

**Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission
Round 2 Public Meeting #2
September 13, 2021**

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remedy if you were willing to take water population Durant's and Shelley and I were actually finding some that just even going beyond the 5% to maybe 6% but they don't have them a lot more just, no no no no no.

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You don't want to cut the judges upset with you don't ever want to be on the wrong side of the judge. That's when they got hard in the counties where, you know, things started getting close.

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But I love working together with everybody. I think that makes us most transparent.

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Yeah.

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Speaking of judges.

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Hello, Alex.

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You're still muted,

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and William gets the A for effort for the Ravens jersey. For tonight's meeting.

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I got purple on. There you go.

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You know what do I need to change?

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No.

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No.

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This is for the judge you just opportunity to see what real Maryland football looks like tonight.

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Oh.

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Oh, no. So in my household because I married a man from Buffalo, we are Buffalo Bills fans. Oh, that's a shame in Buffalo this weekend, and went to the game yesterday.

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And anyone who follows football and who perhaps watch that game knows that it was not a happy occasion, and that there's no plans time house today, not a happy day for Ravens fans they didn't help but

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I think Jonathan and I are Eagles fans; I know I am Jonathan you're from the Philadelphia here in Georgia yesterday's game. Yeah. Wasn't that nice, yeah.

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Oh good.

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We have a lot of Steelers fans out here in Western Maryland to our Spanish translator interpreter I'm sorry has joined us I'm going to go ahead and start that for you, you'll, you'll receive that link and be able to start that live soon as we start the

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meeting so to our Spanish interpreter who has joined us I'm going to start that now for you.

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Welcome Cheryl, welcome Professor Persily.

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Good evening.

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And I have a question Did anyone speak with Jay, a man, do you know whether he's had a chance to review last week, or the video or.

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I'm not sure. I did not speak with him, but he came on late meeting, he did come on, like, oh god okay, I didn't know that till we were ending then I saw his name.

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Okay. So, to, to the attendee Laverne Scott who has your hand raised.

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The, the, raise your hand feature is really not being used it as a method of engaging for questions we ask that you send a message in the chat feature to us to we can I, we can acknowledge what you're what you're looking to have us answer.

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We did have the chat live in the past and we were noticing some individuals not posting appropriate things in the chat.

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And so we took the chat feature on making that live for everyone. We also had some individuals posting links that were promotional links for self-promotion, which we didn't want to have as well, but we can certainly have that conversation if you'd like

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us to, to have that chat box be live for everyone.

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As it stands tonight, of people who enter things in the chat box the host and the panelists will see it, but then other members of the audience will not see it correct but the hope but every, every panelist sees the chat screen.

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Okay,

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welcome Kim.

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Not sure. I think Jay is not able to join again tonight or will be joining late.

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So, whenever you guys are ready to start. We are ready. We are recording live, and the Spanish interpretation is available, and the closed captioning is live as well.

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Thank you, Kristin.

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This is the latest public meeting and working meeting of the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission.

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I believe a very short number of comments from the public on maps.

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And I guess we can start as we usually do by introducing ourselves.

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For those who may be new in the audience, I'm Walter Olson. I'm one of the co-chairs of the Commission, I live in Frederick County and my day job is with a think tank in DC.

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I am Dr. Kate Hetherington. I am president of Howard Community College and one of the co-chairs of the Commission, and I'm a resident of Howard County.

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Yes. Good afternoon. I'm Alex Williams, a co-chair, and I'm a retired judge, and I'm from Prince George's County.

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Jay is not here at the moment, that leaves Cheryl next. I'm here. Oh Jay...Hello

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Hi. Jay Amin from Anne Arundel County and I'm also involved with a home building and development in the DC metro region,

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

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

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Hi, I'm Kim Cummings, long-term resident of the Maryland Eastern Shore currently residing in Dorchester County, where I'm a circuit court employee specializing in land records and licensing.

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Hi, I'm Jonathan Fusfield. I'm a resident of Montgomery County. I'm a communications manager for a research firm that does government contracting.

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Good evening, William Thomas... I'm a systems engineer for the Department of Defense. And I'm also a resident of Baltimore City.

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Thank you.

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Our next item is the meeting process and policies and Kristin that is the prelude to the public testimony that we're going to be hearing about?

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Yep, I can go ahead and provide some commentary on that. Good evening again and welcome to the second public meeting of round two of the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission.

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The meeting is being recorded. As we begin there are a few matters we'd like to share regarding the rules and policies for this evening's meeting, as well as some tips about how to use the Zoom platform.

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This meeting does offer Spanish interpretation. If you would prefer to listen in Spanish, you merely need to go to the control bar either at the bottom or the top of your screen where it indicates interpretation, click on that, and you will be able

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to listen in Spanish live if you would prefer. There is a three-minute allotment for speakers. Once you have about 20 seconds left a clock, a countdown clock, will come on to the screen, letting you know that you need to wrap up your remarks
Inappropriate

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speaking, attire, behavior or background will result in removal from the meeting, without the ability to rejoin. Anyone registering to speak after 6pm last night should also ask to speak in the chat section of this meeting, as we may not have been

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able to get your name added to the pre-registered speakers list.

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We also want to remind people that you will not be able to share your screen, or any maps as they must be submitted 24 hours prior to the meeting. So if you had wanted to discuss a map that hadn't submitted that prior to last night you will not

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be able to share your screen. If you did not register to speak but want to, again, please use the chat feature in the control bar to send a message that you would like to speak, and also indicate your name, and make sure your name is listed properly,

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and the county in which you reside. The raise hand option should not be used in order to request to speak.

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This is because we have to move each speaker from an attendee status to a panelist status. So we need to be able to do so, based on your name being listed properly....

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And once you do speak, you will be placed back into the attendee's status, you may see a spinning wheel or get a notification, o not worry, you're just being moved back to an attendee status from a panelist status.

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We do want people to realize that the participants list is not public to provide the privacy of those calling in, for which their cell phone numbers are listed. Pre-registered speakers will go first, followed by those requesting to speak in the

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chat section.

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There may be a short delay, once we take you from a chat section attendee to a panelist, and you might see a screen message indicating that the host would like to promote you to a panelist, you need to accept that message, by clicking the join as panelist

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button. We'll wait about five to ten seconds for you to join and please be sure to unmute your microphone and share your screen, I'm sorry, and share your video if you'd like to be on camera.

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Once the speakers are finished, again, you'll be moved back into attendee status.

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We know this is a lot of information, but we want to assist you in better understanding how the zoom platform works, so that things can go as smoothly as possible this evening.

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For those of you who did register to speak and want to speak with regard to a map, we do have two maps, two individuals who have registered and identified those maps, we will be sharing our screen and you can speak about the maps that you registered to speak about.

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With that, I'd like to go back to our host for this evening's meeting, Commissioner Walter Olson. Thank you Kristin.

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I'm going to turn it right back to you because I think we can proceed to call the first public speaker. I think you were saying only two or three who had registered?

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Yes. Our first speaker, and I don't know if she...

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She has not been able to join yet it doesn't appear, and I did send

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Vanessa, from Somerset County an email letting her know that the map submission identification number that she sent, doesn't align with any kind of identification number we have.

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So we asked her to send that in. So perhaps she'll either join later on, or perhaps tomorrow or next Monday she'll be able to discuss the map submission that she references.

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Chelsea, of Frederick would like to speak. Chelsea, I'm going to make you a panelist now, and Chelsea will be referencing map 1001. You mean 1011?

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I'm sorry, 1011.

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And I just need to share my screen.

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Hi. Can you hear me? Yes, we can.

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Okay. Should I get started? Please do.

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Can you guys see the screen?

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Yes, we can see map 1011 so feel free to go ahead, we can see what you're talking about.

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Okay, great. Good evening. My name is Chelsea Sniegowski and I live in Frederick County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I've listened to many of the past meetings and a lot of the testimony that has been given, and using that information

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I have created map 1011.

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So throughout these hearings there have been many great points and observations. And throughout a lot of the meetings I have heard the same main two points, to stop gerrymandering and create Congressional districts by the counties versus dividing them up into the weird shapes that we have today. As I know you're very well aware, our current Congressional map has counties like Anne Arundel County divided up into four or five different Congressional districts,

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Baltimore County is divided up into four Congressional districts, and the lines that we have today are just not compact, completely disregard county lines and do a great disservice to Maryland. The map that I've created, which you can see on the

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screen, is a Congressional district map because that's what I'm very concerned about for our state. And I took three things into consideration when creating my map.

