

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING

BEACON 1 BUSINESS CENTER  
ABELE BUSINESS PARK  
BRIDGEVILLE, PA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021  
9:04 A.M.

PRESENTATION ON  
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING  
ALLEGHENY REGION

BEFORE:

HONORABLE SETH M. GROVE, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN  
HONORABLE MATTHEW D. DOWLING  
HONORABLE ANDREW LEWIS  
HONORABLE RYAN E. MACKENZIE  
HONORABLE BRETT R. MILLER  
HONORABLE ERIC R. NELSON  
HONORABLE JASON ORTITAY  
HONORABLE CLINT OWLETT  
HONORABLE FRANCIS X. RYAN  
HONORABLE PAUL SCHEMEL  
HONORABLE JEFF C. WHEELAND  
HONORABLE SCOTT CONKLIN, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
HONORABLE MAUREEN E. MADDEN  
HONORABLE BENJAMIN V. SANCHEZ  
HONORABLE JARED G. SOLOMON

\* \* \* \* \*

*Debra B. Miller*

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## ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

HONORABLE BUD COOK

HONORABLE CARRIE LEWIS DELROSSO

HONORABLE VALERIE S. GAYDOS

HONORABLE JOSHUA D. KAIL

HONORABLE ROBERT W. MERCURI

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See submitted written testimony and handouts online under "Show:" at:

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

\* \* \*

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Good morning.

Today, the House State Government Committee will convene the second of its eight regional hearings across Pennsylvania on congressional redistricting. Today we'll be hearing testimony about the Allegheny region of our Commonwealth.

Thank you to Abele and Representative Jason Ortitay for hosting us today. Any opening comments, Representative?

REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Sure. Thank you, Chairman.

I'm State Representative Jason Ortitay. Welcome, everyone, to the 46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. I am biased, of course, and think it's the best district in the entire State. So welcome, everyone, here.

I would also like to thank Jim Scalo of Burns and Scalo for allowing us to use his building here today. Jim is very instrumental in my district and in the local community here with business development, bringing jobs, and all sorts of wonderful things to our area. So we are very appreciative of Jim helping us out and allowing us to hold this hearing here. It's going to go a long way in redrawing our lines here for our congressional map.

1           So thank you, and welcome, everyone.

2           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

3           A few housekeeping items.

4           We do have Members attending virtually. We are  
5 livestreaming, so if there's an issue with livestreaming,  
6 due to Sunshine Law requirements, we will pause the meeting  
7 and get that operational.

8           This is also being taped. I will remind Members  
9 who are attending virtually, please mute your microphone  
10 until you're called upon, and please note that if your  
11 video is on, it's permanently recorded and will be forever  
12 in the record of congressional redistricting. So be  
13 cautious of what you're doing on video.

14           Before we get started, a reminder that each  
15 testifier will be given 10 minutes to present their  
16 testimony before the Members of the Committee. Please try  
17 to look at me. I don't have cool cards or anything, so  
18 I'll give you a number sign, 5, and I'll count you down so  
19 you know. We really haven't had an issue with that at the  
20 last hearing, so hopefully everybody has practiced that  
21 10-minute mark.

22           We're here to listen. No questions will be asked  
23 of testifiers. Also, testifiers, please keep your comments  
24 relevant to the topic at hand. We are here to learn about  
25 this region of the State -- its industries; its values; its

1 unique communities of interest.

2 We are here to learn from you and to take your  
3 input on the congressional districts that will be in effect  
4 for the next decade. This is an important task, so if a  
5 testifier begins to stray from relevant testimony, I will  
6 ask that you refocus on the topic before us. If you  
7 cannot, we will have to move on to the next listed speaker.

8 We also ask that any attendees here in the room  
9 with us today remain quiet and respectful. Today's public  
10 input hearing is being livestreamed at [paredistricting.com](https://paredistricting.com).  
11 It is also being recorded. Please help us to ensure that  
12 those who are watching at home can easily hear all the  
13 testimony before us.

14 Finally, before we begin, to our testifiers in  
15 person, whose testimony we hold in our hands, thank you for  
16 taking an interest in redistricting, participating in this  
17 once-in-a-decade process. I hope it is evident that the  
18 House of Representatives is committed to undertaking the  
19 most open, transparent, and accountable redistricting  
20 process in Pennsylvania history. We believe that  
21 transparency and accountability form the bedrock of good  
22 governance, and public input through these hearings plays  
23 an essential role with that.

