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BEFORE THE  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE  
LAKE COUNTY

Hearing held, pursuant to notice, on the 7th  
day of April, 2021, between the hours of 2:00 p.m.  
and 3:10 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

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

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

3 Representative Curtis J. Tarver, II, Chairperson  
4 Representative Tim Butler, Republican Spokesperson  
5 Representative Avery Bourne, Member  
6 Representative Dave Severin, Member

7 Representative Daniel Didech  
8 Representative Rita Mayfield  
9 Representative Joyce Mason  
10 Representative Bob Morgan  
11 Representative Tom Weber  
12 Representative Sam Yingling

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22 Court Reporter  
23 Lydia Pinkawa, CSR  
24 Illinois CSR #084-002342  
Alaris Litigation Services  
711 North Eleventh Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

1 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: The hour of 2:00 having come  
2 and gone, the House committee on redistricting shall  
3 come to order. My name is Curtis Tarver and I'm the  
4 state representative of the 25th district. I'm a  
5 member of the redistricting committee and will be  
6 chairing today's hearing. I'd like to welcome local  
7 representatives who have joined us today. I see  
8 Chairwoman Mayfield, Representative Bob Morgan, I see  
9 Representative Dan Didech as well.

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

21 While state law requires a minimum of four  
22 public hearings throughout the state, our committee  
23 intends to hold far more and present additional  
24 avenues for public participation. Our goal is to

1 hear from as many people as possible and to gain as  
2 much information as possible about the diverse  
3 communities of our state. Our staff have been making  
4 hundreds of phone calls to encourage participation in  
5 these upcoming hearings. Those who wish to  
6 participate should be given an opportunity to do so,  
7 period. We're holding a series of virtual and in  
8 person hearings throughout the state. Earlier this  
9 month, we announced a schedule of 23 hearings before  
10 proposing the redistricting plan. For comparison, in  
11 2011 the House redistricting committee held 17  
12 hearings in total.

13 While we are guided by, excuse me, guided in  
14 this endeavor by the United States constitution, the  
15 Federal Voting Rights Act, the Illinois constitution  
16 and the Illinois Voting Rights Act, we're also  
17 interested in any relevant demographic information  
18 such as political, social, economic, religious or  
19 other characteristics that are unique to your  
20 community. We want to hear your specific views on  
21 any social, political, economic or religious  
22 interests commonly held in the community, any  
23 specific interest groups that exist, any concerns  
24 you have regarding the current boundaries or

1     alternatively, what works well about the current  
2     boundaries and suggestions for the drawing of new  
3     boundaries. In short, we want to hear your testimony  
4     that is relevant to the drawing of our new political  
5     boundaries.

6             This year for the first time, Illinois  
7     residents will be able to participate in the process  
8     from the comfort of their own homes, including  
9     through the remote participation in these hearings  
10    and by drawing their own maps via a web site.

11    The public drawing portal is available at  
12    ILHouseDems.com, slash, Redistricting. This allows  
13    any Illinois resident to draw districts and submit  
14    those maps to the committee for consideration.

15             The public may also submit written testimony  
16    or public comment to the committee by e-mail at  
17    RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.gov. All written  
18    testimony, public comments and maps submitted to the  
19    committee will be made publicly available at ILGA.gov  
20    and ILHouseDems.gov, slash, Redistricting.

21    Transcripts of the committee's hearings will also be  
22    uploaded to those sites.

23             As for today, we will begin with a short  
24    slide show presentation. Following that brief

1 presentation, we have a number of witnesses who have  
2 indicated that they desire to testify. If you have  
3 written testimony prepared, we'd ask that you submit  
4 that testimony to us and just provide an oral  
5 presentation. The other thing we ask is that each  
6 witness please state and spell your name for the  
7 record for the court reporter.

8 Now I want to recognize the spokesperson and  
9 any remarks he may have from the Republican side of  
10 the aisle. Go ahead.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Chairman  
12 Tarver. I think Representative Bourne is on here.  
13 She's going to help us out, try to manage to cover  
14 both of the redistricting hearings going on at the  
15 same time here. So I know Representative Bourne is  
16 on here, Representative Tom Weber is on here, I think  
17 Representative Spain and Representative Severin are  
18 all on this one. So we appreciate the opportunity to  
19 hear from the folks in Lake County and we'll try to  
20 pay attention to both hearings as they're going on.  
21 Thanks.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. And I apologize,  
23 it looks like I missed Representative Yingling. So  
24 I want to state for the record that he is on as well

1 and thank you, Representative.

2 So now I will turn it over to staff, Allie to  
3 present a brief presentation on the redistricting  
4 process. And I see Representative Weber had joined  
5 as well. Welcome, Representative Weber.

6 MS. McNAMARA: Good afternoon, everybody. My  
7 name is Allie McNamara, that's A-l-l-i-e,  
8 M-c-N-a-m-a-r-a, and I'm an employee of the Illinois  
9 House of Representatives and I'm here to give you a  
10 brief overview of the state's redistricting  
11 procedure. I'll briefly discuss the background of  
12 redistricting and the redistricting process here in  
13 Illinois. I will also be going over federal and  
14 state redistricting requirements and guidelines and  
15 finally, we will look at what preliminary data  
16 reveals about trends in the state and in the region.

17 Redistricting is the process that ensures all  
18 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation  
19 in the state legislature and federal Congress as  
20 guaranteed by the U.S. constitution. The U.S.  
21 Supreme Court held a series of rulings in the 1960's  
22 that congressional and state legislative districts in  
23 a state must be of approximately equal population,  
24 establishing the principle of one person, one vote.

1 As a result, states redraw their congressional and  
2 state districts every ten years to reflect changes in  
3 population.

4 The timeline for redrawing the legislative  
5 map is based on the Illinois constitution. The  
6 constitution gives the Illinois legislature the  
7 initial responsibility of passing the new legislative  
8 map. Both the state House and the state Senate must  
9 pass a plan, which then must be signed by the  
10 governor. If a new map does not go into effect by  
11 the constitutional deadline of June 30th,  
12 responsibility for creating a new map passes from the  
13 legislature to a legislative redistricting  
14 commission. The commission would consist of eight  
15 members, with two each appointed by the legislative  
16 leaders and no more than four from the same political  
17 party. A majority vote of five or more commission  
18 members will constitute final approval of a new map.

19 However, if the commission does not agree to  
20 a map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court  
21 will submit two names, one from each party, to the  
22 Illinois secretary of state, who will then choose one  
23 name at random to serve as the ninth member of the  
24 commission. Five of the nine members of the



1 commission must agree to a plan no later than  
2 October 5th.

3           In order to understand the process of  
4 creating new districts, we must look at some legal  
5 guiding principles. First among these is equal  
6 population. Congressional districts must be nearly  
7 equal in population, while state districts must be  
8 substantially equal in population. Federal and state  
9 law also requires that all districts be contiguous,  
10 which means that all parts of a district must be next  
11 to each other unless connected by water. Annexations  
12 and unincorporated areas in municipalities and  
13 counties sometimes mean communities are  
14 discontinuous. However, congressional and state  
15 districts must be adjacent or connected at all  
16 points.

