

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**OF**

**THE ARKANSAS APPORTIONMENT BOARD**

**(Taken June 14th, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.)**

**LITTLE ROCK  
(501) 801-1801**

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**APPEARANCES**

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**EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1 -- Letter from State Representative Jon Woods**
- Exhibit 2 -- Map from Senator Cecile Bledsoe**
- Exhibit 3 -- Comment submitted by Annie Crochet**

1 PROCEEDINGS

2  
3 OPENING REMARKS BY MR. WOODSON:  
4

5 Let's go ahead and get started. Can you-all hear  
6 me okay? Yes? Okay. Well, my name is Joe Woodson,  
7 Jr. I am the Redistricting Coordinator for the  
8 Arkansas Board of Apportionment, and there's all my  
9 contact information, phone number, email, mailing  
10 address, in case you want to talk to me or you want to  
11 send something to the Board. We've got email and all  
12 of that, and we'll receive your comment that way.

13 Fayetteville is my home away from home. I spent  
14 six years in school up here, and -- part of it was law  
15 school. But anyway, it was that particular time. I  
16 love Fayetteville, I love being up here. My mother  
17 and father-in-law live here. I thought about having  
18 everybody call the hogs tonight, but I'll refrain  
19 from doing that. Anyway, I thought it would be a good  
20 ice-breaker.

21 We've got a lot of ground to cover, and I want to  
22 take the first few minutes and cover some basics about  
23 the process. And then, just so you know, after I get  
24 done talking about the basics, I'm going to open the  
25 floor up. And anybody who has anything to say is

1 going to have the opportunity to say it. I know some  
2 people have some prepared statements that they want  
3 to read. You'll have an opportunity to do that.

4 If you want to, you can just, you know, raise  
5 your hand from where you're sitting, ask a question,  
6 make a comment. I've got a court reporter here. And  
7 please identify yourself when you do say something,  
8 because we're making a record. And the whole point of  
9 this, from my perspective, is to gather as much  
10 information as possible so that we as staff members  
11 can relay that information to the three on the Board,  
12 and they can make an informed decision when it comes  
13 to the final map.

14 So I'm very interested in what everyone has to  
15 say, and I'm very interested in trying to get it into  
16 the record, too. And the other thing is, I want this  
17 to be a conversation. I'm not here to preach to you  
18 or give you a sermon. I'm not here to sell you a map,  
19 and I'll reiterate that here in a few minutes. I'm  
20 here to get your input about what you like, what you  
21 don't like, what makes sense, what doesn't make  
22 sense. So having said that, we'll get started. By  
23 the way, here's our website. You can go on there and  
24 email, [arkansasredistricting.org](http://arkansasredistricting.org). There's a ton of  
25 information on there. There's the home page. You can

1 find out about the Board, you can find out about the  
2 process.

3 I'm about to go over, here in a few minutes, a  
4 summary of the legal criteria. There's more detailed  
5 information right through here about what the law and  
6 the process is. We've got a calendar, in case you  
7 want to come down to Little Rock for one of the  
8 meetings, which is what we'll do next week. We've got  
9 links to a variety of other resources, like the  
10 Constitutional officers, the Census Bureau, et  
11 cetera. Documents that I have received, transcripts  
12 of other meetings, those are posted online. And last  
13 but not least, we've got maps, which we'll come back  
14 to in a minute. And there's current maps, past maps.

15 And so everything that I have in my possession is  
16 already on the website. The maps that are back there  
17 on the posterboards are just a few that I picked out  
18 because I think they've generated the most  
19 discussion, and we're going to just use those as a  
20 reference point, not because those have been endorsed  
21 by the Board or because those are ones that I want to  
22 see adopted.

23 Let me give you an extreme example. And I know a  
24 lot of you already know a lot of this, but some of you  
25 may not know all of it. Some of you may not know any

1 of it. And here's my extreme example. Let's say  
2 instead of 35 State Senate seats in Arkansas, we only  
3 had two. The Census Bureau says that the state  
4 population of Arkansas as of last year was 2,915,918.  
5 Let's say the 100 people in this room -- or 150,  
6 whatever it is, let's say you-all got to elect one  
7 State Senator, and the other 2.9 million people got to  
8 elect the second State Senator. Well, obviously,  
9 you-all in this room would have a disproportionate  
10 influence on the process.

11 And so the courts, beginning in 1964, in a U.S.  
12 Supreme Court case, said that equal population is the  
13 cornerstone of all redistricting. And whenever any  
14 jurisdiction goes through the process, they need to  
15 try to get it as close to one person, one vote as  
16 possible. So if you divide the total population by  
17 100 House seats, you get an ideal district size in  
18 Arkansas of 29,159. Same thing for the Senate.  
19 Divide it by 35, ideal district size of 83,311.

20 One of the things I'll talk about just a little  
21 bit more is the overall range. We all know that the  
22 General Assembly just finished with Congressional  
23 redistricting drawn for the Congressional seats. The  
24 General Assembly had to work within a smaller  
25 variance. They had to be -- as a practical matter,

1 each of the four Congressional districts had to be  
2 less than 1 percent different in population.

3 In Arkansas -- well, not in Arkansas, but any  
4 legislative seat in the Senate, the House and Senate  
5 seats, they get the luxury of having a 10 percent  
6 overall range. What I mean by that is if, for  
7 example, your ideal district size is 100 people, not  
8 83,000, but for this example 100 in the state. And  
9 the smallest district in the state is 95, and the  
10 largest district in the state is 105, well, 105-95 is  
11 10 people, or 10 percent. So you would be within the  
12 legal variance. And so when we were looking at the  
13 83,000 and the 29,159, we get to have that plus or  
14 minus five percent when we redraw the district sizes.

15 Now, this right here will take your breath away.  
16 It takes your breath away in a good way if you live in  
17 northwest Arkansas, in a bad way if you live in south  
18 Arkansas. In Washington and Benton Counties  
19 currently, there are four Senate seats. If you take  
20 the actual population of those two counties and those  
21 four -- not the two counties, but the actual  
22 population of those four districts, which is 417,000  
23 divided by the ideal district size, you get five  
24 Senate seats. So in other words, the population of  
25 these four -- the actual population of these four

1 Senate districts is going to support five Senate,  
2 State Senate seats.

3 Same thing with the House. Currently, there are  
4 11 House districts, with a total actual population of  
5 402. You divide by 29,159, and you get right under 14  
6 seats. So you're going to see northwest Arkansas grow  
7 from 11 to probably right under 14, depending on --  
8 it's not an exact one-for-one equation, because you  
9 might have part of one district in the counties, et  
10 cetera, et cetera. But you're going to see, you know,  
11 around 14 House seats, whereas now you have 11 in just  
12 these two counties.

13 One other way to demonstrate this incredible  
14 change in population density. It's a little bit  
15 washed out up here. All of this right here on my  
16 screen is green. All these are green. And the green  
17 indicates that these areas of the state are  
18 underpopulated. In other words, they don't have  
19 enough people in their district to meet that minimum  
20 Senate district population size. And so they have to  
21 grow and stretch geographically to bring more people  
22 in. The orange and the red right here in Central  
23 Arkansas, certainly in northwest Arkansas, and a  
24 little bit over here in Jonesboro, the population  
25 density, as you-all know, has increased. And those

1 existing districts will shrink, and in some cases,  
2 we'll end up adding the districts to that geography.  
3 Same thing for the House. Same story. Central  
4 Arkansas, northwest Arkansas have denser populations.

5 Now, before we -- just a couple more things. I  
6 want to talk about the law. And I'm going to briefly  
7 show you the software. These ten bullet points are a  
8 quick summary of the criteria that the Board has to  
9 use and look at when it's drawing maps. Now, we've  
10 already talked about the first one, and that's the  
11 cornerstone of all redistricting, the one person, one  
12 vote. And we've already talked about how  
13 Congressional districts have a different standard as  
14 opposed to what we're doing here at the Board, which  
15 is a legislative district. And that's because they  
16 are going by two different legal standards.

