

Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission

Public Listening Tour for Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties

June 30, 2021

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Kristin: Do you want to put on my interpreter? Yes, sorry about that. Thank you for the reminder, it's okay. Thank you.

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Live Spanish interpretation interpretation is now active.

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I'm also going to

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record.

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Alright, we're going to get started,

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members of the Commission, are you ready.

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Are you ready to start.

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Okay.

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Jay is the only one who hasn't joined us.

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Okay, I've sent him the.

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I've sent him the invite again. And I am assuming that he will join us but we do have a quorum. So I'm going to go ahead and get started if that's okay.

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Sounds good. Okay, good evening and welcome to the fourth regional public meeting of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission. This meeting is being recorded.

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As we begin, there are a few matters to share regarding the rules and policies for this evening's meeting, as well as some tips about the platform that will assist our speakers in better understanding how to use do this meeting offers Spanish interpretation

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to listen in Spanish, you'll simply go to the bottom of your toolbar and select the interpretation feature, and select Spanish.

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Because we are offering this service. We do ask those who are speaking to please try to remember to speak clearly and slowly, so that the interpreter is able to provide that service for those who join us that way.

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There is a three minute allotment for speakers so that everyone who wants to speak has their due time. When there is 27 seconds left of your speaking time, a screen share will come on, with a countdown timer, we ask that you wrap up your comments.

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By the end of that timer reaches zero inappropriate speaking attire behavior or background will result in removal from the meeting, without the option to rejoin anyone registering after to speak after 5pm today should ask to join as a speaker in the

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chat section as your name will not be listed on the list of pre register and speakers. If you did not register to speak.

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We ask that you do so through the chat box to a message with the panelists, providing your name and the county from which, in which you reside.

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Please don't use the raise hand feature for this as that is not a way that we will be able to recognize that you would like to speak.

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Speakers should ensure that their name is listed properly on their registration, and if not, please change your name on your attendee box to reflect the proper name you would like to be used.

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That's how we identify you and the attendees list that we have to promote you to a panelist to be able to speak live during this meeting.

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Please note that the participants and attendees list is not public and we do that to protect the privacy of those calling in due to their phone numbers being listed pre registered speakers will go first.

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Then chat features will be called in the order of that request. Speakers providing testimony should be aware that they will be made a panelist, which will enable them to unmute and turn off their camera, turn on their camera.

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There may be a short delay while the speaker screen goes from attendee to a panelist, this is normal, the speaker will see a screen message indicating that the host would like to promote you to be a panelist, the speaker needs to accept, by clicking the

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join as panelists button will wait around five seconds for the speaker to go live. Please remember that when you do accept and become a panelist, that you unmute.

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And if you would like to be on camera that you also enable your camera feature. If the speaker doesn't join within that period of time. Well simply move on to the next speaker and come back to anyone who may have missed their term prior to ending the

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meeting.

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Once you finish speaking, you'll be moved back to the attendees status. This may result in the speaker seeing a spinning wheel or a message on your screen, indicating that you are rejoining the meeting.

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The speaker is not being removed from the meeting. It's just the zoom platform changing screen, so don't worry that you're being kicked out of the meeting.

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We know this is a lot of information but want to assist you in understanding how this meeting will operate, so it can go as smoothly as possible, but I would like to introduce you to the host for this evening's meeting.

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Walter Olson who serves as one of the CO hosts of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission Commissioner Olson.

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Thank you, Kristen.

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Welcome to members of public commissioners, And we always start by introducing ourselves.

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I'm Walter and I live in Frederick County.

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My day job is with a think tank in Washington DC. And, why don't we start with Dr. Kate Hetherington.

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Thank you water Good evening everyone, I'm Kate Hetherington the President of our community college, and I resigned and Howard can.

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Good evening, I'm Alex Williams. I'm a retired United States District Court judge for the district of Maryland, and I reside in Prince George's County, Maryland.

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Okay.

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Good evening. My name is Jay I mean, I'm a land broker and 12 minute executive for a boutique land brokerage firm in Ellicott City, Maryland, and I'm a resident of animal county sheriff.

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Good evening, I'm Cheryl Brooks.

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Proud elementary school principal, and I'm a resident of Baltimore County.

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Good evening, I'm Mary Clawson. I'm a retired federal employee and I live in Anne Arundel County.

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Hi, I'm Kim Cummings, longtime resident of the Eastern Shore employed with the male judiciary at the circuit court and Dorchester county where I reside as a supervisor in land records and licensing.

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Johnson.

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Hi, I'm Jonathan Westfield I'm a resident of montgomery county I'm a communications manager for a research firm in Bethesda, Maryland,

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evening. My name is William super Thomas I'm a senior principal engineer for the Department of Defense and I'm also a grassroots organizer, and I live in Baltimore City.

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Thank you. Just a few more comments reiterating things that Kristin said, this is a hearing that will focus on the for Western Maryland counties, but it is open to anyone who wants to give testimony.

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If you know people who missed tonight's meeting and want to talk about Western Maryland issues they are welcome to come to later hearings, over the next four weeks.

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This is also just the first round of hearings, our commission will be holding further rounds when census data is available. And when we have proposed maps.

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So, both those ideas or sending them by email, because we want to hear from you all here.

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Now, this is I believe our biggest hearing yet, and has the longest sign in shape, so I'm going to go directly to calling on members of the public and I think that, Kristen can get us there with the first name, I can I can.

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Our first speaker this evening is Jeannie Massey from Washington County.

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You are now a panelist, Please remember to activate your video and your microphone. If you would like to be on camera.

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All right, you're live.

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Good evening, everyone. My name is Danny Massey, and I'm a social studies teacher and another three out here in Washington County.

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I speak tonight on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Washington County, the League of Women Voters is the nation's oldest nonpartisan voter education and grassroots advocacy group.

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We do not support specific political candidates or parties, but act as a trusted source of information during elections, for example, to our vote for one one voter guys and candidate forum.

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The Washington County league appreciates the opportunity to provide comments at this listening session. We'd like to commend your service to the people of Maryland.

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We believe this type of multi partisan approach for drawing district boundaries, is the best vehicle for promoting fair and effective representation in the state legislature and the House of Representatives.

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We share with you a joint aspiration for a redistricting process that will become a model for Maryland, and even other states for decades to come.

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Throughout our 100 year history the leak for the power of the people in government.

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However, our efforts to support the democratic process in Western Maryland have been hampered by partisan gerrymandering. The overt manipulation of the redistricting process over the years, convinces voters of the minority party that the process is right.

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When the public loses faith in the system. Some people will seek an alternative path to power, which we saw on evidence on January six.

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We hope this commission will be able to rectify the way the sixth congressional district was drawn to the advantage of one party, rather than to the advantage of the residents of Western Maryland. Democracy is built on trust.

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And at this moment, we need to rebuild that trust with every decision we make Washington County sits at the crossroads of to Interstate and has been known as the hub city for generations, thanks to the railroads that intersect here with transportation

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Nexus provides mixed blessings to our community, all of which have escalated due to the recent pandemic.

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The highway springs battlefield tourists as well as homeless transients.

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They bring gargantuan Amazon warehouses and there are many jobs, as well as wage pressure on small local businesses.

