

Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission
Full Commission Meeting
June 2, 2021

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I'm water awesome Welcome to this week's meeting of the Commission, and it is very much. Nuts and Bolts looking forward to the summer of activities and in particular the, the age was center hearings we have scheduled so I don't remember one is synopsis

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Item number one is synopsis of commission plan and I think at this point I'm probably going to turn it right back to Kristen and to Secretary McCord, that's okay.

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Sure. Um, so, so in this section we really just wanted to share with everyone kind of a synopsis of what it is that we're doing kind of a timeline and the plans for the commission.

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And that really is all about making sure that you guys understand what kind of a timeline that we're on and what the plan is moving forward.

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Tomorrow or later tonight I will be sending out to you the resource guide. We have added all of the legal cases that judge Williams mentioned last week and asked us to include so we've added some of those, we've added some additional links and that will

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be sent to you tonight on, so that will just give you a little bit of an ideas as timeline the glossary that we discussed earlier and the like.

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Moving on from that, we know that there are probably still a lot of questions that you all may have with regard to how is this going to work, when are we going to get to the nitty gritty, what are we going to understand things.

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So we just kind of wanted to go over with you tonight, a little bit about that timeline and just making sure that you guys understood how that's going to work and when it's going to happen.

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So over the course of the next eight weeks as you know, we will be doing every Wednesday night, except we do have to discuss one of those tonight. Guys, but every Wednesday night for the next

eight weeks, we will be doing meetings and those meetings will

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obviously be our public meetings. Later on in tonight's agenda, we're going to talk more about how those meetings are going to work, and what the format is going to be, and how the public will be able to interact with us, given that it's, these are going

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to be virtual meetings moving forward.

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Aside from those meetings during that time. We also have a subcommittee that is meeting to discuss population projections that are coming out from the Census Bureau, as we are moving forward and projections that have come out in the last couple of years,

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and those projections kind of give you an idea of, of how many people live in certain areas, and what the population counts might be, because one of the things that we could be considering is, you know, is there an area, let's say, for an example, that

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was once a farm and 10 years ago it was a farm with, with two or three people living on it. But since then, it was developed and now we know that that piece of land has 500 people living on it because it was changed into homes or townhouse.

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So those are the types of things that we might be able to get an idea of why pop there's been population growth in certain areas, and that's the kind of information that you guys can utilize moving forward through the summer until that actual data comes

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in, and I'm going to turn this over to rob in just a minute, a secretary record I'm sorry in just a minute to explain that a little bit further to you.

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But as far as that timeline goes and Secretary McCord will will discuss this further as well, is that there's not there's not real numbers that were able to use for redistricting until August, and an August, we will get what we've talked about before

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is that they're calling it the legacy data format. So I just want to make sure everybody's clear on how that works. So, the format that the Census Bureau has used in the past is called legacy format in Maryland, we've used that format in the past so we're

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able to read the data that's going to come out in mid August I believe actually the date is August 16.

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And we'll be able to read and utilize that data. But before we can, we have to do prisoner reallocation. And what that means is, is that we have to take all the prisoners that are in in incarcerated in Maryland prisons and we need to allocate them back

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to their last known home address, so that they can be counted in that area.

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We're ready to go on that we've we've got our ducks in a row on that, but the the formatting it and making sure that it's all aligned to take up into up to about three weeks.

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And so we're ready to move on that, but it still is going to take a couple of weeks until that's finalized, then you probably have seen that by September 30 date out there that by September 30 date is when the final data is expected to be released.

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Now, the US Census Bureau is not guaranteeing or cannot guarantee that that data will be 100% certain and 100% certain match with that data that they're releasing in mid August.

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So because of that, we just have to make sure once that data is out in that new format that it aligns and matches perfectly with that data that comes out that we're going to be able to start using that is released in mid August.

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Once that's complete and all of that information is where it needs to be. Then we're going to be able to start accepting maps from the public, based on real population data from the US Census, and that is when your work begins.

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And with that, I mean obviously your work is beginning before that, but obviously your work begins on on drawing the maps then, but with that I'm going to hand this over to Secretary McCord to talk a little bit more about that.

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Right, thank you, Kristen.

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Can you hear me am I off mute now Right. Yeah. Very, very good. All right. Um, I just want to let you know that all those out all

those time frames that Christmas outline for you.

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If we receive anything earlier than anticipated. We will go to work on it earlier than anticipated. So, if anything, those timelines could be condensed by the work that we would do.

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So we are prepared to reallocate the prisoners. We have done a dry run of that with geo coding process and the contractor that we have that's going to actually place them in the new census geographies, as they're ready to go as soon as we get the data,

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they will do the work, but our piece of it is, at this point, pretty much done with, and then we'll be able to check that data and get it done quickly so if we can condense it, we will certainly condense the timeframe.

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But I can't give you any guarantee until we get the data, and actually have the work done we're putting in place, everything we need to do to have that data be put in the right place, as soon as possible.

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The other things that we're trying to do here are to make sure that we can be responsive to the conditions requests about projections and what might be useful to you.

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So, things that we have in progress, but are not yet complete our total trying to make sure we get you a good set of maps of the existing districts and the districts that have multiple members in them.

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And if we have multiple member districts you'll see where they are and understand the conditions charge about where it's feasible to eliminate the multiple member districts.

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So, we will try to get that data so it overlays each other. Graphically, so you can see all of the existing districts in Maryland, and then Christian is going to show you that right now.

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this is one of the, this is prototype work that we're doing.

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This is available on our website right now as far as all the districts in Maryland, you can get it from the General Assembly's website you get from planning website.