24 With that, I'll turn it over to my Co-Chairman,  
25 Representative Scott Conklin.

1                   MINORITY CHAIRMAN CONKLIN: Thank you,  
2 Representative Grove.

3                   I want to thank the Committee for coming out  
4 today. I want to thank Chairman Grove for putting this  
5 together. But most of all, I want to thank the individuals  
6 that are taking part in this today. This is your  
7 government and your State. This is an opportunity for you  
8 to tell us what you would like to see done, and it's our  
9 opportunity to listen.

10                   With that, I want to thank everybody. I come  
11 from the 77<sup>th</sup> District, which is the home of Penn State  
12 University, and I'm proud to be a part of not only that  
13 district but a Member of this great institution of this  
14 State as well.

15                   Thank you.

16                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thanks.

17                   I also want to remind people that written  
18 testimony for the Allegheny region will continue to be  
19 accepted online at [paredistricting.com](http://paredistricting.com) until October 12<sup>th</sup>,  
20 so there is still time to participate. Again, October 12<sup>th</sup>,  
21 written testimony will still be accepted.

22                   With that, we'll go to introductions of Members,  
23 and we'll start to my right.

24                   REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, Chairman.

25                   Good morning, everybody.



1 Representative Lewis from the 105<sup>th</sup> District in  
2 lovely Dauphin County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS DELROSSO: Representative  
4 Lewis DelRosso, Allegheny and Westmoreland County.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHEELAND: Good morning, everyone.  
6 Representative Jeff Wheeland from the  
7 83<sup>rd</sup> District, Lycoming County, the city of Williamsport,  
8 home of Little League Baseball. I hope you're all watching  
9 the games. There was some pretty good ones last night. So  
10 thank you very much, everyone, for attending.

11 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Seth Grove, the  
12 196<sup>th</sup> District, York County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Jason Ortitay, Allegheny  
14 and Washington Counties, the 46<sup>th</sup> District.

15 REPRESENTATIVE NELSON: Representative  
16 Eric Nelson, the 57<sup>th</sup> District in Westmoreland County.

17 REPRESENTATIVE COOK: The 49<sup>th</sup> District, parts of  
18 Fayette and Washington Counties. The Mon-Valley State  
19 Rep., Bud Cook.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SCHEMEL: Paul Schemel, portions  
21 of Franklin County in south-central Pennsylvania.

22 REPRESENTATIVE KAIL: Josh Kail, portions of  
23 Washington and Beaver Counties.

24 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: We'll turn to Members  
25 who are participating online. Representative Brett Miller.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: Thank you.

2 Brett Miller, the 41<sup>st</sup> District, Lancaster County.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
4 Clint Owlett.

5 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Representative Owlett,  
6 all of Tioga County and parts of Bradford and parts of  
7 Potter County.

8 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
9 Frank Ryan.

10 REPRESENTATIVE RYAN: Representative Frank Ryan,  
11 the 101<sup>st</sup> District, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

12 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
13 Matt Dowling.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DOWLING: Hi.

15 Representative Matt Dowling, parts of Somerset  
16 and Fayette Counties.

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
18 Ryan Mackenzie.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MACKENZIE: Good morning.

20 Ryan Mackenzie from the 134<sup>th</sup> District in portions  
21 of Berks and Lehigh Counties.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
23 Ben Sanchez.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Good morning, everybody.

25 Ben Sanchez, representing the 153<sup>rd</sup>, part of

1 Montgomery County.

2 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
3 Jared Solomon.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON: Good morning.  
5 202, Northeast Philadelphia.

6 Thank you.

7 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: And that covers all our  
8 participants online.

9 With that, we will bring up our first testifier,  
10 Suzanne Broughton -- and I'm going to do my best with the  
11 names; if I do mess it up, please correct me -- from  
12 Allegheny County.

13 Suzanne, thank you so much for participating  
14 today, and when you're ready and comfortable, please begin  
15 your testimony. And just remember to periodically look up.  
16 I'll give you a countdown of 10 minutes.

17 MS. BROUGHTON: Good morning, all of you.

18 My name is Suzanne Broughton. I live in a  
19 retirement community in the Town of McCandless, north of  
20 Pittsburgh. I hold a master's degree in physics and have  
21 taught physics at the college level.