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The first one was county lines. The next was making sure that they weren't in funky shapes, have no inkblot tests on this one. And I also took into account the voting districts.

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And I think that when it comes to redistricting for Maryland, we can all agree that each region of Maryland is very different, every area has its own lifestyle and its own issues.

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And my goal was to keep counties and regions as whole as possible, so that way the congressmen and women who will be serving our state will be able to help the needs of their constituents and serve them better.

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And finally, I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to speak, and to be able to create a map and I wish you guys the best in this endeavor.

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Thank you very much, Ms. Sniegowski

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and do any of the commissioners have questions they'd like to ask?

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I have a question that I would like to ask if it's possible, which is I noticed in central Maryland

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the district, mostly consisting of Anne Arundel, takes a little of Howard, and it looks like two little bits of Prince George's one around Laurel, and one that is a little to the south east but is not continuous. Is that correct? I was just curious whether I'm reading

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it right. And whether there was a reason to take two smaller bites instead of one larger one?

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Um, I missed half of the question. Could you repeat it one more time? I'm sorry. That's alright.

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In central Maryland, the map, the district that is mostly Anne Arundel County

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takes a small bite of Howard and then it looks to me as if it's taking two small bites out of Prince George's, one around Laurel, and one a few miles to the southeast, and it looks as if they're not contiguous with each other. I just wondered if there was

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a reason to do it that way? Oh, yeah. So I did notice that as well after I submitted it. For Prince George's County, I mean that's a county that you have to divide up.

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And when you look at it, it just really just came down to the numbers for Anne Arundel....for that district, which is district five on my map...

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You did need extra people to create, to get to the 771,000 people. O.K. So, so, yeah. It was not a grand theory. Thank you for the answer. Are there any other questions from the commissioners?

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Okay. I heard none, so thank you very much for your presentation.

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Kristin the next presenter?

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And our next speaker is Ms. Cross, I am making you a panelist now.

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And I will pull up your screen.

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Hello, are you able to hear me?

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Yes.

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Okay.

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So I was speaking on the map where Prince George's County and as we're doing the proposed zoning and the moving of borders and lines, we just want to make sure that we are also taking into account the school and redistricting portions because when put....

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particularly with the zoning, we've seen that a lot of our school zone changes have happened in our community. As we look at the bigger, larger picture, want to make sure that you know the equity of the persons that are already here

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on the ground makes sense when you're changing the zonings around It is a very good mapping process that I've seen thus far and the recommendations seem to make sense, but I just want to make sure that I bring that forward, particularly in this case, because

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we have two elementary schools and one basic.

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We have two high schools that are associated with our area here, in the city of Glen Arden, we just wanted to make sure that as you're doing your zoning and mapping that you do not

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additionally, add, you know, increase in our tax, based on where we're zoned for the purposes of enabling you know legislation. So, I just wanted to put that out there and make sure that that went on record.

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Thank you so much.

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Thank you. On the screen at the moment is a map of Prince George's and Anne Arundel, is this associated with this testimony? Yes. It looks as if it was generated in Maptitude.

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Okay.

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Are there any questions from the commissioners?

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Okay. Hearing none, thanks for your presentation.

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Yes, sir. Thank you.

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Kristin, are there any further public commenters. I have

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not....

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I'm just checking the chat feature. I have not seen anyone sign up to speak in the chat feature.

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So, thus far, no one has signed up to speak in the chat feature.

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We can certainly leave that open for another couple of minutes. Within the chat there is also a question

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with regard to map submission deadlines. And I do want to remind folks that the map submission deadline to..., if you want to provide testimony, in which you want to present a map that you've created,

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then you need to make sure that your map is submitted and you're requesting to speak about that map by noon on Friday the 17th. In order for us to have that map prepared by the 20th for us to share it.

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However, if you want to speak about a map, that has already been discussed, or is already listed on the website under Citizen Plan Commission or, as we've just heard someone discussing a map that the Commission has discussed one of our

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draft illustrated maps, you can certainly put the link to that map to the website, indicating that that's the map you'd like to discuss which is what we just handled.

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So, if you want to talk about a map that you are submitting, that map has to be submitted by noon on Friday, September 20...I'm sorry September 17. In order for us to have that map into a PDF and other files in order to share the screen.

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If you are referencing a map that has already been discussed, and you provide a link to it, whether it be a citizen map submission, or a map submission that is a draft illustrated map, we'd ask that you get that in by the end of the day on

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Friday, September 17.

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However, if you would like to submit a map, and provide written testimony, you have until September 24 close of business to provide those maps. So the deadline isn't the 17th,

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the deadline is the 24th for maps to be submitted.

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Also want to provide a reminder that once the commission puts their maps out, they have working sessions for the next several weeks, then they will make their maps public during round three. Members of the public will be able to submit additional maps

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during that period of time, to be able to present and discuss, or to be able for the commission to consider prior to voting on final maps So please bear that in mind as we move forward.

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And with that...Kristin a question, all those rules are set forth on the website so everyone will clearly understand that? So all of that information is on the website, just want to remind people, whether its members of the public or members of the

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commission, that calendar is listed right in the upcoming meeting section of the website. If you just go to website and click on the upcoming meetings or commission meetings and then you click upcoming mission meetings, all of that information is

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on the calendar that's listed there, the policies and procedures that I kind of read through at the beginning, that is also posted to that site as well.

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Additionally, just for those who are joining us who I know have joined several of these meetings and might send emails about where they can find things....

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If we discuss something during this meeting, whether it's a map or a document that has been provided to us, say for example by the Professor, our expert.....

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We post that under that meeting, and the purpose for that is that we are memorializing what happened at that meeting and what documents are part of that meeting so if someone goes to review that meeting, they can say okay these are the maps, these are

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the documents that were discussed at that meeting. At which point...and thank you John for pulling up that website.

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So those, that's where you can find those, one of the things we are going to be adding to the homepage, essentially, is another link that you can see that John has placed in there, indicating send your comments to the Citizen's Commission.

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That is a new section.

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We didn't want people to be... we talked about it right at the beginning of this meeting, which is the Contact Us can be confusing for people if they just want to provide comments based on things you all discussed during these meetings, other meetings

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you're working meetings, or just somebody wants to make comments as to some of the maps they're looking at. Send your comments to the commission, that will provide a link to the commission email which is redistricting.commission@maryland.gov

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So that will be very prominent on the homepage. We also will have a link so that people and this is something we've also been discussing, so that people will be able to access all of the maps, the draft illustrated maps and I actually think that we already

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have that up John don't we? Yeah so as you can see, we've added a link that says draft illustrated maps.

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And so if someone wants to look at the maps that have been discussed by the Commission, that our expert has provided us, or if perhaps we start to discuss maps that members of the Commission, provide to the rest of the group, they will be listed there

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so that someone can find them easily as well and not just have to go to each individual meeting to find all of those maps.

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With that, we have not had anyone sign up to provide testimony in the chat section. So, do any of you have questions for me, that I can answer now or would you like to move into your working meeting?

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Someone mentioned in a chat room a few minutes ago whether minutes will be available on the website. I know that there's a video of all the meetings that they can look at from that standpoint, but they asked a question whether minutes will

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be available.

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So, with the open meetings, the fact that we have a video, we don't have, we don't do minutes of the meeting because the meeting is memorialized with video.

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However, we also post the minutes of the meeting, we also post a transcript of the meeting, and we also post audio only. So there are three different ways for someone to access the information. We do our best after each meeting to kind of go through

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the closed captioning, because that's what generates the transcript and sometimes some of the words that we say don't exactly come through on the closed captioning properly.

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So we do our best to clean that up so something that may seem very out of place, makes sense to anyone who would read that document, having not watched the meeting, so that is posted as well after each meeting... the video and audio transcript, as well

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as a written transcript of the meeting is posted. And Kristin, just to clarify a moment ago you seemed to say that minutes, as well as audio and video were available at past meetings, but it's really audio and video in lieu of written minutes.

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Correct. Okay good, thank you for clarifying that.

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Other questions for Kristin? Walter, just a comment, I want to thank all of those who submitted maps to us, it's been very helpful and I intend to look at all of them.

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It's very good, I believe the latest count is 15 Congressional maps and four Senate maps, and I can guarantee that there's real use especially as we head into the senate maps, but also with the congressional maps.

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Please...all nine commissioners do take time to review those and I would propose that for any of them that you would like to discuss more, and maybe the, the whole map is good, maybe just one corner of the state has a good idea, or one county or

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one corner.