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All of the districts in Maryland. In this grayscale shows you multiple member districts. So all of these in grey are multiple member districts. So that's where you will have considerations of whether they can be combined to make single member districts,

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if possible. So, you will have to again as I said last time. Consider your organizing principles, the principles will follow what's in the executive order.

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And then if you have a preference to make sure that municipality lines are respected and you want to make sure that you're not dividing a county arbitrarily, you will, you'll need to think through how multiple member districts are handled so they become

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single member districts throughout the state. And we are going to try to put maps like this together for you so that with one click, you'll be able to see all of them and color.

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All the single member districts, all the multiple member districts, and then see the difference between the two. I just toggling back and forth, and that work is in progress right now.

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And that's, that's one of the, one of the things that we're working on for you. The other thing we're working on for you is trying to make sure that, like, the, the maps that we made available to the public.

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During census, where they're based on last census data and American Community Survey data, you could click by census tract and see characteristics of the census tract, that's that's the example that Kristen was just putting up here.

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Use these are, this is the kind of information this is 15 pages worth of ways to slice the data, basically, you could slice the data by all of these different kinds of variables, they'll all be available to you.

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but if you wanted them. If there are specific variables that were of interest to you. And there should be variable interest you, of course, at the time that this process happens.

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We're going to try to give you all this information, but some information you a particularly interested in.

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The ancestry thing that you're seeing on the screen right now is how people identify with their heritage, but how people identify by race would be more important so we will make sure that there'll be a toggle for race will be a toggle for.

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There'll be a toggle for race, and a toggle for Hispanic, and then Hispanic can be expanded to nationalities within Hispanic so that we can better understand those communities of interest, and there are all different kinds of this is 15 pages worth of

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data that can be displayed. But we will get your input into what would be important to you as a commission, find out by kind of one click, or two clicks, this information so that's what we're working on right now to make sure that you have the kind of

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tools that would help you make the distinctions because you're literally going to have to put the line somewhere or extend a line somewhere. We're also going to try to make sure that you have the population of each of the counties.

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Remember, below the county level it gets. There's less of confidence and the number so at the county level. They are some confidence in what ACS does.

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The ability to toggle between a county and potentially municipalities and see what the population is counties are going to try to overlay that with the growth rates, that we can tell what's happened in these counties since, 2010, so you'll get an indication

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that this is a growing County, or this.

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If we can get it down to the census tract area that the census tract is growing or not growing but we'll do what we can at the county level, and then try to bring it down.

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If we have level of confidence that we can present something to you that would be useful. And as we do this process, as you start to consider what you would need any of the commissioners can just go ahead and again use Christian as a point of reference

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to suggest to us, would you have data on fill in the blank, we have data on x, we will be able to see if we have that data, how current that data is and could that data be added to tools that

we could create for you to use.

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So, these are just tools, we will make no suggestions on where the lines will be will be happy to show you where to store clients are, but we will not make suggestions on where line should be.

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That's the job of the Commission, acting as a body, and it's clearly not the job of planning acting on its own. So, we will give you historical data, we will give you the best projections data that the Census Bureau has done, and we will give you were

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We're also trying to figure out if we can get data from the Council of Governments that include the DC area and Baltimore area. If they have building permit data that's available, my department has done a building permits survey of each jurisdiction to

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find out if they have.

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We know if they have building permit software and what kind of software they have. So we're going to try to see how much of that could be made available for this process so I'm just looking at every angle to develop tools that would be helpful to you

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in your process. And all the while knowing that, whichever way you might be leaning on a certain district will have to be updated. When new data becomes available.

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So that's, I guess, pretty much an overview from my perspective what we're what we're up to inside the house a plan.

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Um, so of course, those tools will be provided to you as soon as we get them so that you have them, we finalize them, you have that information. We just talked about that data timeline.

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August. By September 30, just kind of making sure that everything's aligned with the prisoner reallocation has been taken care of and that that is good to go.

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And then of course we can actually start drawing lines and using magnitude we've talked about magnitude, somewhere in there later this summer. You guys will get a training in depth training on how to utilize magnitude it's going to be an important tool

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for you all to use, and we don't want you to think that we expect you just had to know how to use it. Once we get to that point, there will be trainings prior to the actual use of that tool as to how you utilize it for the, for the chore that you have

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ahead of you in crafting these redistricting line.

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Now, moving forward from that, we know that your your your task should be presented to the Maryland General Assembly by I believe it is January, 12.

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That being the case, you will need to have things wrapped up in December, so you don't have a really large window to do what you have to do once that data is finalized, but we just want you to know that we're going to provide you the tools and the training

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that you need so that when you get to that point, you're able to do what you need to do during that window that you have.

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Walter.

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I wanted to put in from experience with the emergency sex district commission that the governor's office needs to be a lot of an irreducible minimum of at least a couple of weeks to turn a multitude map into actual legislation because our job reaches

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its desired main conclusion when we got maps, we agree on.

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But that's not in legal language, and that drafting can be done over a weekend so that's one reason why the time has to be built in between our agreement on maps, and the governor is actually sending legislation to call the assembly.

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Okay, and I can ask the question, what is the time frame for providing training to the commissioners with reference to the software and the map is a drawing.

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I can tell you judge Williams, I can tell you that we have been working with magnitude on that, and we have to work out.

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One more bug in math attitude, as it's working for us right now,

to make sure that it will be working the way it needs to work for the commission, and we are close to resolving that situation.

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And as soon as that situation is resolved. We plan to load the software.

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And we plan to load a laptop with an assign a laptop, each Commissioner, and have the laptop be able to connect to magnitude and be able to do your work and start the training will set the training up once we have the ability to have a laptop in your

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hand that you can use exclusively for this process, and you'll be able to to work on that on that process with the laptop that the state will provide to each of the commissioners, and that's already in progress right now.