22 In mid-career, I became a technical writer for  
23 computer software. I mention this personal history because  
24 both physics and computer science rely on well-defined and  
25 well-implemented processes to reach conclusions that

1 accurately represent the data available. For a long time,  
2 I have also been interested in how a society's well-being  
3 is affected by the processes of government and their  
4 implementation -- the good, the bad, and the ugly.

5 At the age of 84, I leave to younger generations  
6 the task of looking forward to the maps they want to see  
7 and must live with in their future. I'm sure you will hear  
8 from many members of these generations. I would like to  
9 use my experience to sound a cautionary note with a look  
10 back at maps that I see as truly ugly examples of unfair  
11 processes that you should avoid.

12 I will trace the evolution of the maps for one  
13 congressional district over two redistricting cycles. The  
14 map on the right of the first page of my testimony shows  
15 Congressional District 12 after the 1991 redistricting.  
16 The district included Armstrong, Indiana, Cambria, and  
17 Somerset Counties and parts of Westmoreland and Fayette  
18 Counties. It was compact, which shows in blue on the map,  
19 and it was reasonably shaped. Please also note the  
20 position of District 20, the lower left in the dark green.

21 In 2000, Pennsylvania lost two congressional  
22 seats, from 21 seats to 19. The series of maps that I used  
23 on the previous and following pages had only a  
24 pencil-sketch map, and no color, for 2001, so I have used  
25 this less-detailed map above.

1           To eliminate District 20 in the 2001  
2           redistricting, the Legislature stretched District 12, then  
3           represented by John Murtha who lived in Cambria County, a  
4           long way to the southwest to encompass much of the old  
5           District 20, including the residents of Frank Mascara, who  
6           had represented District 20. That gerrymander put  
7           Democrats Mascara and Murtha into the same district,  
8           forcing them into a primary contest to eliminate one  
9           Democrat. Did the legislative redistricting process really  
10          serve the constituents everywhere in this rambling,  
11          confusing District 12? Or did it only serve to enhance the  
12          power of the leadership of the majority party?

13           Murtha won, but he passed away in 2010, and  
14          Mark Critz was elected to his seat. In 2010, Pennsylvania  
15          lost another seat, down to 18. In the 2011 redistricting,  
16          the majority party no longer needed the area to the  
17          southwest. They could stretch Districts 18 and 9 into most  
18          of it. What they needed was an area north of the city  
19          where they could set up a primary contest between two  
20          Democrats. So they moved District 4 to central  
21          Pennsylvania into the area then in District 19, the number  
22          being eliminated.

23           This is where it gets personal for me. I lived  
24          in District 4, then in Franklin Park Borough, which is a  
25          triangle a bit north of the letter "A" in the word

1 Allegheny on the map on the third page. District 4 had  
2 been represented by Ron Klink, a Democrat; then  
3 Melissa Hart, a rather conservative Republican; and then  
4 Jason Altmire, a Democrat so moderate that his record was  
5 the most centrist in Congress. Voters had a real choice  
6 for that seat.

7           The 2011 Legislature redrew District 12 to  
8 include much of District 4, including my home, setting up a  
9 primary contest between Critz and Altmire to eliminate  
10 another Democrat. Critz won, but the district was also  
11 made more Republican. The Allegheny River Valley, that  
12 blue squiggle north of District 14, had a history of voting  
13 Democratic due to union membership of workers in power  
14 plants and some industry in the River Valley. It was  
15 packed in with the Democratic voters in Pittsburgh,  
16 District 14, making the votes in Allegheny County  
17 essentially irrelevant, while almost splitting District 12  
18 and making it more Republican. District 12 was won by  
19 Republican Keith Rothfus in November and in elections  
20 thereafter. I no longer lived in a competitive district.

21           So, how did the redistricting process produce  
22 these ugly, misshapen districts? A well-designed  
23 legislative process, implemented in good faith, should  
24 produce a fair map. But in Pennsylvania, the legislative  
25 process is neither well-designed nor fairly implemented.

1 The rules by which both Chambers of the Pennsylvania  
2 Legislature operate allow a committee chair to unilaterally  
3 block a bill from being considered in committee and the  
4 majority leader to prevent a bill that is voted out of  
5 committee from receiving a vote on the Chamber floor. So  
6 any bill that might be introduced by a Member of either  
7 party proposing a map or an amendment to a map that is not  
8 favored by the majority party leadership is not considered.  
9 The maps have been drawn by the majority party leadership  
10 with little consultation of their own Members, none with  
11 the minority party, and no input from the public.