17           A more difficult requirement to define is  
18 compactness. There are at least 30 different  
19 scientific ways to measure how compact a district is,  
20 but no statute or court precedent identifies standard  
21 criteria of compactness. In theory, compactness  
22 focuses on the shape of a district's boundaries, how  
23 far spread out the district is from a central core or  
24 where the district's population center of gravity is.

1 In practice, compactness is hindered by geography and  
2 on the ground realities, so often the interpretation  
3 of compactness involves more than just a visual test.  
4 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its House  
5 districts, also called representative districts,  
6 inside one of its Senate districts, also called  
7 legislative districts.

8 Map makers will also look, where possible, to  
9 follow existing political and geographical boundaries  
10 in ways that maximize a community's opportunity to  
11 have its interest represented. As you know, however,  
12 county, municipality, township and natural geographic  
13 boundaries are not always compact or contiguous.

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

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

8 Illinois law also protects representation of  
9 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois  
10 Voting Rights Act helps to prevent minority  
11 fracturing or dividing a concentration of minorities  
12 among two or more districts by requiring map makers  
13 to consider creating crossover districts, coalition  
14 districts or influence districts. A crossover  
15 district is one in which large minority groups may  
16 elect the candidate of its choice with help from the  
17 voters of the majority group. A coalition district  
18 brings multiple racial or language minority groups  
19 together to elect a candidate of their choice. An  
20 influence district allows a group to influence an  
21 election outcome without being the majority  
22 population in a district. These state law  
23 requirements come into play only after compliance  
24 with federal law and U.S. and state constitutional

1 requirements on redistricting.

2 In addition, the law ensures transparency and  
3 public participation by requiring public hearings  
4 across the state, one of which we're having right  
5 now. At the end of the presentation, we will display  
6 an e-mail address on the screen that Representative  
7 Tarver has already provided where you can submit your  
8 ideas. The committee is also accepting written  
9 testimony today.

10 Now that we've covered the redistricting  
11 process, let's discuss what data shows about Illinois  
12 population. The U.S. Census Bureau has delayed the  
13 release of much of the decennial census data by more  
14 than six months until this fall. However, the U.S.  
15 Census Bureau's annual population estimates show some  
16 trends that can help inform the work ahead. The  
17 census 2019 population estimate shows an overall  
18 decline in state population over the past decade.  
19 There are, however, areas that project to have  
20 population gains. Communities with the largest  
21 population by percentage increase since 2010 are  
22 Kendall, Monroe, Champaign and Kane counties.

23 Demographically speaking, the state's white  
24 population is projected to decline, while

1 African-American population statewide will likely see  
2 a smaller overall decline. The Hispanic and Asian  
3 populations across Illinois are expected to see  
4 growth. Locally, Lake County is projected to see a  
5 modest decrease in population. The county's white  
6 population stands to decline, the total  
7 African-American population has remained largely  
8 consistent over the past decade, while Asian and  
9 Hispanic populations will likely increase.

10 Thank you very much for your attention and  
11 for coming out to share your thoughts today. As the  
12 Chair mentioned, you will be able to find testimony  
13 from this and other hearings on ILGA.gov and on  
14 ILHouseDems.com, slash, Redistricting. The  
15 redistricting web site offers additional ways to  
16 engage in the process, including our public drawing  
17 portal, where you can draw and submit your own  
18 district maps. You can send further written  
19 testimony and suggestions to the committee any time  
20 by e-mailing RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.gov.  
21 Thanks.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you, Allie. We  
23 certainly appreciate that. So we're going to have,  
24 it looks like three panels today. And before I go

1 into the first panel, I just want to remind the  
2 witnesses to please just state your name and spell  
3 it for the record before you begin to testify. So  
4 first, on the first panel is Celeste Flores from Mano  
5 a Mano. Celeste, are you online and available to  
6 testify?

7 MS. FLORES: Yes. Can you hear me?

8 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Yes.

9 MS. FLORES: Should I go?

10 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I'm sorry. Yes. I also see  
11 that Representative Mason has joined and is  
12 participating. And yes, Celeste, please state and  
13 spell your name.

14 MS. FLORES: Thanks. Celeste Flores.  
15 C-e-l-e-s-t-e, F-l-o-r-e-s. So good afternoon.  
16 My name is Celeste Flores. Thank you for this  
17 opportunity. I am the director of community building  
18 with Mano a Mano Family Resource Center. And our  
19 mission is to empower immigrant families to become  
20 full participants in their community and our vision  
21 is to integrate communities where everyone has access  
22 to opportunities and pathways to succeed.

23 Mano a Mano has been in existence for over  
24 20 years, serving Lake County and McHenry County.

1 Our main office is located in Round Lake Park, with a  
2 satellite office in North Chicago. And pre-pandemic  
3 we had community sites in Wauconda, Mundelein and  
4 Highland Park. As stated earlier, our mission is to  
5 empower the immigrant community. And without a  
6 doubt, the redistricting in our communities will have  
7 a long lasting effect if it's done in a transparent  
8 and equitable way, which is what we want to make sure  
9 happens as an organization that's on the ground.

10 We see the needs of the community members  
11 every day and it's extremely important for the  
12 legislative body to properly educate the public on  
13 the redistricting process, letting us just post these  
14 virtual public hearings. I think this body really  
15 should hold themselves to transparency. I understand  
16 there's several of these that are going to be posted  
17 and community members have been encouraged to attend,  
18 but you know, there needs to be more information  
19 that's given for this process. And you know, also  
20 looking at the scheduling, I mean, there are  
21 schedules for 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Can  
22 community members really attend these? And I know  
23 this is not the only forum for community members to  
24 give their input, but this is a critical one, to be

1 able to see the faces of the community members that  
2 are going to be affected by that.

3           So you know, my question is, is there really  
4 an expectation to gather community input or is this  
5 more of a checking off a box in this process? And  
6 I think as the body continues to think through  
7 scheduling more meetings, there really should be a  
8 two week notice minimum to get the word out, to get  
9 people educated, for nonprofits to be able to do the  
10 work that we do, which is going into the community  
11 and educating them and bringing them into these  
12 spaces. So a lot of the times, you know, if you're  
13 working from nine to five, it's not your priority to  
14 check something like this. You're coming home to  
15 make dinner, you're coming home maybe to another  
16 meeting. There's a lot of things that our community  
17 members are suffering with, having to deal with,  
18 especially right now as we live through a global  
19 pandemic. So really trying to think through what is  
20 the best way and the most adequate way to get true  
21 feedback from community members that don't have a  
22 nonprofit job.

