

**Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Public Listening Tour for Baltimore City and Anne Arundel and Howard Counties  
July 7, 2021**

0:00 - 7:42 - During this time Commission members, panelists and attendees were signing on and social conversation occurred only.

**Start of Meeting:**

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Good evening and welcome to the fifth regional public meeting of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission. This meeting is being recorded. As we begin, there are a few matters we'd like to share regarding the rules and policies for this evening's

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meeting, as well as some tips about the platform that will assist our speakers and understanding how to use the Zoom platform, a little better.

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This meeting offers Spanish interpretation to listen in Spanish, you will note that there is a control box at the bottom of your screen. And within that box there is a square marked interpretation, you will just click on that and select Spanish, and you

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will be able to listen to this meeting with a live Spanish interpreter. We do ask that the speakers remember that as they're speaking, so that they remember to speak slowly and clearly, so that the facilitator, can assist with this process, and important

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reminder that there is a three minute allotment for speakers so that everyone who wants to speak has time to speak this evening. When there is 20 seconds left of your speaking time, a screen share will come on, with a countdown timer. Inappropriate speaking,

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attire, behavior or a background will result in removal from the meeting, without an option to rejoin.

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Anyone registering after five o'clock today should ask to join us as a speaker in the chat section of this evening's meeting, you can do that within that control panel as well.

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Make sure that your name is on the list as you want it to appear. And if you ask to speak in the

chat box, please make sure that you simply put your name and the county in which you reside.

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I'm sorry if you did not register to speak but want to please make sure you do that in the chat box and not in a message to the panelists, it has to be through the chat box so that we can pull you over when it's your appropriate time to speak, the raise

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hand option should not be used to request to speak. Speakers should ensure that their name is listed properly, and if not, please change it to reflect your correct name.

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We also ask that your name be simply your first and your last name and not the name of an organization with which you are speaking on behalf of.

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This is because we have to move each person from an attendee section to a panelist section. And we want to make sure that we're able to move you in a proper format there.

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Please also know that that participant list is not listed publicly, because some people joined by phone and we don't want to broadcast those phone numbers in the interest of their privacy pre registered speakers will go first, then people who request

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to chat, through the chat box will be called an order of request speakers providing testimony should be aware that they will be made a panelist, which will enable them to unmute, and 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 a panelist, the speaker needs to accept by clicking join

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as panelists button, we will wait about five to 10 seconds for the speaker to go live. Please remember that you will then have to hit your microphone button, as well as your video button if you would like to use video.

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If the speaker does not join we will simply move to the next speaker and come back to the speaker at the end of the meeting.

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Once a speaker is finished, we have to move them back to being an attendee. This may result in the speaker seeing a spinning wheel or a message on your screen, indicating that they are rejoining the meeting.

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This is normal, it's just the zoom platform, simply changing screens.

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We know that that 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.

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With that, I'd like to introduce you to the host for this evening's meeting, Dr. Kate Hetherington who serves as one of the Co-chairs of the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission.

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Dr. Hetherington.

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Thank you so much, Kristin and thank you for the administrative support that you are providing for the Maryland citizens redistricting commission, lots of details as you could tell just by that introduction alone so thank you for that.

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We like to begin as we always do by introducing the members of the Commission starting with the Co-chairs and I'll start with introducing myself. I'm Kate Hetherington. I'm a resident of Howard County, and I'm president of Howard Community College.

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Walter if you would go next.

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Well, Walter.

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Walter may have lost Walter, I think we lost Walter I mean visual - alright judge will come back to Walter Would you mind introducing yourself please. All right.

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Good evening everyone, I am Alex Williams, one of the CO chairs. 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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it's great to have all of you here this evening.

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Thank you, judge. We'll now go to the members of the Commission Jay

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Good evening everyone. Jay Amin, I'm a development consultant and land broker. I'm based in Ellicott City. I live in Anne Arundel County.

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Thank you, Jay. Cheryl.

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Good evening, I'm Cheryl. I'm a proud principal of an elementary school, and I reside in Baltimore County.

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Thank you, Cheryl. Very Good evening, I'm Mary Clawson I'm a retired federal employee and I live in an Anne Arundel County.

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Thank you Mary.

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Kimberly Rose Cummings should be joining us in about 15 minutes.

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So we'll see her soon.

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Jonathan.

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Hi everyone, I'm Jonathan Fusfield. I'm a resident of Montgomery County and I'm a communications manager for a research firm.

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Thank you, Jonathan, William.

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William Tipper Thomas. I'm a senior principal engineer for the department of defense. I'm also

do grassroots organizing. I live in Baltimore City.

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Great, thank you. Let's see. Do we have Walter? Yeah.

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Sorry I lost my connection for a couple of minutes. My name is Walter Olson. I live in Frederick County and I'm with a think tank in Washington DC as my day job.

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All right. We're glad we got you back Walter.

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So thank you, to everyone on the commission and thank you to everyone in the audience for participating. Tonight in this listening session for Baltimore County, Anne Arundel and Howard counties.

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Mary reminded me prior to the meeting that that represents 1.5 million people and we have a good showing of participants tonight. So we're interested in hearing your testimony.

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This is the fifth listening session that we have virtual public meeting, and we have three more to come. And the next one will be on Monday for Baltimore County.

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On July, 12, followed by Montgomery County on July 21 in Prince George's County on July 28, even though we state that these are the county's, the reality is anyone who wants to participate as welcome to do so.

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So with that, we will listen to the testimony of our first person who signed up so Kristin, would you mind, letting the person in please. Absolutely. And a reminder that we are calling people in the order in which they signed up for the pre registered

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speakers. Our first speaker this evening is Beth Hufnagel of the League of Women Voters representing Howard County, Beth you are now a panelist.

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Good evening dr Hetherington and commissioners, My name is Beth Hufnagel from outreach and Howard County here on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Howard County, the league's from Baltimore City and and Anne Arundel county will also be speaking tonight.

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I promise we will not say the same thing.

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We would like to begin by commending Governor Hogan for establishing a multi partisan commission to kick off the 2021 state redistricting process. We appreciate that you are all dedicated to this approach, fair and effective representation in the Maryland

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general assembly and federal House of Representatives.

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Howard County has only one local government accounting. This does not make us all the same, but the Patapsco River was an industrial powerhouse from 1770 through the 1800s, and the eastern corridor surrounding route one and interstate 95 is still dominated

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by industry, but also has new dense housing complexes to its West is Columbia, the first plan city in Maryland that in five years, transforming 15,000 acres of farms into a community.

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This was also socially transformational Columbia was meant to be racially integrated from an opening in 1967, or the west from Columbia. The traditional farms and towns continue to flourish.

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So since you must split us because we don't have enough to be our own congressional district, please split us from north to south, not east and west.

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And I want to give an example, I'm sure you all know what gerrymandering is people talk about congressional gerrymandering but please take a look at legislative district number, 12, and Howard County.

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It's a classic gerrymandered shape with two lobes connected by a film strip.

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The league recommends flexibility as you as you tackle the subtle question of single versus multi member districts, is the league's position, and in some situations, multi member districts better promote for minority representation and preserved political

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and community boundaries.