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If you could flag that in an email to Kristin, or to the chairs, we want to have a list for discussion of, and any of you can nominate any of the maps but inevitably we, we can't give a lot of attention

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if the number is 30 maps, we can't give a lot of attention to all 30 of them but we can try to flag the ones that provide interesting ideas for us to talk about. So just think about doing that as you do maps.

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I'm not hearing any more questions for Kristin.

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I wanted too...But before we turn to Professor Persily, who's going to be taking us through most of the evening, I had one question I wanted to raise which is, do people have further thoughts on last week? We made tremendous progress.

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But it may be that we didn't say everything that occurred to us after we hung up. Did people have further thoughts? Or Jay, I hope...

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If you have any questions or any observations, I know that you know that you need to be just as informed as the rest of us and we want to make sure that happens.

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Any comments on last week.?

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Okay. Well in that case, I'd like to turn the program over to Professor Persily, who will be touching on a number of things I know we've been wanting to hear about. Both issues related to the congressional map, but also introduction to the Senate map,

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a deeper dive into criteria because we're going to find as we get into the senate map, and its issues that it is going to pitch a number of criteria issues out to us that we haven't had to deal with very much in the congressional map. So we will

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be learning about criteria

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that way too. So Professor, take it away.

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Thanks very much. Could someone enable screen sharing for me?

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You should be able to as a panelist? It's not, it says the host disabled, participants screen sharing.

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Okay.

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Not, but let's just see what I can do here.

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All right now it works. Okay.

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All right, great. Wonderful. Thank you, Chair Olson, thank you for the commission for having me,

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thank you for allowing me to talk about the Maryland Senate map.

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I thought, there are a lot of different ways I can go, I thought that....

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And I await your instructions midway, which is I'm going to talk about the different considerations for the Maryland Senate and frankly the House of Delegates map

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also, a little bit. And then I will show you, I will walk through an example plan not one that I'm advocating for anything like that, but just to give you a sense of the different considerations as you walk through the map that should be present.

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But please interrupt me at any time if I can provide further elaboration or if you want me to go in a different direction because what the sort of, one of the bottom lines here is that this is a much more complicated and difficult map to draw than

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the Congressional map for the reasons that should become clear. Not the least of which is that it's, you know, six times as large, in terms of the number of districts. So let me just start by comparison,

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now you all are professionals when it comes to congressional redistricting, let me talk about what it's different with the Senate plan. First of all is that we can have a, constitutionally speaking, we can have a greater population variant

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of plus or minus 5%.

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And so the ideal adjusted, again, using the prisoner adjusted data, the district population 131,392.

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And that means that constitutionally we can range from 124,822 to 137,961. And so, that allows for some greater flexibility, depending on whether you want to take advantage of it and I'll talk about that in a second.

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Secondly, we had a lot of discussion about, you know, political subdivisions in the Congressional map but, as I mentioned there. That's really from the governor's order that you get the political subdivision requirement. When it comes to the state

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legislature,

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we actually have case law that was...when I was appointed to draw the remedial plan whatever it is 15-17 years ago....

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That was because the Supreme Court of Appeals struck down the legislative plan that was violating too many county and municipal lines. And so, it's a real political subdivision requirement.

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And in that opinion, they also talk about not crossing the Chesapeake Bay, I won't say that it's completely forbidden because I think that's wrong, because they don't, it's kind of dicta there, but they do have a lot of language and that opinion

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about what the kind of framers' intent was behind these provisions, and whether the Chesapeake Bay could be crossing in the legislative plan.

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Last two very important points. The fact that Maryland requires that you have state Senate districts, and then you have state house districts that are included within them either multi member or a single member, is a significant constraint

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on the plan. It's very difficult because, as you're drawing state senate districts, you need to be aware of what the implications are for the next plan you're going to draw.

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And so we can't....

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As a body, draw the Senate districts and then draw separate assembly plan, because they have to match up. And that has certain voting rights considerations but all I'll make clear as you go through the map, but it's also just technically kind of difficult,

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because you want to make sure that you can split any given district into three equal districts that are contiguous, compact and the other requirements of the governor's order.

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Finally, we did not really...because we respected county lines in that congressional draft,

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even without trying we created one majority African American district and two that are really close to 50%. There are more complicated considerations when it comes to drawing majority or, or even just sort of opportunity districts

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under the voting rights act for African Americans and Latinos and I'm going to spend a lot of time talking a little bit about the Voting Rights Act today in ways that in a level of detail

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that we haven't yet.

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So let me just talk about general considerations as you approach the map, what to think about...the first is, do you want to take advantage of this, the 5% deviation plus or minus?

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And my recommendation is that at the front end, you should. While you're drafting the map take advantage of the full 5% because you'll, you'll see that it allows you to respect the local subdivision lines do some other things like compactness even deal with

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the Voting Rights Act, but then as you refine the map, if you want to adopt a lower population deviation, then you can do it then. The map that I've drawn is originally around 5% now it's down below plus or minus 4%.

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I'm sure I can get it to plus or minus 3% if necessary.

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Second. There's some interesting geographic features when it comes to thinking about placing Senate districts inside counties. So if you remember last time, we did the congressional map,

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there were some, some interest among the commission like, well which counties can support one district and so forth. For instance we, the Montgomery County plan has Montgomery County having its own district and then just some parts of districts.

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So similarly, you can divide, look at counties or groups of counties and say well, could you draw a perfect number of districts that would fit in within these county lines?

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And the answer is you can do it in a few places.

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Montgomery County can be divided up into Senate districts that don't cross lines, again this is...leave aside for the moment, other legal constraints like the Voting Rights Act and others but if just for population reasons, you're able to do that.

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Similarly, with the four counties in Western Maryland, up until Frederick, you can do the same thing. And so I'll show you how that, and what I mean by that, it's not that it's going to be one Senate district, but it's going to be four Senate districts

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that will be spread out among those four counties, but you then don't need to cross into a fifth district.

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But a lot of the action, and difficult decisions have to do with Baltimore and Prince George's County.

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Baltimore County and Baltimore City, and where do you go in and out of those counties?

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And, and, you know, does the Baltimore City district or one of them, does it go into Anne Arundel County or should it go to Baltimore County? Should a Prince George's County District go into Anne Arundel or Montgomery County or Charles, right, depending on

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how you draw out. And so, I'll go over each one of the considerations as we go through the map, but I do want to at least start by talking a little bit about the Voting Rights Act.

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And why this is, it's actually as I've gone through the Maryland map it's...

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There's some really difficult, and kind of avant garde Voting Rights Act issues that are at play here. I want to be transparent with you in the public about what the considerations are so that everybody is aware of what we should all be thinking about.

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First, there's a threshold question as to how do we figure out, or estimate the racial composition of geography and so the Census has its race categories, and it allows you to count...

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There's six different racial groups plus being Hispanic and not Hispanic which is deemed an ethnicity. And that leads to 126 different racial combinations.

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And then that was adjusted for the prisoner reallocation add what Maryland did actually is they used a little bit different racial categories.

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And it's important to understand that because as we get criticized as inevitably happens about, hey why did you go, why is this district 45% or 49% of a particular minority?

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One of the things that Maryland did, at least in the data that I've received and maybe I can investigate further, is that it treated in a sense Hispanic as being a racial group instead of just an ethnic group so that it divides the world into, Hispanic,

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respondents non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic Asian and that might seem like a kind of technical thing, but there's there are a number of black Hispanics, that will affect the African American reported

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numbers. That was true in the congressional plan that's going to be true here as well. I mentioned this because we really do need to be cognizant of some of these statistical issues when in asking questions about you know, how well did we do with

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respect to the Voting Rights Act compliance?

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In addition, there's, how we deal with the counting of multiracial individuals, there are specific OMB guidelines on how to do this and the Department of Justice, has issued advisors on that and like I said the prisoner adjusted data actually

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does not comply with them. And so we need to look at all different sources of data at once. Similarly, there's case law that you should look at, the citizen voting in population and constructing districts, that of course is not in the Census data that would

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come from certain surveys. And so as we think particularly about Hispanic opportunity districts, understanding the citizen non-citizen component of that population is really important.

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How we consider minority coalition districts, is the right question to say, as I've been, a majority African American, majority Latino opportunity districts, or

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are there times when we should think of minorities in coalition with each other? That is going to be a very important question.

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It's sort of on the cusp of voting rights law that I can talk about, but there are a lot of areas in Montgomery County, like Gaithersburg, Rockville places up in Frederick County, Frederick itself...

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Where it's important to ask the question and to look at not just the individual racial groups but in coalition, the coalition groups.