12           This year, your committee has made a significant  
13 step, a huge step forward, in consulting the public through  
14 these hearings, although with a few unsettling aspects. It  
15 is troubling that the two Chambers are not holding joint  
16 hearings. It is even more troubling that information on  
17 the process is housed on a partisan caucus website. Why  
18 isn't there one easy-to-find, joint, nonpartisan site for  
19 all information about this process?

20           So here is your challenge: Open up this process,  
21 further than you already have. Make it easy for the public  
22 to follow and participate. Work together across parties  
23 and across the two Chambers of the Legislature. Insist  
24 that the leadership -- that's including you, Representative  
25 Grove -- must not control the mapping process. Then, if

1 the input from these and subsequent hearings is taken  
2 seriously and shared with the Senate, if proposals and  
3 suggestions of all Members of the Legislature are  
4 considered, and if hearings are held for the public to  
5 comment on preliminary maps and those comments are taken  
6 seriously, your Legislature could indeed produce a map that  
7 fairly serves all the citizens of our Commonwealth.

8 I look forward to seeing that happen, and thank  
9 you for your attention.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
11 your testimony today.

12 Next, we have Stephen Kenny from Midland,  
13 Pennsylvania. And when you're comfortable, please begin.  
14 Thank you for coming today and providing testimony.

15 MR. KENNY: Hello. I'm Steve Kenny. I live in  
16 Midland, Pennsylvania.

17 I would like to start off by saying, I'm not  
18 going to get into the very fine detail that Suzanne just  
19 provided on a personal level. My goal was to start looking  
20 at the process more in a 50,000-foot view and do my best  
21 initially with my written testimony to avoid any kind of  
22 partisan contamination in my thought process. So in a way,  
23 I sequestered myself before really researching the details  
24 so that I could provide that fresh perspective, but later  
25 on I did want to review and get a little more detail. So



1 I'll start with my testimony this way.

2           Learning how politically inflammatory  
3 redistricting could be, has been historically in some  
4 circumstances, especially in Pennsylvania after the last  
5 census, I set out to make my written testimony, as I just  
6 mentioned, before discussing the subject with others or  
7 researching infinitely detailed history on the matter in  
8 any particular district or my own. My goal, again, was to  
9 force myself to think only about what makes sense from a  
10 practical and fair point of view through my own life  
11 experiences and understanding representation in government  
12 in general and to avoid the issue through the traditional  
13 political prisms.

14           I felt this may provide Legislators a fresh  
15 perspective, not a contaminated one with partisanship.  
16 However, after writing my testimony and then later  
17 reviewing the historical details and discussing with  
18 others, I still feel this fresh perspective is needed and  
19 valuable.

20           Learning more, I feel, however, it important to  
21 emphasize several points for Legislators to consider that  
22 are a little bit more partisan. These two main points are,  
23 one -- it's pretty obvious -- elections do have  
24 consequences. The redrawing of congressional districts,  
25 like any other action requiring a vote by an elected body,

1 will be more likely driven by the majority party, like it  
2 or not. So long as the proposed maps -- and this is  
3 important, too -- do not clearly violate the law, the  
4 majority party will have an advantage in setting the new  
5 maps. It's pretty obvious. On the flip side, the minority  
6 party must recognize this and accept it, again, if  
7 everything is done legally.

8 Judges -- this is the second point that follows  
9 this. Judges, in my opinion, should not draw the maps.  
10 The majority party, again, should be very diligent to avoid  
11 violating Federal law in redistricting, while the minority  
12 party must understand they have no right to make unfounded  
13 accusations. I'm not saying they did, but both sides need  
14 to follow the process legally.

15 The process is made completely unfair to citizens  
16 and voters and is against the spirit of the separation of  
17 powers within the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions if  
18 redistricting ends up being decided in the courts,  
19 especially if a handful of elected judges end up drawing up  
20 their own maps.

21 Beyond the political end, my main hope for  
22 redistricting and how Legislators consider it would be for  
23 them to consider dividing up the regions based upon key  
24 infrastructure such as airports, shipping centers, heavy  
25 industrial and commercial centers, and agricultural areas,

1 not only to force representatives to consider constituents  
2 with diverse viewpoints, but also to dilute the power of  
3 lobbyists across as many representatives as possible. This  
4 dilution of power through the lobbyist donations and  
5 contributions in general dovetails with, in my opinion, an  
6 even more powerful strategy to do so of term limits for  
7 Congress. Entrenchment of any representative brought on by  
8 redistricting or concentrating one party or another in any  
9 particular district, regardless of how well, is only going  
10 to lead to a lack of representation of constituents through  
11 the new representative coming in and not being able to  
12 represent his constituents. He's going to have to tow the  
13 party line.