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Now I do not speak of a link position likely. For example, when we address the issue of single versus multi member districts in 1993, a study had to be approved by the entire members in the annual convention.

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The study committees spent at least a year, spending all that they could get from experts. It's also the key to why League of Women Voters positions are so respected.

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I thank you once again for devoting every Wednesday night for two months to this important work. Thank you very much.

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Thank you so much Ms. Hufnagle we appreciate your testimony.

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Our next speaker is Julia Nickles Bryan, representing Baltimore City, and the League of Women Voters. But are you evening members of the Commission, thank you for your service on this important endeavor.

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My name is Julia Nickles Bryan. I'm here as a Baltimore City resident and on behalf of the League of Women Voters Baltimore City.

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As you've heard from other speakers representing the league. We applaud your work, your transparent process and the principles that guide you, Paramount among them, compact and continuous districts, respect for political jurisdictions and natural boundaries.

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And although it's not in the governor's executive order retention of communities of interest. We recognize this is not an easy task, guiding principles often conflict.

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A case in point is Baltimore City.

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Do you honor political jurisdictions, or respect communities of interest, given that communities of interest, often cross political jurisdictions as they do with Baltimore, it might be appropriate to

have the city of Baltimore included in two or three

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congressional districts as it is now. However particular care must be given to the lines that divide at present the lines are drawn in a way that is in some cases makes absolutely no sense and in some cases is so absurd that it really contributes to the

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erosion of faith in our democracy. For example, one city neighborhood Bell or Edison, a small community with clearly defined boundaries and a real active sense of community among those who live there.

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It's divided into three congressional districts. There's one half on one side, one half on another side and then a little skinny, about a block wide down the middle of a third congressional districts.

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So the question is, do all three congressman represent the community to citizens know who to turn to or does no one have the time to really prioritize this this area, so respect for communities of interest is important to us and, and we know it can be

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a challenge so our first recommendation is robust engagement with citizens in the map making process, as you've invited us to do with today's technology citizens have access to map drawing software and you can expect to receive many proposals from community

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groups and neighborhood advocates of where it makes sense to the community for you to draw the lines in both the state and federal districts.

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The question of multi versus single member districts, we have a second recommendation and that is to retain multi member districts where citizens want them as Beth Hufnagel has stayed stated the lead has studied this for decades and the consensus is

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that Maryland is best served by a combination of both. And you may find that Baltimore citizens believe they are better served by multi member districts in densely populated areas, dividing the population into single districts may create absurd lines

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of division that undermine fair representation for me speaking personally, I find that the multi



member district works well, such that we are represented in the Senate and House by officials reflect the broad diversity of our district and experience opinions

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and interests. So we applaud and encourage the full consideration of an input that you are endeavouring here, but both with the map design and the question of multi member districts.

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Thank you again.

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Thank you so much, Ms Nickles Bryan.

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Our next speaker is Abby Root, also from the League of Women Voters representing Anne Arundel County.

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Good evening commissioners, my name is Abby Root. I am representing the League of Women Voters and Anne Arundel County.

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Thank you for volunteering your valuable time with your professionalism and dedication to the important process of producing fair maps Maryland's 23 counties plus Baltimore City make up the state a congressional districts and around no county has four

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of these districts, 2,3,4 and five. And these four districts in Anne Arundel counties doing four to eight other counties, plus Baltimore City of the eight counties of which we share rep, in Anne Arundel only borders for each Maryland county has a unique issues, for

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example, Anne Arundel County is bordered on the east by the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, the health of the bay is affected by 12 primary watersheds.

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When it rains to run off from the watersheds flows downhill to Creek streams and rivers, which then flow into the bay.

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Today faces serious ecological and environmental problems to the human activities to help address Bay issues that are on our county residents need dedicated representation, not more representation, and other counties legislative districts also should

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be drawn fairly and Anne Arundel is a growing county geographically economically, socially and culturally.

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We urge the commission to be cognizant of this one mapping the county.

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Thank you for listening and giving the residents of Maryland the voice, the redistricting process.

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Thank you Ms. Root for your testimony.

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Our next speaker is state senator Ed Reilly from Anne Arundel County.

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Senator Reilly.

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Thank you very much.

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It's tough to follow those wonderful women from the League of Women Voters but let me give it a shot.

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I did the by my comments and the two areas first on the congressional maps. Ladies and gentlemen, did you know that Anne Arundel county has more congressional representation than 17 states.

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20 years ago, in a political payback Governor Schaefer who did not garner a majority of the vote of the citizens in this county divided the representation that today, does not allow anyone resident from Anne Arundel County, representing us on the federal

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level, Congressman Sarbanes from Baltimore County Ruppertsberger from Baltimore County, or your from state St Mary's County and brown from Prince George's County.

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We have over 600,000 residents of this county.

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And we should have an opportunity to have a resident represent us.

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Please use this opportunity to reunite Anne Arundel County and correct this egregious political payback.

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Now before governor Schaefer took the knife to us. We had at one time a republican congress woman named Marjorie Holt.

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A few years later a democratic congressman named Tom McMillen.

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Let's use this as an opportunity to elect a homegrown federal representative on the legislative map I'd like to first address the senate maps.

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I represent district 33, the heart of Anne Arundel County from the Bay to the river from Glen Burnie down to Southern Maryland.

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10 years ago district 33 had been packed to a super majority republican district with a plus 5% of voters the maximum allowed by law.

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Now this did allow my district, to give Governor Hogan, more true votes than any other district in the state.

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I guess I should complain for the bragging rights that it gave me.

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But what it actually means is that other adjoining districts are artificially taking precincts away.

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To make it easier to elect democrats in these neighboring districts. I would encourage you to keep the balance of districts as close as possible.

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I would encourage you to keep district 33 in the traditional area that's been represented.

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For over 35 years which includes the broadneck.

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Severna Park for often and Davidsonville on the delegate races I would concur with the governor's recommendation to create single member districts with my 20 years as an elected representative.

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I have seen too many times, a concentration of elected officials from a specific neighborhood. On one side of the district or another.

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Thank you, Senator Reilly. Unfortunately you are out of time.

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Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention. Thank you.

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Our next speaker is Paul Sundell from Arundel County.

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Paul you'll need to unmute your microphone and if you'd like to be on camera, enable your video.

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I hear him. Okay.

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Yes we can. Yes we can hear you mr center we cannot see you but that's your choice. Okay. How do I turn the so sorry.

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I think on the control bar at the bottom of your screen if you hover your mouse to the bottom of your screen, a control bar should pop up, and it'll have mute, and then stop video or start video it's just kind of a little video camera that if it has a

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line through it, it means that you.

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You don't have video.

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Thank you, and are saying that it's on the floor but okay great great just came up.

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There you go. All right.

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Progress. That's all right, Mr Sundell you're on. Thank you for your patience and that I'm a retired

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Federal macro. I live in Severna Park and I'm a registered democrat. And I do want. And I do want to second.

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Senator Reilly's (??) that Anne Arundel is extremely gerrymandered.

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888 Philadelphia cartography firm in 2012 12 did a study and Maryland was the most gerrymandered in the country.

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On a congressional.