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They have to be set up, but there is a, there's an issue and map to that needs to be resolved that we were working with aptitude to resolve, it's a it's a data processing issue.

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And we want to make sure the full functionality is available to so that's what what we're doing right now to make sure that that's resolved so my folks have given me a note that they're continuing to work on that issue, and that issue should be resolved

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shortly. And then we will be issuing laptops to each of the commissioners, and you will be able to will be setting up the training once we know the issue is resolved.

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But there's no you're starting the training, if the system isn't working the way that we envision it to work for you.

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And that training. The training I think judge Williams had been discussed at some point in time is probably an August, is that correct Secretary record that the training would be an August since we have weekly meetings leading up to them.

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And that's that's that's one timeframe for sure.

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We could we have a little flexibility with that, but it is the vendor most used by all of the states that are the majority of states that are doing the process we're using the same vendor.

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So, we will make sure that we get the training slots, as soon as possible, and make them available to the commission, as soon as possible so we have to work out the bugs, get the training slots, and then make those choices available to the commission.

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I just like to go back to the days when everything has to be completed.

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And if we looked at if we heard that January 12 is the deadline to submit to the General Assembly and Walter saying two weeks back from that, we need to have everything done.

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That's December 29.

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So practice more than two weeks because the orders are the orders and December 22 is a three weeks.

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us to to want to give at least one additional week because you never know when the drafting process is going to run into some sort of hit on.

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Is that fair to say that if we can wrap up with with batteries and maps by December 15 December 15. Yeah, we in originally to those who then have to take the ball from our hands and and take it off the field correctly it originally set around that date.

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date. Okay. December 12 falls on a Sunday so December 15 makes a lot of sense to have everything done everything submitted our job is done that right. Correct.

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What I believe in practice, we have a little bit more leeway in the following of our report because it, it doesn't underlie the legislation. So, if we are a week or two later and correct me if I'm wrong in.

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In, following our report, it's not going to prevent the process of introducing the legislation from going forward. but the map is needed.

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Yes, let me let me just confirm that the everything that you see

depicted on a map has to be translated into at the at the largest level of county that you would include potentially three counties St Mary's and Charles and, and it, or in in the district,

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and then as soon as you go beyond Charles to pick up a couple areas in the next County, those areas must be described by census tract. So all those senses tracks have to be confirmed as in that area.

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Just give me a big example, and that has to happen for all 141 legislative districts plus the eight congressional districts as you're doing.

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And if there is, if there is a point where the commission is comfortable with the congressional map, but within the congressional map. There's there are no other issues between the commission.

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Then, literally, the drafting of a bill for the congressional districts could start happening as you finish something for the legislative districts. So, there is a little bit of.

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If you come to some consensus on a congressional map. Then, once you reach that consensus some kind of drafting can be done there. But I don't want to.

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I don't want to predict that you will come to a consensus there and not want to refer to that as you're looking at the legislative districts also not totally independent but they're not totally dependent.

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But, whichever piece of the map that you're comfortable with. We could start the drafting process on before you finish the final map but but that's just a little bit of leeway there in case you came to agreement early on the drafting for congressional

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districts could get done. But if if your goals had everything done by December 15.

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That should give the time that's needed to put the put the maps into legislative language, it's pages and pages and pages now I will try to get you. I will, I'll make a note to get you.

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What a district, how a district appears in law. And so you will

see that just for your information, to see how a district appears in the law, because there's not a picture, your open lot, you don't open the article in the annotated code and see a map,

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you open the annotated code and you see pages and pages of numbers which are correspond to census districts and census tracts. And sometimes counties, and we take a big breath and we see county because the entire county is included, you don't have to

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worry about the death senses district, but when you start to go beyond the county though census districts have to be included and specifically enumerated in the bill itself and then it has to be double check to make sure it's correct.

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And then that geography has to be recreated from the language and overlaid on what you've come up with to make sure they aligned. So there's a piece of work there and make sure that all the hard work you do, is represented correctly in the bill language,

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that gets submitted by the governor's office so is there, software that helps with that as well. Yes, yes the software. Yeah, there, there, there is software that helps that and magnitude has a component that will help with that.

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And that's one of the reasons why they have a lot of customers across the country because they, they're pretty good at that. But they humanize checking that up and down the border lines to make sure that the software is picked up exactly, and nobody has

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keyed in a wrong number here and there, it's critical to the process because, you know, I want to say that the human eyes are as critical as software that can do its job, but without the human eyes, we need to understand where the commission was going

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and what the commission was trying to achieve and make sure that the software shows exactly the kind of map that you drew.

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So yeah, so one of the things I think that's pretty clear from what Secretary record just described and what Dr Heather and Shannon and Walter Olson have talked about is that's a very tedious process, and it's, it's not necessarily a simple write something

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up if there's a lot of elements to it. And of course if you look

at the calendar at that date of December 15, you're looking at the fact that that leads up to the week before Christmas.

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And that leads up to the week before New Years, and how that's all going to work and so holiday schedules with the people who are crafting that that legislation might be difficult so the earlier the better.

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And, you know, would be obviously what we're recommending, obviously, we're not suggesting that you rush it to try to get it done early in December, but but just if you look at that date of the 15th.

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The earliest around that day, the better and certainly not after that date because that will really put a crunch on things.

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If we go for much too much further past that.

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Also, do we have to have a public hearings once map is proposed before we can do finalizing.

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So that has to be so you, we really are have to back it up even more to get the public hearings and.