14           If you tend to disagree with this proposed  
15 strategy and term limits, I advise you to consider that  
16 7 out of 10 of the wealthiest counties by income are  
17 concentrated around Washington, DC, without an expected  
18 proportional existence of industry and business in general.  
19 This concentration of wealth and power will continue until  
20 we the people get involved to correct the situation at the  
21 ballot box, in the courts, in political causes, and in  
22 local, State, and national party involvement in general.

23           That's my testimony. Thank you for the  
24 opportunity to speak. If you have any questions, feel free  
25 to talk to me later.

1 Thank you.

2 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
3 your time today and your testimony.

4 Next, we have Christopher Fromme from Pittsburgh,  
5 Pennsylvania. As Chris comes up, we do have two Members.

6 Representative Gaydos, if you want to introduce  
7 yourself.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GAYDOS: Valerie Gaydos, Allegheny  
9 County.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: And Representative  
11 Rob Mercuri, who is in the back. Say hi, Rob.

12 And one other one. Representative Maureen  
13 Madden.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MADDEN: That's quite the  
15 introduction, "and one other one."

16 Good morning.

17 Representative Maureen Madden from Monroe County,  
18 Pennsylvania.

19 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Did I get everyone?  
20 All right.

21 Chris, the floor is yours, sir.

22 MR. FROMME: My name is Christopher Fromme, and  
23 first, I would like to note that in the packet of written  
24 testimony, it only listed, I believe, the one district out  
25 of the four that I had provided to the Committee. At any

1 rate, I'll start.

2 In 2011, it was obvious that western Pennsylvania  
3 was going to lose a district, thus a plan that I submitted  
4 to combine part of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Districts. The framework  
5 of my four-district plan for western Pennsylvania was  
6 adopted. But on the other side of the State, it is my  
7 belief that Federal politicians influenced the district;  
8 thus, they were gerrymandered contrary to the spirit of a  
9 Supreme Court case of which I was a petitioner, *Holt et al.*  
10 *v. 2011 Legislative Reapportionment Commission*. Thus, the  
11 2018 Supreme Court drew new districts that split towns and  
12 streets.

13 I choose to make districts as close to 764,864 as  
14 possible. That's the number that, if you divide the total  
15 population of Pennsylvania by 17, it comes up to, just for  
16 clarity. But I do not split communities.

17 My starting place is the west. Most of the  
18 townships in the 17<sup>th</sup> District gained population. Using  
19 the flawed map of 2018, thus, all districts would shift  
20 east.

21 My final statewide plan, which I plan to present  
22 at the last hearing, will show the current 16<sup>th</sup> District  
23 being eliminated. All data is current to the 2020 census.

24 From there is where my testimony varies from what  
25 my original one. I'll start there.

1           In District 17, since I came up short, I added  
2 one precinct from Lower Burrell City. Also, the totals for  
3 Allegheny County, when I added Congressional 16 and 17, are  
4 over a small amount. I was not able to find the mistake in  
5 time to submit this. I had no clue where it was yet.  
6 After going over the data, 2,725 extra population. I don't  
7 know where the difference is. If the lost population is in  
8 CD 16, then one more area in Lower Burrell City could be  
9 added.

10           So basically Members of the Committee that I  
11 handed out, gave my handout to, I submitted plans for  
12 Congressional District 17, which is basically Allegheny  
13 County and parts of Washington County; District 15, which  
14 is currently occupied by Representative Mike Kelly;  
15 District -- oh, let's see -- 14, which is currently  
16 Guy Reschenthaler. And then what did I miss? Oh, yeah,  
17 Mike Doyle, which basically would have the rest of  
18 Allegheny County and a slight portion of Westmoreland  
19 County. Basically, I came up within a small amount. I  
20 think the maximum difference was, geez, like, you know, in  
21 the single digits from being to the closest, to the magic  
22 number that I put on there.

23           I don't know whether the Supreme Court, you know,  
24 would say, well, gee, you have got to come up to the exact  
25 number. Honestly, I don't believe that you should split up

1 communities.

