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BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING  
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS  
August 19, 2021

1 (Recording Begins)

2 JUSTICE DICKEY: Good Evening. My name is  
3 Betty Dickey and I am the coordinator for the  
4 Board of Apportionment.

5 Beside me are the men who do the heavy  
6 lifting, the brains behind the Board of  
7 Apportionment. To my immediate right is Shelby  
8 Johnson from Geographic Information Services.  
9 To his left is Andres Rhodes. You've been gone  
10 too long. Andres Rhodes from the governor's  
11 office.

12 Bradford Nye, to his left, is from the  
13 attorney general's office as is Doug House to  
14 his left. And then Josh, is on the end, from  
15 the secretary of state's office. Sorry.

16 PBS is live streaming and videoing these  
17 hearings and we thank you for that. We  
18 appreciate your coming.

19 The purpose of the hearings is to show you  
20 the maps and the charts that we have to give  
21 you the information such as the criteria of how  
22 this process goes and to answer your questions  
23 and comments.

24 The legal basis for the criteria that you  
25 see in front of you is the Article Eight of our

1 State Constitution, the Voter's Right's  
2 Amendment of 1965 as amended, and the Equal  
3 Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

4 The criteria or goals that we use, excuse  
5 me, one person one vote of the equal -- of the  
6 14th Amendment. The balancing of each of the  
7 legislative districts every ten years after the  
8 federal census so that they are substantially  
9 equal which is generally plus or minus five  
10 percent deviation, unless there is an  
11 impermissible violation of other criteria.

12 As you know, there are a hundred House  
13 seats that should be, according to the  
14 predicted census results, about 30,000 people  
15 per district; and 35 Senate seats which should  
16 be about 86,000 people per district.

17 The second of the criteria is Section Two  
18 of the Voter's Rights Amendment of 1965 which  
19 prohibits discrimination based on race, color,  
20 or language minority.

21 And then the third of the criteria, the  
22 Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment,  
23 limits redrawing district boundaries strictly  
24 on the basis of race.

25 The next four of the criteria are

1 geographic principles, such as the fourth one,  
2 compactness, the eyeball test refers to the  
3 shape of the district, round or square.

4 In 1812, Governor Gerry of Massachusetts  
5 drew the area around Boston to look like a  
6 salamander; and hence the word gerrymandering,  
7 which comes based on a different pronunciation  
8 of Governor Gerry's name. Excuse me.

9 The fifth one is contiguous. No partial  
10 districts that are islands so that contiguous,  
11 meaning have contact with or touching or a  
12 common border.

13 The core of existing districts, whole  
14 counties, whole cities, whole precincts, is our  
15 goal. Minimizing splitting political  
16 subdivision is what we strive to do. It may  
17 not be possible in some cases.

18 The seventh, communities of interest that  
19 involve commonalities, economical, social,  
20 political, cultural, ethnic, or religious  
21 interest.

22 The eighth is the continuity of  
23 representation; and you ask why the incumbents  
24 are giving deference. And that is because  
25 they -- you the voters elected them. So we try

1 to avoid making incumbents run against each  
2 other that, if you looked at the maps, that  
3 very well may be impossible this time.

4 And, finally, minimizing partisanship, no  
5 targeting or giving preferential treatment  
6 based on someone's partisan choice as far as  
7 Democrat or Republican.

8 Rucho versus the Common Cause was a 2019  
9 case that indicates that the federal court will  
10 no longer hear cases that involve partisanship  
11 but does not exclude state courts. So any  
12 legal matters than involve partisanship will go  
13 before the State Supreme Court.

14 Shelby will explain the maps to you and  
15 then we'll open it for your comments.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Good Evening. My name is  
17 Shelby Johnson and I have the delight of  
18 serving as the State Geographic Information  
19 Officer. I'm in the Arkansas Geographic  
20 Information Systems Office which is a part of  
21 the Department of Transformation and Shared  
22 Services.

