

**Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission
Final Meeting - Summary of Events and Final Maps
November 3, 2021**

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All right. All right, good evening and welcome to the final meeting of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission. This meeting will allow the commission to take a final vote on their recommended maps and provide a summary to the public on their work

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that they've been doing for the last seven months.

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This meeting will not include public testimony as the final meeting for round three occurred last Wednesday. With that, I would like to introduce you to our hosts for this evening's meeting the Commission's three co-chairs will all present this evening.

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They are Dr. Kate Hetherington judge Alexander Williams, and Walter Olson who will start things off. Walter.

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Thank you, Kristin.

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And why don't we start off as we usually do by introducing all nine of us for members of the public who may be new to the process or watch enough the fact.

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My name again is Walter Olson I'm from Frederick County, and I work for think tech. Okay, Kate, why don't you go next.

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Good evening, everyone. I'm Dr Cade Hetherington, I'm a resident of Howard County and the recently retired president of our community college.

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All right. Thank you, Alex Williams, retired judge for Prince George's County, Maryland.

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Good evening, Jay, I mean, resident mineral county I'm in land development executive

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evening I'm sure Brooks resident Baltimore County, and our principal elementary school.

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Good evening, I'm Mary Clawson, I'm a retired federal employee and a resident of Arundel County.

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Sorry forgot to unmute. Hi, Kim coming longtime resident of the Eastern Shore employed with the circuit court in Dorchester county where I reside. Thank you.

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I am Jonathan Crossfield a resident of Montgomery county, my communication manager for a research firm

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lumen William Thomas senior principal systems engineer, and father defense and also a grassroots organizer.

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No Baltimore City resident. Thank you commissioners and our agenda tonight will be a little bit different, just as the chairman of it will be a little bit different.

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We will be starting out with the discussion with maps and proceeding to a vote, but I think before we do that, we probably should spend a moment on the questions of how the maps may have changed in one or two respects since our last public meeting because

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at that meeting, we talked about a couple of issues in Baltimore County where it was decided what was going to happen, but I think if Professor personally has a moment, he can show us the actual ones, so that we can all be sure to be caught up in with

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a delicate districts there.

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Thank you. Can you see my screen or bad?

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Yes. Alright. So, for those who are listening and who were concerned about Southeastern Baltimore County, I want to make sure that the Commission has heard you.

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And there were significant changes that were made even prior to that revealed in the last meeting but now you can see in full what they look like. And so you can see that there were concerns about engineer Dundalk and sex and the fact that the

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previous incarnation of the map, went into Baltimore City, you can see now that they are all together and Baltimore County, this is, this is essentially the senate district here, which will be Senate District 20.

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The one thing I want to, and I'll just show you to this was a little bit different.

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Permission unboxing had raised I thought some good points about the original shape of this district cut out or divided parts of.

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Notice, old Dundalk and said, as you can see here, the Harvard Avenue wise Avenue will be that kind of more here going up towards the water.

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And so that's good that smooth line is a little bit of a change the last time.

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I will say just so people understand that that Dundalk itself is about 1.5 districts, so it has to be split and given the love, the location of a water and location engineer, right, you're going to have to have a district that goes from engineer and sits

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on a Dundalk. Here we have another, either as a district that would go up and over or something like what we've got here which has seven doc and all imagine together.

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The other change that was made is not terribly significant it's just moving this cemetery in pipes all the previous and the Pikeville reservoir into this district the previous incarnation had this sort of bite that was taken out of District 16, A.

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And that's just put in, without, you know, much consequence it. There are some people who the sentences count in there but I'm not sure whether they're living or dead, so you know that it doesn't affect the populations, it's a few dozen people who are

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counted there but you can see, as was explained last time that the Jewish community made some arguments about trying to have a district that was respectful of their boundaries, I will note one, one thing that we received was information about the room,

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which is the sort of Orthodox Jewish boundary line for when you can carry stuff on the Sabbath, that that exceeds the size of anyone delegate district, but this new district 16 A gets most of that, that area that was designated in that testimony.

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And those are the only two changes that were made.

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Since last time.

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They're not, you know, very consequential, it's mostly just trying to have smooth borders, that are reflective of major, major roads and boundaries in the particular jersey in the particular areas that were changes were made.

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I'm happy to show any other parts of the map, if people are interested. One thing I had warned about last time is the possibility that will combine the delegate districts into.

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into the senate districts there might be reasons that I would have to make changes because of the population variances might jump off but that didn't happen, so I was encouraged to see that.

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So once we combined the single member districts into the multi member district single member district into the senate districts, they all were made under 2%.

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In variation so it's a very tight equal map, but for the legislative the House of Delegates districts and the senate districts.

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Thank you, professor. Mo Walter on a different point.

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And tonight is going to be more explanatory than most of our meetings, we're going to make a point of explaining some things, the commissioners themselves know being worth that some people will tune into this meeting to get an overview of the whole process.

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So let me spend a moment on the issue of the number of districts because we've gotten a lot of public comments asking why districts are not number two what people expect it.

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And in a nutshell.

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The executive order from Governor Hogan directed us with the State Senate districts to number them consecutively from the northwest of the state to the southeast.