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Very much so. So we need to have the idea of what we want to post to the public. You know, we may find in the public hearings that people have good objections and they want the ones to remove somewhat, we have to allow ourselves time to take the good

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suggestions, but it means that at least a preliminary consensus on map issues needs to come, well before the December 15 Ross we won't have time for those public hearings.

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Well, I'm gonna make this request and Kristen maybe you could help with this Since you're so good at the calendaring if what we just discussed tonight.

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If you can put that in writing for us, and I mean if the preferred time is really December, 8, then that's the preferred time.

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And then with that, I'm always thinking of you know the old Kofi statement begin with the end in mind, let's do that. Look what

that end is right and then move up from that and see where we have to go in terms of how much time we have for the public hearings

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and when we might think that they put a curve.

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Right, just you know if December 10 is a Friday.

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You know, hoping to have everything wrapped up by December 10.

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With regard to being able then to kind of finalize anything, so that you're just putting finishing touches on things and hopes of getting it to their office, either by the end of the 10th, the 13th 14th 15th at the absolute latest, and that gives you

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some time in November, but again of course we're also then up against the holidays as well, to have those public hearings. So if we know that the maps that the final absolute final data that we have to have confirmation on before we can finalize maps,

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is that the data that is comes out by September 30.

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We're really going to have the month of October, to, to get the crux of the work done that month of October is there, and then November, we can have additional hearings, with regards to the maps.

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During that time, we can be accepting maps and Secretary report I'm going to have you speak a little bit more about that.

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Yeah, we will accept public submissions of maps, and we've come up with a, like a catalog and systems to say this map is a proposal for district three Lyssa district three this is just district 35, and we will have them index and available to you in the

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system so that you will be able to review each of them. You may take components of those maps, see where a line that you knew on the west side of a district you were having trouble with and three people may have suggested three different ways to make

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that Western line, if, if you like one of those ways, then you may, you know, you may advise the condition that you think this,

this way to draw the line is good.

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And so, we will will work with making an index of everything that's submitted available to you. And then once you start having proposed maps for the commission.

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They will be public on the website. These are the proposed maps of the Commission, you're hearing comments on that you may be hearing may actually be seeing people who will submit something that says, I like this better, where we don't like this one.

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We will continue to take those submissions on the proposed maps, and you'll be able to see them also will try to, we'll have, we'll have a tool catalog index indexing system for that so you'll be able to go in and find out what's going on.

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So, as the public is giving you public comment. And as a public you're submitting actual maps for you to consider for a particular districts you'll be still be able to see those and access those.

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And then that will inform your final discussions and your final deliberations on if you, if you change anything that's been proposed if somebody's swayed you or if there are considerations that come to the come to the fore that you hadn't heard before,

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in all the public comment. And then you'll be able to make the final adjustments to your maps for

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before they're finished, but we will go ahead.

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Do we have guidance on what the allowable deviation will be from the actual doing the arithmetic numbers for single member district and congressional districts, whether it's five or 10, you know that.

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Yes, we will we will get that for you and we will get that I think that can be loaded into the system so that if you start pointing a line, and you deviate by if we set the parameter at like 5% one way or the other.

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If you go into 7%, it'll tell you that you've gotten too much. There's too many people in this district. So that's one of the beauties of the software.

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so we'll set that up so that they'll, you know, whether it's three or 5% will let you know that the ideal district is within this this amount for the blessing of districts.

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Great, thanks.

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QUESTION So Secretary McCord. Yes, yes. And the goal is to set the software will let us know what we have to do people included into one district. I was doing some research to try to figure out where that 700,000.

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Yeah, the 770 number. Right, right. Yeah, was who decided that and why was that decided that was just, and how long ago was that was that number decided as well.

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Know that they the portion number determines the congressional districts, so we don't have enough people when you look at the entire country. So the number eight is the number of districts, we didn't gain enough or lose enough population and the unfortunate

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account to change the number of seats, so we have eight seats, then you take the apportionment number and simply divide it by eight, and most of the federal court decisions about Washington for state districts, bring it down to almost exactly the same

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number of people in each district so that's why there's kind of a magic number for congressional districts, there's a different company that that's trying to operationalize the one person, one vote concept, so that a district of 10 people in a district

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of the 100 people do not get created that's the easiest example because the district of 10 people. Each person has kind of 10% influence their addition of 100 people.

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Each person only has a 1% influence there. So, if you had 50 in each district and everybody would have the same amount of influence their vote kind of counts the same as the same weight in legislative redistricting for the state process, there's a deviation

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allowed within like three to 5%, and this is, it's not set in law as much as it's set in case law what courts have decided have

have pushed the envelope too far, is where we know when they pushed it too far.

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So, the congressional we shoot for exactly the same number of people in each congressional district in legislative district think we have a little bit of leeway based on the cases and we will we will show that to you in them.

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And that's, I'm going to say, let's just for argument's sake, let's say it's around three to 5% variation between districts, but it's all to carry out the Supreme Court's

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concept of one person, one votes everybody has the same everybody's vote has the same kind of the same weight.

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And this was decided by the Supreme Court.

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Well, the concept has been there for a long time, and the cases in the congressional side have have consistently come out with the concept of substantially the same number of people in each district, so that almost everybody shoots for trying to get exactly

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the same number of people in each congressional district and legislative districts they look at a little differently, and look and give a little bit more leeway.

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But the cases that have challenged legislative district. So, we will have that for you and show you what that isn't built into the software.

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When you pull more people into the district, and you're off of the kind of ideal number, you'll know how far off your, the ideal number. There's actually percentages that will grow and shrink based on the kind of imagined you're drawing a square.

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And if you get the square bigger percentage will start to get bigger, if you get a smaller percentage will come down near zero, and they don't all have to be zero at the legislative level, but at the congressional level.