17 The next one on the list is compliance with the  
18 Voting Rights Act of 1965. Most of you probably  
19 already know that the federal government passed the  
20 Civil Rights legislation in 1965 and made it illegal  
21 to discriminate against any racial or language  
22 minority through any practice or procedure or  
23 anything that could have a discriminatory effect and  
24 according to where you drew the maps, and that was  
25 illegal. And so we have to be careful that we don't -

1 - in drawing our maps, we don't violate the Voting  
2 Rights Act of 1965.

3 At the same time, beginning in the '90s, the U.S.  
4 Supreme Court went through a series of trial cases,  
5 and now it said, we don't want any place in the  
6 country drawing districts based exclusively or  
7 primarily on race. In other words, the Supreme Court  
8 said, "We want you to be color-blind as best you can."  
9 And that, of course, is a wonderful goal. They went  
10 on to say that, however, even though we no longer --  
11 even though we do want you to be color-blind, you can  
12 still use race or language as a primary factor if  
13 you're trying to avoid a Section 2 violation of the  
14 1965 Voting Rights Act or a Section 5 violation of the  
15 Voting Rights Act to remedy past discrimination. So  
16 we've got these sort of competing ideas out there,  
17 although they're not really competing. It is  
18 possible to be in compliance with both at the same  
19 time, but those are things that the Board is looking  
20 at.

21 Next, you want to be geographically contiguous.  
22 And that's -- that is what it sounds like. You can't  
23 have a district that has a separate island to itself.  
24 Districts need to be connected geographically  
25 somewhere at some point. You can't have two parts of

1 the same district that are completely unconnected  
2 geographically.

3 The courts like geographically compact districts.  
4 They -- you know, a circle or a square would be a  
5 really good district and sort of the ideal district.  
6 In practice, we know that no district looks like that,  
7 that it's got some irregular shape to it.  
8 Nevertheless, the more bizarre the outline of your  
9 district shape, the less the courts are going to like  
10 it. So appearances do matter in redistricting, and  
11 that's one of the things that we're looking at when we  
12 draw the maps.

13 And then lastly, you come to these right through  
14 here. And the thing I want to point out first is  
15 they've got all these qualifiers on here. "Minimize  
16 where possible; where possible; where possible.  
17 Minimize." And that's the language that the courts  
18 use. You know, nothing is absolute in redistricting.  
19 The closest thing that you have to an absolute in  
20 redistricting would be the population sizes, but even  
21 that can be violated if you've got a good enough  
22 reason. And I don't anticipate that being violated in  
23 Arkansas, but theoretically it could be. Certainly  
24 when you get down to this part of the list, you're  
25 talking about sort of how far you go down one

1 continuum or the other. And they've got these  
2 qualifiers on them.

3 And so as best you can, the courts have said  
4 boards and -- in redistricting, of course, you need to  
5 minimize the political jurisdiction. And again,  
6 that's what it sounds like. To the extent that you  
7 can, you want to keep whole counties, whole cities,  
8 whole voting precincts intact. Maintain the core of  
9 existing districts. What's the historical core of  
10 Senate District 7? It's Fayetteville. Right? And to  
11 the extent you can, you would want to keep  
12 Fayetteville part of that district.

13 Maintain continuity of representation. And the  
14 rationale for this is, if a particular district has an  
15 incumbent, then they ought to be able to be given the  
16 chance to continue to elect that incumbent. So the  
17 courts have said, don't make incumbents run against  
18 each other where possible. Now, again, that's not an  
19 absolute. And we might have a situation or two where  
20 we do have two incumbents running against each other.  
21 But the courts -- the courts say, try not to do that.

22 Maintain communities of interest. That's the  
23 best shorthand way for most people to talk about  
24 redistricting. What do these communities have in  
25 common, socially, economically, politically? What do

1 the school districts look like? What do the court  
2 circuits look like? What do we have in common? What  
3 does central or northwest Benton County have in  
4 common with northwest Washington County, if anything?  
5 And so I'm not saying it does, but those are things  
6 we're looking for. Those are factors we're looking  
7 for.

8 And finally, minimize partisanship. The most  
9 recent Supreme Court case has said that it's possible  
10 to bring a lawsuit saying one party politically  
11 gerrymandered the other. But what they didn't do is  
12 say whether it is or is not legal for the State to do  
13 that. So there's a great deal of uncertainty with  
14 respect to the partisanship, and of course, the best  
15 course of action for us is to minimize that. If I  
16 were -- all of these bullet points are court-made  
17 rules that served as limitations on a party taking  
18 unfair advantage of the other. And so you have these  
19 limitations out there that the Board has to work  
20 within.

21 Any questions or comments about all of that? All  
22 right. Well, this is the last thing I want to do  
23 before we open the floor and start talking about maps.  
24 This is our map right here. It's a widely-used  
25 mapping program that is used in all sorts of

1 applications all around the world, I guess. And  
2 there's a program that goes on top of it called  
3 AutoBound. And AutoBound is a computer program that  
4 takes all of the census data, all of the total  
5 population figures, all of the race figures.  
6 Everything, every bit of information that the census  
7 collects is loaded into this AutoBound program, which  
8 automatically does the tabulation for us.

9 And so what I wanted to show you is in practice,  
10 how we're actually drawing these maps. And this is  
11 the way we do it. And when I say "we," it's the staff  
12 of the three bosses and myself. If you look at Senate  
13 District 7, currently there's 93,757. The ideal is  
14 83,312. It's overpopulated by 12.54 percent or  
15 10,000 people.

16 So what you have to do is you come in here, and  
17 you say, I'm going to unassign, right here, at the  
18 precinct level -- that's a VTD is -- and I've turned  
19 this on. That's what all these little yellow lines  
20 are. These are voting precincts. And I'm going to  
21 assign this area right here, I'm going to assign it to  
22 "unassigned." In other words, I'm just going to take  
23 this population in this precinct out of District 7,  
24 Senate District 7, and see what happens.

25 Okay. So that turned white on the map. We come

1 back and look at the 7th. It dropped about two  
2 percent. All right. Now it's 9100 people over, so it  
3 hasn't taken enough out of Senate District 7. So I'm  
4 going to grab these three precincts and see what  
5 happens then. Okay. So now 7 is still a little bit  
6 overpopulated at 86,000, but it's -- the number  
7 turned green because it's within that plus or minus  
8 five percent. So it's up -- it's overpopulated by  
9 3600 people, but that's a legal number there. It's  
10 within that plus or minus five percent. Anybody have  
11 any questions about that? Okay. Very good. Let me  
12 close this, and we will start talking about some of  
13 the maps.

14 Let me again preface our conversation about the  
15 maps with this: I'm not here to sell you a map. I  
16 don't -- haven't seen any map that's been endorsed by  
17 the Board. My primary purpose here is to gather  
18 information. I know in some of the maps there's  
19 strong support and strong objection at the same time,  
20 and I intend to talk about all of that. If there's a  
21 map that I don't just bring up automatically, feel  
22 free to ask me, and I'll try to bring that up. Let me  
23 -- the four I put on the board -- I'm sorry. The  
24 eight, the four Senate and four House maps were just  
25 ones that I picked because those are the ones that

1 I've heard the most conversation about. And don't  
2 read anything into it other than that. That's why I  
3 chose those, and that's why I'm about to show you  
4 these, is because I've heard the most buzz about  
5 those, both pro and con.

6 We'll start with the Senate. We'll talk about  
7 the Senate maps, and then we'll talk about the House  
8 maps. So this is the May 3rd Senate map that was  
9 submitted by the Secretary of State's staff. And what  
10 I did was I tried to wrangle a copy of that May 3rd  
11 map into what I'm now calling the June 11th map,  
12 because I just put it out on the website a few days  
13 ago. But it's intended -- copy of the May 3rd -- it's  
14 intended to be very similar to the May 3rd map.

