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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
DuPAGE

Hearing held, pursuant to notice, on the 2nd
day of April, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 a.m.
and 11:10 a.m. via Zoom teleconference.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

3 Representative Elizabeth Hernandez, Chairperson
4 Representative Curtis J. Tarver, II, Vice-Chairperson
5 Representative Tim Butler, Republican Spokesperson
6 Representative Avery Bourne, Member
7 Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, Member
8 Representative Dave Severin, Member
9 Representative Ryan Spain, Member
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22 Representative Terra Costa Howard
23 Representative Kathleen Willis

22 Court Reporter
23 Lydia Pinkawa, CSR
24 Illinois CSR #084-002342
Alaris Litigation Services
711 North Eleventh Street

1 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: The House committee on
2 redistricting shall come to order. I'm state
3 representative Lisa Hernandez, a member of the
4 redistricting committee, and will be chairing today's
5 hearing. Before I make my statement, I'd like to
6 recognize Representative Willis and Representative
7 Costa will be joining us today.

8 And so I'd also like to thank everyone who
9 has chosen to participate in today's hearing. Your
10 insight and participation is as important as ever
11 as we begin the redistricting process under
12 unprecedented circumstances. The United States and
13 Illinois constitutions require the general assembly
14 to redraw political boundaries every ten years to
15 account for population shifts. These hearings are a
16 part of that process. House Democrats are dedicated
17 to transparency and public participation in the
18 redistricting process.

19 While state law requires a minimum of four
20 public hearings throughout the state, our committee
21 intends to hold far more and present additional
22 avenues for public participation. Our goal is to
23 hear from as many people as possible and to gain as
24 much information as possible about the diverse

1 communities of our state. Our staff have been making
2 hundreds of phone calls to encourage participation in
3 these upcoming hearings. Those who wish to
4 participate should be given an opportunity, period.
5 We are holding a series of virtual and in person
6 hearings throughout the state. As of last month, we
7 announced a schedule of 23 hearings before proposing
8 a redistricting plan. For comparison, in 2011 the
9 House redistricting committee held 17 hearings in
10 total.

11 While we are guided in this endeavor by the
12 United States constitution, the Federal Voting Rights
13 Act, the Illinois constitution and the Illinois
14 Voting Rights Act, we are also interested in any
15 relevant demographic information such as social,
16 political, economic, religious or any other
17 characteristics that are unique to your community.
18 We want to hear your specific views on any social,
19 political, economic or religious interests commonly
20 held in the community, any specific interest groups
21 that exist, any concerns you have regarding the
22 current boundaries or alternatively, what works well
23 about the current boundaries and suggestions for the
24 drawing of new boundaries. In short, we want to hear

1 any testimony that is relevant to the drawing of our
2 new political boundaries.

3 This year, for the first time, Illinois
4 residents will be able to participate in the process
5 from the comfort of their own homes, including
6 through remote participation in these hearings and by
7 drawing their own maps via web site and that's
8 through the public drawing portal that's available.
9 And you can find it at IllinoisHouseDems.com, slash,
10 Redistricting. This allows any Illinois resident to
11 draw districts and share those maps with the
12 committee for consideration.

13 The public may also submit written testimony
14 or other public comment to the committee by e-mail at
15 RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.com. All written
16 testimony, public comments and maps submitted to the
17 committee will be made publicly available at ILGA.gov
18 and ILHouseDems.com, slash, Redistricting.
19 Transcripts of the committee's hearings will also be
20 uploaded to those sites.

21 Today we will begin with a short slide show
22 presentation. Following that brief, we will have a
23 number of witnesses who have indicated a desire to
24 testify. If you have written testimony prepared, we

1 will ask that you submit the testimony to us and just
2 briefly summarize it in your oral presentation. Now
3 I will turn to Leader Butler for any acknowledgments
4 or a statement, if you wish.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Sure. Thank you, Madam
6 Chair. Just a question. Is this a recessed hearing,
7 do we have to take roll or --

8 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: That's correct. It's a
9 recess hearing. We don't have to take a roll call.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And so is the plan
11 to have all of these recessed hearings, then? I
12 guess there's three today.

13 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: That's my understanding.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And is the plan to
15 have this committee, this hearing done by 11 so we
16 can get on the other one or what's the --

17 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Let's try to do that.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. You know, I think
19 a lot of us made statements yesterday. I'm glad to
20 see the redistricting web site is up and going. I'd
21 be interested in knowing what data is being used for
22 the public to be able to draw maps right now, since
23 obviously the decennial census data is coming out.
24 So I'd be interested in knowing what data the

1 majority is using for people to be able to draw maps.
2 And I also would really request from you,
3 Madam Chair, what's going to happen with those maps
4 that are submitted. You know, it sounds like you're
5 giving the public the opportunity to participate, but
6 I am skeptical of whether or not this will be used to
7 draw maps or if it's just an exercise in allowing
8 people to feel like they're doing something. So if
9 you could let us know what data is being used for
10 this, I would appreciate it, and what the plan is
11 with obviously, I believe a publicly funded web site,
12 what the plan would be for any maps that will be
13 submitted. But I will keep it brief because we need
14 to get going so we can get to the next hearings
15 today.

16 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Sure. Okay, so we
17 will -- let me just remind everybody that -- I guess
18 you can let all the witnesses in. And I do need to
19 remind that they are being recorded. So I'm asking
20 that you please spell your name when you introduce
21 yourselves.

22 So we only have, we have one panel today, and
23 let me read the names. I have Diane Hewitt from
24 Indivisible DuPage, Deena Habbal from the Illinois

1 Muslim Civic Coalition. I hope I'm pronouncing this
2 correctly. Azam Nizamuddin from the Illinois Muslim
3 Civic Coalition. We also have Cima Dairanieh from
4 the Civic, the Muslim Civic Coalition. We have Ryan
5 Tolley from Change Illinois and Janice Dorner from
6 the League of Women Voters and Donna Limper from
7 DuPage County. Let's start in that order with Diane
8 Hewitt, if you could begin, please. Don't forget to
9 spell your name out. Thank you.

10 MS. HEWITT: Sorry, I was going with -- is making
11 sure that equity is taken into account. And so in
12 the northern districts of DuPage, there are quite a
13 few pockets of Latino communities and the same thing
14 in Bensenville in particular as well, obviously as in
15 West Chicago. And so I think in particular, I think
16 that the 49th district has been a really great
17 district to see how, for example, a community can be
18 included with a voice in the districting because the
19 Latino population in the 49th district is extremely
20 strong and you can see how it really allows for the
21 representation.

22 I really have been impressed with how
23 senator, state senator, now State Senator Karina
24 Villa in her e-mails to the community, she has an

1 English and a Spanish version, which is extremely
2 helpful. I mean, that can really only come if you
3 have that type of representation. And I can also see
4 that the staffers in Maura Hirschauer's district are
5 bilingual, which is extremely helpful when it comes
6 to actually meeting the community's needs.

7 And when you look at the demographics of
8 DuPage, 14 percent of the population is Latino, with
9 12 percent being of an Asian national origin. And
10 when you hear that Urdu is one of -- the second most
11 common language that's being taught in ESL, I think
12 that there's some significant populations in the
13 Asian-American community that need to be looked at
14 with where they actually live in the northern
15 districts. So that's the main thing that I'd really
16 like to highlight.

17 And also the fact that from an income
18 distribution perspective, I think that there's not
19 that many places where low income housing is actually
20 in DuPage. And so you can see where, for example,
21 some of the districts have not a lot, like hardly any
22 representation from different economic backgrounds.
23 I think that can be extremely problematic because
24 then a lot of times their needs aren't even heard or

1 what have you. So that's the main things that I'd
2 like to bring to your attention. But I really am
3 excited to hear that you all are taking input from
4 the community with regards to mapping because for so
5 long that really hasn't been the case. So having the
6 input is extremely helpful.

7 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, Diane, thank you.
8 Spokesperson Butler, are you okay if we wait for
9 questions to the end and have everybody go? Would
10 that be okay?

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: That's fine.

12 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: All right, we move on to
13 Deena Habbal from the Muslim Civic Coalition.

14 MS. HABBAL: Hi, my name is Deena, spelled
15 D-e-e-n-a, last name is H-a-b-b-a-l. And I'm here
16 with the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition. Thank you,
17 Madam Chair and committee members for having me here
18 today. I'm going to share my screen, if that's okay.

19 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Mm hmm.

20 MS. HABBAL: So we are a coalition of over 150
21 partners and allies of all races, ethnicities,
22 classes, faiths and backgrounds and currently doing
23 work in ten counties across Illinois. Our focus is
24 ensuring policies made for us are made with us, and

1 redistricting is one critical piece of this. And we
2 would like to thank Change Illinois, Asian Americans
3 Advancing Justice and other partner organizations for
4 sharing information about these meetings with us.

5 The coalition recommends that legislators
6 make sure census supports, census data supports
7 redistricting and that the process is transparent,
8 inclusive and clear. In Illinois, we have
9 communities that did not exist in 2010 such as the
10 Rohingya community and the Syrian refugee community,
11 others that weren't vocal about their needs and
12 others that have grown in the past ten years such as
13 the African immigrant communities. Our communities
14 fit in many of these criteria.

15 This past year I worked as a community
16 organizer with my husband. We were getting out the
17 vote and getting people to fill out the census and we
18 actually filled out the census together for the first
19 time as a family, and we saw firsthand how diverse
20 our state actually is. So I'm going to share a
21 little data with you and then my colleague Cima is
22 going to share what's happening in neighborhoods
23 across this area.

24 So the first thing we want to share, that

1 Muslim communities across our nation are one of the
2 most diverse faith groups. Though we are not a
3 religious organization, we want to highlight that
4 race, class, faith all connect. We ask that you
5 consider these as critical aspects of the community
6 during the redistricting process.

7 Now, this slide shows the diversity of
8 American Muslim communities in Illinois. Those who
9 identify as Muslim also identify as African-American,
10 Asian, white, Arab, Latino, African immigrant. And
11 this is a story many of us don't know because they're
12 oftentimes invisible communities. I, myself,
13 represent three slices of this pie, Arab, white,
14 native American.

15 So this graph here shows that Illinois had,
16 per capita, the largest population of Muslims in the
17 nation, so more than New York, Texas and Michigan.
18 Knowing this and the fact that there's not a single
19 Illinois state legislator that identifies as Muslim
20 is unjust and we believe redistricting can help
21 correct this. Now I'm going to hand it over to Cima
22 to talk a little bit about her experience.

23 MS. DAIRANIEH: Thank you, Deena. Good
24 morning. Thank you for having us. My name is Cima,

1 first name C-i-m-a, last name --

2 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Cima, excuse me. Before
3 you go on, I have to step back a little bit.

4 MS. DAIRANIEH: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: I omitted one step before
6 the witnesses. And I am looking, there's a
7 presentation from staff that was supposed to occur
8 before the witnesses.

9 MS. DAIRANIEH: Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: So I'm going to ask staff
11 and we'll resume with the witnesses right after the
12 staff presentation.

13 MS. DAIRANIEH: Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Staff, are we ready for
15 that?

16 MS. JACKSON DONNELL: Yes. I will go ahead and
17 share my screen. So my name is Marissa Jackson
18 Donnell. I'm an employee of the Illinois House of
19 Representatives. I'm just here to give a brief
20 overview of the state's redistricting procedure.
21 I'll briefly discuss the background of redistricting
22 and the redistricting process in Illinois. I'm
23 also going to be going over federal and state
24 redistricting requirements and guidelines. Finally,

1 we will be looking at what preliminary data reveals
2 about population trends in the state and region.

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

14 The timeline for redrawing the legislative
15 maps are based on the Illinois constitution. The
16 constitution gives the Illinois legislature the
17 initial responsibility of passing the new legislative
18 map. Both the state House and the state Senate must
19 pass a plan with majority votes which then must be
20 signed by the governor.