23 And we have a statutory responsibility to  
24 maintain all the geographic information about  
25 Arkansas; and part of those maps include our

1 election geography of Arkansas. This includes,  
2 of course, our congressional districts, our  
3 state House, state Senate districts, justice of  
4 peace districts for counties, school boards,  
5 and then municipal wards, among others.

6 And so, as we prepare for the 2020 Census  
7 when, for example, a city does an annexation,  
8 we would furnish that information to the Census  
9 Bureau so that that new territory that became  
10 part of the city could then become counted as  
11 being part of that city's or county's total  
12 population.

13 We've been preparing diligently over this  
14 last several years for all of that work and got  
15 that fed into the census. The pandemic hit and  
16 it became a major factor, exclusive factor, in  
17 the delay of the delivery of the 2020 census  
18 data.

19 Normally, Arkansas would receive our  
20 census data very, very early in the year. And,  
21 in the last decade, we received that Census  
22 data in February of 2011.

23 This February, we were still waiting. And  
24 so we waited up until Thursday of last week.  
25 We've done about five of these public comment

1           hearings around Arkansas. And, up until  
2           Tuesday, we were showing what was estimate data  
3           that was based on the 2019 American Community  
4           Survey Data which is a sampling data set from  
5           the Census Bureau.

6           That sampling data set is not a complete  
7           census. It's a sample and then it includes  
8           information such as mortality, births and  
9           deaths, that the census use to forecast.

10          So if you have previously seen any of  
11          those maps, you can disregard those now. And  
12          the maps that we have here tonight, we first  
13          showed those in Fort Smith on Tuesday, we're  
14          pleased to be able to share them with you here  
15          tonight, these are based on the 2020 Census  
16          actual data released from last Thursday.

17          We've been diligently working since then  
18          to try to bring this information out to the  
19          public. We've been processing it as quickly as  
20          we can in partnership with our software  
21          provider. We're almost there.

22          And the Board of Apportionment would  
23          almost be to the point where they can begin  
24          their work in earnest.

25          I want to share with you some of our

1 population change in Arkansas, and so I'll  
2 describe this first map that you see on the  
3 screen. The numbers that you're looking at are  
4 representative of the counties' population  
5 change from April 1st, 2010 to April 1st, 2020.

6 So, when you look and you see the numbers,  
7 that is not the total population. That's how  
8 much a county's population changed.

9 I'll ask you to pay attention to the  
10 darkest red colors. That's indicative of  
11 counties where you have the most dramatic  
12 population decline. Then the scale or the  
13 shading goes to lighter shades of red. And  
14 those lighter shades of red also are indicative  
15 of decline, but not quite as much.

16 And then still lighter yet shades of red  
17 indicating some population decline. And then  
18 the chart blends into neutral colors, which  
19 indicate a county that had steady population.  
20 It neither dramatically declined or  
21 dramatically lost -- or gained. Excuse me.

22 The color palette then shifts into hues of  
23 blue and those shades of blue are indicative of  
24 counties that grew.

25 So, for example, Randolph County in that



1 lower end of the scale here in Northeast  
2 Arkansas, over the ten-year period, grew by  
3 about 602 persons. The darker shades of  
4 Independence County, also in this region, is in  
5 that next scale, grew by 1,291.

6 And then your very darkest shades of blue  
7 are indicative of counties in Arkansas which  
8 grew the most.

9 Now, what this tells us is that Arkansas  
10 is tracking with the national trends.  
11 Nationally, and you probably have seen this in  
12 the national news, if you're rural, you're  
13 becoming more rural; if you're urban, you're  
14 becoming more urban. And population tends to  
15 follow opportunity.

16 Next we're going to move to casting up  
17 that same population data -- well, oops. Too  
18 far. There we go.

19 We took that same data and cast it up  
20 against the current House districts from 2011.  
21 These are the districts that we operate under  
22 now.

23 We use the same color palette and same  
24 color scheme and what you're seeing again is  
25 just the red hues indicative of decline or loss

1 and then the blue hues indicative of gain.