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There are some areas in in Prince George's and Montgomery County where there may be tradeoffs where the addition of one Latino majority group or majority/minority district may come at the expense of an African American district. I think there are ways

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around that, but I want you to, you know, pay attention to that as we go through the map. And then finally, how should we deal with, how much do we want to split political subdivision lines in order to deal with these concerns because one

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thing you'll see is that you can draw in Baltimore joining in Baltimore City with parts of Baltimore County, as well as Prince George's County parts of Montgomery, you can actually deal with these voting rights issues relatively easily but

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it does come at the expense of political subdivision lines.

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And so as we go through, and you'll see some of the issues or how do you unpack Prince George's County and Baltimore? I've drawn in some of these districts,

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there's 75% African American districts, for example, in Prince George's County that are almost inevitable because they're surrounded by 50 or 60%, African American districts.

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I've second...

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Where are there sort of outside of the Prince George's County, Baltimore, Montgomery area are there additional we call opportunity districts

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for the house?...And so looking down in Wicomico and Dorchester County where there has historically been a district as well as up in Frederick and Harford where there are those coalition districts. Third and fourth...

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We got to think seriously, and I look forward to testimony from community members about how to deal and to think about the border between Prince George's and Montgomery County, and particularly with the Latino population which sort of straddles

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the border. And then finally, if there is going to be a majority Latino district that you're going to draw where should it be? Because it can be drawn in Prince George's but as I said, there are some tradeoffs.

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I'll just note, just so we have it in some formal way of the adjusted voting age population. This is what the numbers look like. Again, as I mentioned they do non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, and so you're talking roughly 50% white

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adjusted voting age population, roughly 29% Black, 10%, Hispanic, almost 7% Asian and the others are below 1%. So, that's what we are dealing with.

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I'll now move over, move this over.

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And I'll talk actually, well maybe I should pause just a second....

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And if people have questions, before I sort of walk over the map that I've just been experimenting with, it would be interesting to know if you have any questions on the slides that I just presented.

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Dr. Persily, I just have a question or ask you to maybe comment on how the governor's executive order, and what we received in terms of guidance, how does that intersect with what you just described?

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Great, actually I might as well...I had some slides on that that I didn't even go through.

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So, the governor's order, you know, does,

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As we said last time, it says that you have to respect natural boundaries and geographic integrity of municipalities and be geographically compact.

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All of these, of course, are subordinate to federal law, so that the Voting Rights Act will take precedence over them, but they are their intention.

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And of course there's the question of how the commission is going to deal with the single member delegate districts and the provision the governor's order, that to the extent possible consistent with the Commission's other duties or responsibilities

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the districts will be divided into single member delegate districts. So you know, I think that frankly the governor's order does not do that much more than what's required by the Maryland constitutional provisions here plus the case law that dealt

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with...in 2002 the splitting of counties. And so this is the relevant part of the Maryland constitution. It's framed differently than the governor's order but it's not that far off from...here it says, "Shall consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form, and of substantially equal population. Due regard

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shall be given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions." The governor's order just sort of embellish that a little bit, saying it talks about municipal corporations, counties and other

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political subdivisions to the extent practicable. And then it says geographically compact, and this is sort of a continuity requirement. So I don't see the governor's order as

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doing much else except on the provision dealing with single member delegate districts because that is certainly not constitutionally required, but the Governor has put it in the order.

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I guess this might be a fine point and maybe Judge Williams can weigh in on this, and it says "shall" not "will". So, by the use of "shall", does that mean that it provides us guidance, but it's not mandatory?

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Well I think you go either way...

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People differ on the use of "shall" versus "will" I think when you see "shall", most of the time, Kate, it means mandatory.

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But I have seen situations where "shall" is not quite held to that standard deviation.

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Alright so we're using it as our guidance and what we're going to try to attempt to do. But what I'm hearing from Professor Persily is, it's not going to be always possible, especially for example with the single member delegate districts?

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I would say that we can do it.

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But it also depends in part on how strict you're going to be about population equality.

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And so the map I'm going to show you is plus or minus 4% or a little bit less than that. If you adopt a very strict population equality

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rule that's more stricter than federal law.

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That's going to force some other kinds of choices on you.

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But I think that you can comply with each one of these provisions, with the Senate map. All right. Thank you.

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Professor I had a question: Could you elaborate a little bit more on the discussion about unpacking PG County and Baltimore City?

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That was gonna be my question as well. Great. So, you can dilute the minority vote in several ways. You can crack, you can pack, you can stack. Cracking means you take a minority community and it....

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Let me actually, I think I have on the screen...This is actually the Latino community....

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What it would look like....

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Just African American concentrations here...

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So, this is, so you get a sense of the level of segregation, the red areas are majority black voting precincts.

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The green areas, I'll just take off everything except that, just so we can see what we're talking about. I can even take off the districts, if not themselves.

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I've circulated this map, the heat maps to this commission.

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And so, you know, because of the

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density of the black population in Baltimore and Prince George's County.

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You got to...

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Under the voting right act, you need to be concerned...If the other components of the voting right act are there, racially polarized voting and some other requirements I talked about in the first meeting, then you need to sort of think about if you know where you might gain additional majority black districts, if it is required under the Voting Rights Act.

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That doesn't mean you have to turn Prince George's County into pizza slices where everything is going out. It might mean that you do it and I'll show you one solution I've come up with which is actually not too far from what the way the current lines

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drawn, but to go in and out of Prince George's County up here into Arundel County, for example. Similarly with Baltimore City thinking about whether you're going to have a district that goes in from the city to the outlying areas in one way or another.

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But my point is that if you don't pay attention to race, then you're going to end up creating some of these really heavily segregated districts.

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Just something to think about as we go through it.

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Does that answer your question, Commissioner Clawson?

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Yes, it just seemed like it's going to be a challenge.

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I think you'll find that, it doesn't mean that you're not going to have 75% black districts in some places, the question is, you could draw, sort of, most of the districts in Prince George's County with that kind of percentage.

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But you'll see when we go through it, how you should....at the edges run into some interesting decisions that you have to make.

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Okay.

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Should we go through the map then?

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William did that cover your question as well as the answer?

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It kind of did...I'm still trying to understand in my mind what the impacts of some of those edge communities would be bordering Anne Arundel, Baltimore City and parts of Baltimore County.

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Right. And it's, you know, those are I think are important questions...and I am not happy with the way the map, I'm going to show you necessarily deals with this problem...

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But I've drawn it just to highlight the decision points that you need to sort of go through as you look at this.

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And, like I said, if you relax the political subdivision requirement,

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then there are certain things you can do for example jumping over to Montgomery County here might be easier than creating a district that goes up like this.

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And so question for you, when you said earlier about 75% majority, whatever that number was. Yeah. Is there a requirement for districts to not be 100%?

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So, that's a good question, that basically, the problem is this In areas of where the Voting Rights Act applies, .

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we are worried about racial vote dilution through two different ways: one is creating districts where the minority communities excessively split and another where they're excessively concentrated.

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And so, the worry about a 100% say black district is that over the course of the plan,

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blacks will be underrepresented because they've been pushed into homogeneous districts.

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Does that make sense?

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Yes. Yeah, so that's why we, you know, you just have to be aware, and there's nothing...There's nothing inherently problematic about a 100% district.

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Um, if you can draw...basically give each racial minority group it's do, what it sort of deserves. in terms of its size of the population.

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The concern is that by drawing districts that might be 100% black that you're actually minimizing African American representation throughout the plan.

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Yeah, you mentioned that Montgomery County could have eight. Yeah. Up to eight legislative districts...So, what other counties

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got an increase and what counties got a decrease in the legislative districts.

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Well, I can show the changes in population by county, but I don't know....

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I mean, here's the problem. I'll just put up the existing Senate maps because there were so many, you had a lot more sort of creative cartography with the existing maps.

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It looks to me like Montgomery County actually was fit within its borders with the existing Senate districts so you had ones that....Presently?

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Let me just see....1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8....yeah, so that was able to do that last time as well. And is that totally within its jurisdiction? Yeah. And you can just see because the blue line is going over the county line here, I want to make sure I'm tracking that

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but that does seem right.

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Yeah, Judge, I put together a table when I, before I started working with the state and Montgomery County divides out almost exactly even with a Prince George's County had 6.92 so they come very close to having seven entire districts, Baltimore County

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had six, and about a quarter, Baltimore City was somewhat of a loser because they lost every 34,000, but that dropped them below five districts. So they are at 4.46, Anne Arundel is about equal that 4.43.

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And then when you get to Howard and Frederick, they were each two or two and a half.