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level. And we must get beyond party. It is wrong, it, it is a major harm to democracy. And we have to, get beyond party to go and say, it's wrong if you're a party doesn't, and, and, and I'm a registered Democrat, and what the state Democratic Party

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has done is extremely bad for democracy and representative government in the state

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it if it does make it so politicians are less responsive to the voters in increases

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partisanship, and it increases the voter frustration, and apathy. So, they're so the public is less involved in the lead just in the way of just lead to lead just lead to the process, and both parties are to blame.

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In the areas in the states that that that one party cod trolls seem to be more in.

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In, trusted in its own self interest that the public at four in this area. And there is over, overwhelming support for an independent cause of (???)

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But in the, in the studies done by, by, by culture.

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procedure for the, for the voters. So we really Mr Sundell. I'm sorry but you're out of time, but we so much appreciate your testimony.

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I thank you and I. Second, everything that that Senator, Riley did did did say, and.

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All right, sir. Thank you so much.

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Kristin we have to go on to the next person for testimony, please. Yes. Our next speaker is Vantasha Simms of Charles County.

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Vontasha you're now a panelist.

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Vontasha you'll need to unmute.

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Ms. Simms, we can't see you and we cannot hear you

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John, if we could move Vontasha back to the attendee list we will call her later. Next we'll try her again. Our next speaker is Raymond Szyperski I apologize if I mispronounce your last name.

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Raymond from Anne Arundel County.

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You are now a panelist.

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Raymond you'll need to unmute.

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It's on the control bar at the bottom of your screen on the far left, there you go.

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Good evening right so you can begin.

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Well thank you very much for having us on tonight. I applaud both the organization, it's a long long thing that should be coming on. I totally agree with.

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Abby Root as well as Senator Ed Reilly, so fantastic thing for Anne Arundel County. I live in district three congressional district. Right.

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And if you're familiar with it I'm looking at the congressional right now. And the thing starts up in northwest Baltimore County, snakes itself. totally around the city, going through a Baltimore County, Baltimore City, such as a few ??? or a few

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Baltimore City charges a few weeks or a few islands out in the bay comes through water water county and goes westward to Howard County, and it's just a, an unbelievable sight.

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If you ever saw it is it's, it literally looks like a snake.

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And I just can't believe that any person who would be representing this area would be familiar with the wants and needs of all the citizens.

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I remember being a fundraiser. Several years ago, and a person who is running for that seat.

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And we talked to him briefly and mentioned, there's there's some area here that the Western District of Columbia Oh, it's a detention center for some of the youth, and where they break out there sure they would want to go home down to Washington

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DC, where the very first area that they would hit, and of course take our cars.

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Nice up our community and all that money from people.

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And when we mentioned this to some of the people who are running for for that seat.

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We just had just bugged out, never even heard of the area.

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If you want to represent your area, you have to know what is going on today.

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And we need to take him, dividing us, the state into areas where let's say an Anne Arundel County, most of the county that somebody's living in that county, who represents it, and then represent much in that area also.

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It's something that needs to be really done, again, I thank you for being here, and helping us out, and hopefully that this will work out. Again, Thank you very much.

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Thank you Mr Syzpersky and before we ask the next speaker.

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Thank you. Before we have the next person I like to allow Kim, one of our commissioners to introduce herself can Would you like to do that please.

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Hi, my name is Kim Cummings. I'm a long term resident of the Eastern Shore currently in Dorchester county.

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I am employed with the Maryland judiciary the Dorchester County Circuit Court and the court supervisor of operations, specializing in the land records and licensing department.

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Thank you. All right, thank you so much Kim.

00:38:25.000 --> 00:38:33.000

Alright, Kristin, who do we have next. Our next speaker is Terry Coretta from Anne Arundel County.

00:38:33.000 --> 00:38:40.000



Terry, you're now a panelist, like the way it turned out was that they cut it off.

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Terry, you're live, and we can hear you.

00:38:49.000 --> 00:38:53.000

So, Terry.

00:38:53.000 --> 00:38:54.000

Terry.

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I got my own screen.

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Terry we can hear you and your live. You're a panelist.

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Is that true, yeah.

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Terry.

00:39:08.000 --> 00:39:27.000

Back to you.

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I think we'll move on to our next speaker, let's do that and maybe come back. Yes, Cailey Locklair is our next speaker.

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who was here but now I. There we are.

00:39:58.000 --> 00:40:06.000

Caily you're now a panelist.

00:40:06.000 --> 00:40:17.000

There we go. Good evening, Maryland citizens redistricting commissioners My name is Kaylee Locklear and I am a resident of Edgewater Maryland and Anna Arundel County.

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I'm looking forward to the Commission's recommendations with regard to revisiting the congressional legislative district lines, and a fair and impartial manner.

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And I want to commend the Hogan administration for creating a balanced group with all parties equally represented and I want to thank all of you for your service.

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I'd support single member districts, as it addresses many issues like reducing the cost to each candidate who seeks office because the geographic area they run in is much smaller.

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It makes it easier for minorities and rural representation. But most importantly, we need fair lines that reflect real communities, Maryland, as you've heard, and as you're well aware is known for having some of the least geographically compact federal

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congressional districts in the entire United States, and I'd respectfully ask this commission to continue to honor transparency and public participation to ensure that we can help you redraw our districts to make them compact and truly contiguous our

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leaders have immense influence over our election outcomes that make it impossible to vote out incumbents, or even ensure more moderate voices are electable.

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I urge the committee to enact single member state districts. Ensure legislative districts keep communities together, and redraw some of the most federally gerrymandered districts and our entire country.

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Thank you for your time and consideration this evening.

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Thank you Miss Locklear for your testimony.

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Kristin. Our next speaker is Jim Snyder from Anne Arundel County.

00:42:18.000 --> 00:42:22.000

Hi. Can you hear me. Yes we can.

00:42:22.000 --> 00:42:33.000

So my name is JH Snyder assuming that by early next year Maryland's legislative and congressional districts, end up being gerrymandered as much as ever.

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I hope you will consider endorsing a redistricting jury. When the gerrymandered maps were subsequently litigated, I briefly discussed the redistricting jury mechanism to have this. In addition members, several years back when they co chaired the governor's

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2015 redistricting reform permission.

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Now that's an initiative that's going nowhere, I hope you will reconsider the fallback position of redistricting juries.

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I've discussed this proposal at a DC Think Tank event to a series of lobbyists and published in Florida North Carolina and the basic idea of or redistricting jury it's very simple, but as supersize jury choose among the competing redistricting plans as

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by their advocates including say this Commission's we did to let a judge or team of judges convene the jury explain Maryland's redistricting lot the jury, and then moderate the proceedings illustrious redistricting juries from the campaign legal center

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and elsewhere have confirmed the judges of the inherent power to convene such a jury, if they want to. Even a supersonic jury with hundreds of smaller juries..

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But as a practical matter, it's been exceedingly hard to get judges to enter the political separate, including in Maryland, which is a highly politicized judiciary.

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I don't know how to solve that political problem. For example, the judges notoriously lack the power of the purse and the sword, but it seems to me that however daunting.