2 Now, I think it's really important to  
3 mention, at this point, that when we looked  
4 back at what the Board of Apportionment did in  
5 2011, for creating the districts that we  
6 operate under now, those districts had balanced  
7 population.

8 That population variances among the  
9 districts was very low and you had  
10 representation that was equal across all of the  
11 districts in Arkansas.

12 In this past ten years, our population has  
13 shifted and changed and those colors and the  
14 numbers are telling us now that these districts  
15 are no longer in balance.

16 I want to explain something real quick.  
17 Simply take the 100 House districts and we  
18 divide that number by the total population of  
19 Arkansas and that means that each House  
20 district should have about 30,115 persons in  
21 that House district.

22 So if you look at District 56 to the far  
23 northeast corner of our state, that district is  
24 about 2,733 below that target figure of 31 --  
25 of 30,000.

1           This means that the district needs to gain  
2           an additional 2,700 to become more equal with  
3           all of the other districts in Arkansas.

4           In order to become equal, that district  
5           has to grow geographically in size to reach out  
6           and grab additional population.

7           Conversely, the districts that you see in  
8           the shades or hues of blue, they're too large.  
9           They have too much population. And so if we  
10          look at House District 59, for example, here in  
11          Craighead County, that House district is 1,884  
12          above that target.

13          That means it needs to shrink. It needs  
14          to share that population with its adjoining  
15          neighbors to allow them to become more equal.  
16          And the shades of blue indicate to us districts  
17          that need to shrink or contract in size to  
18          share that population with its neighbors.

19          Moving forward, I'll move on to the  
20          Senate. And we've done the same analysis for  
21          the Senate districts and this will allow you to  
22          see those same analysis for the Senate  
23          districts and those figures there -- House --  
24          excuse me.

25                 Senate District 22 for example, Senate

1 District 22 is a district that's going to need  
2 to expand in size to gain additional  
3 population. It currently is about 13,000 below  
4 the target.

5 The target Senate district needs to be  
6 about 86,044 which would be the ideal  
7 population. You can see Senate District 20,  
8 there was some modest growth across Senate  
9 District 20, probably in the Greene County  
10 Paragould area, and that district is about  
11 3,600 above the target figure.

12 Moving a little west, you can see Senate  
13 District 19 at about 1,000 below, so it needs  
14 to gain some population.

15 One of the things that, we made this  
16 remark in some of the other meetings, is that a  
17 district can't go grab population from  
18 Tennessee or Missouri. It must grab it from  
19 somewhere within Arkansas. And so, in the  
20 example of Senate District 22, it must grow  
21 west or it must grow south, for example, in  
22 order to become more equal with the other  
23 Senate districts in Arkansas.

24 Well, that's a quick tour through the  
25 maps. It's a delight to be here with you in

1 Northeast Arkansas. And I'm going to turn the  
2 microphone back over to Justice Dickey and I  
3 look forward to your comments.

4 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you, Shelby.

5 And now it's your turn, with your  
6 comments, criticisms, suggestions. The comment  
7 sheets were by the door as you came in.  
8 There's some scattered throughout here so we  
9 ask, even if you make a comment on the  
10 microphone in front of me, that you also send  
11 this in or give it to me tonight.

12 Please, when you want to speak in the  
13 microphone, if you'll give us your name, and  
14 your county or district.

15 Anyone? Do you have comments or  
16 questions? Suggestions? The microphone's  
17 right there.

18 ROGER KIDD: Roger Kidd, Craighead County.  
19 When will -- when will the lines be drawn to  
20 complete this whole process?

21 JUSTICE DICKEY: Sometime between  
22 September 30th and December 31st. We hope that  
23 it's done, and it may be ambitious, but we hope  
24 it's done in October so that -- that the three  
25 principals, the governor, the attorney general,

1 and secretary of state, can vote on it; and  
2 then there is a 30-day waiting period or a  
3 30-day period, and we hope to have these maps  
4 on our website and hope to get that information  
5 out to you before -- before the vote and  
6 certainly afterwards.

