

**Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission
Round 2 Public Meeting #1
September 9, 2021**

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We'd like to look at a few of the maps that have been submitted, because we have time.

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It sounds good.

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By the way, I have to say the words are working wonderfully. I mean, I deal with a lot of these online things, and this has been really good. Wonderful. Whoever.

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Whoever did the deserves the kudos please send it their way.

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Thank you. I now have to hit a record because we have a quorum.

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So I'm going to go live here with the recording.

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Jonathan, Mary.

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If you want me to raise up to push you to go ahead and get

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as Walter was supposed to be with us tonight.

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Yes, I believe so. Okay.

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Well, we have just a few minutes and normally Walters early. That's why I asked.

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So, the meeting process and policies.

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Dr Hetherington, you can kind of pass that off to me and I can kind of go through that document that I usually go through. Okay, great. If you just want to introduce the commission first and then I can kind of go through that whole document.

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Sounds good. I was planning to do that but I'm glad you confirmed. Yeah.

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and then we still have three people signed up.

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Yes, okay. They all join us. Yeah, y'all join us.

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And then right from there we'll go to professor Persily.

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Yes.

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So we have a quorum so at six we're going to start with whomever we have,

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um, as we don't have anyone testifying as to maps this evening. I certainly could start off the meeting with kind of that big, long thing that I usually read about the rules and policies.

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At first, and then we could kind of just go into the introduction of the commission and then start right and if you'd like or I can just kind of welcome people pass it to you and then go through all of that gobbledygook policies and procedures if you'd

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like.

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Right, I was just thinking of starting off with welcoming people going into the introductions and then passing it on to you.

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Okay.

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Yeah, well that's, that is a.

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That's something that we, one of the things that we had in there left over just because we want people to realize that there's no guarantee of how long a meeting will go.

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Because people might join at 730 and say well, I wanted to speak, but the time would have transpired so okay.

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He does is,

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it was that that was john yeah john that that's fine. Leave it, leave it like this for now.

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I'm actually john Why don't you just go ahead and take out the meeting will conclude after the last speaker his testimony is complete for this meeting.

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Alright, it is six o'clock.

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And I think we are ready to begin. Everybody ready? Yeah, I do not have any kind of message from Walter as of right now, or Kim, or Cheryl.

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No. Okay, well hopefully they'll be joining us shortly.

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I want to be respectful of everyone's time and would like to welcome everyone to round two of public meetings of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission.

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And I like to begin by thanking everyone who's here. Appreciate your time, and we're looking forward to your input. I'd like to begin by asking the members of the commission to introduce themselves. I'll begin by letting you know that I am Dr Kate Hetherington,

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I am president of Howard Community College, and I reside in Howard County, and Judge Williams if you would go next, please. Yes, thank you Dr. Hetherington.

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I'm Alex Williams. I'm co-chair also, along with Walter Olson and Dr. Hetherington.

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And I reside in Prince George's County, I'm a retired judge.

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All right, thank you.

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I'm sure

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Walter Olson will be joining us shortly, but let's go on to the members of the committee. Jay Amin is not here yet, but he should be here. He's expected to be here, but I'll move on to Cheryl Brooks and ask her to introduce herself.

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Good evening I'm Cheryl Brooks, I'm a principal at a Baltimore County school, and I'm a resident of Baltimore County.

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All right, thank you. Good to see you.

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And Mary.

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Hello I'm Mary Clawson and I'm a retired federal employee and I reside in Anne Arundel County.

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Okay, thanks Mary. Kim.

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Hi, I'm Kim Cummings, I am a resident of the Eastern Shore currently Dorchester County where I am employed by the circuit court for Dorchester county specializing in land records and licensing.

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Thank you. Jonathan.

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I'm Jonathan Fusfield. I reside in Montgomery County. I'm a communications manager for a government contractor.

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Thank you. William.

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

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All right, thank you and we'll go back to our co-chair.

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Walter.

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Thanks and sorry for the tech problem, my name is Walter Olson. I live in Frederick County, I'm a fellow with a think tank and DC. Right, thank you and we'll ask Jay to introduce himself as he comes on board.

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Alright, we're going to move on to the agenda, and we are going to spend a little bit of time talking about the meeting processes and policies, and I'm going to ask Kristin Fleckenstein from the Department of Planning to guide us through that. Kristin? Good

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evening and welcome to the first public meeting of round two of the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission. This meeting is being recorded. As we begin there are a few matters we'd like to share as to the rules and policies for this evening's meeting,

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as well as some tips about the platform that will assist our speakers in understanding how zoom works better. This meeting offers Spanish interpretation. To listen in Spanish, you will note that there is a box on the zoom control panel, either at the

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bottom or the top of your screen for interpretation. Please click on that box and select Spanish.

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We also ask that speakers, presenting tonight, think about that and speak slowly and clearly, there will be a three-minute allotment for our speakers so that everyone who wants to speak may speak.

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When there's 20 seconds left of your speaking time, a screen share will come on with the countdown timer. Inappropriate speaking, attire, behavior or background will result in removal from the meeting, without the ability to rejoin. Anyone registering

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after 6pm last night you should ask to join as a speaker in the chat section as your name will not be on the list of pre-registered speakers that will call from.

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However, you will not be able to share your screen or any maps as any maps must be submitted 24 hours prior to a meeting. If you did not register to speak but want to, you can request to do so in a message to the panelists via the chat speaker.

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There is a control bar at the bottom of your screen, select the chat box and then send a message to panelists, indicating your name and the county in which you reside.

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However, you should not use the raise hand option to request to speak, you must use the chat feature.

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But please also make sure that your name is listed properly, if not we will not be able to call you, as to how you have registered for us to call you as a speaker.

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Please note that the participants and attendee list is not public as several people join with their phone numbers, and to protect their privacy, we do not make that public. The pre-registered speakers will go first, and then those who registered

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through the chat box will then go second. Speakers providing testimony should also be aware that you will be made a panelist, when it's your turn to speak, which will enable you to unmute and turn on your camera. There might be a short delay, don't worry

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about that, it's how it works. You will get a message saying the host would like to promote you as a panelist, you need to accept that button, and then join as a panelist. We'll wait about five to ten seconds for you to join and if not, we'll have

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to move on to the next speaker. If a speaker doesn't join,

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then, if they are not on the call, or in the meeting, we call them simply to come back and get to them at the end.

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When you're finished speaking, you then will be moved back to an attendee. You might see a spinning wheel or a message that you're leaving the meeting.

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Don't worry, you're not being kicked out of the meeting. You're simply being moved back to an attendee. We know this is a lot of information but want to assist you in better understanding how this meeting is going to work, so it can run as smoothly as

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possible. This evening we do not have an abundance of speakers. And while we did receive multiple map submissions. Most people submitted written testimony, rather than requesting to speak during this evening's meeting.

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So, this evening, it does not appear that we will have any map presentations from public submissions. So this meeting will go a bit more quickly than usual.

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With that, I would like to introduce you to the host for this evening's meeting, Dr. Kate Hetherington, back again, who will handle the rest of the meeting for you. Dr. Hetherington...

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Thank you, Kristin.

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I believe we had three people who were signed up. I don't know, it's still the same situation?

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We do have three people. We have one that has signed up in the chat feature. As of right now our first speaker, Vontasha Simms has not joined the meeting.

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That brings us to Zulieka Baysmore from Baltimore City. Are you ready to hear from Zulieka Baysmore? Yes, we are. Okay.

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Can you hear me? Yes, we can hear you. Welcome. Okay, wait a minute.

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I have you on...

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Okay. Can everyone hear me? Yes, we can hear you, Ms. Baysmore. I don't know why I'm not hearing everyone?

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Oh. Okay.

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I just want to say that...

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Okay.

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Can everyone hear me?

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Yes, we can hear you, hopefully you can hear us? Okay, now I can hear you. All right, good we're ready to go.

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Thank you for having me. Actually, I really did not prepare a testimony. I will say that some of you know...I still have the same stance that I had during the first rounds because I think it's so important that we become as one. Where Baltimore

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City, needs to become as one, because we're so scattered out in terms of the mapping, and I think that's why we still have a one system party here in Baltimore City. And I think...

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Ms. Baysmore if you could unmute yourself please..... the opportunity, even to vote in an election where it's not just party driven, but I think if we at least close the gaps and look at Baltimore as one,

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and bring us closer together, and in each district, you would have not just a whole district made up of Democrats. But, expanding that district where it includes some Independents and Republicans. You know, after being on the ground in Baltimore

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doing a lot of things when it comes to grass roots, I get to talk to hundreds of people on a weekly basis, and people right now are so sick and tired of being sick and tired, where they just want to look at a candidate and know that that candidate is about they're....

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doing some work to address the issues, and actually getting some solutions, put forth. So they're not looking at a lot of them and just not looking at party, they're looking at individuals' character, their experience, but their heart for the city, and

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for the people.

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Ms. Baysmore, is that the end of your testimony?

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That's it, you know, you guys can go from there. But I would hope that we really are pushing that Baltimore City begins to close that gap, when it comes to mapping, where we have a more diverse diversity, when it comes to those districts and instead of them being

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fully read or fully blue, where we can bring more people together from each one of those parties so we can get some things done in Baltimore. All right, well thank you Ms. Baysmore.

