

**Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission
Planning Meeting
September 1, 2021**

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...the county and even at the county level, where there are some non-compact counties....

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You'll notice, I just put up two municipalities here too so you can see that it's not as if you're working with square building blocks, when you are respecting municipalities right, some of them are just contiguous because of histories of

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annexation and the like. Right, have long arms. And so, you said, to some extent, if you're respecting municipal boundaries you're respecting, you know, octopus like city boundaries right and so, so it's not always the case that it's so easy to do so.

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But that's something to think about as to, you know how to think of the core of a municipality and whether you might, how many you deal with non contiguous and non-compact cities.

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What about compactness? Maryland constitution says that the districts have to be compact and form, the governor's order says that be geographically compact and include nearby areas, to the extent practicable. The notion of compact is both an aesthetic

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and a mathematical concept, right. So, to some extent, you know, what a, you know, if something looks weird, then then we often, say it's not compact. The state of Maryland itself is a pretty non compact state.

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The shape is, is, you know, pretty odd by you know as compared to a square or a circle. And that's often the way we evaluate compactness, which is you compare the shape of a district to some other shape.

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Usually to a circle because that's the most compact shape, but people don't live in circles right and it just because a district looks good on a map, does not mean that is a functionally compact district or even culturally compact so you know there have

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have been times when I've drawn districts, say for example, along the New York subway lines, which don't look compact but there's a logic to them because it joins communities along those districts, and especially when you, when you start dealing with

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the borders of the Chesapeake Bay which are going to be, you know, potentially non compact.

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That compactness is a, you know, it's something where you will, we will be able to evaluate the compactness of districts by various measures, and there are 100 different measures of compactness and I'll show some of them to you.

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But it also, you know, we, there's a role for common sense here as to whether you can explain the protrusions from a district as, you know, based on some other principle.

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So those are the ones, those are the criteria that are sort of the mandatory criteria that are in the law.

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What about other traditional redistricting criteria that you might consider since I understand perhaps that you are thinking about adding to the criteria.

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So I've just put up some of the typical ones that I in other redistricting experts confront in different states. Communities of interest, a term you're going to hear a lot over the next month, no doubt. Respecting the cores and configurations of existing

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or prior districts. Thinking about the transportation corridors, now that might correlate with something like communities of interest, like I mentioned with the subway example. The boundary agreement between districts perhaps to make them more

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coinciding here, as I'll talk about you know you've got a nesting requirement for the House District's, so that's not as big a problem. And then, thinking about election administration and respect for precincts if we don't include that under political subdivision.

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So I'll just quickly go through these. And I've provided this PowerPoint to you so that you can go back because there's a lot of text on some of the slides but I think, figure this could serve almost like a memo.

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Um, so the communities of interest idea. So on the one hand, redistricting is about, representing communities, that's what geographic district thing is that we are we are taking groups of people, and then deciding that is a rational way to run elections

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to represent the community. However, communities, as I said before they don't live in squares they don't necessarily, they're not coterminous with political subdivision boundaries or natural boundaries even and so there's a potential tradeoff between

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that and the specific criteria in the law.

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In addition, that often community of interest arguments can be pre textual arguments for partisan or incumbency related interests and so it's important to sort of keep an eye out for that.

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Also, it's not always the case that communities want to be unified in one district, sometimes they prefer to be split in order to maximize their political influence.

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And, you know, inevitably, it's quite difficult to decide who is an authentic representative of the community, when you get these community of interest arguments over the next month.

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Trying to evaluate their validity and whether they are actually representative is, it can be a challenge. But it's not an insurmountable challenge, and I don't want it what there is a lot of folks in the field who I think, you know, we'll

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see this as a very difficult concept to operationalize...but this is what the public hearings are going to provide for you, is an opportunity for the communities themselves to make arguments about why the districts should be drawn in particular ways. I've

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provided here for you, a series of definitions from other states about how they define communities of interest. Again, it's too much text but it's basically you know a group of people are tied together in a defined geographic area with concerns about common issues

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such as history, you know, geography, religion and the light. Okay.

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I'm in Maryland though, in that same Court of Appeals decision that led to my appointment, the court was, um, I won't say skeptical but was concerned about use of community of interest arguments to supersede political subdivision boundaries so said

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specifically that communities of interest is a concept we find nebulous and non-workable.

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That doesn't mean that the court has said you can't use community of interest, as a redistricting principle. It's just not one of the mandatory criteria that's in the Constitution.

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And so that's sort of the way I would interpret that.

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Um, what about preserving the course and configurations of prior districts? And this goes back to the one of the discussions we're having last time as to whether the existing districts might be your point of departure, or whether you want to start from

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scratch. And one of the arguments for respecting the course and configurations of prior districts is that then, people become...sometimes identify with their district of rights for continuity of representation, and the like.

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Of course, you know whether you want to preserve the course and configurations of prior districts, depends on what you think of the existing districts, and whether you think they respect the principles that are governing this redistricting process or

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whether they're otherwise appropriate. In addition, they don't need to tell you this, but that, you know, since incumbent protection is not part of the mandate for the governor's commission, obviously preserving the course and, or at least the configurations

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of prior districts could correlate with that as well as other partisan interests and sometimes it can be, it's particularly say with the congressional districts, it can be difficult to hear to define what the core is if they're very non compact

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Next principle, I just want to talk about the nesting requirement that you have here. So one of the arguments for having these boundary agreements for these different types of districts is that it facilitates election administration, it

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promotes kind of coherence and almost team building between the different representatives for different types of legislative bodies.

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And so since you've got the nesting requirement here in in Maryland, it doesn't, you actually have that already, but potentially with the way you think about the Senate map, and maybe even the house map and how it might correlate or coincide with

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the boundaries for Congress. It could be another principle as well. I'm not sure I understand nesting...What do you mean by nesting requirements? I'm sorry, thank you for asking that, so the requirement under Maryland law is that the house districts.

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House of Delegates districts, must, three House of Delegates districts must be within the Senate districts. Okay. So that means that, whether it's multi member or single member, it's still going to be in that senate district. I got

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it, within a Senate district.

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Now, last on that point, the governor's order does express a preference for single member districts, if feasible. Um, I'll just say about just about multi member districts generally, as we get into this, you'll see that, you know, when you start breaking

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down the senate districts... The nesting requirement is going to... Is actually a serious constraint on the creation of house districts.

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Because if you have to basically work within a smaller level of geography, and at the same time for example respect them...the municipalities within, if you're going to try to respect them in this and try to draw compact districts,

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it is, it's going to sometimes be quite challenging. And so, you know, historically, one of the ways that Maryland's dealt with that is through multi member districts.

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In addition, there may be some areas where in navigating this issue of Shah vs Reno the use of race predominant use of race and redistricting and the Voting Rights Act sometimes multi member districts can be helpful in that but I can tell you that

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almost always you can break up multi member districts into single member districts. It really just depends how much, how non compact you want them to be, how much you want to, how much stress to put on the other principles in the redistricting process.

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Professor, I want to ask a question about this area here.

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I suspect, and we did hear a lot of different perspectives of references single versus multi member and us. And I'm thinking that this should be a healthy discussion by the Commission for whenever we reach that point, I didn't see the word preference in

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the governor's order. So where did that come from? Preference? Well it all, it just because it says whatever wherever practical, it's here,

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to the extent possible, and consistent with the Commission's other duties and responsibilities, there must be subdivided into single member delegate districts. So that you're right, the word preference isn't there but in some ways the Governor's

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language is stronger with just to the extent possible, and consistent with the other duties and responsibilities.

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And this is something you know as we get into it I think it's wise that you know you draw the senate districts first and then you make you can then see how...what would the tradeoffs be between multi member single member

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districts and the other principles in the order. I think one way to read the Governor's order is to say that, if you are going to go with a multi member district, it is because of the other principles in the, in the order or

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by law, right so that going with a multi member district is something that would facilitate compliance of the Voting Rights Act or it would facilitate the creation of compact districts.

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I mean, in general it's going to be the case that all multi member senate districts are going to be as a general rule, more compact than when you split up the senate districts into three parts,

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as a general rule. Again, this is something for the commission to decide as to whether you know how to sacrifice your whether to sacrifice

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those other principles and what stress to place on them.

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I'm happy to move to the technology demonstration now but if there are other questions or concerns about the principles happy, to answer that as well.

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Any other questions?

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I just like to make a comment.

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What's interesting we would like to...I'm sure, be consistent throughout the whole process but there's probably areas where one particular variable will rise to the occasion, as opposed to another.

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So for example, we might be looking at communities of interest in one particular area of the state. And that might not be as much of a concern then in other areas of the state.

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And is that something that you've seen with other groups that you've been working with.

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Absolutely. But, you know, probably the way I think about this is just about...

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Can you explain the districts? Is there reasonable decision making going on?
Right. And sometimes when you know you'll draw a district and say look this, I was saying before the reason I put up those very strangely shaped municipalities,

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is they say well, sometimes there's a kind of tension or trade off between respecting a political subdivision line and compactness. Both of them are in the criteria.

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And so, you know, can you explain the district by adherence to one of those criteria. Now, you know, when it comes to the non legal criteria non mandatory criteria I'm going to leave it to you all to make decisions about how I mean, we'll leave it

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all this is left to you I'm going to be... I'll defer to you as to how you want to incorporate those other principles because that the mandatory principles will take you only so far. Right. Especially with the large districts.

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You're going to have to make some decisions about, well do we go in this direction or in this other direction. I'll show you in a second when we when I do a very I'll do I'll draw very quick district, and you'll see, you'll see, like when, how you make

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decisions or...at what stage you might end up making this.

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Okay, thank you.

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Questions? Other questions?

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Yes, Professor, do many of the commission's also do a ranking of criteria, or a principles, to guide intent of criteria?

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Sometimes they do. And oftentimes they will change their minds when they get into the process, sometimes but it is, you know, that yes there are there are like Arizona's commission has done a ranking I believe of

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their criteria, Utah has not. Many of them will do what I did today which is this sort of the mandatory and then there's the permissible. The mandatory, the prohibited and the permissible.

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And so that, yeah you will sometimes be able to do a ranking like that sometimes they do.

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And I'll say when the courts order me to do

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this, that often they will say, these are the first principles you must deal with something like, you know, perfect population equality, or the or they'll lower the threshold even like when I did it for GA, they were, you know, plus

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or minus 5% which is not required by the Constitution, but that was really important to them because it was a one person, one vote case that we were involved in. Following on to that, when we discuss and justify,

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is there a distinction between using the word principle versus criteria?

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I don't think so. Okay...

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I'm just basing it off of what I'm seeing in the law. And you know how they phrased it in the, in the Constitution and the Governor's order.

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Thank you.

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Should I move to the...Yes, technology, Yes. Okay, here we go.

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Alright so now here's where things get really fun.

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Whoops.

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Let me, let me make sure to take off the packet since

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the software does take up quite a bit of computing capability, want to make sure to turn off the...

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other screens. All right, here we go.

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Are you able to see this map in front of you?