7 But the website, ArkansasRedistricting.Org  
8 I will give you these later. Or  
9 ArkansasSos.Arkansas.Gov.

10 Anyway, there's a way to send those  
11 critiques in. The comments have the address on  
12 them.

13 Yes, sir.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, ma'am. On the  
15 previous slide, showing House district numbers,  
16 I didn't see District 58. And I was wondering  
17 what the status of 58 is.

18 JUSTICE DICKEY: I'll let Shelby answer  
19 that.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. The --  
21 unfortunately, our software ran out of real  
22 estate to write all the labels, so I don't have  
23 those numbers on that slide.

24 However, over here to your left are the  
25 exhibits. And you'll see the two very tall

1 charts that are there, and they have the actual  
2 numbers --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

4 MR. JOHNSON: -- that show the target, the  
5 variance, and the current population of the  
6 district.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

8 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shelby? Oh, sorry.  
10 Shelby, I had a question for you.

11 Is that 2020 data available on the website  
12 now?

13 MR. JOHNSON: The 2020 data is not yet  
14 available on our website.

15 The -- the way that census issued that  
16 data, was a settlement with -- they were in a  
17 lawsuit with the state of Ohio. The state of  
18 Ohio said we have a constitutional mandate to  
19 complete our process sooner than you can  
20 deliver before September 30th.

21 In their settlement, they agreed to  
22 provide what's called the legacy data. The  
23 data we received now is that legacy format.  
24 And it comes in five separate tables. One of  
25 them is the map table and the other four tables

1 are the population data.

2 So we've assembled those pieces together  
3 to just look at these districts for the  
4 variance but we haven't yet had the opportunity  
5 to push that out to the website so that it can  
6 be downloaded and used by others.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So will it be  
8 September 30th or before that?

9 MR. JOHNSON: We are working toward trying  
10 to push that out sooner.

11 The difference, really, between the legacy  
12 format and the September 30th delivery is  
13 really just in the ease of use.

14 The underlying data is exactly the same.  
15 It's just the ease of use and how it's  
16 structured is the main difference.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

18 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you.

19 Yes, sir.

20 ASAD KAHN: Hi there. My name is Asad  
21 Kahn, Craighead County.

22 Will there be more public hearings where  
23 public can view these maps that will be drawn  
24 and can be discussed?

25 JUSTICE DICKEY: This is the eighth of



1 nine and the next one is next Tuesday night in  
2 Little Rock.

3 ASAD KAHN: You don't have the full --

4 JUSTICE DICKEY: The -- these --

5 ASAD KAHN: -- data. Will there be a  
6 chance for public to view these maps before  
7 it's finalized --

8 JUSTICE DICKEY: Yes.

9 ASAD KAHN: -- and will there be more  
10 hearings like this?

11 JUSTICE DICKEY: There will not be more  
12 hearings like this. There may be some -- there  
13 may be some hearings after we get the maps  
14 drawn. But those are not scheduled at this  
15 time. They --

16 ASAD KAHN: So --

17 JUSTICE DICKEY: -- they will be on the --  
18 the website.

19 ASAD KAHN: So people will make comments  
20 on these sheets like the one's that you guys  
21 gave us? Is that the only way we will able to  
22 comment?

23 JUSTICE DICKEY: Is that the only way?

24 ASAD KAHN: That the public can comment on  
25 the maps (inaudible) --

1 JUSTICE DICKEY: That's not the only way.  
2 That will be posted on the website.

3 There also will be other ways to contact  
4 us or that -- you will see the proposed maps  
5 before they are -- or within the 30-day period,  
6 after the principals vote on them.

7 ASAD KAHN: Okay.

8 JUSTICE DICKEY: But we plan to get as  
9 much information out to you for as much input  
10 as you can give us before the final decision or  
11 before the final vote.

