fragmented. You just have a
5 little pocket here, a little pocket there.

6 So once again my plea is unify the
7 Round Lakes into one senate district. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much, I
9 appreciate it.

10 The next witness is Melinda Bush.

11 MS. BUSH: My name is Melinda Bush, and I
12 am a Lake County Board Representative for
13 District 6. I have one of the communities around
14 Lake Park within my district.

15 I am going to echo some of the things
16 that you just heard Wendy say.

17 In the central part of the County,
18 the Round Lake areas have seen large increases in
19 their Latino population with Round Lake Beach
20 first in Latino population growth in the
21 Chicagoland area in the last 10 years.

22 Currently they are at a 49.4% Latino
23 population. While most communities are located
24 entirely in a district, the Round Lake areas are

1 spread out amongst many areas currently, and they
2 are represented by two state senators, four house
3 districts, five county board representatives and
4 they are in four townships.

5 So in drawing these lines,
6 particularly these are districts for 62, 51 and
7 61, I would ask you to do your best to place those
8 communities in the same district.

9 As Wendy indicated, this is an area
10 that really has a need to have a voice; and by
11 keeping these communities separate and then
12 separating within these communities, they have no
13 voice. There is no fragmentation, there is total
14 fragmentation. They don't feel like they have a
15 voice, and I would ask you to very seriously look
16 at that when you are drawing those lines. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you. I have one
19 quick question.

20 Do you intend to go to the Lake
21 County Board when they are redistricting to talk
22 about those boundaries with the county board? One

23 MS. BUSH: I certainly do and have.

24 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you very much. The

1 next witness is Al Rogers.

2 MR. ROGERS: Good afternoon and thank you
3 for your time. Even though I am a resident of
4 Wadsworth, I spent 30 years as a resident of Zion.

5 So I am here really speaking for
6 those residents of the Zion area, and it was very
7 interesting and thoughtful in your presentation.
8 Zion is a iron wall all by itself, even though our
9 demographic very much looks like Waukegan and very
10 much looks like North Chicago.

11 If it's not for Rita, that many times
12 we don't understand or know what is going on the
13 state level. And that is not to say our
14 representative there is not doing anything.

15 Again Rita represents and understands
16 the needs of the City of Zion as many of our
17 residents there understand that we
18 can come to Rita.

19 So we ask that if when you go to do
20 your redistricting, include Zion in a district
21 that represents the whole population of the
22 district. As you look at it now, it's 61 district
23 I believe we are in.

24 We sit there all by ourselves with

1 absolutely -- I am not going to say anything, but
2 that is unfair.

3 But, again, it's not representation
4 that we need in order to have our voices heard and
5 so, again, please consider that; and that was
6 evident by your own demographics by our increased
7 population of African-American and Latino in the
8 last census. So thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you sir, much
10 appreciated.

11 The next witness is Ennedy Rivera,
12 Latino Coalition of Lake County.

13 MS. RIVERA: Good Afternoon and thank you
14 for the opportunity.

15 My name is Ennedy E-n-n-e-d-y Rivera
16 R-i-v-e-r-a. I am a local attorney as well as a
17 member of the Latino Coalition of Lake County,
18 founded in 1994.

19 The Latino Coalition represents over
20 35 not for profits as well for four profits
21 throughout the whole Lake County area with well
22 over 100 members.

23 Our mission is to improve the quality
24 of life in the Latino communities through

1 education, professional networking, as well as
2 accessibility of services.

3 We ask that the redistricting maps
4 represent the one person, one vote spirit in order
5 to unite the diverse community that we represent
6 and provide an opportunity for growth in the
7 representation.

8 Moreover, we request communications
9 concerning the redistricting maps in order to be
10 fully engaged in this very important process.

11 There is absolutely no time like the
12 present to have the community become involved and
13 be fully informed what they are doing currently.
14 Thank you so much.

15 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
16 testimony. That concludes all of the witness
17 slips I have.

18 Are there any members of the audience
19 who have not spoken or wish to speak at this
20 hearing?

21 A VOICE: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN LANG: Please step forward, sir.
23 Please make your comments, state your first name
24 and spell your last please and make sure you fill

1 out a witness slip when you have complete your
2 remarks.

3 MR. FEBI: My name is Mark Febi, F-e-b-i.
4 I live in Des Plaines, Illinois.

5 Why I am here is you have no idea of
6 all these school districts, all these were
7 farmland many, many years ago. They have nothing
8 but farmland like in Des Plaines.

9 The post World War II population
10 growth have filled up the Des Plaines area. Now
11 we in Des Plaines we have three different park
12 districts, we have three representatives in
13 districts. We have two state districts and two
14 library districts and three high school districts,
15 two high school districts.

16 So that is the reason you have this
17 confusion and then, of course, it's the same in
18 Lake County.

19 You go east in Lake County where you
20 have Lincolnshire, Long Grove, none of these
21 communities were around many, many years ago.
22 They are newly developed.

23 So when these districts were formed,
24 there was nothing but farmland, and it didn't

1 affect nobody. This is why we have all these
2 different school districts, park districts. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIRMAN LANG: Is there anyone else in the
5 audience that wishes to testify today?

6 A VOICE: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN LANG: Please step forward.

8 MR. MELLEN: Hello, my name is Larry
9 Mellen, M-e-l-l-e-n. And I work for the Lake
10 County Center for independent living.

11 I am here to speak on behalf of two
12 different groups that have not been brought up.
13 One is young people in Lake County, also people
14 with disabilities which is another minority group
15 that has not been brought up and there is ever 75
16 people with disabilities in Lake County.

17 One of my jobs is to encourage the
18 young people that I work with who have
19 disabilities to take part in their local
20 government, and it's very hard when it's so
21 confusing and it's difficult to get them involved,
22 but I am not stopping them and I'm going to
23 continue encouraging them.

24 I also wanted to let you know that we

1 were involved in the petitioning signatures
2 collection for the Fair Map Ammendent that was
3 proposed last year.

4 At the Center we collected more
5 signatures than any other group in Lake County.
6 So we would hope that you would consider a fair
7 map when you are considering redistricting. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN LANG: Thank you for your
10 comments.

11 Would there be anyone else in the
12 audience who wishes to testify?

13 Going once, going twice.

14 [No response.]

15 CHAIRMAN LANG: Well, I would like to thank
16 the City of Waukegan for hosting us today and, of
17 course, representative Mayfield, thank you for
18 your efforts with this hearing together.

19 I would like to thank the
20 legislatures and staff that helped make this
21 meeting run so smoothly.

22 I want to thank all for their
23 participation in the audience.

24 We look forward to receiving

1 additional comments and suggestions through our
2 public access station to help in the internet.
3 With that this hearing will now stand in recess.
4 Thank you all.

5 (Whereupon, the hearing
6 concluded at 3:10 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Patricia A. Armstrong, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter within and for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the testimony of said witnesses were taken on April 19, 2011, by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the proceedings.

Patricia A. Armstrong, CSR-RPR
Illinois License No. 084-001766

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