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Yes. Yeah, we can see it. Sure.

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It's actually there.

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Let me just stop sharing for a second because it says zoom is missing.

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Okay.

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All right, that's a little better. Um, so, here is the state of Maryland and all of its glory, and I just have on the screen, the water and the county lines.

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The numbers underneath the county and the number of people who were counted in the census from that county, I have not updated it for the prison population numbers which has just been released yesterday so those numbers will change.

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So I thought what I would do is just show you how.

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you know how redistricting happens. And, and how will you know just go about it by just drawing a quick congressional district.

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One thing you can see at the top here is that we have all kinds of data about the racial composition of every territory, every, level of geography.

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So, these are... the census categories about black, Indian, non Hispanic white and the like...

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And we can, I can talk about the census racial categories, if you're interested.

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But let me just start by trying too...

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For some reason this is not doing well on zoom here.

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I mean, just let me stop sharing it per second.

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Okay, so here's the state of Maryland. And what we'll do is we'll draw a congressional district, and I'm going to cheat, I'm going to draw, start by drawing this by counties, I will

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tell you the principles that I'm using as we're doing it, and this is not normally me suggesting the right principles here I'm just this is literally just the illustration.

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Um, if we were working off of the existing districts right I could have those on the screen so for example this...

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These are the existing districts and for Congress.

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Right. And I can call up all kinds of different, different lines.

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I will work from scratch though here, and we'll start just adding counties together. Right.

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So I go like this, this, I'm just adding counties, and one thing you can say is that the numbers here are changing. So, this new district that I'm creating has a population of 180,000 so far.

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It has a deviation and needs to pick up another 591,000 plus. And has a deviation of negative 76%.

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So as we keep adding geography, you'll notice those numbers are changing.

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So this was, I'm just going the way the current congressional districts look, going along the, the east of the Chesapeake, so we do that we still only have basically 60% of a congressional district the deviation is 40%.

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Now we'll add Hartford, which is a larger county. So it drops it down to 7%.

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Then, if we go in that direction we come up against Baltimore which is a lot more populous.

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And we can go in, sort of a smaller level of geography.

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Now, I'll call up the other things that we can put on here just the streets. We can put up all kinds of other information, I'm going to put up the voting districts.

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I've just, just for illustration here, I've now colored the voting districts, based on percent African American in the voting in the precincts. Okay, so you can see, for example the red areas are heavily African American.

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And then, So then I'll start adding...

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Let's say I'll start maybe at the top...

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Again, notice how these numbers are going down and every one of these numbers is changing also, so now there's a deviation of 6%.

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And I can do this faster by, you can actually laso

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population.

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See, I accidentally went over a county line there so I'll stop that for a second. But now we're at, we're at a district that's almost at around 1%.

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All we've been doing here is adding population from, by voting district there's no logic to what I'm doing here.

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Except that it's made up of whole counties. And so now we're down to it, we're just over 200 people.

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You see, so we've created a district that's almost perfect population equality. It's got a deviation of 200. And, you know, we could go in and actually you know, try to get it perfect.

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And I'll just show you that when you do the congressional districts, you will end up doing this as well. Let me take off the voting districts and I'll show...

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the census blocks

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will go in, really tight.

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You can see even the roads here, 14 people live in this census block, 10 people live here, and the like. And so we are looking right now, we need to find 344 people if we want to make this perfect population equality.

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And so we can do that by looking along the boundaries here for enough people. So for example, we might notice this census block here...

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going to go with the block level.

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Now we're down to 159, now we're down to 140...that we're down to 17.

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And, you know, we can if we found another 17 people on a census block right let's say we do that census block which is 23 people.

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Now we have a district that's only, that's a zero deviation district, of which only six people, so now let's create it.

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We'll just call this district one.

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And you can see the district, the district that we created, it is...

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72% non Hispanic white, 16.8% black, 2% Indian, 3.28% Asian and the like. Also you can see at the top, these different scores. Polls be popper Schwartzberg and the like These are compactness scores by different measures.

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So what the way I just did this is just by sort of the numbers in kind of a coarse way, looking at it, but let me take off the census blocks, and then we can actually put this on top of, you know, Google Maps, or any other kind of

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satellite imagery. So if you want to see literally which houses are in the district what areas what is.... but if you're thinking about community of interests right, particularly as, as you start thinking about like the natural barriers between different

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areas that we can look at the entire district on that basis.

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And so, as you zoom out.

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You see what we've done.

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And you can see you know instead that redistricting is not just I'll change the color and you can change the color of any of these borders.

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But you can see you can see.

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You know what, when before we were just looking at the counties. Here you can see the border and how it actually exists, you know, with the terrain, and then you realize that well it's, you know that the population is not... take Baltimore right the population

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is not in a square, that it goes up along some of the highways and the like... and especially when you're drawing districts you may look for highways and other natural features to serve as boundaries. Here,

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we were just doing it with the precincts and so it's got that kind of jagged edge to it.

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I'll go all the way out, so you can see what the district, looks like.

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If you were sort of approaching it from a satellite.

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But that's an example of how you can actually draw the districts, and we can put all kinds of other layers on here like the precincts. I mentioned streets of course which you can see on the on the on the screen, and other kinds of layers that

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are available, or that could be submitted.

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Why don't I keep this on the screen for the moment, see if anybody has any questions about the actual software.

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That's sort of the process of redistricting.

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And it may be that you're not the right one to ask about it but the version of maptitude that we currently have access to the commission, last time I checked, didn't have a number of those features you could look at Google Maps for example.

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And there were some of the things that you just did that we can't do now. I think they've given us a version that probably just was what maptitude provides for a different audience. But I just, I thought it, because otherwise there's

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going to be some of us who turn to our programs and are going to be very frustrated trying to make it so Google Maps intense.

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Okay. And I think that last feature....

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I'd have to see what they provide you obviously that, as you can see also how slow it ended up being when you add on the Google method satellite imagery that does slow down the program a little bit so they may have provided you something

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that you know can be used by a large group of people, but you can also... there are publicly available redistricting apps where you could overlay it on to some of the satellite imagery as well.

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So the software that you all have access to is, the

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more, the online redistricting maptitude online redistricting program.

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I believe what Professor Persily is using right now is the desktop. Is that correct? That's right. Yeah, so we do have access to the desktop, if need be.

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So we can work that out as needed if any of you would rather work in that we can we can try to figure that out.

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The online maptitude program will be available, not only to the members of the commission but also to members of the public, and that should be up and running on our website

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by the end of the week we hope.

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Any maps that you all develop, where you would like me to present it in a particular way to...whether it's through the satellite imagery or other kinds of things like the racial percentages that I put up there.

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Right, I'm happy to do that.

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Professor Persily I think you also said that...

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The expectation is that we don't have nine people turning out maps because for some of us, we may be more interested in having established criteria looking at that and say okay this is what I like to see.

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And then you can help with that, that you know the mechanics of it. So we could focus more on what the executive order is focused on the criteria that I'm sure we'll have conversations about, and then go from there, with the end result as opposed to all

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of us going back to our laptops and then coming up with nine maps and I have no idea what that would look like so we can help, you're going to help us with that process.

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Absolutely and I'm happy to work you know individually with you all helping individual maps and I've got other people. So, if for some reason we have, you need three people at a given time to help you draw maps then I've got that available to you.

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And we can go from there.

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And, you know, we don't have a whole lot of time is part of the challenge. So I think in the next week or so we need to at least start developing a strategy and if you tell me....

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So, one of the most important questions, as I said is, is how do you think about the Chesapeake Bay, whether you respect that, that can determine certain things, and then how to start. Do we start with the existing lines, do we start with

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just from scratch? Starting in a corner like I just did. Do you go with one of the algorithmically generated maps?

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And that really is a value judgment that's in your jurisdiction here.

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I think based on previous conversations

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one of the things that we were looking at. Starting with the congressional maps first to get our feet wet because there's fewer of them to do.

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And that will help us with the conversations we have to have about the criteria.

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I do recall you saying that sometimes when you establish this hierarchy of how you want to... the executive order aside, but the criteria.

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I, you get caught up on it because it may make sense for one part of the state but not for another and then, so you have to demonstrate flexibility with that.

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So I think we have the criteria and the preferred order of magnitude, realizing that we might have to be flexible, depending on what we're looking at

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on a particular part of the state, I think that might serve as well. But starting with the congressional just to begin the process because you're right, we have a short amount of time.

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And we have a lot of work to do. And we still have to hear the public, but they, we have two rounds of hearings, so it's...and what they like to have and that has to be incorporated into what we want to do with our maps.

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Let me give you the...I'm sorry.

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Go ahead and after you follow up with Kate.....I just wanted to give you sort of like a series of decisions that you can make and discuss So one way to think about this is, you know, what are you going to start with.

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Assuming you don't want to make that decision. And let's say we're going to start from scratch, where do we start?

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Right. And so, for and do you respect the Chesapeake Bay as a natural boundary?

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If not, where do you cross the Chesapeake? This is particularly true for congressional districts right because either you're going to draw district like the one I was just doing where it goes all the way up and then over, or you're going to make a decision

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about crossing water, either with the bridge in Arundel County or where there's not a bridge and you use water continuity.

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And so when you make that decision, we can draw that first district from one of the corners.

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You know pretty easily.

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But you can see where things started getting dicey is when you started hitting Baltimore County which is a significant population.

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If you did go in that direction on that would you go up through, through the North the current districts not only go up to, they split Baltimore County and then keep going into the next county.

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All right, if you're going to do that. What's the rationale for that?

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If you are going to split Baltimore County, how are you going to determine that split right and this may be something where the public comments will be helpful. Just so we're clear you we will be able

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to draw a perfect population map, no matter what you choose on those other principles. And so, I just want to be clear that there's going to be sometimes a tendency to say well let's just see what the numbers show.

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It's like, I can, we can draw hundred versions of that district, just with different versions of how it goes into Baltimore County, for example. And I can't help you,

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I can tell you what maybe would be more compact, right, I can tell you what would follow the street lines, and we can do different versions like that, but ultimately it's a value judgment about what you think. What is the right

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way to enter that county given where it's coming from.

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And that's what you know, that's the Commission's role here is really to give me direction as to how you want to think about it and then I can use to facilitate your decision I can draw as many versions of a district like that as you want.

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You tell well, do one that starts at the bottom and do one starts at the top, do one that continues going over it. Right. And I didn't, I don't know if I called up the municipalities on the map let me let me just so we can be clear about....

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There are no municipalities in Baltimore County.

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True, but there is the shape of...here let me just, let me just, just so we can see you know where I'll just put them up on the map so that others, you can just see.

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Right.

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This is what it looks like as you look at municipalities...there's just Baltimore City of course which is its own County.

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But, you know the existing districts as I mentioned, go up and Harford is split, but it goes into part of Baltimore County then goes up and around into Carroll County and the like.

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And so you can compare the districts, through which I just drew to the one that currently exists....

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Mary, did you have a question?