12 ASAD KAHN: Okay. Thank you.

13 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you.

14 Yes, ma'am.

15 ROBIN KUYKENDALL: Hi. I'm Robin  
16 Kuykendall from Craighead County. And I have a  
17 follow-up question to what Mr. Kahn, Dr. Kahn,  
18 just asked.

19 If you know your timeline, that you will  
20 have this data by the 30th of September, would  
21 it be prudent to now, right now, set up a  
22 schedule of hearings, public hearings, look at  
23 those maps, at the time you have them, the  
24 draft maps and that sort of thing, and to use  
25 the data that you know you're going to have in

1 a usable form? Can we --

2 JUSTICE DICKEY: We have --

3 ROBIN KUYKENDALL: -- set that up now?

4 JUSTICE DICKEY: It -- well, it would be  
5 nice if we knew that we could get the maps  
6 drawn within a shorter period of time.

7 We will schedule them if we can. They  
8 will be on the website, the proposed.

9 After the vote, there will be a 30-day  
10 period. So we're giving as much information  
11 and asking for as much information as we can  
12 get, but it is -- it's been a challenge to  
13 schedule these nine hearings.

14 ROBIN KUYKENDALL: I do understand that.

15 JUSTICE DICKEY: We were in Fort Smith,  
16 Tuesday night and, as I said, finish in Little  
17 Rock next Tuesday.

18 ROBIN KUYKENDALL: But if we know when the  
19 data is going to be accessible to the public, I  
20 would -- I'll hold my question open --

21 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you.

22 ROBIN KUYKENDALL: -- to suggest that  
23 needs to be part of this hearing process --

24 JUSTICE DICKEY: And that should be part  
25 of your written comment and hopefully we can

1 get that done.

2 ROBIN KUYKENDALL: Thank you.

3 JUDGE GRIFFIN: Chief Justice, Justice,  
4 Judge --

5 JUSTICE DICKEY: Yes, sir.

6 JUDGE GRIFFIN: Robert Griffin,  
7 Independence County Judge.

8 The main concern I have is, I have four  
9 representatives in my county. And I've already  
10 announced I'm not running for county judge.  
11 But, should there be a vacancy in the current  
12 core area, I do intend to run and have publicly  
13 said that.

14 So I'm very concerned that I might get  
15 pushed out, so just wanted, for the record, to  
16 make that statement.

17 JUSTICE DICKEY: Okay. Thank you.

18 Any other comments or questions?

19 Yes, sir?

20 SENATOR PRYOR: Madam Justice, good to see  
21 you again. I'm Mark Pryor, and we -- of  
22 course, you've been a great prosecuting  
23 attorney and public service commission and on  
24 Arkansas Supreme Court, great public service so  
25 we really thank you for that and thank you for

1 all those years of great service --

2 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you, Mark.

3 SENATOR PRYOR: -- and now you're doing  
4 this. And this is very important.

5 In fact, I would say this is really core  
6 to our democracy and our whole system of  
7 government, is what this Apportionment Board  
8 will do, because it'll have huge impact on  
9 Arkansas for the next ten years.

10 One reason I came -- I'm going to take  
11 this mask off so y'all can hear me a little  
12 better; I'm not quite so muffled.

13 But one of the reasons I came tonight is  
14 because I feel like I have a unique perspective  
15 on this whole process.

16 JUSTICE DICKEY: You do.

17 SENATOR PRYOR: I was in the state  
18 legislature from '91 to '94 so I was subject to  
19 redistricting. I was redistricted when I was  
20 in there.

21 And then I was the attorney general from  
22 1999 into 2003 so I was actually on the  
23 Apportionment Board back then. And that was a  
24 great honor and privilege. And then, of  
25 course, I was in the U.S. Senate for 12 years.

