

Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Listening Tour for Carroll, Cecil, and Harford Counties
June 16, 2021

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He said if he wasn't feeling well, whatever we would step into so we could step in and get the ball rolling. And then when the judge if he connects then we can just step out of that makes it easier.

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Sure, sure.

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So, we just.

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Walter, do you want me to do it or do you want to do it?

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Oh, I miss Dr.

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Kate Kate What did you ask?

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Would you prefer to do it or I'll be happy to do it. Like really either way I can or you can.

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It sounds as if the judge may just be a couple of minutes late, but either way. I agree, we can get into the program and then once he arrives he'll take off with the chair.

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Okay, sounds good. I'm going to go ahead and get started this meeting.

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I've got that we've gone through our checklist.

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Good evening and welcome to the second regional public meeting of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission. This meeting is being recorded. As we begin, there are a few matters to share regarding 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 and understanding how the platform will work. First of all, there is a three minute allotment for speakers so that everyone who wants to speak can speak.

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When there is 20 seconds left of your time, there will be a screen share with a countdown timer, that will come on to the screen, and just letting you know to wrap things up.

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Inappropriate speaking, attire, behavior, or background will result in removal from the meeting, without the option to rejoin to avoid any confusion as to how to communicate a request to speak, the raise hand option is available but we ask that if you want

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to speak, you can do so in the chat box. Anyone registering after 5pm today should ask to join as a speaker in the chat section, rather than raising your hand.

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Your name will not be on the pre registered list. again, if you registered after five o'clock today.

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In order to see the list of attendees to ensure that your name is listed correctly, you will need to check your zoom toolbar at the bottom of your screen, you will click on participants and from there you should see a list of panelists and attendees.

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In this case, panelists represents the commission members and attendees represents the audience, which, which represents the speakers. I tell you that because it's important to know that if you look at the attendees list that you can check from the

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toolbar at the bottom of your screen and check that participants list. Please make sure that your name is correct, in that list. It's what we go from to call the speakers, so if you have if you asked to speak in the chat bar, it's important that we know

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who you are in that attendees list.

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If you did register and if you did not register to speak, but you decided that you would like to speak, that is where you will sign up via the chat feature the control bar is again at the bottom of your screen and you will select the chat box and then send

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a message to the panelists, indicating your name and the county in which you reside. We will then call your name and turn speakers should ensure their name is listed properly again.

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And if not, you can fix it by right clicking and indicating that you'd like to rename, and that way you can rename yourself to the correct name.

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Pre-registered speakers will go first, then chat request speakers will be called an order of request. Speakers providing testimony should be aware that they will be made a panelist, which will enable them to unmute and turn on their camera.

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

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join as panelists button. We will wait five seconds for the speaker to go live. If the speaker does not join, we will move on to the next speaker, and come back at the end and call on anyone who missed their time to speak.

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

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The speaker is not being removed in the meeting, the zoom platform is simply changing screens, so there's no need to click any buttons, you're just simply going back to the attendees section.

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Finally, specific to this evening's meeting, we want to make sure that anyone joining is aware of the fact that we have been made aware of an issue regarding school redistricting in Harford County.

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We understand, we want you to understand that that is completely unrelated to this, the Maryland, citizens redistricting commission process. This commission is addressing congressional, and legislative redistricting only.

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It has come to our attention that there is signage around Harford County regarding school redistricting. But again, that does not play a role in this process that we are discussing tonight.

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

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Who, and I just want to make sure if Judge Williams has joined us.

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I'm not dead Kristin, not yet. So with that I'll turn it over to Dr. Kate Hetherington for now.

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Judge Alex Williams is having some technical difficulty joining the zoom call.

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All right, good.

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Good evening everyone, and thank you so much for joining us. Kristin, thank you for giving all the information prior to the meeting. We are waiting for Judge Williams. We know he is having some technical difficulties.

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And my guess is because our other commissioner here is on the phone, you may be talking to Judge Williams. I just got off the phone with Judge Williams. He says that he has lost his computer network connection.

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So he's unable to come in the usual way by video. He says that he would still like to join by phone. So if Kristin can send him the phone number, he can attend through the phone version and know what's going on tonight but he asked us to continue.

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Understanding that.