21 If a new map does not go into effect by the
22 constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility
23 for creating a new map passes from the legislature
24 to a legislative redistricting commission. The

1 commission would consist of eight members, with two
2 each appointed by the legislative leaders and no more
3 than four from the same political party. A majority
4 vote of five or more commission members will
5 constitute final approval of a new map.

6 However, if the commission does not agree to
7 a map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court
8 will submit two names, one from each party, to the
9 Illinois secretary of state, who will then choose one
10 name at random to serve as the ninth member of the
11 commission. Five of the nine members of the
12 commission must agree to a plan no later than
13 October 5th.

14 In order to understand the process of
15 creating new districts, we must look at some legal
16 guiding principles. First among these is equal
17 population. Congressional districts must be nearly
18 equal in population, while state districts must be
19 substantially equal population.

20 Federal and state law also requires that all
21 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts
22 of a district must be next to each other unless
23 connected by water. Annexations and unincorporated
24 areas in municipalities and counties sometimes mean

1 communities are discontinuous. However,
2 congressional and state districts must be adjacent
3 or connected at all points.

4 A more difficult requirement to define is
5 compactness. There are at least 30 different
6 scientific ways to measure how compact a district
7 is, where no statute or court precedent identifies
8 standard criteria of compactness. In theory,
9 compactness focuses on the shape of a district's
10 boundaries, how spread out a district is from a
11 central core or where the district's population
12 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is
13 hindered by geography and on the ground realities, so
14 often the interpretation of compactness involves more
15 than a visual test. Illinois is one of 14 states
16 that nests its house districts, also called
17 representative districts, inside one of its senate
18 districts, also called legislative districts.

19 Map makers will also look, where possible, to
20 follow existing political and geographical boundaries
21 in ways that maximize a community's opportunity to
22 have its interests represented. As you know,
23 however, county, municipality, township and natural
24 geographic boundaries are not always compact or

1 contiguous.

2 By studying population data and holding
3 public hearings like this to listen to the thoughts
4 of residents across the state, law makers look to
5 identify what are known as communities of interest.
6 A community of interest is a group of people
7 concentrated in a geographic area where socially,
8 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously or
9 otherwise alike can be joined in a district to most
10 effectively have their voices heard. The factors
11 contributing to any particular community of interest
12 will vary throughout the state.

13 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
14 represent minority representation. The principles of
15 the Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent
16 the reduction of opportunities for minority
17 populations to participate equally in the electoral
18 process. However, districts are not redrawn solely
19 on the basis of race.

20 Illinois law also protects representation of
21 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois
22 Voting Rights Act helps to prevent minority
23 fracturing or dividing a concentration of minorities
24 among two or more districts by requiring map makers

1 to consider creating crossover districts, coalition
2 districts or influence districts.

3 A crossover district is one in which large
4 minority groups may elect the candidate of its choice
5 with help from voters of the majority group. A
6 coalition district brings multiple racial or minority
7 groups together to elect a candidate of their choice.
8 An influence districts allows a group to influence an
9 election outcome without being the majority
10 population in a district. These state law
11 requirements come into play only after compliance
12 with federal law and U.S. and state constitutional
13 requirements on redistricting.

14 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
15 public participation by requiring public hearings
16 across the state, one of which we are having here
17 right now. At the end of the presentation, I'll
18 display an e-mail address on the screen which Chair
19 Hernandez already provided where you can submit your
20 ideas. The committee is also accepting written
21 testimony today.

22 Now that we've covered the redistricting
23 process, let's discuss what data shows about
24 Illinois' population. The U.S. Census Bureau has

1 delayed the release of much of the decennial census
2 data by more than six months until this fall.
3 However, the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population
4 estimate shows some trends that can help inform the
5 work ahead. The census 2019 population estimate
6 shows an overall decline in state population over the
7 past decade. There are, however, areas that project
8 to have population gains. Communities with the
9 largest population by percentage increase since 2010
10 are Kendall, Monroe, Champaign and Kane counties.

11 Demographically speaking, the state's white
12 population is projected to decline, while
13 African-American populations statewide will likely
14 see a smaller overall decline. The Hispanic and
15 Asian population across Illinois are expected to see
16 growth. Locally, DuPage County is projected to see a
17 modest increase in population. The county's white
18 population stands to decline, while African-American,
19 Asian and Hispanic population will likely increase.

20 Thank you for your attention and for coming
21 out to share your thoughts today. As the Chair
22 mentioned, you'll be able to find testimony from
23 this and other hearings on ILGA.gov and on
24 ILHouseDems.com, slash, redistricting. The

1 redistricting web site offers additional ways to
2 engage with the process, including our public drawing
3 portal where you can draw and submit your own
4 district maps. You can send further written
5 testimony and suggestions to the committee any time
6 by e-mailing redistricting committee at HDS.ILGA.gov.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. So
9 Cima, if you could resume, I'm sorry I had to hold it
10 up. But please continue.

11 MS. DAIRANIEH: Do you need me to re-spell my
12 name? Was that captured, do you think?

13 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Could you spell the whole
14 name?

15 MS. DAIRANIEH: Cima, C-i-m-a, last name
16 Dairanieh, D-a-i-r-a-n-i-e-h. And I am with the
17 Civic Coalition, Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition. I
18 just wanted to echo what Deena had said about DuPage
19 changing quite a bit. We are third generation in our
20 family, DuPage residents, parents, myself and now my
21 children. And as she said, we represent many, many
22 slices of that pie. However, the current
23 redistricting is not really allowing us to kind of
24 come through and see that represented in public

1 offices.

2 We are also diverse as in we have south Asian
3 representation, we are Arab, we are white. We are
4 also diverse in our contributions. We are educators,
5 therapists, business owners, lawyers, et cetera. And
6 like I said, we've lived here for three generations
7 and I've personally seen a change in, for example, my
8 siblings going to public high schools. They're five
9 years apart. The makeup of their graduating class
10 looks very, very different in a five year span, let
11 alone 10 or 20 years.

12 And we are working with you and all our
13 partners to make sure that the redistricting allows
14 us to kind of cut through that and see representation
15 that will allow for that equitable representation.
16 So we appreciate your time with letting us come in
17 and share our experiences and how this
18 intersectionality really does deserve to be
19 represented. Thank you for your time.

20 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank you for
21 your remarks. We'll continue with Azam. Is Azam --

22 MS. HABBAL: I don't think he's on the call.

23 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay. So next we'll go
24 to Ryan Tolley from Change Illinois.

1 MR. TOLLEY: Thank you, Chair Hernandez and
2 committee members, for providing me with the
3 opportunity to testify today. My name is Ryan
4 Tolley. That is R-y-a-n, last name T-o-l-l-e-y.
5 I am the policy director for Change Illinois and the
6 Change Illinois Action Fund. Both are nonpartisan
7 non-profits that educate, engage and advocate for
8 ethics and efficiency in governments and elections.

9 Change Illinois is a coalition alongside our
10 diverse partners in more than 30 organizations. We
11 have long advocated for an independent, transparent
12 redistricting process. There's now been two weeks of
13 hearings that covered almost half the counties in
14 Illinois. Despite that, participation by the general
15 public at these hearings has not been nearly enough
16 to ensure that maps will accurately reflect the
17 state's many diverse communities. There are a number
18 of community and good government organizations whose
19 representatives have testified, and all of us
20 independently have said that the Senate and House
21 committees need more transparency.

22 We appreciate the effort by the House to post
23 their upcoming hearings with more notice, but we
24 continue to have concerns about the lack of

1 transparency and detail about the subject matter,
2 about how people should know who should show up to
3 which committee hearings based on vague geographic
4 regions and about how testimony will be reflected in
5 map proposals. There's been no indication of what
6 the process looks like after April 17th when the last
7 House committee hearing is scheduled to take place.

8 A fair map does not result from simply
9 holding hearings. There must be much more robust
10 outreach to communities across the state to give
11 people ample time to attend. In the past few years,
12 the state has spent millions of dollars to ensure
13 widespread participation in the 2020 census.
14 Currently, the state isn't doing a fraction of that
15 to ensure that people are aware of opportunities to
16 participate in redistricting hearings that set how
17 they will be represented for the next ten years.
18 Posting notice on government web sites is clearly
19 insufficient. Good government groups and community
20 organizations are doing their part to notify
21 residents, but it's challenging when we cannot answer
22 their basic questions.

23 The people of Illinois need more outreach.
24 They need this committee to respond to their input

1 and explain how they use the map proposals. People
2 absolutely need to see map proposals weeks before
3 votes are taken and they need to have the opportunity
4 to weigh in and add additional public hearings after
5 maps are made public and before votes are cast.

6 To date, we've seen a great deal of focus on
7 what data will be used to produce maps. Since it
8 appears that the intention is to push forward with
9 map drawing, community members are left with no
10 choice but to use American Community Survey sampling
11 data for their testimony. ACS data was not intended
12 to be used for legislative -- drawing legislative
13 maps. Law makers have presented options that are
14 confounding and will not guarantee a fair process nor
15 equitable maps. The options are either to risk our
16 democracy to the whim of a random draw or allow for
17 maps to be pushed through using ACS data that again
18 was never intended to be used for map drawing.

19 There are other options that can be pursued.
20 As the representatives from the National Conference
21 of State Legislators repeatedly have said in their
22 testimony, the Illinois general assembly could appeal
23 to the courts to grant a delay in the constitutional
24 deadlines to wait for census data. Elected officials

1 could pass a law to push back our primary election
2 date and the petition filing period to ensure that
3 map drawers have enough time to create maps before
4 election filing deadlines. Such court ruling has
5 been pursued in other states, like Oregon and
6 California.

7 This week, the Chicago Tribune editorial
8 board reported that sources were told the senate
9 already has its tentative maps drawn, raising
10 additional questions about whether public input will
11 be used. If they're already drawn, how can anyone be
12 assured public input will be reflected in these maps
13 that will form the foundation of our democracy for
14 the next ten years. If maps already exist, are they
15 going to be made available now so the public can
16 weigh in on map proposals at upcoming hearings?

17 If proposals are being devised and not made
18 public, then that raises questions of what purpose
19 these public hearings actually serve. We need more
20 accountability. We need to ensure that maps
21 prioritize federal and state voting rights act and
22 protects communities of interest. The people of
23 Illinois need and want law makers to make it clear in
24 state law that districts will be created without

1 prioritizing incumbents or candidates from one party,
2 whether that is for their benefit or their harm.

3 When California created districts that way in
4 2011, these maps produced results of an increase in
5 the number of majority members and nine more elected
6 people of color. A compliance report is needed
7 explaining how these maps meet these shared values,
8 along with the value of prioritizing communities of
9 color and those for whom English is not their primary
10 language. Non-English speakers continue to face
11 impediments in participating in this process. It is
12 imperative that more information be provided about
13 how these hearings will be conducted, how the maps
14 will be drawn.

15 We ask this committee and the House to meet
16 the challenges ahead so Illinois can get a map that
17 puts power in their hands. Illinois' districts
18 belong to the people. They expect an independent and
19 transparent process that values and responds to their
20 input. They expect maps to be created that aren't
21 based on politics but on the needs of their
22 community. We urge you to meet their clear
23 expectations.

24 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Ryan,

1 for your testimony. We'll move on to Janice Dorner
2 from the League of Women Voters.

3 MS. DORNER: Thank you, Chair Hernandez and the
4 House redistricting committee members, for the
5 opportunity to testify about the remapping process in
6 Illinois. I am Jan, J-a-n, Dorner, D-o-r-n-e-r,
7 co-president of the League of Women Voters of
8 Elmhurst.

9 The League of Women Voters of Illinois has
10 worked for reforms for the state redistricting
11 process since the 1990's. For the past decade,
12 efforts have focused on an amendment to the Illinois
13 constitution to provide for a more transparent
14 process and community input through an independent
15 commission. Prior to the last redistricting in 2011,
16 Illinois general assembly passed a bill protecting
17 the voting rights of racial and linguistic minority
18 communities and requiring the legislature to hold a
19 minimum of four public hearings before passing
20 redistricting plans. However, there was no time
21 allowed for incorporating public input after the maps
22 were proposed.