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That's not how they're numbered in the current map which means that certain districts in Baltimore County and Montgomery county indeed many parts of the state, that are out of numerical order.

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Under the existing map will get remembered, and people find that sometimes upsetting. But we are following the directive of the governor's executive order the governance Executive Order was our silent on how the number of the congressional districts,

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and for a while we also number those from the northwest of the southeast, a boy did we ever hear from the public, wanting their familiar district numbers back on the congressional mountain so a few weeks ago we agreed to remember it according to the standard

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understanding of where those districts are. So if you wonder about the district numbers, there's your, your explanation.

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I will also mention because the last week has been the has continued to receive some public comment, those comments will receive, and have been circulated to the members we will not necessarily address the issues but commissioners for a chance to think

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about the points raised by the various writers, many of them writing about southeastern Baltimore County whereas some personally just said, we did not fix a week ago, in response to the overwhelming reaction we were getting from residents of Eastern Baltimore

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County. So, with that.

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Oh, Walter.

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You need to at least bring up one issue and have physical Sally, maybe respond to it I know we've had healthy debates last few weeks and there's been some last minute,

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comments, so come in I took a note from one of the center of justice.

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Afternoon. And I just wanted to mention, whether it was.

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Professor personally wants to briefly address it. He can but the senator said he had a concern with the new district 17 and what looks to him like a century a combined boardwalk counties to majority minority districts that's district champion, 44, currently,

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and a new district 17 Richie concerns with his point was that by drawing the lines, this matter. The plan is packing West and Baldwin counties black population into one district undermining a minority representation within the county, and he would submit

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He would submit that there are other ways to grow plants without undermining what is currently a diverse, or what county delegation. I will say that we have debated that just wanted to put that on everyone's mind, so you know that that's the concern and

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we've looked at it, want to put it on record that that's a concern and I would ask whether festival, Sally, as in to respond briefly response to that the concern about the new district 17 and Baltimore County.

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So our proposed district 17 is 60% by quoting in population.

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And the one above it district 15 to 64%, like voting age population. These are less Pac than the current districts, so let me just repeat that these are limited there's no way one could say that we are somehow packing Western Baltimore of because these

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are these are less packed in the current districts.

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and so it actually is district 44 to 64% black going the population and the other one that is in western Baltimore County District 10, the 61.5%, like what a gay population so, so there's certainly no happening that's going on and we talked quite

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a bit about each one of the districts in Baltimore City, Baltimore County.

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And so, I, you know, we paid attention to this. We did a voting rights act analysis the entire plan complies with the Voting Rights Act.

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And we've done so with compact districts that respect political subdivision lines that's I think part of the.

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The hard part here is that you know we didn't, neither pack more crash. But we have perfectly sort of representative lines that nevertheless, also, as we as I showed that the map before follow county lines.

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Municipal lines and or not, you know, while the shaped and certainly a better shape than the current district so just packing, all I can say.

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the lines up in particular, in that area are actually less tackling. All right. Thank you. Welcome. I just wanted to put that on the record. And as I say that was a concern and now been addressed by festival Sally.

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Thank you. Thank you.

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We will be turning to the mouse in sequence, I believe, starting with it the rational map and I'm, followed by the Senate map and then followed by the delicate map but I would invite any of the commissioners, if you have things you'd like to bring up

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that might be overarching issues involving more than one of the reimbursement both professional and legislative mounts do feel free to step in and raise those concerns otherwise if you have concerns only about one of the mouse.

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There will also be a chance to do that when we move into the individual sequential consideration.

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Any overarching comments that people would like to make at this point.

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Okay.

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Hearing none, with

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with consensus of the group, I would like to start with the congressional mouth I think it's the one that we have been thinking about the longest and that has showed the earliest consensus on are their comments from commissioners about the congressional

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mouth.

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Okay.

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Well,

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you're muted now William Did you have comments.

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I was asking What do you mean define comments.

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Oh, just any further things that you believe we should be talking about five and a half times that would improve our understanding before we proceed to a part of the commercial now.

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I don't know if it'll improve our understanding.

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I will say that I am when it comes to the congressional map.

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I will say that I am disappointed in the lack of feedback. I've got from Baltimore City legislators and Baltimore City residents on the proposed maps that we've been putting out there all summer this entire seven-month period.

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I really don't know whether it truly reflects what the people want to see in a map for Baltimore city map will be rational district.

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I know we talked about proposing the Baltimore City, east, west split.

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Sometime ago, which is probably my preferred option but at this point is too late and considering how loud and clear Eastern Baltimore County has expressed their desire to not be included in anything Baltimore City related.

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The only way we could draw an East West split Baltimore City it would push those congressional districts into Baltimore County, and they will, they'll be a severe ripple effect on Baltimore County pushing into up accounting Carroll County, and our county

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potentially and Arundel County as well

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I'll probably have more to send I believe Mr. through the rue bad; I'm not going to budget last night he, he submitted comments on Monday, that I believe echo something similar to those thoughts.

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And I'm actually I'm actually appreciate him, I believe he ran for mayor last cycle I appreciate him, sending in his feedback because I haven't heard from any real Baltimore City legislators, or residents really regarding this issue, to be able to competently

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say this map reflects the best interest of Baltimore City I have my own personal opinions about making Baltimore City whole given the current state, the Baltimore City is and the representation that we have already and how it's split them in different

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ways and my personal opinion is that only one of one of us. One of our representatives truly cares and Baltimore City, but that's a different conversation.