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That's how he'll probably attend and, and I guess we'll probably not be interested in chairing the meeting.

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From without being able to see the video. Alright, that's fine. Walter, Would you like me to proceed? I can do that. Yeah, please go ahead. Yeah. Okay.

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Thank you. Well, I'm sorry that judge Williams cannot serve as chair here because he does it so much better than I.

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But let me introduce myself to the audience I'm Kate Hetherington, I'm president of our community college, one of the three co chairs on the resident of Howard County and judge Williams is also one of the CO chairs and hopefully we'll be hearing his voice

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soon. But if not, he's in Prince George's. And then, Walter, you want to introduce yourself and then I'll ask all the members to introduce themselves one by one more to go next.

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Sure. My name is Walter Olson. My day job is with a think tank in Washington DC. I live in Frederick, Maryland.

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Thank you, Jay.

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Good evening my name is Jay Amin. I'm a development director for Maryland land advisors in Ellicott City and I'm a resident of Anne Arundel County.

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Thank you, Mary.

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Well I'm Mary Clawson I'm a resident of Anne Arundel county and I'm a retired federal employee. Thank you.

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Right. and we should have joining us Kimberly Rose Cummings.

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She is in Dorchester county. I believe she may be joining us a little bit later by phone. Jonathan. I'm Jonathan Fusfield. I'm a communications manager for a research firm in Bethesda, Maryland and a Montgomery County resident.

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Great, thank you.

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And next, William. Good evening, everyone. I'm William Tipper Thomas. I am a senior principal engineer for the Department of Defense, and I'm a resident of Baltimore City.

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All right, thank you to all the commissioners who are here this evening.

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So, this is our second first round of public meetings, but it's the second one that we're having.

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Last week, we conducted a listening session with folks from the eastern shore.

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And tonight we are pleased to be able to listen to the residents of Northern Maryland, Carroll, Cecil, and Harford counties. And we also know that anybody can join in.

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So we probably, I'm sure we'll have people from other counties as well.

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So the way this is going to work is that we are here to listen. It's not a q&a. We really want to hear from you about what you think about redistricting what you would like to see what concerns you had within the guidelines that Kristin mentioned when

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she started off. So Kristin will call a name and then you'll have your three minutes and then we'll move on to the next speaker and again thank you everyone for being here tonight.

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So Kristin.

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Thank you. Our first speaker this evening is Jim Thornton, a resident from Harford County.

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Jim you are now a panelist.

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Good evening commission members. My name is Jim Thornton, and on behalf of the Harford

County caucus of African American leaders.

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I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight, the caucus mission is to advocate for fairness, equity and inclusion of African Americans in Harford County.

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We began by commending Governor Hogan for establishing the commission as an essential part of the 2021 state redistricting process, this multi partisan approach will help to promote fair and effective representation, and the Maryland General Assembly

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House of Representatives. Before I share my specific comments I would like to express our appreciation to each of you for your time commitment to this critically important process, which takes place every 10 years, my brief comments speak to equity and

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fairness. Harford County was created by the state legislature in 1773. It was the sixth county created in Maryland, which at the time had roughly a population of 3000 people.

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Today it has an estimated population of approximately 256,000.

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It is a county becoming more diverse, with over 20% of them being people of color.

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We know that there's also a representation and terms of the hard to count which was part of the 2020 census, which are communities that rank high on the Center for Disease Control, social vulnerability index.

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These maps show that all too often undercounted communities are also underserved. While all voices must be heard. So it must be amplified. For the sake of equity as new maps are drawn, we must all work together to engage these communities.

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Next we recommend flexibility as you tackle the question of single versus multi member districts, and as I recommend to merge district 30 for A and B, and to a single district with three at large members.

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This structure will increase the possibility of a person of color being elected to the General

Assembly Harford County has never had a personal color to serve in the General Assembly.

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Further we recommend consideration be given to eliminate representation made up of two counties. This type of configuration is unfortunately at least one of the counties receiving less than full attention of the elected officials in each of the respective counties.

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The current configuration has Harford County sharing a district with Baltimore County to the west and so counted to the north, this alignment inherently creates losers and winners.

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Finally we are grateful that you're even hosting these listening sessions. Please continue to remind the public that people anywhere understand how they can have the opportunity to serve.

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Thank you.