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Yes judge, thank you. Professor,

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I've been listening to a lot of other meetings going on from groups that are following redistricting. and the issue of transparency is often brought up by a lot of groups. How do you propose we maintain the transparency that you think citizens are

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expecting. As we work on this. Well, it sorta depends what,

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how we.....

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Well it sort of depends on which part of the process we are talking about. We can do the actual...I'll tell you how it's being done in Utah right now, that they are video streaming and recording anytime a Census block is moved. They've split up into three teams, and each team has its own YouTube channel, and they have technicians who are helping them and it's going on, you know, it goes on.

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It's like watching paint dry a little bit but it's transparent, you know where, every time something is moved you can see there in bipartisan teams so they've divided up...

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and then they're going to come up with a series of maps from those teams.

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So that's one way to do it.

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It's important for me to sort of understand a little bit where the commission is going in terms of how the commission expects to actually draw the lines. Are we all doing this together?

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Because that is it being done in a kind of transparent way where every move of the mouse can be seen by people.

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The other way to do it is where you just give me directions which are transparent and then I come back with, you know, satisfaction of the those directions and I say, all right, here's why, I'll explain it, you know, here's why I did this here...here's why

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did that. That's possible.

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So it's, I mean, ideally we would figure out a way to be able to draw the district's together.

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But that will take many hours, right, of us working together on a zoom, or even me coming out there to work with you all.

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But, but, you know, what we can do is, is in the creation of the base map. I mean, one thing I would, I would not get hung up on at the beginning of the process.

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This is something that I would say I feel strongly about but in my experience, it ends up paying off in time. Don't get hung up on the deviations at the beginning.

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Wait until the end, I can turn any map into a perfect population map.

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But it's once you have a very tightly drawn map in terms of the deviations. Then when you add additional principles say from your hearings in the like, then that can that can cause trouble so I would say, you know, think about the principles that are

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going to govern the map, let's draw a base map that kind of responds to those principles, and then we can refine it after you, when you have discussions amongst yourselves.

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And look, these are, there's no right answer and this was I said last time, there are

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trillions of maps that could be drawn for Maryland. You can literally draw trillions of maps, and many of which you know, most of which you could draw will satisfy a lot of these criteria.

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So in terms of transparency, a lot of the discussion I think would be about all..Why did the district go in this direction, versus the other direction?

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Do you go for instance and continue to split both Baltimore County and I think

what is it Carroll County?...

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with that district. That's not something I can, I mean, I can tell you the obvious which is that then you're splitting two counties right but I can't tell you whether to do it or not and whether another principle should

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supersede that.

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And I can put as much information in front of you, as you would like.

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Let me ask the question, and I noticed that you started with the eastern shore, which is congressional district one. Is it easier to start with the traditional numbers that we have?

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Again, I don't know how long district one has been called district one?

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I can't go that far back. I'm in District Four in Prince George's, but is it easier for us to use those traditional numbers, and keep them and just draw different lines?

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The Governor's order has a specific recommendation for the state legislative districts that it start in a consecutive order starting in the northwest and then southeast. I believe that I have that right for the congressional districts.

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It will be much more comprehensible to the public. If you go with the kind of location of the districts as under the current numbering right so people will understand it more.

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However, I will tell you and I've been in this position before,

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when you do keep the numbers of the existing districts as they are, there is a kind of a suggestion, that is the particular incumbent's district... so if I'm the incumbent from district one, and then that district one goes in a particular

direction....

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There will be people who will review these maps and say, you know, Congressman Smith's district is going from x to y, if you renumber the district's..

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Then there's less of what seems like a kind of almost a property right in the district.

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This is kind of high level redistricting game theory a little bit here but i do think it will be more comprehensible to the public.

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if you keep the existing districts. I can tell you I've been excoriated by the New York Times and others

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when I've renumbered districts.

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But I've usually had a reason for doing it, which is I didn't want them to assume that the way that I had numbered it was affected by incumbency concerns.

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Yeah, we've been directed not to again look at competency. Right. And we're not. But again, all of us know that the has been population shifts and the lines have to change, I'm just trying to, again, make sure that this easy for us to work...we have

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the traditional numbers at the end. Especially well if you're, especially if you're going to work off the existing lines, then it's easy because then they're already numbered.

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Sure. Okay.

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I sense that we're having some difficulty getting a started method for among the several that you suggested Professor Persily and I'm going to bring up a couple of ways of starting we personally have discussed, looking at a bunch of maps

together which

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would let us compare them, and before long the public's going to be submitting maps and it is part of our job to consider those so that will add to the stock.

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And you've also spoken about using algorithms which could be plucking out a single factor like minimizing the number of kind of splits or it could be

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putting away in eight different counties, maybe the eight or 10 largest counties in as a seed for the computer to develop a map, to see if it can make those eight counties, each their own separate district.

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Would it be possible to get a bunch not necessarily one because that might look as if it was a favorite one, but a bunch of different ones to look at to get our thinking go and just to just so that we can begin saying that's a bad one was not the

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the setup principle, you know we all like this other idea.

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Yes. That and in fact I'm in order to do this we have to get started now so whether you're going to do that or not. I've already started order, trying to get that done.

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But you, you can pull the plug on it at any point and not look at the, at those districts. In addition, if you wanted me to draw a base map. Again, a highly malapportioned map but we could draw base a map off of the counties.

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Just as a starting point, then I can explain what went into a particular map. I can do that as well. And in fact, we could do it. I could do it in such a way, for example, if you look at, I mean, like what we just did, let me... I'll share my screen again.

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Suppose that I...

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If, if I...

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Let's say this obviously is a kind of important discretionary point how you go into Baltimore in the like.

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Suppose I drew a map that was just...

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Instead of making that decision.

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I said, All right, I'm just gonna let's just draw it all the way up to Harford or even see some county, so I'm not going to make that decision but I'll do... I'll draw this first district.

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And it'll have, you know, it'll be essentially, whatever it is about 85% of a district, let's say,

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Oh, whoops.

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It's about 60% of a district... right. This is what it looks like when you start with this eastern shore and we put I put all that into a district, then I do the same thing over here

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in the west. Right. And so I'll draw a district, they'll go up to Washington County but stop there or goes to Frederick County, and that would be the seat of a second district.

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I mean, because it seems to me likely right that you're not going to split the counties all the way on the tail of Maryland right so you would start here.

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Right, and go like that and then the third district....

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Assuming you respect the Chesapeake and this is the kind of thing where you could give me direction. All right, it might be joining St Mary's and Calvert counties, right, that'd be the third and then I could, I could then put districts

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on top of Montgomery county as you were saying before, Montgomery, Baltimore County and Prince George's right since they all exceed the population of a single congressional district.

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So you could do that. And then not make any other decisions, but then that could be the starting point. Now you're then you're going to be highly malapportioned and it's only going to do half the state and maybe it's only four districts or five districts at

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that time, but it is a way to start. Now, there are value judgments and doing that though that does that does, you know, affect what will happen after that because you've made a decision about, you know, start that there's going to be a district

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that is anchored in each one of those large counties as opposed to taking small bites out of those counties.

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There's decisions about respecting the Chesapeake Bay, and as well as not splitting those counties in the Northwest. But that is the.

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That's the way, you can start the process is... if you start with just a few principles like that, then we can, we can go there and then you can start debating about which direction they should go in.

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I do think...start some of the rural areas, because of the strange shape of Maryland. You can you can start there and probably reach some agreement about like a few counties that would belong together, to start and then

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progress from there.

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But that's in addition to the algorithm... so the algorithms is the other possibility right which is that I can we can, I can have, you know, 20 maps, I will tell you the ingredients of those maps, and then you

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can say if there's one that you all think or a few that you think are good to start from. We can do that.

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Or as you said that ones that are submitted by the public... that is often the way commission's will operate if you have an active public that's submitting a lot of maps.

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Then you can say all right well. That one looks like an interesting one and we can try and refine it, let's work off of that... sometimes commissions will actually just accept maps that were submitted by the public.

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So I like to talk and maybe Kristin you can help us because you know our favorite topic is talking about the calendar.

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We know we have the hearings coming up and I believe they start next week or the public tells us what they like to see on the maps. Right, September ninth....

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And then we have for them.

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Yep, 13th, 14th and 20th. And then we start doing our work which is the drawings right? Yes the 17th 22nd 23rd 29th 30th, or at least those are your current working sessions and provided there if there is a quorum, those meetings are

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public. Okay. So, knowing that, and knowing that we're, you know as citizens commission we want to hear what the citizens of Maryland want.

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I'm not sure Professor, you can help us with this....

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And we always seem on a tight timeline , that were on. If it's worthwhile for us to give you direction what to do if we haven't heard from the public. And we haven't talked about, what are...we haven't established the criteria.

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And maybe someone else wants to chime in.

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We have a lot of work to do once we hear from the public. And we have all those dates that Kristen just mentioned. And I think that's really where we're going to be in my mind at least relying heavily on you based on some kind of consensus that

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we get to in terms of respecting the Chesapeake, in terms of looking at districts and what the numbering was before and what it should be. And looking at those big... I mean just what you outlined.

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But I think it's important for us to hear the public first, and then get moving.

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But I, you know, that's my opinion so I like to hear from others and what you think.

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Well, one thing I don't think we're going to get a lot of different public opinion until we put some specifics out there in terms of our criteria. So I am, I'm reluctant to lose any more time without trying to firm up the criteria, maybe as its presented

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to us tonight is kind of it was with a few more specific directions.

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I think we should be able to decide whether we want to start with a clean map for congressional, or you know, modify the congressional. I've seen a number of states already taking the move to say, we know we were starting with a gerrymandered map

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Therefore, we don't want to start with a gerrymandered map, we want to start with a blank sheet. So those are the things I would hope that the commission could begin to make decisions about.

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We have such a short amount of time to draw.

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I don't want us to lose any more time, if we can avoid it.

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So just to let you all know the adjusted data is now live. That data has been published to our website, so you can find it on the website.

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We've marked it so that it is clear to people. We have to post on the Planning department site, the raw data, because there are municipalities and other organizations that utilize that data for other things than redistricting.

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And then we also have the adjusted data with prisoner reallocation that is posted and it is clearly marked data for redistricting or redistricting data.

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And so that is posted there as well. And the maptitude, the online maptitude program that will have that data loaded. That should be operable, we hope, within the week.

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Going back to what Mary just said..Cheryl, go ahead I don't want to interrupt... you go first.

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Um, I know that the professor just mentioned some possible samples of ways of looking at things like using eight counties as a base for districts and things of that nature.

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I'd be interested in seeing that, just to see what that would look like because I'm a little novice at trying to use, you know, the tools but I'd be interested in seeing them I don't see anything wrong with us being exposed

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to that while we are going through the process of considering input from the public, but I think it just makes us more open to what's possible. And more knowledgeable about what we could do.

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So that's just my opinion.

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One other thing I don't know if this is consistent with the transparency point, I think you all need to start working with the software

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immediately. Just to understand the process of building, what that looks like. And so, we don't need to draw maps that you're actually going to use but to see how that process and what the trade offs look like.