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And then when you get populations in St Mary's, Wicomico, Cecil and all of those...

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The other half of the state, more than half the state did not even have enough population for a district of their own, and would have to be combined with some others, so that's just a by the numbers spreadsheet, without any deviations, but

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I can share that later or maybe Professor Persily has some other way of presenting. That's a reasonable way of doing it. But, I couldn't find any single county where, except for Montgomery, where it fit perfectly.

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And so every other county by its numbers must have at least one district that traverses it. There's the second issue...I think Frederick may be the only other one that was very close at

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almost exactly two or slightly over two districts in Frederick. Right, when you see back here because...these are almost perfect, but the problem is that if you put two districts in Frederick, you got some problems because the Western Maryland

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counties get cut off because Frederick's the only way through. Yeah and that's why

my map had problems back when I was trying to do it. Yeah.

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But there were a few, depending on where you want to start. Right. That's always the issue.

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Everyone's map agrees that Washington County needs to take a bite out of Frederick, at which point it's exactly two districts. You know, it starts being exactly two.

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Right. Right.

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And so you can see and maybe it's worth jumping in right in that area.

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The blue lines or the existing senate lines I'll take those off, but as you can see, I drew 1,2,3 these are the four counties, and these are the four districts.

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And stopped there. Now, there are tradeoffs and Chair Olson has identified one of them which is that, for example, if you end at Frederick, there's a town Mount Airy, which is on the border with Carroll and Frederick County. So that

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will end up being split because you honor, there's a kind of county municipality trade off there. In addition, there's a question of like how should you – Where should the Frederick district go? Should it go south, should it go west? This is

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one of those cities that has a very diverse population, roughly half,

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well, I don't know for the city itself but this district I've drawn here is,

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is roughly half...It's about 57% non Hispanic white

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and it groups together sizable minority communities around in order to...

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You won't be able to draw majority/minority Senate district in this area, but you could,

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some of the house districts that would contain it would be part of that.

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Question?

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Can you pull up the heat map again?

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Yeah. For the black population? Yep.

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So I'm still trying to understand this 75% rule because I'm trying to understand if...No, there's no rule, there's no rule I'm just saying, I'm just showing what happens. The 75% guidance or where the 75% guidance came from....it may

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not be a rule but it came from somewhere.

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So I'm trying to understand is that just a rule for majority minority counties or was that the same rule for majority white counties like Queen Anne's or, you know, somewhere on the western shore? I want to be clear, there's no guidance about 75%,

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I was just saying that because of the nature of the demography here, you're going to end up with some districts, if you're inside Prince George's County that just happened to have that percentage. That's not, I'm not recommending that,

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that's not legally relevant at all. I'm just saying that as you can see, because of the segregation, unless you were trying to draw in, you know, draw these kind of pizza slice districts, you're going to inevitably get districts if you draw them on

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the border with Washington DC, there several of them are going to be in the 70% plus range. And so that's all I wanted to say. In general, I mean the law...

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Just so we're clear, the only relevant number for the law and even this is a, is not necessarily a strict rule..is that you for purposes of the Voting Rights Act in areas where the minority can constitute a majority, that is to say over 50% of a potential

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district, then under certain conditions you either have to draw that or at least something where minorities will be able to elect their candidate of choice. So take something like the Asian community in Maryland,

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statewide it's large enough to have more than one district, but it's not compact enough for us to draw a 50% Asian citizen voting age population district and so therefore, the Voting Rights Act won't require you to do it.

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But the Voting Rights Act might require that you try to, in some cases, try to unpack and create more majority or plurality African American districts in the areas where there's so much segregation.

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So don't fixate on the 75% that was just what I was going to say that just happens to be the percentage, right now, of a district like this.

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The only thing we should think about is statistically, where are there areas the minority community is large enough so that it would be over 50% of a potential district and then those areas

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we may have to draw substantial minority districts.

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Does that make sense?

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I'll have more questions on that, but we can continue on. Okay.

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Okay, so let me show you. Then the opposite example so you see here, where you have you have, having racial segregation, you've got your high concentrations...in Dorchester,

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and this has historically been a majority black assembly district that you, where you draw and connect these areas together. So here we have a potential risk of packing.

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Here we have a potential risk of cracking, where if you didn't join these minority communities together, you might end up

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diluting their vote and so historically there's been a district that will go from Salisbury here, up through Cambridge up here.

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To create a majority black district.

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And, yeah, go on.

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I guess my..I'm trying to understand, either you're packing a minority district or you're cracking, what's the happy medium?

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Yeah, that's...Either you're packing everybody into one box or you're diluting their vote. Well, that's the million-dollar question and that's what our challenge is, and so it doesn't...packing is not a problem if it happens in a few places,

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but you gotta make sure that when you end up packing black voters that it's not systematically done throughout the plan. That's why creating districts, for example, that go from Northern Prince George's County out, right, to which these

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would be almost just right around 50%, as well as these districts here inside, which are just over, 50%, right, that those districts are necessary in order to make sure that African Americans are not underrepresented because of the districts that are

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more heavily concentrated. The Goldilocks question which you asked, which is well you know overly packed versus too cracked, that is the challenge of voting rights law is to try to get that happy medium while at the same time,

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making sure that you're not unduly factoring race into the equation in a way that might violate the constitution.

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Okay, I'm good for now. I'll have more questions, but I don't want to hold us up, The game starts in an hour so...

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Okay.

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All right. Yeah, I see you got the jersey on too.. So let me...

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I'll go quickly through this and then people can maybe, I'll jump back and tell me if there are areas you want me to focus on. So, this map was basically drawn with the concern of....

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It was drawn based off of the Congressional map in some ways the way that you all thought about the regions and the congressional map and then really aggressively protecting political subdivisions.

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And then also dealing with the Voting Rights Act, considerations that I was sort of looking down the line. But you can see just to take I've done through Frederick here you can see Carroll County has its own district up here it's sort of pursuant to that

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congressional map, then there's the residual of Carroll County going into Howard County.

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Montgomery County let me just zoom in here, a little bit maybe just make it a little bigger.

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Montgomery County,

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One thing I want to just highlight for you that I mentioned before, so right now we have the % African American by VTD, by precinct on the screen.

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If we start looking at the combined minority population, you'll see that it gets even more complicated. And so that...

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So if you look at these areas that are red, these are majority non-Anglo white areas. And so you can see a place like Gaithersburg which didn't in the previous map the previous heat map looked like it was, had a substantial minority population

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actually does, but it's several different minorities at once. Um, and so I think it's useful to look at this, I don't want to suggest that the Voting Rights Act requires that you draw majority nonwhite districts that's not the

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requirement of the Voting Rights Act, but when minority groups might be working in coalition with one another, it may be relevant, and we can go into the

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deep dive in the voting rights act in that but I want to definitely show you that when we start thinking about aggregated minority groups that the picture is even more complicated in different parts of the state.

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Right.

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I'll take back...as I mentioned with Frederick, if you look at Frederick, the areas that are contained in Frederick chill , all here and then going down are all you know 20% or more minority.

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And so let me, I'll just remove this, but happy to go back and show that again.

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And so Montgomery County, basically has

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a district that is Gaithersburg, a district that is Rockville, a district that is sort of west of Wisconsin Avenue, Potomac in that area...

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And then one and I'm not sure if this is the right way to do it, Chevy Chase through Silver Spring, Takoma Park. This allows for this district, which is district 13, has a substantial...really gathers

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most of the Latino community in this area in one district, it doesn't go as far as Rockville which also has a substantial Latino population, it's only 37% though Latino and so that's something to think about.

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Especially as you also think about these other areas of opportunity. But as you'll know and as we mentioned before, we've got, you know, several...

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all the districts are within Montgomery County in Prince George's County..Professor, if I can ask a question?

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In number 13 that district, did you put together a primary interest on the community and municipality and places, or did you look at the racial

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and ethnic background of those voting districts when you put it together? So you'll see it obeys when it does, it actually does not break any city lines, so that it does obey as you'll see Takoma Park is not in it and these other

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areas so there are no municipalities that are in it. And so, it is, I won't say that it is, you know, predominantly drawn on race, because that would be unconstitutional.

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But that it was through an attempt to make sure that the Latino population in this area is not unnecessarily divided up. And so I guess the one of the ways to put it is that I drew the maps first without looking at race, and then I said well what does

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this do to violate certain communities by dividing them up unnecessarily. And this one did. And so with some minor adjustments, I could draw you know this district which is a pretty compact district.

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It is just to be clear, though, so I have it on the screen, it is 37% Hispanic, so it's not a majority, Hispanic district...