1           And, during that time in the Senate, I had  
2           the opportunity to talk to four nominees for  
3           the U.S. Supreme Court. And, when I did that,  
4           I didn't ask them about abortion and all these  
5           other hot-button issues that are very important  
6           issues, but I knew everybody else would ask  
7           about those.

8           I asked them about redistricting. Because  
9           it -- again, it's just so important for our  
10          country and, in this instance, for our state,  
11          that we get this right and that we not allow  
12          gerrymandering.

13          And in -- 20 years ago, when I was on the  
14          Apportionment Board, it was Governor Huckabee,  
15          of course, a Republican, and Sharon Priest as  
16          secretary of state, and me, so two democrats,  
17          one Republican.

18          So I'm going to tell you, we got along  
19          great. We really did a good job. All three of  
20          us were in basically all the meetings, our  
21          staffs were always there. It really worked, I  
22          think, like it should.

23          And it sounds like you all are working  
24          hard together, and again --

25                 JUSTICE DICKEY: Yeah. Thank you.

1           SENATOR PRYOR:  -- it's great to see you,  
2           Justice Dickey, here and helping to kind of  
3           coordinate this effort.

4           I do have a -- just a couple of comments  
5           that -- obviously, we don't want to see a court  
6           challenge at the end of this.

7           JUSTICE DICKEY:  That's true.

8           SENATOR PRYOR:  You know, clearly we don't  
9           want that.  Sometimes those can't be avoided  
10          and -- but, if you have one, you want to win.

11          But I think that the two main things that  
12          should be the biggest concern would be racial  
13          gerrymandering and political, you know,  
14          partisan gerrymandering.

15          And I think on the partisan  
16          gerrymandering, to me, since Arkansas just  
17          happens to be very red right now, I don't know  
18          if that's a huge issue at the moment.

19          But the racial gerrymandering is a big  
20          issue.  And I know the Supreme Court pays very  
21          close attention to that, as they should.

22          And I've looked at the preliminary  
23          numbers.  Like the rest of the public here, I'm  
24          not sure I've seen all the final numbers and  
25          everything official.  But, looking at the

1 preliminary numbers I've been able to find  
2 online, it looks like Arkansas'  
3 African-American population stayed about the  
4 same, you know roughly about the same, so my  
5 guess is that there's not need to either  
6 increase or decrease the number of majority, I  
7 mean, majority-minority, districts.

8 So, anyway, I just wanted to say this,  
9 since I have the microphone here. That what --  
10 what Ms. Dickey said earlier is creating  
11 districts that are substantially an equal  
12 population. That's very important,  
13 obviously; geographically contiguous, we all  
14 know that's important; and compact.

15 And I just want to make a couple of  
16 comments on the compactness of districts. And  
17 I see the maps. Some of these are more compact  
18 than others, and it's just the way they drew  
19 them ten years ago.

20 But, I think it's very important to avoid  
21 a court challenge and a loss in court, is that  
22 we don't have any of these kind of serpentine  
23 or -- she said salamander-type districts, these  
24 goose-necks, these crazy extensions that go out  
25 and grab a little neighborhood or little town



1 or something like that.

2 I think we need to try to prevent those.  
3 But, also, I think it's important, for  
4 compactness, that people understand who their  
5 representative is, that they know that their  
6 representative is like from their community and  
7 is thinking about them. And I think that's  
8 very important.

9 And that's another one I was going to say  
10 is, Justice Dickey, you mentioned you can  
11 protect incumbency, which is legal, and I think  
12 that's good; and, you know, communities of  
13 interest, that makes sense.

14 Again, there's agriculture communities,  
15 there's more urban and suburban and we  
16 understand all that.

17 And also, geographic boundaries sort of  
18 what, I think we used to call them natural  
19 boundaries, those could be rivers or those  
20 could be even highways or railroad tracks.

21 But I think what we tried very hard to do  
22 20 years ago is we tried to preserve, as best  
23 we could, county lines, and when we could, city  
24 limits. Of course, it's not perfect, because  
25 you've got to try to get everything down to as

1 close to equal as possible. But we tried very  
2 hard to preserve county lines.