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They bring hikers and bikers, the Appalachian Trail and the CMO canal, as well as drugs and human trafficking.

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Our community has so much potential yet faces significant challenges that deserve the attention of our civic institutions and our political leaders.

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This leads me to my most important to ask of you. Please make every effort to reach out to our underserved community.

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While every Maryland resident deserves to be heard, the members of the League of Women Voters have a special responsibility to give voice to the voiceless.

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Our state league is working with the underserved communities in our state to identify communities of interest that should be kept intact in the mapping process.

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We hope that this commission will draw maps and empower voters and their neighborhoods to participate fully in the democratic process and closing the League of Women Voters believes that creating a fair and impartial map for the next decade of our collective

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civic life is truly an act of patriotism. And we thank you.

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Thank you so much. Jeannie messy.

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Kristin, what's the next name on the list? The next name on the list is delegate Dan Cox, unfortunately he hasn't been able to join us as of yet, so we're going to move to Mary Castello and Miss Costello, you're now a panelist.

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you'll just need to unmute

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this customer.

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There should be a microphone in the lower right corner of the control bar at the bottom of your There you are. And I did not sign up to comment so I'm here to listen.

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Okay.

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Thank you very much. All right, next, the next person we have is delegate Jesse Pippi.

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I will say he was in communication saying that he had conflicting meetings that he might have to go to so if.

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His name is not on the list, maybe what he is here I've just promoted Yes Okay good. Yeah.

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Delegate Pippi you're now a panelist, there you are.

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Okay.

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Thank you for having me. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. My name is delegate Jesse Pepe. I represent arts, Frederick Carroll County. More importantly, I am a registered voter, and American citizen and like my fellow citizens in Western

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Maryland.

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We're just looking for fair maps.

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You know, we've heard the narrative before. I've heard individuals talking about drawing Maryland to where there are no minority representatives in the house.

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And then I've also heard that we shouldn't do anything until the rest of the country gets their act together.

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And what I recommend and I'm sure you've heard it is that Maryland, we lead by example.

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Um, we do what's right, regardless of what other states may or may not do. I think this is a great opportunity for Maryland to show the rest of the country that we're putting the citizens first, or we're putting the voters first, and that ultimately we're

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going to do the right thing. And I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. And on behalf of the hundred and 30,000 people that I represent appreciate the opportunity to move Maryland in the right direction.

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Thank you.

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Thank you to the delegate who is next on the list. Right. The next is Bob spear from Garrett County. I did send some materials that Mr spear sent earlier today to the commission as well.

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Mr spear you're now a panelist.

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Y'all need to unmute and start your camera if you'd like to be on camera.

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It is it the screen kind of evaporated there for a minute.

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Thank you very much I first of all want to really commend the Commission on going around the states to on a listening tour to listen to the citizens of Maryland I just think that's critical for improving the democratic process in our state and around

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the country I wish all citizens. Organizations would follow in like manner. I have a proposal for redistricting I sent a very brief version of it around to the commission today I won't completely go over that because it's a little long, but I do want

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to highlight the important parts of it.

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The first thing is that I think that we should agree on what our objectives are. And, to my mind, there are four. They are to equalize the populations of all CDs within a state to keep neighbors neighbors together defining neighbors as people living in

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the same zip code tabulation area to dry compact shape, and to avoid all other considerations I think that's important. We have many considerations that have been considered in redistricting in the past.

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Some of them have been ruled illegal. Some of them have Supreme Court has allowed to continue to exist, like political affiliation and political gerrymandering on, but others, such as race and ethnicity have been determined determinative and not allowing

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certain districts that discriminate on that basis, but I think that all of the considerations. Taken together, we'd be better off without any of them, because we would end up with.

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If we just use population compact as needed keeping neighbors together. If we follow those three things we will be much better off.

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Secondly, I think that we should agree that the worst back practices at present are that politicians pick their constituents, rather than the other way around.

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And the best way to get around that is to have a system that is based on mathematics and rules for drawing districts, and we have no human decisions. If you really come up and there are schemes that can be done.

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I have one, I'm sure other people can come up with other schemes that would work. But the whole idea is to eliminate human decision making, so that as I like to say any high school civics class could follow these rules and create district boundaries and

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they would be the same in every state, and every district map drawn would be the same. They should be transparent and replicable.

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Then we get into the actual details of how this is done. I use a series of reference lines and scan lines, and basically scan across the state, using zip code tabulation areas to form districts.

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I think when it gets done, you end up with district maps that are fair and reasonable, and we can't, we don't need to argue and litigate about them forever.

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So that's it, thank you all for listening.

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Thank you Mr spare and I can confirm the commission did get your written submissions today. So thank you for those as well.

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Kristin who is next. Right. JOHN if you could take the timer off the screen. The next speaker is Jason form waltz Mr four and Walt is not on as of yet so we'll be moving to Robert Bowman, Mr Bowman you are now a panelist.

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Mr Bowman you'll need to unmute and share your screen if you would like. or.

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Start your video.

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Okay there. Yes we are.

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Okay videos down. This is fun.

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Yes, my name is Robert Bowman I live in clear Spring, Maryland Washington County Western Washington County.

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And we just like to hit on what the other two people from Western Maryland shared. As far as the redistricting.

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That went from when we had representation in Western Maryland and district six to where we were gerrymandered into montgomery county. Just enough to sway, who got elected,

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it's my hope that the commission would take this and I don't know what real hope there is of this actually getting through the legislative body in Annapolis, but

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I would just like to have some representation in the western part of the state that actually represents the people that live out here.

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There's really nobody in Western Maryland has a whole lot in common with what's going on in the part of montgomery county where gerrymandered into, we don't have the same economic situations.

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We don't have the same anything really.

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So now my representation is David turn, and he has nothing in common with most everybody out in this and the state. I appreciate your time and I thank you for having me.

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Thank you Mr Bowman, I believe I read set on duck is delegate and have them.

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Yes. So yes, delegate Brenda Chan is our next panelist delegate Cham I am promoting you just unmute, and start your video if you'd like to be on camera there Yeah.

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Thank you Good evening everyone.

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Yeah. Thank you very much, Kristen Yes My last name is pronounced Cham so for future reference. Please, you got to remember that. So again, thank you for allowing the opportunity for us to speak to the commission and I want to speak on behalf of a citizen.

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I live here in Hagerstown, Maryland, I'm a voter here in the state of Maryland.

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And certainly, I just wanted to share. Not anything, dramatic or that you probably don't already know, I may not even exhaust my three minutes, but hopefully this process will be very democratic and very fair.

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Here in Western Maryland is a gentleman mentioned before, David trong doesn't really represent the citizens who live here in Western Maryland. So, hopefully the commission will make good decisions on behalf of citizens here.

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Here in, in Western Maryland, and we're just looking forward to the process that is going to be advantageous for all of the Mariners here, and we're just looking forward to some discussions that are going to come from the commission, resulting in lines

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that are going to be fair and balanced for all of us here in Maryland. So again, thank you for the opportunity this evening, and for your time. Thank you.

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And thank you Dr.

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Kristina.

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Here is Justin wages

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wages you are now a panelist.