15 And it's a little bit different right here. This  
16 green district, Benton down into Washington County,  
17 because on my software, it didn't need the  
18 population. Senator Prichard's district extended  
19 over a little bit further to the left, because it did  
20 need the population. I kept this little part right  
21 here because it's part of the existing Fayetteville  
22 district.

23 Nevertheless, you'll see there's one, two, three,  
24 four -- there's five Senate districts in these two  
25 counties per those population numbers. That is -- and

1 again, this is just based on what I've heard. And the  
2 floor is going to be open to talk about anything.  
3 That is in contrast to, again, another map that's out  
4 on the website, which is the May 4th version.

5 Again, I drew this. This, for example, is -- the  
6 red lines are Senator Pritchard's current Senate 35  
7 district. And what I did, not only with northwest  
8 Arkansas on this map, but the whole state is that --  
9 now, my premise with this map was -- if you will, was  
10 -- I want to go back. And I'm just going to shrink,  
11 geographically, all of the districts that have to  
12 shrink, and then I'm going to come back and sort of  
13 fill in the holes.

14 And so this is what happened here. I shrunk in  
15 35, because the population in this dark, little area  
16 is the same as Hennessy. And then the -- this eastern  
17 half got put into Senator Laverty's, too. Senator  
18 Bledsoe's district got pushed over to the west,  
19 because, again, the total population up and down  
20 Highway 71 with Rogers and Bentonville, and on and on.

21 So having said that, again, I'm not here to sell  
22 you a map. I'm not here to say one is better than the  
23 other. We're here to hear what you have to say, and  
24 that's where we're at in the program. I will invite  
25 any of you-all to start making comments or asking

1 questions, and we want to know. Yes, sir. You don't  
2 have to come to microphone, but feel free to if you  
3 would like.

4 JOHN BURROW: I'm John Burrow. I'm the  
5 chairman of the Washington County Election  
6 Commission. With me tonight are Tom Lundstrom and  
7 Pete Morris, Jennifer Price, and, I believe somewhere  
8 in the room is Karen Pritchard, our wonderful county  
9 clerk. We're here tonight simply to ask you-all to  
10 drive home and to reinforce that number three on your  
11 list of criteria, that we have 128 precincts in  
12 Washington County right now. We've got all the  
13 precincts we need provided for you to the state. If  
14 you could be sure to use the existing precincts as  
15 much as you possibly can so that there will be no  
16 making life any more complicated, I would appreciate  
17 it. It's a simple request, and with that, we're done.

18 MR. WOODSON: Well, thank you. And that  
19 is one of the legal criteria, to try to maintain --  
20 and ideally, we would like to. That's not a promise  
21 that we won't split anything, but it makes it easier  
22 on everybody. And one of the things I haven't  
23 mentioned is, you know, there's a lot of downstream  
24 folks waiting on us to get through with our maps,  
25 county clerks, county board's election commissions

1 are going to redistrict the JP lines, cities are going  
2 to redistrict their wards. School boards are going to  
3 redistrict next year. And so there's a lot of folks  
4 waiting to see what we do. Your point's well taken,  
5 and we will certainly consider it. Thank you.

6 JOHN BURROW: Thank you.

7 MR. WOODSON: I'm sorry. If you'll go  
8 next. Go ahead.

9 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: I'm Stephanie Vaughn,  
10 from Springdale, and I'm representing a group called  
11 Citizens For A Future Springdale. And I'm also here  
12 to read a statement by Representative Woods. If  
13 you'll allow me, I have some --

14 MR. WOODSON: And by the way, you can --  
15 if you have something written, you can attach it and  
16 bring it up here to the court reporter, who will make  
17 it part of the record. And if you want to submit  
18 something written at a later date, you can send it to  
19 me or the Board. Okay.

20 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: Now, my group in  
21 Springdale, Citizens For A Future Springdale, we  
22 technically -- we have -- historically, we have never  
23 taken a side on an issue we didn't believe in. When  
24 we started seeing some of the reapportionment maps  
25 that had Springdale cut up like a pizza pie, we

1 decided that we would take a stand. And we would like  
2 to thank you, Mr. Woodson, for this map, the May 4th  
3 map. We find that it's keeping most of the  
4 communities intact, like the law is stating. It's  
5 keeping the areas compact as much as you possibly can,  
6 because we do have a lot of rural area. It may not be  
7 what a lot of people like, but it seems to be a very  
8 fair map.

9 Each major town -- Bentonville, Rogers,  
10 Springdale and Fayetteville -- will all have their  
11 own senators. And we find this to be very fair. And,  
12 you know, the one voice, the one vote. You know, it -  
13 - true representation in Little Rock. And I think  
14 that's what everybody is really, truly looking for.  
15 You know, the people out there voting. Mr. Woods  
16 would ask you to let me read this letter.

17 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

18 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: (reading)

19 "Members of the Board of Apportionment, I have  
20 prepared this statement due to an unexpected  
21 scheduling conflict. I had planned to be at the forum  
22 when it was originally scheduled for the seventh.  
23 However it is time to hear from the city council  
24 members, mayors, other elected officials, and most  
25 important the people. I feel that it is my obligation

1 to inform the Board of Apportionment that the vast  
2 majority of citizens of northern Washington County  
3 would prefer a state senate seat comprised of the  
4 communities of Johnson, Tontitown, Elm Springs &  
5 Springdale.

6 "These four communities share the same school  
7 district, work together on many projects, the same  
8 water supply, most residents of these areas have a  
9 Springdale mailing address and the area is moving  
10 towards the same district court jurisdiction.  
11 Without any doubt a senate district comprised of  
12 these communities would meet the redistricting  
13 criteria approved by the courts.

14 "The first and most obvious reason is that these  
15 towns comprise a single community of interest:  
16 "Preservation of communities of interest describes  
17 the goal of maintaining a group of people in a  
18 specific geographic area where those individuals  
19 share common interests, common economic, social,  
20 cultural, ethnic, religious, or even political  
21 interest.

22 "Also such a district would be geographically  
23 compact: "Geographically Compact Districts: The  
24 Courts have held that geographically compact  
25 districts are ideal. For example, a district shaped

1 like a circle or a square" -- as you've said. I'm  
2 sorry. I'm repeating -- "would be 'geographically  
3 compact.' In practice, most districts have some  
4 irregularity in shape; nevertheless, the more bizarre  
5 the district shape, the less likely it is to be  
6 approved by the courts.

7 "Additionally these communities clearly represent  
8 the core of the current senate district:

9 "Preservation of the 'cores' of existing districts is  
10 a redistricting principle. When district liens are  
11 re-drawn, the map makers can take into account the  
12 existing districts, their geographic location, and  
13 the current population. It is better to keep the core  
14 of an existing district where possible.

15 "Sincerely, Jon Woods, State Representative District  
16 Number 93."

17 I know you've received letters from the mayor of  
18 Tontitown, the mayor of Springdale, the mayor of  
19 Johnson and the mayor of Elm Springs. Tonight, we  
20 have handed you copies. The originals will be sent to  
21 you, but these also have the city council members from  
22 these town where they assigned letters. We feel that  
23 it's very important that we stay within the  
24 guidelines with the Constitution, that everybody has  
25 good representation. And I think that's the key.

1 That's what America -- that's why we became a  
2 republic. And so we need to keep those things that  
3 our founding fathers wanted for us, and that's more  
4 representation when it comes to government, whether  
5 it is at state level, county, whatever. So thank you  
6 for listening to me this evening, and thank you for  
7 the map on the May 4th.