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As you know, round one, we had eight public hearings listening to testimony from folks about what they wanted to see and so round two, really interested in seeing what the map should look like.

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So based on what you told us, you have an opportunity to submit drawings of the maps and you may want to stay tuned for the rest of this presentation, because we have Professor Persily, that will give us some guidance so...it might be worthwhile just to stay

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on and listen and, perhaps, once you hear some guidance from him that might help you with....And anyone else who's listening, with submissions. We really want to see your submission. We've received some, but really interested in receiving more so thank you

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Ms. Baysmore for your testimony tonight.

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All right, Kristin. We have Ruben Collins, actually the next signed up speaker is Abraham from Prince George's County. Abraham is not on the meeting yet so we're going to move to our chat request speaker Ruben Collins.

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Ruben, you are being promoted to a panelist, you will need to unmute and start your screen.

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Hello. How are you? Hi Mr. Collins. Welcome.

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I was dealing with some technical difficulties there I couldn't see myself; I could see you, but I couldn't see myself but thank you. Hello everyone..I see my good friend judge, Alex Williams.

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It's always a pleasure seeing you sir. My comments, very brief.

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My title is President of the Board of County Commissioners for Charles County.

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I ask that the Commission in looking at maps, based on the 2020 Census, consider the demographics of Charles County. Charles County,

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according to the Census, it was the third fastest growing county in the state of Maryland. It is now also majority African American population now.

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What I would ask this commission to consider is looking at amplifying potential opportunities for minority representation in Charles County.

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Upon completion of the 2010 census. One proposed map for redistricting included the creation of an additional Senatorial

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seat, that would be aligned with southern Prince George's County and the Waldorf area, and then that would add an additional Senator to Charles County.

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And I'm asking that as a commission that that you strongly look at any opportunities to expand the potential voting power for the minority population, but most specifically as it relates to the jurisdiction Charles County and so I just wanted to share

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that, and ask that the commission consider that in your findings and I look forward to hearing the presentations as you move forward.

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Thank you, Mr. Collins, and after hearing some of the discussion later tonight...Again, you are welcome to submit your version of what you'd like that map to look like and we would love to see that.

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Thank you. Okay, thank you.

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Alright, Kristin. Who else do we have this evening? Vontasha Simms has not yet joined.

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Abraham has not joined, we've not had any, any additional requests. All right. That's it for tonight. All right. Well, we have three more hearings, coming up so people will have... if you're listening and maybe a little shy about submitting maps, maybe after

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discussion that will soon follow. You'll feel inclined to take a look at the area that you have a particular interest in and submit your suggestions for maps. We really do welcome them.

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And Dr. Hetherington, we did receive 10 maps to date.

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I believe that eight of them have already been processed meaning that we put them into PDF format and ZIP files if they've submitted them through Maptitude, they are posted on the website at redistricting.maryland.gov

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If you go to the page that discusses the portal where it says the portal is live, you click on that box. It provides you some information on the map submission process.

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And underneath there you'll see a menu item that says submitted maps. And so, if you just simply click on that, you will be able to see it says citizen plan submissions.

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And if you click on citizen plan submissions, you will be able to pull up a PDF of all nine of the files, nine of the 10 files that have already been placed, the PDFs, as well as the files if you wanted to pull it up in another mapping software.

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All right, very good thank you for that information.

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I think at this point with no additional speakers, we're ready to move on to a presentation by Professor Nathan Persily, he is professor of law at Stanford Law School.

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The James B. McClatchy Professor of Law, and he is assisting members of this commission in the process, and has been very informative and, like, a good teacher explains things clearly so that you can understand them.

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So, with that, Professor Persily,

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welcome, and we look forward to hearing from you.

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Thank you, let me see if I can share my screen.

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I can do several things tonight and thank you to the co chairs and the commission for letting me talk tonight.

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I have sent to the commission example districts of what can be done, for Western Maryland, for Eastern Maryland and for the largest counties that could contain more than one district.

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In addition, I've sent along just informative maps, about the racial composition of the precincts, which is important for compliance with the voting rights act as well as understanding where different communities lie.

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I can take this, I, as we discussed before, I think the greatest use of our time when we can't actually have it is to physically draw the maps together.

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And to do that, so we could jump in and start doing that together, like we were doing last time, or I can, I can go over some of the maps that I sent to you that illustrate the different options I think for eastern and western shore and the big cities.

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What would be most productive from your perspective? I'd like to hear from the members of the Commission about their preference?

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I like to go over the maps that you developed and everyone else can see them as well. Okay.

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The options, if that's okay. That sounds good to me. Mary,

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William. I agree. I've made comments on many of the maps, and I have some questions. So, I think that's very good. I support Cheryl.

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Great, so we have William also agreeing and Kim's nodding her head yes...Walter,

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Jonathan, I think we have total agreement. All right, professor. All right, I need to be able to share my screen so whoever controls that, has that power please give it to me.

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There we go.

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Can you see my screen that's a Microsoft Word document?

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Yes. Alright, so I'll start with the eastern shore districts and then options. And I think what I'll do is I'll do Eastern Shore then then Western Maryland then each of the major cities.

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Now I want to be clear that something should be obvious which is that, that these are incomplete maps, these are individual districts, you cannot, you know, just take one from column A and one from column B and then everything's going to fit together

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like a jigsaw puzzle right....So these maps illustrate the kind of decision points for these various regions, as well as the consequences of honoring and trying to fit within each populous county which is to say a county that can support

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one district, what the consequences of that are. I'm also happy to go over some of the public submissions to give you a sense of how other people have started to draw these congressional maps, just to kind of get the exercises going. Yeah that would

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be very helpful as well. Alright so let me just show you see on the screen right now this, which would be a kind of very...we talked about this last time, a district that respects the Chesapeake Bay goes up in the same way that the current version

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of this district does goes up, but unites Harford and then goes into Baltimore. Just to be clear, every district that I'm showing you right now is near perfect population equality so it's certainly less than 1% deviation.

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So this is what you could draw.

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I want to emphasize though that I, you know, the final breaks if you look at for instance in this map the break in Baltimore, that can be done any number of ways. You could throw it up on the top, you could have it go down further south, but that's

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the amount of population that you would need from Baltimore in order for it to, to be a perfect population district. And so I did not...in the split counties here,

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I don't want to pretend that this is like the way that has been in my heart of hearts, I would draw it, but just to give you a sense of what would need to be done.

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So that's one option. Professor Persily just for the audience you may want to just talk about that number that you have to have the 772?

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Just a new audience may not be aware of that. Yes, right. So, the way I can get the exact number up on my screen which I am, roughly 772,000 people per district is what's required under one person, one vote.

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And I think that, you know, we should be able to, with some ease, draw districts that hit exactly that number plus or minus one person.

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Of course you're allowed to depart from perfect population equality, but when you do so for congressional districts, it does invite possible legal challenges.

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So, this is the example of the type of district we're talking about last time that would respect the Chesapeake Bay. Here is a different version, if you take Harford, you'll notice, basically replaced Harford and

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a slice of Baltimore that was in with Eastern shore and replaced it with Calvert, St. Mary's and part of Charles County. This district, this envisions, you know...this part of Charles would be united with Prince George's County in

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some other kind of district. But notice that this does not breach Anne Arundel County at all, but you could, in a sense, swap out parts of this so that Anne Arundel County would go into this district.

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But again, it keeps most of the Eastern Shore, you know, up through Cecil together and then adds those. Here is another version, which is, which instead of keeping Anne Arundel whole, keeps Charles County whole. Again, not going into Harford but going all

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the way up to Cecil and then going St. Mary's, Calvert, and Anne Arundel County. Now as we talked about last time there is no bridge, or way of transportation, other than you know boats and swimming

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between these parts of the district. That has historically....

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there was a time, though not recently, when the congressional districts did do that. Ordinarily when I draw districts that I would do it, where we connect by a land bridge here, but I think water continuity, at least from the congressional

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plan might be allowed. There's case law with respect to that state legislative plan where you might be very...that I think it would be legally problematic to cross for the state senator or the state house lines to cross the Chesapeake.

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Here is one where we do cross at the Anne Arundel crossing, at the bridge, again keeping Hartford out but adding in that population to the eastern shore.

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And then here is one that one of the commissioners asked me to demonstrate which is what happens if you split Cecil...instead of, if you want to keep the southern Maryland counties whole, what would that mean up here, and the answer is not only would you

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shut Harford from that original district but you would also split Cecil, so right around here. Which would really be, you know, the kind of almost true Eastern Shore, literally the water is what would be followed but that would keep Charles Calvert and St. Mary's

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in a giant district, like that. I can pause for a second on the eastern shore district so I can go right into the Western Maryland districts as you wish.

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How about if we hear any comments from the commissioners, I think, Mary, you had mentioned, you had some questions. I don't know if it was about this particular map or any, any of the other commissioners?

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All right, I'm not hearing any comments so let's proceed.