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We have to get as close to the same number of people as possible, and will and will. We won't go down the street and pull, three people from the other side of the street to make it work.

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But that's not how that's not practice how it will work but you will be able to see what's the ideal number there, and you'll be close, and you'll be within a certain.

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In some cases of a fraction of a percentage, or what's, what's the ideal district. So, it's just all the way that the legal concept of kind of one person, one vote everybody having the same way, it's carried out in practice.

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So that's what we.

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That's how the software gets loaded that's how most people will be working them across this all across the country.

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So that'll that'll be part of the training for the software to so you'll see the vendor will be able to show you.

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All right. Thank you. No problem.

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The question. More about logistics here because I feel that we have to bring the public to having those public hearings and they seem to this can be more than one.

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So how is it going to play out with the meetings and having those meetings also added to this discussions and when is the time to discuss all the material and and getting sure that we aren't getting the lines redrawn, and all of that.

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So, how we factor that in. So GLORIA That's going to actually be discussed on our, our third agenda item tonight is how those meetings are going to work and and that type of stuff, the outreach for them.

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We're going to discuss the post melt proposal hearings, or glory we're asking about the, the hearings that will happen later after we propose them up or the hearings that are about to start next week, the listening to all know that because that's going

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to be taking some time so we have eight regions. So you're going to have to factor that in first of all to this first discussion. Then we're going to have another one we get the said that the set of data from the senses.

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Then we're going to have what we're discussing about the maps, and then what we're going to have by finalizing all the projects. There are several hearing through series of hearings and they don't all have to be aired, it, it's quite possible that we

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might want a need for more than eight.

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want a need for more than eight. When we're getting into the granular detail of districts because there may be so much to discuss about a smaller portion of the stage, that we can get through all of that public discussion in just had hearings.

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So, the, the agents that are being that that are starting off, are not going to set any particular precedent of those regions will wind up being regions for other purposes.

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They're just reasons for listening, but we're going to find probably some parts of the map are easier than others. And we might want to concentrate hearings on the things we're most undecided about or with our most complicated for example.

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And I'll talk a little bit more I'm sorry I'll touch on that a little bit more on our third agenda item as well. Okay, that was the point I was trying to get to earlier just trying to get a sense of when these dates so when the end date is what are the

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dates in between. But it's, it's kind of hard It sounds like right now, because we haven't started with the map so have a sense of how many meetings per week.

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You know how, how many weeks that it will take. So, I think, as soon as we get that information will have to create that calendar, so people know when they should attend.

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But it's I'm hearing it's a little challenging to do at this time. It's so hard to know in advance because different things could happen for example the public could send us wonderful maps that we all are not in our head saying just this solves almost

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every problem.

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You know that we have three great maps the public has sent them.

And let's have hearings just about the little area that we're uncertain about or could be if we get no good mouse, and we've got a whole lot more work to do for ourselves.

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It could be I have competitors for the jigsaw puzzle that sometimes you find that one corner of the board solves itself pretty quickly and without would represent consensus of how one region of the state might fall out and then other parts are very hard

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to solve. And that's why I say it's hard to announce it geographic schedules too far in advance because you don't know what is going to turn out to be the hard problems to solve.

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All right, I think we got that.

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Thank you,

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Until we move on, I'm just mindful of how we read it. We are at 20 minutes to age. of the population subcommittee report. I will make it very quick because we met last night for the first time. We heard at length from Secretary on record saying, covering

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some of the same ground that we've just heard, plus some additional detail about things like the nature and and pluses and minuses of the American Community Survey, and some pointers for where the subcommittee, which is going to be called the population

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of the subcommittee, where it might want to point its research what about where it can flush out clicker like questions of population shifts within counties as opposed to, we have pretty good numbers for which God is have grown at what right but we don't

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necessarily know as much about whether the north or south side of economy has grown.

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The.

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Going forward, the CO chairs.

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Jonathan Westfield and very close and have generously volunteered

the CO chairs and there is room for a third one if we want to go up to three but starting with the next report that the subcommittee report will be coming from, from Mary or Jonathan.

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And

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am I forgetting things.

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We are our next meeting of the population subcommittee is Thursday, the Am I remembering right 17th. I didn't write it down.

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So there will be a little gap, but by the time we reconvene them. It's going to be a noon meeting, by the way, which is welcome to many of us who have been wanting to experiment with with daytime meetings.

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At that point we will have had at least the eastern shore meeting and I hope we'll have a bunch of new inspiration for the types of data that the subcommittee will want to be looking for.

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And it commissioners from the subcommittee things I've missed off without.

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Okay.

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Well, in that case I'll move on to section three of our agenda, public meetings overview, and once again I'm going to turn it over the question. Okay, So, as we know our first meeting is next Wednesday and it's going to be a bit of a challenge to have

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a virtual meeting, such as this where the the main point of the meeting is is seeking input and commentary from the public. So basically it will be set up as a zoom meeting we have already set it up we're going to do a walk through tomorrow.

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Just some, some planning department, team members to kind of make sure everything is going to work as we want it to. And after we get all of that done, I will post the instructions for how members of the public can sign up to provide testimony can submit

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their testimony in advance if they just want to submit it to the commission but not provide it live during the meeting. So those

meetings are going to start promptly at six o'clock on the designated dates that we've discussed.

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There will be various options for individuals to submit testimony, or indicate that they want to provide testimony, and those are that they could submit an advanced to the commission members for their review, but not have something read publicly so that's

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just submitting to the members of the Commission, a document that they want you to read.

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Perhaps it we could kind of have a maximum of 750 words attachments will be accepted, but not to exceed a certain number of pages.