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Thank you so much for your testimony Mr Thornton.

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Our next panelist is Edward Johnson.

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Mr. Johnson.

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You are now a panelist.

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Good evening. My name is Edward Johnson and I am co leader of the Maryland legislative coalition, which was formed by grassroots groups across Maryland to advocate for legislation and the General Assembly, we promoted the commission hearings over 75 political

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groups across Maryland with over 50,000 members, and I thank you all for taking on this major task. We understand that changing many of the gerrymandered districts is important.

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I haven't attended. I haven't attended all your meetings, even though the word citizens in the title of the commission still appears to be really the organs commission and all but name.

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First,

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Have you asked the legislature to provide a representative who will sit in and provide advice, since this affects them immensely. I do not know if the legislature will send a representative but unless you invite all stakeholders to participate and give

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their opinions during meetings of the Commission. You are Hogan's commission and not by non parts and citizens commission which should be your intention.

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Also, I want to remind the commission what you are doing is not just moving around voting districts, but it can have an outsized effect on people's lives.

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Many of the constituents that have had the same legislature, legislative proposals as long as 20 years or more.

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Those legislators and their staff have helped them with social security, unemployment problems, and many other issues.

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They have forged relationships with their legislators as a constituent and have depended on them for help. Now you move people around into districts where they do not know the legislators and have to start all over again with an office, I don't know.

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Please remember that your job is more than creating districts, you're affecting people's lives more than where they vote.

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When Hogan mandated the state board of elections that they could mail ballots to every voter they thought the outside the box and mailed applications to every voter, this actually lead to a very successful election by thinking outside

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the box. This commission also needs to think outside the box that Hogan is put you in. I do not believe any other governor in any state because every district can put mandates from what the commission can and cannot consider Governor Hogan did not trust

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his Commissioner to make the right decisions without his mandates. Thank you for listening to what I had to say.

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Thank you.

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The next speaker.

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The next speaker is Vontasha Sims, from Charles County. Vontasha. You are now a panelist.

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Yes, hello everyone can you hear me. Yes we can.

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Can you hear me? Yes we can. Yes excuse my videos, not on several things but I am here.

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First of all, let me say thank you for having this meeting. This is a so very important issue, not only here in the southern part of the county but throughout the state of Maryland.

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We are here because we have a lot of the same issues as some of the others has raised here and Charles County, we're in the Southern Maryland region.

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We are not as significant as a county on its own. We are lumped in with two republican counties with Calvert and St Mary's County. We're one of the fastest fastest growing counties in the state of Maryland, and we feel that we should not be divided on one

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side were divided with Calvert and St Mary's on the other side were divided with Prince George's County. We're looking to really have our county as a whole.

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We're also looking to support others around the state, who are working towards making sure that we have appropriate redistricting.

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Appropriate by apportionment as opposed to our population. And we also would like to know what exactly the census results are for our county. We haven't exactly gotten those numbers as

of yet.

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Walter I believe that Kate has dropped off.

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We have lost Kate, so I'm going to thank, Vontasha Simms for her testimony

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and

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Kristin who is the next scheduled speaker. The next speaker is delegate Susan Krebs.

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The next speaker is Delegate Susan Krebs. Is delegate Krebs here? You're on deck if you delegate Krebs. Delegate Krebs you're now a panelist.

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Thank you. I assume you can hear me.

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I'm delegate Susan Krebs and I represent Carroll County and district five. And I just want to applaud governor Hogan's appointment of this independent and bipartisan commission, which has been tasked to propose new maps after the 2020 senses and to try

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to enact some uniform standards to guide the process. As I think many of us would agree redistricting reform in Maryland is desperately needed and has been overdue for decades.

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Maryland has been the leader in so many areas but redistricting is not one it's one where we are woefully behind all of our other states with regards to reforms.

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I'm going to focus on my oral comments on house legislative standards and will submit more comments to you all, including congressional redistricting and writing.

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First of all, I believe that each legislative delegate district shall be divided uniformly into three single member districts, respect should be made for natural boundaries and boundaries of political subdivisions.

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As you all know, in Maryland.

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County and, including Baltimore City, are meaningful to the boundary lines of the counties in the city, and have historically been significant political units. I think there should be a high priority to minimize the splits between districts between the county and the city.