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Alright so now let me, what we're starting in the corners here so we're doing two regions and then I'm doing the individual counties. So,

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the commission last time seemed attracted to the idea of adding, going with these five counties together all the way to Carroll County. I will say that although most of the plans, I'm going to show you do that, I've added one that doesn't just because

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one thing you should know is by adding Carroll County to the Western Maryland districts, it does essentially put a roof on the plan, right. Where then

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you have to decide whether you're going to go into Baltimore or you go into Montgomery with this district, as well as... this will mean that all the Baltimore districts, if there is one that's crossing from Baltimore will go south or East into Harford.

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Alright, so this is a you know this is a nice compact district that makes the decision to go with those five counties plus part of Howard County.

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Here, instead of going into Howard it goes into Montgomery, again, don't worry about the actual shape of the incursion into these split counties, but this had to do...there was some sort of messages from that commission about the sort of agricultural

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areas that might be of use, or might be of interest. This is, as I mentioned before, one other option that goes all the way to western Baltimore including Carroll County and is, you know, just sort of rectangular in a lot of respects.

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This is the example that I was mentioning where you don't need to go into Carroll County, you could go into Montgomery County and get the population that way.

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One advantage of this is that what remains is almost a perfect district inside of Montgomery County. And so it shares that population but look it really depends on...and I felt that the Commission might have felt strongly that Carroll County

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is more alive with Frederick then maybe parts of Montgomery but, you know, it also is how you deal with Baltimore County, has an impact on how you know, what happens in Howard and Carroll. Why don't I stop there and if not, I'll go into the

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major cities, the major counties rather.

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We have any comments or questions from the members of the Commission?

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Hearing none.

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Okay, let me start with....

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Start with Baltimore County, and I did not do Baltimore City, well, I did a little bit, but I wanted to show you, what I tried to do is I showed district pairings between, you know, a district that is fully contained within one of the populace

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counties and then what the next district might look like.

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So, here is an example of a district that would be wholly within Baltimore County.

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And then, Baltimore County is of course split because it has too many people, then this is a district that would have, you know, Baltimore City whole, plus little pieces of Anne Arundel

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and Baltimore County right, so there's a Baltimore County line that goes down that way.

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And so that's, that's where it makes up for the population.

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Here is something similar to what I was showing before where instead of the district that would be on the eastern shore going up and I had a kind of a moon shaped incursion here...

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I know there was some discussion by the commission that maybe the southern part of Baltimore County is more aligned with the southern part of Harford.

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And so, you can have Eastern Shore district come up here, but again, just so we're clear right this is the portion of Baltimore County

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that would house an entire district.

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So here is another district where you...It's similar to the first district for Baltimore County, but then the second district could go up and, as I was saying before how you deal with Carroll County is in part of function of how you think Baltimore

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County should be split if at all. And so here is a district that is entirely within Baltimore County. And then the second district unites Carroll with Howard, and then parts of Baltimore and Anne Arundel.

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Similarly I showed you this on the previous map which is that you can...You could have Baltimore County, an entire district basically in here, and then the district that goes from Western Maryland all the way into Baltimore County.

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So that's, that's Baltimore County.

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We're going to talk about Montgomery County.

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So, one of the interesting questions I think the commission may need to decide is sort of whether to respect this boundary between Montgomery County and Prince George's County, one of the reasons that the race maps that I've sent you is useful is so

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you can see the patterns of demographic concentrations by precinct. And so the Latino population, you know, sort of, lives in sort of this line to crossing the border there.

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But, you know, assuming the residual from Montgomery County after you've actually put an entire district in Montgomery County goes south, then that means splitting Prince George's County and then Prince George's County will not have its own district, because you'll,

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It'll basically be most of you know...a lot of the population will be here.

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Um, well it depends on what you're doing in Charles County, but this is basically what a Montgomery plus Prince George's County district would look like.

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Here again ignore the fact that this looks like a cat that's being held up.

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We can smooth out the district lines, but if you did a southern Montgomery County District you could actually draw a district that way, you have to have some route through here for the eastern, the Western Maryland district, but you could join

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parts of Carol with how... this is sort of a Howard County based district.

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Again, instead of doing the district that would bridge Montgomery County and Prince George's County like the first map, you could do parts of Montgomery, parts of Prince George's and then all of Howard County in one district.

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Again, in addition to what Montgomery County has. The same idea here, just saying that Howard, plus parts of Anne Arundel, plus parts of Montgomery....And notice the way that I did this this district is cut this way, which might not be the right sort

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of...if you know the neighborhood that Montgomery County is probably not the way we think of like the DC, the inner DC suburbs, right here, probably, you know going up more vertically but again I just wanted to show you what a compact district

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might look like.

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And I think this is the final one for Montgomery County, which was again that western Maryland kind of district where, where you have all of Montgomery County could be in one district here, this part of Montgomery County then forms a district with western

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Maryland then you have a little bit left over for what would be probably a Carroll, Howard, Montgomery County maybe a little Anne Arundel district or maybe parts of Baltimore.

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Finally we're talking about Prince George's County.

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Prince George's County.... it's interesting, as might have been suggested for the first set of maps, Prince George's County districts

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will be affected of course by what you do in Montgomery County but also what you do in the eastern shore and where Charles County is going to be. Because if Charles County is essentially on its own,

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not united with any of the, the counties to its east, then you're, then it will of course have to split up Prince George's County.

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And so here is an example sort of like what that first map is. Here would be a full district in Prince George's County, with a crossover district between Prince George's and Montgomery County.

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Here's one where you keep the district, all within Prince George's County, and you just have an Anne Arundel plus parts of Prince George's County District. Doesn't get all of Anne Aruncel but gets most of it.

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Here's one where, this is what I'm talking about with Charles County, where if you locate the district, if you're going to include one all wholly within Prince George's, then you have a lot of population, you have to contend with.

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So the southern Maryland district that include Charles, parts of Prince George's, a lot of Anne Arundel, Calvert and St. Mary's.

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So those are some options.

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I am happy to talk individually about them, or we could even just start, you know, drawing a map today comparable to what we did before. But I'm at your disposal.

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Since we have a lot of work to do. And a little bit of time to do it. I'm inclined, and I'll ask the commission, if you agree, that we get started on going with the congressional maps because remember, we still have the legislative maps to do.

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And if we could spend some time, we can always refine it. But if we spend some time tonight discussing, you know, based on our previous conversations, based on the eight hearings that we've had, of what we heard tonight as well, that we start to take a

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look at what we have and at least get something started.

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Does anyone have any concerns if we begin in that direction?

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Oh, I don't have ANY concerns, I want to ask a question about Prince George's. It's such a difficult jurisdiction because it probably has more African Americans there than any other place, and I am a little concerned about packing. Yeah.

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And when you pack all of the African Americans in one jurisdiction, then you will prevent an opportunity to have an influence in another jurisdiction so the only question in my mind of course is if we can talk about later is that where do you get the remaining.....

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where does Prince George's share, it's numbers and in which counties?

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We'll, you have given us several options. I'm still opposed to crossing the Bay Bridge. I really have a problem, I think, again, southern Maryland,

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to me, should be hooked up with at least southern Prince George's County or portions with Prince George's County, that's my view.

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And Anne Arundel, parts of Anne Arundel. Then the last thing I'll say is that I think that Anne Arundel County has been really used as a whipping boy

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the past few years. Everybody takes a little bit of Anne Arundel County and I just don't think that's right.

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We have heard some comments, from some citizens, that they don't want to be in four different districts, and I think that makes a lot of sense, but just some general observations that I'm making.

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Wonderful. So, let me talk about each one of those that I sympathize with what you're saying about packing and let me just show you, these are the demographics of with the adjusted prisoner data of Prince George's County.

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So you'll notice here, if we just chose Prince George's County, then you're talking about 60% black, and roughly 18% Latino, and only 12.8% white, non-Hispanic white.

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And so let me say as a lawyer first and then as a kind of redistricting person, which is that under the voting rights act...

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You can dilute the minority vote in several ways. One of them is cracking and we break up the minority community into too many parts and the other is packing as you suggest, and so we will make sure, assuming of course that there is a

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sufficient racial polarization in the other ingredients for a voting rights claim. This concern about packing is one that's legally possible. What it means

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generally speaking, there will be two, at least two districts where African Americans have an equal opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.

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Right. And so we will make sure that it is honored by this plan. That doesn't mean they have to be over 50%, because in areas like Prince George's County and much of Baltimore,

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there's not, you know, it's not even as polarized as other parts of Maryland and so you could have an effective black districts in the 40% range or so. I can talk more about that, about the racial polarization analysis that

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we've done.

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But you are right, and this is where the political subdivision requirement kind of comes up against these concerns about packing that you're expressing. So if you draw a district that unites all Baltimore City right that is also

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going to be a heavily African American district here in Prince George's. So then what does one do about that? The question is to what extent you want to keep the the district's for the populous counties, the ones that can sustain

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more than one district or at least one district....how much do you want to keep it within the confines of that county? So any districts you draw in Prince George's County, that's reasonably compact is going to be substantially

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majority African American, right, unless you do some fancy footwork. Certainly a majority minority. And so, then the question is, do you want to then break Prince George's up into more parts so that doesn't have one district?

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Some of the public submissions have done that.