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Alright.

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My name is Justin wages, I am a lifelong resident of Frederick County and rising senior at the University of Maryland, College Park.

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First off, I'd like to thank the Commission for the community to speak. And although I do not always agree with them I'd like to thank Governor Larry Hogan for allowing the citizens of the great state of Maryland, to have input on fixing the problems

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that were created under former Governor Martin O'Malley, the most pressing issue in this region is the lack of representation that Western Maryland experiences in Congress from the extreme gerrymandering congressional district six and eight.

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Well, there is no reason for both of Western Maryland's congressional districts to be lumped in with montgomery county other than partisan gerrymandering friends Ville in gaithersburg have no connection except Sarah, except sharing congressional district

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six. So let's fill in because they have no connection except sharing can go congressional district eight.

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When the current districts first put into practice 20 year incumbent congressman roscoe bartlett who never received less than 57% of the vote and district six lost by nearly 20 percentage points.

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There's no way to convince me that this was not intentional.

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Western Maryland deserves to be heard not drowned out by the liberal machine that is montgomery county district six his current boundary leaves Washington Allegheny and Garrett counties voiceless while district eight does the same with the majority of

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Frederick County.

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According to the Maryland State Board of Elections as of November 3 2020
Republican voters account for just under 31% of the registered and major party
voters in the States.

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However, they are represented with only 12.5% of Maryland seats in the US House
because of gerrymandered districts. This is unacceptable unacceptable and must be
dealt with in a fair and non partisan manner.

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Shifting gears to legislative districts Frederick County has been one of the fastest
growing jurisdictions in the state.

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By my calculations Frederick County has grown about 5.6% faster than the state in
the last decade well Frederick city has grown about 5.9% faster than the state in the
same period.

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That being said district three ation not extend past city boundaries. There are many
constituents of District three that live outside of the city to the east and southeast
specifically, they have more of a connection to district for look forward to the

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I look forward to the commission creating fair constitutionally sound districts for the
state of Maryland for the next 10 years. I also look forward to Maryland voters
opening their eyes If and when the democratic supermajority in Annapolis rejects the

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fair boundaries. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Thank you Mr wishes.

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Let me put in, not in particular about any one speech that our commission is not allowed to take into account the political coloration within a locality is in the state, or the locality is where any comments or challenging may live so to get the most

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out of three minutes.

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Talk about other things because we can't listen about the partisan stuff, and the incoming resident stuff. So, Kristen who is the next name on the list.

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So our next two speakers have not been able to join us as of yet they are been Tasha Sims from Charles County and Ken Pilar from Washington County to the next person on the list.

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Forgive me if I pronounce your last name wrong is Richard couplets and Richard I am making your supplements.

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Hi, Richard here, you're up.

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There we go.

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Good evening.

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I want to thank the people or the commission.

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I know Walter I know the people on this commission will serve with distinction because they are community minded. And I thank them for their service to our community.

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I want to agree with some of the earlier speakers and disagree with some of them.

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I believe that the best representation is that which takes into account what is happening in an area and provide for the needs of that area.

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I believe that the congressman who represent six and eight right now, even though some people do not think they represent them have worked on things such as broadband availability and fighting mental illness and fighting the drug problem which is a problem

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in Western Maryland, and a significant problem. So I don't think their criticisms are completely warranted. When they say they are not represented.

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I am glad to hear that politics in terms of the political affiliation is not going to be used.

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But I would encourage that the state be looked at as a collection of neighborhoods.

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And that neighborhoods be kept together, and that the political power that has been denied in the past two communities of minority populations, be considered that no redistricting dilutes the power of those neighborhoods and those communities that it

00:28:09.000 --> 00:28:30.000

be kept contiguous, but if that means that it expands outside of cities boundaries and takes in a surrounding suburb of one of the cities that that be done in order that the people and the neighborhoods, who are represented by, by, whoever still have

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representation for the minority community interest.

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So do not take into account, politics, and parties, but do take into account that people need to have political power, and that if you are cutting up or cutting through minority populations you are diluting the political power of those minority populations.

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I wish I could say that it did not matter. But unfortunately, in our current tribal political system. It does matter. When you take away power from minority communities.

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So please consider keeping minority communities contiguous minority communities together, and if necessary expanding boundaries, so that all of that community is able to represent themselves.

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Thank you.

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Thank you Richard, And yes it's true return and I do know each other from are both haven't spent a lot of time on Frederick County is charter review commissioning process.

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So, Kristen who do we have up next. Our next speaker is Seth Wilson from Washington County.

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Seth, you are now a panelist.

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Okay, I think I've unmuted so I think you all can hear me Yes, we can.

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Good. So I happen to think that the the seeds of destruction of our state government were planted back in 1964 and decision of rentals v Sims.

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When the Supreme Court invalidated the way our state government was constructed.

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And it's taken a while, but it's now, sort of, I think, fully come home to roost because for the first time in my life. The last time the

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delegates and and senators in Annapolis drew the map, they split Frederick County for the, for the first time in my lifetime and I, as far back as I can tell, right Frederick County has never been split for a congressional district, and the congressional

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districts have always been representing, you know, Frederick and points West.

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And so what did that mean what what that meant was that since that district was drawn. The people in Western Maryland haven't had a representative in Congress.

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Since that time, right.

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You know, our current representative right ran for an entirely different district, and when he couldn't win that one.

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He came over this one. And because of the way the Mac was drawn. He won this one. So, we really don't have any representation in the federal government anymore. And then, you know, I, you know, had a single member district for delegate.

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And the party and power and Annapolis saw fit to redraw the district so that, you know, my single member district was all of a sudden now a two member district.

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There's absolutely positively no reason for us to be a to member district.

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That was purely partisan, and it was wrong and what it means is that my representation in Annapolis was diluted and so I don't have any representation, you know full representation like other places in the state do.

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where are we at. Right. We don't have any representation in Congress, we don't have any representation in Annapolis, so yes you know you all need to draw a single member districts get those back in, back in place.

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Right.

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And I would say that, you know, I think also, I don't know what, you know, power the commission is really going to have to defeat what I expect is going to be a totally partisan drawing of the maps by the legislature and probably a subsequent override

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of the governor's veto. And then I've even heard rumblings that we're going to delay the, the formation of the districts because Kogut, and we just throw all the rules out because of CO coded so I guess what I'm saying it's an English book amount of time.

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All right, thank you.

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Thank you, Mr. Awesome.

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Kristen, who's.

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Our next speaker is I William zortman Mr zortman is has not joined us. Hi Hagen was one that has, I think, has dropped off, so we can come back to that individual as well.

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So our next speaker is Stephen Clark, so I will promote you to a panelist, and after Stephen Clark, Neil parrot is, is the next one after him but Stephen Clark from Fredrik, you are now a panelist.

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Thank you, members of the Commission for the opportunity to speak tonight. For the record, my name is Steven Clark I'm a resident of Frederick County.

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And tonight as you're considering drawing maps following the release of the census data I have two recommendations for the Commission, the first will be to reunify Frederick and one congressional district, as it was before it was gerrymandered in 2012.