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Why do I support single member house districts, after the last redistricting in 2010, my compact community of sites of Eldersberg was unfairly split right down the middle and half was put in a large three member district district five that extended

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55 miles to the north to the Pennsylvania line and the southern half of the district was attached to a two member legislative district that consisted mostly of our county residents, nothing against our county.

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All of the elected officials resided in our county. We also had the same up to the west of us with a split over into Frederick County. So we have an 11 member delegation now, but only for of the people that represent Carroll County actually live in Carroll

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County, needless county splits and districts makes it very hard to achieve strong ties between a county and its delegation, an effective representation of county business and Annapolis, for example, each county has meetings with their local boards of education

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our teachers union, our county officials, our community colleges, our hospital, our Chamber of Commerce, veterans group Farm Bureau disability advocates and so on.

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Those who have to represent two counties have doubled the task, they have to attend to both, both set counties and sets of constituencies. And given that we're a citizen legislature I most legislators hold outside employment, attending to two counties

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It is a huge challenge and one gets left behind.

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Nationwide the use of multi member districts has declined dramatically over the last several decades, and this is in part because in some jurisdictions they had been found to be

discriminatory Maryland is only one of two states in the United States that

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will have multi member districts of different sizes in the whole country.

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Some will have one, some have one, some have two and some have three member districts, this is every other state has moved away from it except for New Hampshire and Maryland single member districts also allow for more minorities to be in the majority and deserve to be.

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Thank you delegate Krebs we're out of time, I'm afraid.

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When we do look forward to your written testimony and let me remind all the speakers that are sending written testimony is an excellent way to bring the commission additional views and sometimes views that just are more complicated or have more detail

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than the three minute format allows so that thank you delegate Krebs.

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That's Judge Williams.

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Alright, well we'll proceed. I hope Judge Williams is here. I got bumped to a member of the audience. I don't know what happened but thanks for whatever you did to pull me back.

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All right, let's, let's go. Now we're cooking. I got everything here you just couldn't see me. Alright, next speaker is Senator Justin Ready, Senator. You are now a panelist.

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Thank you very much. I really appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this evening about the important issue of redistricting. Thank you to all of you that are serving on this commission.

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And I appreciate that Governor Hogan has been fighting for nonpartisan redistricting.

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Many several other states are moving this way and so we appreciate the opportunity to address you.

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I'm going to just be very, very direct. There are three main points that I believe are crucial for Carroll County and the area I represent and district five and the whole county.

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As we approach this once in a decade redistricting on congressional redistricting, I believe, statewide, and particularly in my community it's important that we focus on keeping communities together as much as possible.

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We know that the complications of congressional redistricting are it has to be down to the person so there are going to be some squiggly lines and crossings, but we have to vitally important to keep communities together Carroll County is currently split

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between two congressional districts. For the first this last 10 years has been the first time that really had happened in any recent history. The first district runs from tiny town in our western side of Carroll County, all the way to Ocean City and is

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primarily an Eastern Shore district in northeastern Maryland, the eighth district is worse, over half of Carroll County is connected to a district where 70% of the population is in the inner DC suburbs, the district actually looks like the nation of Thailand

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If you look at it, standing alone, many of our congressional districts are absurdly shaped, even for a state like Maryland that is an unusual shape.

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We are, it is my firm belief and many of my constituents and express this to me directly, we should be restored to a congressional district that unites Carroll County, and ideally unites us with our fellow Western Maryland counties as was the case, historically

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for many decades, on state legislative redistricting. I'm going to start with the senate focus.

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Carroll County appears and we don't have all the numbers but it appears that we're going to have the right population for one full state senate district with enough left over for one more single member delegate district that can be attached to another

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senate district in either Howard or Frederick County.

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I'm right now go there with the roughly the same proportion population there's parts of three senate districts running into Carol, my district takes up most of the county's land mass which I think is good, but the got the Martin O'Malley gerrymander of

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2012 put small pieces of Carroll County as delegate Krebs alluded to in one part of the county it's into a separate senate district and another little piece of the county in math areas and another separate district nonsensical and she illustrated wise

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We have 11 members of the delegation; only four of us actually live in the county.