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And we don't need to do it as a group, we could do it as a group, we could do it as individuals.

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But I do think it's important, whether you do it through the public portal or with me to just start..because if we wait two weeks before we start drawing three separate maps.

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What I fear is going to happen is that the house map is going to be very rushed and that it's going to just end up being like, you know, all right let's just keep the senate map and make mobile multi-member districts that's when we...

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And so, you know, that you'll you will learn a lot from doing from doing the house map, but, but I think before the, you start getting public submissions you at least need to start thinking about where the pressure points are like I mean I don't know

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whether you all have had a discussion yet amongst yourself like about what philosophically how you think about, who belongs with whom in the state of Maryland, that's fundamentally the question you're going to be asking, as you

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go out...and so maybe even just draw one district together.

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What that conversation might look like would be a useful starting point.

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Because one of the things you're going to realize is that you're going to start...you're going to search for reasons to go, non-political reasons to go in one direction versus another.

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And you will ask me well what should we do, and I'll say well you can do either, right? if you go this way it'll be more compacted you go this way

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maybe it splits fear subdivisions This way you can see a nice road where you could go down right but it's not, there's no easy answer to how that how a particular district is going to be drawn and that's going to be... some of you will bring your expertise

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about the state of Maryland to bear when you'll say, all right, well I know actually that this goes, that there's a rationale for that.

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And so...I think that a lot of this is going to be just trying to derive consensus from the group right as well what, you know, just like any other parliamentary conversation of sorts, you know, just to try to figure out what direction you'd

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like to go in.

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So just hearing that, and realizing the time constraints. It seems to me that we can't put off our conversations, much longer.

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They may have to be concurrent with the hearings.

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And in my mind, I find it easier if I'm working from something.

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And you know what you presented tonight as well, here's something you can do, you know, let's just talk about the eastern shore and the counties.

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And then, Elise and Charles I think you're saying this to at least we have something to work with, and then you can make modifications based on the criteria that we talked about other than what we have to do from the executive order.

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It's easier for me, I mean starting from scratch, in a way, Professor Persily, you're starting from scratch, you're saying well here's some idea that you could have here's, you know, so that's really scratch, that's not based on what was before...

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it's looking at the numbers within the areas and combining them to get to the number that we need for the congressional.

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So I'm more inclined to that but, and I know this is going to require more time but I'm thinking we've probably look at, need to have a meeting with conversations and it might have to be maybe right before we have the public hearings in terms of scheduling,

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I know it's really tough because practically everybody here is working.

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So I just say one thing about the schedule, there is no way, given the limited amount of time that you have scheduled so far that you will be able to draw maps together, you in fact you will not be able to draw one map together in the amount of time that

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you have scheduled. And so, unless there is, unless you break into committees, or I have some other way, where you have a group of people that work with me or work together to draw the maps....

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Then, then it's not going to get done and then you'll put the burden on me. Again, I'm happy to take whatever burden you throw on me but that as we get to the transparency issues that commissioner mentioned it's like, all

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all right, then you can say, Nate go do this, go to a map that respects political subdivision lines right and it's like, all right, I can go do that.

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And then I what I will do is I'll try to explain the principles that guided the map but then we do lose some of that, that...those decision that you know the transparency in the decision making, as to how you all came to prefer the line going in

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one direction versus another.

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And so I mean my recommendation is that you set aside a full day. Or actually several full days within the next month even if you all won't be there. But hopefully others feel that people can be there that represent them in the conversations....

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But you need...

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I mean, frankly, you need at least seven full days. If you're going to do this, to do all three of these maps and I actually think

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even more than that, I mean, I've just compared to...because once you get into the house map, the house map is going to be quite difficult, depending on whether you use multiple member districts or not just because..just to fit each of the three districts

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inside each one of those counties in each one of the senate districts can be a challenge, you know.

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Now, just to be clear, I could draw three maps that satisfy the legal criteria in two days right you can do but that that's all they would be doing right there would be nothing else to commend them to there's gonna be no other rationale besides

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that it would, it wouldn't have grappled with the difficult questions that you as a commissioner have to grapple with.

You say three maps, what are you talking about three maps?

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Congress, State Senate, State house.

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Okay.

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Yeah.

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You know, like I said the hard part is not getting them to population equality in the end, the hard part is thinking about what are the guiding principles and how you're going to deal with trade offs, as you go over the state.

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Well, we want to be looking at the congressional maps first. I think each one of us in the next few days have come up with some fundamental principles that we have what's important in the eighth congressional districts that we have, you've given us an

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example...a district one, and certainly look at that as to which direction do you go, you give us an example. But we have to do that with the other seven districts and be thinking about that in the next few days and be prepared to articulate our

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justification as to where they should go.

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Walter and I already spent some time together

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a year and a half ago looking at...what is that district? District 6? The far western Maryland district. Yeah, Western Maryland district and so we did that.

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Well,

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Are there any parts of it, such as maybe one bite would be...can we decide whether we have an interest in keeping any

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congressional map as a starting point? We can leave the issue of the Senate and House for some other time. But is there anyone who would argue in favor?... In my own view, not to spoil things...I don't see any reason to put any starting point weight

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to the current congressional map...The Senate and House are a different issue and that can be discussed separately but for the congressional, I would just say start with a clean slate. I think that's what the public expects of us at least with the congressional...But if anyone has some other views please don't hesitate...

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I think the consistent thing we heard from the public is they did not want their state to be gerrymandered to the degree that it is so that if we were to give deference to what exists,

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that is not what the public wanted.

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And so, I'm in favor of looking at, for the congressional, begin with a clean slate.

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Again, Kate, I'm not sure what you mean when you say, clean slate? And I'm not prepared to give any deference to the previous line. Yeah. What do you mean by a clean slate?

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Well, similar to what we just saw Professor Persily do. The grouping together of the first district by

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they were contiguous for, you know, what he just did with the eastern shore.

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Well, that to me wasn't a clean slate, because all of the counties on the eastern shore were grouped together, which is just the way the previous map was and then staked it's way up north.

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So I mean, it's just a play on words we talked about not giving any deference. It has to be some understanding where we are. Yeah, in my mind when I think of deference I think of just looking at what is, and then saying what you like and don't

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like about it, as opposed to like going based on what the executive order is and perhaps criteria and combining that with the criteria that we've established.

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That's how I see them differently. I'm willing to hear other folks, William, go ahead.

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Well, my question was, in regards to the statement about, you know, drawing maps for a full day.

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I'm just trying to figure out how we got to that point because now you're asking us to, are we talking about during the week or weekends?

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Now you're asking us to take time off from work

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because of this condensed timeline, or possibly sacrifice time on our weekends for this and it's....

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I'm a bit confused or maybe I'm

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probably not understanding how we got to this point so now we're talking about sacrificing days and work.

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And I'm taking personal time off to kind of get this done.

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I have taken that when Professor Persily mentioned that it was on the heels of..If you have kind of a group of people who are willing to form a, like a committee that would work on that and be able to present their work to all of you during those, you

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know, those public meetings that we already have scheduled that you already have on your calendars. I could be wrong on that but that's just kind of one of the ways I was taking that there, it didn't necessarily mean that the entire

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commission had to come together to do all of that work. That you could have some members who did have the bandwidth to do that to kind of start that work, and make it and share it all with everyone else,

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during those public meetings, so that you don't have..so that the entire commission doesn't have to take additional days, could be wrong on that though.

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That's right. I mean, again, it really just depends on how you want to draw the maps right the map drawing process is going to take many days just the, the addition of, you know, geography, and so you can say, Go, use your discretion
Nate

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and draw districts with these few, few principles, but it is still going to be several million maps that could be drawn to satisfy whatever minimal principles you give me.

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So I will that exercise discretion it when I do that but that then gets into the transparency problem that Commissioner Clawson was talking about so that if, if the commission itself wants to draw the maps which is often the way this is

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done right, then I'm just giving you a sense of how much time that's going to take. Right. And I don't have a sense of, you know, of the points of disagreement among the commission as to, you know how, what can you come to a consensus

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about, you know, for example, whether you set the respect to Chesapeake, or where to start, or whether you go up the eastern shore. I mean the rationale is just what Judge Williams said that is the way the current districts are, but that articulated principle

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would be all right if we're going to respect the Chesapeake, then you go up and that's one possible district. If not, and then again the commission can discuss that.

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Then you go in a different direction. Same thing for the Northwest right, we could have started there. And one way we could do this is, let me just I'll just quickly

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show it. But suppose we instead

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started in the Northwest. And I said, All right, whether it's with all of you or some of you. I said, Well, okay, let's start with Garrett County should we include all of Garrett county in a district.

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Right.

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And will say, and you all say yeah that's a reasonable part.

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Should we include in that same district Allegheny County, yes.

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Again, I'm mimicking a way you might want to do this. Should Washington County be added to that, in whole? Okay yes, and you see the numbers and so now we've got one third of a district.

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Now I asked a question: should all Frederick County be included in a district? That's going to be a major decision.

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Because it's, you know, it's 271,000 people.

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But suppose you say yes, just because at least these four counties are connected.

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Now we've got basically two thirds of a district. Now, there's a choice that needs to be made. Either you've gone to Carroll County or you go into, you know Montgomery or maybe into Howard.

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You have to have come up with some rational rationale for doing that.

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And I can't, I can't tell you the right way to do that. There is no right way to do it. This is a decision that you're going to make about, you know, who belongs with whom in the construction of this district.

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And obviously their political implications for all of this kind of stuff and so, you know, that's where the transparency comes in.

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But you know, so if you add

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all of Montgomery county then, then that's going to be too many people. You could have part of it and then, you know, maybe it would be more compact, it really just depends on...but that's the way we can have the discussion, whether

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with all of you or some of you is that we can just go and see where the points of pressure are and then you have a discussion, well i think it should go into Carroll County for this reason, I think as you go into Montgomery county.

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And then you debate it out, you come to the decision and then we implement it, and then we have one district done.

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Okay, well let me try to phrase it this way.

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I believe t's in the executive order or in the press conference when Governor Hogan announced the formation of this commission where it mentioned you wanted

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average day or everyday people to be a part of this commission who don't have any political position x y z to be part of this commission. Okay and I'm trying to figure out how is that...and asking for

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people on the commission to be able to take four days off

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to do this type of work, even if it's just a small committee of us, right, because every day people probably can't afford to take off that type of time from work, to be able to do this.

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So I'm just trying to understand the disconnect between what is asking, and the formation of this commission, and the actual requirements, to be able to draw the maps in this such, tight schedule that we have to be able to do this work.

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I think Kate has made some good suggestions.... And ensure, and also ensuring transparency because if we don't have enough people on this small committee I think we need what five people to have these meetings recorded or, you know, how do we ensure

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that the public is, you know, informed of what's going on during those small committee meetings where people are drawing maps. I'm trying to understand how we keep the transparency?