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It is, it is much less daunting and trying to get the Maryland General Assembly to compose and approve of in legislative session and redistricting plans, not in its narrow political self interest as September rolls around, and as the redistricting process

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starts in earnest. I hope you will carefully consider the merits of this proposal. Thank you.

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Thank you Mr Snyder.

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Kristin.

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Our next speaker is David Bishop of Anne Arundel County.

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David you are now a panelist.

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Kristin i don't see him. Yeah, I'm here I'm clicking Connect.

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I'm clicking

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I think I promoted two panelists. Wait, he is he joining now.

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Right. Not yet. No. Okay.

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He's okay he's returning as a web it looks like he's joining now.

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I still don't see oh yeah I don't.

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And I'm getting the notification that he's rejoining as a panelist, Mr Bishop we're going to come back to you.

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There seems to be a technological issue going on right right now.

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The next speaker is Jay.

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Gordon.

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Jay you are now a panelist.

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Oh, ok we have both if I'm waiting on Mr Bishop if you could just stay there, we're going to have Jay Gordon go first and then we'll move back to you. But we'll just leave you here.

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Okay.

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Jay, you're now a panelist.

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Can you hear me now, we can. Okay, thank you, Thank you members. I appreciate having the opportunity to comment here tonight. This is Jay, I'm Jay Jordan.

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I'm a resident of Columbia out here in Howard County.

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I'd just like to say, we need to do better than what we've done for the last 10 years and actually prevent more of that in Maryland.

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We have large areas of the state that are split up in two, like here in Howard County we have 300,000 plus people, and we're in three districts.

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At the congressional level, we should be, like, one district, you know, montgomery county should have its own district, Prince George's County should have its own district.

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Same with Baltimore Baltimore County. Okay. What I would like to suggest is some thought be given to Howard County and Anne Arundel County. A good portion of the all of our county, and a good portion of Anne Arundel County, being brought into one congressional

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district, right on the border between Anne Arundell and Howard County is Fort Meade. There's some hundred thousand people that are employed there. So there's hundreds of thousands of people that are directly impacted by employment at in my at at Fort Meade

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Actually historically Howard County was part of Anne Arundel County many years ago so it you know this has a lot in common.

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We don't have much in common, relatively speaking with like way north of Baltimore, or whatever else the way that they've been split up now. I mean, we, we were building a big cyber security base here in Central Maryland, we're not Baltimore we're not

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DC we're not the inner suburbs of DC. We're Central Maryland. Howard County, and Anne Arundel.

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There's a lot of a big contractor base here, a lot of involvement with the government, and that's we have that in common, but right now we're just a splinter off of these other districts with maybe 10, 20%, and frankly I don't ever get the impression.

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They really care much about us, because we're just tacked on like 15% of the Baltimore numbers. Those are large enough, Baltimore is large enough, it should have its own district.

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Baltimore County is large enough, it should have its own district. We shouldn't have to go stringing across the width of, of, of highway to carry in five just five districts here when they all have sufficient numbers, we have 6.2 million people in the

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Census. We split that eight different ways that 775,000, people per district. We can do better than what we've done right now let's please try to improve it, and consider combining all of our county, with a good portion of Baltimore county for a congressional

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district. And lastly, please move to single member districts across the whole state and make it fair for everybody across the state. Thank you for your testimony.

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Mr. Jordan. Thank you so much.

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Next, we'll move back to David Bishop, Mr bishop.

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Thank you. Sorry about that I was having some connection issues on my end, but I appreciate

what y'all are doing here, and hopefully you can hear me clear enough this time.

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Um, I guess I'm just reiterating kind of what a lot of others have said today.

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As a former congressional candidate in District Four.

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You know I faced obviously living over here and in Anne Arundel County.

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On the broad Peninsula, having to do a lot of campaigning in South Western PG County. A lot of times, being spread out across county lines. When counties are large enough to create their own congressional districts, is, is not just bad politics but it's

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not good for voters in general.

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It reeks of voter suppression.

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You know PG County is by far large enough to have their own district as Mr Jay said earlier, you know Anne Arundel county is almost large enough to have their own district, don't necessarily see a problem with what he had said about combining, you know most

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of Northern Anne Arundel County, with Howard County, or potentially doing that in some, some other way that would work, but also reiterating what Senator Riley had said earlier about potentially keeping the general outlay of District 33.

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Specifically, but sticking to the geographical borders, as I've been outlined by the governor and making the broad Peninsula, its own district, its own delegate district as part of District 33 would go a long way.

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And I think that goes for all the peninsula throughout the state, up and down the Chesapeake Bay, is that we should see all of them run on their own delegate districts, the people who live on those peninsulas had a lot in common.

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They need the same representation to make sure that their voices are being heard. And that's really what representation comes down to is making sure the voices of those areas are being heard proportionately.

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And so, I support, like I said, a lot of what's being said I just want to reiterate it and be one more voice to say that we need to see redistricting done compact Lee, and in jurisdictional boundaries.

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And hopefully, also in geographical boundaries so thank you all very much for what you're doing, I appreciate the work.

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Thank you Mr Bishop for your testimony.

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Kristin, our next speaker is Delegate Reid Novotny of Howard County.

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How are y'all doing? It's windy, good to see some of my friends out there and I really appreciate what you do in this service to our state. I think it's obviously very important as many of the people testified tonight have said, I want to reiterate the

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the fact that Senator, Ed Reilly had some great points. Also, and this is kind of the theme of my testimony tonight. It is never the wrong time to do the right thing.

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I've talked to a lot of people in my travels as a delegate about how one party does gerrymandering more in a different state than in any other state that we do it here.

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And that doesn't make it fair.

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I want us to be the example for all states to follow in our representation. So I did a little research flying back, Texas. The other day, and one part of the Constitution, as you probably know, it says article three section for each legislative district

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shall consist of adjoining territory, compact form and substantially equal population.



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My issue was the equal population in 2010 when we had our census and read through the lines at the state level 47 districts. The average republican district was 121,000, the average, democratic, I apologize.

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The average republican district was 126,000, the average democrat was 121,000, that was a difference of 5249.

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Basically what it meant was smaller districts equals more power.

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So all of the Democratic different districts were compact and small spreading out the vote of the republican health districts that the difference between the averages was about 4.2%, in the worst was 9% difference.

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And the worst was 9% difference. So with our technology we have today.

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As it previously was said we can make these districts, even like almost exactly even and represent people evenly throughout the state.

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I truly think the difference between how we redistributed the last census was the difference between having a veto proof minority.

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Having the ability to have the minority party sustain a veto in the Senate or the House is a big deal for which we pass legislation and our legislators.

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So again, I just want to say thank you so much for your time, and thank you for being on this commission and remember, it's never the wrong time to do the right thing.

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And have a great night. Thank you.

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Thank you Delegate Novotny.

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Our next.

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Our next speaker is Jim, Wass of Prince George's County, Jim.

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Start Jim.

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So, I see that I'm here. Thank you. Going back to my notes I was figuring one minute so mine's a little bit shorter. Good evening and thank you for having me.