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Finally with House of Delegates our submit boards by written comments but delegate Krebs made great points, there should be single member delegate districts in Maryland, it makes it makes so much more sense for people to know who their delegate is and

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who they're voting for rather than having some with all three some with an A and B, and some with the ABC. So thank you very much. Thank you Senator reading.

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Appreciate you participating tonight.

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Kristin will take the next person.

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Our next speaker is Andrea Chamblee or Chamblee from Howard County.

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Andrea, you are now panelist,

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Andrea you're on mute.

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Andrea, you want to unmute yourself. Thank you for having me. I hope you can hear me. Yes, I can now see you.

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Yeah, thank you. That's a great picture, I didn't want to take that down but Okay, well thank you again.

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My name is Andrea Chamblee. I've lived in Maryland since I was two years old, and I grew up in the very homogenous Howard County back in the 70s.

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I didn't know a Jewish person until I went to college. I think there were two black people in my, in the two classes that I spent time with Howard County is very different now and I'm in district nine a.

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And it has very diverse pockets, and it has very diverse interests, but nine a is not just to them via, and it's not just Western Howard County where is now

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It's Carroll County and you've heard Carroll County explains it needs a representative that knows them. And, and so does Howard County, our district includes North Hall, Columbia and Carroll County.

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And that's that it's impossible to represent the interests of those very different people.

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I'm.

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I must admit, I'm unhappy with my representation, but I certainly expect that people in the more western part of the can only deserve to be happy with their representation as well.

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And with this configuration that just can't happen.

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So, I wanted to appear to ask you to consider not splitting counties as you've heard from other folks have put in the individuals and their communities together so that their interests, can be properly attended to by their part time legislators who have

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so many other challenges to face. So I just wanted to say that for your consideration and I thank you for making time for me and thank you for taking on this important task.

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Thank you Miss Chamblee so much for testifying tonight.

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Our next speaker is Will Zwart from Queen Anne's County, Will.

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Will, you are now a panelist.

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Will, you'll need to unmute yourself up there you go. Yeah, okay, there is.

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Yeah, I'm here there's zoom thanks. Sorry about that.

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Anyway, um, I guess I'll just say Hi everyone, my name is Will Zwart, I'm a resident of Queen Anne's County.

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And while I just want to encourage redistricting because Maryland is the most gerrymandered state in the United States. And you can really see that if you look at the state i mean you have you have counties that have been very obviously drawn, so

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that voices are silenced in America.

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And this is not what the founders intended. This is not this is not a good thing. There are hundreds if not thousands of people in Maryland, who have no voice in their government.

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I will, as I said, I live in Queen Anne's County. So I would say that I have a voice, at least in the state government, and hopefully at the federal level as well.

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But there are so many, so many districts in Maryland, where people are being ruled essentially by individuals far away, who, who'd never met them they don't know them, they don't know what their needs are and they don't even see them as people they just

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see them as dots on a map.

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And this is of course what the founders fought the Revolutionary War for.

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There are a bunch of King George's essentially in Maryland, who rule a bunch of other people, and not based on political parties, not based on race, color, creed or anything like that.

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It is just because they are at the top of their leads, and we're at the bottom.

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So the redistricting. It has to be done, there are a lot of things that need to be done I think right now, but making sure that everyone has a voice, everyone has a seat at the table is essential to ensure that we as a nation survive.

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So, it just, it's not based on political minds it's not based on who is right or wrong it's just making sure that everyone has a voice and making sure that their delegates, and the people who are representing them know them and know what their needs are

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and what they need to do, as delegates as representatives. And so everyone here is in a unique position of position that a lot of people around the world and in America itself would would just walk through fire to be in because you guys have the

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ability to give people a voice to give people representation. So I would just strongly encourage that to know who whose needs are what and to make sure that, like I said, just everyone has a seat at the table, and to make this country great again.

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Thank you for your testimony, Mister Zwart.

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And I want to note that judge Williams is joining us by phone.

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Kristin will take the next call please next person rather, please. Okay. Not a problem. Um, so just real quick as I'm going through this, we do have a Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti.

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Up next, but just before I call her. I just want to go through a couple of names of individuals who were on the list, who did not who I don't have in the attendee box so if you are on this call and

you do still want to speak, if you could possibly raise

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your hand. That will identify you in our attendee list so that we may call on you the names that I'm looking for are what it goes up, what a go to shuttering. de de ma and da

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Ariel Haberman.