8 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. Okay. Back  
9 here. Yes, sir.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First thing, sort  
11 of a technical request. AutoBound does a lot of  
12 different things, but as I'm sure you're aware, you  
13 can go to the Web and do everything you can do on  
14 AutoBound on Dave's Redistricting.

15 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you're not  
17 familiar with that, there's a -- there's a website  
18 called Dave's Redistricting that literally does  
19 everything that AutoBound does, except better. It's  
20 much easier, to us. I would request that any map you  
21 put forward, at the same time you should put a  
22 redistricting -- Dave's Redistricting file that  
23 anyone can download and play with and pull the  
24 statistics out of it. It's easy to do, as I'm sure  
25 you're aware, and everybody in this room can build

1 their own maps like that.

2 (Snaps fingers.)

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that's what I  
4 request. I'd love to see it.

5 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Let me speak to  
6 that. Yeah. I completely agree. Last week in  
7 Monticello, we told the folks there, and I'm glad you  
8 reminded me, that Dave's Redistricting is infinitely  
9 easier to use than the software. It assigns  
10 population, but at the voter precinct level. It gives  
11 you a matrix where you can look at the population  
12 totals to see if you're within the variances.

13 The one thing it doesn't do -- this is the  
14 limitation that, for most people, won't matter. For  
15 the staff of the Board, we've got to use this because  
16 Dave's -- and by the way, it's Dave's Redistricting.  
17 You can just Google that, and you click on it and you  
18 can upload a copy and start drawing. The limitation  
19 is it can't drill down as low as specific as this  
20 software, which, ultimately, we'll have to do when we  
21 get to a final plan. Things like minority populations  
22 and, if you're trying -- Dave's won't go down to the  
23 block level, which is the most basic, smallest piece  
24 of information that the Census provides. This will.  
25 This is -- that's why we have to ultimately use this,

1 but yeah, you're right.

2 When we first got started, especially all of the  
3 staff, we were roughing in maps on Dave's. And  
4 everything that I have -- if you go to -- if you go to  
5 Dave's, and you go on, there's a toolbar at the top,  
6 where it says "Views." You click that open, and you  
7 can make a JPEG photo of whatever map you draw. And  
8 you can email it to me, and I'll post it. And, in  
9 fact, I've got a few up there right now under  
10 miscellaneous maps. And so an excellent point.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you save your  
12 file and post the file, you can trade files. That's  
13 easy to do.

14 MR. WOODSON: But -- okay.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So that way, you  
16 can drill down at whatever level you want to, and then  
17 you take the files and post them.

18 MR. WOODSON: So just post the files, is  
19 what you're saying.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Post the file, and  
21 anybody can do whatever they want, either with the  
22 whole state or whatever. It's much more flexible. It  
23 would be much easier for the public to comment on  
24 specifics and plans. Can I ask about these?

25 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't tell, is  
2 this precinct 23 or 20 -- I can't see.

3 MR. WOODSON: No, that is --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So it would be  
5 much better to put that information out there where  
6 people could see it.

7 MR. WOODSON: Very good point. And not  
8 only that, but I've worked with some of our IT folks  
9 at one of our most recent meetings. Again, folks  
10 wanted to see more detail down at, like, the street  
11 level. And as a preface to that, so far the maps that  
12 you're seeing are rough drafts in the sense that we  
13 haven't really tried to fine-tune very much, because  
14 we're still trying to figure out what will work in  
15 broad strokes. But the information is there,  
16 and I'm working with the IT folks to see if we can  
17 develop an application that we can take any of these  
18 existing maps and lay on top of that and folks can go  
19 to the website and drill down. And I hope to have  
20 that up soon, and they're helping me on that. So  
21 that's a good point.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, you can't  
23 see any of the of the counties, so -- is this

24 MR. WOODSON: Correct. Yes.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just wanted to

1 mention that. It's free.

2 MR. WOODSON: I see your point. Yeah.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's free.

4 MR. WOODSON: No, it's great. Yeah. That  
5 site is great.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can look and  
7 see where this cul-de-sac is, and I certainly can't do  
8 that on one of your maps as you're posting them  
9 currently --

10 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- on the website.  
12 So anyway, keep that in mind.

13 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The second thing I  
15 wanted to bring up, I don't know how you can answer  
16 this point, but I just wanted -- as I'm sure you're  
17 aware, the African American population in Arkansas  
18 has historically been under-represented. And so the  
19 question I have is, will there be 15 percent of the  
20 House districts and 15 percent of the Senate  
21 districts that are going to be a minority majority, as  
22 the Voting Rights Act certainly says we should try to  
23 do?

24 MR. WOODSON: Well, I --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So I pose that.

1                   MR. WOODSON: I disagree in the limited  
2 sense that the courts have said that the Voting Rights  
3 Act does not require proportional representation. In  
4 other words, if there's 15 percent minority --

5                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's pay back  
6 time.

7                   MR. WOODSON: -- you don't have to have  
8 15 House seats. What they have said is where the  
9 minority of the district is sufficiently large enough  
10 and cohesive enough and can show that they would vote  
11 typically as a group, you can create minority  
12 districts based on that. It's a fine point. The only  
13 thing I'm taking issue with is the proportionality.  
14 The courts, they say no on proportionality but yes on  
15 this other. So that's my limited point.

16                   To the larger question of minority districts in  
17 Arkansas, my response would be this, that as most of  
18 you know, 1989, the Federal Court in Jeffers v.  
19 Clinton said that Arkansas had violated the Voting  
20 Rights Act of 1965 and ordered Arkansas to redraw the  
21 maps, and then created four minority -- 13 minority  
22 House seats. We're only one redistricting removed  
23 from that. That case came down in 1989, when the  
24 Court retained jurisdiction over Arkansas -- that was  
25 in '90, '91, and it approved the '90s plan.

1           And so we've only redistricted once since then.  
2           And so now we're looking at the second since then, and  
3           to answer your question, my -- I don't know of any  
4           political will out there not to keep those minority  
5           districts. And so my impression, although I won't  
6           speak for the Board, is that we will probably see, you  
7           know, an effort to try to maintain the minority  
8           districts that exist. But --

9                           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My understanding  
10           is that the Senate would be 15 percent then.

11                          MR. WOODSON: But, I guess, my point is,  
12           currently there are four. I think -- my impression is  
13           that the Board would want to keep at least four. I  
14           don't think the courts allow the proportional  
15           representation that you're talking about, although I  
16           understand what you're saying. That's not my reading  
17           of this law. But I do think that the political will  
18           out there is to keep, or try to keep, what we've got  
19           in terms of minority districts, House and Senate.  
20           Thank you.

21                          MICHAEL LINDSEY: Thank you. Michael  
22           Lindsey of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber. First, I'd  
23           like to welcome you back home.

24                          MR. WOODSON: I love it.

25                          MICHAEL LINDSEY: Thank you for coming

1 back up here.

2 MR. WOODSON: I love it here.

3 MICHAEL LINDSEY: And also for  
4 representing the Board of Apportionment. At the  
5 Chamber, we don't want to speak for or against any  
6 single --

7 MR. WOODSON: Can you speak a little  
8 louder?

9 MICHAEL LINDSEY: At the Chamber, we  
10 don't want to speak for or against any single map.  
11 But we did want to make a comment about how we see the  
12 problems in redistricting. In our opinion, we would  
13 like to see -- this is solely on the Senate side. We  
14 would like to see the Senators represent each of the  
15 five major cities in Washington and Benton counties.  
16 There are five of them, five over 20,000. Let's not  
17 forget about Bella Vista.

18 But it's our opinion whenever you cross the  
19 county lines, however they fall out, each of these  
20 major cities may suffer. You need to preserve them,  
21 the city zones, as much as possible, keep the lines as  
22 close to the county borders as possible, at least.  
23 That's our comment.