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But then you also have to think about when you were talking about Anne Arundel, that's part of one of the consequences of this, which is that if Prince George's County is divided up in order to prevent packing, that will also likely bleed into

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division in Arundel County.

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Because once you draw a district, you know, let's say half of a district here, it's got to find population somewhere, and Anne Arundel is the one that is the most populous county that would be around here.

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So, like I said in the demonstrations, you could divide a Prince George's County when you have one district that goes into Montgomery, one district goes into Anne Arundel and one district that also joins with southern Maryland.

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But if you're respecting the Chesapeake Bay, either Anne Arundel or Prince George's County will be substantially divided just because that's where the math works. Because

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if you take these three counties, then you're going to split Anne Arundel, or you can take these three counties and split Prince George's and then Anne Arundel in theory could be whole.

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That was a long answer to your question, I think that the concerns about packing are well founded and we, something we should think about, it's particularly true in the legislative map too of course.

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If I could jump in on another closely related point.....

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I also question, the principle - if it is a principle - of giving each of the three largest counties a district completely contained within their borders because I think it's....

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If we do that, it would promise that to Montgomery, Prince George's and Baltimore.

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The smaller counties are going to find themselves, kind of squeezed and....

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Professor Persily just described what would partly happen in Anne Arundel but in the Baltimore County maps, if there is to be one district entirely contained within that horseshoe shaped county, then Baltimore City almost has to spill out and take a substantial chunk of Anne Arundel itself.

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So you've already got two chunks being taken out of Anne Arundel, on the eastern shore it is forced to take Harford whether it wants to or not under these county unit plans.

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And, you know, meanwhile Anne Arundel is going to be asked to make up probably some difference in the west towards Howard County, so we find ourselves again demoting the interests of smaller countries and by that, I mean even places as big as like Baltimore City because

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it may not make the most sense for Baltimore City's district to be filled out from northern Anne Arundel, it might make more sense..the connections between, commuting populations and populations that live on both sides of the line might make more sense

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in a west or a north or an east direction instead of pushing them down to Glen Burnie.

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Okay. Other comments? Mary? Yes, I think that there are a couple pivotal counties that have had a lot of growth that are starting to make a difference here, and Charles County is one of those that it no longer just a rural county, definitely has

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a significant urban population. I think the difference between urban and the urban, suburban high density needs to be considered when we put the interests of people together.

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I favor the first of the Eastern Shore maps that includes Harford County and part of Baltimore County as it might be tweaked somewhat, but I am not in favor of extending the eastern shore and mixing their interests, with Southern Maryland which is

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growing at a much different rate than the eastern shore and has a different growth pattern. I think that's something to be considered as well.

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Thanks.

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Other comments from the commissioners? William, you want to say something?

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Yes, I was wanting to comment on Walter's suggestion, his statement about splitting Anne Arundel up into so many different districts, but that's currently what has happened to Baltimore City and, and I don't want that to happen to

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Anne Arundel but at the same time, I don't want Baltimore City to be split up into what? Four districts that were already....So I think is going to take some. What was the word that the Professor mentioned earlier? Some footwork, some ground work to

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really try to make as much of this... make as much sense as possible because the way it's currently done is not going to work with some of the potential maps we've laid out. You know it has too many counties being split to

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many different ways and I don't think anybody will ever really be able to get anything done, with how things are currently going right now.

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Cheryl, Kim, Jonathan?

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I guess we would have to, I don't wanna say play with it more but in terms of looking at northern Baltimore County.

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Actually, or western Baltimore County and Carroll,

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thinking of Northern Baltimore County with Harford as well, but I'd have to look at the numbers to see if that makes sense, but it depends on where we draw the line.

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I mean, if we're using, if we're not going to cross water, if we are...

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But I do think that some of Baltimore City would be combined with Baltimore County in many aspects and I do think that there are communities of interest that cross a city line into Anne Arundel.

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So I need to go back to the maps he showed us, you know, just to see what the group's look like in order to see what makes sense.

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Kim, or Jonathan any comments?

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Nothing just yet. All right, Jonathan?

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Yeah, just taking it all in right now and sort of doing math in my head.

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All right. Well, the good thing with Professor Persily guiding us, I think you can do some of that math for us. I think one of the things that we had talked about doing is establishing principles or values and, you know, by having this discussion,

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we really are starting to say what's, what's the most important thing. You know, if I go back to the executive order, it talked about starting at the northwest corner of the state and I wonder if it might be worthwhile just to get started on that

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part of the state and see if we can get some consensus because as Dr. Persily talked to us at the beginning...It's not as though you can pick one from column A and one from column B, they do have to mesh and there has to be some flexibility.

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If not, it's just not going to work. So, if that's alright with you, if we start to look at the northwest corner of the state, and say okay you know this is a pass at that part, and what's acceptable for us, and then maybe move on too... Professor I guess

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next would be, we could do then maybe the eastern shore and get some consensus on that. We need to get to those two parts because they take a big chunk of the state and then work in towards the middle.

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I think we might make some progress tonight and then we'll let it percolate because we still have many hearings to do but at least we can start to begin. So if that's alright with you, Professor...?

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Maybe we start with the northwest part of the state first and then go to the eastern shore.

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Certainly. One thing I just realized as folks were talking about how divided the interior counties are. Sometimes

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that is going to happen and that will happen actually with our approach here starting from the outside, working in... which is that you kind of paint yourself into a corner so often you will end up with the interior counties to be chopped up because they're

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providing population for the ones on the outside. But you know right now I think we're just trying to get a base map and go from there and

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then we'll see. That's why I wanted to at least alert you to the issue about once you...like adding Carroll County to the northwest, here is a decision with implications because it borders Baltimore.

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It then either of course means the remainder of this district would have to come into Baltimore

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a little bit but then, then it basically pushes everything south, here. So anyway, so let's draw this district, which I think there was certainly consensus that these four counties would be together.

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And I don't know what number you would like me to use.

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I'm going to call this one for now. That's fine. But we can change it. And so now it needs 32% of a district. Right. And so we need to find basically a quarter of a million people.

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We can provide all of that in Montgomery County or we can add Carroll and then add pieces of any of these other counties. So I don't know how you would like to progress here because.... Well based on previous conversations we had talked about

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adding Carroll. Okay. So should we try a different way? Should we go down and try Montgomery?

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Well I can show you what that looks like. So I tried to do all the possibilities here.

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So that if you don't do Carroll then you just go and you could, I could split this out of course, but Frederick and then you go to Montgomery so that's what that looks like.

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And then if you do Carroll, you can do all Carroll plus parts of Baltimore, or Carroll plus parts of Montgomery County or Carroll plus parts of Howard.

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So, there's no right way to do this. It's really about deciding on the tradeoffs and what you sorta think is the right answer here about how to join these counties together.

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From what I heard before, it sounded like people were saying put Carroll in with the western part and then maybe look at the top of Montgomery, because we have too many people in that one district, you're going to have to give up somewhere.

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And then I think...

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Walter, you had mentioned something about the northern part, or that northwestern part of Montgomery County seems to be in line with Frederick County.

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Just to reiterate what I said last time, I do think that Carroll is better placed with Western Maryland. I think there's much more of a community of interest than the other options.

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I don't think that northern Baltimore County works as well, and part of the reason is that the transportation issue begins to be more serious. It's just harder to reach, you know, you need the Belt Way to get up into those areas.

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The rest of the district makes more sense expanding into northern Montgomery, or western Howard as far as transportation connections. I agree that northern Baltimore is rural and has that kind of community of interest but I my view was that western Howard

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was a good answer,

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northernmost Montgomery was also a good answer. And I thought that we should be flexible depending on what worked for other parts of the map, either of those options would I think be very plausible.

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I'd like to speak in favor of adding Carroll, as the next piece to district one as we have it. And then I actually prefer the northern Montgomery

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as the add in again because they have excess population, not unlike Baltimore's County, but it is a more compact solution than stringing further east across, you know right below the Pennsylvania border so of the maps that were presented to us,

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I think number two of the western Maryland package did a pretty good job.

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Yeah.

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Kate, if I can....

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I guess agree with Mary I think we should start at Carroll. I think Walter convinced me of that last week that we should certainly add Carroll, and then I like the idea again, the tip of Montgomery County, I think there's a lot of community

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of interest with people living in that very very rural area of Montgomery County. And of course, the question is, if we added parts of Howard County would we need Montgomery County at all? The tip?

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No, because you're only going to add...so again we need 248,000 people. Carroll County has 172 so that leaves about 76,000 more. So you're going to find them either in Montgomery here, or you're going to find them in, you know, Howard here.

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I would like to see Montgomery, that's my view.

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And I don't know what Kate thinks? Kate?

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Yeah, I agree with that, with taking it from Montgomery.

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Because, again, Montgomery is so huge, you're going to have to take part of Montgomery out anyway.

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Montgomery then we'll probably have three districts, Two parts plus one whole one, if you're going to keep Montgomery County whole.

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But in a lot of ways

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that's not a bad thing because there are a number of communities that sit right on the Montgomery County/PG County line, the Takoma Park, College Park, and Silver Spring area.

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And I think it is worth looking at whether those may be best combined in one or the other places but not split the way they are right now, when we get there.