2 I don't have any more to say. I let my work  
3 right here speak for itself. I'm done.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much,  
5 Chris. We greatly appreciate it.

6 Next, we have David Majernik -- Majernik?  
7 Majernik. The third time's a try -- from Pittsburgh,  
8 Pennsylvania. Thank you so much for your participation  
9 today, and when you're comfortable, please begin.

10 MR. MAJERNIK: Good morning.

11 My name is Dave Majernik. I'm from Plum Borough,  
12 a suburb in the eastern part of Allegheny County, and I  
13 want to thank you for the opportunity to speak before this  
14 hearing. It is an honor.

15 In general, I believe that congressional  
16 districts should be contiguous and as compact as possible  
17 and should not split up municipalities, and if possible,  
18 not split up counties either, although that may be  
19 difficult to do. Municipalities that are split up lose  
20 their clout with their representatives. I know a number of  
21 municipalities in my area that were divided between two  
22 congressional districts. In fact, I think at one time,  
23 Monroeville was divided between three.

24 Also, districts should not be formed based upon  
25 voter registration. There seems to be a popular notion,

1 but mistaken, that if the party with the lower voter  
2 registration elects more representatives in Congress in the  
3 State than the majority party, that this indicates that  
4 somehow the districting is wrong, but it could also mean  
5 that the minority party ran better candidates. Let's  
6 remember that people do not always vote along party lines,  
7 and voter registration often does not reflect the voters'  
8 true beliefs.

9           For example, many people who work in governmental  
10 entities controlled by Democrats and/or belong to unions  
11 often register Democratic to keep their jobs, but then they  
12 vote Republican in secret ballot. So to use voter  
13 registration as an excuse to realign districts in a way to  
14 get a specific number of representatives elected from each  
15 party is unfair and wrongheaded.

16           I recommend that we follow the Pennsylvania  
17 Constitution in defining the new congressional districts  
18 for the next 10 years. The Pennsylvania Constitution  
19 wisely gives the authority to define the new districts to  
20 the State Legislature with the approval of the Governor.  
21 Therefore, these decisions should be made by elected  
22 officials who answer to the voters on a regular basis, not  
23 to the courts or some appointed so-called nonpartisan  
24 commissioners.

25           We have to live with the decisions made in the



1 redistricting for the next 10 years, so that is why these  
2 very, very important decisions should be made by elected  
3 officials who have to face the voters on a frequent basis  
4 and are held accountable for their decisions. If appointed  
5 commissioners make bad decisions about redistricting, they  
6 will disappear into obscurity and not be held accountable  
7 for their decisions. That's why we have a democracy and  
8 elected officials to make decisions, so that we can hold  
9 them accountable for those decisions.

10           Appointing commissioners is a way that some  
11 politicians shirk their responsibilities of making  
12 decisions, by blaming commissioners for any bad decisions  
13 made, thus absolving themselves, but we cannot allow  
14 elected officials to get away with not doing their  
15 constitutionally mandated duty.

16           Therefore, I urge the State Legislature to do  
17 their job of defining the new congressional districts  
18 instead of delegating it to the courts or commissioners.  
19 Furthermore, we ask that the Legislators use common sense  
20 and fairness in making those decisions and not be swayed by  
21 special interest groups who speak with a loud voice but  
22 represent few citizens.

23           Thank you.

24           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much,  
25 David, for your testimony and time today. We greatly

1 appreciate your input.

2           Next, we have Constance Hester from Pittsburgh,  
3 Pennsylvania.

4           Constance, please come up, and when you're ready  
5 and comfortable, please begin.

6           MS. HESTER: Good morning, everyone.

7           I am honored to have this opportunity today. My  
8 name is Connie Hester. I'm a long-time Republican who has  
9 lived in Shaler for almost 40 years.

10           I value democracy most. I value freedom,  
11 democracy, fiscal responsibility, and family values. Of  
12 all the things my Republican father did in his 90-plus  
13 years, he was most proud of defending our democracy when it  
14 mattered most in World War II.

15           In 1941, Freedom House was formed as a bipartisan  
16 organization to monitor democracies around the globe.  
17 Co-Chairs, Republican Wendell Willkie and Democrat Eleanor  
18 Roosevelt, combined voices to bring Americans together  
19 around democracy, freedom, patriotism, and service to our  
20 country. Americans sacrificed for the common good -- one  
21 for all and all for one. We were a tight society then and  
22 for decades.