23           And I think something that, as I've been  
24 looking through this, I don't know exactly what the



1 process is for how the community input is going to  
2 actually be used and where you all are going to say  
3 like we took feedback and this is where we came from.  
4 It's my first redistricting, so maybe there's some  
5 stuff that I'm missing but wanted to say that, you  
6 know, we work with communities that are working  
7 families. So we really have to break this down for  
8 them. I've seen the web site and although I am  
9 grateful there is some Spanish, I don't think it's  
10 adequately enough. And also, in Lake County and  
11 McHenry County there's several other communities that  
12 speak other languages. Grateful that Spanish is  
13 included, but we really need to think about all these  
14 other larger communities we have in our county and  
15 how we're bringing them in.

16 And you know, also when maps are being  
17 proposed, I think there needs to be a way to give  
18 community members time to see them, to give feedback  
19 before they're voted on by this body. And I'm not  
20 sure what that process looks like and I feel like  
21 there's nothing where what that process is going to  
22 be. Like obviously I know there's deadlines. We  
23 just heard them. But it's really important to get  
24 that feedback and to know what's going to happen in

1 the right way. You know, there's, our communities  
2 that we serve here in Lake County, McHenry County and  
3 especially communities of color are often left behind  
4 in this kind of process. You know, even registering  
5 for something like this, everything was only in  
6 English. So really thinking through how are we  
7 working with nonprofits, how are we collaborating  
8 with other stakeholders to make sure that community  
9 members can actually go through this process.  
10 Thankfully, you know, I have some support as well,  
11 but it's not very intuitive. Even the ILGA web site  
12 is not very friendly to manage.

13 So I think this is an opportunity to really  
14 work to empower these communities that have fell  
15 behind and really using transparency and equitable  
16 work to redistrict these communities in a way that's  
17 just and that's fair and, you know, working with the  
18 community to educate them on what this process is.  
19 For us here at Mano a Mano, that's what we do. We go  
20 out to the community, we educate them, we build a  
21 long relationship, we're a trusted resource. So we  
22 want to work with this body to be able to get that  
23 input from community members to know what their  
24 reality is and, you know, look forward to seeing how

1 this process plays out. So thank you for your time.

2 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: First of all, thank you,  
3 Celeste, for making time. Your point is well taken  
4 that, you know, it can be difficult to attend some of  
5 these hearings. Certainly we're trying to put 23  
6 together throughout the state, you know, and having a  
7 deadline of June 30, essentially. It's not the  
8 easiest thing to put together, but I'm glad that  
9 staff has really worked hard to put this together.  
10 I do want to ask you, if you don't mind, would you be  
11 able to stick around for a few in case there's a  
12 question for your panel? There's two more people in  
13 your panel. Would that work for you?

14 MS. FLORES: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you so much.  
16 I really appreciate your testimony. Next up, I have  
17 listed Damaris Lorta from A Safe Place crisis center.  
18 Damaris, are you present?

19 MS. LORTA: I am here.

20 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I hope I didn't butcher your  
21 name.

22 MS. LORTA: You are good. That was good.

23 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, awesome. Damaris,  
24 would you just spell your name for the record? We'd

1 appreciate it. And then you can jump right into your  
2 testimony.

3 MS. LORTA: Absolutely. Damaris Lorta.  
4 D-a-m-a-r-i-s, Lorta, L-o-r-t-a. And I am with A  
5 Safe Place. A Safe Place has been around for  
6 43 years, services, to provide services to victims of  
7 domestic violence and families. We are the sole  
8 provider devoted exclusively addressing domestic  
9 violence and human trafficking here in Lake County.  
10 Guided by our mission of being the leading advocate  
11 for eliminating domestic violence and human  
12 trafficking in northern Illinois, A Safe Place offers  
13 comprehensive services that provide a safety net to  
14 assist victims and their children and reduce the  
15 likelihood that they will need to return to a violent  
16 environment. Services are designed to meet the  
17 immediate crisis and long-term needs of victims of  
18 violence and to children and to prevent future  
19 violence.

20 Our continuum of care services include  
21 24-hour crisis line, crisis intervention, emergency  
22 shelter, rapid re-housing, transitional and permanent  
23 supportive housing, counseling, therapy, individual  
24 and group, art therapy, orders of protection, safe

1 custody exchanges, supervised visitations, advocacy,  
2 supportive services and the youth safety program.  
3 To prevent violence, A Safe Place offers community  
4 education and outreach and a training program for  
5 adolescent boys to prevent next generation violence  
6 and an intervention program for perpetrators of  
7 abuse. Last fiscal year, A Safe Place was able to  
8 provide services to over 32,000 individuals, 32,912  
9 individuals.

10 So we are touching many lives in Lake County  
11 and I am so grateful to be in this panel and learn a  
12 little bit about what this is. Like Celeste was  
13 saying, I think one of the biggest issues is  
14 understanding what is this process and how, if the  
15 community is so important to have a voice, right, to  
16 help and give input, is what are we doing to make  
17 sure that our community is getting engaged and have  
18 access to this. I, as well, this is my first time  
19 doing any of this. And as I was trying to research  
20 it, even though I consider myself educated and  
21 involved in the community, it was difficult to  
22 navigate. So I can definitely see the struggles that  
23 somebody that we serve, right, be having struggles  
24 with it as well. And our clients play a huge role in

1 our community.

2 So I guess my input or suggestion is how  
3 is this group or this board using nonprofits to help  
4 in the process, right? What can we, as an agency,  
5 provide support to all of you, to share the  
6 information, to educate our clients and our  
7 colleagues, right, our staff members in our  
8 organizations to be able to participate in hearings  
9 like this and give our input.

10 I'm not sure if this is relevant or not, but  
11 I did pull up some statistics about the services that  
12 we provide in the areas in Lake County that we  
13 provide these services. So we have as our clients,  
14 79 percent are female, 21 percent are male and less  
15 than one percent is transgender. 43 years ago we  
16 started one house in downtown Waukegan. And when  
17 talking about redistricting and making sure that we  
18 are touching and meeting the need of the community,  
19 that's exactly what A Safe Place is doing. And over  
20 43 years we have expanded and made sure that our  
21 offices and services are available to individuals in  
22 all regions of Lake County. So now we have over 15  
23 offices, whether physical addresses or satellite  
24 offices, and those areas are in Zion, Round Lake,

1 Mundelein, Lincolnshire, Highland Park, Libertyville,  
2 Deerfield, Lake Forest, Waukegan, Gurnee.

3 So again, thinking of that and thinking of  
4 this board and this process as we are in all of  
5 these, you know, cities and areas, so again, I come  
6 out to you on how are you using organizations like  
7 A Safe Place to be able to share this information not  
8 only to our clients but again people that we touch  
9 and we want, well, I guess now we're not meeting in  
10 person, but that we see on an everyday basis, right?  
11 So how can we be of your assistance?

12 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much for your  
13 testimony as well. I did butcher your name, I see,  
14 so I apologize.

15 MS. LORTA: There are so many ways. I answer to  
16 a lot of things, so don't worry about it.

17 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: You did a good job in your  
18 testimony, and thank you for your patience. Will you  
19 be able to stick around for just a few more minutes  
20 to answer questions?