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All right, um, let me just ask procedurally how you like...you know there is the capacity on zoom to do polls where we can actually do it that way. Otherwise, it's just the people who are speaking who I'd be falling here but I'm happy...

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Well I'm going to assume if I don't hear from folks that means they concur, so please speak up, if you think differently from what you're hearing. Kate, I'm assuming that, again, we...these are proposals, at this point. Oh yeah. It not etched in stone?

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Yes. Thank you, Judge Williams for mentioning that I mean, this is a starting point for the base map, because we still have the rest of the public hearings, and we still have submissions coming from the public.

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So, you know, our thought is my thought is, let's get this base map running, the public can hear it, they can view this, this is all taped, they can look at or record it rather, they can look at it later. They can give their feedback on what they're hearing tonight.

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Ultimately, we will be drawing maps and that's when round three comes into play when the public will see what we have come up with, again, will you know, we may adjust based on feedback

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when we're at the final stages. But we have to, we have to have a start. So if we can consider this as our base map, then we say okay this is like a draft, this is a big draft.

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But it's because now you're going to see what happens when you do these things, and when the give and take comes into play.

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So here's a district that includes Carroll, parts of Montgomery. I just wanted to put the municipalities up on the screen just to see if we were accidentally splitting one, it doesn't look like, it looks like Laytonsville is fully contained

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within that district.

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Again, there's any number of ways we can do this, whether you want to go up and down... this I think followed a little bit more about some of the community interest concerns that Walter Olson raised earlier.

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But this basically gets us almost perfect right only 161 people difference, and we can always add to that. So I will... I'm going to click this as a district.

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And so now we've got one district, basically done.

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So we can move, we can move sequentially you know go from one to the next, if you want to go do it that way. Or we could move from the outside in, moving the outside in, it will squeeze Baltimore down because depending

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on how you respect the eastern shore you're basically taking out any room for Baltimore County to go east, and then everything will go south and that's where you'll get some of the Anne Arundel splits and Howard and the like.

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But I was...

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I presented going you know the west and the east and, yes, the central part is next.

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Does anyone?.....I'm just thinking one big chunk with the East but is there anyone who has a different preference?

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No, I agree with you Kate...

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Go next to the eastern shore.

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I was actually thinking we should go work from along that border because you're in, you know, you're already in Montgomery County you know that split and whatever your as you go, most of the a good chunk of the Eastern Shore counties are going to

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be in one district, we know that already, so why not work in an area that we don't already know and allows us to sort of meld it better in the, you know, with the population.

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So work in the more heavily populated area right now.

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Right, that's another. I'm going to speak in favor of jumping over to the eastern shore now. I spent some time with the count, with the state planning group, looking at state senate districts.

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And the most complicated area is the central part and you don't want to have to fix that and then you find out you've ended up with an untenable area, you know, to the east.

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So I think making some of those decisions - right now at least - will show us where the hard problems are going to be.

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I'm hearing three for the eastern shore, one for the middle.

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Anybody else want to have a say?

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Alright, I'm not hearing anything so we're going to do the eastern shore next.

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Professor, your help, please? So what we'll do here is I will go all the way up to Harford unless I hear otherwise from you all.

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Well, could you stop at Cecil? Yeah. Okay.

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I was kind of curious what would happen if you know I mean, I know there's some who are okay going across the bridge and the others who don't but what would happen if you took Cecil out of that completely?

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That would entail going across the bridge, but how would that affect things? So I did one that split Cecil so you could just get a sense of like what that might look like. It's not all of Cecil but...this is just an example.

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Here's one that splits Cecil.....

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Right, and so goes in, and you pick up these counties down here.

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You of course can do it with Anne Arundel something like this, where if you don't put in Cecil that's 100,000 people in Cecil and then you'd add in Anne Arundel plus some others.

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I think I have another one like that, well, you can see what this would look like with Cecil. So yeah, there's a lot of options on this.

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On these particular options you've chosen there have brought in practically the densest part of Anna Arundel , you know that part of Anne Arundel County and that urban area around Annapolis is quite different than anything else you're going to see on the eastern

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shore. Yeah, that's right. it serves to disenfranchise that urban area.

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Well, so one of the interesting consequences is that if you do use the bridge as the connector since the bridge is so close to Annapolis that then you'll almost certainly pick up....

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I mean, unless you do some kind of fancy stuff going up, you know here I'm splitting other counties, but that the Annapolis population is relatively close to the bridge.

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Again, if you are paying attention to that. I mean, I think it's still on the table, whether you're going to add Calvert and St. Mary's to this Eastern Shore district but, again, it really depends on whether you want to respect the Chesapeake or not.

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So how do you want to?...So let me just add it at least this is a....

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There's a consensus on that part of that part of the eastern shore, that is basically half of a district.

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And so now you have to find another 400,000 people, which could be all of Cecil, all of Harford, and part of Baltimore, or some combination of Southern Maryland or Anne Arundel.

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Is it fair to say that the idea of crossing the bay and picking up things like Calvert or St. Mary's...Kim spoke, I believe favorably, and I thought that it was also worth looking at....

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But it hasn't picked up any other support, are we the only two who find any merit in that?

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Because otherwise, I'd be open to a consensus against it if not. I'd be open to exploring it just because there is a historical precedent for it, dating back 60 years. So I'd definitely be open to exploring it.

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So, when you're exploring it, can you just elaborate a little bit more Jonathan? Are you saying put St. Mary's and Calvert into that mix and let's take a look at that?

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Um, whether it's just St. Mary's and Calvert, whether it's part of Anne Arundel.....

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I mean I don't have the population right in front of me besides what's on the screen.

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I wouldn't be against it, if we did go that route but you know I'm not....

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I'm not opposed to going north as well so that's what I mean by exploring it.

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It's one of those things where I kind of have to see it and how it affects all the other, the rest of the map. Okay, If I can weigh in....I'm sorry...

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Go on. I was just gonna say can we look at those two versions one with Cecil included one without Cecil, including Calvert and St. Mary's?

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Yeah, and I did, I basically did those. I thought, yeah maybe just pull them up again? So this was just Anne Arundel all here...you've got St. Mary's and Calvert and then again...

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none of Harford, you've got Cecil and then this would go up to about here.

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So that's an example right, and then there's the option of Charles County as well.

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Right, that's a gigantic district and obviously Charles is that... often when you have these large districts the three corners are going to be different. This does not include Anne Arundel.

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But this includes those three counties plus Cecil, parts of Cecil.

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This is a

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value based decision, who do you think belongs with whom? There's reasonable arguments on all sides about what happens when you do some of these options. Once you shut off...Calvert

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and St. Mary's going with the eastern shore, then, Charles will necessarily come up and you will get about 600,000, people from Prince George's County who will be in with Charles. So then there would be a district

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that connects Prince George's and Charles that'll be a significant, as we talked about packing and the like, that'll be a significant black population district,

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probably majority.

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And then you have to make a decision about where the remainder of Prince George's County would go. Does it go to Anne Arundel, does it go to Montgomery?

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Right.

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And if it goes down to Anne Arundel then Anne Arundel will be split three times because, well, not necessarily but likely would be split three times unless you were to only take the second Prince George's district then have it get part of Anne Arundel and part of Howard.

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So, just as this district puts a roof on the plan.

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And this district puts a wall in the East right?

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Whatever you do down here puts up a floor at the bottom, and then, you know, it's going to force some other county splits in the middle.

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Say, if you wouldn't mind just, if we included Cecil, that map that you showed us earlier. Yeah. Does that take care of, you know, that takes care, that's perfect isn't it?

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No, no, That's still only 60% of the district.

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The eastern shore, you have to go if you're if you're going to go in the traditional direction that the existing plan does, even though it's gerrymandered, you'd go up here and then you have to take a slice of Baltimore County and then that, so this

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is basically 93% of a district. Okay. You got to get the additional 7% somewhere, you're talking about 54,000 people. So, a little slice of Baltimore, obviously could go in the...I think if you if you're going to

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commit to going all the way up to Harford, it probably makes sense that you're not going to take 54,000 out of one of these counties, you'll take it out of Baltimore County.

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Would you do northern Baltimore County? We'll that's up to you all. You do it northern, you can do

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just right down here.

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So I mean just to show you what it would look like right if you do northern Baltimore County.

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Just so we're clear, this is the number I'm looking at until I get close to zero.

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Obviously, we're you know, really going....I'm

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just adding precincts.

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So it's something like that if you want to do northern Baltimore County, but don't get...one thing that, as we progress in doing maps like this.....

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As is true when you watch say election results on election night, geography doesn't mean people so there are a lot of areas that you are going to say your taking a huge part of Baltimore County, you're taking

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exactly the same number of people in Baltimore County in this scenario as you would be if you were doing

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this first scenario that we had.

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Right, that's the same number of people. We just, instead of doing the break over here, we just did it going into the north.

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Now, this way you have it now, is this pretty much what it is now?

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No, because Harford and I can show you the existing congressional districts at the same time. So let me give a different...make them yellow so you can see them sort of brightly.

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So, you can see as it currently is, the eastern shore district goes up and around parts of Harford and leaves out parts of Harford to then join in on one of the serpent like districts here.