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but that says a lovely place I go there a lot but it's simply has nothing in common with the people who live in Thurman and emits Bergen northern Frederick County, Frederick County deserves to be unified in one district.

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I'm a resident of congressional district, eight, but literally right across the street from me as congressional district six. It's confusing to the citizens or Frederick County, and also dilutes the political power of Frederick County Fair county should

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be unified in one district as it was before. It should also be reunited with the Western Maryland counties in Carroll County, like it was before.

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The second recommendation that I would make is that we have single member House of Delegates districts. I am a resident of District three be, but literally two miles up the street and three as they get to delegates.

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If you go 10 miles west to Middletown and District Four they get three delegates. There's a fundamental fairness issue at play here. Some people are getting more representation than others.

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We have single member districts that makes it fair across the board. Everyone gets equal representation. So as the commission is drawing the mass once we get the census data and late September, October, is that you keep these things in mind, keep Western

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Maryland together to make sure that we have a unified voice. Thank you.

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Thank you, Mr. Clark.

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And I understand that delicate male parent is on deck, go next. Yes. Our next speaker is delegate parent. And after that it will be Amy wake up why cough delegate parent, you are a panelist

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delegate parent is from Washington County.

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Very good.

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Force I want to say thank you for serving on the redistricting commission know places the first of many for every 10 years that we have a nonpartisan group getting

together to make Maryland's maps I really applaud you all for serving I know it takes a

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of time and Walter Austin the judge a few of you have been on here for several years, investing your time to help Maryland have more fair districts and I just want to say thank you for that.

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You might know I was involved with empty petitions calm, we're about eight years ago, we got the last districts on the ballot. The Washington Post the Baltimore Sun major newspapers, all said that really the map that was made was not fair, we should overturn

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it, but unfortunately question was hard to understand so it didn't pass I think if Marylanders understood the question, they would if united said no we need to have a new district and the reason they want a new district, and your this panel is really

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taking care of that even more purple today. And then, light of that we're not considering partisan politics here we're actually just trying to do what's best for the citizens of Maryland, and I do agree with it earlier speaker.

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A pilot and I'm sorry to pronounce his name wrong, but he said that we need to keep communities together and I believe that he's correct we, I would really encourage you to keep our communities together, whether that's Garrett Allegheny Washington Frederick

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and Carol, they're all very very similar I would think that would be a good way to start the map for Western Maryland's other people really just want fair districts and I'm really thankful for you all serving on this commission really briefly I'm going

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to go over to the state legislative districts, single member districts are very helpful when I first was elected in 2010 it was a single member district and then the next time 2014 it was a double member district, and it's just more, it's easier to be

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working with your constituents and to serve them well. If it's a single member district, they know who to talk to and who to reach out to is not one of three it's just one of one, and Maryland's is in a unique position there are only 10 states in the

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union that have multiple districts like Maryland does. And when you look at the actual breakdown of the 10 states were the only one that has a mixture of, single, double and triple number districts no one else does that.

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New Hampshire West Virginia, Vermont, they have a mixture of singles and doubles we're the only one that has one two or three. So I would encourage us to just go with a single member district type platform across the state.

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Again, I think it's more fair for each individual and it's easier for the delegates and the constituents to actually know who they should be interacting with and how to help them best.

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And again, I just want to say thank you for letting us speak, letting the Citizens speak.

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This is very very important for democracy, as you all know, and I again want to applaud you and wish you the best as you move forward and we get this data, this coming fall.

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Thank you.

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Thank you delegate me away cost this next panelist is she is Amy you're promoted to a panelist.

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Hello, my name is Amy why cough, and I live in montgomery county.

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I want to thank the commission for all your hard work.

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These kind of volunteer things are really important. I want to agree with some of the previous speakers who talked about the gerrymander district six and eight.

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I was helping a candidate in 2016, going out for for congressional district, eight, and it was over an hour drive from the southern part of the district and very congested McHenry County where I live, to get all the way to Frederick, and and they're just

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totally different kinds of communities so I agree that we should

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have the more compact and and not looking like octopuses and everything.

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exists. The other issue is the existence of multi member districts, which have been denounced by US Supreme Court justices across the political spectrum, just to Sandra Day O'Connor wrote that the quote the multi member district inherently submerges the

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votes of the minority diverse candidates from outside the establishment are discouraged from running because of the high cost of campaigning in large areas with some 90,000 residents in voters minds multi member districts are rigged system because the

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dominant group, always wins every politician x and the interest of those who will let them, it is easy for them to ignore the views of constituents not needed for reelection.

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When there are too many residents in a district delegates cannot handle issues in depth, but shortchanging the people they represent. They turn to groups and lobbyists with package legislation.

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The vast majority of multi member districts are represented by delegates from the same political party and vote in unison on legislation.

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Single delegate districts are the most reliable method to ensure that all voters have an equal vote, small single delegate districts allow a delegate to get to know constituents, a smaller compact district with fewer constituents will encourage a healthy

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competition of candidates representing diverse interests in the community. Finally, a candidate for single district seat can run a successful grassroots campaign on a more modest budget.

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Again, thank you for the letting me speak and for.

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And for, and for your time tonight. Thank you.

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Thank you Let's work off.

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Our next speaker is Louis Turner, and after Lewis Turner, it is Robert team.

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It looks like you're muting and unmute and you'll just need to unmute, and if you'd like to start your video you may as well.

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Okay, I don't know how to get this video started.

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I have one basic comment that I do want to make sense very strongly our political process also needs to reflect our communities and our communities have been divided by the past political process of gerrymandering, and we need to bring our communities

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back together.

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And that is my purpose on being on tonight to speak to the that we need to consider keeping our community together so that we have solid representation in Congress.

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Thank you.

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Thank you, Mr. Turner, as you can.

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Yes, and Mr. Turner was is from Frederick County.

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Robert Keane is our next speaker, Robert is from Washington County and following Robert will be Jim Richards from Frederick County, Robert, you are now a panelist.

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Good evening. My name is Bob Kean.

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I've been a resident of Maryland all my 79 years, born in South Baltimore parents raised us in Baltimore County. My wife Judy who passed away a year ago, and I raised our family and Howard County.

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I now live in Katie's Ville Maryland which is a near the Antietam battlefield, where a thousands of men gave their lives to keep our union whole.

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And I'm, I'm testifying today if that's what it's considered.

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Because I don't believe that the way that our districts are currently divided that that we and Western Maryland are being adequately represented our culture and our values.

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are somewhat unique to Western Maryland, and I believe strongly that we should have someone from our community and Western Brown who who represents our, you know, you know, our community.

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With that I'll, I'll turn it back to you and thank you for for listening to me.

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Thank you Mr.

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Jim Richards is next. Yeah, Mr Rick, Jim is through Frederick County.

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Jimmy our panelists.

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Okay, I just unmuted Can you hear me now.

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Okay.

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Okay. Thank you. Um, I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight.

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I yeah My name is Jim Richards I live in the mite Maryland.

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Frederick County.

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And one of the most convoluted districts.

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I'm not sure if it's the most convoluted district in Maryland.

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But one of them and maybe even the entire country.

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Because I am in the same legislative district with to come apart.