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But it is a majority minority. It's about 70% minority.

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Does that answer your question?

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Yes.

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I think that's the approach I was looking at as well, not looking at the statistics of the results, until after the voting districts were pulled together into a compact.

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And what and just to be clear, also I should make that base, almost all of these districts are drawn, just on the basis of precincts, right, I say almost all because there's some stuff that dealing with continuity and the water and Baltimore that,

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where I broke up like precincts that had no people in them.

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But, but something like this it's just, if you have funny shapes, you'll notice it's because of the way the precincts are drawn. Also, I'm not sure this is the kind of thing where we would be useful to get public comments.

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You know, I know this area relatively well, having my mother lived there for many years.

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And the that sort of Chevy Chase north on Wisconsin Avenue I, you know, that makes sense but should Silver Spring and Takoma Park be joined in here or should it be with these other communities here, right, reasonable people can disagree about

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that.

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It certainly you know because of the shape of the bite that Washington DC takes out of Maryland, it ends up you know creating this this horseshoe character to it, but those are the kinds of things that I think through public comment and through the commissioners

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own expertise, could be useful to get feedback on. And we can also, you know, all of this stuff could be smoothed out.

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I'm sorry Walter Did you? Was there someone who had a question?

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All right. Um, so Prince George's County....

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You'll note that it only has one triversal, so Prince George's County is kept completely whole except for this one last district that goes here.

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District 33 is also a compact plurality Latino district plurality but not majority, going along, it's just sort of going right along the western northwestern part of Prince George's County.

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You'll notice how difficult it is to respect political subdivision lines like these, right these are crazy shaped municipalities. And so it's difficult to both respect Hyattsville and University Park and College Park, for instance, but the district's

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try to do as good a job as possible.

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In fact, let me broaden this up so it's clear.

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I think that that should do it. Maybe a little more.

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So trying to get all of College Park in this one area here. All of Hyattsville I believe with it with the exception of this little area, well I'm sure that that's part of Hyattsville, it's sort of discontinuous all in this

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district 34 here.

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Greenbelt which is up here, there are some... New Carrollton is kept whole in here, Glenarden here. And then, you know this district is the Bowie based district inside Prince George's County, some other areas right close to DC are in

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this area here going east west, this, I'm not thrilled about the shape of this area right here I think I would want to do some more work on that.

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And then, the warning side and forest heights are in this district along the as it approaches the coast here. And then all of the remainder Prince George's County is just down here and so it does not split and does not oin

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with Charles County, which is something that we did in the Congressional map.

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This is also a majority African American district in Charles County.

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And so, and that can be drawn in a relatively compact way.

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Um, you have to have one triversal into St Mary's. Charles and St Mary's together are more than two districts, and so they have to lose some population and that can be done right here.

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But all of Calvert County is kept together in this plan and then Anne Arundel County parts of Anne Arundel County are added. Then there's sort of an Annapolis based district here.

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Anne Arundel County, responding to the concerns about excessive splits, has three full districts that are inside Anne Arundel County in this plan

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and then, parts of three others, right but there are at least three full districts that are there.

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I mentioned one, the one area that we really a lot sort of crashes together in the middle of a map because of pressures from the outlying areas and so thinking about how you deal with Laurel and whether you draw a district like this and this goes back

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to Commissioner Thomas's question about unpacking and the like. This is a district which is roughly 50% African American, and it's because it's white some African American areas in Prince George's County with some outlying areas.

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Baltimore.

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There are lots of decisions that need to be made. When it comes to Baltimore and those of you who are residents of it I think are in a better position than I am, you'll note that in this map,

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I kept every district inside Baltimore except one that goes into Anne Arundel County, because that's what we did in the congressional map. But every one of these,

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and each one of these except for district 25,,,,,1, 2, 3 and 4 are all over 50% African American, and then district 25 is there, you could probably draw one more African American district, if you went, if you if you decided to break up the city of Baltimore

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in a different way.

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Similarly, you know you, you'll notice that Baltimore County, so while there's one district, which is traversing the Baltimore City, Anne Arundel border,

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there is also only one district that is traversing the Harford, Baltimore County border here in the, in the north.

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And so this is a hard barrier here, which actually has real implications for the plan. We said that you can go in and out of Baltimore County and don't have to obey this border, you can do a lot more in terms of these districts.

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And so, and so you'll see it's basically, you know, going sort of in a pizza, sort of fashion with both of these.

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One other way to do this is to instead it this way the congressional map existing lines do is to maybe through the traversal in southern Baltimore County, so you group these sort of

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areas along the water instead of doing it up in the rural area here which would have pushed these districts, up to the top, but again you know they it to some extent it depends on community of interest considerations with Harford whether the areas

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here along the water you feel should be with these areas in southern Baltimore County.

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A quick question. Yeah. About Baltimore City, and the 5% deviation between district 21 and 22 it's over 5%. Are we going to narrow that down or is that currently how it's listed are we doing 5% from zero?

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It's 10%, 10% is the total allowable deviation. And so each one of these numbers, you'll see is below, 5%, or below less than negative 5% so both of these are perfectly constitutional. If either one of these was over 5%

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that we might have problems, but this is only 3.42% over, and this is 2.73%. But one of the things we might do right is when you see something like this when I see something like this, I say well why don't I just, you know, let's take one precinct from

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district 22 and, you know, put it in there let's see what that does.

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And so then district 21 I'll have will be negative 1.87%, you know you'll bring this down almost a percentage point. And so that's what I mean about refining it to deal with population variances once you have the basics of the map, but at

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this stage I would, I would just keep it at five plus or minus 5% because you might want to completely redo these districts. In fact I want to urge you to think aggressively about, do not anchor your expectations based on this map because I think

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there are a lot of problems, challenges with it and actually what's happening in Baltimore is, is one of the more challenging areas. And so thinking about you know whether the district should be coming in from Harford down here, or whether

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you want, instead of joining Baltimore City, parts of Baltimore City with Anne Arundel County maybe to have it go out in this direction. I think that, and we don't need to do it on the fly like we did last week but just give me some marching orders is a scenario

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you would like me to run. And then I'll draw that map, and then we can go from there.

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Alright so the way that this district was drawn was to get Bel Air, the city of Bel Air and with the other parts of southern Harford but that can be changed.

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And I've seen maps that just put Bel Air, in the northern area here.

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Did someone have a question? I did... Could you layer on the racial competition like you did....

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So let me, let me do that now and I'll show you what sort of went into this.

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So as you can see, I just identified the majority black districts you've got 23,22,21 and 24 that a majority black..25 is, I believe...

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Just roughly 39% on the adjusted population.

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15 is also 69% black so this is also a heavily concentrated area.

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17 is not 17 is, it's, it's majority minority but it's only 32% black. So, as you start thinking about effective representation right if you see that once you obey this boundary here of Baltimore County and that this district doesn't go in and out that

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that you know presents serious constraints and so

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you know it's just something to think about, like, so this is a 39% black district and 25....17 is a, is a 32% black district but if you, you know you could join the outline areas here, so that you had something from going from Anne Arundel into Baltimore

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County and then one of these districts going in, and that would probably create an additional black district. Again, you know, these are all compact districts and to the most extent,

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respect political subdivision lines and it's really just, you know, up to you all about how you think, based on your experience living in these areas what you think is the most natural way to represent these communities.

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But each of these districts is kind of in the 50% range. I'll just say 21 is 59%, 22 is 56.69%, 23 is 53.94%, 24 is 52.48%. What about 20 and 19?

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Say again? What about 20 and 19? So 20 is 17% black, and 19 is 26% black.

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So once you get out unless you go into the West, there's not as a substantial population. Then of course in southern Baltimore City,

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there's...

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That's what makes these 55% not 75% districts.

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Does that layer in?

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Can we look at Hispanic?

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Yeah.

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You see this is pretty much kept together. There's been a community in eastern Baltimore, right, and just, you know, kept it in this district, 23.

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The other areas don't have substantial populations.

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And I did see by the way something in chat I want to correct myself, or further embellish which is that I mentioned that the citizenship issue, I mentioned in the context of Hispanic political opportunity but obviously the citizenship issues affect

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all groups. And in fact, it affects sometimes...there's sometimes are situations where you have a district that say 40% African American, that when you start looking at the citizen voting age population ends up being over 50%, and so

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and so it does cut both ways. Sometimes it reduces that percentage of a group and sometimes it ends up, increasing

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Dr. Persily, can you just go back to that 23 where you have accomplished some concentration of Latino or Hispanic. But what is the actual percentage in that like, it may still be a majority black...Yeah, its almost 54% black it's about

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12% Latino. O.K. I wasn't sure which column it was, I couldn't see the...