23 The 2011 process will not be enough in 2021.
24 This year, complete 2020 census data will not be

1 available until well past the date by which the
2 Illinois general assembly or a backup commission is
3 constitutionally required to draw maps. Therefore,
4 it's crucial for the ILGA to pass legislation like
5 House bill 3581 or Senate bill 2554 that will provide
6 transparency and allow for more public input into the
7 redistricting process. The legislature -- the
8 legislation should require 35 public redistricting
9 hearings to surpass the number held in 2011, a public
10 hearing after the introduction of the final map that
11 will allow for adjustments to be made before the ILGA
12 or a backup commission votes, a web site for map
13 submission from the public and relevant records from
14 the general assembly's work on the remap, written
15 evidence for the final proposed map meets Federal
16 Voting Rights Act and Illinois Voting Rights Act
17 standards, ensures effective representation of racial
18 and linguistic minorities and provides for
19 preservation and protection of community
20 stakeholders.

21 Additionally, if the Illinois general
22 assembly is not using 2021 Census Bureau data to draw
23 the initial maps, they should consider appropriate
24 adjustments to the maps after the new data is

1 available to better represent racial and linguistic
2 minorities and other communities of interest. To
3 enable the public to participate in the redistricting
4 process, it is imperative that more information be
5 provided about how hearings will be conducted, what
6 will be discussed and that greater notice will be
7 given about the hearing dates. To that point, I
8 received notice of this hearing last night.

9 Thank you for considering legislation that
10 will make the redistricting process more accessible,
11 equitable and transparent and for providing the
12 League of Women Voters of Elmhurst the opportunity to
13 testify.

14 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Jan.
15 And last, we have Donna Limper.

16 MS. LIMPER: Thank you. My name is Donna,
17 D-o-n-n-a, Limper, L-i-m-p-e-r. I am a chapter
18 leader for Represent Us, DuPage County. Represent Us
19 is a grass roots pro democracy group that has
20 chapters across the nation. Represent Us advocates
21 for independent, fully transparent redistricting
22 commissions that follow strict guidelines. We
23 believe in ensuring representation for all voters,
24 regardless of political party, and fostering

1 competition in the politics industry.

2 Represent Us is concerned about the potential
3 for politicians to intentionally draw redistricting
4 lines around voters in order to guarantee their own
5 re-election or to give their political party an
6 unfair advantage. Local groups now have tools to
7 examine maps with a lens towards solving local
8 problems, including representation of
9 underrepresented groups, mental health, drug
10 addiction, law enforcement, school consolidation and
11 other social and economic issues.

12 Past and current corruption scandals have
13 plagued Illinois citizens. Transparency and time for
14 public review and input is essential to restore faith
15 in Illinois government. Any redistricting hearings
16 conducted should give plenty of notice to the public
17 and be conducted at times that the general public can
18 attend. As a grass roots group, this is incredibly
19 important.

20 We believe Illinois is at a turning point in
21 ethical and accountable government, and how the
22 redistricting process plays out will set the tone for
23 the future. In closing, Represent Us believes
24 elections should be both fair and competitive and put

1 voters in control. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Donna,
3 for your remarks. I'm going to open it up to
4 questions from the members. Any questions? Leader
5 Butler.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 A question for a few of the witnesses. Mrs. Habbal,
8 on your presentation, on your PowerPoint, I thought
9 it said that you would have maps prepared by
10 April 30th. Is that correct? I thought I saw
11 something on your --

12 MS. HABBAL: Yes, we will show those maps when we
13 finish them.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And --

15 MS. HABBAL: They should have been prepared,
16 but -- I'm sorry.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: No, go ahead.

18 MS. HABBAL: So they should have been prepared,
19 but I'll make sure, I'll ask my team and then we can
20 send those via e-mail.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And what data are
22 you using to draw those maps?

23 MS. HABBAL: That's something I have to get back
24 to you in the e-mail about. I'm personally not sure.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And you talked
2 about having a transparent process for this. What's
3 your, kind of what's your definition of a transparent
4 process? How would we -- how should we make this
5 more transparent? What would you like to see us do?

6 MS. HABBAL: So I'm not an expert in all this,
7 but from what I understand from talking to the team
8 and joining the Change Illinois and other groups is
9 just having, using our census data and just, you
10 know, incorporating communities and actually
11 understanding who Illinois is right now and that we
12 do need updated data because we are a different
13 community than we were ten years ago. So just
14 keeping that in mind, that we are no longer that
15 community and we should update based on that so that
16 the people here today get fair representation. Even
17 like having Arabs considered as white. I mean, we
18 don't get the same perks as someone who is considered
19 white gets. Like speaking of the Syrian community,
20 you know, the refugees. So I think just having fair
21 representation and knowing you can't clump everyone
22 together and expect like the same outcome for each.
23 I'm not an expert.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I understand.

1 Mr. Tolley, you had said that, and I believe, I would
2 assume Change has probably been at all the hearings
3 in the Senate and the two, obviously, that we've had
4 here in the House. Why hasn't there been public
5 participation in these hearings? There has not been
6 great public participation.

7 MR. TOLLEY: Sure, thanks for the question. You
8 know, I think for us, we've been trying to do our
9 part in letting residents know, other community
10 organizations know. Particularly in the beginning,
11 notice was very slow to come out. You know, some of
12 the questions we received were, you know, what should
13 I be talking about at these hearings, should I be
14 talking about my local community, is this hearing for
15 the process? I felt the presentation at the
16 beginning today was great, but you know, that's
17 helpful information for everyone to know, but that
18 would have been something easily, you know, we could
19 have made available to people, hey, tune in today,
20 see how the redistricting process works and then come
21 and talk about your local community.

22 So you know, we're doing the best with
23 information we're getting to get people to these
24 hearings so they can talk about their communities.

1 But people working full-time jobs, people who are not
2 doing this as a living, it's difficult for them to
3 take days off work, to take time out of their
4 schedule, particularly hearing -- I understand we
5 can't, you know, there's no perfect time for
6 everyone. But the more we can notify people, they
7 can make arrangements and be here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And you also
9 mentioned that the testimony from these hearings
10 should be reflected in map proposals. And the way I
11 heard that from you, I think you mean that should be
12 a little bit more than just showing up for a hearing
13 and saying what everybody has to say and hoping that
14 somehow that gets reflected in maps that probably are
15 going to be drawn behind closed doors.

16 So how would you envision a process currently
17 that we have either before the June 30 deadline or
18 beyond for the legislature to act or the deadlines
19 that we have in place constitutionally for the
20 commission to act, how do you see actually the public
21 having better say in how those maps are drawn? It's
22 one thing to testify in a hearing today. It's one
23 thing to go on a web site and use data that isn't
24 right to draw a map. But how would you envision the

1 public actually being involved to help us draw the
2 maps?

3 MR. TOLLEY: There's a few ways to go about it.
4 You know, one of the things we pushed for for a long
5 time is the compliance report. We talk a lot about
6 the ideals we share in prioritizing the federal
7 Voting Rights Act, prioritizing the Illinois Voting
8 Rights Act. But a compliance report could really
9 discern for the public to say, you know, for
10 District A this is a federal voting rights district,
11 this is how we met the requirement, this is a
12 district created by the Illinois Voting Rights Act,
13 this district was created through community input by
14 XYZ participants testifying at this hearing on this
15 day. So things like that.

16 It's also putting a lot more of this
17 communication on the public web site and saying when
18 someone submits their testimony and having a response
19 saying, you know, this testimony is very good, let's
20 use your -- we're going to use your feedback in
21 creating this district.

22 Those are simple things we can do so the
23 public understands how the sausage is getting made
24 rather than we all show up here, we say what we want

1 to see our districts look like and then we, you know,
2 in a month or two a map surfaces and we're getting
3 votes on it within a few days without the public
4 understanding or being able to go look at the maps
5 and say let me see how my testimony matches up with
6 what these final results are. If votes are taken
7 before the public has the opportunity to do that,
8 that's concerning.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Do you believe that
10 political, other than compliance with VRA, do you
11 think political data should be used in drawing maps?

12 MR. TOLLEY: I don't think, as I said in my
13 testimony, that we should be drawing maps based on
14 incumbents or based on a political candidate. And
15 that goes both ways. That's whether to favor them or
16 to harm them, you know, by drawing someone out of a
17 district that may be a political challenger.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Got you. Well, thank you
19 for your testimony. And I've really got to highlight
20 one thing you said that really stuck with me, and
21 that's ACS data was not meant to be used to draw
22 maps. And I think that's something that's come clear
23 in the senate hearings and these two hearings that
24 we've had.

1 Ms. Dorner, I did have one question for you.
2 You mentioned that if, basically that if the
3 legislature passed maps by June 30, the deadline that
4 they're required to -- that we're required to pass
5 maps by, that they can be changed, that they should
6 be changed then after the full decennial census data
7 comes out, which now we know will probably be mid to
8 late August, the data that we can use. How would
9 that comply with the constitution, how could the
10 legislature go back, I mean if we draw one set of
11 maps but we're actually changing it after the July 30
12 deadline, then we're actually not complying with the
13 constitution, correct?

14 MS. DORNER: To go back to what Ryan had
15 suggested about going to the judiciary about
16 changing, modifying the requirements, I'm not an
17 attorney, but if, as Ryan said, to use inappropriate
18 material to draw maps, if that's what you have to do
19 in order to meet the constitution and to get
20 something passed through a lawsuit or change in
21 the judiciary and making a change in the
22 constitutionality of that, wow, that sounds really
23 mixed up.

24 But what I'm saying is there's got to be --

1 I'm not an attorney nor do I play one, you know, on
2 TV, but there would be, there's got to be a way to do
3 what Ryan had suggested, was go to the courts, say
4 this isn't right. We can't use this data for maps.
5 We'll pretend to come up with a map and use this
6 data, but then once the real census data comes out,
7 we need to do a real map.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And I agree. If I think
9 if the legislature passes maps before June 30th with
10 the either explicit or implicit idea that we're going
11 to change the maps after that deadline, then I would
12 think that it would defer to the constitutionally
13 mandated commission that we had, that we would have
14 set up, which we have used, I think three in the last
15 four redistricting processes I think that commission
16 has actually been used. Thank you for your testimony
17 and thank you, Madam Chair. I see there are other
18 members that have questions.

19 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Representative Bourne and
20 Representative Spain.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Ryan, if you'd like to go
22 first.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: No, ladies first. Go
24 ahead.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: This question is for
2 those who live in the local area. I know a lot of
3 the testimony today is focused on the process and a
4 lot of that is because we don't see this data to know
5 these local characteristics that you might want to
6 keep together or make sure is represented in a
7 certain way. So often what we have to look at is the
8 previous map and whether or not you think that that
9 is effective or was fairly drawn.

10 Are there any local characteristics of your
11 legislative maps that you think are inherently
12 unfair, things that you want to avoid? If we're
13 asking for input on legislative maps that may end up
14 being drawn in a back room, I'm interested to know
15 how you all would like to avoid this from happening.

16 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Diane, you can go ahead
17 and respond, if you'd like.

18 MS. HEWITT: In particular when, for example,
19 precincts are split up, that tends to be -- like you
20 can have a precinct split in half or what have you,
21 that tends to be very difficult for the local people
22 to know which district they're in. So in essence I
23 think, what, it's only nine percent of the population
24 actually knows who their state rep is. And so we'd

1 like to make it a little bit easier for them to know
2 their own districts.