24 MR. WOODSON: I think, to a certain  
25 extent, the population densities will dictate that.

1 Now, that's not an absolute, but where you have -- for  
2 example, Fayetteville, I mean, there's a dense  
3 population and it's just going to almost mandate a  
4 certain district size. Now, you do also get into --  
5 when you say communities of interest, your point's  
6 well-taken about the cities. But then you have rural  
7 areas, too. It's not an exact science is my only  
8 thought.

9 MICHAEL LINDSEY: And I understand that.  
10 What we want you to keep in mind is that the majority  
11 of the population in the two counties is more than 60  
12 percent urban, according to the 2005 Census. You have  
13 many more people in cities. And that's -- I mean,  
14 when you're looking at urban and rural, I think that  
15 the density is a primary difference between the  
16 counties. Much more urban than rural. It's just --

17 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

18 MICHAEL LINDSEY: -- that we want to see  
19 you consider that. Thank you. We appreciate you.

20 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. I appreciate  
21 you coming. Senator?

22 SENATOR BLEDSOE: Thank you. For those of  
23 you who don't know, that lime green area at the very  
24 top of the map is my civic district.

25 MR. WOODSON: I can take this off if you

1 --

2 SENATOR BLEDSOE: That would be good.  
3 Thank you. The lime green area on this map is my  
4 Senate district. And I know that there are people who  
5 like that map, but as the Senator from District 8, I  
6 cannot. And I'd like to explain why. I've already  
7 talked to Joe. So Joe, if you don't mind, I think  
8 I'll kind of turn my back this way.

9 MR. WOODSON: Oh, sure. Sure.

10 SENATOR BLEDSOE: This map -- and, of  
11 course, this is my opinion as the Senator from that  
12 area -- it fragments Benton and Washington counties.  
13 And it does that by unnecessarily stretching the  
14 state senate districts into multiple counties. In  
15 some cases, instead of making them more compact,  
16 which would be logical in an area with the growth in  
17 population, as we have had in Benton and Washington  
18 counties.

19 Number two, the common interests that would be  
20 expected from the proximity have been ignored, such  
21 as the trade district. On that map, I lose Garfield  
22 and Gateway. And the trade district for the both of  
23 Garfield and Gateway is Rogers. It's not Harrison.  
24 And on this map, that area is extended all the way to  
25 Harrison.

1           Number three, the map unnecessarily divides the  
2 mix of urban and rural that we now enjoy. I like  
3 representing a district with a mix. In the May 4th  
4 map, it is generally either urban or rural, not both.  
5 And then four, without reason, this map destroys  
6 long-term relationships with legislators. An area  
7 that is the second most populous in Arkansas should  
8 not be represented by a senator who lives a county or  
9 two away from it. I was in that House in 1999. I  
10 started representing Lavoca and Garfield and Gateway  
11 in 1999. I would like to continue. This map takes  
12 that away from the city senator in Benton County.

13           I believe that this map is not in the best  
14 interest of northwest Arkansas, and therefore, I  
15 cannot support it. However, the proposal for  
16 redistricting the Senate District 8, which I do  
17 support. I have a copy, I'm giving it to Joe. I  
18 think it will be on the Internet or on the website,  
19 anyway, in the next few days. But that's just the  
20 opinion of one senator. Thank you.

21                           MR. WOODSON: Thank you.

22                           DYLAN FARRELL: My name is Dylan Farrell,  
23 and I have not seen a perfect map yet. I think that  
24 all maps have some good points and some shortcomings.  
25 Of the maps that I've seen, I've not seen Senator

1 Bledsoe's map, obviously, yet, so it would be hard for  
2 me to comment on that. But of the maps that have been  
3 posted so far, I like the May 4th map the best,  
4 because it keeps the communities of interest  
5 together. It keeps the cores of current Senate  
6 districts together, of the Senate District 7 and of  
7 course, Fayetteville, and continues down through the  
8 city of Fayetteville. That makes a lot of sense.

9 The core of 35 is the cities of Springdale,  
10 Tontitown, Johnson, and Elm Springs. And, actually,  
11 in my opinion, the May 4 map is the one that keeps the  
12 most of Springdale physically together on the map. As  
13 you may or may not know, Springdale actually does  
14 spill into Benton County a little bit at its longer  
15 edge. And this map does show District 35 going and  
16 grabbing some of that, which would be the ideal  
17 situation, to have each of the -- especially the four  
18 corridor cities having their own Senator. And each of  
19 the cities stay intact, not be having the cities cut  
20 up into parts. The cities of Bentonville, Rogers,  
21 Springdale and Fayetteville.

22 Each one of those areas is growing now, and I  
23 think numerically, Springdale is growing the largest  
24 out of those. And we've seen a district that once  
25 stretched the entire length of northern Washington

1 County and had that shrink down a considerable  
2 amount. And I believe that keeping the core of the  
3 district together, like I said, those counties, is  
4 going to be -- would be the -- it would make the most  
5 sense. It certainly is in keeping with the criteria  
6 set forth by the Board and by the courts. So that's  
7 why so far out of the maps, I would advocate for the  
8 May 4 map.

9 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. Let me say this  
10 about the May 4 map. And I certainly appreciate the  
11 folks who like it, but I appreciate just as much the  
12 folks that don't like it. If you'll notice, one of  
13 the things I did here -- and I'm certainly aware, at  
14 this point, I drew Senator Pritchard out of his own  
15 district, which isn't good. And I can understand  
16 that.

17 And again, like I said, I'm strengthening the  
18 population, through the densities. One of the things  
19 I did -- and I'm certainly aware of some of the  
20 support and some of the criticism of this May 4 map --  
21 I went back and, as I mentioned earlier, I essentially  
22 tried to copy the SOS map from May 3rd with an eye  
23 towards these communities of interest that we've  
24 discussed. We've got Fayetteville here, Springdale,  
25 Tontitown, Elm Springs. We've got Rogers,

1 Bentonville here, and then Bella Vista's slid up at  
2 the top. Now, Senator Hendren, this changes your  
3 district, or what was your district, substantially.  
4 And that's a lot of rural, and then Senator Bledsoe  
5 gets the eastern part and it changes more than a third  
6 of her existing district.

7 What's the thought on this map? I mean, I drew  
8 this to kind of give equal billing for the May 4th map  
9 and try to even it out, for discussion purpose. To my  
10 way of thinking, this addresses many of your points  
11 about keeping a central Springdale district. Yes, it  
12 does keep the eastern half of 35 over to the eastern  
13 border of the county. Any thoughts on that? Any  
14 objections or support for that?

15 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: Mr. Woodson?

16 MR. WOODSON: Yes?

17 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: Now, looking at this  
18 map, without seeing each little individual street.

19 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

20 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: How much -- how badly  
21 does Rogers split?

22 MR. WOODSON: Well --

23 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: Because I do know that  
24 that is I-540, and I-540 pretty much is a dividing  
25 line between Bentonville and Rogers. So you're

1 looking at -- that is I-540 going north.

2 MR. WOODSON: No. This is the existing -  
3 - I don't have it on this map. Let me see if I can  
4 pull that up. I'm looking for it. I think this is it.  
5 And again, not to advocate for one or the other. My  
6 goal here is to solicit comments and feedback, so that  
7 we can make our record and report back. Here's the  
8 software working. What you have to do is, you come in  
9 here and then you turn the streets on and layer.

10 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: That's I-540.

11 MR. WOODSON: As the gentleman said  
12 earlier, Dave's is so much faster. And when the --  
13 when you're working with the software, the more  
14 detail, the lower down you go, the more detail you  
15 bring up, the slower the software works. So it's  
16 practically there. It can be frustrating when you're  
17 trying to draw a map. So you have -- I think Rogers  
18 is split a little bit up there.