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So it's been extremely frustrating for for me to be drawn to have that district redrawn away it was too, obviously, for political purposes to obviously get the incumbent Roscoe Barla defeated.

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And now you know my representative is Jamie Raskin.

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Basically, he's a nice guy I've met him I've talked to him before her.

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But, uh, he's, he represents takoma park very very well.

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But for rural areas like this out here, a little more conservative, or maybe a lot more conservative than men to come apart.

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And I know we're not supposed to talk politics here but it's it's very very frustrating to have been disenfranchised in this way.

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At a minimum, I would like to see Frederick County joined back into the sixth district. So the entire county is in one district again.

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So, again, I appreciate the opportunity to just voice my frustration with us. I really feel like a lot of us out here have been disenfranchised and really have no representation.

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Thank you.

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Thank you Mr Richards, Kristen who's next. Our next speaker is John Hosts, but it appears that John has dropped off of the call.

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If he rejoins. We will, we will add John back on. So our next speaker is David Wallace.

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It appears that David, perhaps has also not been able to join the call, in which case we move to Zane Lee Harris

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and Zoe is from Charles County, and after they leave we have Barbara Kramer from Harford County. Does he you are now a panelist.

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Hello, can you hear me.

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Great.

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Amy. Wait, wait, call, we call made what I was going to say, very simple.

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And that is communities need to as the federal government say stay within their contiguous. gov communities.

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They need to not be for partisan reasons as spoken the 2010.

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And it was, it was absolutely in front of Senator Mike Mills, and who set the commission up, it was absolutely horrible.

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And so since I do support single member districts and I'm going to try to follow this commission to all of its speaking.

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I want to make sure that

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everything that misplay Cliff mentioned, goes into effect.

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In addition, I don't want to have to be in Annapolis with hundreds of people fighting because all the hard work that you guys are going to do and deliver to the voters is going to be undone, because of a political pack or a lobbyist group, feeding into

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multiple, multiple districts. So please, keep it single member district as best as possible, and keep it with the contiguous districts of the people, so that not only minority are represented well.

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But the community itself, the neighborhoods itself, drawn LA I lived in Prince George's County for 30 plus years before I moved to Charles County.

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And I had to deal with political packs, and then delegates in one senator and then finish the move to Calvert County, it was, it was horrible to have to deal with the type of politics that we have had to deal with.

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Let's keep it for the people, by the people, Thank you very much.

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Thank you Miss Harris.

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Your next. Yep. from Harford County, Barbara you are now a panelist.

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we're seeing no audio from you. If you could check your microphone.

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It may be a microphone settings on your computer.

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We're not hearing anything from you.

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Could it be something on your computer send.

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So Barbara I think what we'll do is we'll move to the next speaker and come right back to you. And if you could just check your microphone on your computer.

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And the next speaker is Jeremy Rothwell from Kent County.

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Jeremy you are now a panelist John if you could keep Barbara, as a panelist as if we move her back I don't know if I can promote her again.

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Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, the commission, I'm sorry I was not able to make the eastern shore work session I unfortunately had to work Planning Commission my mom.

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I'm a local government planner by training, I work with maps all the time. I'm also former staff member of Maryland hi Stella gets the most people to this evening have spoke about gerrymandering I want to bring up

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that has not been talked about it all and that's the apportionment of the state legislative districts. So,

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we can hear you out, just, if you could wait till Mr Rothwell has had a chance to speak and then you'll be next.

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Stay where you are.

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and you'll get your chance. sorry Mr off well.

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So, the one I'm here to talk to you about is specifically about state level of portion and so congressional districts are required to be with population

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within 1% of one another. 1973 court case Gaffney be coming in a couple of other court cases allowed state legislative districts to vary by up to 10%, which is a good thing that allows.

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It allows you to utilize existing political boundaries and community boundaries and drawing districts. However, in, in 2002 and in 2012 with the governor Glendinning Governor O'Malley really abuse the system for partisan political advantage, and you should

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have received a map, a spreadsheet and written testimony from me. But I want you to take a look at that I took all the legislative districts and map them color coded them by the percent of median from ideal from the ideal population size and Maryland

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on the, on the surface legislative districts vary by about 9.4%. However, the legislative districts, or when you look at the spreadsheet almost like a U shaped.

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Most of them are either grossly over represented or grossly under represented. And the ones that are grossly over represented, are all entirely in Baltimore City, Prince George's County and montgomery county.

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All of the districts on the eastern shore and in southern Marana Central Maryland more conservative leading suburbs and x urban communities of the state are all grossly under represented the average delegate in Baltimore City represents almost 4000 people,

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less than a district on the eastern shore, and I'd like to know why is that fair.

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I'm a 12th generation Eastern Shore man, I like to think that I deserve the same representation as somebody in Baltimore City does. And if you look at it from a partisan political standpoint, and in terms of how it was done in the past, if you look at

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the spreadsheet. The, you will notice that almost all the districts ever all but one as a matter of fact, that are over 4% over represented every single one of them are represented by Democrats and I'm speaking of a former democrat myself it's just not

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wrong.

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The every single district which is underrepresented are represented by Republicans, or by your more moderate to conservative democrats in the house. And I certainly you know hope that you would rectify that going forward so I thank you for your time.

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Thank you Mr Rothwell Barbara.

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It's your turn now. If you can join us.

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JOHN Could you take the timer off the screen, please.

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And.

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Okay me I'm Can you hear me now, we can yes and yes.

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Right. Thank you very much. Appreciate you all taking on this service. And thank you for the opportunity. bg focused on Harford County where I live. So thank you for admitting me to the west of Maryland meeting.

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I appreciate your predecessor commission, taking many of my suggestions, especially as they referred to the first congressional district 10 years ago, and I hope you all take my suggestions this time around.

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I will not take time to debate with any of the speakers, because I might not be able to get all my points in if I do but I'll try to put my debate into written comments, but I would quote center William S James from Harford County who said, when people

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say we should listen to the grass roots, they need to recognize that not all the roots are saying the same thing. And that's the case within legislative and congressional districts as well.

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In regard to legislative districts in Harford County. All of the district 34 is now contained in Harford County and it represents approximately the development envelope, but district 34 is divided into two pieces.

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34 A is the route 1495 corridor and 34 B is Bellaire that was created out of partisan concerns that is a separation for Bellaire, and it has function to keep one party in power, and district 34 be, I would recently respectfully request that there isn't

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any reason to divide district 34 and a and b, and that you reunify that district. Also, the minor pieces of Harford County are, which are on either side of District 34 are joined with Baltimore County and Cecil County, and those joints put Harford County

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residents of the disadvantaged, they're pretty pretty much ignored by the more dominant neighboring districts where those representatives come from. So I would respectfully request that a larger piece of District 35, which is shared with Cecil County,

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be in Harford County, maintaining and 34 as one of three member district. I would also ask that the piece of Harford County that joined with Baltimore County, not be joined with Baltimore County anymore.

00:58:42.000 --> 00:58:48.000

Make a heart district 35 and then we might have two districts within Harford County.

00:58:48.000 --> 00:59:07.000

So the governor is charged to create maximum single member districts. I heard that the, that this was coming from a court case, but it's my Eve to suggest that that doesn't come from partisan motives just because a couple of court said, just honor was

00:59:07.000 --> 00:59:15.000

a Republican legislators before she was a Supreme Court justice. I'd recommend the commission.