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And thank you for serving on this important project. I am Jim Wass a Prince George's County, I'm a document review attorney and I have a law background as a business process analysts were among other things, I help businesses government and other organizations

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make work, simpler and more intelligible gerrymandering might be described as the science of rendering districts unintelligible. Well, one, one representative might adequately serve disparate interests that individuals work is greatly simplified and improved

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with a clearer and more intelligible scope of representation, a key element of representative democracy is affinity. Our affinity groups begin with family and local community, ensuring that the communities are commonly represented in compactly

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drawn contiguous single member districts will best achieve that in.

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Of course, the wide ranging population densities, municipal and neighborhood boundaries, they're going to spoil any perfect solution, but every first draft every first draft should begin with the assumption that any state and federal districts will respect

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the readily available geographic boundaries, defined by community, the many municipalities, or county. Thank you very much and have a good evening.

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Thank you Mr Jim Wass. Our next speaker.

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Our next speaker is state Senator Brian Simonaire of Anne Arundel County, Senator Simonaire.

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Thank you. I'm assuming you can hear me, we can.

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Great. Well, I want to thank you all for listening to Marylanders regarding this important issue.

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You're so.

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Okay, they want to see my video there you go, real person.

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So your commission represents the best hope Maryland has of removing politics from determining it's representatives.

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I'm Senator Brian Simonaire, the republican minority leader for the Maryland Senate.

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There are three key elements I believe you should consider when preparing for redistricting.

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One is to make the focus about people, not politicians. This is the basic issue for drawing maps as Republican Senate Minority Leader I am not here asking you for maps favorable for anyone party but rather to focus on helping the people.

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I asked this commission to come together for the good of the people and draw fair maps that will benefit the people in Maryland.

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The second issue is keeping communities and counties together, look no further than Anne Arundel County for its congressional representatives, non whom live in the county, and this was brought up before so I won't repeat it I'll just second basically what

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they were saying. The last thing I wanted to bring up and maybe it hasn't been brought up yet but where possible reduce the primary only districts. Despite the majority of Marylanders being relatively moderate through packing the legislative districts

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with high concentrations of one party. We have seen nearly all the moderate politicians voted out of state office.

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Too many legislative districts have been drawn so the primary election is the election, and the general election is not competitive. Primary voters tend to be fewer in number, but more passionate with stronger and more extreme positions.

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This type of District creates extremes in Annapolis as representatives tend to only listen to those that elect them in the primary election.

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While packing legislative districts, is a method to obtain more seats for a party. It has an adverse effect on the policies in Annapolis and does not reflect the general population of our state.

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Thank you for your service on this commission and I look forward to seeing a great product.

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Thank you, Senator Simonaire.

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Kristin.

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Our next speaker is I, William Zartman of Montgomery county.

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Howdy, I'm William Zartman, I'm a professor emeritus at Johns Hopkins University. I'm a resident of Montgomery county.

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But I've lived in Annapolis so I feel at home with this evening's discussion as well.

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And my son was born in Annapolis. Your values that you want to maximize for redistricting and diversity, and by their diversity we mean not only diversity of people, but diversity of ideas as well.

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And, and you would think that a multi party, a multi member district would bring about diversity. I

can't get my video on so you can't see my face. Well the heck with it.

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You would think that an all the member district will bring greater diversity, but that's not true. Throughout the world single party estates multi member districts.

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And that's because multi member districts bring in a herd community idea, they all stick together.

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They are diverse, they separate the jobs, but they represent the community in block, whereas about the member district, a single member district, I'm sorry.

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I represent individuals and as the previous speaker said, We want our own district. Think about it. If Maryland were a multi member district, the whole state and if everybody were elected at large.

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You would have one party, a one party state. We don't want that in our district. We want to get individual representation, we want individual diversity.

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And I think that the community, the committee should think about this. It doesn't want to be by any means by putting into effect a single party state.

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It wants to bring out the possibility of diversity throughout the state. And that means single member districts. Thanks very much. I'm glad to have been with you.

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Thank you, Mr. Zartman for your testimony.

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Kristin our next speaker.

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Our next speaker is Daniel Medinger from Howard County.

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Daniel, you're our panelist.

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Good evening. My name is Dan Medinger, a business owner here in Howard County.

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And thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this issue.

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We rely on government to break up monopolies in business. We know that monopoly disrupts the economy and keeps new ventures from entering the marketplace.

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And it opens the door to corrupt practices.

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I oppose gerrymandering for the very same reasons as I oppose business monopolies and politicians pick the voters; they disrupt political process, gerrymandering prevents new candidates from successfully joining the process.

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And it contributes to cynicism, about our entire political process.

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Some say that we would stop gerrymandering if we have another state that did it.

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This statement indicates that we already know that gerrymandering is wrong.

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And frankly unless logical my mom would never let me get away with an argument like that.

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So eliminating gerrymandering is common sense.

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And I'm hopeful that this commission will create legislative districts that make sense. Some additional thoughts about redistricting.

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First, please make all state legislative districts single member districts.

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The team approach now used in many areas means that political insiders literally pick the next elected officials, and they use their combined resources to keep out new voices.

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Second, I hope we can start filling vacant seats with special elections rather than by appointment.

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The power and competency is so great.

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It should be earned by winning the support of people, rather than given as a political prize for some unspecified service redistricting as a civic, not a civic process, not a political process.

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Today politicians should have not given oversized influence in creating districts.

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Because legislative districts do not belong to Democrats or Republicans. It belongs to the voters.

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And I see gerrymandering as a vote as a form of voter suppression. Because if you believe the game is rigged.

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You'll be discouraged from playing.

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So, thank you for all the hard work that you are doing. I'm grateful that you're standing up to look at this issue. I know that Maryland can do better if we can eliminate gerrymandering.

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Thank you very much for your time.

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Thank you Mr Medinger for your testimony.

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Our next speaker is Delegate Michael Malone from Anne Arundel County.

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Delegate Malone,

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Good evening, everyone.

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Thank you for your time and your commitment to appropriate districts within Maryland, both on the state legislative district.

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And on the congressional districts. Some of you may know that I have for years, championed having legislation put in place, that would require the congressional districts to be drawn.

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Following the constitutional language for our state districts that they'd be compact and continuous and give due regard for geographic and political boundaries.

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Unfortunately the General Assembly has either decided to give a quick vote or no vote at all, no vote would always be what occurred this year, regarding that legislation.

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I've also put forth legislation that would require the district's both congressional, and on the state legislative level to follow the language that came from the federal courts for the, for the Maryland federal courts and benefactors is well known and

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requiring that basically that you would not take into account of political affiliation.

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When the districts were drawn, and of course, this is the mandate that this commission is to follow. And I think it's an appropriate mandate, because as you all well know and you've heard many people testify and you'll hear many people continue to

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testify that by gerrymandering the district's you cause very polarized districts to exist, and good policy, often will fall in the middle. And unfortunately, it makes it difficult for someone to be elected, if they aren't going far left, or far right,

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where the best answer often lies more in the middle.

01:06:51.000 --> 01:07:02.000

But individuals who are willing to consider good policy that may very well be in the middle, have sometimes a very difficult chance of being elected because they can't win a primary.



01:07:02.000 --> 01:07:15.000

Therefore, I commend you for your efforts. And I hope that you will put forth districts that are not political and that enable communities to be intact.