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I can go on, but I'll just yield at that as tomorrow the nations about the congressional maps as they reflect for Baltimore soon.

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Okay charisma Seamus.

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Any further comments from commissioners,

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Karen Nona.

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Do we have a motion to adopt the congressional mouth, as, as proposed earlier?

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addition to a job the congressional maps that were proposed earlier

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question, is it possible to put the graphic of the map on the screen just to just ask that actually.

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I was going to ask Professor personally to do that.

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But we can put up we just will have that proposed draft, all the way through it, if we put it up.

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Going to help that watermark but at least for the audience that will have a chance to see some mountains.

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I also put up the, you know, mind version of map of the people want but if you can put, if you could put it up, Professor that would be that would be wonderful.

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Yeah, it's it.

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We can yes it's not as colorful as the one on the call is I can give you know service but for more colorful we do

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this this is the map that can also be found on the website we just took ten.one.com.

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For those who want a longer look at it.

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Okay, we've had from Dr. Heather and emotion to adopt map is there a second.

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Okay. Okay.

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Okay. All those in favor, could you say I or with you and let me say it is something.

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I think we should get a recording for each of the conditions down in the individual call. I think that's it. Yes, that makes sense and thank you for reminding me Chuck Williams.

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Should we start with the three chairs so in your to introduce yourselves I thought I. Yes.

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Hi, and just Williams on who I.

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Hi.

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Hi.

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Hi.

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Jonathan, I.

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William No.

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So by virtue of it one with Commissioner Thomas descending we adopt the congressional mouth.

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Thank you to everyone.

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And like to move on now to the Senate mouth. And again the open things for discussion there any commissioners who have comments about the senate mouth, and

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any observations that might improve our understanding.

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And we can pull the map up as you guys have it on PDF as well if that's easier if you think,

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well let's try that and we can kind of compare them.

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We should all have the senate mouth proposed to set it up in front of us.

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Again, I know we have gotten mail on the senate not in recent days and commissioners for chance to look at the correspondence even though what we

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not publicly discussing. As we can never publicly discuss all the different comments from the public, but any comments many commissioners about the senate now.

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Okay here and enjoy your emotion to it up to send it now

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because we're a second.

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Okay, and a discussion on the motion.

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Fernando, on February of.

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Adoption the senate map I'll start with myself by boat Hi, yes.

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Keep drinking, I didn't realize I gay I mean, I know awesome. I hope sorry Cheryl, it's okay sure Brooks, I Mary causing I.

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Kim you're muted.

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Cummings, I down from Fairfield, I.

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William Thomas

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by unanimous vote of nine deserve. We have adopted the senate maps.

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We could go on to the delegate maps.

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for the benefit of the public, some of you I know are tuning in for the first time, the delicate map looks a little different and one reason is that the Commission have worked very hard on the issue of purple member districts versus single member districts,

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there was a lot of sentiment in both directions.

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We did not have a full consensus on making the state or one way or the other. We adopted a compromise formula, in which a triple member districts were adopted, particularly in some of the denser areas of the state, such as the Baltimore area and the Washington

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suburbs, with some exceptions, which were explained them but that's why you will see some delicate districts that single number ones which out one third the population, other districts that are triple member, you may not be able to tell them this mouth

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but they will be like two and three districts.

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Okay.

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I think this is the as the, the pen here to go to the second to map, go to just a second image there, which has the numbers as opposed to the first one was just as colors.

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So just one slot data. Excellent. Yes.

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So you will see here that when you see a single number without an A, B, or C after such as district 10 and lower Montgomery county or district 11 or 12 there that has a tribal member district.

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That is a triple member district. When you see an A, B, or C, as in Western Maryland as in the eastern shore, and many other places but those will be single member districts, three of which fit into a Senate District, thank you personally for suggesting

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that.

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And its Commissioner comments on the delegate now.

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I would simply say, Walter that this was also challenging issues that we had to delegate map saw again, we reach a compromise on a high structure, but it was difficult, deciding which would be a single member which will be a multi member, but we got through

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it and this is the best that we could do on circumstances, so just want to point that out, that thank you so much and I am proud I know that feeling around high on this, we got more testimony on this than many other issue.

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I'm proud that we were able to forge a compromise that allowed us to move forward with the different views each getting important parts of what they want.

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So, what will push.

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Other comments from commissioners.

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Ah, I decided to comment that I think as a group we had decided that political boundaries in the state of Maryland, particularly county boundaries were very important not to cross, if we didn't have to.

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So we work very hard but, and with so much water on the eastern shore and only one landlocked county and that's Caroline.

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I would say we were not able to achieve maybe the best outcome in that one instance, but we did work very hard to look at all the concerns of, of all of the people who spoke, and I think we did a good job of trying to listen and not split counties.

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And when we had to combine things we did them in ways that made sense.

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Thank you.