19 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: And that -- and that's  
20 why I would object to that, because of the citizens of  
21 Rogers. And I know -- I know how the citizens of  
22 Springdale would feel. I think they feel, you know, a  
23 house divided is a house that falls. We all know  
24 that. And that would certainly break up the community  
25 there in Rogers where it happens to be on this side.

1           So again -- and I'm not advocating any particular  
2 map. The May 4th seems to be the best one out there  
3 at this point in time, because it does keep these  
4 large communities together and gives continuity.  
5 And, of course, you know, what may be good for the  
6 green part or what -- the majority of Bentonville may  
7 not be good for, you know, that half of Rogers that  
8 that map represents.

9           And I'm also a real estate appraiser. And a lot  
10 of times, you know, we try not to cross I-540 if we  
11 don't have to. It's just two different worlds. But,  
12 like, Little Flock. You know, they -- Little Flock is  
13 kind of close to Bentonville. You've got some good  
14 highways over to Bentonville, but it's right between  
15 Pea Ridge and Rogers, and people in Little Flock go to  
16 Rogers and shop.

17                       MR. WOODSON: Right.

18                       STEPHANIE VAUGHN: So there's a lot of  
19 things that are going on there that -- but you're  
20 splitting a community. You know, you're splitting  
21 the community area and breaking up the continuous  
22 compact geographical -- in my opinion.

23                       MR. WOODSON: Sure. Okay. Thank you.  
24 Yes, sir.

25                       DWAYNE NEAL: I'm not wanting to address

1 either one in particular, but I would like to thank  
2 you and your staff for coming to this part of the  
3 world and allowing us to give you input. In addition  
4 to the criteria that you outlined, there's one thing  
5 that you didn't include and I think should be  
6 considered in redistricting, and that is the fast-  
7 growing areas, or, as you pointed out are central  
8 Arkansas and northwest Arkansas.

9 We're the fast-growing areas, and if we  
10 underweight those areas in the Senate district, we  
11 would come up with a Senate district of about 79,146  
12 rather than the 83,312. With that calculation -- I  
13 live in Benton County in Bentonville, and my name is  
14 Dwayne Neal. With that calculation, Benton County  
15 will have earned 2.75 Senate districts.

16 So -- and on that basis, Benton County should  
17 have two full Senate districts and three-quarters of  
18 another district within Benton County. The May 4th  
19 map that we've discussed previously has five Senate  
20 districts lying in Benton County, five Senate  
21 districts lying in Washington County, and we only get  
22 five total. So why do we spread them out like that?

23 And the map, the May 4th map, I have designated  
24 as the "Harrison Detour," because Harrison has almost  
25 nothing to do with this part of the world. It's not

1 geographically part of this, it's not part of the gray  
2 area. So why should a senator from Harrison represent  
3 eastern Benton County or eastern Washington County?  
4 So I think -- I think the May 4th map looks like it  
5 was designed at a New Year's Eve party, and a poor job  
6 at that.

7 The latest map that's shown up on the Internet  
8 has been the 6/3, June 3rd map. And that map I have  
9 designated as the "Fayetteville Horseshoe." It  
10 starts in eastern Benton -- eastern Benton County and  
11 goes down into Washington County south of  
12 Fayetteville, back to the west of the border, and then  
13 back up into Benton County. It's not quite as bad as  
14 the "Fayetteville Theater," but it's close. Thank  
15 you.

16 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. With respect to  
17 your first point about having districts -- letting  
18 districts have room to grow, I would just add to that  
19 there are certainly things on discussion of that, and  
20 the Board and their staff are aware of that, that  
21 ideally that would be the case. My caveat to that is  
22 I think it's going to be hard enough to draw a new map  
23 now within just our basic criteria. That's sort of a  
24 wish list that we want to do. If we could, it would  
25 be great, but --

1                    DWAYNE NEAL: That one thing, the  
2 overgrowth, was not considered in 1990, and it was not  
3 considered in 2000. But I think the pattern has been  
4 set. We know where the growth is going to be in  
5 Arkansas, so please carry that message.

6                    MR. WOODSON: I will. Thank you. And  
7 this is the June 3rd map that he was talking about,  
8 and the horseshoe here. And I've just added on the  
9 map that I've gotten some feedback, some good and bad,  
10 on the website. This was -- came out, it was the June  
11 3rd map. I put this out most recently, and I  
12 initially called it the May 3 map just because I was  
13 plagiarizing this map. But anyway, I just wanted --  
14 the reason I did that was I wanted everyone to be  
15 clear about what that -- what I was trying to do. But  
16 I went -- there was some confusion, so I went back and  
17 renamed it June 11th. Yes, sir?

18                    BILL HARRIS: My name is Bill Harris.  
19 I've lived in Arkansas for five years. I'm a little  
20 curious about the judicial restraints on  
21 redistricting. It comes to my attention that if we  
22 take 20 white districts and under-populate them by  
23 five percent, that leaves us enough population  
24 together to make an extra district.                    But in order --  
25 since we have a limited number of districts, in order

1 to pull that off, you would have to find 20 black,  
2 predominantly black districts and overpopulate them  
3 by five percent to cheat those people out of  
4 districts. Are there any judicial restraints on that  
5 kind of out-of-balance overpopulating? This five  
6 percent seems like a pretty loose restraint. It --  
7 and it adds up to ten percent, and that's really  
8 loose, really sloppy.

9 And I wonder if the Court has ever made any  
10 decision, or the legislature, as to any dichotomy,  
11 black and white, rural or urban, or any other  
12 dichotomy, that the number of overpopulated and  
13 underpopulated districts must even out?

14 MR. WOODSON: If I understand your  
15 question correctly, my response would be this: that  
16 there is a tremendous amount of discussion in the case  
17 log about purposeful -- what the courts call "packing  
18 and fracturing." There's, basically, two mechanisms  
19 to discriminate against any racial group or any  
20 language group or any political party, for that  
21 matter, either. You either pack as many of your  
22 opposing groups into one district that you can and  
23 thereby diminish their influence in the other  
24 district. Or, conversely, you spread out your  
25 opposing group as much as you can into all of the

1 districts, so they'll never have a chance of winning  
2 an election. The courts call it packing and  
3 fracturing.

4 And so that exists out there in the world. My  
5 belief and my hope is that we won't be doing that in  
6 Arkansas, and if we did, we would be in danger of a  
7 legal challenge and all that goes with that. Does  
8 that answer part of your question?

9 BILL HARRIS: Well, the courts would  
10 recognize a challenge based on that kind of  
11 statistic?

12 MR. WOODSON: Of course, you'd have to  
13 prove it. But certainly there's been quite a bit of  
14 attention about that type of thing in the courts.  
15 It's possible to bring a case based on that type of  
16 subject matter.

17 BILL HARRIS: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. WOODSON: You just need to have  
19 evidence in support of the problem. Yes, ma'am?

20 DOROTHY SCHUMAN: I'm Dorothy Schuman of  
21 Bentonville. I've traveled from Bentonville down  
22 through Washington County as far as my case  
23 management work. I would see no reason on earth to  
24 connect part of Benton County down to Crawford.  
25 There's no relationship between Lincoln and

1 Bentonville or Bella Vista. I think the Senators will  
2 get an advantage to spread out over that odd-shaped  
3 district.

4 Bentonville needs a rural influence in a  
5 district. But this stretches -- I've been on those  
6 back roads. I've been to Little Flock all the way  
7 through Washington and Benton County. And I can't see  
8 this going down in any way shape or form Crawford  
9 County. It doesn't make any sense. Drive those back  
10 roads, believe me, you'll know it. And it puts a  
11 Senator at a very unfair advantage.

12 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Consistent with what  
13 you're saying, do you want to go back to that map  
14 there?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you repeat the  
16 question? I couldn't hear her.