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I'll spruce it up for everybody so you can see. I think you know for transparency purposes we obviously have to make this

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map public I am concerned that it's going to be seen as anchoring the commission, I'm just as happy

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if we go through like we did with the congressional map, and just start in a particular corner and then just start drawing districts.

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But I did want...this is the way I learned about what the kind of considerations were and where the points of tension were and so I wanted to just convey that to the commission with something tangible.

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And also, I would throw in that four Senate maps that have been submitted by the public,

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I've only had a short time to glance at them, but I think they have some good ideas in them and each one treats Baltimore differently for example. Each one treats

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Montgomery somewhat differently and we may find that we look at those submissions that a light bulb will go on about a better way of handling one of these issues. And I think they do, that so one of the things about those maps which I think is important.

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and does it offer options for you is that as you're saying they don't necessarily obey the county lines as strictly as I am here. These are districts that are pretty aggressive about saying, all right, there's only one district, that is going

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over the Baltimore City boundary, there's only one district that's going over the Baltimore County boundary. But if you start having two districts... and same thing with Prince George's right and then there are none that go over Montgomery County.

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And so, if you relax that a bit,

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it opens up all kinds of possibilities and this is something that we should have a conversation about.

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I'll just say, because I want to delay either football or anything else today.

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I want to just highlight the issue that I mentioned before, that this district down here has historically supported one African Americans assembly district.

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And so, what looks like you know it's a split of Salisbury.

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But that is, is a consequence of those...that ambition of that having those districts, I tried figuring out a way to, if there was some combination of counties that would support, like, a perfect number of districts and I could not find that,

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and so Caroline County is split here, Wicomico is also, and then Cecil is split up there.

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And that is it, why don't I stop sharing and see if there are any questions?

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We didn't spend a lot of time in Howard County. That's an interesting county. I know Kate probably has a number of questions there. But we can do that later.

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I'm interested in that county also.

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Well, so let me say about Howard which is that basically Howard has one full district and then sort of central Howard, and then it has, you know the because of where it is and you know this is the story and a lot of these plans.

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Because Montgomery County provides a kind of floor, Frederick County provides this kind of wall over here because we ended its districts there. Then you have no place, unless it's going to go into Baltimore County, you've got this, this half

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district or it's actually probably 75% of a district, you got this district which is fully in Howard.

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And then you've got two parts of districts, this is the majority minority district that is extending from Laurel into Anne Arundel, and then you've got this district which was Anne Arundel into Howard.

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Am I right, that district 26 there does a pretty good job of taking into Columbia association plus Ellicott City, which are certainly very cohesive communities, even if they're not... Let me call that up, I'll take the voting district off...

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And so it basically gets all of Columbia, Ellicott City is somewhat broken here...It gets to downtown areas. And some of the lines of the suburban areas.

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I mean one of the problems, as we think about political subdivision so what I have on the screen right now, these lines, are what is known as Census designated places.

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Some of those can be cities, some of them are not. The green, though I talked to the Maryland planning office or know I think was the elections office, I said I want to make sure I know where the city boundaries are.

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And so that's what the green, the green cities, right were provided by the state of Maryland.

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These are just the way the Census has designated communities. And I can tell you having... we dealt with this with the Prince George's redistricting 10 years ago, a lot of these places don't really reflect the borders as members of that community

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view them. And so it's something just to think about as, and I don't know, maybe, Commissioner

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Hetherington can speak to this, right, does this accurately capture Columbia does this actually, you know, capture what the way people think about Ellicott City is it just kind of a general? Typically Ellicott City and Howard are joined.

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And so, pulling part of Ellicott City out of the Columbia area, probably would be something we want to rethink. And so that's the kind of thing we know we could experiment with there, they may be too big to support.

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So, you know, we could, we could try to take out these areas. That's only 5% of it.

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That would....

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That's only 3000 people, so it looks to me like Columbia and Ellicott City, one of them is going to have to be split, but we could figure out whether those are the right borders there.

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How many districts? How many senatorial districts since Howard County have now, two. Kate?

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Yes.

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I can tell you here.

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Okay population wise, be about two and a half...Three...

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Well you see you've got these kinds of crazy shapes going in. Yeah, some of them cross over into other areas. There's only one that's fully within Howard, and that's this state Senate district 13, it

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looks like. And then you've got state Senate district 12 that goes across into Baltimore County. Yes, that's right. And then we also have one that goes into Carroll County. Yeah right there. That's a third one, district nine.

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Yeah, but you can see how crazy I mean just to highlight, this district here right which is not the kind of thing, usually a commission would draw but, but, you know,

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that's the current district. Yeah, that one is very odd looking. Yeah, yeah. And it goes...it's just two counties but it goes up and around, so yeah.

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Eagle holding a spray can.

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You can see the smoke coming out of the can.

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Um, so yeah that's Howard County. If there any other counties you want me to talk more deeply about? And then the one in Howard County, that is that section of Western Howard County that's aligned with Carroll,

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for the senatorial district, probably makes sense.

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Well this iagain how we think about the with the congressional map like where there are there any number of ways to skin this cat right so well, let me say that the Frederick, depending on what you do with Frederick

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County right if you, if you keep this border sacrosanct, right, the Carroll County residual district has only two ways it can go: it can go either into Baltimore, or it can go into Howard.

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In this one, it goes into Howard, because I was trying just to break the Baltimore County boundary once.

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I think I agree with Kate that the connections between Western Howard and southern Carroll are very close, its....

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I do believe that they feel a lot of identification with each other's.... high agriculture area. Yeah.

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Walter is the minority and identifiable minority community in Washington County which is supported by that minority delegate up there.

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I don't think the population is large enough to do that but I defer to Professor Persily for somebody who might have that information.

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We're talking about Washington County there? Is there a minority majority just district, one delegate in Hagerstown, I don't think there is? But this is an interesting question, and I was looking at this...

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The general principle of not splitting Hagerstown is going to get you in that direction anyway I just don't know what's up with the numbers for a minority majority. For a delegate?

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Yeah. Um, well I think that's right. Um, so here's....

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Here's what it looks like. So, we can do this

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quickly, and I can tell you, if it's going to, it doesn't you'll notice there aren't that many red areas, so that means each one of these things that I'm adding here is actually minority...

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And so, this is about what an assembly district would look like. This ends up being still about two thirds white, and that's sort of what I just did on the fly.

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Understood.

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But as Walter was saying. This plan does respect the borders of Hagerstown, so it doesn't unnecessarily split up the minority population in Hagerstown, and again this is a pretty diverse minority population here.

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Just to give you a sense, I mean if you're interested, right, we can, I can look at each one of these districts, and so something like this.... just that red little red area.

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It's.

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You can see that it's 77% white or white no that's right that's the senate district that's a district....Anyway...

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I can show it later but that this is basically 707 blacks out of 1500 population. And then these other areas are going to be more diverse.

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All right.

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I do you think we still have to have...I mean, we're kind of getting to this without being explicit about it but about what our criteria or what we value, where we like to go, I mean, I think what we've heard is that we want to keep counties as much as possible

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and we're doing the congressional as much as possible intact.

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We probably have some decisions that we've come to tonight based on how we would define the senatorial our, you know, what we prefer to see in the senatorial districts, but it probably be best I think for us to have a conversation.

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And maybe that's a conversation we start off tomorrow about so we can try and use that as guidelines realizing that there are guidelines, but they're going to have to be

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not always the thing we adhere to based on certain variables, whether that's the numbers that can't be met. For example, what I just told you about Howard County.

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You always think of Ellicott Vity, Columbia together, but the numbers wouldn't allow something like that to happen. So, then you have to make exceptions, but I think it's important for us to hear from all the commissioners about what's important and

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see if there's concurrence. Because we're getting to the point soon where we have to be drawing maps.

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Is this a good time to start that conversation or should we plan for tomorrow?

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So maybe you know, I'm looking at William who's saying, please don't do it tonight. I'm looking at that thought cloud. And I can see, I can actually see that thought cloud so perhaps that would be when we're thinking about it, we have

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time to digest to sleep on it, or maybe watch the game and then sleep on it.

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But that's how we begin our conversations more, but I really appreciate what Dr. Persily has done as far as giving us things to think about because that helps us say, well, what is it, what's the most important things that we're going to try and hold on

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to, and realize we can't do it in all situations.