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And I guess one of the things that I guess I was thinking about with that. I guess at least the way I was... when Professor Persily was speaking, and just kind of thinking about how that would work is that it wouldn't necessarily be just those individuals,

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kind of defining what would be happening.

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That could be something that you provide... like let's say for example, you weren't able to go one day that some of the commissioners were saying hey we're going to get together and we're going to kind of really work, you know for several hours during this

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particular day, and you could easily say hey, here's what I've done on maptitude, share them your maps, or you could, if you didn't want to do something in maptitude, you could say hey you know i feel strongly about this, this and this.

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And, and they could incorporate that so again I guess what I'm hearing it from Professor Persily is that you all have to you all are probably going to have to be doing work independently as well on your own, you don't have to be getting together

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with other commissioners to be looking at potential maps to be thinking about how you would want to draw maps. I think it's more of a coming together to kind of work things out based on what you all have discussed the criteria that you all have

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agreed upon, making sure that if there is a committee, that is kind of working one day that it's not all one political party. You know one of the great things about this commission is that we have three Republicans, three Democrats, and

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three independents. And so, if that wouldn't be the case, then you probably would want any committees, any groups of people that were working on this, not to be just, just of one party.

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And so, that could be something that we just make sure that that we have organized and I certainly could work with all of you as to if there is anyone who did want to put if there, if there are any members who do want to put together a day where they

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say hey can we can we come and work together in this location or you can do it through zoom and I can set up the zoom for you.

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You can do that. The only thing to remember is once you have five members that get together, it has to be public. It has to have about three days notice and an agenda has to be posted within 24 hours of that meeting.

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Prior to that meeting. That is one thing I will say. If I could jump...

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I think we are headed in practice toward solutions that do give some discretion to Professor Persily to see if he can embody the principles that we've agreed on so that we can agree on them.

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And then we serve as a committee of oversight, which is easier to tell him whether he captured our ideas correctly, and whether he should go back and change what he thought...the, the math test on the principles that he believed

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he was getting from us. As far as smaller groups.....

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There's nothing preventing a group of three of us from taping our meetings. That thought would provide some transparency should there wind up being an oversight sub committee

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that looks more closely over Professor Persily's shoulder. No one is stopping us from videotaping every single one of those and putting them online.

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The other thing I would say is, we have not made much use of email chains.

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I think that we need to consider... Those can also be more transparent email chains related to what is happening in the district's, and can be posted online.

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They don't have to be part of a zoom meeting, and they could help resolve a whole lot of things I have a feeling that if we've launched an email saying okay there's one criteria issue, and decided that everyone could have a say on a chain email, we could

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could get one principle resolved, or perhaps one, you know county allocation result, you know should Carroll County go with federal, or whatever, and then put that email channel online. Again there are...

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We can be creative about transparency when we can't do it the ordinary way.

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I like to go back to the fact that we're going to have hearings, coming up very soon. And we need people to respond to something. They have nothing to respond to.

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So, if we go back to what Professor Persily presented to us for example on the congressional seat, just start with something, and then say, Okay...this isn't necessarily what we're doing, but what do you like or don't, so that the public can respond....

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What do you like or don't like about this? In the meantime, we can work on the criteria which I don't know how you can even begin doing a map, unless we have some consensus among ourselves what the criteria is. We know what the executive order is, that's

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clear, you try and stick to that as much as you can. But then the criteria has to be....that needs a discussion, so then after that, to me, if we know what the criteria is, I think it's relatively easy to say, Professor Persily look, this is really

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important to us. We want you to try and, you know, manipulate that base map that you gave us, originally, and here's the reason why. And tell us if you can or cannot do that.

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But I am concerned like William, I mean, most of us work,

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and already working day to night. So, you know, the only time I have blocked out right now is what I have already been given. I don't know any other time blocked out.

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So that's why I'm concerned.

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If there's agreement, can we get an agreement that we like, Professor Persily at least can put something together based on our conversation tonight. And then we have to have a, you know, a conversation.....

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I say, you know, sooner rather than later about the criteria.

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Can I just ask a question about...? I was under the impression that tonight's meeting was to discuss the criteria.

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Part of the reason why I was able to join and make the meeting tonight, even though I'm on my vacation.....

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Right. I know we're already an hour and a half in and, and I was actually waiting for when that was going to happen... I know we obviously had spent some time for Dr Persily to provide his presentation and the some of the technical that he showed us as

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well but now that that's done, are we going to have that discussion tonight? Or was that because... I don't know that there's another window, our next meeting is the ninth right?

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I'm open to doing that to tell you the truth. I really am. Yeah, and I'll go as long as we need to...I just didn't know how long that conversation is going to be, it seemed like it was gonna be a long time.

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You know, whether it's up to three hours tonight or more. I mean, whatever it is, I'm with Jay. I think we need to have this conversation now. Okay. And I thought that was the intention, from our last meeting was that, you know, we could

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go wherever. Because after tonight, it is the ninth...majority of the second round, right? Right. We have a map that, Kate like you're saying, is going to be responded to or whether we're seeing maps from the public already coming through...

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It may be, we may be asked to respond to them versus the reverse but who knows.

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But I think the criteria part was part of why I prioritized trying to join the meeting because I didn't want it to be with either my voice not being heard, or just not getting an opportunity to participate in that discussion.

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Well, I'm so happy to hear you say that.

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And I think if we begin tonight maybe for each of us, we go round robin like what, what's the most important thing that you see in terms of criteria and then see if there's any consensus among our commission, you know, what we're saying.

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And Judge Williams you're facilitating so if that sounds good to you...What do you think? Yeah, that's not a problem. I think we should confirm the criteria that we have, that we're going to use and operate to go forward.

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This seems to be a consensus so...Professor Persily you have gone through a number of criteria for us...You want to help us

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reach consensus on what we wanna agree to?

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Are you able to share the page of your deck that lists the criteria...I think there were a couple of pages but are you able to share that again?

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He still with us?

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I'm here. I'm just pulling up the PowerPoint. And so, the ones in addition to the legal requirements or all of them? I think we know the legal requirements, I think it's the ones that are, where we can have a choice in terms of the discretionary

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ones. Okay.

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If I can jump in...slide number five, it has one of the areas that you highlighted as we...one we need to weigh in on.

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I heard very loudly from most of the people that testified, please don't break up my community and that counties in fact, they all have county governments they're all very familiar with, the county boundaries, there's a belonging to county so when

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I look at the list of, you know, regard to natural boundaries and boundaries of political subdivisions. I would say, we need to prioritize county boundaries as an objective, particularly with the congressional. When it comes to natural

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boundaries, looking at the geography of the state, there's no getting around the Chesapeake Bay is a natural boundary. And we would go a long way, deciding that we are not going to cross it with bridges, or water, as we build the maps. Other than that I

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don't see a lot of large natural boundaries that we would encounter in the congressional map.

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So those are my two thoughts on where to get started here.

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Any reaction to that? I have to agree with Mary.

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I agree with Mary and I'm just looking at some of the notes that we had from people who were testifying, and that we often heard that they want compact districts.

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It's another thing.

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Yeah, and where we can I think we really need to respect political boundaries and subdivisions.

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And not split up counties and so, as it's been done previously in previous years.

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I would strongly echo Mary and Alex on the county boundaries, I think that if we respect them properly that many of the other decisions will begin falling into place because it solves many of the choices to minimize the number of

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kind of splits you still do have some choices, but you don't have infinite choices. I would ask, you know, do we have a first decision perhaps on not crossing the Chesapeake Bay, other than at the top, or would anyone like to make the case for crossing

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it?

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Any of the commissioners? Otherwise maybe we have a consensus on that.

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Yeah, I agree with Mary. We shouldn't cross it...Kim, I don't mean to single you out but you may have special knowledge of what opinion on the eastern shore might think about issues like this.

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Does it do....?

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Just from feedback from other people within the community, they feel like they're more associated with persons of Southern Maryland than of Harford County so they do feel more of the same way that I guess, like, way of life.

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So it brings a familiarity, so that is a point of contention within the community, because they don't feel that justice is being served upon them by throwing them in a district of the northern counties. Thank you.

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So they are making a point to go across the bridge there?

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Oh, well....

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I don't know if St Mary's County was considered in that first.... Was St Mary's County, considered? It was not? I mean, is that the part you're talking about Kim, St Mary's County, including that?

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Yeah, including St Mary's all of Southern Maryland. As opposed to going to Harford County and Cecil? Correct.

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Population wise, I believe you could find that the eastern shore could be combined with part of Anne Arundel and covered in St Mary's County. I don't know whether you could also include Charles without a combo of the population limit.

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But I think in...

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As far as the number of people per district I think that it is feasible to combine the eastern shore with Southern Maryland.

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I just have a thought, when we cross a water boundary does it have to cross at a physical infrastructure like a bridge or can it just be kind of like this imaginary leap to the side?

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Like, wha, does it have to go up to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in order to then touch it in Anne Arundel in order to then go back down south? Or can you just kind of go across arbitrarily because Anne Arundel probably isn't as much as maybe Charles being

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Southern, you know, in terms of the cultural differences or cultural similarities with the eastern shore. So, and you wouldn't actually want many parts of southern Anne Arundel but you have St Mary's and Calvert along the actual Bay and then you make go back towards

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Charles first before you go up into southern Anne Arundel for information. So I just don't know if the lead...Professor Persily, can, is that allowed to just literally make a jump over to water, or does it require an actual, physical connection that....is like a bridge

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or a tunnel or some other you know actual infrastructure or geographic....So this is why I mentioned water continuity in the map in the PowerPoint presentation.

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So there is a current district that has water continuity but it's nothing as dramatic as that. And so...part of the question is what is meant by the constitutional provision that says "consist of adjoining territory". Right?

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This is for legislative districts but "consist of adjoining territory", and then the governor's order that, it says by geographically...be geographically compact, include nearby areas of population, to the extent practicable.

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So, I wouldn't say it's illegal or I need some counsel from the Maryland Attorney General's Office on this...I don't, you know, but.....

I will admit I've been doing a little research on...it's up to this point, and I just posted to chat, the

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Wikipedia page for Maryland's congressional districts which if you scroll down to the history section, historical, the ones, between 1973 and 1992

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there was a combination of the Eastern Shore with the three Southern Maryland counties that did not cross at the Bay Bridge.

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And the. So again, it seems to have been accepted as far as I'm guessing something, because it went on for 20 years so it was legal, but it doesn't resolve it as a policy question but I'll turn it on.... Walter, I did see something

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about this that's actually been going on since the 1960 Census when Maryland went to eight districts.

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It doesn't go back any further than 73, but the maps do show over a long period so Maryland was combined with Eastern Shore without the bridge.

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Of course, it could be with a bridge also. Legally it is a choice that legally we would be entitled to make.

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We have to interpret the governor's order as far as national boundaries being given to the card.

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Well, I just disagree, I just agree with what Mary is saying that do not cross the bridge, so there was a lot of discussion in some of the public hearings on well, the first public hearing people talking about Southern Maryland, and more in common with

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with parts of Anne Arundel, but I didn't hear a lot of discussion about crossing the Bay Bridge hooking up with Eastern Shore, so I just personally, I like the idea of going north, and we can decide how far north and east he will go.