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Josh Barnes.

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Terry Stafford, Allison Gailbraith.

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Senator Addie Eckardt. Delegate. Matt Morgan.

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And with that, we will call on delegate Mary Ann Lisanti for her remarks. With that delegate Mary Ann Lisanti, you are now a panelist.

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For her remarks, the delegate Lisanti, you are now a panelist. Greetings Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for your service to the great state of Maryland, and to its people. The task before you is complex, but your work is knowable my testimony

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this evening consists of observations historical context and things to think about

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my comments are offered tonight as a political scientist, not in the interest of a political party, but to advocate for what I believe is best for the citizens and the public good.

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Having served in a legislative body at the local level. I am well aware of the obstacles that you must face.

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It is notable from my research that until the last two redistricting cycles, all legislative districts in Maryland had three members.

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Still today, 31 of 47 legislative districts remain three members at 66%. Why are 16 districts different?

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Does that serve the public good, or does it create division.

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One can assume that these districts were created.

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At one time for maybe political, social, economic, or other reasons. For those reasons still exist.

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Does it make for good policy for the 16 districts without three members, do they have equal representation in the Maryland journalists assembly.

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You know it takes more than one person to pass the bill.

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Eight of the 16. Non, three member districts represent one county.

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The other eight represent multiple counties, like the rest of the legislature, why such a difference.

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If you look closely at those 16 different districts which I urge you to do, a story emerges. Additionally, as you create districts. I challenge you to dispel old assumptions and outdated definitions of community communities have changed.

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I will leave you finally with a few observations, one the best state policy is made when legislators are forced to listen and work with others, whose experiences and life's path is different from theirs.

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Finally, I'd like to advocate that we go back to three member house districts, for all focused on balance and equal representation. It is not fair for some of our citizens to have three members in the Maryland General Assembly, and others to have one.

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If you live in one of those districts with only one representative.

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Do you actually have the same level of support that you would if you didn't, and who.

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And finally, what would you do if you only have one member and that person is not open to your concerns. Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you this evening.

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Thank you delegate Lisanti,

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another speaker that we cannot identify in the attendees list. If you are present, please raise your hand is senator Addie Eckardt.

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Moving on from that we would be calling our last speaker, Mark Dyer of Carroll County, Mark, you are now a panelist.

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Yes, thank you. My name is Mark Dyer and I'm from Carroll County, and I'll make it short, um, I'd like to thank you for what you're doing.

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I'm a political independent. I'm not a member of either party and it's frankly a national disgrace from Maryland vs gerrymandered is it is imperative that you succeed.

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I wish you every success. I would comment, one thing, this personal preference. I do think having representation based on County, it makes more sense because we tend to fall into those enclaves.

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But again, thank you very much for doing this and I hope I wish you every success.

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Thank you, Mr Dyer. Kristin, do we have anyone else ready to testify?

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I do not believe that we have not received any requests in the chat box. And I do not see any hands up

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On the attendee list, Maria Can you confirm that please, I can there have been no requests in the chat box, and there are no hands raised as well.

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Okay.

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All right.

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With that, we have completed our list of speakers for this evening.

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And they're right on on Deck.

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All right, well thank you for checking, and thank you, Maria for your help.

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Just to remind the audience that you're welcome to listen in or testify on the 23rd of June, when we'll have the next region Southern Maryland which is Calvert, Charles, and St Mary's counties.

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But again, anybody from throughout the state can participate, and we welcome your testimony. We learn every week, more and more from listening, and that's what these sessions are about.

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We are here to listen.

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So with that, since we have no one else this is a meeting.

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So I asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Can we go back?

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Okay.

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Thank you, William.

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It was a point of information, I guess. Okay. Sure, go ahead.

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I thought the last time we met on Friday we had a discussion about no waiting, a couple minutes after everyone had an opportunity to speak in case someone was having technical difficulties and allowing as many people as possible to be able to speak, we

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didn't define what, how long would we want to wait until after the last person that asked that question, but I do remember there being some discussion about at least waiting until the seven o'clock hour that we didn't do in previous meetings I just wonder.