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That would be one way, you just submit what you want to submit to the commission to to consider, and any attachments that you might want to include. You also could have submissions that essentially, let us know that you want to provide your comments,

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live during the meeting, in which case we are setting up a forum that I'm going to show you in just a minute as to how someone will register for the meeting, and indicate how they intend to interact with the group.

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There will be a registration link with the, with the meetings and an individual will be able to essentially to kind of check a box and say, I plan on preventing the plan on presenting my testimony live, I'd like to submit testimony for consideration,

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don't want it, but but don't want to speak live, and then also letting people know that if while watching the meeting, they decide that they have a question that they can enter it into the chat box.

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That will come directly to panelists, of course we're not expecting the entire commission to kind of be watching chat box for those questions, we will have a team that is identifying the individuals who are asking to speak.

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During the meeting, by identify that identifying those in that chat, and then we'll be able to kind of essentially have a list. So those people who sign up in advance of the meetings will be able to say, Kristen from an Arundel County has a question and

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then we will make, we would make that square, we would unmute that person and allow them to come on through video, if they if they wanted to join that way.

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And then they would be able to ask their question, there will be a three minute maximum per person. That is a question I have for this group based on on er six based on past experience is three minutes too much should it be two and a half minutes, do

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you have a preference

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over the been involved in.

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Er sex, as well as the earlier one three minutes seems good to me.

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And it's you know it's always possible that the chair can consider if certain hearings very few people show up and you might be a little more lenient and say you know please take five but three minutes is a good start.

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Most people can get some things said that's important to them them, and a tendency of people to want to take the microphone for too long.

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You do need to limit and you need to enforce it.

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Or else it's unfair to the people will come later.

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So we will try our best to give kind of a 22nd notice to people indicating, you have 20 seconds, and we're looking at ways to see if we can kind of present that on the screen, but it may have to be just someone saying 20 seconds or ticking bomb with the

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fuse, or just a clock counting down so so we're looking at ways to do that. And, but but we will make sure that people understand that it's, it's time to wrap up.

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One of the other questions that we had for the group was one other option that people could have because this is virtual though this could turn into.

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It might not be as easy as it might sound when you first think about it is if people wanted to submit their testimony for a moderator to read.

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The problem with that is is that you could have a moderator reading for an hour, the letters that people submit so it's kind of perhaps the best, best practice to have people submit their testimony that they want the commission to consider and review,

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and they don't expect it to be read publicly, but it will be acknowledged and recorded that you all have received it, it could be as I said it could be something where we say to people, you know, the average number of words for three minutes speech is

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390.

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So, if you know if anybody's watching this and they're trying to figure out how many words to write for a three minute speech, the average is about 390 words, but if you're submitting written documentation that's that the Commission is going to be reading,

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then we might want to say, try to cap it at 750 words, with no more than five attachments, and the you know the five pages I'm sorry five pages of attachments, however you guys want to do that.

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That is, is fine by me but I think that what makes sense is to kind of have those three options submitted in advance and it will be reviewed by the Commission and read but it will not be read out loud.

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During the meeting, you can notify us in advance that you would like to speak, in which case we will according to the list as we got it. As we enter into the public commentary section of the meeting, we will say him from the eastern shore has a question,

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I will then make Kim's. I will then unmute him, I will make her camera go live and she will give her commentary, to the full commission at two minutes 30 seconds, she'll be notified that she needs to wrap up, and three minutes.

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pretty much cut it off, or say, Your time is up. If it doesn't wrap up, if an individual doesn't wrap up very quickly after

giving the after having been provided the noticed your time and your time is now up, then we would just simply have to cut them

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off. And I want to make a comment here a few times you said you can submit your questions or give your question. This is really a listening session. So this is a question like a q amp a that we're doing.

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I'm sorry for us to listen.

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Because we're really at the beginning stages of this so from, I just want the audience to realize we're all of yours.

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So, okay, thank you.

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Thank you for that clarification. That's actually a very important clarification when, when I'm what I'm saying questions submit your questions I, I actually don't mean questions.

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What we're meaning is your commentary your testimony. So I'd like to submit testimony for the commission to review and listen to, I'd like to speak live.

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During the meeting in which case, your camera and your microphone will be made live during the meeting. And then the final one is I'm listening. I thought of a question I asked it in the chat box.

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That question is not seen by everybody who was on the call all of the attendees all the panelists. It's reviewed and then we essentially start a queue of those individuals who would like to start question, like to ask questions, those will be asked.

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After those individuals who have noticed notified us in advance that they would like to provide testimony. And then, and then we will get to the individuals who asked to provide testimony, through chat and we will again just as we did with somebody who

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has let us know in advance, we will have their microphone and camera go live and they will be able to provide it in a similar fashion.

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So we, I think we begin with the three minute.

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I do think, as time goes on, and it depending on that sign up that we might ask people to be more succinct and maybe look at two minutes.

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And people always have the opportunity to put comments in writing which, and we will read everything. There's no question about that we will do that. But I'm just mindful of people especially if they have children, they're waiting for hours to get on

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to have their two minutes.

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But I think we have to take a look at that.

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I think we have to take a look at that. Absolutely, absolutely. So, so that is essentially how that would work.

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You know, we would ask people when they could to, you know, we will encourage people in the release as to making sure that they send that testimony to us in advance, or that they request to speak live in advance that will streamline things, and that will

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really let us know how many people we should expect and how long something should take those meetings, starting next week will also start with a brief summary.

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Welcome, from one of the commission co chairs to just kind of let people know what we're doing here what our timeline is, and the like. It will then very, I would suggest move very quickly into that public commentary section, because as we've said this

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is really meant to be an opportunity for us to listen to the concerns of Marylanders and what they want. The commission to hear the meetings will stream live to the Maryland, Shannon YouTube channel.