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So it's different. It's different than the existing district but you know the general direction is the same but that's just because the existing districts honor the eastern shore. So the existing district, if you just follow my hand here

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right goes up here, goes to northern

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Baltimore County, also gets part right around here as well.

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But then a whole separate district goes in southern Harford into Baltimore City.

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You know, I'm inclined to look at what Kim and Jonathan, and I think there was a third person who said, looking at taking the southern part of the state with St. Mary's and parts of Charles and not including Cecil, so perhaps taking a look at that

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again? O.K. One thing I'm going to do is take a snapshot. O.K. Great, thank you. In case we want to go back and look at that again.

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Great, thank you.

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And so, I'll call this Eastern Shore plus,

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Baltimore County.

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Alright, so now we'll do...

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you want just Calvert, St. Mary's, and all of Cecil in this?

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I didn't think Cecil could be included, but Calvert St. Mary's, and what you had on the eastern shore originally.

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If you're going to include Calvert and St. Mary's...and see it's still here let me just show you, although this looks like a huge district This is basically, even if you go all the way up to Cecil, it's

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only 60% of a district.

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So you gotta, you gotta find, of substantial, you know, over 300,000 people, or thereabouts around 300,000 people who you're going to put in there.

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And so here so once we, if we add this, we add in St. Mary's and we add Calvert...

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Here's where we are, where we still need to find 100,000 people. So you can, if you were going to go in this direction, and then you'd have to add 100,000 either....

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I mean, from some combination of these three counties that are adjoining. So you go to Prince George, you go to Anne Arundel, you go to Charles. You could go to take a chunk of Harford County?

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That's right, that you could do that as well you could take 100,000 from Harford, if you want to go to the northern part of Harford, that's another option.

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I like to hear from folks, what do you think? As you're discussing it, I'll show you what that might look like if you're interested because that's...I didn't actually do that as one example.

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It looks to me like Southern Maryland is now taking the big hit.

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And

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that's a constituency with, where they're going to be divided up into possibly three or four districts now.

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Well, when you, but not the counties...I think one of the things that has been a theme throughout our discussions is that although Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's once were

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a trio that were always grouped together, but Charles County has changed so much that it now looks north,

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it has many more common interests with the Washington DC area than it used to.

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So just, you know, dividing the one county from the other two is not necessarily

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as much a division of a community of interest as it might have been in 20 to 40 years ago.

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And there's some truth to that. There's also similarity Walter and again I'm just opposed to crossing the bridge, I really am. I think Southern Maryland, historically, it's always been together

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and I'd like to see them together, not broken up like that.

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Unless there is some more reason why Harford and Cecil and northern Baltimore County can't be added...Does anyone have an objection to that?

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Is there a problem with that, if there is if someone could articulate it for me?
Maybe I'm seeing it differently?

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I don't think there's going to be enough people with what we had from Kent County down

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if we put Harford, Baltimore County together and Charles, Calvert and St Mary's, I think you're still going to need more people.

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Well, I think....

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you don't need Southern Maryland if you have Cecil for sure, all of Harford County,

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and then a smaller portion, probably less than 100,000 people from Baltimore County.

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But Cecil has no place else to go.

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if doesn't go with the eastern shore. It's just, it would be left out hanging. And I look too at the more rural nature, particularly of Cecil County, all of these counties are...

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have barely 100,000 people and most of them have lost population

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over the past Census.

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So you're suggesting Mary, maybe northern Baltimore County, Harford, Cecil, remove Calvert and St. Mary's. That's... I'm supporting what the judge said, yeah, not jumping across the bay.

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Yeah.

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How does that...I know there was a historic president, you know, it did exist in the past, but a lot of other things existed in the past, too. If we did it that way, would that potentially leave Baltimore being split between three congressional districts?

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I'm sorry if you do it, which way? If we have Harford, Cecil, except Calvert and St. Mary's included Professor. Is that, if we could take a look at that?

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I just wanna make sure I understand, the way I had the map before where you have an incursion in Baltimore going down like that? Yeah. And then, so yeah so then you will, you'll

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So we're looking at northern Baltimore County, Harford, Cecil and get rid of the connection with Calvert and St. Mary's. Yeah.

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That way you keep...

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I mean, as you can see this. There are a

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million different ways to do this we're trying to do it the way that makes the most sense keeping an alignment with the executive order and also with the feedback we've been hearing and will continue to hear from people. Right, so this is what we did

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before.

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And then Cecil on down to everything. So this is basically a perfect district right here. Okay. That is...

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Then the question is how much was left in Baltimore County. Right. How many more remain in Baltimore County?

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I'm here, let me just tell you.

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772,000...so you can do one district there.

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It will mean there are three districts in Baltimore County, it just means that there will be, you know, one full one...

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Sorry, what you say? It would be more compact? .

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Well, you decide, you know one of the interesting things about Baltimore County is because Baltimore City is right in the middle...By most measures of compactness a U-shaped district like this doesn't look compact, but we understand

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the reason behind it, which is like, if you want to put a district in Baltimore County, and this is what it's going to look like something like this, because then we've got, we've got to shed 27,000 people from this potential district

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and that'll go either to Howard or Anne Arundel, or to Baltimore City frankly.

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So again, I'm wondering now, you let Baltimore County have that whole district and you circled it. Where would Baltimore City get some additional numbers to become a full congressional district? Where would it get it from? It would have to go through Anne Arundel

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County because there's no other place you can go. And then that would split Anne Arundel into how many counties, I mean how many districts again? It depends, you know, so here's what we're doing right now, you know we're honoring... the more we

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split, you know keep whole counties at the beginning, the more that we're going to end up having to split ones down here, but we can you know we can...

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this is the process. Why don't we go through an example map, we'll try and draw the entire map in the next, you know, however long, and then you can see that doesn't make sense because it leads to a split here or there.

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I think some people in the comments need to see what the numbers and how things actually shake out. Yeah.

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Okay, so should I create this district in Baltimore County. Yes, please. So then we will have three districts. The western and the eastern. Yeah.

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Alright so it doesn't look like we're just playing fast and loose here. Well, I'm going to do is, I will....

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Because this is 103% of a district, I've got to shed 27,000 people. I'll take it out of the South here on the theory that that's the natural place that Baltimore City would go in order to...Does everybody understand what I'm doing?

01:26:00.000 --> 01:26:15.000

Yes, I'm just going like this so that's, you know, again, these are decisions with political consequences. And so I don't, I don't want to do like in....

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Well, I'm sure we're going to get feedback from people but again we're just trying to have the draft map, so we got something to work with.

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Right.

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Again, all I'm doing now is adding precincts, so

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that's good. They say you see there's a little notch here but that's the kind of thing we can resolve at the end, but this is only 193 people over a district, so I'll call this district....

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seven.

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Alright so now you....progressing down you want it to...we could include all Baltimore City as a district.

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Okay. Plus another you know whatever it is, 150,000 people. 250,000 or 150,00? 150,00, Baltimore City is 589,500.

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Okay.

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So, I'll just, I'll start...

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Now, again, I'm not calling up the racial statistics on this right. So, just to give you a sense Baltimore City on it's own is going to be, you know roughly so it's only, it's under 30% white, non-Hispanic white.

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It's 56%, non-Hispanic black, It is

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about 6%- 7%, Hispanic, and 4% Asian or so. So just so we're clear about the composition of these districts.

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And so then I would assume that will take

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the remaining part of Baltimore County that was here, add that to Baltimore City and then go into Anne Arundel. Now we can take 158,000 people from Anne Arundel just going, you know, going south, we can also go into Howard.

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I assume you want me to just go like...Why don't you just go south for the heck of it just to see what we're, we're talking about where you have to get numbers, how far down, you have to go, if you don't mind.

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Now one thing I'm going to do is I'm going to swing this district out in this direction, the reason as we have to have room for whatever happens in Howard to grow.

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Unless we go up from Prince George's So, so, and you don't want to get caught with the water... So, and this looks like a sort of nice road to go down right here.

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So that's basically a district right there.

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Anybody have concerns with that? I'm going to put on...

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Just so people can see literally like, what is where I'm just going too...

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If you want to toggle back to see, we can zoom in, you know, and see every little piece of territory here.

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So you can see the areas.

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Yeah, there's a lot of communities in Anne Arundel County being split.

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Well, so when you say communities you mean?...You don't mean municipalities? You mean, just like, because that's another thing I can call up. So Glen Burnie, depending on how you define its borders.

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right, is there, Lake Shore, you know, you can we can.... Well instead of taking from Pasadena if you took over towards Elkridge or maybe some of Howard County at that point?

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Well that's, yeah, that's so that's obvious, so that means you would go to this district would be Baltimore City, part of Baltimore County, part of Anne Arundel County and then part of Howard.

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And then, we run into a challenge here because then we got to figure out some...where's this territory going to go? Yeah. And so it can join in with Montgomery County but this is where the compactness is going to be a little bit

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challenging.

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So, anyway, it's just something to think about as you do it, it's like where... because you see how the decisions were making by going in from the eastern shore and the northwest affect our options as we go south.

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I have another idea; I know you're doing this and they're just all possible drafts, but what if Baltimore County split into part of Baltimore City, as opposed to being the shape of the county...just a thought, I don't know what.... I'm sorry

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I couldn't hear the suggestion. You mean this split right here that goes into Harford?