17 MR. WOODSON: Sure. Let me see if I can  
18 pull it up. She was saying -- well, go ahead. You  
19 can say it.

20 DOROTHY SCHUMAN: I said to connect Bella  
21 Vista all the way down to Crawford County in a Senate  
22 district doesn't make sense. There is no  
23 relationship between Benton or Prairie Grove with  
24 Bella Vista. They're shockingly different,  
25 according to this criteria, it doesn't make common

1 sense. I don't know who drew that map, but --

2 MR. WOODSON: I did.

3 DOROTHY SCHUMAN: Oh, okay. It doesn't  
4 make sense. I don't approve. It doesn't make any  
5 sense.

6 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. But, you know,  
7 consistent with what you're saying, this black line  
8 is Senator Hendren's current district boundary. And  
9 in making these four districts, that map, all of those  
10 populations, this crosses Senate 35 all the way into  
11 the current Senate 3. And that -- you're right. It  
12 is a massive district. It is rural. It cuts across  
13 other district lines.

14 So my only point in that is, your points are  
15 well-taken. There's very much an argument to made for  
16 your side of it.

17 DOROTHY SCHUMAN: And also, Bentonville  
18 and Rogers have been in competition since the day I  
19 was born, and much before. And we don't want to be in  
20 the same district.

21 MR. WOODSON: I can tell you that I have  
22 found that to be true all over the state, that there  
23 are certain communities that, from a distance, look  
24 like they would have a lot in common, but if you talk  
25 to most folks, they say, no way, we don't have

1 anything in common.

2 DOUG SPROUSE: I'm Doug Sprouse, Mayor of  
3 Springdale. And I think I sent you-all a letter.

4 MR. WOODSON: Yes. I got it.

5 DOUG SPROUSE: I appreciate your work.  
6 And I just wanted to just reiterate publicly from  
7 Springdale's perspective. We -- from the maps we've  
8 seen, we support the May 4th version, the Senate  
9 version. I understand that there are other issues  
10 with that map that others have problems with, and  
11 those are their problems to deal with, and I  
12 understand that. But from Springdale's perspective,  
13 any map that keeps Springdale intact will be the one  
14 that we have to support and ask for your -- ask for  
15 the approval. Because Springdale is a -- it's a city  
16 -- with a recent annexation we're over 70,000. We're  
17 the fourth largest city in the state. We're the  
18 second largest city in Washington -- in northwest  
19 Arkansas and probably within 5 years, if the growth  
20 rate continues as it has, we will be the largest city  
21 in northwest Arkansas.

22 And I just think to split us up for the next ten  
23 years is -- is not something the people of Springdale  
24 want or will support. And so I just -- you know,  
25 again, I understand how all these things have to work

1 together. I understand the political realities are  
2 what they are. But anything we can do to keep  
3 Springdale intact certainly would be good.

4 If Tontitown and Elm Springs and Johnson could be  
5 a part of that, we do share a lot of common things  
6 with those cities. We have common school districts,  
7 as has been said before, water. You know, there are a  
8 lot of reasons to keep that area intact and together  
9 and as compact as possible. But I would just urge the  
10 Board and ask them to strongly consider keeping  
11 Springdale together within one Senate district.  
12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. This map, this  
14 is -- If this existed in a vacuum and we didn't have  
15 to worry about other districts, that would be a pretty  
16 good-looking district. It's pretty compact; it hits  
17 all the bullet points. And on the other side of that  
18 is obviously a problem, in that every time we draw a  
19 district, it has a ripple effect across the state.  
20 And I remember one member of the general assembly,  
21 when they were in their congressional districts,  
22 described it like trying to squeeze a big balloon into  
23 a square box. You get it just the way you want it,  
24 and another side pops out over here. So there are a  
25 lot of considerations, but your point's well-taken.

1 Yes, sir.

2 JIM REED: I'm Jim Reed, Councilman of the  
3 City of Springdale. On the Board, I'm position one.  
4 This area, this May 4th map includes me in the -- in  
5 what would be the Senate 4, Springdale. The June 11th  
6 map does not.

7 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

8 JIM REED: Okay. If your pointer -- the  
9 stuff north of in the Benton County right there, in  
10 that Benton County area, I'm in that area.

11 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

12 JIM REED: I would much -- rather prefer  
13 to be there where I can have a vote and stay and  
14 representing the area I live in.

15 MR. WOODSON: Thank you.

16 SUZANNE JESSUP: Hi. I'm Suzanne Jessup  
17 from Bella Vista in Benton County.

18 MR. WOODSON: Come a little closer, if  
19 you would.

20 SUZANNE JESSUP: Okay. Bella Vista,  
21 Benton County, Suzanne Jessup. And while I love to  
22 take visitors to Arkansas on 71 down through Winslow -  
23 - it's a beautiful scenery -- Bella Vista is now the  
24 fifth-largest incorporated city in Washington or  
25 Benton County. Our school districts are Bentonville

1 and Gravette. We belong -- we are in cooperation,  
2 Bella Vista/Bentonville Chamber of Commerce.

3 And I just think separating us -- and I don't  
4 want to get into a Rogers/Bentonville dispute -- but I  
5 know we do most of our business within the community  
6 of Bentonville and Rogers, but there is that division  
7 we all recognize of 540. And to place a potential  
8 senator right in the beautiful southeast corridor of  
9 Washington County might be a decided disadvantage.  
10 As much as what was referred to as the "Fayetteville  
11 Finger," bringing people down to do business  
12 somewhere in the southeastern part of the state.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. Any other  
15 discussion about the Senate maps? Let's look at the  
16 House maps. And again, this is plagiarism -- and I've  
17 tried to admit it, so I don't know if it's plagiarism  
18 if you identify your source. But let me -- I'm  
19 showing it for the General Assembly members. And it  
20 is my understanding that there was some support for  
21 this map.

22 So that's the June 10th House map from DLR. And  
23 what I did is once -- I tried to manually copy that  
24 into our AutoBound software. And I'm sure it's not  
25 identical, but that is pretty similar to what I

1 received from DLR. Any support of objections for that  
2 House map or any other map, for that matter? I'm  
3 sorry?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you move it  
5 down into southern Washington County?

6 MR. WOODSON: Yes. I'm sorry. This is  
7 sort of a close-up. Is that better? I'll tell you  
8 what. Let me do this. Yeah. I guess that's the  
9 largest one. I keep knocking the court reporter's --  
10 there it is. And again, with such population growth,  
11 there's 11 current House districts in Benton and  
12 Washington counties. There's probably going to be  
13 around 14. You know, maybe part of another. Maybe  
14 14-and-a-half as such in those geographic areas.

15 The House maps are actually -- although there's a  
16 bunch more of them, the draw is sort of  
17 counterintuitive. They're a little bit easier in the  
18 sense that since you don't have to get such large  
19 population numbers, you can stay geographically  
20 smaller in most cases, and it makes it a little bit  
21 easier to do something that makes sense. Well, it is  
22 most of the time. And, if you don't have any comments  
23 right now or tonight, you know, the website's up 24/7.  
24 Email us, write us, and -- yes?

25 STEPHANIE VAUGHN: Can you identify where

1 540 is on that, and also on the May 19th map?

2 MR. WOODSON: This is the -- okay. That  
3 was the copy. I'll have to pull up the AutoBound  
4 software to get that road on there. Here's the May  
5 19th. Again, this was drawn by me sitting in an  
6 office in Little Rock. And to some extent, again,  
7 trying to shrink districts. Red, the current  
8 district lines. This is kind of House 88, and then  
9 shrink from here. If you want to see the roads, I'll  
10 have to open the software to pull that map up. We can  
11 do it afterwards, if you want, or whenever you want.

12 JOSH MAHONEY: Joe, I've got a question  
13 about that, too. I'm Josh Mahoney. On the May 19th  
14 map, where the green goes straight down, Fayetteville  
15 City Airport is down that direction. And I kind of  
16 consider it vital to the economics of Fayetteville,  
17 of course, and being included in 88. I can't really  
18 tell, the way it stretches down there, if that airport  
19 would be included. Of course, it actually falls in  
20 Greenland city limits, even though it's Fayetteville.  
21 If you get a chance, I'd love to see that.