21 MS. LORTA: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: All right, awesome.

23 MS. LORTA: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: You're welcome. The next

1 person we have up is certainly no stranger. I  
2 recognize this name. Steven Monroy from the Mexican  
3 American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Steve,  
4 I thought I saw you. You are there, awesome. Always  
5 good to see you. Please spell your name and take it  
6 away.

7 MR. MONROY: Yes, thank you so much for the  
8 opportunity, Chairman Tarver and members of the  
9 committee. My name is Steven Monroy, spelled  
10 S-t-e-v-e-n, last name is M-o-n-r-o-y. And I'm an  
11 attorney with MALDEF, the Mexican American Legal  
12 Defense and Educational Fund. MALDEF is a national  
13 civil rights law firm that protects the rights of  
14 Latinos in the United States through community  
15 education, advocacy and litigation when necessary.  
16 Our organization has been involved in Illinois  
17 redistricting since the 1980's and we regularly  
18 partner with stakeholders representing diverse  
19 communities by developing model maps and monitoring  
20 the state's compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

21 We'd like to begin by thanking all of the  
22 hard work and dedication of the organizations,  
23 elected officials and the community leaders who  
24 completed a historic get out the count campaign for



1 the 2020 census in Lake County, and particularly but  
2 not limited to Mano a Mano here, Ms. Flores  
3 testifying earlier just did an incredible job of  
4 getting out the count in very difficult  
5 circumstances. We'd also like to thank every person  
6 in Lake County and throughout the state who took the  
7 chance to self respond to the census and actually  
8 self enumerated.

9 MALDEF has testified at several hearings of  
10 this committee and the Senate redistricting committee  
11 on the importance of creating districts that provide  
12 Latino community members a fair opportunity to elect  
13 candidates of choice as required by the Federal  
14 Voting Rights Act. The Federal Voting Rights Act  
15 requires states to draw minority-majority districts  
16 that provide specific racial minority or language  
17 minority groups the opportunity to elect candidates  
18 of choice. And we've seen through the evidence that  
19 the best way to accomplish this is by drawing  
20 districts that have a Latino majority voting age  
21 population, as we've emphasized in other hearings.

22 We expect the 2020 census will show that the  
23 Latino population in Lake County, particularly around  
24 Waukegan, has grown over the last ten years. And we

1     urge the committee to consider whether a Latino  
2     majority House district can be drawn in the area to  
3     be the second Latino majority House district outside  
4     of Cook County following the existing Latino majority  
5     district in Aurora.

6             The Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 has  
7     been broadly discussed at other hearings and at the  
8     beginning of this hearing as well, but we wish to  
9     raise some questions and concerns about the  
10    implementation of that law. The Illinois Voting  
11    Rights Act of 2011 was passed during the last  
12    redistricting cycle and it's different from the  
13    Federal Voting Rights Act. The federal law has  
14    comprehensive requirements and a detailed process  
15    developed by decades of litigation. When a minority  
16    group is not large number to comprise a majority of a  
17    minority-majority district, then the Voting Rights  
18    Act of 2011 requires the state to draw a district  
19    that provides that minority group an opportunity to  
20    elect candidates of choice to gather with other  
21    members of other communities. And we applaud the  
22    fact that the state is guided by these goals to  
23    provide representation when minority-majority  
24    districts are not possible. But we have concerns

1 that the law itself does not provide meaningful  
2 standards for analyzing compliance.

3 In order to understand the legislative intent  
4 behind any proposed map, we urge this committee to  
5 include a compliance report with all map proposals  
6 that detailed how these maps comply with the Federal  
7 Voting Rights Act and the Illinois Voting Rights Act.  
8 And this will allow members of the public and  
9 advocates to really see what were the values and be  
10 able to have informed comments on the final maps.

11 To conclude, we offer the final  
12 recommendations as has just been stated. The final  
13 map must account for voting age population. Second,  
14 the committee should consider whether a Latino  
15 majority House district can be drawn in the Waukegan  
16 area. Third, that the committee publishes a  
17 compliance report with all map proposals that details  
18 how the maps comply with the Federal Voting Rights  
19 Act and the Illinois Voting Rights Act. And fourth,  
20 that this committee provides at least two weeks  
21 behind releasing a plan -- after releasing a plan and  
22 holding a hearing to consider that plan.

23 We also echo the comments that were made by  
24 Ms. Lorta and Ms. Flores and a lot of our other

1 colleagues in the other hearings about the need for  
2 additional hearings, need for having opportunities  
3 for the public to comment in the evenings outside of  
4 work hours and making sure that all of this testimony  
5 is available on the state's web sites. Thank you for  
6 your time.

7 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you. And before  
8 we go to questions, I just want to make sure to  
9 reiterate for the record that what's required by law  
10 is four public hearings. We're having at least 23.  
11 I think that's important to know. It's obviously up  
12 from, I believe 17 or so ten years ago. We certainly  
13 appreciate the conversation. But we also want to  
14 point out that, again, there's an e-mail address, but  
15 certainly the public can comment at any time if they  
16 are busy working during the day or otherwise. And I  
17 want to just look in my notes and make sure I put it  
18 on the record again, that e-mail address for public  
19 comments. It's RedistrictingCommittee at  
20 HDS.ILGA.gov.

21 But certainly we want to make sure there's  
22 time for questions for the first panel. So  
23 typically, Representative Butler is the first one  
24 with his hand up. I don't see his hand right now.

1 But if there are other representatives who have  
2 questions for any of the witnesses, Celeste, Damaris  
3 or Steven, please raise your hand and let us know.  
4 Leader Bourne, I see your hand. Please go right  
5 head.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you so much,  
7 Chairman. Thank you all for your testimony.  
8 Celeste, I made some notes during your testimony and  
9 I actually think that a lot of them were then  
10 encompassed in Steven's testimony, so I was trying to  
11 boil down your concerns. Do you think a compliance  
12 report would help with some of your concerns about  
13 how this input is being used? And then what  
14 recommendations do you have on making these more  
15 transparent? That's certainly something that I'm  
16 interested in so that we can have more people  
17 involved. Do you have anything that you think would  
18 make this easier for the public to engage? I know we  
19 had constituents this morning who couldn't get on the  
20 committee this morning, so I know it's a concern not  
21 just in your area.

22 MS. FLORES: Yes, I think that would help. And I  
23 think, you know, regarding engaging the community,  
24 even though it's been a year that a lot of us are

1 used to Zoom, you know, it just depends on the day,  
2 right? So totally understandable. And I think, you  
3 know, especially for working class communities and  
4 community members here in both Lake County and  
5 McHenry County, this is just not, you know, this is  
6 something in addition, right? And it's something  
7 that needs to be broken down because it's just not,  
8 it's not a conversation we have every day, right?  
9 This redistricting happens every ten years. So I  
10 think just the importance of being able to funnel the  
11 information as much as possible.

12 I mean, I know a lot of the representatives  
13 on this call made sure I knew this was happening and  
14 they're like if you have any questions, let us know.  
15 I said look, I do, but what are those questions? And  
16 so then for us as nonprofits to go out into the  
17 community and have to educate them on this, right, is  
18 just another thing. So if there are like graphics, I  
19 don't know what the social media thing is. I know  
20 that I see the House and the Senate usually post  
21 things, you know, on social media. But if there's  
22 just like very simple, you know, the presentation we  
23 had today, right, like if that's something that's  
24 been shared, how can we educate the community and

1 give them the information that you all are seeing,  
2 right?