3 Another thing I think that really could be
4 more fair is diversity in income distribution in your
5 district. When you have, for example, some districts
6 in certain areas of our county where the income
7 distribution is not very spread out, like you can
8 have a very high income district income in, for
9 example, a Downers Grove township community and then
10 it's not as representative, for example, of the
11 state, or of the area in general if you just have a
12 very high pocket of income distribution. That's it.
13 But thank you very much for allowing me to testify.
14 I forgot to say that at the beginning.

15 MS. DORNER: Just real briefly, I can say that
16 ten years ago Elmhurst was split in half as far as
17 house reps and senate rep -- our senators, state led
18 senators, and ten years ago Elmhurst became whole.
19 And I would hate to see us go back the way it was.

20 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, Representative
21 Avery, is that okay? Can we move --

22 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: (Nodding.)

23 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Representative Spain.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you very much, Madam

1 Chair. I really want to thank all the witnesses for
2 joining us and presenting testimony. And not just
3 that. So many of the witnesses that have spoken
4 today were key partners with all of us in the census.
5 And as we learned yesterday from NCSL, Illinois made
6 the second highest dedication of resources in the
7 country to making sure that we had a full, complete
8 and accurate count. And many of those resources were
9 able to be deployed through all of you as great
10 partners. So I just want to thank you all for that.
11 And especially Change Illinois was very involved with
12 working with us on the census, too.

13 But Mr. Tolley, I do want to talk to you
14 about Change Illinois' perspective as we go forward
15 because -- and we've worked together for a number of
16 years. And just looking back to the various
17 constitutional amendment efforts that we have had
18 following the failure of the independent maps
19 petition effort led by citizens and then when we
20 pivoted to introduce legislation to create
21 constitutional amendments, I was the sponsor in the
22 100th general assembly of House joint resolution
23 constitutional amendment 43, again using changes
24 language. In the 101st general assembly, that was

1 HJRCA 15. I was a chief co for Representative Costa
2 Howard's version of that, constitutional amendment
3 41. In each of those, we had a lot in those
4 amendments about how we would create a different way
5 forward to do legislative redistricting. But would
6 you agree that a key component in every one of those
7 amendments is that we would take the legislators, the
8 politicians out of the process for drawing our own
9 maps?

10 MR. TOLLEY: All right, for the constitutional
11 amendments, yes, that was a major feature of the
12 legislation, was putting that power back into the
13 hands of residents of Illinois to draw up legislative
14 maps rather than elected officials. You know, we
15 were unsuccessful, as you noted, in getting that on
16 the ballot and having it go for voters to decide.
17 And you know, now it is April 2nd. The re-map has to
18 happen this year. We have worked on additional
19 legislation, that's HB 3581, which takes a lot of
20 great components from the fair maps amendment. Again
21 the shared ideals that I had spoken to earlier that I
22 think a lot of members in these hearings and in the
23 senate hearings talked about, like prioritizing the
24 Federal Voting Rights Act, like transparency,

1 accountability in working with where we are in the
2 process today.

3 And additionally, as I said in my testimony,
4 you know, as we're looking at options, there's still
5 the ability to go to the courts and seek relief and
6 wait for the census data to continue this process.
7 It's being done in other states and I think it would
8 be in our interest to at least consider that.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Sure. But in your
10 testimony you, in fact, included two recommendations.
11 One is to petition the court for relief in terms of
12 timing and the second was for the legislature to push
13 back our primary. So the thing that's missing is the
14 primary objective that we always had in every version
15 of these constitutional amendments before. What are
16 we doing to take the politicians out of drawing our
17 own maps in a smoke filled, dark room and then
18 presenting it and dropping it into the laps of
19 voters? We can buy all the time in the world, but if
20 we still operate with that fundamental principle of
21 unfairness and allowing the politicians to select
22 their own voters, we have failed.

23 So I appreciate your testimony and I
24 appreciate those two recommendations. But there's a

1 big one, the biggest one of all that is being left
2 out here. And I strongly encourage that we think
3 about a different way forward here so that we do not
4 repeat the mistakes of the past and continue to
5 deliver to all of our citizens a bad map. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
7 Representative Spain. Do we have any other questions
8 for members?

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Madam Chair, I'm just
10 going to follow up real quick to Mr. Tolley, if you
11 don't mind.

12 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Go right ahead.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So Mr. Tolley, has Change
14 met with Speaker Welch recently about the map
15 process?

16 MR. TOLLEY: We did meet with the speaker earlier
17 this year about the map process.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And what were the subject
19 of those discussions?

20 MR. TOLLEY: I mean, we talked generally about
21 things we'd like to see in this re-map, a lot of
22 which was provided in my testimony today that we
23 continue to advocate for.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And how was that received

1 by the speaker?

2 MR. TOLLEY: I think with everything that, you
3 know, they're looking and considering, but we have
4 not heard any definitive answers on some of the
5 things we would like to see and of course we continue
6 to be here advocating today to all of you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I would say, just again
8 to follow up on Representative Spain's point, I think
9 Change particularly is in a unique situation to help
10 live up to your name, honestly, and drive change
11 right now, holding legislators accountable. I'm glad
12 to see Representative Costa Howard is on here. As
13 Representative Spain noted, we were both co-sponsors
14 of her legislation which was your legislation last
15 year. As I stated yesterday, we have a majority of
16 the general assembly, literally a majority of the
17 general assembly that has either voted for,
18 co-sponsored or has expressed public support going to
19 a commission. And whether it's going -- asking for
20 relief legally or, as I stated yesterday, we have a
21 commission we can use.

22 Now, granted, it hasn't been -- it has only
23 been used previously in a political manner, but that
24 doesn't mean the commission that we have spelled out

1 in the constitution can't be used in a non-political
2 manner if you, your organization especially, holds
3 the leaders of the general assembly and all the
4 members of the general assembly who support a
5 commission to appoint people to that commission that
6 would support a fair maps process. And I would urge
7 your organization to step up and start doing that or
8 else we're going to have a map shoved down our
9 throats by June 30th. That's what's going to happen.
10 And so I would really urge you guys to step up and
11 start putting pressure on members who are on record
12 supporting a commission. Because I think you can
13 make that change. I really do. But you guys have
14 got to really step it up.

15 MR. TOLLEY: If it's okay, I do want to clarify a
16 few things. Is that okay, Representative?

17 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: (Nodding.)

18 MR. TOLLEY: So I do want to clarify this
19 commission that is in our state constitution is
20 nothing near what we've advocated for in the past.
21 We advocated for a citizens led process that would
22 be outside the scope of the general assembly. So
23 saying, trying to say that this back up commission
24 is somewhat parallel or related, that's just not

1 possible.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Listen, it's the only
3 commission you've got available this year, in my
4 mind. So it's either that or you're going to have
5 the majority party draw maps behind closed doors.
6 That's what's going to happen.

7 MR. TOLLEY: I will have to disagree with you
8 that the back up commission in our constitution is a
9 nonpartisan process like we've advocated for in the
10 past. And as someone who for years has been
11 advocating to change that process, they are not one
12 and the same.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I'm not saying they are
14 the same. And as you know, I've co-sponsored your
15 legislation. I believe that that's the way to go.
16 My point is if you put the political pressure on the
17 four leaders of the general assembly to appoint
18 members which -- four legislative members and four
19 public members, if you put the pressure on the
20 leaders of the general assembly to appoint people to
21 that commission who believe in your principles, I
22 think you can drive change. We're not, I mean, we've
23 tried to get the constitutional amendment, we've
24 tried to set it up. I've had legislation to do it

1 statutorily, there's legislation out there by Senator
2 Barickman to do it statutorily right now. But
3 obviously, you guys have met with the speaker. I
4 don't know what those discussions were. It
5 disappoints me a little bit that you met with the
6 speaker and as far as I know, you haven't met with
7 the other four leaders about what you guys would like
8 to see. But I think you have a real ability to drive
9 some change here between now and when the map
10 actually gets drawn.

11 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler, I believe,
12 Diana, did you want to say something as well? I
13 thought I saw your hand up.

14 MS. HEWITT: Sorry, no. Thank you, ma'am.

15 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay. All right, any
16 further questions from members? So Deena, I do have
17 a question for you. Did I hear you correctly, did
18 you say you're going to be submitting maps and you
19 will be sharing data? Or I didn't hear you
20 correctly. Or did I hear you correctly or not?
21 Deena?

22 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIS: I don't see Deena on any
23 more, Lisa.

24 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: I've got her on here.

1 MS. HABBAL: I'm sorry. My Internet connection
2 is terrible, so it's hard to hear sometimes. Can you
3 repeat the question?

4 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Sure. I thought I heard
5 you earlier you are submitting maps and you will
6 submitting data or not?

7 MS. HABBAL: Yes, so we created some maps just
8 showing, from what I understand, I'll have to double
9 check with my team members, but we created some maps
10 of just showing like where we are in Illinois based
11 on community centers, mosques, halal stores,
12 restaurants and just to get an idea about, you know,
13 which communities have like big populations of
14 Muslims.

15 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay.

16 MS. HABBAL: But we will send an e-mail with
17 everything included and with more clarification.

18 CHAIRPERSON HERNANDEZ: Okay, sounds good. Okay,
19 I think that's it. I just want to double check. I
20 want to make sure I did not miss any witnesses. So
21 this is your last chance. And if so, one more time,
22 members, any questions before I recess? Okay. Well,
23 more conversation, good conversation. But since
24 there's no further questions, I will recess to the

1 call of the chair. See you next time. Take care.

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
2 CITY OF SPRINGFIELD)

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4 I, LYDIA B. PINKAWA, a Certified Shorthand
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the meeting
6 aforementioned was held at the time previously
7 described.

8

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
10 hand and seal.

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HEARING 4/2/2021

A				
a.m 1:6,7	advocated 22:11 46:20,21 47:9	Annexations 15:23	assume 33:2	30:20 33:1
ability 43:5 48:8	advocates 29:20	announced 4:7	assured 25:12	36:9 47:15,21 48:11
able 5:4 6:22 7:1 19:22 36:4 41:9	advocating 45:6 47:11	annual 19:3	attend 23:11 30:18	believes 30:23
absolutely 24:2	afforded 14:4	answer 23:21	attention 10:2 19:20	belong 26:18
accepting 18:20	aftermention... 51:6	answers 45:4	attorney 37:17 38:1	benefit 26:2
accessible 29:10	African 11:13 12:10	apart 21:9	August 37:8	Bensenville 8:14
account 3:15 8:11	African-Ameri... 12:9 19:13,18	appeal 24:22	available 5:8,17 25:15 28:1 29:1 33:19 47:3	best 33:22
accountability 25:20 43:1	ago 32:13 40:16 40:18	appears 24:8	avenues 3:22	better 29:1 34:21
accountable 30:21 45:11	agree 15:6,12 38:8 42:6	appoint 46:5 47:17,20	Avery 2:4 40:21	beyond 34:18
accurate 41:8	ahead 13:16 19:5 26:16 31:17 38:24 39:16 44:12	appointed 15:2	avoid 39:12,15	big 44:1 49:13
accurately 22:16	Alaris 2:23	approve 15:5	aware 23:15	biggest 44:1
acknowledgm... 6:3	alike 17:9	approval 15:5	Azam 8:2 21:21 21:21	bilingual 9:5
ACS 24:11,17 36:21	allies 10:21	approximately 14:9		bill 27:16 28:5,5
act 4:13,14 17:15 17:22 25:21 28:16,16 34:18 34:20 35:7,8 35:12 42:24	allow 21:15 24:16 28:6,11	April 1:6 23:6 31:10 42:17	B	bit 12:22 13:3 20:19 34:12 40:1 48:5
Action 22:6	allowed 27:21	Arab 12:10,13 21:3	B 51:4	board 25:8
add 24:4	allowing 7:7 20:23 40:13 43:21	Arabs 32:17	back 13:3 25:1 31:23 37:10,14 39:14 40:19 41:16 42:12 43:13 46:23 47:8	boundaries 3:14 4:22,23,24 5:2 16:10,20 16:24
addiction 30:10	allows 5:10 8:20 18:8 21:13	area 11:23 17:7 39:2 40:11	background 13:21	Bourne 2:4 38:19,21 39:1 40:22
addition 18:14	alongside 22:9	areas 15:24 19:7 40:6	backgrounds 9:22 10:22	brief 5:22 7:13 13:19
additional 3:21 20:1 24:4 25:10 42:18	alternatively 4:22	arrangements 34:7	backups 28:2,12	briefly 6:2 13:21 40:15
additionally 28:21 43:3	amendment 27:12 41:17,23 42:2,20 47:23	Asian 9:9 11:2 12:10 19:15,19 21:2	bad 44:5	bring 10:2
address 18:18	amendments 41:21 42:4,7,11 43:15	Asian-Ameri... 9:13	ballot 42:16	brings 18:6
adjacent 16:2	American 12:8 12:14 24:10	asking 7:19 39:13 45:19	Barickman 48:2	Bureau 18:24 28:22
adjustments 28:11,24	Americans 11:2	aspects 12:5	based 14:15 23:3 26:21 32:15 36:13,14 49:10	Bureau's 19:3
Advancing 11:3	ample 23:11	assembly 3:13 24:22 27:16 28:2,22 41:22 41:24 45:16,17 46:3,4,22 47:17,20	basic 23:22	business 21:5
advantage 30:6		assembly's 28:14	basically 37:2	Butler 2:4 6:3,5 6:10,14,18 10:8 10:11 31:5,6,14 31:17,21 32:1 32:24 34:8 36:9,18 38:8 44:9,13,18,24 45:7 46:17 47:2,13 48:11
advocate 22:7 44:23			basis 17:19	buy 43:19
			beginning 33:10,16 40:14	
			believe 7:11 12:20 29:23	