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And we will also stream them live through the Twitter and Facebook so that as many people as possible, are able to watch and see it, if they don't want to.

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If they don't want to participate in the zoom, they certainly can watch it on YouTube, all of that information will be provided in the meeting information for that specific meeting so if you go to

the website redistricting maryland.

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gov. There is a, you click on the meetings button. There is a date for each meeting, you click on that meeting, and all of the information the agenda, the instructions for how to join the instructions for sending information in advance, all of that will

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live in that location. One of the questions that we're going to be looking into is obviously we know that we are able to have subtitles within the zoom with within this platform, we're looking at the ability to also have that converted to different languages,

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there is that capability in zoom. And so with hope we'll be able to have that.

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Because this is not a live meeting and we have the subtitles. We probably do not need to have an ASL interpreter but we will reach out to that office to to get their opinion on it, but certainly when we move to later meetings where they're either a hybrid

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format and we have people there in person, or if they're all in person down the road, and we would absolutely have an American Sign Language Interpreter at those meetings, signing up for the meetings, people will get a registration link, when they go

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to the link or when they when they click on that link information in the meeting section that will tell them what they need to do, how it's going to work, what the meeting is they'll provide some basic information first and last name, their email address,

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and then they'll click an area where it says.

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Actually, I will share my screen.

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If I can see what I'm looking at. Krista while you're pausing I just wanted to let you know i don't know if you saw that, Williams hand was raised earlier.

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Oh, I'm sorry I jumped because I have stuff up on my screen I'm sorry William.

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This one I just wanted to remember culture will Olson mentioning

and previous meetings about not having to cut the public off who wants to get a political propaganda, making sure to keep their time to specifically asking the question, I just wanted to

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snow bear we want to be in some type of instruction given regarding virtual backgrounds and propaganda being posted.

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You know, either be a virtual background or in the backdrop of their video there's some question. When then when their camera goes live.

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That's actually an excellent point and I'll work that into the description, I've put up on the form. I'm sorry I put up on the screen. The webinar registration that people will see, this is just what I have now in the, in the description of what this

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event is this will all go live tomorrow and I will update the description to indicate exactly what you've just said, and then whoever is going to serve as the, the moderator of next week's meeting.

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Could will also want to include that in his or her remarks, as to the very next week. Cherry next week. Okay. So Dr Hetherington will certainly want to work that into your remarks.

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As to making sure that people are kind of following the rules with it with as William said their, their virtual backgrounds and what we can and cannot listen to.

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And I think that judge Williams has has talked about that in the past as well. Well, you also have the option of cutting people off when they don't exactly so if someone to do that.

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Yeah, if someone starts down a rabbit hole that is inappropriate.

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We certainly can cut them off as well.

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Williams point is is excellent though because there will be people who will try to slip in a virtual background. And I think as Kate says, we can go on listening to their audio but they might find that their video has been cut off if they've used it in

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Thank you for bringing that up because I have to admit I did not see that coming. And it was a coin. It is a great, great point. So, Christian, I had a question, you have a start time of six but I think you need to indicate it in time, or you know what

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this is just it's just based on the way that you set things up when you set up a time, you set up a start time and then you add that last two hours, that information will be there this is just the registration form.

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The registration that somebody would get to, but that information that at six to eight, they would have seen that before they get to this, but let's just stop for a second and think about that.

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I mean I, who knows you could have hundreds of people from Eastern Shore area who want to speak and now it's five of eight.

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Are those people going to be asked to come to a subsequent meeting, or we just hang in there till we're done.

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The cameras will not that the meeting will not kick off at eight.

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We have unlimited time so I just want you to know that that the meetings, won't it won't kick off at eight but that's a question for your commission.

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I will say, and I, I know this is not welcome, necessarily, but our policy on the earlier Commission's was that no one had to go home without speaking, even if it meant was a late night for us.

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They had. Now it's a little bit different when they hadn't show up in person, which was often a big burden but I. If we possibly can do it. I really hope that we could everyone who has shown up their, their chance to speak, even if we have to cut it down

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to a minute to a person, rather than told them that we've run out of time.

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Okay that I'm fine with I just want to know what the protocol was, it's a lot easier to keep on. If you're not, you don't have like 100 mile drive to get home, at 12 o'clock at night, so we're doing it from zoom, it's a lot easier.

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Right.

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But, yes, my question is, this is for an ideal what individuals are very user friendly with computers and I can go and register the community that I bring in is the immigrant community, the community that is not as savvy to go into the website and read

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when the redistricting committee hearing is going to be for us what we have to be putting a lot of more marketing and kind of walk them through the way that we have worked with bringing the community together through with all these organizations that

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can then relay the information and make them comfortable to come in and be part of this. So, what I suggest that I know that you'd love to do this in the website but we have to have some marketing material, stick to something that can say we need your

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Picture something that can say we need your voice, we want you, and we might have to do it one in English and one in my case I do, Spanish, but we have to have sending that along this, I just sent with the group I just share the link that you sent me

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but now we have a registration process. So I think it's important that that we can factor in how we're going to get to the community that we want their voice their regular, all of us here can go and do what you're saying, but I feel that that community

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that we need their voice, we have to work hand in hand with them. Absolutely. So GLORIA What I'm just doing now and I know we have to be sensitive time is just letting people know kind of how that will work as far as people how they will provide their

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testimony.

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And you can see that will, and I'm going to get to what you're talking about, which is most important part which is getting the word out and public outreach on that.

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So I just wanted people to see how this will work.