3 Because I think there are people that are  
4 interested in this and are willing to take the time  
5 to read it and think fully about what they think the  
6 redistricting sudden look like, but they need to be  
7 given those tools, they need to be given the same  
8 informs that the representatives see. So how can we  
9 disperse that through nonprofits, through the  
10 representatives, social media or their newsletters.  
11 Let's just put out all the information, right, and  
12 making sure that, you know, we can talk about this,  
13 you know, Safe Place, that Mano a Mano, that we can  
14 share this with our trusted clients and get them  
15 engaged.

16 And people show up. People care about this,  
17 right? I mean, it's going to affect them. And when  
18 someone knows something is going to affect them,  
19 they're going to be interested and want to give you  
20 answers. Most communities know what's best for the  
21 community. Maybe they're just, no one's asked them  
22 what they think, right? So I hope that helps.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you. And I just  
24 have one more question for you and Ms. Lorta. I'm

1 not familiar with the legislative districts in Lake  
2 County. I'm from south of Springfield. And so I am  
3 just curious if there are any -- really the only map  
4 we have to go off of right now is the current one.  
5 So is there anything that you think is not working,  
6 doesn't make sense, communities of interest that you  
7 would want to see kept together, just local  
8 characteristics that we may not be familiar with but  
9 that are really important to you?

10 MS. FLORES: Yeah, I mean, I think going off what  
11 Steven shared, the Latino community has really grown  
12 in this area and it's not currently represented. And  
13 I think, you know, Lake County is very big and very  
14 diverse when it comes to social economics, to race,  
15 to culture, to language preferences.

16 So obviously, you know, an area that comes to  
17 mind, we have several Round Lakes, there are like  
18 five different -- that's why I kind of pause. I'm  
19 still learning where the offices are because I'm  
20 actually new to the job as well. So obviously, there  
21 are some communities that should be kept together and  
22 those could be areas that I think shouldn't be split  
23 because that does have a high Latino population that  
24 would kind of be diluted if they were split. So that



1 comes to mind.

2 And then I think just looking at those other  
3 pockets, from what we expect from the census, and I  
4 know you all have some other maps that I was reading  
5 that you guys were looking at, because the Latino  
6 community has really grown exponentially and  
7 currently both in the House and in the Senate, we  
8 don't have a Latino legislator.

9 MS. LORTA: I don't have much to add after, you  
10 know, Steven and Celeste. But really just again the  
11 representation, right, of our community and being  
12 able to see that and have our community see  
13 themselves in the people that are representing them  
14 would be important.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: That's helpful. Thank  
16 you both so much.

17 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I see Representative  
18 Mayfield. Please go right ahead, Chairwoman  
19 Mayfield.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD: Thank you so much.  
21 I don't have so much a question as a comment. I am  
22 going to disagree that there is not representation,  
23 because I represent Waukegan and I think I've done a  
24 very good job of representing both the black and

1 brown and the Caucasians in the district. The fact  
2 that I don't speak Spanish I don't think should be  
3 a detriment to the makeup of the district. The  
4 district, and I'm hoping that when we get to my  
5 segment where I can speak on the district, I am  
6 asking that the district remain intact and not be  
7 divided up even more like in the last redistricting  
8 where they stripped out parts of North Chicago and  
9 Park City from the district. So I do think that it's  
10 important that we keep it as is and not look to  
11 dilute the minorities that we have within the  
12 community.

13 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you, Chairwoman  
14 Mayfield. And let me just say this, also, for the  
15 record. Given that we have three panels and then an  
16 additional panel has just been added, if the  
17 witnesses can be succinct in their responses, make  
18 them just kind of straight to the point. Everybody,  
19 you know, is incredibly passionate about this, but I  
20 want to make sure that we get a nice clean record and  
21 that everybody has an opportunity to speak today.  
22 That would be helpful. Rep Didich, go right ahead.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DIDICH: Thank you, Chairman  
24 Tarver. I'll be really fast. I just wanted to,

1 first, second the point that Representative Mayfield  
2 made, but I wanted to also make sure everybody  
3 remembers that we have significant Latino communities  
4 in other parts of Lake County, too, not just in  
5 Waukegan, and many of our districts are arguably  
6 Latino influenced districts in Round Lake Beach and  
7 Mundelein and Highwood and some other places, too.  
8 So I think as the redistricting process goes forward,  
9 I think maintaining the Latino influence in other  
10 districts as well is something that we want to be  
11 cognizant of, and I appreciate the testimony given  
12 today. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Absolutely, you're welcome.  
14 And before we go on, Representative Didich, your hand  
15 is still up. Did you have another question or is  
16 that --

17 REPRESENTATIVE DIDECH: No, I'm done.

18 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thanks. I just want to  
19 respond to a couple things for the record. First and  
20 foremost, the public does have access to everything  
21 the state representative has access to. That's  
22 absolutely the case. And so to the extent that was  
23 suggested otherwise, it's untrue. I want to make  
24 sure that's stated for the record. I also want to

1 state for the record I'm a little confused because it  
2 seems to be both ways. There's the organizations  
3 working for 40 years in this space and then we have  
4 testimony about organizations that are doing a great  
5 job getting the count out for the census. Well,  
6 again, the state constitution, you know, says every  
7 ten years we have to re-map. And so organizations  
8 are aware of the census and the purpose of the census  
9 and the importance of the census. I think it's a  
10 little disingenuous to then suggest that, you know,  
11 there's not enough time or notification or things  
12 along those lines for individuals to really talk  
13 about the process of re-map. Because again we're  
14 talking about a ten year window.

15 And so what I didn't hear and I guess maybe  
16 we'll hear in the future is when people say we need  
17 two weeks after a map is voted on and things like  
18 that, how, you know, individuals plan to do that and  
19 to still meet the constitutional deadline of June  
20 30th. So those things would be important to  
21 understand and I just want to say that everybody has  
22 access to this information. It's actually in the  
23 Illinois constitution. And so that's when it's  
24 available, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and 366 in

1 the leap year. So those are my comments to respond  
2 to the first panel.

3 And being there are no other questions, I'll  
4 move to the second panel, which the first person we  
5 have is Holly Kim from the Lake County treasurer.  
6 Holly, are you there?

7 MS. KIM: I'm here. Can you hear me?

8 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Yes, we can. Go right  
9 ahead.

10 MS. KIM: So I'm Holly Kim, Lake County treasurer  
11 and a resident of Lake County. My name is spelled  
12 H-o-l-l-y, last name K-i-m. Thank you, Chairman  
13 Tarver and the rest of the committee for the  
14 opportunity to speak today. I'm just submitting to  
15 note that the Asian-American community is a community  
16 of interest that should also be respected and  
17 protected in the redistricting process, that  
18 Asian-Americans are the fastest growing population in  
19 Illinois and according to the 2019 American Community  
20 Survey, that there are 53,654 Asian-Americans in Lake  
21 County, making up eight percent of the county  
22 population. So that's a 22 percent increase since  
23 2010. Asian-Americans live all across Lake County,  
24 but there's also high concentrations in Vernon Hills

1 and Buffalo Grove.