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Also, African people said such Williams and Commissioner class and in terms of us having different views on whether it should be single or multi member, but do you think that the best compromise is what we came to in terms of a hybrid model so my appreciate,

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even your contributions Walter in terms of looking at density and thinking outside the box, in terms of how we would get to a place where we could agree.

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Oh, thank you so much.

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Mr. Brooks.

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Walter I just like to acknowledge Commissioner Brooks for suggesting the hybrid approach, because we did have a lot of discussion, leading up to that and we were very mindful of what the executive order had indicated that, you know, we were supposed to

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look at single member when possible, but in situations it just wasn't possible. And she suggested the, the hybrid approach. And I want to thank you to Walter for coming out with the mathematical approach to having that so thank you both.

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Thank you, and indeed it was Commissioner Brooks who brought up the idea of a hybrid formula which proved the.

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The key to unlocking our difficulties there.

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It's.

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Oh, it's a map that as Commissioner Clawson points out, is very respectful of county boundaries. I would also point out that

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we all managed to achieve public population variances that were nice and low, and this is, I know that it mid Professor personally is chopped much harder and I, I know that all of us also have thought that we couldn't always catch tissues of knots that

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we wanted it, and at the same time. Keep the variance between districts as low as it is plus or minus 2% percentage districts plus or minus 3% for delegate districts existing mouth has plus or minus 5%, which is a serious departure in my view from the

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one person, one vote or equality, that Marilyn citizens have a right to expect.

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You can't tell looking at this map how much hard work went into getting closer to the population for answers, but we know that Professor personally in particular put an enormous market for downtown.

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And I think we can all be upset with a short, compressed schedule we managed to do as well as we did on Monday. So thank you all.

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Other comments.

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If there are no other comments just get a motion to adopt delegate now

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morale Second.

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Okay.

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I'll start with my votes commercials and I.

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Kate Hetherington I.

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Those rhythms, I me.

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Oh Brooks.

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Mary Clawson, I can Cummings, I Johnson first field, I when Thomas.

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Thank you. So that wraps up that business section of our meeting, and if I'm reading the agenda. But currently, It may also mean that now is Catherine tense moment to take over from his chair into the next section or Kristin Am I reading that correctly

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or is there something with that I should be doing.

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Yes you are. So, We're going to be sharing a presentation to go through and Dr Hetherington judge Williams, Walter when you are ready for the next page simply just say next page, or Next slide.

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Okay. Okay, good. I think you're turning No, thank you. Walter and thank you, Kristin so we'll go on to the first slide, please.

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Alright, so my part of this presentation is to give you a summary of the activity from the beginning. Until I'll be passing the baton to judge Williams and he will be talking about the next steps.

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So, it seems like a long time ago. But on January 12 Governor Hogan issued that executive order, which formed the group that you see in front of you now the Maryland citizens redistricting commission.

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And as you've heard from the conversations this evening we were charged with revising the congressional legislative district lines and key to that was making sure that we were being fair, transparent, and doing everything in an impartial way.

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We do have a mix of Democrats, Republicans and independents and the governor appointed the three co-chairs and then the three coach here is we chose the additional six members to from each party.

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And we looked at over 400 citizen applications and it was

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quite humbling to see how many people were interesting and participating in this process and I will say that I think we picked the sexy six best people that we possibly could to serve in this capacity.

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So throughout this whole process you often will hear judge Williams talk about the importance of transparency. And I think we have accomplished that Marylanders have been able to see everything that we've been doing.

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And also, they've been able to fully engage into this process.

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So we'll look at the next slide please.

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So back when May 5, we began our public meetings and a lot of this had to do with the work sessions that the commissioners had to discuss and talk about the drafting of maps and we, we had the ability for the public to view these conversations.

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round one, which were the virtual public meetings that were held.

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And you can see the dates here. They included eight regional meetings, during which the public could share their thoughts, and what they thought should be accomplished through redistricting.

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And this was prior to the release of the 2020 census data.

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So not only do we have the challenge of doing everything remotely which my mind actually allow for more democratic process because people who maybe wouldn't been able to go to in person hearings.

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We have really good participation, which I'll talk about in a moment, across the state of Maryland. But we did have that constraint rising from the late arrival of the census data.

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Next slide.

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So then we got into round two. And you can see the dates, and These included for statewide virtual meetings, and people were able to submit their own maps and present them to the commission with live testimony and written testimony was also accepted.

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And even though these were statewide you could be from any part of the state.

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Just as you were in round two, be from any part of the state and participate. Whereas if we were doing this live, you would be restricted because we would be physically present so that's why I was saying that this, I think allow for more democratic process.

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So we did receive at that point, 70 maps submissions from citizens and Marilyn, and every single one was reviewed by members of the Commission, and they were posted to our website.

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We also held six public working sessions during September to draft maps for the public to review and comment.

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We kept in mind the importance of consideration of the Voting Rights Act. And we had the expertise of Professor Nathaniel personally of Stanford Law School, who was just indispensable in this whole process.

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Not only was he in attendance in all of our sessions, but also was able to respond to questions that we had throughout the process.

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Not only in the public sessions, but also in the public work sessions.

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So then we moved on to round three.

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And you'll see the dates and the next slide.

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Right. These are also included for public meetings, and this is where Marylanders present testimony regarding the maps that were drawn by us the commission.