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That's just my view.

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I think the challenge there is that when you go north, you have to go far enough north where it not violates where it is but it based on Kim's feedback or just her understanding of her region, that you are going far enough North were folks don't

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feel as, in order to grab enough population to make it equal 700 something thousand people.

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You got to be into Cecil and maybe into Harford before you even get the map to work so at that point, are you geographically distinctive enough or culturally distinctive enough to where, then you would want to look at the Southern Maryland for the commonalities

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again. So it's kind of that, there's that direct kind of conundrum that we're talking about. One other option is that you don't go so far north,

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say you're going into Baltimore County, but you do look at those others... like St Mary's, and I don't know what the population proportion is to get to the 772,000, but that might be, that's kind of taking care of both things you're, you're keeping the

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eastern shore compact as the judge had suggested, but instead of going so far up, you're going to St Mary's to grab hold of things rather than going to Baltimore County.

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So just, just for clarification, I am speaking of more so the lower Eastern Shore region because I can see where Kent Island has a lot of the same attributes as maybe Annapolis because they're so close together so just for clarification, lower eastern shore

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where I was referring to as the same as Southern Maryland in some aspects.

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I don't think we can get to the, for the congressional at least the 772 with just that though.

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Just so we were clear, this is exactly the conversation that needs to happen something like this. If you were to go south, go all the eastern shore area plus Calvert and St Mary's, you still need to pick up another hundred thousand people.

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108,000 people right and so then you know if you obviously could pick them up over here, or you could, you know, decide, somewhere around here.

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You go up and go to the bridge if you want,

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You can go in any direction. Does the number include Charles county?. No, no, it does not, it does not but if you want it, if you put all of Charles County in that district then that would end up being overpopulated by about 60,000 people.

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But you could put almost all of it in.

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You could take out Cecil and that might give enough space to take Charles.

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Yeah, maybe.

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Yeah, but then you're taking into a suburb of Washington DC, when you get into that part of Charles there are a lot of commuters that absolutely work in a lot of federal offices that are in DC.

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So that's, to me, that's almost quite an urban part of the state, when you, when you look at what we're Charles is now.

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One way to let both things go is to say, let's do two maps, one where we pick up the added population from the eastern shore and Southern Maryland and the other

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where it's possible, to go down to... instead of going across northern Baltimore County,

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going along the bay in Baltimore County for instance. I don't know what the population numbers are.

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But we need, we need to maybe draw two maps? Now, when we get in coming from the west, we need to have some principles.

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I still see the Chesapeake Bay as a major natural boundary.

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in the state of Maryland. And that is in our Constitution, it's not just in the directive, by the Governor.

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Not the Chesapeake Bay per se, but the natural boundary piece.

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Mary, just for point of clarification, natural boundary meaning you can't cross that boundary to pick St. Mary's as we're doing in this example?

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Yeah, I think respecting the boundary means, you wouldn't jump the water. Just the idea that you feel like you're in charge of that district and you can't easily commute between parts of that district without.....

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I see what you mean.

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Yeah, an extraordinary drive. Right.

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I get it....

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But the idea of being, of having a few maps, you know, that's a good idea so I could do...I could...I wanted to show you here that we still need to pick up 100,000 people.

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I'd need some direction as to whether to go into Anne Arundel and Charles if we did, if I was doing this scenario. One of these four counties, Hartford, Anne Arundel, Prince George's or Charles would have to then be added.

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You can tell me, you know, to do that, and then I can go in that direction.

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And then I can do another map where, where this first district just goes up here and I think you were saying maybe going through Southern Baltimore County, right or I could do two variations on that also.

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Um, I don't know, but to some extent...

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I know there's a temptation to say well let me see what it will look like. Right. We can, I can do it in any number.... that's what it's going to look like. We can, you can go up here through Hartford to Northern Baltimore or southern Baltimore

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County.

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Those are the options or here, I can go up Anne Atrundel or Charles, it's really just up to what direction you want to give me.

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All right....any other discussion?

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I guess what I'm hearing is the possibility of two different maps?

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One going north and one going across the bay bridge or eastern shore?

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I mean Southern Maryland, excuse me.

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I think we should keep both of those ideas alive because we want to learn more about them.

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All right.

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In the interest of time, do you think it would be worthwhile now to take a look at the, you know, we looked at the western part of the state,

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and we also looked at the big counties that, you know, if anything they could be their own districts, but we have to reduce them because they have too many folks. Is it worthwhile to take a look at that now?

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Just to give some guidance on the base map that we have asked Professor Persily to do.

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Yeah I think that the Professor mentioned that Baltimore County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County clearly are large enough that they have to share the population from that standpoint. So we can certainly recognize that.

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Professor Persily, would you be willing to pull up the map once again? Oh, certainly, and I was just....Trying to save something? No no I was trying to see where, that could even on the fly draw this Southern Maryland district and what its gonna look like. Calvert and St. Mary's together and now I need 60,000 more people

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and one of the problems, you'll see is that if I include this water right here it's going to include all of this water.

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So, but

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this is, this is the kind of

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map that we're talking about right I would go in and smooth it out.

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Right. There's a split subdivision here that would want to put it back in.

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Is that the map that combines with the eastern shore? Yeah, all the way up to it goes all the way up to Cecil....

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All right, and then goes into the entrance into Charles county now I could go into the southern end of Anne Arundel as another option.

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I think one, one version might have been just dropping Cecil maybe keeping that with the north, and taking all of Charles.

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Yeah, that'll still be, you'll still need...It might not be not right at the numbers just....

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But again, this is now, you're starting to see how many variations we can do on this and I can do all of those.

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And you, I mean, it's just really about what you, how you think that the direction you want to give me on that. So here's one option right where you've got Charles being included.

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Well actually aren't you splitting Charles? Yeah.

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You're gonna end up since... we're, right now all we're deciding is which county is going to be split. I mean, unless you again. If you add these two counties.

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Then the next county you're going to add is going to be split, because all it needs is 100,000 or so people and you've got all the other counties are too big.

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So if you add Calvert and St Mary's to these Eastern Shore counties... What about the southern tip of Anne Arundel? Would that be enough?...And then. Instead of...

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We can certainly do that and so, so if I take out Charles, right. so now we still need to find another hundred thousand or so and then we just zoom in to Anne Arundel.

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And....

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I would just go in and start selecting the population here. So,

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See, one of the problems with that is that we heard citizens from Anne Arundel testified, they were in four different districts, and they didn't want that, and they wanted to keep Anne Arundel county together as much as possible.

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And then move into one or two other districts at best.

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Right now that whole Anne Arundel County is split into four districts that to me is just, it was gerrymandered.

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It doesn't mean that it needs to be split into four districts in this map though. Most of the larger counties are going to be split, at least once in our map. Certainly the ones too large to have...so large to have more than one

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one district are inevitably split, and because of its central location Anne Arundel, like Howard, is hard to avoid, you know, getting some of the leftovers one way or the other.

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We don't have to split it four ways for sure. Yeah.

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Here's an example of a way to do that kind of district that is...I'm also going up to the bridge so then we deal with the potential

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controversy so that goes to the bridge and this is basically, you know, here we can have this and this district is only, this is almost a perfect district only 139 people over.

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Let's just zoom out so you can see what it would be.

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It's the green area plus the red area.

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Can you see that okay?

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Looks like you got part of Prince George's County in there too?. No no, there's no Prince George's County Okay. Yeah, okay.

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I can make sure but.....

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Yeah it follows the Prince George's County border. So those are two options that we could consider, and that goes back to having a couple maps, base maps.

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So if we just...

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If we keep with those two aside, can we maybe go over to the western part of the state I'm just trying to think of a way to get as much through this tonight as we can for base map so that if people are looking at it, they can respond to something next

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week.

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So we began the evening talking about the western part.

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Garrett, Allegany I should say.... yeah...Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick.

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And I think when you put that all together, you were pretty close to having the 772. Is that right Professor? No, you still have a lot to do so let's call this district, eight.

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So, just to take your lead here. So when you want to add, you want to go all the way to Frederick. Is that right?

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Yes.

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Okay, so then we, that's two thirds of a district, you have to get a quarter million more people into that district and you have to make a decision. So this is where thinking about how to split Montgomery County comes in.

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Because, Montgomery is going to have to have, you know, more of.... you may very well be able to with just a little bit of difference. If you go into Montgomery County

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now, and add the 248,000 people, then Montgomery County will basically have roughly 800,000 people left in it which is almost a complete district if you wanted to keep a district within Montgomery county.

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The other option is you can go into Carroll and just take a little bit of Montgomery County. It's probably time for me to express an opinion because I can say a unanimous opinion,

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virtually everyone that I talk to in Frederick, and points west is that Carroll County would be a very logical part of, of our district, some, you know...there are different opinions on how far into Montgomery, you would be similar to Frederick but everyone

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kind of agrees that Carroll is similar to Frederick, and as far as what Carroll kind of...will have to say, I know that our hearings, and this is not on our public record here but on our hearings for the six district,

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the overwhelming testimony of people came in from Carroll County is that they wanted to be reunited with the western counties, it does not represent what everyone one in Carroll thinks because it certainly has a connection with some Baltimore commuters

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and of course with Howard County, but there's going to be a very very strong sentiment in Carroll to keep that connection with Frederick. The two counties have a lot of history together.

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So if we plug in, Professor all of Carroll,

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just for the sake of moving along here.

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So you need to find 75,000 folks.

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And you can take them from Northern Baltimore County, which also exceeds the population for Congressional District. Or Montgomery County too. Or Western Howard County, which is probably very similar to Carroll.

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Baltimore, Northern Baltimore County is

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closer in population. Well, the next question is, if you take Montgomery County. Can we keep Baltimore City whole in a district?

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Because those who are..... Getting in close so the splits are going to start....You can do, you can keep those....

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Baltimore City whole is not going to be affected by any of that. What you're deciding right now, because it's not going to go...Right. You're talking about a million people here 854,000 here, and even 330....

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So wherever you pick up the additional if you made this decision then, where you pick up the additional 70,000 is going to.....

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Yeah, well, I mentioned Western Howard County, but actually most of the population in Howard County is central and east, not that many people are out there, and I don't know if you took a chunk of that....

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You might be but I don't know how many people are, if you took a chunk for western Howard County...You could easily do that, where if you wanted to....

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If you want to add 70,000 people or so.

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You can look at Northern Baltimore County or you can look at Howard like she said and see what happens.

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I like the idea of what Walter said, all of Carroll County, I like that. And then I'd like to get to the rest of the 70,000 from Northern Montgomery County.

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Okay, So here's what the Howard scenario looks like.

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And quite frankly I think I would have to see it in a more granular way, because I'm not sure you know what it's taking up there.

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It'd be one or the other. Yeah, one or the other. Maybe this is one of those things for the two maps. Take a chunk of Howard County, and maybe take a chunk of, or maybe even three maps. Baltimore County is another option and then northern Baltimore County

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is another option. That would be three maps.