00:59:15.000 --> 00:59:28.000

Continue. Three member districts and try to have a minimum of single member districts. And remember that county lines are not sovereign state lines are sovereign.

00:59:28.000 --> 00:59:38.000

It is recommended that municipalities not be divided up, but counties has to be divided up I mean I'm sympathetic what with what people from Carroll County and Frederick County say but.

00:59:38.000 --> 00:59:45.000

Welcome to the world Harford County and, and our own County, have been cut off.

00:59:45.000 --> 00:59:55.000

We welcome your supplementary written comments as we do from all speakers of. Thank you for your contribution.

00:59:55.000 --> 01:00:05.000

All right. Our next speaker is Carol you're happy with the League of Women Voters in Frederick County.

01:00:05.000 --> 01:00:15.000

Carol, you are now a panelist.

01:00:15.000 --> 01:00:22.000

Okay, as you said that had a big lightning, almost lost you there. So thank you.

01:00:22.000 --> 01:00:31.000

Good evening, members of the Commission My name is Carol jar say Bay and I am president of the local League of Women Voters of Frederick County.

01:00:31.000 --> 01:00:35.000

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments at this listening session.

01:00:35.000 --> 01:00:49.000

As you all know the League of Women Voters is the nation's oldest nonpartisan voter education and advocacy group. We are nonpartisan and do not support specific political candidates, or parties.

01:00:49.000 --> 01:01:06.000

The league strongly supports the state redistricting process that promotes a fair and effective representation of our citizens in the General Assembly, we commend General, our Governor Hogan for establishing this independent and multi party approach to

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the state registered redistricting commission. We also appreciate the commitment, after commission members. And the challenge I know you all face. We thank you for your commitment to creating a fair and impartial map for the next decade.

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Frederick County is split and divided into two congressional districts Maryland's congressional district six and eight. Both were considerably altar during the last state redistricting.

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The sixth district encompasses sections of South and Frederick County. Part of Northern North Western montgomery county. All of Washington County, Garrett county and Allegheny County is to the west.

01:01:49.000 --> 01:02:07.000

The eighth district encompasses sections of Northern Frederick County part of North Eastern montgomery county, and Carroll County to the west. These geographic areas of these two district represent areas with significant differences in needs political

01:02:07.000 --> 01:02:18.000

orientation, from the transit oriented urbanized Metro suburbs of montgomery county to the mountains of Western Maryland performance of Frederick Carroll County.

01:02:18.000 --> 01:02:26.000

I will add one personal note, note, I leave in Maryland legislative district three be.

01:02:26.000 --> 01:02:43.000

And I will concur with several previous callers I have one delegate in district three be while district 3am for have two or more delegates, the League of Women Voters of Frederick County urges the commission to strongly consider geographic and natural

01:02:43.000 --> 01:02:58.000

areas as well as what several have suggested, consider keeping neighborhoods and communities whole political party affiliation and the voter registration should not be a tool to manipulate registering.

01:02:58.000 --> 01:03:10.000

We hope this redistricting process of becoming a model for Maryland, and even other states for decades to come. And we thank you again for listening, and for your work on this commission.

01:03:10.000 --> 01:03:17.000

We are here ready to assist you in any way we can. Thank you again for your time.

01:03:17.000 --> 01:03:25.000

Thank you, Carl, thank you also for your supplemental written testimony which the commission received today.

01:03:25.000 --> 01:03:28.000

Kristen was next.

01:03:28.000 --> 01:03:32.000

So our next speaker is Richard.

01:03:32.000 --> 01:03:46.000

Richard, you are now a panelist.

01:03:46.000 --> 01:03:50.000

Good evening, and thank you all for everything that you're doing here.

01:03:50.000 --> 01:03:58.000

It's good to see some faces I remember from the last time that you thought you were talking to folks out here in Western Maryland.

01:03:58.000 --> 01:04:14.000

Sorry you couldn't make it out here this time that's a beautiful place. And just for everyone else that haven't met before. I live about less than. Well, less than, 10 miles from the Western Maryland border at the northern peninsula for West Virginia.

01:04:14.000 --> 01:04:17.000

That's about three hours away.

01:04:17.000 --> 01:04:21.000

If you're getting down to the southern end of District six.

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That's a little long for a district.

01:04:25.000 --> 01:04:41.000

Now, keep in mind is I also live in a in an area that is not heavily populated and I understand that, but I think as we look at this, there's a couple things I'd like to say first of all obviously I'm a boater and, in, out here in in Garrett County.

01:04:41.000 --> 01:04:48.000

But Bob spear spoke earlier he's also from Garrett county I he and I have talked about his proposals.

01:04:48.000 --> 01:04:56.000

And I generally endorse what he's putting together as an idea as to how to do it, whether there's other ways of doing it, that's fine and dandy.

01:04:56.000 --> 01:05:09.000

But I do want to generally support his concepts as we go at it, but I'm also a geographer by training. And as I look at the geography of the state of Maryland, you have to realistic issues you gotta pay attention to.

01:05:09.000 --> 01:05:19.000

You have a major geographical feature, the Chesapeake Bay, which has a big impact. When it comes to keeping neighborhoods together.

01:05:19.000 --> 01:05:33.000

You also have the mountains of Western Maryland, which is, let's just say, three quarters of the district, six area, which, no matter what has to be attached somewhere.

01:05:33.000 --> 01:05:38.000

That's when I get back to that whole idea of three hour drive.

01:05:38.000 --> 01:05:45.000

For instance for me to get just to get to, Frederick, is to is a two hour and 20 minute drive from where I live.

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However, if I try to get down to two months down to the end of the current district, it's at least three hours and that's hoping that I don't try to do it during Rochelle, which adds on another.

01:06:03.000 --> 01:06:10.000

You tell me. Half an hour, hour, getting down the, the, to 95 corridor.

01:06:10.000 --> 01:06:23.000

I think these are very realistic things that need to be looked at, I endorse what what Paul, or Bob has has put together, but I think you have these, these geographical aspects that need to be balanced.

01:06:23.000 --> 01:06:33.000

And maybe by balancing those that will allow them the focus to take place where things are much easier to come together in the middle.

01:06:33.000 --> 01:06:44.000

So those are the key things that I wanted to focus on. And I want to thank you again for your time and your efforts, and I look forward to your successful conclusion and recommendations.

01:06:44.000 --> 01:06:45.000

Thank you.

01:06:45.000 --> 01:06:48.000

Thank you Mr accept.

01:06:48.000 --> 01:07:03.000

Kristen. Our next speaker is Jocelyn Doyle. I do not have a county, from where Jocelyn is from the following speaker after Jocelyn is our last registered speaker for this evening.

01:07:03.000 --> 01:07:13.000

Howard girl, Mr girl, I have you listed twice in the attendees list if perhaps one of those individuals is an interpreter.

01:07:13.000 --> 01:07:37.000

Just let us know I think somebody has sent you a chat in the chat box if you could check it. With that, I will make Jocelyn Doyle, a panelist Jocelyn, you are now a panelist.