HEARING 4/2/2021

C	20:13 21:20	3:12	38:13,15 45:19	16:5,8,9,12,14
C 2:1	21:23 26:24	citizens 30:13	45:21,24 46:5	comparison 4:8
C-i-m-a 13:1	29:14 31:2	41:19 44:5	46:5,12,19,23	competition
20:15	38:19 39:16	46:21	47:3,8,21	30:1
California 25:6	40:20,23	CITY 51:2	commissions	competitive
26:3	44:6,12 48:11	Civic 8:1,3,4,4	29:22	30:24
call 6:9 21:22	48:15,24 49:4	10:13,16 20:17	committee 1:2	complete 27:24
50:1	49:15,18	20:17	2:2 3:1,4,20	41:7
called 16:16,18	challenger	clarification	4:9 5:12,14,17	compliance
calls 4:2	36:17	49:17	6:15 10:17	18:11 26:6
candidate 18:4	challenges	clarify 46:15,18	18:20 20:5,6	35:5,8 36:10
18:7 36:14	26:16	class 12:4 21:9	22:2 23:3,7	comply 37:9
candidates 26:1	challenging	classes 10:22	23:24 26:15	complying
capita 12:16	23:21	clear 11:8 25:23	27:4	37:12
captured 20:12	Champaign	26:22 36:22	committee's	component
care 50:1	19:10	clearly 23:18	5:19	42:6
case 10:5	chance 49:21	closed 34:15	committees	components
cast 24:5	change 8:5 11:2	47:5	22:21	42:20
census 6:23	21:7,24 22:5,6	closing 30:23	common 9:11	concentrated
11:6,6,17,18	22:9 32:8	clump 32:21	commonly 4:19	17:7
18:24 19:1,3,5	33:2 37:20,21	co-president	communication	concentration
23:13 24:24	38:11 41:11,14	27:7	35:17	17:23
27:24 28:22	44:13 45:9,10	co-sponsored	communities	concerned
32:9 37:6	46:13 47:11,22	45:18 47:14	4:1 8:13 11:9,13	30:2
38:6 41:4,12	48:9	co-sponsors	11:13 12:1,8,12	concerning
43:6	changed 37:5,6	45:13	16:1 17:5 19:8	36:8
center 16:12	changes 14:13	coalition 8:1,3,4	22:17 23:10	concerns 4:21
centers 49:11	41:23	10:13,16,20	25:22 26:8	22:24
central 16:11	changing 20:19	11:5 18:1,6	27:18 29:2	conducted
certain 39:7	37:11,16	20:17,17 22:9	32:10 33:24	26:13 29:5
40:6	chapter 29:17	colleague 11:21	49:13	30:16,17
Certified 51:4	chapters 29:20	color 26:6,9	community 4:17	Conference
certify 51:5	characteristics	come 3:2 9:2	4:20 8:17,24	24:20
cetera 21:5	4:17 39:5,10	18:11 20:24	9:13 10:4 11:10	confounding
chair 6:6 7:3	check 49:9,19	21:16 33:11,20	11:10,15 12:5	24:14
10:17 18:18	Chicago 8:15	36:22 38:5	17:6,11 22:18	Congress 14:5
19:21 22:1	25:7	comes 9:5 37:7	23:19 24:9,10	congressional
27:3 31:6	chief 42:1	38:6	26:22 27:14	14:8,12 15:17
38:17 41:1 44:9	children 20:21	comfort 5:5	28:19 32:13,15	16:2
50:1	choice 18:4,7	coming 6:23	32:19 33:9,14	connect 12:4
chairing 3:4	24:10	19:20	33:21 35:13	connected
Chairperson	choose 15:9	comment 5:14	40:9 49:11	15:23 16:3
2:3 3:1 6:8,13	chosen 3:9	comments 5:16	community's	connection 49:1
6:17 7:16 10:7	Cima 8:3 11:21	commission	9:6 16:21	consider 12:5
10:12,19 13:2,5	12:21,24 13:2	14:24 15:1,4,6	compact 16:6	18:1 28:23
13:10,14 20:8	20:9,15	15:11,12 27:15	16:24	43:8
	circumstances	28:2,12 34:20	compactness	consideration

HEARING 4/2/2021

5:12 considered 32:17,18 considering 29:9 45:3 consist 15:1 consolidation 30:10 constitute 15:5 constitution 4:12,13 14:6,15 14:16 27:13 37:9,13,19 46:1,19 47:8 constitutional 14:22 18:12 24:23 41:17,21 41:23 42:2,10 43:15 47:23 constitutionali... 37:22 constitutionally 28:3 34:19 38:12 constitutions 3:13 contiguous 15:21 17:1 continue 20:10 21:21 22:24 26:10 43:6 44:4,23 45:5 contributing 17:11 contributions 21:4 control 31:1 conversation 49:23,23 core 16:11 correct 6:8 12:21 31:10 37:13 correctly 8:2 48:17,20,20 corruption 30:12	Costa 2:7 3:7 42:1 45:12 count 41:8 counties 10:23 15:24 19:10 22:13 country 41:7 county 8:7 16:23 19:16 29:18 40:6 county's 19:17 course 45:5 court 2:22 14:7 15:7 16:7 25:4 43:11 courts 24:23 38:3 43:5 covered 18:22 22:13 create 25:3 41:20 42:4 created 25:24 26:3,20 35:12 35:13 49:7,9 creating 14:23 15:15 18:1 35:21 criteria 11:14 16:8 critical 11:1 12:5 crossover 18:1,3 crucial 28:4 CSR 2:22,23 culturally 17:8 current 4:22,23 20:22 30:12 currently 10:22 23:14 34:16 Curtis 2:3 cut 21:14	Dairanieh 8:3 12:23 13:4,9 13:13 20:11,15 20:16 dark 43:17 data 6:21,23,24 7:9 11:6,21 14:1 17:2 18:23 19:2 24:7,11,11 24:17,24 27:24 28:22 28:24 31:21 32:9,12 34:23 36:11,21 37:6 37:8 38:4,6,6 39:4 43:6 48:19 49:6 date 24:6 25:2 28:1 dates 29:7 Dave 2:5 day 1:6 35:15 days 34:3 36:3 deadline 14:22 34:17 37:3,12 38:11 deadlines 24:24 25:4 34:18 deal 24:6 decade 19:7 27:11 decennial 6:23 19:1 37:6 decide 42:16 decline 19:6,12 19:14,18 dedicated 3:16 dedication 41:6 Deena 7:24 10:13,14 12:23 20:18 48:16,21 48:22 defer 38:12 define 16:4 definition 32:3 definitive 45:4	delay 24:23 delayed 19:1 deliver 44:5 democracy 24:16 25:13 29:19 Democrats 3:16 demographic 4:15 Demographic... 19:11 demographics 9:7 deployed 41:9 described 51:7 deserve 21:18 desire 5:23 Despite 22:14 detail 23:1 devised 25:17 Diana 48:12 Diane 7:23 8:7 10:7 39:16 different 9:22 16:5 21:10 32:12 42:4 44:3 difficult 16:4 34:2 39:21 director 22:5 disagree 47:7 disappoints 48:5 discern 35:9 discontiguous 16:1 discuss 13:21 18:23 discussed 29:6 discussions 44:19 48:4 display 18:18 distribution 9:18 40:4,7,12 district 8:16,17 8:19 9:4 15:22 16:6,10 17:9	18:3,6,10 20:4 35:10,10,12,13 35:21 36:17 39:22 40:5,8 district's 16:9,11 districting 8:18 districts 5:11 8:12 9:15,21 14:9,12 15:15 15:17,18,21 16:2,16,17,18 16:18 17:18,24 18:1,2,2,8 25:24 26:3,17 36:1 40:2,5 diverse 3:24 11:19 12:2 21:2 21:4 22:10,17 diversity 12:7 40:4 dividing 17:23 doing 7:8 10:22 23:14,20 33:22 34:2 43:16 46:7 dollars 23:12 Donna 8:6 29:15,16 31:2 Donnell 13:16,18 doors 34:15 47:5 Dorner 8:5 27:1 27:3,6 37:1,14 40:15 double 49:8,19 Downers 40:9 draw 5:11 6:22 7:1,7 20:3 24:16 28:3,22 30:3 31:22 34:24 35:1 36:21 37:10,18 42:13 47:5 drawers 25:3 drawing 4:24 5:1,7,8 20:2 24:9,12,18
	D			