01:07:15.000 --> 01:07:17.000

We don't have scenarios.

01:07:17.000 --> 01:07:26.000

By way of example, my community prior to my current home, one side of the street happened to be in now district 21.

01:07:26.000 --> 01:07:42.000

And the other side of the street is district 33, which makes very little sense, we have the same things that exists in congressional districts, the broad neck peninsula which is in part of state legislature district 33 also has two different districts

01:07:42.000 --> 01:07:53.000

in and around the county as a whole has four congressional districts. So thank you for your time and your commitment and listening to us tonight. And I wish you the best and drawing appropriate congressional and state districts.

01:07:53.000 --> 01:07:55.000

Have a good evening.

01:07:55.000 --> 01:07:59.000

Thank you, Delegate Malone.

01:07:59.000 --> 01:08:16.000

Kristin. Our next speaker is Zulieka Baysmore from Baltimore City.

01:08:16.000 --> 01:08:18.000

Hello.

01:08:18.000 --> 01:08:25.000

Hello my name is Zulieka Baymore. How are you? Thank you. Can you hear me now? We can hear you. Yes, we, we see a picture.

01:08:25.000 --> 01:08:27.000

Okay, thank you.

01:08:27.000 --> 01:08:39.000

Good evening, and thank you to all the members of this redistricting committee. Um, I also want to thank our governor, Governor Hogan for formulating.

01:08:39.000 --> 01:09:06.000

This particular committee is so vital, especially after the 2020 elections and even after the 2016, the last time I believe in 2010 where redistricting took place.

01:09:06.000 --> 01:09:26.000

I also am a business owner, ZBay Development Group LLC and Baltimore City, former Republican mayor, or your candidate in 2020, and I am co organizer of the voice of the people accountability movement here in Baltimore City.

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We have several serious issues plaguing our city.

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Right now, the number one issue in Baltimore is crime.

01:09:34.000 --> 01:09:53.000

Baltimore City has right now six districts, I believe, and due to the redistricting. We might only end up with five districts, but I'm speaking to several of our constituents.

01:09:53.000 --> 01:10:05.000

With our accountability movement this voice of the actual citizens here involved in the city, a lot of us really feel that even though the formula is based on population.

01:10:05.000 --> 01:10:28.000

When it comes to redistricting. Um, I tend to agree with some of the speakers here tonight, that um more fair representation is needed to leave again, the possibility, even of the appearance of unfair to the people, where there's a dominant power ruling.

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Even in Annapolis, because it is so important that the representation is actually covering all of Baltimore City, and not just for some districts as I said, we're sharing a border already and it was split, so

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it lessens our representation from three to one.

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In terms of delegates. So,

01:10:58.000 --> 01:11:18.000

I have 18 seconds. So, I just really really feel that single districts. If we formed them and create them in order to narrow the monopoly of just a one party boo to diversify when it comes to

representation here in Baltimore City especially to

01:11:18.000 --> 01:11:33.000

bring forth more diverse, bringing forth more difference of mindset when it comes to policy and less straights then, in order to successfully change our city of Baltimore, right, like that, to me, I hope you guys can have a great plan.

01:11:33.000 --> 01:11:37.000

Thank you so much Ms. Baysmore more we appreciate your testimony.

01:11:37.000 --> 01:11:39.000

Kristin our next speaker.

01:11:39.000 --> 01:11:50.000

Our next speaker is Francis Uy. I apologize for the pronunciation of that last name if I'm getting it wrong, from Howard County, Francis.

01:11:50.000 --> 01:12:01.000

Yes. Hello, I'm Francis Uy, I'm from Howard County, I'm a mathematician and information technologist, and I have been interested in redistricting for a long time.

01:12:01.000 --> 01:12:16.000

I hope you all are listening to your comments. Just want to mention the for the people act which is currently stuck in the senate under Joe Manchin a\*\*, he's terrible but if it would get past, your commission would actually matter.

01:12:16.000 --> 01:12:24.000

So that would be great, because if everyone tries and get that passed. The other thing about it is that it has a lot of good suggestions.

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One of them is that independent reaching commissions should post their, their proposed maps online for the public to look at, and also accept submissions from the public, and I hope you do that, because I love playing with Dave's redistricting and would

01:12:44.000 --> 01:12:56.000

send you plenty of suggestions. The other thing is, more importantly, it's my understanding that the General Assembly is under no obligation to use the maps that you create.

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So I hope that you are reaching out to them and doing whatever is necessary so that they actually will act on what they're doing. Otherwise, this is all just a waste of time.

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That's all I need to say thank you.

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Thank you for your testimony. Mr. Uy.

01:13:15.000 --> 01:13:27.000

Our next speaker Kristin, Linda Dorsey Walker from Baltimore City.

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Linda you're now a panelist if you could unmute.

01:13:30.000 --> 01:13:43.000

And you can start your video if you would like. Actually I have elected to speak on Monday when Baltimore County speaks. I'm not from Baltimore City. I'm from Baltimore County, but I do appreciate you calling my name, I'll see you on Monday.

01:13:43.000 --> 01:13:52.000

Sounds great. Sounds great. Our next speaker then is Shannon Wright.

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Shannon Wright of Baltimore City.

01:14:08.000 --> 01:14:22.000

Hey guys we got Sean McCarty here I think you added me as a panelist, it may have just as I was doing it Shannon is on now as well. Sean will move you back to attendee.

01:14:22.000 --> 01:14:27.000

Okay, Miss right, we see you and it looks like you're unmuted so please proceed.

01:14:27.000 --> 01:14:42.000

Unmuting now. You've heard most of the points that I'd like to make here tonight. I live in Baltimore City, And we've talked about gerrymander we've talked about packing the legislative districts and how, when you do that most folks represented only one

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party. So I would say to you to consider your decisions carefully because Baltimore City has been forced to live through what that looks like. without diversity of thought, without diversity of policy, without diversity of party representation.

01:14:59.000 --> 01:15:14.000

This country fought hard battles over representation and different issues in the past, and Baltimore City has served under and suffered under one frame of one thought, one rule.

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And everyone in the state of Maryland is currently paying for those issues. So I would like you to consider carefully how to do what you're tasked to do and thank you again for putting your time and effort in, but in a manner that actually can uplift

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and help the residents of Baltimore City thank you for your testimony Miss Wright.

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Kristin.

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Our next speaker. Our next speaker is Zalee Harris

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of Charles County.

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can you hear me.

01:15:57.000 --> 01:16:00.000

Yes we can miss Harris

01:16:00.000 --> 01:16:11.000

Great, thank you. This is my third time attending as a virtual panelists. And I want to continue to say thank you for the work that you guys are doing.

01:16:11.000 --> 01:16:21.000

I am a member of the Charles County Republican central committee as secretary. And basically I just want to say the same thing.

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And that is single member districts at all possible.

01:16:25.000 --> 01:16:39.000

Fix Maryland please, stop, stop the gerrymandering and allow contiguous in boundary neighborhoods, under the single member districts. That's it short and sweet.

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Thank you very much.

01:16:41.000 --> 01:16:43.000

All right, thank you Miss Harris.

01:16:43.000 --> 01:16:45.000

Our next speaker, or next speaker is Mark Ritterpush from Anne Arundel County.

01:16:45.000 --> 01:16:58.000

Our next speaker is Mark Ritterpush from Anne Arundel County. Hello, good evening.

01:16:58.000 --> 01:17:01.000

How's everybody, how's everyone today.

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Good.

01:17:02.000 --> 01:17:07.000

Good evening. For the record, my name is Mark Ritterpush, and I'm a resident of Baltimore county.

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I believe very few people will disagree that partisan gerrymandering has been and will continue to be an issue, though, having an independent commission like yours is a great step forward.

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I've testified nearly every time redistricting bills come before the Maryland General Assembly over the last several years, and I will continue to do so until conditions such as yours words equivalent isn't just one governor decision codified into law.

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I'd like to ask everybody else who's here today delivering their own testimony to do the same. As far as this commission is concerned. However, the most important individual issue, I'd like to improve upon you today is the elimination of a hybrid multi

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member districts gerrymandering can be beneficial and in very specific circumstances, such as keeping ethnic or historic communities together. Our current hybrid system, however, does not work toward that interest.

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It only empowers those who draw lines so often to make more and more partisan divides often splitting these communities.

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I personally personally believe the best and most fairway would be the use of single member

districts as multi member districts dilute the relationship between representatives and voters, as well as the accountability of individual representatives to

01:18:13.000 --> 01:18:26.000

their constituents, single member districts also allow you to keep the ratio of constituents to representatives, much more manageable, allowing lawmakers to better understand the needs of their constituents and become more intimately familiar with the

01:18:26.000 --> 01:18:28.000

community.

01:18:28.000 --> 01:18:36.000

In conclusion, I beseech you, please, eliminate hybrid district from the state of Maryland. Doing so will help keep our communities together and lawmakers accountable.

01:18:36.000 --> 01:18:49.000

Once more, single member districts promote accountability for legislators, promote community continuity of community and promote legislator familiar from, excuse me, familiarity and intimacy with their constituents.

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That's all I have. Thank you guys.

01:18:52.000 --> 01:18:55.000

Thank you Mr. Ritterpush.

01:18:55.000 --> 01:18:57.000

Kristin.

01:18:57.000 --> 01:19:09.000

Our next speaker is Danyell Smith of Baltimore County.

01:19:09.000 --> 01:19:11.000

Hello, Miss Smith.

01:19:11.000 --> 01:19:16.000

Hello, Miss Smith. Hi, how are you good evening everyone.

01:19:16.000 --> 01:19:31.000

Okay, so first of all I just wanted to say in my opinion, and I'm speaking for residents. I grew up in Baltimore City. I now reside in Baltimore County, so I have a lot of family and friends and Baltimore City gerrymandering and redistricting has

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Hurt. The minority communities, the district shift reflect the residents, diversity and generational is very important. I wholeheartedly do not agree with a one legislator district.

01:19:44.000 --> 01:20:00.000

In fact, we need more representation, Baltimore County has over 130,000 residents and under representation is evident especially in the black and brown communities, then the inequality and the inequity is evidence, our schools on a scale of one to 10

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is ridiculously low, the appreciation value of our homes has depreciated because of that, in addition to affordable housing which is entering a new term for section eight.

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Our county council only has one minority member should he run for something else only leave. There will be no more representation of a minority member.

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There is no reason why in 2021 we still have first minority of anything while we appreciate all that you do. No one can speak or represent a community better than the individuals who look like and understand their long term, the long term issues and concerns,

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and these are the minority community. We don't need any more self service we need advocates and voices that truly represent our communities. Thank you.

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Thank you so much, Miss Smith.

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Kristin.

01:20:49.000 --> 01:20:55.000

Our next speaker is Sowande Brown-Lawson of Charles County.

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Hi yes, my name is Sowande Brown-Lawson and I'm a resident of Charles County, and I'm here as an independent voter. I'm going to be extremely brief but I was made aware of this opportunity to provide comment by the Charles County Republican Central Committee.

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And I just hope to convey that I hope the ultimate decisions that are made. Where we instill confidence in our representative process to will shine the spotlight of integrity, and accountability



on the part of our representatives to protect the interests

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of those they represent. And three will not dilute the diverse views that exists not only in our densest areas, but also in our rural areas as well.

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I'm in favor of several single member districts, so as not to dilute or, sorry for the repetitiveness but even appear to dilute the diverse voices and votes and the unified as well as diverse needs that shape our state.

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Thank you very much for your time.

01:22:06.000 --> 01:22:11.000

Thank you Mr Brown-Lawson for your testimony.

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Kristin.

01:22:12.000 --> 01:22:28.000

Our next speaker is Vontasha Sims who I believe has joined us via the phone on Vontasha.

01:22:28.000 --> 01:22:34.000

She's muted.

01:22:34.000 --> 01:22:36.000

Can you unmute.

01:22:36.000 --> 01:22:40.000

There we go.

01:22:40.000 --> 01:22:43.000

Yes Hello, good evening everyone, how are you.

01:22:43.000 --> 01:22:53.000

I'm good, thank you for having this commission here. My name is Vontasha Simms, I'm a resident of Charles County, Maryland.

01:22:53.000 --> 01:22:58.000

I'm also a member of the Charles County democratic central committee as well.

01:22:58.000 --> 01:23:11.000

We're talking about a few things. When it comes to redistricting here in the state of Maryland. When it comes to dividing our communities, dividing our wealth, dividing our economic tower.

01:23:11.000 --> 01:23:21.000

When it comes to natural boundaries. Such as highways, roadways, rivers, streams, when it comes to our school system.

01:23:21.000 --> 01:23:23.000

And when it comes to our neighborhoods.

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A lot of times when it comes to this process. A lot of times, my communities and communities that look like myself are oftentimes underrepresented, not only in Annapolis, but also locally as well.

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So we want to make sure of those communities. Their voices are not taking away their votes are not suppressed and also they're not used in the wrong way, when it comes to empowering the people of the community, which is a main important issue that we really

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need to address here. Also I want to make it clear that even though the governor has ordered this commission.

01:24:01.000 --> 01:24:18.000

We as a county, and also we as a people within the state of Maryland, still have the opportunity to object to that or, or to request changes or whatever have you in that process to make sure it's a fair process to us.

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have a final say. And a final voice as to how this process goes along. I would like to see a lot more transparency, when it comes to the current mass that we have.

01:24:29.000 --> 01:24:43.000

When it comes to what ideas or even being put into place, what those numbers would look like, what would the demographics of those areas be exactly, what are the governance orders.

01:24:43.000 --> 01:24:53.000

Exactly. How much leeway do we really have when it comes to you as a committee abiding by those orders?

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So once again, I just want to express to make sure that the community has an opportunity to be

fully aware what's going on within this process that you're really getting out into the community and notifying the community, because a lot of people don't

01:25:08.000 --> 01:25:21.000

even know what this process is even in existence. A lot of people don't know the difference between single member multi-member gerrymandering a portion of people don't know the definitions of those things.

01:25:21.000 --> 01:25:34.000

So you really need to get out into the community more to inform the community, as to how important this process is. And we still have not really even received the sentence numbers either so that's another very important issue.