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Okay, well, that's, that's good. Um, I wasn't at the meeting and I didn't see the feedback from that meeting so sorry about that.

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But you can wait five minutes, which seems reasonable.

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And I will say that we, I believe, and Maria or John if you can confirm this.

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I can look it up as well, that we did take an end time off of the agenda for this meeting.

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The issue last week was that our meeting indicated that it was from six until eight, and it still says that in a calendar on the calendar invite because that is just how zoom creates it.

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However, on the agenda.

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You just see if that had been yeah just, it indicates on the agenda that it starts at six it doesn't have an end time.

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So one of the things that we discussed, as far as making sure that people had their time to speak with that they didn't think that they could join at 730 because the meeting railing till eight so we did, we did take that end time.

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Okay, that's good. Yeah.

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William, are you suggesting or maybe the group suggesting we made a little while longer.

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Yeah, I think that was, that was the feedback that I've gotten from people, we that we went a little, little longer before we are.

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So I can say that we haven't decided how long that grace period was going to be.

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But I just feel like we should wait at least you know a couple minutes. Sure, I can, as five minutes down okay and everybody.

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All right.

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Hope you could take a quick bio break if you want, we can hold on here to five more minutes.

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All right, I have 645, but if we wait till 650.

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Okay.

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I'm going to just bring in Secretary McCord here, to allow him to talk.

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I will promote him he had to use his wife's computer so Secretary McCord I've promoted you to a panelist,

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Kristin we do have it, Kristin, we do have a hand raised. Okay.

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We have the name of the person, Patricia Grimes, okay, Miss Grimes, Miss Grimes hold on I'm going to allow you to speak.

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Miss Grimes, you can unmute.

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I unmuted.

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Thank you for the opportunity for my voice

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I was not aware until the last speaker and I forget her name talks about having different numbers of representatives.

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Mr Graham's you are muted. Again, I'm unmuted.

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And I have some kind of technical difficulty.

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So, my comments are.

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I was not aware until the last speaker spoke about the only some districts that have one representative versus three representatives.

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And just a question. How long has that been forever and Maryland history?

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Miss Grimes we're, we're here really to listen tonight and not do q&a, and. Okay, I'm sorry. So, that's fine, that's fine. Any ideas that you have or thoughts about redistricting we'd be more than happy to listen to them tonight.

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Well certainly I support it. I support that very clear scientific presentation about how districts are represented. That was probably the most beneficial presentation of the evening.

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And, of course, I support all districts having equal representation, and the representatives from each district, why not why wouldn't you do that.

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And that's all I have to say thank you.

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I'm doing great. Thank you Miss Grimes for your testimony. Thank you for being here tonight.

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Kristin, do we have anyone else with a hand raised or.

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No. Yeah.

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All right, well hang in here for a few more minutes.

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Secretary McCord you have any updates for the commission that you'd like to share.

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I'm showing up as Allison McCord at the moment you see that.

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Yes.

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So I don't know that was okay.

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That's my, my, my state computer wasn't didn't keep me on the screen. And it dropped me and then dropped the connection totally so I I went to the household computer so it kicked my wife out of the office and jumped in front of it.

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We are, as, as the department, finishing up trying to have the magnitude available to you, and have a map available to you that will show current districts both congressional and legislative and have a.

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a.

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Let me see here and try to have a congressional legislative and the senate districts available to you, and have the census map overlay, so that you could see by census tract, which tracks, make up the districts and all with the caution that those those

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some of those senses' geographies will change. And of course all the numbers within the tracks will change. So there you go, the camera finally kicked in.

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So, we are closing in on having that available for you and I should be looking at the final versions of that this week. So, the day after it's available if we made it available to you.

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So, We will give you all those tools as soon as they're available but the data.

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principles that you're, you're working on to the executive order and the concepts that you're trying to accommodate based on the testimony that you're hearing, you will be able to start to visualize that on a map that you'll be able to manipulate so I'm

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very close to being able to give you those tools.

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Thank you, Secretary McCord, And now everyone looks forward to getting that information.

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Right, right.

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We do have a meeting tomorrow of the population subcommittee.

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At noon tomorrow is there anything that any of you need from us prior to that meeting.

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Mary, Jonathan.