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No. Baltimore County, like the horseshoe you made, you said that was one district, but that potentially, I don't know what the numbers would look like if it split and went down the middle like through Towson from

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the top where it says Baltimore. How much of Baltimore City would be taken? How far south? Well you can, you can do, so basically....

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So if you look at the districts. So this is one full district right now this is another full district, we could, we could divide it in half. Right.

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I just wanted to see what that would look like and what impact on the districts and what the numbers show. You would have to go into another county. Now you could have, if we if we did it like north/south if you split Baltimore County and Baltimore City because I think that's what you're saying, then

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you could have one district that goes west toward Howard, and you could have one district that goes south towards Anne Arundel. That was my thought. I mean, I'm just looking at.... But just to be clear, we're talking only about 100,000 people or so that are here.

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So....

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or maybe 100..... Yeah, we are basically 100,000.

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So you don't need to take it from two counties. Right. And it really just depends on how unified you want the Baltimore County district to be. In addition, how important it is to respect the city, county boundaries here.

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There's, there's commonalities in many places so we are... Yeah, I'm just, you know, we share lines, you know, students have...there's all kinds of things that happen.

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And so I'm looking, I think it's worth looking at. You know let me do this, let me put...

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Give us some options, something else to consider.

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And just in terms of time folks...today,

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tonight, I'm realizing we're at 730.

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Is it possible we try and hang in as much as we can to try and get draft maps of everything?

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Just so we'll have something out there and then we can, you know, let that percolate for ourselves and also the public can comment on that. Does everybody have the time tonight to do that, that's really what I'm asking.

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All right, I'm not hearing negative so....

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So I just want to make sure I understand the suggestion, were you saying split it like this, going through Baltimore City?

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Yes.

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Alright so now this is roughly what you could do.

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Yeah, I can, we can....

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I can, we can...one interesting problem here I mean this is continuous by a bridge somewhere but it's, you know, separated by water over there.

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But this is basically a district. Deeply connected.

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Okay, so this is what it might look like.

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If you wanted to split... this still doesn't go into Howard, this just goes into Anne Arundel, but it splits it north south like you were suggesting.

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And what you also have is number six, it's Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel counties. Is that right? That's right.

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I'm inclined to let Baltimore City....I'm more inclined to look at the other version, the one that you just had, the previous version.

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And I understand as well just remembering what people are saying about having three different counties and four different counties. One thing to think about is, you know, once we have the districts down,

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we can rotate them, you know, if you want to rotate districts 90 degrees that's pretty you know easy to do.

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But, but part of the question is how much do you want the respect for political subdivision lines to be part of this too...

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How hard are you going to take that? Because as was just suggested, if you split Baltimore City that's splitting a county, but then it opens up a whole you know world of possibilities.

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Well you can make it a snapshot. This is one of the ones I could get before, nice to be able to see that later, and if you want to go back to looking at the way you had it before I'm fine, I just wanted to see how far does that go south.

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You know what's included, what those communities look like, where are they? So this type of map has helped me to see that because you have all the different names there so I appreciate that, thank you.

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And you know, like I said, we can

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Once we get toward that the...will start doing the micro moves right, we'll try to figure out what makes sense in terms of if you were to split Baltimore City what's the right way to do it, because this was just a literally do on the page

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situation there.

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All right, shall we move on to Howard County, does that make sense? Or is it better to go with the bigger ones like Montgomery?

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Montgomery and Southern Maryland are arguably more the edge of the board as far as the jigsaw puzzle.

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And in particular,

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well I think Jonathan's suggestion, taking another look at Montgomery and probably getting settled there, but otherwise....

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All right, let's do Montgomery. Okay ,as we do this, I just want people to understand so that...

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to start worrying about leftovers is I guess the way to put it, which is that once we...So for example, if we do something in Montgomery County.

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If you have a full district inside Montgomery County. Then the remainder can go to Howard right but then you're going to have some district that's going to be kind of northwest southeast, going from Howard to Anne Arundel,

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and that will then be another...you'll have a three split.

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You know, Anne Arundel will be split three times. And so, you know, just telling you that's a consequence of this, I mean...So for example, if we instead start with Howard, then you might unify all of Howard and put it with Anne Arundel or wherever.

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but I...

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So, we'll start with Montgomery County. I'll build a district.

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There's an important question as to whether the remainder is in the north going to Howard, and whether we're going to respect this border between Montgomery County and Prince George's, which we've discussed before.

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Let me just say this, that Walter had a good suggestion that some of the larger counties may not be able to have it's whole district again because of the effects of smaller counties. I had a different view

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a couple weeks ago, but it seems to me that all of the big counties are going to end up splitting up.

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Yeah, being in three different....Prince George's will probably end up with three, Montgomery will probably be three districts here.

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Well yes but then the question is whether, at least one district should be within it. So, right now, this, the remainder of this is basically one and a quarter districts so we need to shave off a quarter of this which would go into

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Howard or Prince George's County. This is where some of your examples that took together the PG/Montgomery County area around College Park, Takoma Park, Silver Spring so it made sense.

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And so we can, we can do that right so if you want that but this you know this is a significant decision here to add Silver Spring and Takoma Park to Prince George's County.

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But, also as we start thinking about the racial maps that I gave you right there is, you know, the Latino community goes in this direction here.

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I mean, again I'm just doing this. I don't know how much of the south you want here versus going up into the northern part here.

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What are you moving from Prince George's into Montgomery?

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Right now, Prince George I haven't even touched Prince George's. Okay. All right. Okay. This is just Montgomery County. There is a little piece of a precinct all the way down here, I don't want to lose it.

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This is my world right now. There we go. So that's basically a district right there again we can get, we can.....

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So Silver Spring and Takoma Park will be joined with Prince George's County. Parts of Wheaton, Colesville, Calverton, Carolyn, we can decide, instead to go more like this, but then this will shut off right, by joining it this way...

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This means the next district is going to go.... Howard has no place to go, except south east or down into...

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Anne Arundel? Or partly into Prince George's? That's right. That's right.

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So...

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Save that and maybe, does it make sense to go from Howard down right now?

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So now as we think about this. Do you want?... So Howard...

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Howard and almost all of the remainder of Anne Arundel together minus about 100,000 people, we can

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form a district. So you have 331,000, you have 585,000... So that's, you know, roughly, 900,000 people, and you've got to.... I think that's a good place to try because there's a lot of industrial and border crossing.

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Fort Mead, that's a big employer that draws heavily from those two counties.

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They have a lot of defense industries also in those two regions.

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So like I said, so here, we've got basically a full district, actually it's a little short for some reason..Oh, because we took out...I'm sorry I said 585 I forgot we took out some from Baltimore.

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So, this is almost a complete district. It's down by 10,000 people so we'd have to find 10,000 in either Calvert or in this area of Prince George's or frankly we could do Montgomery and then push this over.

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Can I speak up for Laurel? Laurel is at the intersection of Howard, Anne Arundel and Prince George's, and is certainly a community of interest, even though some of the people live in northern Laurel and in Howard County and some in the Anne Arundel area right next to the....

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So taking that from northern Prince George's County would enable Laurel to

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stay all in a sense. That may end up being too many people but let's see, let me do this. We'll create this district, which is basically Howard and Anne Arundel, and then I will...

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Let's just look to see whether we can get all of Laurel in there.

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I see West Laurel also....

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So....

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yeah, it's just, it's gonna end up being too many people. So...yeah, it's gonna end up splitting Laurel. Sorry. Yeah. Well, but then this is again another....depends on how much you want this area of Montgomery County be joined with

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Prince George's but you could take 10,000 people out of this area of Montgomery County, and then just move this over.

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And then the split with the split of Montgomery County and that's going to be shared with Prince George's would be smaller. Why don't you try that?

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Well, so we can do this in like any number...that having basically...even that just does it right there, those two precincts.

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So does that. So, I don't know where?... The other place too...are there enough people if you extend south into Calvert County, the North Beach area and some of that?

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Yeah, that's another opportunity if you just wanted to pick it up at the bottom.

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That's a good idea.

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Rather than split that...

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That makes more sense.

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That's basically,

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that's basically a district there.

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I think, and we've Chesapeake Beach which is a municipality we have not split. Just so they are...what's on the screen, so you know what these different lines mean if it's in light blue that is an actual incorporated municipality.

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These other names that have, you know, in grey those are Census designated places which are not political subdivisions, you know, in the same way like per the executive order but they are unincorporated areas that have some kind of you know designation.

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So anyway, so yeah, we could go down and you can see where the problems here is that the water blocks..If you add like this river over here you end up adding everything around it but, um, but we can do that later.

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So, do you want to do it in the south here? Yeah, why don't you do it that way and then it's so choppy up in Montgomery. What are we doing? Are we breaking up southern Maryland again?

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No, this is..we're extending the Howard, Anne Arundel district a little bit more south.

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And it takes up a little bit of Calvert County, it looks like. Yeah, yeah, just a little bit so we can get to the number, and then not chop up the Laurel, North Laurel, West Laurel territory.

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There's too many people there.

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Alright. So here, we don't have, our choices are getting limited, so let's do that. Now that's one and a half districts right there.