3 So, if you look at our map 20 years ago  
4 compared to the one ten years ago, I think -- I  
5 think you can tell that was our priority.

6 But I think that's what people want.  
7 They -- they want to know that, you know, at  
8 the end of Craighead County, that's where the  
9 district ends. It just makes sense to people.  
10 And, if you can possibly do that, I think  
11 that's what we want to do.

12 And the last thing I really had to say is  
13 we understand the Apportionment Board is under  
14 tremendous pressure here. We get it. I've  
15 been there myself, personally, but we  
16 understand that there are people who are trying  
17 to influence these decisions for their own  
18 agendas and their own purposes.

19 And this is, you know, in my mind, a time  
20 to really do us right and now what's expedient.  
21 And I'm not saying this group will do what's  
22 expedient, but I just want to, you know, want  
23 all the public to insist that -- that, you  
24 know, redrawing districts here for ten years,  
25 it'll have a huge impact on Arkansas for the

1 next decade.

2 And no one -- I'll say this. No one knows  
3 this community better than the people in this  
4 room right here. We've had a great turnout  
5 tonight. This is democracy in action. The  
6 fact that you all come together and have a  
7 chance to have input in this is fantastic. I'm  
8 glad so many people came out.

9 And I guess my last point I want to leave  
10 you with is that voters should pick their  
11 leaders; leaders should not pick their voters.  
12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE DICKEY: Senator Pryor, it sounds  
14 like you're running again. I feel -- I feel  
15 like I should say amen. Amen, brother.

16 Yes, those are good points and the reason  
17 that we have the criteria here in front of you,  
18 so that you can see what we're trying to  
19 evaluate and base our recommendations on.

20 And we want to be transparent and we want  
21 to be fair and we want you to judge us based on  
22 these criteria. If it doesn't measure up, then  
23 yeah, yes, you come back and say, you need to  
24 do this.

25 I'm sorry, I --

1                   MIKE TEAL: That's fine. I don't know if  
2 I can follow that or not, but just a quick  
3 question.

4                   I'm Mike Teal from Paragould. And do we  
5 know or when will we know if there has been a  
6 net total gain or loss in the total population  
7 of Arkansas? I mean, I'm thinking about  
8 federal money, for one thing.

9                   JUSTICE DICKEY: The guru is right here --

10                  MIKE TEAL: Yeah.

11                  JUSTICE DICKEY: -- who can tell you that.

12                  MIKE TEAL: And thank you.

13                  MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Arkansas did grow  
14 in population, although the growth was somewhat  
15 modest.

16                  Our population in 2010 was 2.9 million and  
17 159, I believe -- 2.9, 159 statewide.

18                  Today, our population in 2020, is  
19 3,115,028, I believe is the correct figure.

20                  So we -we did have a little bit of growth.  
21 It wasn't significant growth, but we did have a  
22 little bit of growth.

23                  But what we've seen more so in the maps  
24 that we illustrated is just the shift. We had  
25 a lot of shift in our state's population.

1 Thank you.

2 JUSTICE DICKEY: Anyone else?

3 Yes, sir.

4 MIKE CARLSON: You probably could have  
5 stayed up there. Sorry.

6 I noticed that District One had a  
7 particularly high increase --

8 JUSTICE DICKEY: Okay. Just -- I'm sorry.  
9 If you'll state your name --

10 MIKE CARLSON: Sure. I'm Zachariah  
11 Carlson. I also live here in Craighead.

12 JUSTICE DICKEY: Okay.

13 MIKE CARLSON: But it sort of stood alone  
14 with the 50 percent increase. I think the next  
15 one was 20 percent increase over the population  
16 target.

17 And it's up there in a cluster of other  
18 small districts, trying to spread the  
19 population.

20 I don't know if this is more of a question  
21 you can answer. Have you started thinking  
22 about how you're going to address that  
23 challenge for that particular district as  
24 compared to the rest of the state where  
25 everybody, all the districts seem to be

1 growing? Could you understand the question?  
2 No? Okay.