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And that again is based on the input that we had from the citizens. So in total we received at six public map submissions through the portal and email.

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that included, of course the consideration the Voting Rights Act, the communities of interest which were also a main topic for us. And we also want to be respectful of the district boundaries.

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So, we have responded to public reaction, which was very much appreciated and very healthy.

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We revamped maps in southeast Baltimore County St Mary's County Thompson, Southern Montgomery county and made others changes and responses to what we heard the public tell us this is Maryland citizens redistricting commission and it's important for us

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to listen to the citizens and Maryland which we did.

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And then.

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Tonight, we voted, prior to that we did have the final proposed draft maps, they were on the, the website so everyone could see them, and residents could actually go in and enter address and determine, in which district.

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They were located.

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We also had an additional working session. Among completion around three, and we made further modifications.

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Next slide.

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So the numbers are quite impressive. You see, over the course of time we've had over, 4100, people in attendance at our public meetings. We've heard 231 separate testimony accounts from members of the public, organizational leaders and our elected officials.

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We've had over 100,000 impressions on a social media post, and we reach more than 92,607 on Facebook.

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Now we made a special effort to outreach to the public. And so for every meeting that we have notifications were sent out on a press release to more than 46,000 contacts.

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And as you can see from the slide, they included various organizations, individuals.

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So there, there was a concerted effort to make sure people were aware and mindful of Commissioner Thomas's remarks about his disappointment about input from certain individuals, but I would say it's not for lack of trying to reach out to them every

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single time that we've had a meeting.

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But I understand the disappointment when you, when you don't hear from

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folks that you think you should be hearing from.

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We were grateful for our Hispanic, Latino, advisor, Gloria ratio Blackwell She's the founder and director of the University of Maryland, Office of Community Engagement.

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And she was very, very helpful in getting word out to the community to the Hispanic Latin next community information was translated into Spanish, and they were very catchy advertisements that were saying.

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So we're very appreciative to her. And we also offer live Spanish translation and closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

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And we're very grateful to the University of Maryland Spanish department for the help with that translation.

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Next slide.

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So important to remember, and I think sometimes when we look at some of the responses that we've had via email, it might not always be crystal clear to people, but the amount of people in each congressional state senate and legislative session, the legislative

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district rather is not random. And so, based on our census data that we received that dictates how many people should be in each and Commissioner also mentioned earlier that small differential that we have in the Senate and the legislative districts,

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the congressional districts have to be drawn with the exact same amount of people.

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We just had a discussion about single versus multi member districts. And I think Commissioner also did a very good job explaining so I won't go over that again, but you can see from this slide.

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What is taken into consideration, and as mentioned, that's what took a lot of time.

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So, the next slide talks about, again the single versus multi member districts, and also our need to be mindful of the right of the needs of the Voting Rights Act, there 47 senate districts and 141 House of Delegates seats.

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So we had to keep the VR a, an impact on communities on that was very important to us and if you've listened to anyone has listened throughout the testimonies that we've had the conversations and the hearings.

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I think that was made very clear.

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So the final maps that you heard us vote on this evening will be posted to the website so folks will be able to go in, I assume they'll be posted no later than tomorrow.

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And at this point in the presentation, I'm passing the baton to my colleague judge Williams, to share with you what will happen in the next steps. Judge Williams, like you Dr Heather and Walker I guess you want to come back and make some final acknowledgments

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of people that we all want appreciation but at this point I would like to say before I move into the legislative process. We've had great support from Secretary route court, and also not just your Kristin Fleckenstein but also to Maria, Jon john and

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and Adam, and the rest of the team that provided just awesome administrative support. We find them and also the Greek the professor for his insight and wisdom that he gets given to us.

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GLORIA ratio black World Of course she was our expert advisor, an expert advisor rather on the Latino matters and I know she worked hard, I was checking with her and, as you all know She's the director of Latino affairs on the campus at University of

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Maryland, but she was making sure that the community organizations and groups and people were advisors to what was going on and she urged so many of them to get testimony and pay attention to our hearings and so forth.

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so we just appreciate what Gloria has done and she certainly justified all selection.

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As I advisor.

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Now, guess the next question is, what happens next.

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Now that we've had the votes on the three maps that we have proved. Well, what happens next is that we then presented to the governor.

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That only as Dr hesitated to say when these maps be posted on the website.

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But again to go to the governor. And once this is done, a piece of legislation there has to be drafted in the form of a bill to be presented to the Merlin job, 70.

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Now, you've probably heard, and we will say it again that the legislature is going to have an emergency session. In December, don't know the date yet it may be posted, but the congressional will be introduced doing that anticipated special session.

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And then the legislative will be introduced on the first day of the regular session.

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I believe the session starts January 12 of 22, and these bills will then go through the legislative process, a vote on the congressional bill will occur before the end of the special session in December of this year, while a vote on the legislative bill

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must occur by the 45th day of the regular session.

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Otherwise, as a governance bill becomes law as suppose is important for us to remind you that a second permission was formed by members of the relevant job the Submit legislature has also a commission that's getting us information and response from the

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public. In fact, I believe tonight in Baldwin County. They have the public hearing for people to respond.