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And so presumably, you would want to,

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you know,

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We're working on Prince George's now right Professor? This is Prince George's.

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And look, I know quite a bit about Prince George's and so you know how we do this, there's a lot of different ways to...where you put Bowie...You know, this is usually not the way we think about Prince George's, I mean maybe you would

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think about the DC,

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that the border with DC as being a kind of way of doing it, but this right now is almost a perfect district.

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I mean, try not to split Bowie there.

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So something like this.

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Right, which takes the eastern Montgomery County area and then the northern part of Prince George's. Again, on the packing concerns, this district,

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because it joins places like Silver Spring, this ends up being about 40-43% non-Hispanic black about 24%, Hispanic, and it's about 7% Asian and about 20% white.

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But again, joining College Park and Bladensburg in these areas with Bowie right, that's one option, the other is to split it, kind of, you know, going east/west as opposed to north/south.

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Um, but if you split it east/west then this bottom district is going to come out and grab that part of George's County.

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If people have preferences, are you satisfied with what you're looking at, want to move on to, moving going down to the lower part of Prince George's and seeing how Calvert comes along?

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Well, let me say this, I'm not wedded to this, I have to really go study this. Yeah. Again, this...

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I'm going to look at the minority population in that area, shaded there, and it should be dominated by Montgomery County.

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I've got, I've got a look at it.

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It's mostly just a Prince George's County District, this whole area here.

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You know from here over is Prince George's County. So it's majority Prince George's County. Yeah. In terms of population. Yeah. Can we freeze that and go down and look at how the rest of Prince George's would be picking up, and this is what the

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Judge had recommended it before I believe. Judge, you let me know if I'm hearing things right. You want to have Prince George's with Charles County? Southern Maryland.

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So, yeah.

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St. Mary's, I guess.

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Yeah, Calvert. Yeah, I'm wondering if we're gonna have too many people. I think we're actually done right, this is, this is the remainder, that's the district.

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That's the district. I can't believe that they came out so close.

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Well, that's because I was doing it, when I was doing it...If you notice the way I was putting the deviations as we worked down, it was all, you know, less than 0.1.

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Okay. Yes. Alright, great.

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So we have, at this point, basic draft maps right? Yeah.

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And these are things for us to ponder. They're not final. I'm seeing a lot of chat talking about the colors that the red means this and just please, for the public, ignore that part, that doesn't have anything to do with politics, it's just like

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these are just colored pivoting of the map. So, our task now is to let this percolate as I said, we have another hearing, we hope to hear from the public during that period of time.

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But we also have to work on legislative maps right? This is just like part one.

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Yeah.

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I'm sorry, go on...what was that? No, I was just going to say with the help of the state planning office, we together just went in and did renumbering, and for those districts where the population met the current requirements, we just sort of renumbered districts. So, we just put a start out there, we shared it with you, Professor...once you've taken a look, there is definitely some clean-up going on because we only spent about a day,

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but the fact that this map does not overly split the counties, is a good thing because we tried to do the same thing. Districts right now rarely cross county lines the senatorial district, so that the complaint people had of, you know, they're in the

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same senatorial district but they're in two congressional districts...some of that should start going away.

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When the two were looked at together.

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I can put your map up on the screen so that people want to see..I loaded it.

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Okay.

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But let me, if we're going to move off of this map, are we comfortable with where these things are right now?

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I mean, you know, just so as I look at this, right, here's the way I would describe it. So you have

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obviously, you've got a....

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The eastern shore and Western Maryland district, plus you have full districts within Montgomery County and one full district within Baltimore County.

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Baltimore City is kept whole. Anne Arundel is split just by two districts, as is Calvert, and as is Prince George's County.

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And so you have, you know, a, in terms of packing and we could talk about...and I can give you the racial composition numbers right, both district six, you can see the statistics,

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55% black. District four is about 43% percentage and subtract from 100 with the combined minority percentages are.

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And so you have, we've got 1,2,3,4, and almost another four majority minority districts. And, you know, really into district 2....

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Interesting question is, is whether this border would be something you would want to change if you saw that it was splitting the Latino population, but I think you can work with this right as a starting point, like, you know, other considerations

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or whether you want this district to go into Baltimore County or whether you wanted

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to, if you wanted to do this, this division that we had here between Howard and...we actually didn't end up doing that, you know whether the split of Calvert,

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you wanted to put it somewhere else. So if you wanted to, for example, you can keep Calvert whole, if you rotate these districts and this is when I print this out and I give this to you all.

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If you push this up, and you push the Howard district into Montgomery, then that would be one fewer county split, and then Montgomery would push over and then this district would push down.

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All right. Should I pull up the other plan?

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Yes, and then I think we should think about wrapping it up for tonight.

01:56:58.000 --> 01:57:04.000

Unless you want to keep on going, I'm just mindful of everyone's time here.

01:57:04.000 --> 01:57:10.000

Let me ask Commissioner Clawson why is it that you have "and"?

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We just said "new".

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We did a renumbering starting from the west and ending up at the eastern shore that was the guidance in the thing. But...

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What does N/A? N/A means we had problems because some of the districts had either lost or gained. And in Baltimore City,

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the numbers actually drive them to lose a complete district.

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And so we had a...

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it got very complicated so that part is not done. It's just a starting point of renumbering, and if it has an N/A that means the problem, there's a problem there because the number of seats, the numbers don't match very well.

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The population numbers that is.

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So, it's a work in progress but a start.

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I noticed that there's a district missing in Western Maryland, mostly consists of Washington County...It's our numbering.

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Oh, yeah. So we know we gotta fix that, that had to be fixed

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as we were coming to us. Let me ask just again procedurally how you would like to deal with the Senate map? Do you want to

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work off of the existing lines? We did try to preserve as much of the core of the existing districts that we could. Yeah, well, one of the challenges is you can usually do that for the first set of districts, but just for the same reasons

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but we were coming into, you know, you start doing that on the outside and then the ones in the middle as I see here, I'm just so....so people are clear, the black districts are the existing Senate lines, and the yellows are the ones that that Commissioner

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Clawson drew.

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Right. So for instance, 40 was a district that included part of, some of Baltimore City and that number 40 was completely moved to another place.

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Yeah. That is inevitably what will happen.

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Yeah.

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Right. But in the cases where existing Senate District lines had population within 5% of the new requirement. We said, okay, for right now, it's a start.

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And for many of the existing district boundaries, they were within that tolerance, without making many adjustments or any adjustments.

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We might want to have a discussion, there isn't time tonight.

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We should probably be looking at maps constructed on several principles and I'm a little uncomfortable with giving too much of an edge to the existing districts; they have some good aspects,

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they have some aspects that I think have been criticized. So...Yes, that's why we were just really trying to take a look around the edges.

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But they are constructed, typically within an entire county.

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That's a good principal. Yeah.

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So it sounds like based on what I'm hearing that we want of course the public to respond to these base maps that we've had.

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And that would be good for the next round of hearings.

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We also will be looking at them, refining them but perhaps the next step is to take a look at what's been presented here so we can have the conversations of what the principles are that we want to establish with the Senate maps, am I hearing that

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right?

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Yeah. Yes, no, maybe?

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Yes. All right. It's a bit confusing, Kate because again, they're renumbered. . Yeah, I'm looking at it and I'm totally confused. Yeah, you know, it's a little late in the hour today too...

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So I think we maybe start out with this and maybe just start from a full description, you know, what was done.

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Let us percolate as I say with the congressional districts. I have to commend the Commissioners for working together to come up with a base map for us to think about for the public to respond to. We really do want to hear,

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maybe redrawing some of these base maps from... we would like to see maps from the public.

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We can read everything that you sent to us. And we certainly have an opportunity to testify at the next three hearings.

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And then we go to work with drawing the maps and then you'll see what we've come up with.

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The one thing I might add is that, obviously we haven't been able to read the chat. There's a lot of chatter in the, in the chat about, and so I know that gets saved.

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Yes it does.. Typically, you know there's at least some...those who are chatting there was a consensus about whether to cross the Chesapeake or not.

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And so I just wanted to note that.

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So, just that it's... Yeah, we'll take a look at everyone's mind...we can, we can always undo the congressional mapping, if there are comments like that, you know, because it's easy to then move you know the district's back so that Harford would be in with Baltimore County. O.K. That sounds great.

02:03:12.000 --> 02:03:24.000

Professor, if you could take a look at the governor's guidance and see if our numbering construct were... what you think is in compliance.

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I do think it is, and you know, this is one of these things where the governor's direction is not totally clear.

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But I think you know going from the northwest to the southeast makes... you've done that here. It would be silly, you know the numbering went east west over the Chesapeake so the way you've done it I think makes a lot of sense.

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All right. Thank you.

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All right, I like to thank Professor Persily, as I said a good teacher makes complicated things easy to understand so appreciate that. And we have, we have a teacher here with Charles, she's you know she's probably going, yeah that's right.

02:04:06.000 --> 02:04:25.000

So, anyway, thank you to the Commissioners for your time tonight, I really appreciate it. And I look forward to subsequent conversations. So with that, we are going to adjourn the meeting unless anyone has anything else to say.

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If not, okay, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone.