

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT
PUBLIC MEETING**

(Taken July 25, 2011, at 6:07 p.m.)

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APPEARANCES

ON BEHALF OF THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT:

JOE WOODSON, JR.

REDISTRICTING COORDINATOR

ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. WOODSON: Let's go ahead and get started. It's right at six o'clock. My name is Joe Woodson. I am the Redistricting Coordinator. I appreciate everybody coming out tonight. I've just got a couple of quick comments, and then I'm going to open the floor. I want to let everybody know that there's going to be ample opportunity to speak for or against any map, and, you know, we'll stay here until everyone has had a chance to speak if they want to.

In that regard, I'm really going to insist that if you do have something to say, please come to the microphone. We've got a court reporter here that's recording everything that's said, and we want to make a good, clean, clear record, and based on our experience at some of the other public meetings, it can be very difficult to pick up folks from their seats. So if you would, accommodate us in that way and come to the microphone if you can. If not, I can bring a microphone to you. So please do that.

I don't have any printouts of the maps.

1 Most of you are aware of our website. We've
2 got our interactive tool that's available,
3 although I know it's been causing a lot of
4 folks problems. The IT folks are working on
5 a solution so that ideally you'll be able to
6 pick any one of the six House maps, including
7 after Friday, the maps that get adopted, and
8 zoom in and out down to street level on top
9 of a Google map. My understanding is that
10 the technical difficulty is way out in the
11 Internet somewhere. It doesn't have anything
12 to do with our website or our servers or
13 anything like that. It's a technical fix out
14 there in the Internet, but they're working on
15 getting that fixed. So nevertheless,
16 hopefully that will work better in the near
17 future.

18 At the same time, we've got PDF snapshots
19 of all of the maps posted on the website, and
20 last Friday I went in and took some regional
21 shots because I know the primary complaint is
22 that you can't see enough detail. So I got a
23 few closeups of the Governor's map in
24 particular, because that's where all the
25 questions were coming from. So, anyway, that

1 should be available to you.

2 Let me just say before we open the floor,
3 to state the obvious, the Board members have
4 presented their maps, and by definition, they
5 are the way that they would like them or they
6 wouldn't have drawn them that way. So I
7 think that goes without saying. And tonight
8 is your opportunity to state publicly your
9 objection or your support for any of the
10 maps, and I would invite you to do that, and
11 this is your chance to persuade them that
12 those maps should be changed.

13 Just for maybe an orderly transition,
14 let's take the Senate first, talk about the
15 Senate. I would invite anybody that has
16 questions or comments about any of the Senate
17 maps, let's do those first, and then we'll go
18 the House maps unless we need to flip and you
19 all are good to go with the House.

20 I'm thinking about one person in
21 particular, has a meeting to go to, so I just
22 thought of that. Why don't we flip it? Why
23 don't we go with the House first, and then
24 we'll go to the Senate? So let's start that
25 way.

1 With that said, the floor is open, and I
2 would invite anyone to come forward to speak
3 for or against the maps.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you want to
5 take the Senate maps or the House maps?

6 COORDINATOR WOODSON: I'm sorry. I said
7 Senate first, but let's do House first.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Why don't
9 you put the House map up there?

10 COORDINATOR WOODSON: That's an excellent
11 idea.

12 REPRESENTATIVE STEELE: I really want to
13 speak to the Senate map first.

14 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Okay. Senator
15 Steele, Representative Steele -- you'll
16 always be Senator to me. Which map would you
17 like to speak to first? This is the
18 Governor's Senate that I have up.

19 REPRESENTATIVE STEELE: Senate map.

20 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Tell me if you want
21 me to draw in closer.

22 REPRESENTATIVE STEELE: Senate District
23 24. I think that's the House. Senate map,
24 24, okay.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MURDOCK: He needs to go

1 east.

2 COORDINATOR WOODSON: The numbers have
3 changed.

4 REPRESENTATIVE STEELE: Representative
5 Murdock said, "Go east, young man."

6 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Here we go. Okay.
7 Very well.

8 REPRESENTATIVE STEELE: Thank you very
9 much to the Board and staff. We understand
10 and appreciate all of the work that you've
11 put into this process.

12 I am here, Representative Tracy Steele,
13 to represent the Arkansas Legislative Black
14 Caucus. We have had several meetings and
15 continue to have dialog, but we continue to
16 talk about this issue because we feel that
17 it's so critical. It took us so long to get
18 where we are. Just the thought of the
19 possibility of going backwards is something
20 that for all of us in the caucus and others
21 is not acceptable.

22 A good friend of mine and someone I
23 greatly admire, Judge Olly Neal, made a --
24 just an outstanding statement in reminding
25 us, all the sweat and the blood and tears

1 that we've put forward getting to this point
2 was really not about us. It was the people
3 that we represent, making sure that they
4 would have their constitutional right and
5 have an opportunity to vote for the person of
6 their choice.

7 In saying that, we continue to have
8 objection to Senate District 24. The growth
9 pattern in Senate District 24 will come from
10 certain areas, whereas now we have only four
11 African-Americans who serve in the Senate.
12 This could very well -- if not the next
13 election, quite possibly the election after
14 that, could mean we will go back to three
15 members in the Arkansas Senate. Of course,
16 the voters always have the last word.

17 But we feel just with some minor changes,
18 we can insure that this Senate District has a
19 majority/minority voting age population.
20 Right now it's right at 51 percent. And if
21 you look at the district, the estimated
22 growth in this district -- as a matter of
23 fact, the only growing community in this
24 district is in Crittenden County and that's
25 Marion that is growing at a fast pace.

1 So by the time that this next election is
2 over, going into the election after that, it
3 could very well no longer be a
4 majority/minority district, and that issue is
5 a strong concern to the members of the Black
6 Caucus.

7 Again, when you only have four serving in
8 the Senate, to go down to three, anything you
9 can get passed, fortunate to get passed --
10 saying it takes at least 18 votes. But it's
11 also a travesty that -- to think of the fact
12 that we could lose a seat in an area that we
13 fought so hard and that means so much to this
14 state, and that's the Arkansas Delta region.

15 I can remember when Senator Bill Lewellen
16 first walked into the Senate, the whole
17 dynamics of the Legislature changed,
18 especially among the Legislative Black
19 Caucus, because we knew that he was bringing
20 a dynamic here to this institution that we
21 never had before, and that is representation
22 from people in the true Arkansas Delta region
23 along the Mississippi River.

24 So with that said, there is a slight
25 compromise that we would like to submit to

1 the Board for its consideration, as a caucus.
2 And whatever your preference is, we can stay
3 around, but we also have a strong concern on
4 the House side about the possibility of
5 losing a House seat in Jefferson County as
6 well.

7 And Mr. Chairman, I could yield on that
8 until we deal with the House District or --

9 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Let me pull that
10 up, the House seat.

11 This is the Governor's House map.

12 REPRESENTATIVE STEELE: Traditionally,
13 Jefferson County has had three African-
14 Americans serving in the House of
15 Representatives. With this map, it merges
16 one district there that is now presently a
17 little over 60 percent, takes it up to, I
18 understand, as high as 76 percent minority
19 population. The result of that is, is we
20 lose a majority/minority district with this
21 map and there will only be two
22 Representatives from Jefferson County that
23 will have an opportunity to run in
24 majority/minority districts in Jefferson
25 County.

1 We feel there is a way -- and I
2 understand that it was presented early in one
3 of the meetings -- if those numbers are
4 slightly changed. We know because of the
5 population shifts, the difficult decisions
6 that you had to make, but there's still an
7 opportunity to have three, to continue to
8 have three, to keep three minority/majority
9 districts. Although those numbers may not be
10 quite as high, we will still have enough to
11 reasonably select and keep our numbers.

12 In the House of Representatives, we face
13 the same issue. Chances are with this map,
14 we could go down from eleven members in the
15 House of Representatives to nine, which could
16 also be devastating to the Legislative Black
17 Caucus.

18 Thank you very much.

19 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Thank you for your
20 comments.

21 Please state your name for the record.

22 MR. WILSON: Mr. Woodson and Madam Court
23 Reporter and ladies and gentlemen, my name is
24 Mike Wilson. I live at Jacksonville. I've
25 lived there all my life. And since Senator

1 Steele addressed the Senate District, I
2 figure that gives me an opportunity to
3 address the Senate District too, Number 34,
4 Northwest, Northeast Pulaski County, Joe.

5 Senate -- and is that the AG's map or the
6 Governor's map?

7 COORDINATOR WOODSON: This is Governor's
8 Senate.

9 MR. WILSON: Okay. They're substantially
10 the same, as I understand, both the
11 Governor's Senate map and the Attorney
12 General's Senate map with regard to
13 Jacksonville. And as we all can see, the
14 city -- 14th largest city in the state -- is
15 split essentially in two by the proposed --
16 by both proposed maps, into Senate District
17 34 on this map, and 30, the dark brown area,
18 and 34 is the pink area. That divides
19 Jacksonville, divides our community
20 artificially at Highway 167 and splits us
21 into two parts. I don't know of any other
22 city our size or smaller that has been split
23 into two parts in any of the proposed plans.
24 There may be some, but it hurts us.

25 Right now our present Senate District

1 includes Jacksonville and Searcy. Luckily,
2 we've had great, good representation in the
3 Senate from our neighbor from Searcy, but we
4 won't enjoy that anymore since that's out
5 under any circumstance.

6 I speak to you tonight and to the Board
7 on behalf of the Mayor, the Chamber of
8 Commerce, the Little Rock Air Force Base
9 Community Council, and several of our
10 Aldermen, two of whom are present, Bob Stroud
11 and Bill Howard --

12 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Would you speak
13 into the microphone?

14 MR. WILSON: I'm trying to speak into the
15 microphone. If y'all will raise your hands -
16 - and our city engineer, Jay Whisker, are all
17 present. Now, we've worked hard on
18 communication with the Board, and the
19 cooperation that we've received, particularly
20 from the Attorney General's office, Allen
21 Gordonson -- Gordon and Brandon Robinson of
22 that office. We've been working with them
23 daily and their efforts to accommodate our
24 concerns are appreciated.

25 The Mayor is out of the state tonight

1 attending an official function of the Little
2 Rock Air Force Base, our largest industry --
3 if you want to call it that -- in this county
4 and indeed in the state. That's why it's
5 critically important to us that our Senate
6 member be dedicated to the concerns of Little
7 Rock Air Force Base and the economic impact
8 that it has on all of us.

9 Mayor Fletcher's statement for the Board
10 is this, and I'll briefly read it:

11 "Jacksonville is a unique community in
12 regard to its ability to make neighboring
13 communities even stronger by its position and
14 role in Central Arkansas through our
15 industries and economic impact as home of
16 Little Rock Air Force Base. With the many
17 things that make Jacksonville a great place
18 to work and live, we need to be addressed by
19 the passion and commitment of someone who is
20 closely involved and understands our needs on
21 a personal level.

22 The citizens of Jacksonville deserve the
23 fullest representation that they are entitled
24 to. Our strengths do not need to be
25 jeopardized by a divided, unfamiliar, and

1 distant Representative as redistricting has
2 been done in the past.

3 The unity of Jacksonville must not be
4 fragmented by multiple Representatives from
5 all over the area. This does not make sense.
6 Redistricting may make for strong political
7 posturing, but it does nothing for developing
8 a strong city.

9 The Municipal League has a motto that
10 says it all, and I truly believe it to be
11 true: 'Great cities make a great state.'
12 With this being absolutely true, why would we
13 do anything to weaken or diminish a city,
14 especially one with a military installation
15 in times when base closings are constant
16 threats."

17 That's the end of the Mayor's statement.
18 We suggest to you that -- and to the Board,
19 that Senate District 30 should not include
20 the portion of Jacksonville that's divided
21 off, but instead the eastern and southeastern
22 section of Jacksonville should be subtracted
23 from Senate District 30 on this map, the
24 Governor's map, and added to Senate District
25 34.

1 We believe that those numbers can be
2 successfully done and that subtraction can be
3 successfully made within the percentage
4 parameters that the Board is trying to
5 accomplish. And we say that because on this
6 map, Senate District 31, adjacent to Senate
7 District 30, has too few people in it, and
8 Senate District 30 does not have enough with
9 that subtraction. So we believe that the map
10 as shown here can essentially be scooted
11 clockwise, subtracting the divided portion of
12 -- the cut off portion of Jacksonville,
13 subtracting it from Senate District 30 and
14 picking up Senate District 30's numbers from
15 Section 31.

16 Our community is already, and has been
17 for many years, a racially diverse and a
18 harmonious community. We hope and expect and
19 deserve that our community not be divided by
20 an artificial boundary, a highway. I
21 understand what the Voting Rights Act says
22 and what some of the court cases say about
23 the factors being taken into account, but
24 surely a community of interest such as ours
25 already diverse and harmonious should not be

1 divided for the sake of -- or by reason of an
2 artificial boundary. We believe that our
3 community of interest is strong and should be
4 favored far more than artificial boundaries
5 for the requirement of super majorities that
6 some have suggested.

7 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for
8 letting us appear before you tonight. And
9 again, I express my appreciation to
10 representatives of the AG's office who have
11 cooperated to the extent that they can in
12 helping us make these suggestions.

13 MAYOR WATSON: Since we are talking about
14 Senate District 34, I'm Mike Watson. I'm the
15 Mayor of Maumelle. We also have in the
16 audience our City Clerk Joshua Clausen. I've
17 got two council members with me, Alderman
18 Burch Johnson and Alderman Jamie Stell.
19 We've got a member of the Chamber of Commerce
20 with us also.

21 I feel exactly -- what Mr. Wilson says.
22 Maumelle is at the opposite end of
23 Jacksonville in Senate District 34, and they
24 not only split Maumelle into two Senate
25 Districts, we've been split into three Senate

1 Districts. With a population of 17,163,
2 instead of being 1/8 of -- or 1/5 of a Senate
3 District, we're being taken down to 1/8 of a
4 Senate District.

5 So District 30 picks up a portion of
6 Maumelle; District 15 picks up half of
7 Maumelle; and District 34 picks up half of
8 Maumelle. And that's basically split
9 Maumelle right down the middle, similar to
10 logic that Jacksonville was using.

11 Senate District 15 goes all the way to
12 Clinton, Arkansas. It takes in Perry County,
13 Conway County, and parts of Van Buren County
14 and parts of Faulkner County. And one of the
15 rules that I understand that they should be
16 taking in place is preservation of
17 communities of interest, to strive -- the
18 goal of maintaining a group of people in a
19 specific geographic area with those
20 individuals who share common interest, i.e.,
21 common economics, social, cultural, ethnic,
22 religious or even political interest.

23 I don't think that represents Maumelle
24 in -- when you're putting us in -- and I have
25 nothing against Perry County. I have

1 relatives that live in Perry County -- or
2 Conway County, but that's mainly farmers,
3 cattle farmers, chicken farmers, and so our
4 common interest would not be protected by a
5 Senator that's from that area up there.

6 And so we feel very strongly that
7 Maumelle needs to be kept intact. If the
8 only way to keep it intact and keep
9 Jacksonville intact would be to put us in
10 that district, we're willing to do that. But
11 the Secretary of State's map actually has
12 Maumelle intact as a whole in the Senate
13 District, where the Governor's map and the
14 Attorney General's map divides Maumelle, like
15 I said, into three Senate Districts.

16 And one of them is probably an easy fix,
17 just taking care of District 30. It's only
18 about 500 citizens in Maumelle that are
19 affected by that, but it's a small portion of
20 Maumelle. But we still don't understand why
21 one of the fastest growing cities in Maumelle
22 -- or in the State of Arkansas -- one of the
23 fastest growing cities in the State of
24 Arkansas and one of the best educated, is now
25 being split into three Senate Districts and

1 not feeling we'll be represented fairly by
2 any one Senator because they'll have vested
3 interest in other areas.

4 Thank you very much.

5 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Thank you.

6 MR. WILSON: Good evening, my name is
7 Dion Wilson. I'm here to speak on Senate
8 District 24. I'm from Forrest City,
9 Arkansas, but I was born and raised in
10 Helena-West Helena, Arkansas. I spring from
11 the loins of former Representative Jimmie L.
12 Wilson, and I'm here today to speak on Senate
13 District 24 and how it affects the
14 opportunity -- fair opportunity for the kids
15 of Senate District 24 to have a chance to be
16 elected in that district as is now drawn by
17 the Governor.

18 I come to you tonight because this Senate
19 District is not about Jack Crumbly. It's
20 about those who have suffered and gave their
21 blood, sweat, and tears to make sure that the
22 people -- African-American people of Eastern
23 Arkansas have a chance to be represented in a
24 fair capacity. But as the map is drawn now,
25 you can see that Crittenden County will

1 compose almost 60 percent of the entire
2 Senate District. That gives those -- the
3 people of Phillips County, Lee County, St.
4 Francis County, and the other little small
5 cities in there, they don't have much voice.

6 When it comes to whose interest you're
7 going to represent, if 60 percent of the
8 district belongs to Crittenden County, then
9 it's obvious that the interest that their
10 Senator will be representing will be those of
11 the majority up in Crittenden County, and the
12 people of St. Francis County in particular,
13 who were the leaders in bringing about the
14 Jeffers lawsuit to get these districts drawn,
15 will be left in the dark.

16 And so I come to you tonight on behalf of
17 my daughter Haley who is 15, my son Colby who
18 is 12, and my daughter Kennedy who is 3,
19 asking that you give due consideration to
20 what has been done in the past to get us to
21 this point. And as they grow up and as they
22 endeavor to get in politics like their
23 grandfather has -- because my son had a
24 chance to come to the Capitol, and as he was
25 touring the Capitol, he saw a picture of his

1 grandfather on the wall, Mr. Jimmie L.
2 Wilson. And not only do I want him to see
3 his grandfather's picture on the wall, I also
4 want to see his picture on the wall.

5 And so I ask that you do give due
6 consideration and engage in good dialogue,
7 good-faith dialogue, to consider the
8 alternatives that have been presented to you
9 by Senator Crumbly and which will be
10 presented again and again and again until
11 Friday in which this thing is voted upon.

12 And so on behalf of my children and other
13 people in the Delta who aspire to get
14 involved in politics, I ask and pray that you
15 give due diligence and good-faith effort and
16 engage in good dialogue to consider the
17 alternatives so that the people of St.
18 Francis County, Lee County, and all the
19 counties that are encumbered in the 24 Senate
20 District have a chance, a fair chance, to be
21 represented.

22 Thank you.

23 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Thank you.

24 MS. CRUMBLY: I'm Johnetta Crumbly and
25 I've also come to speak on Senate District 24

1 especially. I live -- well, I live at
2 Widener, but I work in Forrest City, and the
3 way that map is written is that you actually
4 are splitting Forrest City. You don't even
5 have half of Forrest City in Senate District
6 24. So my -- all of my relatives cannot even
7 vote for the same person because you have
8 split it just down the line where, in fact,
9 because of where I am now, I can vote, but
10 where my mom lives, she would not be able to
11 vote for the same Senator, and I think that
12 that is an injustice.

13 I also am a relative of Jeffers who
14 challenged the map that was written earlier
15 and who stated why it was not a good map and
16 that it was an injustice to the minority
17 people in our area. And I'm asking you on
18 behalf of my grandchildren and all others to
19 really take a serious look at what you have
20 done to Senate District 24 now by putting 60
21 percent of that map into another area.

22 And I was at the dinner on Saturday night
23 where I heard Governor Beebe speak that -- he
24 was talking about compassion and the ability
25 to compromise. And as far as what I'm seeing

1 now, I don't hear any compassion or any
2 ability or reason to want to compromise and
3 to work with the persons who are asking you
4 to reconsider what you have done, and to work
5 towards more harmony so that all of us can be
6 represented and we can have -- we will not
7 lose a Senator in that area. And in talking
8 with the people in St. Francis and Lee
9 County, we are not pleased with what you have
10 here. We would like to be represented, and
11 we want to keep our Senator.

12 Thank you.

13 JUDGE NEAL: Good evening, sir, members
14 of the Board of Apportionment. My name is
15 Olly Neal. I'm from Marianna and I had the
16 privilege of being one of the attorneys
17 representing Mr. Jeffers in Jeffers v.
18 Clinton, back in the late 80's and early
19 90's. I'm going to be very brief, but I want
20 to simply state to you that the whole notion
21 of what was created by the Jeffers Court was
22 that African-Americans should have a fair
23 opportunity to elect candidates of their
24 choice.

25 Now, while I have worked over the last 25

1 years, I've served the last 15 years as a
2 judge. I'm retired now. And in those
3 capacities I held, I tried to work with
4 everybody. But the fact of the matter is
5 that certain conditions continue to prevail.
6 We probably could site for you very readily
7 at least two elections that occurred in
8 Eastern Arkansas that involved -- this
9 general area involved African-American and
10 white candidates, and the record would show
11 that African-Americans voted for the white --
12 for the black candidate and the white voters
13 voted for the white candidate.

14 We've still got the same conditions that
15 existed that caused Jeffers to be decided by
16 the court as it was decided, and I'd ask you
17 to take in consideration that fact, recognize
18 that when you draw these districts, they're
19 really supposed to have some meaning. And
20 when the court went all the way out and
21 talked about super majority districts, that
22 was because of certain factors that continue
23 to exist.

24 For example, if you take what we have now
25 in District 24 as driven by the Governor's

1 office -- as drawn by the Governor's office,
2 that district is about 51 and a half, 51.6
3 percent African-American voting age
4 population, I believe. But you've got a
5 prison in that district in Lee County that
6 has about 1,600 or 1,700 inmates, and those
7 inmates, about 75 percent of them are
8 African-American.

9 Now, what that means is that those 75
10 percent African -- that 1,200 African-
11 Americans makes the population appear to be
12 much higher. And while it legally meets the
13 definition of voting age population, it's
14 certainly not in the spirit of what the
15 courts were trying to do when they
16 entertained super majority districts.

17 I'd ask you to really consider redrawing
18 that district to include the proposal as
19 presented by Mr. Crumbly. And I realize Mr.
20 Crumbly has properly presented it two or
21 three times, but I'm encouraging him to start
22 presenting it at least -- today is Monday --
23 and Friday -- at least two times per day, at
24 least twice tomorrow, twice Wednesday, twice
25 Thursday, and once early Friday morning

1 before you vote.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. JONES: I'm St. Francis County
4 Assessor Craig Jones, and I'm here to talk
5 about District -- Senate District 24 too.
6 I'm here today representing elected officials
7 in St. Francis County.

8 People out of state don't really quite
9 understand unless you've been born in the
10 Delta -- and I'm talking about St. Francis
11 County is the Delta. There's three counties
12 over there that have a lot in common, St.
13 Francis, Lee, and Phillips. Those three
14 counties need to be represented by someone
15 from those three counties because we have
16 special needs and special interest that no
17 one in the state understands.

18 It took St. Francis County as far back as
19 I can remember -- and I don't remember
20 another Senator being from St. Francis
21 County. Mr. Crumbly was the first Senator
22 from our county, and we've had good
23 representation every since he's been there.
24 Sixty percent of the way this is drawn up
25 will pull power out of St. Francis County and

1 put it in Crittenden County, and I don't
2 think that's for the best interest of the
3 people of St. Francis, Lee, or Phillips
4 County. And I'm asking y'all go back to the
5 way it was or listen to the map that Senator
6 Crumbly has because we've got good
7 representation now and we need to keep it
8 like it is.

9 Thank you.

10 JUDGE JANSEN: I'm David Jansen, Randolph
11 County Judge. We started out ten years ago
12 with one Senator. We had a population of
13 18,195. On this last Census we ended up with
14 17,969. We lost a population of 226. Y'all
15 have taken our district, Senate District, and
16 you've taken the heart of Randolph County out
17 by taking the City of Pocahontas and moving
18 it over to another powerhouse and then
19 putting us with the others, moving us all the
20 way down to Batesville.

21 And I know we're talking about the
22 Senate, but y'all have done the same thing on
23 the House side. We've always had one Senator
24 and one Representative, and now on the other
25 maps, on the House side we're sitting here

1 now with three Representatives and two
2 Senators.

3 We are part of the Delta region.
4 Everybody has been talking about running up
5 and down the boundaries of Arkansas, and we
6 are Delta and we have struggled to keep jobs.
7 We've worked hard and we've created an
8 intermodal with the -- our two adjoining
9 counties there, and I feel -- and I've had a
10 lot of citizens call me concerned about, this
11 is going to hurt us.

12 And I know everybody has put a lot of
13 work into this. I know you're not going to
14 make everybody happy. As the County Judge, I
15 know you can't make everybody happy, but I
16 would ask this Board to take into
17 consideration putting us back like we was,
18 keeping one Senator and one House.

19 Appreciate you.

20 MR. GLOVER: Gentlemen, will that
21 microphone pick me up back here?

22 COORDINATOR WOODSON: This one will.

23 MR. GLOVER: I have a little problem
24 turning my back on the people. That always
25 bothered me. But I have some notes here and

1 -- by the way, my name is Bobby Glover,
2 former State Senator. I served in the
3 Legislature over 30 years. I term limited in
4 January, and I represented part of Pulaski
5 County, all of Lonoke County, all of Prairie
6 County, and a large part of Arkansas County
7 which took in Stuttgart.

8 Now, I'm here to speak in regard to
9 Senate District 29 and Senate District 28.
10 It's my understanding that those are the two
11 Senate Districts the Governor is proposing
12 which I totally endorse. And I believe --
13 I'm not sure about this -- I haven't seen the
14 maps of the Attorney General, but I
15 understand that they're awfully close to
16 being the same as the Governor. But again, I
17 want make it clear, I'm endorsing Senate Bill
18 29 and Senate Bill 28.

19 The issue of -- I've got some things I
20 want to say. The issue of redistricting, as
21 you're aware, came up ten years ago. And our
22 Senator representing Lonoke County at that
23 time was from White County and from Jefferson
24 County. Senator Beebe was one of them.
25 Senator Knox Nelson, he was one of our

1 Senators, and then Senator Jay Bradford.
2 Before that, our Senators were from Pulaski
3 County. We did not have a Senator elected in
4 Lonoke County, which was Senator Charles
5 George, since 1966. I was elected in 2003.
6 That means for 37 years, we did not have a
7 Senator that actually lived in Lonoke County.

8 Now, I'm going to make it clear, we got
9 good representation from the Senators that
10 did not live in Lonoke County, but I think
11 everyone here will admit that you would
12 prefer to have a Senator, if possible,
13 elected from your home county, and you'd also
14 like to have your Representatives elected
15 from home county, but we know that's not
16 possible. And we also realize because of the
17 population shift and whatnot, that a lot of
18 things had to be done in regard to this
19 redistricting.

20 We know what happened up in Northwest
21 Arkansas. A lot of people had to give up one
22 of the areas that they've been representing.
23 They didn't want to, but they had to. I --
24 and being in the Legislature as long as I
25 have, I had to do that from time to time, but

1 that's just the nature of the beast and you
2 just can't get around it.

3 I and some others went before the
4 Reapportionment Board and planted our case
5 that due to the fact that Lonoke County had
6 increased so much in population, that we felt
7 the time had come that Lonoke County should
8 at least be given opportunity to elect a
9 State Senator. And so fortunately for us,
10 that happened. As I stated while ago,
11 though, that Senate District was part of
12 Pulaski County and all of Lonoke County, all
13 of Prairie, and a large part of Arkansas
14 County.

15 Three of us ran for the Senate, three
16 House members, and I won the Democratic
17 primary. And then there was a Republican
18 that was a nominee in Cabot, and so he and I
19 ran against one another.

20 Lonoke County -- and I'm not complaining,
21 so let's don't -- let's get that -- just
22 don't even go there. Lonoke County used to
23 be one of the strongest Democratic counties
24 in Arkansas, but we're now a strong
25 Republican county because of the Cabot area

1 and because the -- a lot of people that moved
2 in up there with the Little Rock Air Force
3 Base. So consequently, Lonoke County is
4 basically controlled by the Republicans. I
5 get along with all of them. I get along. I
6 got along well with the former mayor of Cabot
7 who is now the State Senator. He and I had a
8 good working relationship. In fact, they
9 didn't run anybody against me my second term,
10 which I was glad because since a lot more
11 people have moved in up there, I don't have a
12 base that would have turned out.

13 But anyway, that being said, I ran and I
14 lost as far as Lonoke County is concerned,
15 but I got about 42 percent of the vote, but
16 because of Prairie County, because of Pulaski
17 County, because of Arkansas County, I was
18 able to win.

19 Now, let's look at State Senate District
20 as proposed by the Governor, Senate District
21 29. This takes in Lonoke County, some of
22 Lonoke County, Cabot in particular, and I'm
23 assuming it takes in Ward and Austin. I'm
24 assuming in takes in some of White County,
25 and then it goes over into Pulaski County. I

1 think it takes in the Little Rock Air Force
2 Base.

3 What the Governor has done here, he has
4 guaranteed without question that the Senator
5 from Cabot can get elected as long as he
6 wants to, as long as term limits will allow
7 that. When they go back in session next
8 time, he'll draw and he'll either get a two-
9 year term or four-year term. If he gets --
10 he's already been there two years, and we --
11 I've had -- like I said, I've had excellent
12 cooperation from him, so it's not anything
13 that -- trying to get back at someone.

14 If he draws a two-year term, then the
15 Constitution allows him two more four-year
16 terms so, consequently, he could conceivably
17 serve another ten years in the Legislature,
18 in the Senate.

19 To make my point about Cabot, of
20 Governor's -- as well as myself, as how we
21 supported them, the Governor and myself take
22 in consideration (indiscernible) money and
23 also General Improvement Fund. We presented
24 a \$400,000 from a -- land to build a new
25 Armory. Because of millions and millions of

1 dollars that he put into the Public School
2 Facilities Fund, Cabot has been able to draw
3 more money from that because of the continued
4 increase in their schools and rightfully so.

5 The point I want to make-- and I've
6 already made it, I think -- is that nowhere
7 in the State of Arkansas as I understand it,
8 any -- there is not an incumbent that's going
9 to have to run against another incumbent, and
10 I think the Governor should be commended for
11 that. I hope that the people of Cabot will
12 thank him, making sure that their Senator up
13 there is well protected and can be -- stay in
14 office as long as he so wishes.

15 Now, let's get to the next district which
16 is District 28. District 28 will take --
17 that would be the rest of Lonoke County which
18 will be a few miles out of Cabot toward
19 Lonoke. It will take in Lonoke, Carlisle,
20 England, and all of rural areas, Humnoke,
21 Coy, Scott, all the rural areas in Lonoke
22 County, and then it will take in Prairie
23 County, all of Prairie County. It will take
24 in Arkansas County, Stuttgart and DeWitt. It
25 will circle around and pick up some of

1 Woodruff County and Monroe County.

2 Now, we'll stop right there. Simply
3 saying, that is one of the most heavily
4 agricultural areas in the whole State of
5 Arkansas so, consequently, it all ties well
6 together. Now, it is true, it circles on
7 around and takes in some of White County in
8 Searcy, but predominately as far as the area
9 is concerned, it's agriculture and
10 agriculture and agriculture. Agriculture is
11 the lifeblood of all those areas that I have
12 mentioned to you. So I would certainly hope
13 that irrespective of whoever wins that race,
14 that it will be someone that is very strong
15 as far as their philosophy is concerned
16 having to do with agriculture.

17 Now, let me also say this -- I'm going to
18 close. I know I've already talked too much.
19 The thing that I like about this as much as
20 anything, irrespective wherever that second
21 Senator is going to be elected, Lonoke County
22 is going to have two Senators. Because that
23 Senator will have a responsibility -- and I
24 can assure you with as many votes as there's
25 going to be Lonoke County especially, he's

1 going to -- he or she is going to make sure
2 that they work very closely with Lonoke
3 County.

4 But the bottom line is, arithmetic is the
5 answer to this. Two Senators in the Senate
6 of 35 Senators is a heck of a lot better than
7 one. Two votes is a lot more than just one.
8 So consequently, taking all that in
9 consideration, I think the Governor has done
10 a good job, and I wholeheartedly endorse his
11 proposal having to do with Senate Proposal 28
12 and 29.

13 MR. SANNER: Can I use that? This one is
14 too tall. Maybe I can adjust it now.

15 Former Senator Glover is talking about
16 these two districts. I thought now should be
17 my time. I'm Harvey Joe Sanner. I'm from
18 Prairie County. And our County Judge Mike
19 Skarda is here with me, and the Mayor of
20 Biscoe Teddy Dooley and the Mayor of De Valls
21 Bluff.

22 From a county standpoint, we want to
23 endorse the Governor's plan as well. One
24 plan actually splits Prairie County up in
25 about three different House Districts. So

1 from his Senate plan and House plan, we think
2 it's the best plan for Prairie County.

3 We're a small county, and as Bobby said,
4 we're agricultural. We're losing population.
5 And I'm Chair of the Election Commission
6 there, this would be a lot simpler for us the
7 way the Governor has drawn this district for
8 us in the county. And also, we're in the
9 process of trying to create an economic
10 development entity countywide. This would
11 lend support to that, where I'm afraid some
12 of the plans, it would take out certain
13 townships and make our idea of county unity
14 more difficult.

15 So from our standpoint in Prairie County,
16 we like -- out of the three maps, we like
17 Governor Beebe's map the best.

18 Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLISH: I'm Jane
20 English, and I need to talk about Senate
21 District 29. All of that portion that's --
22 of 29 that is inside of Pulaski County,
23 you've got the Little Rock Air Force Base
24 which is a major, major industry in the
25 Jacksonville/Sherwood/North Little Rock area,

1 Maumelle -- and the whole school system there
2 that has been a problem for over the last 30
3 years. All of those people that are in that
4 North Pulaski area are tied into the Pulaski
5 County Special School District, which we all
6 know is a huge problem right now and will
7 probably continue to be a problem for a
8 while. Possibility we may be looking at
9 north and south school districts.

10 The issue is, is that while wonderful
11 Senators are in 29, there is nobody who
12 actually speaks for the Little Rock Air Force
13 Base and/or those people who are in the
14 Pulaski County Special School District in
15 District 29 inside of Pulaski County. So
16 where it used to be smaller, it is now
17 enlarged where there's less and less
18 representation for those people in North
19 Pulaski County and even over at Camp
20 Robinson. That's an area that is part of
21 North Little Rock and Sherwood and the whole
22 community of interest is gone away.

23 The Little Rock Air Force Base has major
24 issues with the school system, will continue
25 to have major issues with the school system,

1 and is very important to Jacksonville,
2 Sherwood, and North Little Rock. And I will
3 certainly request that we begin to look at --
4 there's not that many people that live up
5 there, but there are people and they need to
6 be represented as far as the school is
7 concerned, as well as the community of
8 interest with the Little Rock Air Force Base.

9
10 Those are people who work there, people
11 who live there, people who go to school in
12 that area, people who are retired in that
13 area, use those base facilities, and they're
14 all folks who are important to that North
15 Pulaski area. And there is no city close by
16 to them to represent them other than Searcy
17 which is 50 miles away. So there is no other
18 town. So I would ask you, please, to start
19 thinking a little bit differently about North
20 Pulaski County.

21 MS. HENDRIX: My name is Erma Hendrix.
22 I'm City Director, former State Conference
23 President of the NAACP. I wanted to ask you,
24 is there another map other than the
25 Governor's map?

1 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Each of the three
2 Board members, Governor, Secretary of State,
3 Attorney General, have issued a House and
4 Senate map. So I've got any of --

5 MS. HENDRIX: Will you put up the
6 Secretary's?

7 COORDINATOR WOODSON: House or Senate?

8 MS. HENDRIX: The Senate. If you'll look
9 at Senator Crumbly -- is that 24?

10 COORDINATOR WOODSON: SOS -- they have
11 different numbers, but --

12 MS. HENDRIX: Oh, that's right.

13 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Here would be 13,
14 Senate 13, Secretary of State Senate 13.

15 MS. HENDRIX: I really wanted to just
16 take a look at the difference. I notice that
17 everybody is speaking on the Governor's map,
18 which I have some differences with, but I
19 really wanted to see -- for you to put up on
20 the screen the Secretary of State.

21 Thank you.

22 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Yes, ma'am.

23 MAYOR MAYNARD: Hello, I'm Danny Maynard,
24 Mayor of England, and my County Judge is here
25 with me and my Representative, and we have

1 been quite happy over the years with the
2 situation being as it has. We're pleased.

3 We've worked hard as the Lonoke County
4 Mayoral Alliance which consists of most of
5 the Mayors in the county, including the
6 County Judge and our Senators and our
7 Representatives. And we have worked hard to
8 come up with the unity that we have over the
9 last five years.

10 Most of you are probably not familiar
11 with this, but in the past, South Lonoke
12 County has sort of felt like a stepchild when
13 it comes to countywide things that happen.
14 So we would like to see it go back to where
15 it was, and it would solve this problem that
16 the lady talked about earlier as far as the
17 school situation in Pulaski County, but it
18 may get smaller. Just flip White and Lonoke
19 Counties, put it back basically to where it
20 was which would consist of almost the same
21 population, if I'm not mistaken.

22 So we've worked hard to get to the point
23 that we are, and we just really hate to see
24 it torn apart and go the other way at this
25 time.

1 COORDINATOR WOODSON: You can push that
2 up.

3 JUDGE ERWIN: Okay.

4 I'm Doug Erwin. I'm the Lonoke County
5 Judge, and I would just like to echo Mr.
6 Maynard's comments there. There's only about
7 -- in Northern Lonoke County there, if you'd
8 put White County back in or Beebe, north of
9 the way the Governor's plan is drawn now, if
10 you'd put White County to within Searcy and
11 everything, it solves three or four problems
12 as the lady addressed here, the North Pulaski
13 deal. There's only 500 difference in
14 population, and that can be taken out of the
15 southwest corner there and keep Lonoke
16 intact.

17 You've got 11 cities there, the Mayor's
18 incorporation as he spoke to there, that are
19 working and have a wonderful relationship
20 there, working relationship. It doesn't seem
21 to -- even though that the Cabot area as Mr.
22 Glover has -- spoke earlier has become a
23 Republican area, it doesn't make any
24 difference there. They're all working
25 together, and I -- Thursday night the Quorum

1 Court, out of 13 JP's in Lonoke County, they
2 voted unanimously to try to keep Lonoke
3 County intact.

4 Appreciate your consideration on that.
5 Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCCRARY: My name is Walls
7 Mccrary, and I'm the Representative in
8 District 15. I'd like to speak for the
9 District 15, and I can make mine real short
10 and sweet.

11 The way the Governor's map has the
12 district, it is rural, small town, and
13 agriculture. And so we meet all of that, and
14 our interests are the same. So as far as
15 that part of it is done, the House seat
16 District 15 is -- I like it very much, and I
17 think it would support the agricultural
18 interest very well.

19 Thank you.

20 COORDINATOR WOODSON: House or Senate. I
21 don't think we're following any procedure on
22 that. Any other comments?

23 MAYOR WATSON: Since it looks like we're
24 moving to the House, I'm Mike Watson, the
25 Mayor of Maumelle. I spoke earlier about

1 Senate District 15 and 30 and 34. But if
2 you'll look at the Governor's map on House
3 District 41, and even the Attorney General's
4 and the Secretary of State, they left out a
5 small portion of Maumelle in the northwest
6 corner.

7 Now, currently we're represented well by
8 Representative English, and I have no problem
9 with Representative English, but this was one
10 of the problems when you redistrict every ten
11 years. I think we forget what happend ten
12 years ago, because that small portion of
13 Maumelle that you see up in the extreme left-
14 hand corner that's in District 42 right
15 there, there's about three subdivisions,
16 three neighborhoods, and our Representative
17 in 2001 lived in that area. The
18 Representative for District 42 lived in that
19 area. So that's how a small portion of
20 Maumelle got taken out of Maumelle. It's
21 protecting the incumbent Representative that
22 was there.

23 And so nobody has looked at that at this
24 time. So therefore, that has taken a small
25 portion of Maumelle which amounts to about

1 300 to 400 hundred families maybe, something
2 like that, that they don't even -- a lot of
3 times they call the wrong Representative
4 because they think Maumelle has one
5 Representative when we actually have two.

6 But like I say, we've been represented
7 well by Representative English who has
8 District 42 and Representative Garner. So
9 it's not anything against Representative
10 English, and I hope she continues to be our
11 Senator if that what she chooses to do if the
12 map stays the way it is. But that's what I
13 have a problem with, is nobody went back to
14 see why was this portion of Maumelle taken
15 out or why is it not in with the rest of
16 Maumelle, and it's all because of something
17 that happened ten years ago.

18 So I think sometimes we forget the
19 history, and that's a little bit of my
20 problem with Maumelle. As we move forward,
21 Maumelle will continue to grow, and it will
22 be harder to bring Maumelle back together in
23 the Senate Districts if we keep them split up
24 now.

25 So that's my comments on the House

1 District 41 and 42.

2 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Thank you.

3 House or Senate, you can speak to either.

4 REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS-SMITH: Hey, Joe.

5 Could you get both maps on there, Senate and
6 the House?

7 COORDINATOR WOODSON: We'll have to go
8 back and forth.

9 REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS-SMITH: Let's talk
10 about the House. Mr. Glover, I was pitted
11 against another incumbent, and there are a
12 few others that the Governor has pitted
13 against one another and has opened up seats
14 in other counties. So I just want to clarify
15 that. Not in the Senate seat, but in the
16 House.

17 If you look at District 80 and you see --
18 Randolph County has always been whole. It's
19 a growing community. The county is part of
20 an intermodal system. And when you look at
21 that you can see that by the Governor's map,
22 you will take out Pocahontas as a city center
23 and move it into Fulton County as part of
24 that district. Randolph County has always
25 been whole. Now it's going to be split by

1 three House members.

2 When you try to get to Fulton County, you
3 have to drive from Pocahontas, where I live,
4 all the way across Highway 62, two counties,
5 to get Fulton County at Ash Flat before you
6 can get there. So you drive one hour across
7 two other counties to get there. When you
8 end at Ash Flat -- or you could go into
9 Missouri, by the way. You could go up
10 Highway 93, cross over about there and come
11 back around by Mammoth and get there. But
12 you can't get there directly from Pocahontas
13 without -- the fastest route is one hour.
14 Okay. So we think that is a bad, bad
15 district.

16 When you look at the Senate seat for that
17 -- I'll just -- you don't have to change
18 that, but there's going to be three Senators
19 that we have to deal with from a county that
20 was whole to now three Senate Districts and
21 three House Districts.

22 When you try to put like counties
23 together -- I know that my district, Sharp
24 County and Randolph County, wanted to be
25 complete. They wanted -- we wanted to take a

1 district -- or a county seat that was split
2 already and make that county more whole,
3 which I think by law you're supposed to do.

4 They're not contiguous. You can't get
5 there -- you might can, but I don't think --
6 you're going to have to go through someone's
7 field from Randolph County and across Sharp
8 to Fulton County if you actually did that
9 little loop at the top. So I hope that the
10 Governor's staff will look at that, because
11 he told me to tell you that today when I
12 talked to him.

13 And where is the Governor's staffers?

14 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

15 (Complied.)

16 MS. COLLINS-SMITH: Thank you. I just
17 wanted to find them. Thank you.

18 We are a growing community that's going
19 to be split at our county seat. We ask that
20 our county be made whole again so that we can
21 continue to grow, so that when we're
22 mentioned with cities like Jonesboro or
23 Paragould in Greene County, that people can
24 understand we're growing.

25 Businesses are still coming to Randolph

1 County. So we hate that we're split where we
2 won't have any voice, and what's -- for me as
3 a Legislator, you -- you know,
4 Representatives are going to come and go,
5 Senators are going to come and go, but by
6 golly those citizens need to be represented,
7 and that's what I want to do.

8 And so I want you to really look at that
9 district because we think that it can be
10 improved, and we think you can make those
11 counties whole, especially when you're
12 looking at you're still splitting Sharp
13 County.

14 So I hope you'll look at that for us, and
15 if you have any questions, please holler at
16 us after this meeting. We'll help you draw
17 it out.

18 Thank you.

19 COORDINATOR WOODSON: Anyone else?

20 Well, if there are no other comments,
21 we're dismissed. Thank you for coming.

22 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were
23 concluded in the matter at 7:11 p.m.)

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STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)ss
COUNTY OF GARLAND)

I, Sherri Renaud, Certified Court Reporter #690,
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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 11th day of August,
2011.

SHERRI RENAUD

Arkansas State Supreme Court
Certified Court Reporter #690

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