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Now, the commission will likely lose their own maps through separate pieces of legislation, and the bill will go through the same process as this commission.

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Once the legislature has held their final vote on the mats. The legislation will then be sent to the governor for his signature, and this must occur by February, 25 of 2022.

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If the governor vetoed legislation.

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And it has returned to the juggling seven Now I'm not saying the government's going to be taught, he certainly has a right to do it. But if he does veto it's returned to the General Assembly.

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General Assembly then has the ability to override the governor's veto. Now again, just to remind us again two separate processes, first terms of the Congressional again, traditional bill Burgess eventually will be introduced at a special session next

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month. December of 21. The Berlin Jones suddenly act on the governance plan, or they can enact their own.

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This plan is subject to gubernatorial veto.

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Neither practice to set in stone some flexibility with the practice generally speaking will be back custom. Next slide please.

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In terms of the legislative process is going to be a joint resolution, which would not be subject to a gubernatorial veto. And none of the Merlin constitution the governor is required to prepare a plan.

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I suspect that his legal team right now is working on a plan on the Maryland constitution the governor is required to enter juices legislative plan all before the first day of the regular session for a year ending in two that's January 12 the start of

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the legislative session of 22, the Merlin General Assembly can ignore and act one their own plan, under the Constitution, but they cannot act on the plan of their own until after the governor submits his plan.

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Again, the Merlin juggled 70 has 45 days to act on the governor's plan or their own plan, the General Assembly does not act on the legislative plan bothered 45th day, the governance plan, automatically becomes the new districts.

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Is there another slide.

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Okay. Walter I guess up to turn this back over to you.

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Well I can continue on or what.

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Okay, I'm happy to take over

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And George Williams has talked about how grateful we are to the participants here.

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And that includes the Department of Planning staff, our advisor or a producer Blackwell.

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And of course the commissioners, who have done a tremendous job. The collegiality the reasonableness with which we have sorted out. What we're sometimes different points of view.

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I think it's a model for groups of the story. And I think we're also proud of the substantive results of the mouse.

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How we managed to achieve minimal splits of counties and municipalities. If you look at existing maps, you will find that sometimes they have a tremendous number of unnecessary splits and call.

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We have would have thought we were very careful about municipal boundaries. We provided a highly understandable layout of congressional districts.

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People can tell each other, what their district is, I can determine whether they live in the same district and someone else in most cases.

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I mentioned the population variants its significant achievement states are different places and best practices on this.

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And some of them are sticking with plus or minus 5%, with all the problems that can bring others have reduced it to as little as 1% for a first attempt.

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in a short, short time period.

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I think we did extremely well at getting 2% and 3% respectively.

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We have been responsive to public comment.

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We are proud even though we, we did not consider party matters at all as you know we are prevented from looking at things like partisan data about registration or voting history.

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The Princeton gerrymandering project, which is a lot of look at those things, gave us an A for the congressional map and for the early version of the senate map they haven't had a chance to review the latest changes, but I think the North they had reviewed

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the delicate map but I think that's.

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If you follow the redistricting topic you know this is not to be taken for granted. There are states that are getting an ass. There are other states that are getting to see.

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I think we can be rightly proud that this independent ratings organization from some of the most respected academics, has given an HR work so far.

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Now our work as a commission is strong.

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And I've expressed my thanks and appreciation and I think we probably will want to go around and give each of us chance to say in our own words.

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The same sort of sentiments food for thought I wanted to say our official job is over but all of us can participate as much or as little as we would like it can one bit of approaches we will be sending a report.

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If helping to explain them out. Help him to talk about how the default, the testimony of public meetings, for example, was something that we took to heart.

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Any of you on the commission or Welcome to volunteer to perhaps writers section. Hint, Hint, Hint we would love to divide the that work.

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The chairs, and in conjunction with the planning department staff are taking responsibility for getting the report done but really anyone who would like to write a section, or just send us your own ideas for two or three points props to within a particular

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episode that made an impression on you, or something that we haven't mentioned tonight, that you think is worth having the public know about so even if you don't want to volunteer to buy the whole section, feel free to send the, the Commission and the

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churches in particular.

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Just some of your thoughts that you would think would be good, and a written report, the governor, and we will make a point of

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running the text of such a reporter letter by all of us so that you can make sure that it is fairly presented the different opinions that we've heard from commissioners and represents the best possible effort to sum up the different viewpoints on the

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condition. So again, thank you.

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Thank you to the professor personally.

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Kate, would you like to continue with the techies before we get to the commercials or okay I'm sorry there is a patient funnel acknowledgement Yeah, there is.

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Yeah, I think.

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Yeah.

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Well I think we

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gave our thanks but here, here it is for everyone to say it and in case they like to see more details but.

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But now. The court also should be thanks and Jackson Monza on also should be thanked, I didn't give their names specifically, but the administrative support, as I mentioned before from Kristin Fleckenstein Maria Sophia John Adam, just incredible.

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We really could not have done it without you, and we appreciate how timely. Everything that you provided to us was received, how the zoom links for working.

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Most of the time of night was on our end because we didn't have connectivity.