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So if people want to email me tonight with any scenarios, they want me to run like to redo Baltimore City Baltimore County because I think there's a lot of different, I can, it's one of these things where there are so many possibilities that I just was,

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you know, I didn't know which one to put on the page.

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But I can do dozens of them and people are interested so please send me any requests.

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Okay, thank you. One thing on the criteria, if it would be possible for the professor to pull together those criteria items for that presentation he's made and add to the other ones for instance the 5% deviation of those for us to look at in a group, or, you know, just as

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a thought before tomorrow that would be useful.

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Any other comments? I get a sense we are close to wrapping up.

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Requests? Things we should note to discuss tomorrow?

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We have the public listening I just would continue to, and Kristin I think done this and all of us have done it just encourage people to submit their maps we do read everything we are looking at it's going to help influence our recommendations even in

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establishing the criteria so please,

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whatever we can get from the public would be appreciated. I see Cheryl's hands raised now. And I know you brought something for us discuss in terms of people seeing some of the questions or comments related to the maps that come up, since it's something

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that we have to consider while we're able to look at them. People may be able to see someone else's thoughts and had another thought they could share with us in terms of feedback, we don't have much longer.

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You know, in terms of right now we have one more right, tomorrow? Before we continue, so just a consideration for the chat, in terms of whether or not they can see, if we see this issue we could pull back then, just a thought, just to make sure that public....

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and open really does mean that we can see each other's thoughts and help us, just a consideration.

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If I could say just one thing in response to some stuff, I'm seeing in the chat which is that because this is often jarring for people who have never been part of redistricting process, about sort of the over correction or the focusing on race.

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So I just want for the public to understand that this is in part what the federal law requires is that...that the reason the Census releases data in this format and has the racial data is because of the Voting Rights Act.

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And so as we go through this, it's not that racial considerations are placed above all considerations in every instance. It is saying that there are legal requirements that the Commission has to comply with, and several of them are implicated by the racial

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composition of different communities.

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Of course before we start getting serious about maps, I'd like to hear from Gloria for her thoughts again on the Hispanic Latino community.

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Got it. Got to consider that.

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Gloria is scheduled to address us on the 20th which I believe is one week from tonight. Okay. She's doing a presentation I believe. She'll be doing a presentation on One possibility is that we might want to put

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put in some work on areas of the map that are not as implicated in some of the questions that she's going to be talking about. Those areas in Central Maryland, that present a number of difficult questions, including how to handle heavily Hispanic

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populations, we might just save them until after Monday.

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You know, one other thing for the Professor if there's any process, suggestions you can give us that would help, maybe they're not as controversial, that are we don't have as many considerations were maybe we could get those kind of, I don't want

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to say out of the way, but you know what I mean they're, they're easier to do if we can do that so we can have these really important conversations about the ones that are more complex.

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And that's where I think we're going to have more of the back and forth but if there's ones that are kind of straightforward and, you know, recommendations on those, we can, kind of, it would help, because we have a lot of work to do and we don't have

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a whole lot of time.

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Well, I would also encourage for the reason that chair Olson mentioned before, which is that, looking at the public submissions on the Senate, because now you've seen one example, right, there are some others there and how they did it and so,

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so it really doesn't take very long, you can see how they dealt with Baltimore, for example, and if you think that that's a better way to do it then, then I think that would be good to incorporate.

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One other thing,

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Chair Olson about the process they're there, we're going to be at points in time where we're going to have to vote on this is the way we want to go and, you know, of course you have to have certain numbers we talked about that for them.

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But that will help us try and solidify the parts that we can and then move on to other parts.

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Could I put in a request, and I think everyone should feel free to make some kind of request which is some of the plans that we see in our file of plans. Some of them for state Senate don't have any blow ups that are enabling us to examine detail in the

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crowded parts of the state, like Baltimore. So it becomes very hard to see what's actually going on in Baltimore.

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Is it possible to get close up detail maps for, particularly those

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the couple of Senate maps that don't currently have them?

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That would let us do that comparison across all formats of what's happening in Baltimore City, for example. I believe because you have the files that they can be loaded into the mapitude portal that you have, then you can zoom in

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and out. Okay. I don't know how the staff is dealing with that. Commissioner Clawson, you're shaking your head is that not possible?

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It is possible I just don't think it's been done yet. The PDF, it's there and it does list the files that JSON or other files that are available but I don't think they've been meshed into mapitude yet but that would be up to someone at the

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state to comment on.

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Are there other comments?

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I think we are half an hour from gametime, hearing no other comments,

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would this be a good place to wrap up for the evening?

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This is Kristin, I'm having some technological issues with my screen this evening. Just a reminder that tomorrow's meeting does begin at six o'clock.

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Once again if we have any updates, whether they be emails or additional maps that have been processed I will send them out to everyone. And we will start at six o'clock tomorrow, just let me know if you have made a decision as to having that chat feature

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be live for everyone. I will attempt to go in and change that, if you would like me to.

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If not, we certainly can do that for future meetings.

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But is there a decision on that? Is anyone opposed to that?

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If no one's opposed to that, we go ahead and do it now.

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Okay.

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Can we somehow delete or obsolete any comments that you deem inappropriate? It doesn't let us get rid of the message, it doesn't let us delete it quickly and it just keeps going so that's

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the issue at hand.

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In one instance where the commenter was making extremely inappropriate comments I think that commenter was thrown out but even then, the comments were not deleted. They were just left there. Correct.

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Yeah, my preference because we were able to view all of them right after the meeting. It's a bit distracting.

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Because it's, like, you know, well let me just put it this way we see a lot of repeats. And so if I can view them without being distracted from the conversation,

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my feeling is I rather just look at them afterwards, I still read, we had eighty one the other night and I read every single one of them.

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And I don't have to be in live time for it. We certainly can post the comments, and we certainly can post the chat feature, along with the meeting so people would have the transcript, the video as well as the chat.

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We certainly could do that.

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Or we can just have the chat be live. And we would still send you out to everybody after the meeting anyway.

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I'd like to try it in real time, see what happens. And then, if it becomes a problem or people are self-promoting themselves or some inappropriate then we just cut it, cut it back off. Yeah. Let's try it. O.K. , if we do that, I just would ask the

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public to be mindful....

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You know about inappropriateness on the chat.

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I have a question. I'm just kind of clarifying. What is the difference between what we are currently doing and a live chat? It is live. I usually see the comments scrolling through. We can but they can't.

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Oh, they can't see amongst themselves. Yeah, they're still seeing everything...Just wanted to clarify I wasn't sure what we were, what was the distinction that we were making? Correct.

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We can send messages to everyone, but members of the public can't send a message to all members of the chat, which also then kind of allows us, allows the situation not to happen where people are kind of going after each other in the chat which we also have

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seen. I think that's what we're seeing a lot of people going after each other in the chat. Yeah, we don't want to see that reaction. Yeah. Well, I think Judge, maybe we try it again and see what happens.

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Maybe, as they say in Howard County, people will choose civility.

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We'll see, That sounds good. I will see if I can make that change in the platform so that will be a feature, that feature will be enabled tomorrow.

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And we can move forward in that way. I also want to remind everybody that we do a lot of social media promotion for these meetings, please share it on your own social media if you are active in social media, whether it be Facebook or Twitter to share those

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redistricting, it's our redistricting Twitter account, which I've sent to everyone, our Facebook account, as well as the Maryland Department of Planning, we post them there as well.

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We do send out as I mentioned in an earlier email, we do send out the notification of these meetings to about 46,000

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different contacts. That includes the press corps. It includes all elected officials, federal, state, and local elected officials that we send that to. We send it to the Maryland Association of Counties, the Maryland

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Municipal League. So we send it far and wide and that also goes to the listserv that we've put together of anyone who ever said yes please send me information on the 2020 census, as well as those who have signed up to receive redistricting information.

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So these meetings are being promoted far and wide, social media,

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through that list serve which again is being sent to elected officials and of course we asked them to share it on their social media and several of them do. Several elected officials will go and share.

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Whether it's the redistricting pages or the Maryland Department of Planning social media pages and they will share that information about the meetings, they'll share the flyer that we post.

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So I would ask you all to share it in as many ways as possible as well and we can send you some, some separate flyers, but they're also on our social media accounts, as well.

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Thank you, Kristin.

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Any other comments before we close it out for this evening?

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O.K. Hearing none. Do I hear a motion to adjourn? Adjourn.

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Second.

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All in favor, raise your hand.

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Any opposed? Okay, we are adjourned till tomorrow.

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Thank you. Thank you, everybody. Have a good night, Go Ravens.

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Thank you.