3 JUSTICE DICKEY: I don't -- I'm sorry to  
4 have to ask you to --

5 MIKE CARLSON: I mean, my voice isn't much  
6 better without the mask, but we'll see what  
7 happens.

8 So District One had the largest increase  
9 at 50 percent population, or 50 percent over  
10 the population target. The next one was like  
11 20 percent or a couple there that -- were like  
12 half a dozen states or districts that shrunk  
13 quite a bit; so there districts will increase.  
14 Whereas, District One in that corner with a  
15 cluster of other small districts will continue  
16 to shrink.

17 And I'm just wondering if you guys have an  
18 idea of how you're going to address that  
19 challenge and what's going to be done with  
20 those districts.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't answer  
22 that.

23 JUSTICE DICKEY: How we're going to  
24 address that challenge? Well, you can see it  
25 is a steep hill to climb.

1 MIKE CARLSON: Yeah.

2 JUSTICE DICKEY: Particularly in the red  
3 districts. And I don't -- you know, it's going  
4 to take these geniuses plus a few more to be  
5 able to navigate that.

6 And it will -- it takes representatives  
7 from all three -- governor, AG, and secretary  
8 of state's office to work through this with  
9 their own maps.

10 And then with some with these criteria and  
11 with some negotiations as far as the precinct  
12 lines, you know, the ones listed in front of  
13 you, county lines. But it won't be easy, which  
14 is why I can't say we will finish it in two  
15 weeks and then we'll be back on the road again  
16 with these meetings. We don't know.

17 Yes, sir? No. Yes, ma'am.

18 SHUNQUETTE CUNNINGHAM: Hello, can you  
19 hear me well? Okay.

20 JUSTICE DICKEY: Yeah. You're -- thank  
21 you.

22 SHUNQUETTE CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, hi.

23 Shunqetta Cunningham, Craighead County.

24 As you know, Jonesboro, in particular, has  
25 indeed experienced a great population increase.

1           And my concern, that increase has come with an  
2           influx of no white individuals. And your  
3           criteria six and seven really hit home,  
4           especially in my area where there is great  
5           splitting in political subdivisions.

6           So your consideration of redrawing those  
7           lines, and as Mr. Pryor said, the  
8           majority-minority affinity, I would really hope  
9           that these districts are well represented and  
10          inclusive of these communities, especially  
11          Northern county -- northern areas here eastern  
12          area, and southwest areas of our community.  
13          Thank you.

14                 JUSTICE DICKEY: Thank you.

15          Preserving the communities of interests is  
16          a goal. But we can't put all the rural areas  
17          together because it -- we're under the  
18          constraints of us substantially equal  
19          population for these districts.

20          I know you understand that, but that's --  
21          that's our -- that's one of the big challenges.  
22          The first three are the most significant  
23          challenges or the first one and then the second  
24          and third. But they're all important and  
25          they're all goals of ours.



1           Anyone else? I'd appreciate -- we'd  
2           appreciate if you would fill out the comments  
3           and send them in and add -- and and it will  
4           help us as far as knowing what the problems are  
5           in your area as we -- as we work on this.

6           Thank you for coming and for commenting.  
7           We'll be around to answer questions about the  
8           maps or the -- or anything else and take your  
9           comments.

10          We appreciate it. This meeting is  
11          adjourned.

12                           (End of Recording)

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I, CRIS M. BRASUELL, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public do hereby certify the proceedings which appear in the foregoing pages contain a true and correct record of the testimony given by said witness held to the best of my ability, along with all items of evidence admitted 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 any parties within this action that effects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original 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 in the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 6th day of October, 2021.

*Cris M. Brasuell*  
CRIS M. BRASUELL, CCR  
Arkansas State Supreme Court  
Certified Court Reporter No. 742

My Commission Expires:  
August 16, 2031