2 And while Asian-Americans do not make up a  
3 high enough percentage of the population to meet  
4 federal voting rights standards, that we should be  
5 protected under the Illinois Voting Rights Act and  
6 as a community of interest. The Illinois Voting  
7 Rights Act established additional voting rights  
8 protections for smaller minority populations like  
9 Asian-Americans. It recognizes influence, which is  
10 districts around 20 percent minority population,  
11 crossover, which is districts where minorities can  
12 align with segments of the majority population, and  
13 coalition districts, where more than one minority  
14 group combined make up a majority of the district, as  
15 presented in the slide show earlier.

16 So in 2011, four Asian-American districts  
17 were drawn under this Illinois Voting Rights Act and  
18 as a result, Illinois went from zero Asian-American  
19 in the general assembly ever to five, which is four  
20 in the House and one in the Senate. So in Lake  
21 County we can draw Asian-American influence,  
22 crossover and coalition districts and we can  
23 recognize Asian-American communities as a community  
24 of interest to be kept intact in the redistricting

1 process.

2 The rising attacks against Asian-Americans  
3 and the Atlanta shooting demonstrate really, I think,  
4 the need for Asian-Americans to have effective  
5 representation and ensuring Lake County's  
6 redistricting process recognizes the Illinois Voting  
7 Rights Act and utilizes their tools of influence,  
8 crossover and coalition district principles as well  
9 as recognizing that communities of interest will  
10 help us ensure that Asian-Americans continue --  
11 Asian-American communities have effective  
12 representation in Lake County. And that's my  
13 comment. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you very much,  
15 Holly. We have a few more people on this panel.  
16 Hopefully, you can stick around for a few in case  
17 there are questions for you.

18 MS. KIM: I will. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. So next I have  
20 Mary Ross Cunningham, Lake County board vice chair.  
21 I didn't see Mary in the witnesses. Mary, are you  
22 there and able to testify? Okay, if Mary jumps on,  
23 we'll go back --

24 REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD: I didn't see Mary, but

1 I did see Commissioner Angelo Kyle.

2 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I have, Rita, I have Angelo  
3 Kyle and the last, I believe Carissa Casbon. So I  
4 have a few people.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MAYFIELD: Sorry. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: No worries at all.  
7 Absolutely. So Angelo Kyle, Chair Mayfield has  
8 stolen my thunder in introducing you, but I believe  
9 you're a Lake County board member. If you're ready  
10 to present, just please spell your name for the  
11 record and go right into your testimony. Thank you  
12 very much.

13 MR. KYLE: All right, thank you. Angelo Kyle.  
14 A-n-g-e-l-o, K-y-l-e. I am currently on the Lake  
15 County board of commissioners and also president of  
16 the Lake County forest preserve. Thank you for the  
17 opportunity, Mr. Chairman and the rest of our -- your  
18 committee. I also, of course, want to recognize our  
19 state representative, Representative Rita Mayfield,  
20 of course, as well.

21 We are here to discuss the redistricting  
22 process. I want you to realize that the only  
23 minority district in Lake County currently is  
24 District 60 in which, of course, the Honorable Rita



1 Mayfield oversees that for us. With the high influx  
2 of minorities throughout Lake County, we actually  
3 need more minority districts and not less minority  
4 districts. We have 52 cities within Lake County,  
5 Illinois and just over 800,000 citizens and an influx  
6 of minorities in which we need more districts to  
7 reflect the needs, the programs and the services that  
8 minorities need. And we need, of course, diversity  
9 and we wanted to make certain that the process  
10 reflected a diverse population as well as an  
11 inclusive population as well. So that's about what I  
12 had today. Thank you for the opportunity.

13 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you very much.  
14 And hopefully, you can stick around for a few minutes  
15 in case there are any questions of your panel.

16 MR. KYLE: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Next I have Paras Parekh,  
18 and I apologize if I mispronounced that, Lake County  
19 board member. Are you available?

20 REPRESENTATIVE MORGAN: Mr. Chair, I think Paras  
21 might have another engagement.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, I know I saw Paras  
23 Parekh's name in the witnesses. We'll go to Carissa  
24 Casbon if you're there and available.

1 MS. CASBON: Good afternoon.

2 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Good afternoon.

3 MS. CASBON: I'm Carissa Casbon. That's  
4 C-a-r-i-s-s-a, C-a-s-b-o-n. And I'm a Lake County  
5 board member representing most of Gurnee and Third  
6 Lake. Thank you so much for having me here today and  
7 for holding these hearings. I'm here to advocate for  
8 sensible maps, maps that keep communities together,  
9 however you define communities, whether it's  
10 municipalities or communities of color, just that  
11 they make sense to regular people. Thank you all for  
12 having me. I appreciate it.

13 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you, Carissa. That  
14 was very brief but straight to the point. We  
15 appreciate that. So that actually concludes panel  
16 two. And so if anyone has questions for either  
17 Holly, Angelo or Carissa, please raise your hand and  
18 you'll be recognized. I don't see any questions from  
19 anyone, so spoken one more time. Well, thank you all  
20 for your testimony and your input. We certainly  
21 appreciate it.

22 And now we'll move on to panel three. To  
23 kick off panel three, I have Dr. Carla Little from  
24 the Woodland District 50 school board. I believe

1 Dr. Carla Little is the president. Dr. Little, are  
2 you there?

3 DR. LITTLE: Yes, I am here, Carla Little. Carla  
4 Little, C-a-r-l-a, Little, L-i-t-t-l-e. And I'm here  
5 with our superintendent, Dr. Lori Casey, and  
6 associate superintendent, Mr. Chris Bobek. And we  
7 wanted to advocate for maintaining the current House  
8 and legislative divisions in our district.

9 Just a little bit about us. We are a K-8  
10 district in northern Lake County, roughly three --  
11 5300 students. We're probably the most diverse  
12 district in Lake County and we believe the current  
13 boundaries reflect that diversity. We are part of  
14 four state House districts, two state Senate  
15 districts and three U.S. House districts. We're 33  
16 square miles and we're, as I mentioned, we're very  
17 diverse. We have 36 percent low income students,  
18 20 percent are English language learners, 42 percent  
19 are white, 32 percent Hispanic, 11 percent Asian,  
20 seven percent African-American, .5 percent American  
21 Indian and 5.6 percent of our students identify as  
22 multi-racial.