22 MR. WOODSON: Okay. If that's the case,  
23 if it's within Greenland proper then I think it would  
24 be right here.

25 JOSH MAHONEY: Okay.

1 MR. WOODSON: But yeah. That level of  
2 detail does exist.

3 JOSH MAHONEY: Right.

4 MR. WOODSON: The -- and we can make it  
5 available. Hopefully, like the gentleman pointed  
6 out, we can make it available sometime soon on the  
7 website where you can go look at the street level.

8 JOSH MAHONEY: And put it in, and it  
9 enters it for me?

10 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Or just have the map  
11 that was running on our website, where you could look  
12 at it right there. The only reason we haven't so far  
13 is these are rough drafts, and it would -- you would  
14 have to have so many different -- you know, if you get  
15 to street level, you'd easily have 100 maps.  
16 Snapshots of Greenland, et cetera. That's the only  
17 reason it's not on there.

18 JOSH MAHONEY: Thank you.

19 MR. WOODSON: Well, I appreciate you-all  
20 coming. Yes? Senator, do you have a comment?  
21 Senator Hendren?

22 SENATOR HENDREN: I've been kind of under  
23 the weather the last couple of days. You can tell by  
24 looking at me. And my wife made me come down here  
25 tonight, so if I say something I'm out of my head

1 about, don't be surprised. Wouldn't be too unusual.  
2 Just about the Senate maps and so forth, let me just  
3 start by saying this. And I can remember when the  
4 Arkansas Senate threw a wrench in this Fayetteville  
5 Finger. And we slowed it down on a Thursday and so  
6 people could put some input into that, which made it  
7 better than it was. So you can have input.

8 I say as a member of the Senate -- and by the  
9 way, let me give you just a little bit of history. I  
10 began serving in the Arkansas Senate in 1979. In the  
11 paper this morning, Larry put something in there that  
12 I said Sam Walton campaigned for me, and Marylea, my  
13 wife, looked at me. She says, "What if they're going  
14 to say you lied about that as a politician?" Do  
15 politicians ever lie about anything? Well, no. I  
16 said, "I think I have it on the wall where Sam wrote a  
17 letter to me personally. I keep it on the wall,  
18 because I'm kind of proud of it."

19 And one of the questions that came up today was  
20 about the Walton Arts District in Bentonville. Now,  
21 folks, I said this -- and I mean it, I believe it,  
22 because I managed a plant, a manufacturing plant for  
23 Sam. Sam didn't ask for special favors then; he's not  
24 asking for them when he's in Heaven right now. And I  
25 -- as I've said, when I represented Bentonville as

1 part of the Arkansas Senate District off and on since  
2 1979.

3 Back in 1979 -- '78, when I ran for that  
4 election, Benton County had about 50,000 people in it  
5 total. That Senate district at that time included all  
6 of Benton County, half of Carroll County, which  
7 included Eureka Springs down to the river over there,  
8 and also Tontitown and Bethel Heights in Washington  
9 County. And I might say, I can't run again, so I  
10 don't have a dog in this fight for the Senate. I  
11 could run for the House if I was a little bit younger.

12 But I don't have a dog in this fight, so let's  
13 just say this: It offends -- I think of these 83,000  
14 people that are going to be in these districts, I  
15 don't know that you have to live in Bentonville to  
16 serve any of these people. If you had, had to be in  
17 Gravette, I would have been disqualified a long, long  
18 time ago. So I think the 83,000 -- let's get into  
19 some specifics about this. The district now that was  
20 limited by my representation the last ten years, and  
21 the Senate has 116,000 people, and that's the most  
22 populous district in the State of Arkansas. It has to  
23 lose 33,000 people to get down to what Joe's talking  
24 about here.

25 Now, you saw what I said was some districts --

1 and I'll make this pretty brief, as I can, is that the  
2 route here ought to be to shrink these districts and  
3 serve the people. I said in Little Rock this ought to  
4 be about the people, not the politicians or the  
5 political parties. We don't need professional  
6 politicians that make no jobs, and you don't make it  
7 easy for citizens to serve them.

8 And whenever you gerrymander this stuff or  
9 there's a Fayetteville Finger, or whether it's that  
10 Crawford County finger or whatever you see up there,  
11 or you've designed a district for a particular  
12 politician or a party, I don't think you've followed  
13 it right, ladies and gentlemen. So whichever of these  
14 districts you wind up with, if you're going to be  
15 83,000 people, you've got a chance to win if you get  
16 out there and work your rear off.

17 MR. WOODSON: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello. I am here  
20 on behalf of a few immigrant rights organizations  
21 that I work with here in northwest Arkansas and  
22 throughout the state of Arkansas. I think there's  
23 been a lot of talk today about communities of  
24 interest, but I think it's fair to say there's one  
25 community of interest that hasn't been raised, and

1 that being our Latino population here in northwest  
2 Arkansas.

3 A huge part of the opportunity of us today being  
4 able to talk about increasing Senate seats and  
5 increasing House seats is actually because of the  
6 growth of the Hispanic population right here in our  
7 home in northwest Arkansas. And so for us, when we --  
8 and I realize, and we're empathetic to the arguments  
9 of redistricting being a color-blind process. You  
10 had set forth and have mentioned criteria of  
11 population being sufficiently large and cohesive, and  
12 we vote as a group. And we are definitely arguing  
13 that those three criteria do apply to our Hispanic  
14 population right here.

15 I do want to bring attention that even though the  
16 Hispanic population does represent 12 percent of our  
17 population here in northwest Arkansas, we have  
18 actually never had a Hispanic be elected to state  
19 office in Arkansas, and that's in the entire history.  
20 And so that's something that obviously is important  
21 for many of us that do work in these communities.

22 So I think we're here today more than anything to  
23 open a conversation or extension of a conversation,  
24 because we realize that the Census data is able to  
25 tell us by counties where a lot of this population is.

1 It's not always down a specific voice or communities,  
2 and the ones of us who work in those can actually even  
3 help to have that conversation. Because whether it's  
4 intended or not, there is a possibility with district  
5 redistricting conversations to fracture a community  
6 that really would not be able to be represented if  
7 it's fractured unnecessarily, so.

8 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. Thank you. I  
9 want to say that the three on the Board and myself are  
10 greatly aware of and in serious consideration of the  
11 impact of the Hispanic population on northwest  
12 Arkansas.

13 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, as you know,  
15 there's a lot of opinions about these things. And so  
16 I just wanted to thank you for coming out here to  
17 northwest Arkansas.

18 MR. WOODSON: Thank you.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And sharing with us  
20 and sharing all these different designs, and  
21 listening to all the folks whose comments were about  
22 the maps. And when people talk about your maps,  
23 saying, "That's my map." So I just appreciate you  
24 doing that, and I learned a lot of what you know about  
25 the law, things of that nature. So it sounds like

1 there's a good man here who's working on this. I  
2 appreciate you coming here and sharing with us. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. WOODSON: Thanks a lot. I appreciate  
5 that.  
6 (Applause.)

7 MR. WOODSON: All right. Any other  
8 comments before we dismiss? Thanks for coming. Have  
9 a great evening.

10 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were  
11 concluded in the matter at 7:20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS )  
 )  
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON )

I, Jennifer A. Johnstone, Certified Court Reporter #717, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the voice-writing method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested or otherwise, in the outcome of this action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

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I FURTHER CERTIFY that in accordance with Rule 30(3) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, review of the transcript was not requested.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 21st day of June, 2011.

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Jennifer A. Johnstone  
  
Arkansas State Supreme Court  
Certified Court Reporter #717

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