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So thank you so much for that because that that was a yeoman's task and really appreciate that. And I think if we're at the point where we're acknowledging everyone I just like to acknowledge the pleasure that I've had working with my co-chairs on this

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process you're actually the only two people I've met in person and that was the day when the governor made the executive order announcement and that was it, but everyone else I've only met you, virtually, but I feel like I know you quite well since we've

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spent these last seven months together, and I appreciate it. The, the opportunity for us to speak freely.

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What we thought we didn't always agree, but we had an opportunity to express our opinions and I think that helped in this whole process. And I'm especially pleased to see this, this ranking that we've had about partisan fairness from the Princeton

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gerrymandering project, because for most of us this, this whole process is new. We've never done this before we probably didn't even think about redistricting Well, I'll speak for myself, it's new to me.

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And when we were asked to do redistricting, you know, how can you say no to the governor it's like oh sure yeah I'll be happy to do that.

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But I've learned so much about this process and I've taken time to delve more deeply into redistricting and the importance that it has. And of course, listening to the citizens of Maryland.

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I mean that there's really not too much more that you can say about that but that is tremendous and allows people to have a voice and the voice which I think all the commissioners truly heard by the work that we have seen the outcome that we've seen tonight

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so it's impressive work and I'm really just honored to work with everyone who's on this commission. Thank you What.

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Yeah, Walter well I, again, just to piggyback on what Katie said, I want to thank each of the commissioners for your extremely hard work. This was a lot of work Google meeting sometimes twice a week.

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And it went on for months. And all of you and the rest of us we're all busy people with tough schedules when we have to work and not just during the hearings but all flowers and, and this was unpaid just want everyone understand this is unpaid.

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And so we had to select six other commissioners and you are didn't have to accept it, but you did, and you stayed with us and only in the emergency situations and anyone not come.

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So we had great attendance on each of the meetings and so forth. So, I just want to express my appreciation to all of the non-conditions including myself again for your countless hours of work commitment dedication to this very very important process

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that's taking place, the issue of redistricting is the hottest issue in America right now, and it's called get more passionate after the first of the year, it really will.

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And so again thank you all for your time and

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other commissioners

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neck.

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Yeah.

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I'll jump in. Not to belabor the point but I definitely think all the, my fellow commissioners, in particular, have three co-chairs for your leadership throughout this process.

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Maryland Department of Planning and their staff are all the logistical support and administrative support that certainly facilitated all of our success.

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And Secretary McCord as well as the Maryland public, which we, you know, obviously wanted to make sure we incorporated them into this very transparent process and I'm glad to have been part of it.

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Thank you.

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Thank you, Jay.

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Right.

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Walter is back in your hands. Okay.

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Is there any further business before here emotional do a turn, and a commissioners have, I think commissioners want to say something Walter Williams, something to say?

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Right. Okay, good.

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Again always have something to say well I should say that question.

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One, I think probably the most.

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I would say the most important thing I can say is, now that we're coming to a close, and it's been a pleasure.

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Know virtually meeting some of you all and I did have the actual pleasure of meeting a few of you in person when we went into our bank, what I'll call my mother when the commission is Kristin for everything she's done.

01:06:41.000 --> 01:06:43.000

She's given me.

01:06:43.000 --> 01:06:57.000

I want to thank my commission wife, Cheryl, for all of our compensation and back and forth exchange and shout out to the pastor personally with all the expertise and making sure we work within bounds appreciate.

01:06:57.000 --> 01:07:08.000

Second time record for his conversation especially out in Utah. Thank Mary for her analytical mind and JV as well, you're trying to do things but a numbers.

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All the input that I've gotten from everybody's been a, I was it was interesting because looking at the timeline that Hetherington went over it was very out that some of the dates that we hit coincide with some personal losses that I experienced in my

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life, I've lost six people, for which have happened, doing the work of this commission, I believe, May 1 without May 5 with our first public hearing and May 4 I buried my mother.

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So, it was this been a lot I had to push through with trying to be as committed as I possibly could with this commission. And given that I will say like suggestion for feature works if we did have an opportunity to have a citizen's addition to condition

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in the next 10 years to add. Think about the possibility of adding ultimate commissioners, in case someone has to, for whatever reason, back off of a commitment to the commission you already have people that are up to speed and knowledgeable but the process

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have been best bar.

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Again, as Judge Williams mentioned this has been for free.

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And then we learned in Utah that some commissioners, and other states have been paid. And I'm not saying we need to pay it I'm just saying that should be considered because these are as the executive order stated everyday working individuals will be put

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in a lot of time, energy and effort to, you know, try to put the best product for to represent the people or the great state of Maryland.

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I do want to address something that I've noticed is not an indication of anybody in particular is just something that I noticed.

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We were sending out mass emails to notify department of the meetings I believe it's 26,000 emails per email blast, I will say, I'm not sure what the registration or signup list is to be a part of 46,000 but everybody that I know in Baltimore City did

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not receive the email.

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So once I was made aware of that. And I started making my own email blast and I appreciate Maria for helping me to put together a language for an email blast to reach out to people that are not specifically.

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So I don't know if there's a certain website in the Maryland plan division that people need to register for but if that is the case to receive that email blasts I think that needs to be put out there a little bit more, so more people can be a phone or

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what. Notice the work that you guys are doing.