01:07:37.000 --> 01:07:40.000

Hi. Can you guys hear me.

01:07:40.000 --> 01:07:54.000

Hi, my name is Jocelyn Doyle and I am a. I was born and raised in Washington County. And I just want to give you like I didn't intend to speak today but I keep hearing a lot about representation.

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And I just want to give you my testimony about.

01:07:59.000 --> 01:08:14.000

I, I feel I have not had representation that I have over the last four years, begged for representation, I am a Department of Veteran Affairs whistleblower.

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I disclose some very important disclosures that needs to be handled. I begged to our congressmen Delaney at the time, drone.

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And I feel I was ignored.

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I did reach out to many Governor's senators congressmen of my state of other states, all around and everybody just kept sending me back to delay in your drone.

01:08:46.000 --> 01:09:04.000

You know my, my delegate up here was wonderful. It was nice to just have a reply thanking me for serving our men and women of our military and that, that meant the world to me, but I feel like representation has not been there for me and it could have

01:09:04.000 --> 01:09:20.000

made a huge difference in this for years that I've been fighting as a whistleblower for help because he, I've read over and over that if he would have reached out to the judge or if he would have, you know, reached out to my director of my Veteran Affairs

01:09:20.000 --> 01:09:31.000

hospital that it would have helped. And I've asked on it during testimony court cases Did anybody reach out to you my, my congressman and they said no.

01:09:31.000 --> 01:09:44.000

And I'm like, so up here in Western Maryland, I just fell upon deaf ears, and we need whistleblowers whistleblowers are super important, especially for our military.

01:09:44.000 --> 01:09:57.000

You know, it wouldn't we wouldn't be here on this earth if it wasn't for our military fighting for us, so I I feel really strongly, and I just, you know, I also reached out to them about my union not helping me.

01:09:57.000 --> 01:10:05.000

You know they were actually against me, it's the retaliation started turning into discrimination. And so now I'm battling.

01:10:05.000 --> 01:10:19.000

I've won my first case at the US Court of Appeals as a whistleblower against the judge. So that's a good thing. I'm now fighting discrimination at the Maryland District Court.

01:10:19.000 --> 01:10:25.000

And I again just.

01:10:25.000 --> 01:10:37.000

And I could have made a huge difference in these last four years of the most awful, prevent this traumatic life changing.

01:10:37.000 --> 01:10:44.000

Retaliation and discrimination I have received and thank you all for what you do and I appreciate you.

01:10:44.000 --> 01:10:47.000

Thank you Mr. Al

01:10:47.000 --> 01:10:56.000

Kristin When did we have any additional lands before hard girl I know hard cuz I'm just going to have special issues on connecting.

01:10:56.000 --> 01:11:02.000

I do not see any as of right now.

01:11:02.000 --> 01:11:06.000

We may have some that joined after we call their names.

01:11:06.000 --> 01:11:20.000

Um, so I will, I saw him chart that been Kasha Simmons may have joined us, possibly because Howard I believe asked to be the last to testify because of his special

01:11:20.000 --> 01:11:25.000

shoes. I'm not sure if Ron Tasha.

01:11:25.000 --> 01:11:45.000

Got that to us as to whether or not you would like to speak but I'm going to go ahead and go ahead and promote fun Tasha to a panelist and she can let us know.

01:11:45.000 --> 01:11:45.000

Fun Tasha Did you still want to present this evening.

01:11:45.000 --> 01:12:01.000

I'm Tasha Did you still want to present this evening,

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Tasha you'll need to unmute

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looks like her phone is broken.

01:12:11.000 --> 01:12:13.000

Okay.

01:12:13.000 --> 01:12:16.000

Her phone is broken she says so.

01:12:16.000 --> 01:12:32.000

So, um, so the next speaker, and the final speaker, I believe, is, is Howard.

01:12:32.000 --> 01:12:34.000

Howard connections.

01:12:34.000 --> 01:12:38.000

Yes, I can.

01:12:38.000 --> 01:13:02.000

Howard, you are now a panelist, And I will make both of your connections.

01:13:02.000 --> 01:13:10.000

Please use your voice for reading for recording, but please use your voice for a question would you like to do that.

01:13:10.000 --> 01:13:12.000

My name is Howard I girl.

01:13:12.000 --> 01:13:18.000

Am I pronouncing that correctly Sir, can you give me a nod.

01:13:18.000 --> 01:13:40.000

All right. I am I am a global. nomads since September, 2019. Currently I am staying at an Airbnb room in Oakland Maryland of Garrett County,

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how to divide a county in redistricting drawing.

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Use the community of interest.

01:13:55.000 --> 01:14:04.000

Orioles district nationals district.

01:14:04.000 --> 01:14:11.000

Baltimore city's blue collar white neighborhoods heavily Jewish Pikeville neighborhoods.

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Tears the page.

01:14:16.000 --> 01:14:25.000

agricultural agriculture related area, industrial related area.

01:14:25.000 --> 01:14:28.000

Tears the page.

01:14:28.000 --> 01:14:35.000

Interstate to 70 corridor interstate 95 corridor.

01:14:35.000 --> 01:14:39.000

Tears the page.

01:14:39.000 --> 01:14:47.000

But how to divide the best way is blank, question mark.

01:14:47.000 --> 01:14:58.000

Relying on clusters of high schools, and their feeder schools.

01:14:58.000 --> 01:15:08.000

Maryland political analyst, Todd Everly states girls decision to rely on

01:15:08.000 --> 01:15:20.000

the school district as the basic unit of community represents a true understanding of the

01:15:20.000 --> 01:15:27.000

building blocks of neighborhoods and common ground. Thank you.

01:15:27.000 --> 01:15:32.000

Thank you so much Mr girl. Thank you hard Carl.

01:15:32.000 --> 01:15:52.000

I must also congratulate Howard for his creativity. He presented in Cumberland through a more conventional means of an American Sign Language interpreter and Howard is quite an expert on redistricting and has written many articles on him so thank you

01:15:52.000 --> 01:15:56.000

thank you again, or girl.

01:15:56.000 --> 01:16:14.000

Kristen just finished our speaker list for the evening or is anyone come in, it does, it does complete our speaker list we've gone through to see if there was anyone who joined that we had called that had joined after we call their names and there doesn't

01:16:14.000 --> 01:16:20.000

appear to be anyone else that has, has joined or asked to speak in the chat.

01:16:20.000 --> 01:16:25.000

Okay. what, what we do at this point

01:16:25.000 --> 01:16:32.000

is we have an agenda item of additional business of the Commission.

01:16:32.000 --> 01:16:40.000

We will be talking and if perhaps someone who had been on the signup page, or does arrive late.

01:16:40.000 --> 01:16:56.000

There is still a chance if they come in. In the next few minutes but in the meantime. Let me turn to the commissioners and asked if there is a or crops first two questions to ask you first about your business or ask the commissioners, new business as

01:16:56.000 --> 01:17:08.000

the commissioners absolutely okay. Do any of the commissioners have no business or questions about old business that they'd like to bring up.

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I don't see any Kristin other any updates based on what.

01:17:16.000 --> 01:17:30.000

William has a question it looks like a dude was wondering, we had an update on the application process far as the advisors to the Asian southeast South Asian community.