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We did send out to read ahead so that everyone should receive one was a draft scope of the work of our subcommittee, and the other was a information about which counties have gained and lost population in the over the last 10 years just to give us a rough

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estimate of which counties, you know, change the most so that's for us to begin talking about tomorrow but we, nothing is finalized until the sub committee meets, so.

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Okay.

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and once you do have your meeting tomorrow.

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If you vote once you vote on the scope of the committee, then we can post that document to the website for the public.

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The other document I assume the other document is public information, and we can go ahead and post that to the meeting section for tomorrow's meeting as well.

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You have everything you need then Kristin, to post the other spreadsheet. I believe so, yeah, as long as Secretary records group takes, make sure my, I didn't transpose any numbers or do any bad arithmetic.

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I'd be more than happy having that shared. And also, I think we also need to clarify that those are still in draft numbers below the state level for districts, correct?

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Yes, that's correct. So, yes, please, if, if you guys need to do anything to make it more useful to the public before it's posted.

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I'd be in favor of that as well, because it's just data it's not any.

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It's not any real deliberation.

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Of course we will suggest the proper cautionary language for that. No problem.

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Thanks.

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Question.

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Oh. Yes, go ahead. When we intend to have another.

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Excuse me. A working session as commission coming up soon.

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Outside of the public hearings.

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They're all public

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name. Yes. So, I'm William, I'm going to have a Walter speak more to that as well but one of the things that I'm sure that Secretary McCord could attest to as well as that, we're starting to get some more tools available for us to be able to provide you

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just to kind of to help you understand how to kind of start getting the process going, and that should be within the scope the coming days. so you'll get an update.

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Sometime probably either tomorrow or Friday or at the very latest Monday with regard to some additional tools that we might be able to provide you and some additional training and some dates for that as well.

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But I'll pass that over to Walter to speak more on that.

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I was going to mention a separate point which is there's at least one pending matter which is the prospect of appointing a South Asian advisor, and we've kept open until this coming Friday possible applications of persons interested in that.

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I don't think, Kristin can correct me if I'm wrong. I don't think it's possible to predict for sure exactly how long it might take to process or event or whatever it is.

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So, rather than call a meeting and then find that we call it a day too early. I thought that without purpose. It's best to wait and see whether there's one, five, or whatever and whether any of them, produce are delays and in touch, vetting process that

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we need to hear from planning on before we can go forward. Yes.

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Okay, that's fine. I was just wondering, because I had a question about, no process but I went into that meeting so don't hesitate to ask the questions through either here and now or through email, where we can transact business by email, but we certainly

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can answer questions about, you know, depends on what you want to ask but that's a good way of getting questions answered and it's a good way of suggesting future agenda items.

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So don't hesitate.

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Okay. Well, I do have a question about

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my worst case scenario.

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If something were to happen to any of us as commissioners, that we will no longer be able to continue our duties as a commissioner. Do we have ultimate you know lined up in place or identified, to be able to step in?

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Have they been, you know, listening along the way, like, what does that process look like?

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We don't have all answers and I don't know Secretary McCord, Kristin, I would assume that it would have to go through the governor's office in terms of maybe recommendations I was going back in the governor's executive order there is language about it

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If there's a vacancy occurs, the governor will appoint a replacement.

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And it's obviously a challenge for a new person to catch up with it, you know the videos are there but it's going to take a while to watch the videos so you know let's all hope that we are placed in that situation but the in the governor's offices

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are authority to give us new commissioners if we lose in it.

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And hopefully that won't happen.

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Right. You know, but I get, you know, it's good to have planning, everything, everything is.

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We do have recordings of all of our meetings thus far.

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Okay.

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Alright. So Kristin.

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Does anyone else have a hand raised or something? Alright, so I had a promotion and culture, you had moved that motion forward and I, William were you planning to second that motion to adjourn.

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Alright, great. Well thank you so much everyone and thank you to the members of the public that are still on I see we have quite a few people so on. And just a reminder, you're more than welcome to come back this time next week starting at six o'clock,

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So thank you all for taking the time and your commitment to this process and thank you so much the commissioners, Good night everybody. Good night.

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Thank you.

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I usually just stay on until people.

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Kristin, a hand is raised.

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Danny. Do you have a question? The commission is already left. Unfortunately,

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if you do have a question you are able to unmute and ask it. Danny are.