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And I have my, My marching orders for the next 10 years, and educating, you know, the city that I represent, let's see that love. On the issue of redistricting.

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But as that became mentioned, I didn't know what it was really until I was not allowed, but I was actually surprised that I was even picked to be honest with my mom I'm an engineer I'm a problem so I'm a technical guy so when it comes to politics is not

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it's not really my thing and then if the bit of feedback that we've gotten from public is any indication of what it's like to be a politician I have no interest whatsoever.

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So hi, I'm gonna go ahead and say I appreciate a second time record and the planet commission and everybody who lives in that world, what you do because I don't know if I'm saved enough.

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I don't know if I'm quite right with the Lord enough to be to do what you guys do, is keeping the only one.

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So yeah, educating the public.

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Over the next 10 years or what redistricting is and what the issues are and know why it's important to them and why they should pay attention Obama much notice the next 10 years so keep your phones on that will be reaching out.

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Thank you for listening to others.

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I want to take a minute. Oh, Cheryl I see you, you want to go next, we'll stay alphabetical Pier.

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Some nice, okay, area, it's just been a pleasure meeting everyone virtually and working with you is definitely been a learning curve and, you know, as an educator, we're always open to learning and growing and learning and listening to so many different

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perspectives, it really opens your mind, you know to what you can learn and what perspectives are and how you need to be open to working collaborating with others, which is what we all do you appreciate everyone here also appreciate just Williams having

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in me. I was like wow really me. So, I do appreciate them honor have new friends now on the commission.

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Funny William because we didn't talk a lot in terms of William, so I appreciate the new relationships we have, and all that we were able to do together because it's so important for our state, to really be open minded and fair in the process not do feel

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like we were. That's the most important thing. The equitable, to be fair, and to be open minded and collaborative thing time.

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Thanks everyone.

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See my co principal.

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I want to start by saying thank you to this group was amazing what we what we accomplished when we step back.

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I, as, as I said I've been a long-time public servant for Defense Department.

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And as a citizen. All I did was vote, that's what I did as a citizen. And I've always loved maps that was my whole career fancy digital things with maps, but I didn't know what redistricting was until I hit this, but I feel so fortunate that I was first

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of all that the governor gave an opportunity to every citizen in the state to apply, which was pretty neat and then I felt very fortunate to be selected I feel like we were part of a moonshot group, I mean we did a first ever for the state of Maryland.

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We created fair redistricting maps, and I'm just so proud to be part of everybody and the way we compromised listened and made it happen.

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That's a big part because the Troika that was running us.

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Walter Olson and Dr Hetherington and judge Williams.

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Just put together. You know the right words at the right time to keep us all on target. And we got it done. So I am just so proud of what we've done and looking forward to watching the next step so I may go down to analysis that in the galleries if any

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not open if any of its open to the public to see what the next set of maps is but thank everyone for giving us all an opportunity to do this, it wouldn't happen with just one or two of us. we all have to be there.

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Thank you.

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Hey, Kim here, I just wanted to say thanks everybody for wonderful teamwork and great moral support and technical support because we couldn't have done it without everybody involved, even if your name's not up here.

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Many people had a hand in this, and I just want to say I appreciate everything.

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I want to echo that thank you everybody.

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From the day that Kate called me to chat with me about possibly joining the commission to offering me the position commission to Sir today. It's been a great learning experience.

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I've always loved history, but this is kind of not something I ever saw myself doing and that, in that vein.

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If anything, it's going to be a newfound appreciation for the state and understanding all the different areas I've been all over the state but now I have a newfound appreciation for it.

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It's been great working with all of you and I thank you all for making it an enjoyable experience. It even if it was a stressful experience.

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Thank you. I think we've heard from each of the commissioners now.

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Any more thoughts to wrap things up over here one last thought.

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We are going to get like matching commission to tattoos and something

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like, unless

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unless I want a T shirt I don't want to

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say one thing. Sure, please.

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I was situated in the national conversation right now, and because I do have a national perspective on this because working in other states and I want to, you know, hold this out as a model for how this can be done.

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Given our poison politics right now is extremely rare to get civility and compromise, and especially when there are potentially high stakes and, you know, you are seeing conditions around the country fall apart, and the fact that you always come together

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to deal with these three very complicated plans for reasons, you are already expressed it's really a tribute to you.

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You know, many of you have remarked on the, the lack of sleep that I've had over the last few months, and let me explain why I do this, which is, you know, And what I teach my students which is that fundamentally redistricting is about translating communities

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into political power right it is about how you represent people in a democracy and particularly when democracies are under stress as ours are it is so important that people have good hearts and minds joined together to try to, You know, we do that

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kind of representation of communities and so I really want a lot, your work in this as well as that of all the staff that support. So thank you.

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Okay.

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Okay.

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Unless they're more comments.

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Once again, a heartfelt thanks to all of you.

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And we can be probably have come this far.

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Unless there is more business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

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So move. Okay, is there a second.

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Okay, on Fiverr.

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Final a tournament of the Maryland citizens redistricting commission of the car.

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I

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thank you all, and onward and upward.

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Nike commissioners, thank you so much.

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Hi everybody.

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Bye.

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Thank you. Pleasure.

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Good night. Thank you so much. Thank.