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We will just ask county of residents just so that we know we can kind of have that information there but really, what is that in part and parcel of all of this is making sure that people know about these meetings, because people aren't just going to happen

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upon our website and say oh I, I'm going to come to that meeting, and people aren't sitting there drinking their morning coffee thinking when is redistricting happen I really want to find out more information about that.

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We have to let them know that we're in the process. So in a similar fashion as we got the word out about the census which is going to provide us the data to us for redistricting.

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We're really going to utilize a lot of community outreach, we're going to utilize, community leaders such as Gloria, for the eastern shore we're going to be contacting community leaders, the people that we worked with in the census and getting the workout,

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elected officials.

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We're going to be asking chambers, as well as Maryland Association of Counties. Rowan ml. We're going to be asking all of those organizations to help us spread the word to Facebook and we'll do social media.

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Advertisements essentially not paid for this round, probably, we'll get to that when we have the maps round. But if there is money in the budget to do that, we can look at that, but but really what we're going to be doing is focusing on getting the word

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out through grassroots efforts, there will come a time when we have to advertise in a more organized fashion, with regard to whether it be newspaper advertisements in areas where there isn't significant broadband.

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Again, this is going to be for future meetings where we're hoping to have, at a minimum, hybrid with hope in person, opportunities for people to attend.

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But for this virtual round we're really going to try to spread the word through those grassroots efforts through community outreach, creating a visual that you can post on your on your Facebook page or your Twitter or whatever it might be, or just to

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simply send to all of those community leaders that we're going to be saying, Can you help us spread the word about this about.

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Are there more questions as part of our discussion.

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We are past eight o'clock so if not we should probably think of wrapping up the next meeting will be the first of the public listening to our meetings, it will be focused on the eastern shore and it will be chaired by a kid Hetherington.

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Kate Hetherington. Any other comments or questions or discussion before I take a motion to adjourn. I just wanted one more thing to respond to what Gloria was saying with regard to the registration and the zoom and all of that.

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One of the things that the, that our outreach and the even on the website in that meeting section will indicate is that all of that can also simply be emailed to redistricting.

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You don't have to go on and do everything through that zoom platform, if you if you want to submit your testimony. If you want to let us know that you want to testify, whatever it might be, you can do that through the website to brew I'm sorry through

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email at redistricting commission at Maryland. com So all of that, you will be able to do all of that in a much more easy fashion.

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if that is what you would prefer to do.

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And that's, that's a you taking from through social media like Facebook I know that many people participate on that and so that in the with the sensors, how much we got input from that is that something that you also will consider for people to submit

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some of their thought.

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My concern is that we would miss people.

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We just, we wouldn't have a way to convert that into being able to document it down the road. All of this has to be documented all of it has to be memorialized.

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So, if we're just looking at Facebook comments, and trying to

allow people to submit her commentary on Facebook, whether it be through Facebook Messenger.

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I'm not sure that that's going to work. I don't see that as a, as a means to, to our being able to accept that information memorialize that information, because then if somebody says well I don't use Facebook, I use WhatsApp or or I don't use Facebook

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I'd rather do it by Twitter. I'm just not 100% sure that that's a responsible means from from our end to be able to memorialize all of that.

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We don't have the means to moderate Facebook conversations email is an excellent portal in that with the email address along people to submit comments that will be read by the full commission.

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who wants to spread the word. And so long as the Facebook post includes email portal. Those who are inspired by the Facebook discussion to put in their point of view, will have that email to us emails about as universal as an electronic man's.

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And so it doesn't prevent it from being talked of it as Facebook, but it doesn't serve us with an essentially impossible legal responsibility to monitor or worse yet, to moderate a Facebook.

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Question.

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The Commission, it's been encouraged to promote the hearings to the public, and our social media avenues, etc.

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Any other views, then yes, absolutely, yeah. Definitely do thought, and this is.

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It's one of the reasons why

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we, you know, having all portions of Maryland.

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Representative why having many different walks of life represented on, on the commission is so important is because each of us has a unique social networks that might not hear about the work of the commission otherwise.

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And, you know, let that light shine.

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You know, make sure that people who are in your social networks who might not know about the work of the commission find out about it, and you will be doing the state as well as us as commissioners of the surface.

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Is it possible to get like a quick blurb of the meeting hearing, I want to create extra work for you I just know that you know, generation when the snapchats information to post out this to to let people know so that's already in process so we're going

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to send you guys something that you can kind of follow it out tomorrow and, something will also be posted on to the website as well.

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I just needed to confirm some of that information before I finalized stuff to post.

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Thank you.

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You're welcome any anything in the press or TV, to get the blurb out as well. So yeah, there will be a.

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And, as, as for all of these meetings we've been doing media advisories, mainly because they aren't interactive with the public. However, moving forward because these are meetings that we are trying to make sure that people understand our public meetings, they're interactive they're not just working meetings, those really advisories will become full

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meetings. Those media advisories will become full press releases, which we will do in which we will provide much more information about how things will work, and that will go out to a pretty extensive MEDIA list, we will send it to the members of the

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Maryland General Assembly, we will send it to, as I mentioned, the Maryland Municipal League Maryland association of counties and all the means that we have to make sure that our distribution lists all receive that information so that they can share it

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with those that they share their information with, whether it be on websites or social media.

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Thanks. Great.

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Yeah, let's talk more about outreach and perhaps in the future,
at some point, some form of people interested in getting together
those graphics and those means well rich but that's for another
time.

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I am hoping that we can call an evening if there aren't urgent
questions and then meet again next week.

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If it's okay I'll ask for a motion to adjourn or any further
business.

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Okay. And the second.

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Second.

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All in favor.

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Aye.