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But if....

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Yeah, it sounds like we're in agreement to go all the way through to Carroll unless someone has a difference of opinion.

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See, do you.... possibly splitting Baltimore County in the three different counties, three different districts. Baltimore... Baltimore County can be its own district, plus a little less right because it has more than a district.

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So, but this again depends on your...look, these are important decisions with big political implications. And so, that what you do, you know if you decide that the big counties, like, Prince George's, Baltimore and Montgomery will be one district plus like

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there will be at least one district fully contained within those counties. That's a pretty...that's an articulable principle right that makes...I understand what that means.

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Again, there's real implications to that, right, and so the question is just what you, you know, from community of interest standpoint, from other standpoints and so it's just up to you whether you want to do that right now, but this is what

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this looks like and I can show you as much....

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Hey, why don't I...let me just, let me just get this district here. I'll just...

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How many people did you need from Howard, to make that district work? I think it was 70 something thousand, 75,000. Thank you.

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And so, you know, and we can go down...I can put up again if you want to see the actual area.

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Yeah, I think for tonight. No, I think we have to make some decisions that you were talking about earlier with these big counties that are districts in and of themselves. I agree with Montgomery because...

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and with Baltimore County because I was doing the numbers and it might cause it to get split twice? Just a thought. It would, if you're going to have a full-on district in Baltimore County, you're right. Don't forget from that

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area, if we went with these maps you still have Harford County also. Right. So, you know, that would split Baltimore County, but then what's left to Baltimore County could go in with Baltimore probably if the numbers work out.

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Yeah, but one situation to look at is Baltimore City because assuming that you want to keep it all within one district. You then need to add some population which needs to come

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most likely from Baltimore County, although I guess you could probably, in theory, do it from Anne Arundel too but most of the surrounding areas are from Baltimore County so that....I would say Baltimore County first.

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Yeah.

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And so that kind of forces some decisions and it could expand in almost any compass direction, but it would need to take some of Baltimore County, in order to fill out that district to the number it needs.

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Right, well we have something here that includes Western and what I just saw from the details, seems to make sense to me having lived in Howard County many, many years.

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But of course that's why you know the public has an opportunity and we can digest this a little bit more for our next meeting. Can we move on to grabbing hold of counties with Montgomery next?

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Is that possible? Because that's a big county and that's over a million people right there. And then, you know, having to...part of it's gonna have to go someplace else.

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Talking continuity, it's the eastern part that is going to have to go with part of Howard and or Prince George's part of Howard or Anne Arundel maybe or just...thinking from a continuity point of view.

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Well, a lot depends on whether you use Montgomery County to complete Western Maryland. Sure, Yeah. That's another option. That might be map number

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two. It's either you're going to use Northern Montgomery, Western Howard, or Northern Baltimore or Western Baltimore. Honestly, I feel like it would make sense to do part of Montgomery with those western counties...Me too, I agree. The northern part of Montgomery yes it's transitioning, but

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it also...

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They're still very much that....

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There's still a cultural aspect that relates more to the western counties in some respects.

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So Jonathan you're suggesting that no other county should be hooked in with western Maryland? As opposed to Howard?

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And I will say I can see the arguments for that certainly communities in northern Montgomery, Damascus and Poolesville have a lot of connections with Frederick County, both as far as the lifestyle and also simply economic connections and so forth.

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Those are the communities I was thinking of actually. I'm sorry what? Those were the communities I was thinking of. Yeah, and that's also true of western Howard County. It is. I think they're both very legitimate ideas for extending the

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one. Montgomery County has an agricultural reserve; it's a bit of a horseshoe in the northern parts of the northeast and northwest sections.

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Agricultural reserve of

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course reminds people of Frederick County, because it's been in a...

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It's been deliberately kept in that less developed state. Can we leave Howard as

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one version and then count, another map...

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counting what you just discussed with Montgomery county, load that number into the western one, and then have the rest of Montgomery in its own district.

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I think it makes sense to look at both those options because I think they're both very good options.

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And again, that allows the public to have a say into what they think, when we have the hearings.

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Can I make just a procedural suggestion, because, first of all, this was wonderful. This is exactly that what I was hoping for right is that we've got, you know some discussion about the principles, and then throwing options on the table, which is that,

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and this should be just individually to deal with some of the concerns about time that were expressed before. I think it would be perfectly fine, if you all emailed me scenarios you want me to run, and then in the next day

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I will send them back to you by email and these will be publicly that, you know, we'll be part of the record. And then you can say well, I want to zoom in on this particular area or something like that and then we can change it.

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So what I've heard right now is I will do maps of these two districts, the corner districts, one that goes up in sort of the same way that the existing districts does One that that goes into Southern Maryland,

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one that might go with a version that would go into Charles County, a version that would go into Anne Arundel County.

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And then, at least two or three versions of what I'm calling district eight right now, one that would go, keep going, that would go Carol into Baltimore.

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Another, I don't know whether you all decided to keep Carroll in with Frederick or whether

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a scenario where you go from Frederick just into Montgomery. Carroll, we wanted Carroll....

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I think you do Carroll and then you deal with the last 75,000. Okay. Yeah, you take a chunk from either Howard or Montgomery. Okay. All right, so then those are the two other scenarios that I'll do and these will take me, you

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know, half an hour to... even less, 15 minutes to do. Again, since we're not using the prison reallocated data there's no reason to get down to like perfect population equality right now. I'm just going to give you the basic look of it.

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And then, as I understood it, you also want me to look at one that goes into Baltimore, or should we just focus on Howard and Montgomery?

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Yeah.

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Howard and Montgomery? Okay.

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And before we leave, we break up. Can we talk about Prince George's? That's another large county. It is. Yes. So, what do we do with that?

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Well, so let me just suggest, one way to think about these large counties is, how.... Do you all believe that each one of the large counties should have one district, which is fully contained within it?

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I do. Mostly for the most part...

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Yes.

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I would say. Yes. First, that principle would kind of veto the map in southern Maryland that we've been looking at because if you look at the implications, Charles has nowhere else to go then

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by combining with the bulk of Prince George's but then Prince George's doesn't have a self-contained district. I also think, I forget how many people are in Baltimore County, but it's very hard to get a self-contained district within Baltimore County without

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running into problems with the neighbor and you know you tie your hands as far as, you couldn't do it here because Harford County would have nowhere to go.

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So I think that's a little bit too much of the straitjacket.

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It can be a preferred outcome. But I wouldn't tie our hands to it. I would prefer it. And I think that's what we were hearing people say, they would prefer it.

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Yeah, I don't think you ever get to be able to accomplish it. But in the first cut, you might want to try to prioritize it. Well, this is where I can, I can, so for example we can start with a base map. I don't even need to do the

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Howard County version. So let's say we just go up through Carroll which it sounds like you all are agreeing to, you go up through Cecil here and then the decision about whether it goes Harford or whether it goes the south is up to debate. Then

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I can put districts in Prince George's Montgomery and Baltimore. Full on districts, right, just as the base map, some of them are going to be like with...

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You see, Montgomery county is basically 1.3 districts, right, or 1.37 districts. And so we can start that way and then you can adjust off of that map for the remaining districts.

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Yeah, I think Walter makes a great point that, you know, you're going to get constrained at some point, because for continuity, you're not gonna be able to reach out to a boundary and then have no population to go with.

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So that's going to come, we're going to face that obstacle at some point.

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And that's where you'll readjust then then you'll make a decision if you want to have...if you look at the numbers here right, so you're talking about, you know, 1.12

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million between Prince George's and Charles. Right. And then if you add in Anne Arundel, that's basically two districts are Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Charles together right, if you just worked with those because they're ending up being about,

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you know, 15,000 to 16,000 you'd have to break up one of those counties right? We'll, you would have to break up, Prince George's for sure, but that's, you know, that's one decision that could be made.

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But this is where some of these community of interest arguments come in so should Prince George's County go in, should there be one that traverses the border with Montgomery? Should there be one that goes east? These are

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the decisions you have to make. Well, again, we said that the large counties would have their own county.

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And so, if you took Prince George's County, the excess, would be in the southern part of the county,

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essentially. You can decide, but you could put the district here within the northern part would go, you know, be connected to one of these other counties, or I could put it up at the top and then it could, it would

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connect to the south. Well, here again, so you have a community of interest. Right. Prince George's County and Charles are similar.

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They are very similar. A lot of people work in Washington DC....they are similar counties. So there's not much in common between Prince George's and Anne Arundel County.

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I agree with the judge on both of those points. We heard a lot of testimony about Charles County. And Charles County has....

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It's about the fastest growing county and that's because it has reoriented its economy northward. It's very connected with Prince George's these days.

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So again, if you look at Prince George's excess and you combine it with Charles County, you'd have to find other areas. Then you run into southern Maryland.

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Then Prince George's would not have its own district. Once you combine it with Charles right, then you're going to take...No, I'm not saying that I'm saying the excess of Prince George's, what they are sharing.

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The problem...

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Your excess is about 200. 195 and 166 on Charles doesn't get you anywhere. You don't get all of St Mary's, you have to go.

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Yeah, that's right, that's right.

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That's right, then you then you'd have to undo this right, so if you're saying Southern Prince George's is joined with, so you if you focus an entire district in northern Prince George's County, then the southern part of Prince George's plus Charles plus

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St Mary's plus Calvert and then also a large part of Anne Arundel would be put together.

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And you're still not gonna get 770. You're not going to...You could get to 770, you can eventually, if you creep up. You got further up and grab from Anne Arundel or, you know, so you can do it.

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I'm just saying how far further up you're going to be...That would prevent district one from the eastern shore, becoming solid.

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That's right, that will also change.

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You would have to go up into Harford.

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Yeah, I think that when you draw the other map of district one, it doesn't cross the bay.

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You're going to have to take those other counties and then these are available for the excess of PG County. That's right Mary.

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And that'll be a consequence because this map also has a consequence of leaving Harford County, sort of out on it's right now.

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It can't be combined with Baltimore County because Baltimore County already exceeds population.

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Yeah.

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Between Baltimore, Baltimore City and Harford, you almost got two total districts made.

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Right. That's true, that's true. About 1.6 million or 1.5.

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In fact, I've read that there are a lot...some people take a combination of counties, and then look at those combinations for them making the district so I'm sure the Professor's familiar with all of that as well.

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And I'm happy to do so, so I think this is productive and I think what would be useful, because we don't, I don't, I can go later of course.

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But now I think I have marching orders for different scenarios and I'm not going to draw full maps, so I'll just draw individual districts now so you could just get a sense of what these districts would look like. I'll draw one

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comparable to what I had done before going up with Harford. I'll draw another one going down here. Yes, there is a zero-sum game, you're gonna have to make a choice between a Prince George's plus a southern Prince George's district right if you

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if you locate a full district inside Prince George's County and then part in Charles and then going up, well then that is going to....you can't have this district where the Southern Maryland part would go with Eastern Shore.