01:17:30.000 --> 01:17:48.000

As I've done my best to receive nominations and we reviewed them I'll send out an email to everybody, with an update on that later on we also, I will be also sending you an update later on the, the presentation.

01:17:48.000 --> 01:18:06.000

That will come from the NCSL that I sent an email about the two dates that we had where July 8, and July 19. It appears that July, 8 works well for everyone, I think, Jay, I think you might that might not be a great day for you.

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It may work out for you if it doesn't, it will be recorded and you can watch the recording and then connect directly with the presenters.

01:18:14.000 --> 01:18:20.000

So that if you have any questions you can direct you can connect directly with them at it.

01:18:20.000 --> 01:18:24.000

It won't be as if you, you couldn't speak with them live.

01:18:24.000 --> 01:18:31.000

So that will be next week July 8 I will get that meeting posted to our website as well.

01:18:31.000 --> 01:18:46.000

But that will be July, 8 at noon if you could mark your calendars. And also we did discover right before this meeting of a glitch that you guys have still need an email with some of the testimony that came in for a couple of the previous meetings and

01:18:46.000 --> 01:18:49.000

I will send that out right after the meeting as well.

01:18:49.000 --> 01:19:03.000

Kristin first week, we do have one more request to speak. I wonder would this be a good time for me to say a little bit more about the NCSL presentation because it might be of interest to some members of the public who might want to tune in.

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I expect to be very educational.

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This is a presentation that specialists from the National Council of conferences state legislatures will be giving they have a department that assists states commissions and legislators, with the redistricting process and they provide their experts to

01:19:26.000 --> 01:19:38.000

give customized presentations for the particular situation of different states and they have agreed to this from Maryland July 8 and a lunchtime meeting.

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It's going to be a highly informative hour and again the public is very much invited to tune in the commissioners will be able to ask questions.

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And I think it will be a well spent our first one key request from chat for a speaker was Mike. Mike show up live

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mic.

01:20:02.000 --> 01:20:25.000

I don't have quite yet what you're what county you are from it's listed for me yet, but I am promoting you to a panelist.

01:20:25.000 --> 01:20:28.000

there I think you guys can hear me and see me.

01:20:28.000 --> 01:20:39.000

So, just real quick so we've been giving them some crazy thunderstorms up here so there's that people in Washington County so from Washington County, and I think I signed on right well we're getting weather's bad storms here and clear spring so I apologize,

01:20:39.000 --> 01:20:44.000

I just want to real quick, and I want to, I want to thank you, Brenda Neil.

01:20:44.000 --> 01:20:49.000

From here in Washington County for being involved in this today.

01:20:49.000 --> 01:21:00.000

I really, I mentioned to talk to you about this Neil's very passionate and I love that passion and Neil has for for this redistricting stuff so but real quick, um, The problem that I have with this redistricting.

01:21:00.000 --> 01:21:12.000

Using the census I mean of course we got to use the census that's just as what the federal government does. I work for the federal government, a census is only as good as the, as the information that you receive and the information is put in so there's

01:21:12.000 --> 01:21:25.000

human error, all across the census. I mean, it's, it's data. So unless it was robots putting it in. I hope that you guys actually take into consideration, kind of do a ranking it'd be nice to see.

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I worked at NIH and we do peer review, and we actually rank applications to give funding out for research is to see a ranking of like core issue so as culture to me would be one sentence would be another and natural boundaries, I think there's I think

01:21:41.000 --> 01:21:56.000

everybody's kind of hit on all three of those, but I would take, I would rank those and give those, some weight and and the consideration of any disruption redistricting or drawing lines, because all those things matter I mean culture matters.

01:21:56.000 --> 01:22:11.000

The Census, it matters but, I mean, sometimes people if people don't take the census, I don't think very serious. Some people think it's a joke, and actually send in, kind of, you know, joyfully information it's, it can be bad information so I really

01:22:11.000 --> 01:22:23.000

hope that this committee, and I hope you know you know whoever does the final approach on this thing actually says, you know, do we really look at all three of these things because I think all three of those things are are important.

01:22:23.000 --> 01:22:39.000

And I know for West for Western I work in Bethesda okay and I can tell you right now, but says Bethesda Potomac, rock, all that area is not Washington County, it never has been never will be.

01:22:39.000 --> 01:22:55.000

This is completely different. So whoever is in our district six. they're gonna they're gonna county to get funding, they're going to flock to move every county to find out what the problems are before they go to Western Maryland because it because of

01:22:55.000 --> 01:23:07.000

of the population, and I get it there is a there is a there is a amount of populations yeah having a district. But I do think that there has to be some rare,

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the senses, and of course the you know the population density. So I just wanted to throw that out there to you guys and I hope you guys do it in a way to kind of situation, and not just go by the census.

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So, thank you for your time.

01:23:22.000 --> 01:23:25.000

Thank you much

01:23:25.000 --> 01:23:36.000

Kristin to start wrapping up as far as Speaker list. I think it does. It just if Secretary McCord has anything he'd like to share any updates.

01:23:36.000 --> 01:23:52.000

Hey Chris and we're still working on making sure we have tools available to you. And I'm still working on setting up as many tools as we can for you. And so we will get you getting your map beginning your map that has a current districts on it, and a

01:23:52.000 --> 01:24:03.000

map that you will be able to see underlying that maps census information as best we can. So that's almost finished and we'll have a to use as you can.

01:24:03.000 --> 01:24:07.000

Thank you. Any other comments look missionaries or, if not, I will.

01:24:07.000 --> 01:24:09.000

Yes.

01:24:09.000 --> 01:24:11.000

I'm not sure what's happening in the chat.

01:24:11.000 --> 01:24:25.000

But there seems to be someone who saying both for such and such I'm not, is that allow, given what the rules were set far as campaigning etc.

01:24:25.000 --> 01:24:29.000

Not

01:24:29.000 --> 01:24:34.000

Kristin I think he's referring to Santosh is a username.

01:24:34.000 --> 01:24:49.000

Ah, yes, I'm, as this is is a, a non partisan commission, it would be best if we had names representing your actual name so that we can call you.

01:24:49.000 --> 01:25:06.000

So, to those who are attending. If you are going to be a speaker please make sure your name represents your full first and last name and not any kind of committee or organization to which you belong

01:25:06.000 --> 01:25:10.000

to William.

01:25:10.000 --> 01:25:11.000

Thank you.

01:25:11.000 --> 01:25:16.000

Any other comments before we take a motion to adjourn.

01:25:16.000 --> 01:25:17.000

Okay.

01:25:17.000 --> 01:25:20.000

Do I hear emotion. Yeah, so.

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Second.

01:25:23.000 --> 01:25:25.000

All in favor.

01:25:25.000 --> 01:25:27.000

Aye.

01:25:27.000 --> 01:25:28.000

Okay.

01:25:28.000 --> 01:25:35.000

We are joined till next week that one will be Central Maryland, a one week from tonight.

01:25:35.000 --> 01:25:37.000

Thank you all.

01:25:37.000 --> 01:25:39.000

Thank you very much.

01:25:39.000 --> 01:26:06.000

Thank you.