HEARING 4/2/2021

42:8 43:16 drawn 25:9,11 26:14 34:15,21 39:9,14 48:10 drive 45:10 47:22 48:8 dropping 43:18 drug 30:9 DuPAGE 1:2 7:24 8:7,12 9:8,20 19:16 20:18,20 29:18	elect 18:4,7 elected 24:24 26:5 42:14 election 18:9 25:1,4 elections 22:8 30:24 electoral 17:17 Eleventh 2:24 Elizabeth 2:3 Elmhurst 27:8 29:12 40:16,18 employee 13:18 enable 29:3 encourage 4:2 44:2 endeavor 4:11 enforcement 30:10 engage 20:2 22:7 English 9:1 26:9 ensure 22:16 23:12,15 25:2 25:20 ensures 14:3 18:14 28:17 ensuring 10:24 29:23 envision 34:16 34:24 equal 14:4,10 15:16,18,19 equally 17:17 equitable 21:15 24:15 29:11 equity 8:11 ESL 9:11 especially 41:11 46:2 essence 39:22 essential 30:14 establishing 14:10 estimate 19:4,5 et 21:5 ethical 30:21	ethics 22:8 ethnically 17:8 ethnicities 10:21 everybody 7:17 10:9 34:13 evidence 28:15 examine 30:7 example 8:17 9:20 21:7 39:18 40:5,9 40:10 excited 10:3 excuse 13:2 exercise 7:7 exist 4:21 11:9 25:14 existing 16:20 expect 26:18 26:20 32:22 expectations 26:23 expected 19:15 experience 12:22 experiences 21:17 expert 32:6,23 explain 24:1 explaining 26:7 explicit 38:10 expressed 45:18 extremely 8:19 9:1,5,23 10:6	faith 12:2,4 30:14 faiths 10:22 fall 19:2 family 11:19 20:20 far 3:21 40:16 48:6 favor 36:15 feature 42:11 federal 4:12 13:23 14:5 15:20 17:13,15 18:12 25:21 28:15 35:6,10 42:24 feedback 35:20 feel 7:8 felt 33:15 filing 25:2,4 fill 11:17 filled 11:18 43:17 final 15:5 28:10 28:15 36:6 Finally 13:24 find 5:9 19:22 fine 10:11 finish 31:13 first 5:3 11:18,24 13:1 15:16 38:22,23 firsthand 11:19 fit 11:14 five 15:4,11 21:8 21:10 focus 10:23 24:6 focused 27:12 39:3 focuses 16:9 follow 16:20 29:22 44:10 45:8 following 5:22 41:18 forget 8:8 forgot 40:14	form 25:13 forward 24:8 41:14 42:5 44:3 fostering 29:24 foundation 25:13 four 3:19 15:3 27:19 38:15 47:17,18,18 48:7 fraction 23:14 fracturing 17:23 full 37:6 41:7 full-time 34:1 fully 29:21 Fund 22:6 fundamental 43:20 funded 7:11 further 20:4 48:16 49:24 future 30:23
E				G
E 2:1,1 e-mail 5:14 18:18 31:20,24 49:16 e-mailing 20:6 e-mails 8:24 earlier 42:21 44:16 49:5 easier 40:1 easily 33:18 echo 20:18 economic 4:16 4:19 9:22 30:11 economically 17:8 editorial 25:7 educate 22:7 educators 21:4 effect 14:21 effective 28:17 39:9 effectively 17:10 efficiency 22:8 effort 22:22 41:19 efforts 27:12 41:17 eight 15:1 either 24:15 34:17 38:10 45:17 47:4		F		gain 3:23 gains 19:8 general 3:13 22:14 24:22 27:16 28:2,14 28:21 30:17 40:11 41:22,24 45:16,17 46:3 46:4,22 47:17 47:20 generally 44:20 generation 20:19 generations 21:6 geographic 16:24 17:7 23:3 geographical 16:20 geography 16:13
		face 26:10 fact 9:17 12:18 43:10 factors 17:10 failed 43:22 failure 41:18 fair 23:8 24:14 30:24 32:16 32:20 40:4 42:20 46:6 fairly 39:9		

HEARING 4/2/2021

<p>getting 11:16,17 33:23 35:23 36:2 42:15 give 13:19 23:10 30:5,16 given 4:4 29:7 gives 14:16 giving 7:5 glad 6:19 45:11 go 10:9 13:3,16 14:21 21:23 31:17 34:23 35:3 36:4 37:10,14 38:3 38:21,23 39:16 40:19 41:14 42:16 43:5 44:12 47:15 goal 3:22 goes 36:15 going 6:20 7:3 7:14 8:10 10:18 11:20,22 12:21 13:10,23,23 21:8 25:15 31:3 34:15 35:20 37:15 38:10 44:10 45:18,19 46:8 46:9 47:4,6 48:18 good 12:23 22:18 23:19 35:19 49:18 49:23 Gordon-Booth 2:5 government 22:18 23:18,19 30:15,21 governments 22:8 governor 14:20 graduating 21:9 grant 24:23 granted 45:22</p>	<p>graph 12:15 grass 29:19 30:18 gravity 16:12 great 8:16 24:6 33:6,16 41:9 42:20 greater 29:6 ground 16:13 group 17:6 18:5 18:8 29:19 30:18 groups 4:20 12:2 17:21 18:4 18:7 23:19 30:6,9 32:8 Grove 40:9 grown 11:12 growth 19:16 guarantee 24:14 30:4 guaranteed 14:6 guess 6:12 7:17 guided 4:11 guidelines 13:24 29:22 guiding 15:16 guys 46:10,13 48:3,7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>H-a-b-b-a-l 10:15 Habbal 7:24 10:13,14,20 21:22 31:7,12 31:15,18,23 32:6 49:1,7,16 halal 49:11 half 22:13 39:20 40:16 hand 12:21 48:13 51:10 hands 26:17 42:13 happen 7:3</p>	<p>42:18 46:9 47:6 happening 11:22 39:15 hard 49:2 harm 26:2 36:16 hate 40:19 HB 42:19 HDS.ILGA.gov 20:6 health 30:9 hear 3:23 4:18 4:24 9:10 10:3 48:17,19,20 49:2 heard 9:24 17:10 34:11 45:4 49:4 hearing 1:5 3:5 3:9 6:6,9,15 23:7 28:10 29:7,8 33:14 34:4,12,22 35:14 hearings 3:15 3:20 4:3,6,7,9 5:6,19 6:11 7:14 17:3 18:15 19:23 22:13,15 22:23 23:3,9 23:16 24:4 25:16,19 26:13 27:19 28:9 29:5 30:15 33:2,5,13,24 34:9 36:23,23 42:22,23 held 1:5 4:9,20 14:7 28:9 51:6 help 12:20 18:5 19:4 35:1 45:9 helpful 9:2,5 10:6 33:17 helps 17:22 hereunto 51:9 Hernandez 2:3</p>	<p>3:1,3 6:8,13,17 7:16 10:7,12,19 13:2,5,10,14 18:19 20:8,13 21:20,23 22:1 26:24 27:3 29:14 31:2 38:19 39:16 40:20,23 44:6,12 48:11 48:15,24 49:4 49:15,18 Hewitt 7:23 8:8 8:10 39:18 48:14 hey 33:19 Hi 10:14 high 21:8 40:8 40:12 highest 41:6 highlight 9:16 12:3 36:19 hindered 16:13 Hirschauer's 9:4 Hispanic 19:14 19:19 HJRCA 42:1 hmm 10:19 hold 3:21 20:9 27:18 holding 4:5 17:2 23:9 45:11 holds 46:2 homes 5:5 honestly 45:10 hope 8:1 hoping 34:13 hours 1:6 house 1:1 3:1,16 4:9 13:18 14:18 16:16 22:20 22:22 23:7 26:15 27:4 28:5 33:4 40:17 41:22 housing 9:19</p>	<p>Howard 2:7 45:12 Howard's 42:2 hundreds 4:2 husband 11:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>idea 38:10 49:12 ideals 35:6 42:21 ideas 18:20 identifies 12:19 16:7 identify 12:9,9 17:5 Il 2:3 ILGA 28:4,11 ILGA.gov 5:17 19:23 ILHouseDem... 5:18 19:24 Illinois 1:1 2:23 3:13 4:13,13 5:3,10 7:24 8:2,5 10:16,23 11:2,8 12:8,15 12:19 13:18,22 14:4,15,16 15:7 15:9 16:15 17:20,21 19:15 20:17 21:24 22:5,6,9,14 23:23 24:22 25:23 26:16 27:6,9,12,16 28:2,16,21 30:13,15,20 32:8,11 35:7 35:12 41:5,11 42:13 49:10 51:1 Illinois' 18:24 26:17 41:14 IllinoisHouse... 5:9 immigrant 11:13</p>
---	---	--	--	---

HEARING 4/2/2021

12:10	25:12 26:20	joining 3:7 32:8	laps 43:18	43:12
impediments	27:14,21 28:6	41:2	large 18:3	lens 30:7
26:11	30:14 35:13	joint 41:22	largest 12:16	let's 6:17 8:7
imperative	39:13	judiciary 37:15	19:9	18:23 35:19
26:12 29:4	inside 16:17	37:21	late 37:8	letting 21:16
implicit 38:10	insight 3:10	July 37:11	Latino 8:13,19	33:9
important 3:10	insufficient	June 14:22	9:8 12:10	Limper 8:6
30:19	23:19	34:17 37:3	law 3:19 15:20	29:15,16,17
impressed 8:22	intended 24:11	38:9 46:9	17:4,13,20	lines 30:4
inappropriate	24:18	Justice 11:3	18:10,12,14	linguistic 27:17
37:17	intends 3:21		24:13 25:1,23	28:18 29:1
included 8:18	intention 24:8	K	25:24 30:10	Lisa 3:3 48:23
43:10 49:17	intentionally	Kane 19:10	lawsuit 37:20	listen 17:3 47:2
including 5:5	30:3	Karina 8:23	lawyers 21:5	literally 45:16
20:2 30:8	interest 4:20	Kathleen 2:7	leader 6:3	Litigation 2:23
inclusive 11:8	17:5,6,11	keep 7:13 39:6	29:18 31:4	little 11:21 12:22
income 9:17,19	25:22 29:2	keeping 32:14	48:11	13:3 34:12
40:4,6,8,8,12	43:8	Kendall 19:10	leaders 15:2	40:1 48:5
incorporating	interested 4:14	key 41:4 42:6	46:3 47:17,20	live 9:14 39:2
27:21 32:10	6:21,24 39:14	kind 20:23	48:7	45:10
increase 19:9,17	interests 4:19	21:14 32:3	League 8:6	lived 21:6
19:19 26:4	16:22	know 6:18 7:4,9	27:2,7,9 29:12	living 34:2
incredibly 30:18	Internet 49:1	12:11 16:22	learned 41:5	local 30:6,7
incumbents	interpretation	23:2 32:10,20	led 40:17 41:19	33:14,21 39:2
26:1 36:14	16:14	33:8,9,10,11,12	46:21	39:5,10,21
independent	intersectionali...	33:16,17,18,22	left 24:9 44:1	Locally 19:16
22:11 26:18	21:18	34:5 35:4,9,19	legal 15:15	long 10:5 22:11
27:14 29:21	introduce 7:20	36:1,16 37:7	legally 45:20	35:4
41:18	41:20	38:1 39:2,4,14	legislation 28:4	longer 32:14
independently	introduction	39:22 40:1	28:8 29:9	look 9:7 15:15
22:20	28:10	42:14,17 43:4	41:20 42:12,19	16:19 17:4 36:1
indicated 5:23	invisible 12:12	45:3 47:14	45:14,14 47:15	36:4 39:7
indication 23:5	involved 35:1	48:4,6 49:12	47:24 48:1	looked 9:13
Indivisible 7:24	41:11	knowing 6:21	legislative 14:8	looking 13:6 14:1
industry 30:1	involves 16:14	6:24 12:18	14:14,17,24	41:16 43:4
influence 18:2,8	issues 30:11	32:21	15:2 16:18	45:3
18:8		known 17:5	24:12,12 39:11	looks 21:10 23:6
inform 19:4	J	knows 39:24	39:13 42:5,13	lot 6:19 9:21,24
information	J 2:3		47:18	35:5,16 39:2,4
3:24 4:15 11:4	J-a-n 27:6	L	legislator 12:19	42:3,19,22
26:12 29:4	Jackson 13:16	L-i-m-p-e-r	legislators 11:5	44:21
33:17,23	13:17	29:17	24:21 42:7	low 9:19
inherently 39:11	Jan 27:6 29:14	lack 22:24	45:11	Lydia 2:22 51:4
initial 14:17	Janice 8:5 27:1	ladies 38:23	legislature 14:5	
28:23	Jehan 2:5	language 9:11	14:16,23 27:18	M
input 10:3,6	jobs 34:1	17:21 26:10	28:7 34:18	ma'am 48:14
23:24 25:10	joined 17:9	41:24	37:3,10 38:9	Madam 6:5 7:3