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And so, you know it just depends. But, you can do this right. You could go southern Prince George's County plus Charles and then northern Prince George's County, either with part of Montgomery, or with part of Anne Arundel.

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You're splitting Prince George's.

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Well, but that's what I'm saying if you're going to be... I'm not suggesting you do that I'm just saying that if you, if you do,

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Prince George's going to have to be split into.... It has too many people. I understand that but they should have their own full district. So that's like a kind of guiding principle that if we, if the commission agrees to

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that, that's something that I can implement in Baltimore County in Montgomery and in Prince George's. Yes.

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Judge, I guess one comment I have is, if it's going to at least have to.

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And, you know, again, maybe it's not semantics, but it's two and you have 967 you have 500 and 400, going half and half for arguments sake, versus 772. The 200,000 or so leftover are feeling like they've

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got split off. And that's just math.. They're gonna have to get split off.

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Does the value of that being 7700,00 plus 200,000 greater than the northern half which might share certain, you know, commonalities with Montgomery or any other adjacent boundary. And the southern half being more rural and sharing with Charles and everything

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else.

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Does that 500 and 400 feel different? Do they feel more, less worthy about their situation than if they were 700,000 stretching further south. And the last 200,000 feeling like they got squeezed out. I don't know the value

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judgment there is as to whether you've accomplished two different things and whether one is preferable to another. I'm just throwing it out there the math, and how that reconciles with the judgment that we try to make.

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That's a great point Jay. Because you're going to have to have two. But it doesn't matter whether it's 50/50 or some other combination. How big are the two?

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Yeah, or is one really bigger, the 772 and then the 200 and are left? And they're probably the more southern ones, the more rural part of the county, and they might be like you said they're very aligned with maybe Charles, in terms of being still bedroom

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communities of DC, but just slightly more rural character, and then they're sharing part of that with the rest of Southern St Mary's and Calvert coming up into Anne Aruncel, and then you got that.

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It's just a matter of, you know, what is that split and where does it make, makes...what are we saying about that group? Do they feel like they got, you know, split? I don't know.

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It's not an easy question. So getting back to giving guidance to the Professor, that is another map you know looking at that variation. So I think what we're hearing, what I'm hearing at least is that for most of the scenarios that we're proposing, we're looking at, at

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least two maps. Were covering a lot of territory to get the majority but at some point you have to have those refinements of just what you are describing Jay, and that's where your criteria comes in.

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And what I'm also hearing is that we are looking at having as much of a county and a district as possible.

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Sure.

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Okay. Any other comments

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I'll volunteer to be able to work with

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Nate on this.

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I'm not working full time now and I could be a conduit. I would feel better if our criteria were fully laid out but I think I understand enough of where we are right now and...

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we can do recorded sessions and make the schedule available and then when people can join or not join you know they could drop in to see what's going on.

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And what I would also suggest is as, now that we've sort of gone in this direction, what I will do, I'll give you a lot of food for thought. I will give you pictures of districts that are perfect,

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you know near you know 1% deviation districts.

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And I'll draw a lot of them, you know, and maybe if possible, I'll say what the implications are of some of them so for example, now that we've talked about the big counties and the desirability maybe to have one district in each one of the

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big ones, right, this district on the eastern shore necessarily means that Prince George's and Charles, Prince George's will be split twice right it won't have its own district.

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For the reason judge Williams mentioned.

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Right. And so then the commission just has to decide whether that's the way to proceed or not.

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Um, I can work off of a base map where there's at least one district in the east, one district in the northwest, three districts that are located in each one of the large counties

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and then how you deal with the interior here is obviously quite significant and how you deal with Baltimore City,

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I think is important. So as you all were suggesting if you could split Baltimore County and basically divided between Harford and part of Baltimore City or part of Anne Arundel, but I'll draw several scenarios and I guess the

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way I'll do this is I'll just draw the districts themselves. The individual districts and so then you can, you know, decide on individual districts and then we can go from there.

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But if we could lock in, like, you know, a decision on the eastern shore, if you all actually come to a decision about what would be best.

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Then we can freeze that and then move on to the next topic.

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I have another question. Is it possible to have a colleague to begin drawing the state district, or Senate district boundaries for us, the 47, so that we've got a little bit of parallel activity going on, and were not so jammed.

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We're in the same problem that we still need to have some kind of principles...Well, I think maybe start with the same one for districts not to cross county lines, and if they have to be combined,

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look at what makes sense. Well that might make sense is the problem right? Because that's what we're debating here as to what makes sense and so yeah I can do both at the same time also but all

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these value judgments implicate what you do with the Senate map to.

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I think that if we see as you're describing what the value judgments are that will help us to crystallize the criteria, because we have to say yes we agree or no we don't or....

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But we can only do that, I think, I mean we've done some of that already tonight. But I think we can refine what we want in the criteria based on the questions you're going to ask us, after you draw these base maps.

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Okay.

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I will do that and I will get you these maps in the next 48 hours.

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All right, and then we can respond...

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You know, because, because all of this, anybody can see the emails, but we can respond as a group if we like,

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just to let people know what we're thinking. You can reply all or if you have just direct questions to the Professor, you can do it that way too. Either way we have all the emails, if anybody wants to see them.

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they could see them.

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How we doing for time now Judge?

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25 to nine, I think we are over.

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I think we are over. I think we're in a good spot though I have to commend everybody for hanging in there and I think we're...but I wanted...I would ask judge if we could see if anybody else wants to say anything before we move on for tonight.

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Anyone else want to talk? Say anything?

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Comments?

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All right, so our next meeting Kristin is when, the ninth? The ninth. So the next meeting is our first round two public meeting. It is September ninth at 6pm.

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The link for that will be posted tomorrow to our website.

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It will require registration, it is important to remind those who are still with us here this evening. But if you are going to register to provide testimony at that meeting, and you are going to present or reference a specific map.

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If that map is submitted through the portal, which again should be live by the end of the week with hope.

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Then you will be assigned a reference number, an identification number for each map that you submit. It's important when you register to identify what map the map identification number that you've received, so that when you speak, we can pull that up

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on the screen so that everyone can view the map that you're referencing. The directions for that are right there in the registration link, but I do want those that are still watching to be mindful of that that you will need to reference that map identification

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number in your registration, and then you can provide testimony on the map that you've presented but you also will be able to provide testimony on other maps as well As well as providing testimony on data and the census data that is now adjusted and

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posted and how that might impact district boundaries and the like. So all of that will be posted and instructions, very detailed instructions as to how to submit maps, will be provided on the website tomorrow as well.

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I wonder if we can also entertain the notion, depending on how many people we have that are testifying. If we feel that we are able to get through them, and if we would like to continue our discussion.

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I think it might be because we already have that time booked. It might be worthwhile to extend it. So we would have the public hearing first once everyone...That we complete the public hearing, devote some time to continuation of the conversation similar that

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we had this evening. If that's all right with everybody.

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Yeah, that's good. Yes, then we're not adding more days. I'm hearing that and I realized the challenges with that. And I think for many of us, we booked the ninth already, then we can extend that.

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And I can provide everyone their registration numbers one more thing I should add to what I've just mentioned about those maps is that, if, if a member of the public is going to reference a map, and they are going to submit a map that they want to provide

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testimony on during a public hearing. That map must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, because it has to be given an identification number, posted so that we can then pull it up and reference it during our meetings.

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So we'll know how many people,

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the day before, will know how many people have registered to speak to at least intend to reference a map, while they're speaking.

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Okay.

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Anything further? Kristen, are any of our maps going to be available for the public to see?

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For them to reference, like these working maps that we're doing, are any of those going to be made public? I was hoping that was why we're doing what we're doing tonight so people could see them, what we have, based on Professor Persily's

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drafts. So I guess what I was thinking is that that would be what we would be talking about when you have your working session. So, are you saying that you want to post all of those sample maps in advance of the meeting?

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I think so. I was just asking the question. I don't know, I know there's a criticism out there that we haven't posted any maps at all and a lot of other commissions have begun posting maps.

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I was under the understanding based on the conversation we had tonight. That the Professor was going to draft some base maps, maybe do a couple of variations on a theme of like Western Maryland, Eastern Shore for us for discussion but also,

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it gives the public the opportunity to respond to what we talked about because I would love to hear from people who are in, Charles County. What do they think about being, in line with Prince George's? Or people in Prince George's saying I would

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prefer that we have a part of us with Montgomery. But unless we have those made public, people don't know what we're thinking about so I would say absolutely. Yeah we can absolutely post them I just was misunderstanding that you guys,

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that's what you wanted your working session should be next week after you guys discuss them, but it sounds like we can do that and post them in advance.

02:43:38.000 --> 02:43:41.000

Yes. Yeah.

02:43:41.000 --> 02:43:45.000

You can have your cake and eat it too.

02:43:45.000 --> 02:44:00.000

Sounds like the Professor is going to have it Friday evening, let's say 48 hours. And then, Kristin I suppose your team by Tuesday with a long weekend in there would be able to have it up on the portal by Tuesday, I don't know. Correct. Once you get it from Professor facility

02:44:00.000 --> 02:44:05.000

on Friday. Yes, what we could do is post them...

02:44:05.000 --> 02:44:09.000

We can convert those to PDF?Correct?

02:44:09.000 --> 02:44:17.000

I can convert them to PDF. Okay.In fact I'll send them to you as pictures. I'll send them as pictures just with the, you know, population numbers.

02:44:17.000 --> 02:44:18.000

Perfect.

02:44:18.000 --> 02:44:22.000

Because if we post them as PDFs, we could even post it...

02:44:22.000 --> 02:44:35.000

We can even attach them to the meeting. So if somebody pulls up that meeting, they'll see the agenda for the meeting and the maps that you're going to be referencing during that meeting.

02:44:35.000 --> 02:44:41.000

Yeah, put a big draft on all this too because you don't want to, you don't want the public to think....This is not a done deal.

02:44:41.000 --> 02:44:44.000

Excellent point.

02:44:44.000 --> 02:44:57.000

Yup, we can do that. One thing you're gonna see just so we're clear, is that there's a lot of ways to look at maps and so that the picture....As were zooming in the thing that people are going to wonder

02:44:57.000 --> 02:45:12.000

especially potential candidates right. Does this get my house? And so, and so I'm just going to give you eight and a half by 11 pictures of this, but we can describe it by going in and zeroing in on the boundary.

02:45:12.000 --> 02:45:23.000

You know, if you have whole counties people understand that but then when you get into the county splits that's when people really want to know what road it goes down, and generally you know, following the principles I'll try to file natural boundaries and

02:45:23.000 --> 02:45:27.000

sort of clean, clean breaks.

02:45:27.000 --> 02:45:37.000

First, I think this will be a good exercise because then the first set of maps will generate some discussion.

02:45:37.000 --> 02:45:44.000

All right. Well, thank you, Professor, it was really helpful tonight. I appreciate the discussion.

02:45:44.000 --> 02:46:06.000

I feel like I'm learning more and more each time. Anything else? Anyone wish to speak? All right.