23 So we have learned just from our advocating  
24 with our representatives, who includes Representative

1 Joyce Mason, we have learned how important it is to  
2 have that diverse representation in our district at  
3 the state and the national level. One of our biggest  
4 issues, I think for us, just wanting to put that on  
5 the table, is the state's authorized charter schools.  
6 And we're seeking some relief from that roughly large  
7 percent, a large percentage of our evidence based  
8 funding is -- that is meant for the minority students  
9 that I just highlighted for you is going to a state  
10 authorized charter school that does not represent the  
11 diversity of the district. So it really has become  
12 an equity issue. So we just wanted to highlight that  
13 for you. And I'm not sure if you have Dr. Casey and  
14 Mr. Bobek on your list, but if not, I wanted to turn  
15 it over to them in case they had any comments.

16 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much,  
17 Dr. Little. I actually have both Dr. Casey and  
18 Mr. Bobek, Chris Bobek scheduled to testify.

19 DR. LITTLE: Great.

20 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: So if that concludes your  
21 remarks, I will go straight to Dr. Casey, who is the  
22 Woodland District 50 superintendent. Dr. Casey, if  
23 you could just spell your name, all yours.

24 DR. CASEY: Sure. Good afternoon, everybody. My

1 name is Lori Casey. L-o-r-i, last name is C-a-s-e-y.  
2 And I wanted to thank Representative Mason, who  
3 invited us here today and really taught us about the  
4 process, which we weren't familiar with. This is our  
5 first hearing.

6 So as a school district, like Dr. Little  
7 said, it's the largest elementary school district in  
8 Lake County. I really appreciate being invited to  
9 the table. We've worked very closely with some of  
10 the other people who have spoken today. Safe Place,  
11 Mano a Mano, thank you for everything you do for our  
12 families. But we love to be invited to anything when  
13 we're discussing these things because it really does  
14 impact, we take in seven different ZIP codes, we take  
15 in, you know, a lot of different cities and villages.  
16 So we want to make sure that our students and our  
17 family be represented. So thank you for inviting us  
18 today and we look forward to further conversations.

19 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you, Dr. Casey. And  
20 Chris Bobek, are you there? And if so, would you  
21 like to testify?

22 MR. BOBEK: Hi. Chris Bobek, C-h-r-i-s,  
23 B-o-b-e-k. I will be succinct, reiteration of thank  
24 you for having us. We are a diverse district and

1 there were some initial talks about redistricting.  
2 The one thing that we don't want to do is we don't  
3 want to lose the representatives that we have because  
4 we are so diverse. And because we have a diverse  
5 population, we want to make sure that those groups  
6 that have common interests are represented and are  
7 represented equally. So we want to make sure that  
8 the more eyes, the more representatives, more  
9 legislators that we have, we feel the better. So  
10 that's my succinct portion. Thank you very much for  
11 allowing me to testify.

12 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you, Chris. And  
13 I neglected to mention, so for the record, Chris  
14 Bobek is the Woodland District 50 associate  
15 superintendent. And so that concludes the third  
16 panel, which is the Woodland District 50. I see that  
17 Leader Bourne has questions. If anyone else has a  
18 question after Leader Bourne, just please raise your  
19 hand. Leader Bourne, all yours.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you so much. I  
21 know that, Ms. Little, you stated that you have, I  
22 think four Illinois House members, two Illinois  
23 Senate members and three members of the congressional  
24 delegation who represent your district. Are those

1 numbers right?

2 DR. LITTLE: Yes, that is correct. Or Chris,  
3 correct me if I'm wrong. That's my count.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: And Mr. Bobek just said  
5 that the more representatives, the better. We've  
6 actually heard the opposite in some of our testimony,  
7 that the more compact a district can be, so if you  
8 have one person who's really focused on you, it may  
9 not be possible to have one, but I was just wondering  
10 if you have seen examples where it doesn't make sense  
11 the way things are sliced up and there would be  
12 communities of interest that would be better  
13 represented if there weren't some lines intersecting  
14 certain places. So like I mentioned with the first  
15 panel, I'm not super familiar with the demographics  
16 or changes in Lake County, which is why we're  
17 listening. So I just wanted to know if you have any  
18 local input on that.

19 DR. LITTLE: Well, for the Woodland District 50  
20 boundaries, we take in ten municipalities. So two,  
21 just Gages Lake and Wildwood, which are small,  
22 unincorporated areas of Lake County, they're fully in  
23 our district. And then we have parts of eight other  
24 municipalities, Gurnee, Grayslake, Lindenhurst, Third

1 Lake. There's a few others. Waukegan, Park City,  
2 parts of Libertyville. So we're a kind of parts of  
3 parts of parts district and that's why we take in --  
4 that's why we have representatives, multiple  
5 representatives at the state and the federal level.  
6 And we think that's reflective of the diversity of  
7 our community.

8 And so in terms of ensuring that the  
9 community has strong advocates at the state and the  
10 federal level we, as a district, try to do our part  
11 in making sure that as we're advocating on  
12 educational issues at those levels, that we're  
13 advocating to those representatives that are  
14 representatives of the community. So it's not a  
15 problem for us as a school district. We embrace it.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: That's helpful. Thank  
17 you.

18 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Is that your only question,  
19 Leader Bourne? Awesome. Any other questions for  
20 Woodland District 50? I don't see any other hands.  
21 So thank you to our third panel. And we've had a  
22 fourth panel added as well. So the first name that  
23 I have, and I apologize, I don't see a last name,  
24 is Deena. And I apologize, I don't have the



1 organization that you're from. I believe it's the  
2 Illinois Muslim --

3 MS. HABBAL: Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition.

4 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. I apologize for  
5 that. Thank you very much for -- would you just  
6 spell your name and go straight to your testimony?

7 MS. HABBAL: Thank you very much for having me  
8 here today. My name is Deena Habbal. D-e-e-n-a,  
9 last name is H-a-b-b-a-l, and I'm with the Illinois  
10 Muslim Civic Coalition. If it's all right, I'm going  
11 to share my screen.

12 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Sure.

13 MS. HABBAL: Okay, we are a coalition of over 150  
14 partners and allies of all races, ethnicities and  
15 backgrounds. Our focus is on ensuring policies made  
16 for us are made with us, and we believe redistricting  
17 is one critical piece of this. The Coalition  
18 recommends that legislators make sure census data  
19 plus community organization input plus other data  
20 such as ACS are all used while redistricting and that  
21 the process is transparent, inclusive and clear.

22 In Illinois, we have communities that did not  
23 exist in 2010, we have others that were never vocal  
24 about their needs and we have others who have grown

1 in the past ten years, thinking like Rohingya  
2 refugees, Syrian refugees. The American Muslim story  
3 is diverse. We have one of the most diverse faith  
4 groups. Though we are not a religious organization,  
5 we do want to highlight that race, class and faith  
6 all connect. And when redistricting, we think this  
7 is critical aspects of a community to consider.

8 Those who identify as Muslim also identify as  
9 African-American, almost 30 percent; Asian,  
10 25 percent; white, Arab, Latino, African immigrant.  
11 And many do not know this because we are oftentimes  
12 invisible communities. I, myself, am Arab, white,  
13 Cherokee, Irish and so on. Illinois is one of the  
14 most diverse states in the U.S. It ranks in the top  
15 25 percent in racial diversity and in the top percent  
16 in religious diversity. Illinois has some of the  
17 largest numbers of Polish, Irish, African-American,  
18 Latino, Catholic, Hindu residents in the nation.