HEARING 4/2/2021

10:17 31:6 38:17 40:24 44:9 main 9:15 10:1 major 42:11 majority 7:1 14:19 15:3 18:5 18:9 26:5 45:15,16 47:5 makers 16:19 17:4,24 24:13 25:23 makeup 21:9 making 4:1 8:10 37:21 41:7 mandated 38:13 manner 45:23 46:2 map 14:18,21,23 15:5,7 16:19 17:24 23:5,8 24:1,2,9,18 25:3,16 26:16 28:10,12,15 34:10,24 36:2 38:5,7 39:8 44:5,14,17 46:8 48:9 mapping 10:4 maps 5:7,11,16 6:22 7:1,3,7,12 14:15 20:4 22:16 24:5,7 24:13,15,17 25:3,9,12,14 25:20 26:4,7 26:13,20 27:21 28:3,23 28:24 30:7 31:9,12,22 34:14,21 35:2 36:4,11,13,22 37:3,5,11,18 38:4,9,11 39:11 39:13 41:18 42:9,14,20	43:17 46:6 47:5 48:18 49:5,7,9 Marissa 13:17 matches 36:5 material 37:18 matter 23:1 Maura 9:4 maximize 16:21 mean 9:2 15:24 32:17 34:11 37:10 44:20 45:24 47:22 means 15:21 meant 36:21 measure 16:6 meet 26:7,15 26:22 37:19 44:16 meeting 9:6 51:5 meetings 11:4 meets 28:15 member 2:4,5,5 2:6 3:3 15:10 members 2:2 10:17 15:1,4,11 22:2 24:9 26:5 27:4 31:4 38:18 42:22 44:8 46:4,11 47:18,18,19 48:16 49:9,22 mental 30:9 mentioned 19:22 34:9 37:2 met 35:11 44:14 48:3,5,6 Michigan 12:17 mid 37:7 millions 23:12 mind 32:14 44:11 47:4 minimum 3:19 27:19 minorities 17:23	28:18 29:2 minority 17:14,16 17:21,22 18:4 18:6 27:17 missing 43:13 mistakes 44:4 mixed 37:23 Mm 10:19 modest 19:17 modifying 37:16 Monroe 19:10 month 4:6 36:2 months 19:2 morning 12:24 mosques 49:11 move 10:12 27:1 40:21 multiple 18:6 municipalities 15:24 municipality 16:23 Muslim 8:1,2,4 10:13,16 12:1,8 12:9,19 20:17 Muslims 12:16 49:14 <hr/> N N 2:1 name 7:20 8:9 10:14,15 12:24 13:1,1,17 15:10 20:12,14,15 22:3,4 29:16 45:10 names 7:23 15:8 nation 12:1,17 29:20 national 9:9 24:20 native 12:14 natural 16:23 NCSL 41:5 near 46:20 nearly 15:17	22:15 need 7:13,18 9:13 20:11 22:21 23:23 23:24 24:2,3 25:19,20,23 32:12 38:7 needed 26:6 needs 9:6,24 11:11 26:21 neighborhoods 11:22 nests 16:16 never 24:18 new 4:24 5:2 12:17 14:17,21 14:23 15:5,15 28:24 night 29:8 nine 15:11 26:5 39:23 ninth 15:10 Nizamuddin 8:2 Nodding 40:22 46:17 Non-English 26:10 non-political 46:1 non-profits 22:7 nonpartisan 22:6 47:9 North 2:24 northern 8:12 9:14 noted 42:15 45:13 notice 1:5 22:23 23:18 29:6,8 30:16 33:11 notify 23:20 34:6 number 5:23 22:17 26:5 28:9 41:15 <hr/> O	objective 43:14 obviously 6:23 7:11 8:14 33:3 48:3 occur 13:7 October 15:13 offers 20:1 offices 21:1 officials 24:24 42:14 oftentimes 12:12 okay 6:10,14,18 7:16 10:7,8,10 10:18 13:9,13 20:8 21:23 26:24 29:14 31:2,14,21 32:1 34:8 40:20,21 44:6 46:15,16 48:15 49:15,18 49:18,22 omitted 13:5 once 38:6 open 31:3 operate 43:20 opportunities 17:16 23:15 opportunity 4:4 7:5 16:21 22:3 24:3 27:5 29:12 36:7 options 24:13 24:15,19 43:4 oral 6:2 order 3:2 8:7 15:14 30:4 37:19 Oregon 25:5 organization 12:3 46:2,7 organizations 11:3 22:10,18 23:20 33:10 organizer 11:16 origin 9:9 outcome 18:9
--	--	--	---	---

HEARING 4/2/2021

32:22 outreach 23:10 23:23 outside 46:22 overall 19:6,14 overview 13:20 owners 21:5	38:9 passing 14:17 27:19 people 3:23 7:1 7:8 11:17 17:6 23:2,11,15,23 24:1 25:22 26:6,18 32:16 33:19,23 34:1 34:1,6 39:21 46:5 47:20 percent 9:8,9 39:23 percentage 19:9 perfect 34:5 period 4:4 25:2 perks 32:18 person 4:5 14:11 personally 21:7 31:24 perspective 9:18 41:14 petition 25:2 41:19 43:11 phone 4:2 pie 12:13 20:22 piece 11:1 Pinkawa 2:22 51:4 pivoted 41:20 place 17:15 23:7 34:19 places 9:19 plagued 30:13 plan 4:8 6:10,14 7:10,12 14:19 15:12 plans 17:13 27:20 play 18:11 38:1 plays 30:22 please 7:20 8:8 20:10 plenty 30:16 pocket 40:12 pockets 8:13	point 29:7 30:20 45:8 47:16 points 16:3 policies 10:24 policy 22:5 political 3:14 4:16,19 5:2 15:3 16:20 29:24 30:5 36:10,11,14,17 45:23 47:16 politicians 30:3 42:8 43:16,21 politics 26:21 30:1 population 3:15 8:19 9:8 12:16 14:2,10,13 15:17,18,19 16:11 17:2 18:10 18:24 19:3,5,6 19:8,9,12,15,17 19:18,19 39:23 populations 9:12 17:17 19:13 49:13 portal 5:8 20:3 possible 3:23 3:24 16:19 47:1 post 22:22 Posting 23:18 potential 30:2 power 26:17 42:12 PowerPoint 31:8 practice 16:12 precedent 16:7 precinct 39:20 precincts 39:19 preliminary 14:1 prepared 5:24 31:9,15,18 present 2:2 3:21	presentation 5:22 6:2 13:7 13:12 18:17 31:8 33:15 presented 24:13 presenting 41:2 43:18 preservation 28:19 pressure 46:11 47:16,19 pretend 38:5 prevent 17:15 17:22 previous 39:8 previously 45:23 51:6 primary 25:1 26:9 43:13,14 principle 14:10 43:20 principles 15:16 17:14 47:21 Prior 27:15 prioritize 25:21 prioritizing 26:1 26:8 35:6,7 42:23 pro 29:19 probably 33:2 34:14 37:7 problematic 9:23 problems 30:8 procedure 13:20 process 3:11,16 3:18 5:4 11:7 12:6 13:22 14:3 15:14 17:18 18:23 20:2 22:12 23:6 24:14 26:11,19 27:5 27:11,14,23 28:7 29:4,10	30:22 32:2,4 33:15,20 34:16 39:3 42:8 43:2,6 44:15,17 46:6 46:21 47:9,11 processes 38:15 produce 24:7 produced 26:4 project 19:7 projected 19:12 19:16 pronouncing 8:1 proposals 23:5 24:1,2 25:16 25:17 34:10 proposed 27:22 28:15 proposing 4:7 protecting 27:16 protection 28:19 protects 17:20 25:22 provide 27:13 28:5 provided 18:19 26:12 29:5 44:22 provides 28:18 providing 22:2 29:11 public 3:17,20 3:22 5:8,13,14 5:16 6:22 7:5 17:3 18:15,15 20:2,24 21:8 22:15 24:4,5 25:10,12,15,18 25:19 27:19,21 28:6,8,9,13 29:3 30:14,16 30:17 33:4,6 34:20 35:1,9
<hr/> P <hr/>				
P 2:1,1 panel 7:22 parallel 46:24 parents 20:20 part 3:16 23:20 33:9 participants 35:14 participate 3:9 4:4 5:4 7:5 17:17 23:16 29:3 participating 26:11 participation 3:10,17,22 4:2 5:6 18:15 22:14 23:13 33:5,6 particular 8:14 8:15 17:11 39:18 particularly 33:10 34:4 45:9 partner 11:3 partners 10:21 21:13 22:10 41:4,10 parts 15:21 party 15:3,8 26:1 29:24 30:5 47:5 pass 14:19 25:1 28:4 37:4 passed 27:16 37:3,20 passes 14:23				

HEARING 4/2/2021

35:17,23 36:3 36:7 45:18 47:19 publicly 5:17 7:11 purpose 25:18 pursuant 1:5 pursued 24:19 25:5 push 24:8 25:1 43:12 pushed 24:17 35:4 put 30:24 47:16 47:19 puts 26:17 putting 35:16 42:12 46:11	re-map 42:17 44:21 re-spell 20:11 read 7:23 ready 13:14 real 38:6,7 40:15 44:10 48:8 realities 16:13 really 7:2 8:16 8:20,22 9:2 9:15 10:2,5 20:23 21:18 35:8 36:19,20 37:22 40:3 41:1 46:10,13 46:14 received 29:8 33:12 44:24 recess 6:9 49:22,24 recessed 6:6,11 recognize 3:6 recommenda... 43:10,24 recommends 11:5 record 46:11 recorded 7:19 records 28:13 redistricting 1:2 3:2,4,11,18 4:8 4:9 5:10,18 6:20 11:1,7 12:6,20 13:20 13:21,22,24 14:3,24 17:13 18:13,22 19:24 20:1,6,23 21:13 22:12 23:16 27:4,10 27:15,20 28:7 28:8 29:3,10 29:21 30:3,15 30:22 33:20 38:15 42:5 RedistrictingC...	5:15 redraw 3:14 14:11 redrawing 14:14 redrawn 17:18 reduction 17:16 reflect 14:13 22:16 reflected 23:4 25:12 34:10,14 reforms 27:10 refugee 11:10 refugees 32:20 regarding 4:21 regardless 29:24 regards 10:4 region 14:2 regions 23:4 related 46:24 release 19:1 relevant 4:15 5:1 28:13 relief 43:5,11 45:20 religious 4:16,19 12:3 religiously 17:8 remap 28:14 remapping 27:5 remarks 21:21 31:3 remind 7:17,19 remote 5:6 rep 39:24 40:17 repeat 44:4 49:3 repeatedly 24:21 report 26:6 35:5,8 reported 25:8 Reporter 2:22 51:5 represent 12:13 17:14 20:21 29:1,18,18,20	30:2,23 representation 8:21 9:3,22 14:4 17:14,20 21:3,14,15 28:17 29:23 30:8 32:16,21 representative 2:3,3,4,4,5,5 2:6,7,7 3:3,6,6 6:5,10,14,18 10:11 16:17 31:6 31:14,17,21 32:1,24 34:8 36:9,18 38:8 38:19,20,21 38:23 39:1 40:10,20,22 40:23,24 42:1 43:9 44:7,9,13 44:18,24 45:7 45:8,12,13 46:16,17 47:2 47:13 48:22 representatives 1:1 13:19 22:19 24:20 represented 16:22 20:24 21:19 23:17 39:6 reps 40:17 Republican 2:4 request 7:2 require 3:13 28:8 required 28:3 37:4,4 requirement 16:4 35:11 requirements 13:24 18:11,13 37:16 requires 3:19 15:20 17:13 requiring 17:24 18:15 27:18	resident 5:10 residents 5:4 14:4 17:4 20:20 23:21 33:9 42:13 resolution 41:22 resources 41:6 41:8 respond 23:24 39:17 responds 26:19 response 35:18 responsibility 14:17,22 restaurants 49:12 restore 30:14 result 14:11 23:8 results 26:4 36:6 resume 13:11 20:9 reveals 14:1 review 30:14 right 6:22 10:12 13:11 18:17 32:11 34:24 38:4 42:10 44:12 45:11 48:2,15 rights 4:12,14 17:15,22 25:21 27:17 28:16,16 35:7,8,10,12 42:24 risk 24:15 robust 23:9 Rohingya 11:10 roll 6:7,9 room 39:14 43:17 roots 29:19 30:18 ruling 25:4 rulings 14:7 Ryan 2:6 8:4 21:24 22:3
<hr/> Q <hr/>				
question 6:6 31:7 33:7 37:1 39:1 48:17 49:3 questions 10:9 23:22 25:10 25:18 31:4,4 33:12 38:18 44:7 48:16 49:22,24 quick 44:10 quite 8:12 20:19				
<hr/> R <hr/>				
R 2:1 R-y-a-n 22:4 race 12:4 17:19 races 10:21 racial 17:21 18:6 27:17 28:17 29:1 raises 25:18 raising 25:9 random 15:10 24:16 re-election 30:5				