01:25:34.000 --> 01:25:52.000

So once again, thank you for having this condition here. My name is Vontasha Simms. I'm a resident of Charles County Maryland I'm on the Charles County Democratic Central Committee, and I'm also a born and bred resident of Anne Arundel County as well so the ranking.

01:25:52.000 --> 01:25:55.000

Thank you Mr. Simms for your testimony tonight.

01:25:55.000 --> 01:26:09.000

Kristin our next speaker. Alright, we're going to go back to Terry Ceretta, right, if we can make that work now.

01:26:09.000 --> 01:26:23.000

Terry, you're a panelist if you'd like to unmute.

01:26:23.000 --> 01:26:26.000

Mr Ceretta you're, you're still muted.

01:26:26.000 --> 01:26:34.000

There you go. Okay, you can begin your testimony misread it

01:26:34.000 --> 01:26:45.000

to me.

01:26:45.000 --> 01:26:49.000

Alright, I'm not sure what their problem is, yeah.

01:26:49.000 --> 01:26:56.000

We're going to move them to Richard Elliot.

01:26:56.000 --> 01:27:03.000  
Richard, you are now a panelist.

01:27:03.000 --> 01:27:06.000  
Hello, can you hear me, we can.

01:27:06.000 --> 01:27:08.000  
Okay. Prince George's county, by the way.

01:27:08.000 --> 01:27:13.000  
Yes, thank you for the opportunity to chime in on redistricting.

01:27:13.000 --> 01:27:22.000  
Well, I am not, I am in favor of single member districts and in the past have written articles, supported by Peter Franchot in favor of single member districts.

01:27:22.000 --> 01:27:36.000  
I believe that the key element for redistricting is an independent commission that, just as important as this not racially or political or party, isn't gerrymandering and also does not take into primary consideration.

01:27:36.000 --> 01:27:49.000  
The current addresses of elected officials, or just as important, the addresses of their opponents. When Maryland legislators draw maps that intentionally remove legislators or intentionally.

01:27:49.000 --> 01:28:04.000  
Keep legislators and in a district that's very very particular for them. Over time, it ends up having the effect where elections are basically not happening because they are so so easily decided, with the slate process with large sums of often developers

01:28:04.000 --> 01:28:21.000  
money, ending up going to the slates beyond simply the redistricting aspects of this commission. There needs to be a deep search and an answer for what's going to happen with the central committee's both Republican and Democrat, whichever appointed nearly

01:28:21.000 --> 01:28:32.000  
a third of our legislators in the state central committee should be gotten away with it, others have been said in this call, and there should be special elections in the legislative districts.

01:28:32.000 --> 01:28:47.000  
And within the city. When the maps are redrawn as district 44, a is going to be removed. There should be meetings within the city, to determine where those residents of districts which will be

gotten rid of are going to be moved to.

01:28:47.000 --> 01:28:59.000

Finally, I would hope that within all parts of the state that no neighborhoods are divided among themselves, all neighborhoods are kept whole so that neighbors know who represents them.

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Thank you I yield my time and I wish for the best of this committee.

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Thank you Mr Elliot for your testimony tonight.

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Our next speaker is.

01:29:09.000 --> 01:29:15.000

I'm going to read through some of our speakers that were not.

01:29:15.000 --> 01:29:33.000

We did not see them in the attendee panel that we have. If any of these people are on the phone. I'm afraid that your, your numbers are not identified as you and I would suggest that you register for the next meeting or or sign in again, those individuals

01:29:33.000 --> 01:29:38.000

are Dejah Williams.

01:29:38.000 --> 01:29:42.000

Tracy Matthews.

01:29:42.000 --> 01:29:44.000

Lisa fry.

01:29:44.000 --> 01:29:51.000

Christopher Ervin, Antonio Pitocco

01:29:51.000 --> 01:29:57.000

Albert de Vittorio

01:29:57.000 --> 01:30:15.000

and john and Maria, if you guys could look through the list as well, and highlight those individuals so I can see if they've been able to join us. Our last speaker if none of them join is Evie Harris of Baltimore City, who requested to speak through the

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chat feature.

01:30:19.000 --> 01:30:24.000  
And now I am unable to find Evie.

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I think that she has

01:30:28.000 --> 01:30:33.000  
left the meeting.

01:30:33.000 --> 01:30:38.000  
Kristin you also have Richard Elliot as a panelist.

01:30:38.000 --> 01:30:43.000  
Thank you.

01:30:43.000 --> 01:30:47.000  
Right. Do we have any other speakers tonight.

01:30:47.000 --> 01:31:04.000  
I don't believe so if you could just give us a moment to go through this will go through it.

01:31:04.000 --> 01:31:11.000  
Now I don't believe that any of the additional speakers have been able to join us.

01:31:11.000 --> 01:31:15.000  
If they have joined by phone.

01:31:15.000 --> 01:31:22.000  
We do have a few people that are on the line but none of their names are marked.

01:31:22.000 --> 01:31:50.000  
So I don't know who they are so again if any of those names that I have called have joined us through my phone, and we didn't, we called your name, but we were unable to promote you to a panelist, please please go back into the link for next week's

01:31:50.000 --> 01:31:55.000  
Or email [redistricting.commission@maryland.gov](mailto:redistricting.commission@maryland.gov), and we can try to troubleshoot that for you as well.

01:31:55.000 --> 01:32:07.000

And with that, we do not have any more speakers for this evening. All right, thank you. Kristin, do we have any other business, any additional business for the commission tonight.

01:32:07.000 --> 01:32:12.000

Kristin, not not that anyone has emailed.

01:32:12.000 --> 01:32:32.000

Okay. I just would like to remind the listeners that the website is [redistricting.maryland.gov](http://redistricting.maryland.gov) and is a tremendous resource for some of the comments that were presented tonight so I would suggest anyone who's who wants to learn more wants to look at the

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glossary of terms that came up, please reference that.

01:32:37.000 --> 01:32:56.000

So, we will have well we typically have these meetings on Wednesday evening, but we will have a meeting instead on Monday, July 12 for Baltimore County, anyone, as you have seen tonight can come in from any of the Maryland residents can testify so please

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do so.

01:32:57.000 --> 01:33:02.000

If you're free on Monday night or know someone who wants to testify.

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And with that, I will ask for a motion to adjourn before we adjourn.

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I want to publicly thank Gloria Blackwell for reaching out to the Hispanic and Latino communities and making sure that they have been aware of these proceedings and these hearings and are thankful that she's our guest and she's our advisor.

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Yes, thank her for all the work that she's doing right now. Yeah, she's doing an excellent job judging thank you so much for mentioning the work of Gloria and doing tremendous outreach in both English and in Spanish.

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So we reach as many people as possible. And again we ask the listeners, spread the word. That's how people can get involved. So please do that. we have many hearings.

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This is the first round and then we'll have a second third round coming up.

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Any other comments, make a motion to is your right to have a second.

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Right Jay, all in favor signify by raising your hand or saying I.

01:34:13.000 --> 01:34:14.000

Right.

01:34:14.000 --> 01:34:36.000

Meeting is adjourned. Thank you everyone and we will see you tomorrow or on Monday. Thank you.