19 Illinois has the largest per capita American  
20 Muslim population in America. The residents live,  
21 work, play, pray, serve our cities and our counties.  
22 They work for a better Illinois but have zero  
23 representation in Illinois. And we think  
24 representation matters. Elected officials should

1 understand their constituents and also look like  
2 them. And we are working on providing maps of all  
3 the diverse Muslim communities and they should be out  
4 by April 30th. And we're working with different  
5 organizations and community members across the state  
6 to work on these maps.

7 And so we have three asks. One is please do  
8 not push our responsibilities back to 2030 to ensure  
9 representation to critical communities who have zero  
10 representation or are underrepresented. Understand  
11 that Arab communities are identified as white in the  
12 census and organizations are here to provide info and  
13 resources on why we think this should be changed.  
14 Ensure that maps reflect the diversity of race,  
15 ethnicity and faiths all across Illinois. Use census  
16 data plus engage organizations whose members  
17 understand racial, faith, ethnic demographics across  
18 all ten counties that we work in. Thank you very  
19 much. And I had -- oh, and I would like to introduce  
20 Robert Montgomery from the Homeless Center in Lake  
21 County to speak after me.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. Because I was  
23 going to need to know those. So thank you for that,  
24 Deena.

1 MS. HABBAL: You're welcome.

2 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: And hopefully, you're able  
3 to stay on for a few minutes in case there are  
4 questions for your panel. Thank you very much again.

5 Robert, feel free to take it away. If you  
6 can just again state and spell your name for the  
7 record and if you'll again say the name of the  
8 organization you represent. Thank you, sir.

9 MR. MONTGOMERY: Sure. I'm Robert Montgomery.  
10 That's R-o-b-e-r-t, M-o-n-t-g-o-m-e-r-y. And I'm  
11 with UMMA, the Urban Muslim Minority Alliance. And  
12 just as Deena just talked about, in a second I'll  
13 talk about that, but what we do at UMMA is we have  
14 four basic programs. We help people live a better  
15 quality of life through our food pantry. We also  
16 have adult education, which includes GED and work  
17 force development where we help people find jobs.  
18 And then our brand new program is our affordable  
19 housing program.

20 Most of the people that come to UMMA  
21 definitely could be considered low income. And  
22 probably 90 percent of them are non-white or what we  
23 call, in America, minorities. And so to piggyback on  
24 what Deena just talked about, we do believe that our

1 representation in the area, the Waukegan area and  
2 surrounding areas, which is where most of the people  
3 come from, our representation should be, we think, we  
4 feel that it should reflect the people that actually  
5 live in the Waukegan area and in the area where we  
6 serve. So that's it.

7 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Well, thank you as well for  
8 your testimony.

9 MR. MONTGOMERY: Mm hmm.

10 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: So that concludes the  
11 testimony from the fourth panel, Deena and Robert.  
12 Are there any questions for the fourth panel?  
13 Representative Butler, I knew you wouldn't let me  
14 down. I knew you would have questions at some point  
15 today. So all yours.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Always have to add  
17 something. And sorry, I was trying to navigate the  
18 northwest Cook one going on at the same time as the  
19 first half of this committee hearing. And Deena,  
20 thank you for being back. We missed you for a couple  
21 days.

22 MS. HABBAL: I missed you, too.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you for showing up  
24 to all these committee hearings here. We're going to

1 make you an honorary member of the legislature, I  
2 think, for showing up at all these. I just want to  
3 hit on a little bit of, you know, I think there's  
4 been, what I've picked up on, there's a lot of  
5 diversity, there's a lot of talk about the diversity  
6 of Lake County, but I don't know if I see the  
7 diversity represented in the delegation that serves  
8 in the state house.

9 And I just, as we were going on here, I  
10 pulled up some data from Census.gov, so this is the  
11 data that they've got out there now. This isn't,  
12 obviously, the decennial census data. But 60 percent  
13 white alone, 22 percent Hispanic or Latino,  
14 7.5 percent black or African-American, 8.4 percent  
15 Asian.

16 And I think this gets to the point of the  
17 fact that, I mean, lines get drawn and divided up  
18 and, you know, certainly we need to respect all sorts  
19 of communities of interest. We need to respect  
20 racial communities of interest, we need to respect,  
21 I mean, the Muslim Civic Coalition has done a great  
22 job of advocating their cause over these hearings and  
23 everything and their desires for this. But also  
24 communities as we've heard, you know, protecting

1 Waukegan as was just said by Robert, I think, and  
2 things like this, so this all comes into it.

3 But I think as we draw the maps, my concern  
4 is with the fact that I believe what we're going  
5 towards as a legislature is to use data that isn't  
6 complete or isn't finalized if we use the American  
7 Community Survey data. And as I said on the  
8 committee earlier today, the ACS data, we've had  
9 people testify actually at these hearings that the  
10 ACS data undercounts minority populations, and I  
11 think we need to get this stuff right. And I know  
12 there's deadlines that we have to adhere to, but we  
13 have a process in place that if we don't adhere to  
14 the June 30 deadline for the maps, it takes us into  
15 October to be able to draw maps as well and that way  
16 we could use the full data that is out there.

17 So I think Lake County especially is an area  
18 that I would hope on the maps we take a long look at  
19 their representation in the general assembly. And  
20 certainly nothing against my friends that are on here  
21 from Lake County, it's nothing to do with them, but I  
22 think it really doesn't seem to be representative of  
23 who serves in the general assembly from Lake County.  
24 So anyway, I appreciate everybody's testimony. These

1 have been great to listen to people from around the  
2 state and I appreciate everybody showing up and  
3 having their input on these.

4 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you. And I also  
5 see that Representative Yingling's hand is raised.  
6 So Rep Yingling.

7 REPRESENTATIVE YINGLING: Yes, thank you,  
8 Chairman. While I appreciate Representative Butler's  
9 analysis of a county he doesn't represent or live in,  
10 I do also think that it's important to highlight that  
11 we are significant -- we do have a significantly  
12 diverse caucus that represents Lake County, myself  
13 adding to that minority mix, being the only openly  
14 LGBTQ legislator outside the city of Chicago. There  
15 are certain minority groups that are very difficult  
16 to track, the LGBTQ community being one of them. So  
17 I just think that it's important for my colleague,  
18 Representative Butler, to also keep that in mind.  
19 Thank you, Chairman.

20 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. Does anyone else  
21 have, any other representative have a question or  
22 comment before we conclude today's hearing? I'm just  
23 going to scroll through the screen. I don't see  
24 anyone else. So I certainly want to thank everybody



1 who made time. I know some people are juggling  
2 multiple things all at once. I certainly appreciate  
3 the public's input and also my colleagues for  
4 spirited debate and questions. And with that being  
5 said, at 3:11 we'll recess the redistricting  
6 committee subject to the call of the Chair. Thank  
7 you, everyone.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you all.

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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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