HEARING 4/2/2021

26:24 37:14,17 38:3,21	40:18	20:22	SPRINGFIELD	stuck 36:20
<hr/>	send 20:4	slide 5:21 12:7	51:2	studying 17:2
S	31:20 49:16	slow 33:11	SS 51:1	subject 23:1
S 2:1	September 15:7	smaller 19:14	staff 4:1 13:7,10	44:18
sampling 24:10	series 4:5 14:7	smoke 43:17	13:12,14	submission
sausage 35:23	serve 15:10	social 4:15,18	staffers 9:4	28:13
saw 11:19 31:10	25:19	30:11	stakeholders	submit 5:13 6:1
48:13	Services 2:23	socially 17:7	28:20	15:8 18:19
saying 34:13	set 23:16 30:22	solely 17:18	standard 16:8	20:3
35:17,19 37:24	37:10 38:14	solving 30:7	standards 28:17	submits 35:18
46:23 47:13	47:24 51:9	somewhat	stands 19:18	submitted 5:16
scandals 30:12	Severin 2:5	46:24	start 8:7 46:7,11	7:4,13
schedule 4:7	shape 16:9	sorry 8:10 20:9	state 3:2,19,20	submitting
34:4	share 5:11 10:18	31:16 48:14	4:1,6 8:23,23	48:18 49:5,6
scheduled 23:7	11:20,22,24	49:1	11:20 12:19	substantially
school 30:10	13:17 19:21	sounds 7:4	13:23 14:2,5,8	15:19
schools 21:8	21:17 35:6	37:22 49:18	14:9,12,18,18	suggested
scientific 16:6	shared 26:7	sources 25:8	15:9,18,20	37:15 38:3
scope 46:22	42:21	south 21:2	16:2 17:4,12	suggestions
screen 10:18	sharing 11:4	Spain 2:6	18:10,12,16	4:23 20:5
13:17 18:18	48:19	38:20,23	19:6 23:10,12	summarize 6:2
seal 51:10	shifts 3:15	40:23,24 43:9	23:14 24:21	support 45:18
second 9:10	short 4:24 5:21	44:7 45:13	25:21,24	46:4,6
41:6 43:12	Shorthand 51:4	Spain's 45:8	27:10 39:24	supporting
secretary 15:9	shoved 46:8	span 21:10	40:11,17 46:19	46:12
see 6:20 8:17	show 5:21 23:2	Spanish 9:1	51:1	supports 11:6,6
8:20 9:3,20	31:12 35:24	speaker 44:14	state's 13:20	supposed 13:7
19:14,15,16	showing 34:12	44:16 45:1	19:11 22:17	Supreme 14:7
20:24 21:14	49:8,10	48:3,6	stated 45:15,20	15:7
24:2 32:5	shows 12:7,15	speakers 26:10	statement 3:5	sure 6:5 7:16
33:20 34:20	18:23 19:4,6	speaking 19:11	6:4	8:11 11:6 13:4
36:1,5 38:17	siblings 21:8	32:19	statements 6:19	21:13 31:19,24
39:4 40:19	signed 14:20	specific 4:18,20	states 3:12 4:12	33:7 39:6 41:7
44:21 45:5,12	significant 9:12	spell 7:20 8:9	14:6,11 16:15	43:9 49:4,20
48:8,22 50:1	simple 35:22	20:13	25:5 43:7	surfaces 36:2
seek 43:5	simply 23:8	spelled 10:14	statewide 19:13	surpass 28:9
seen 21:7 24:6	single 12:18	45:24	statute 16:7	Survey 24:10
select 43:21	site 5:7 6:20	spent 23:12	statutorily 48:1	Syrian 11:10
senate 14:18	7:11 20:1 28:12	split 39:19,20	48:2	32:19
16:17 22:20	34:23 35:17	40:16	step 13:3,5 46:7	<hr/>
25:8 28:5	sites 5:20 23:18	spoken 41:3	46:10,14	T
33:3 36:23	situation 45:9	42:21	stores 49:11	T-o-l-l-e-y 22:4
40:17 42:23	six 19:2	Spokesperson	story 12:11	take 6:7,9 23:7
senator 8:23,23	skeptical 7:6	2:4 10:8	Street 2:24	34:3,3 42:7
8:23 48:1	slash 5:9,18	sponsor 41:21	strict 29:22	43:16 50:1
senators 40:17	19:24	spread 16:10	strong 8:20	taken 8:11 24:3
	slices 12:13	40:7	strongly 44:2	36:6

HEARING 4/2/2021

<p>takes 42:19 talk 12:22 33:21 33:24 35:5 41:13 talked 32:1 42:23 44:20 talking 32:7 33:13,14 Tarver 2:3 taught 9:11 team 31:19 32:7 49:9 teleconference 1:7 ten 3:14 10:23 11:12 14:12 23:17 25:14 32:13 40:16,18 tends 39:19,21 tentative 25:9 terms 43:11 Terra 2:7 terrible 49:2 test 16:15 testified 22:19 testify 5:24 22:3 27:5 29:13 34:22 40:13 testifying 35:14 testimony 5:1,13 5:16,24 6:1 18:21 19:22 20:5 23:4 24:11,22 27:1 34:9 35:18,19 36:5,13,19 38:16 39:3 41:2 43:3,10 43:23 44:22 Texas 12:17 thank 3:8 6:5 8:9 10:7,16 11:2 12:23,24 19:20 20:7,8 21:19,20,20 22:1 26:24</p>	<p>27:3 29:9,14 29:16 31:1,2,6 36:18 38:16,17 40:13,24 41:1 41:10 44:5,6 48:14 thanks 33:7 theory 16:8 therapists 21:5 thing 8:13 9:15 11:24 34:22 34:23 36:20 40:3 43:13 things 10:1 35:4 35:15,22 39:12 44:21 45:5 46:16 think 6:18 8:15 8:15 9:11,18,23 20:12 21:22 32:20 33:8 34:11 36:11,12 36:22 38:8,12 38:14,15 39:8 39:11,23 40:3 42:22 43:7 44:2 45:2,8 46:12 47:22 48:8 49:19 third 20:19 thought 31:8,10 48:13 49:4 thoughts 17:3 19:21 three 6:12 12:13 21:6 38:14 throats 46:9 Tim 2:4 time 5:3 11:19 20:5 21:16,19 23:11 25:3 27:20 30:13 34:3,5 35:5 43:19 49:21 50:1 51:6 timeline 14:14 times 9:24</p>	<p>30:17 timing 43:12 today 3:7 5:21 6:12 7:15,22 10:18 18:21 19:21 22:3 32:16 33:16,19 34:22 39:3 41:4 43:2 44:22 45:6 today's 3:4,9 told 25:8 Tolley 8:5 21:24 22:1,4 33:1,7 35:3 36:12 41:13 42:10 44:10,13,16,20 45:2 46:15,18 47:7 tone 30:22 tools 30:6 total 4:10 township 16:23 40:9 Transcripts 5:19 transparency 3:17 18:14 22:21 23:1 28:6 30:13 42:24 transparent 11:7 22:11 26:19 27:13 29:11,21 32:2,3,5 trends 14:2 19:4 Tribune 25:7 tried 47:23,24 try 6:17 trying 33:8 46:23 tune 33:19 turn 6:3 turning 30:20 TV 38:2 two 15:1,8 17:24 22:12 33:3 36:2,23 43:10</p>	<p>43:24 type 9:3 <hr/> U U.S 14:7 18:12 18:24 19:3 underreprese... 30:9 understand 15:14 32:7,24 34:4 49:8 understanding 6:13 32:11 36:4 understands 35:23 unfair 30:6 39:12 unfairness 43:21 unincorporated 15:23 unique 4:17 45:9 United 3:12 4:12 14:6 unjust 12:20 unprecedented 3:12 unsuccessful 42:15 upcoming 4:3 22:23 25:16 update 32:15 updated 32:12 uploaded 5:20 Urdu 9:10 urge 26:22 46:6,10 use 24:1,10 34:23 35:20 35:20 37:8,17 38:4,5 45:21 <hr/> V vague 23:3 value 26:8</p>	<p>values 26:7,19 various 41:16 vary 17:12 version 9:1 42:2 43:14 Vice-Chairper... 2:3 views 4:18 Villa 8:24 virtual 4:5 visual 16:15 vocal 11:11 voice 8:18 voices 17:10 vote 11:17 14:11 15:4 voted 45:17 voters 8:6 18:5 27:2,7,9 29:12 29:23 30:4 31:1 42:16 43:19,22 votes 14:19 24:3 24:5 28:12 36:3,6 voting 4:12,14 17:15,22 25:21 27:17 28:16,16 35:7,7,10,12 42:24 VRA 36:10 <hr/> W wait 10:8 24:24 43:6 want 4:18,24 11:24 12:3 25:23 35:24 39:5,12 41:1,10 41:13 46:15,18 48:12 49:19 49:20 wanted 20:18 water 15:23 way 26:3 34:10 38:2 39:7 40:19 42:4</p>
--	---	--	--	--

HEARING 4/2/2021

44:3 47:15 ways 16:6,21 20:1 35:3 36:15 we'll 13:11 21:21 21:23 27:1 38:5 we're 33:22,23 35:20 36:2 37:4,11,12 38:10 39:12 43:4 46:8 47:22 we've 18:22 21:6 24:6 33:3 33:8 36:24 41:15 46:20 47:9,22,23 web 5:7 6:20 7:11 20:1 23:18 28:12 34:23 35:17 week 25:7 weeks 22:12 24:2 weigh 24:4 25:16 Welch 44:14 weren't 11:11 West 8:15 WHEREOF 51:9 whim 24:16 white 12:10,13 19:11,17 21:3 32:17,19 widespread 23:13 Willis 2:7 3:6 48:22 wish 4:3 6:4 WITNESS 51:9 witnesses 5:23 7:18 13:6,8,11 31:7 41:1,3 49:20 Women 8:6 27:2,7,9 29:12	work 10:23 19:5 28:14 34:3 worked 11:15 27:10 41:15 42:18 working 21:12 34:1 41:12 43:1 works 4:22 33:20 world 43:19 wow 37:22 written 5:13,15 5:24 18:20 20:4 28:14 <hr/> X XYZ 35:14 <hr/> Y year 5:3 11:15 21:10 27:24 42:18 44:17 45:15 47:3 years 3:14 11:12 14:12 21:9,11 23:11,17 25:14 32:13 40:16,18 41:16 47:10 yesterday 6:19 41:5 45:15,20 York 12:17 <hr/> Z Zoom 1:7 <hr/> 0 084-002342 2:23 <hr/> 1 10 21:11 10:00 1:6 100th 41:22 101st 41:24 11 6:15 11:10 1:7 12 9:9 14 9:8 16:15	15 42:1 150 10:20 17 4:9 17th 23:6 1960's 14:8 1990's 27:11 1st 15:7 <hr/> 2 20 21:11 2010 11:9 19:9 2011 4:8 26:4 27:15,23 28:9 2019 19:5 2020 23:13 27:24 2021 1:6 27:23 28:22 23 4:7 2554 28:5 2nd 1:5 42:17 <hr/> 3 30 16:5 22:10 34:17 37:3,11 30th 14:22 31:10 38:9 46:9 35 28:8 3581 28:5 42:19 <hr/> 4 41 42:3 43 41:23 49th 8:16,19 <hr/> 5 5th 15:13 <hr/> 6 <hr/> 7 711 2:24		
---	---	--	--	--