23           Majority and minority leaders spoke well of each  
24 other. They collaborated to create solutions and invest in  
25 our country. Our economy grew; everyone benefited. We

1 were a beacon of light, and we were the envy of the entire  
2 world.

3 Freedom House remains highly respected. My heart  
4 sank reading their recent report on America's political  
5 rights and civil liberties. Our rating plummeted from the  
6 top tier 94 in 2010 to just a mediocre 83 today. Our  
7 democracy has weakened. Our new peers are Romania and  
8 Panama. Like us, Poland slid from the top even further to  
9 81. With a short history of democracy, many believe  
10 democracy is twilighting in Poland. Will this be our  
11 future?

12 We all feel this decline. Today, it's not one  
13 for all, it's tribe against tribe, Republicans versus  
14 Democrats. We undo and block rather than improve. It is  
15 causing stagnation, frustration, increasing anger, and  
16 increasing violence in our society. We must reverse the  
17 trend. Ending gerrymandering is one of the top three  
18 recommendations of Freedom House.

19 Franklin & Marshall regularly poll people across  
20 PA and the political spectrum to reveal how we really feel.  
21 Today, many voices that are more moderate than either the  
22 far right or far left often feel they are not able to  
23 speak.

24 A recent poll from them gives me hope. Asked how  
25 much we agree with the key ideals of democracy, 7.1 out of

1 10, Republicans and Democrats alike, believe in the ideals  
2 of democracy. Our long history has instilled these in us.  
3 However, asked how well our democracy is working in  
4 practice, these same Republicans and Democrats alike agree  
5 again: Our government of, by, and for the people is not  
6 delivering for us.

7 Another Franklin & Marshall poll reveals  
8 67 percent of Pennsylvanians want redistricting reform.  
9 There seems to be this opinion sweet spot in Pennsylvania  
10 where 60 to 80 percent of Republicans and Democrats think  
11 alike. It's very different than what we are led to  
12 believe, but it's true. We do think alike.

13 To both strengthen our democracy and do what  
14 Pennsylvanians want, end gerrymandering. Specifically, our  
15 maps today have evolved over centuries, manipulated by both  
16 parties and courts. Start over fresh with a blank map.

17 Ensure our votes have equal value by ignoring  
18 political data for drafts, only using it to rule out  
19 partisan bias; ensuring minority voices have proportional  
20 influence by not overly packing or cracking them; counting  
21 prisoners where they are from; and lastly, try to avoid a  
22 veto or challenge in court by sharing the drafts with the  
23 public, giving us a few weeks to comment before they are  
24 finalized. Let us help you hit that sweet spot where all  
25 of us are thinking alike.

1           Drawing our districts means you are deciding if  
2 our children and grandchildren will enjoy a high level of  
3 political rights and civil liberties or not. To me,  
4 "political rights" means democracy. "Civil liberties"  
5 means freedom, freedoms to express our more moderate view.  
6 Deciding this for us is a great responsibility. We are  
7 counting on all of you.

8           Ending gerrymandering will ensure democracy flows  
9 to Legislatures. Democracy must also flow through our  
10 Legislatures to make sure our democracy works in practice.  
11 We must include the best ideas of both parties to hit that  
12 sweet spot consistently with legislation. Amend rules if  
13 needed to ensure democracy flows in our State House.

14           The new House PA One Caucus formed to promote  
15 collaboration is a spark of light. I hope it becomes a  
16 raging fire. The burden of redistricting and election  
17 reform is great. I want to thank each of you for your  
18 service to us. A special thanks to Chairman Grove for your  
19 steady leadership concerning elections. Scheduling  
20 hearings, soliciting ideas, and sharing with the public was  
21 an excellent information gathering process, as is this, a  
22 model for all committees.

23           Many items in the election reform bill hit that  
24 sweet spot according to -- I feel a little like a broken  
25 record; I promise the last one -- yet another very

1 important Franklin & Marshall poll.

2 I am forever grateful to our veterans and  
3 families who risk everything for democracy, to those who  
4 hold democracy higher than issues, and to the more than  
5 70 percent of Pennsylvanians with democracy funneling in  
6 their hearts.

7 I appreciate this opportunity to share my family  
8 values as applied to redistricting. As I end my testimony,  
9 I have one question to the Co-Chairmen and Committee  
10 Members: Please ponder and discuss this election reform  
11 and also one of the top three Freedom House  
12 recommendations. The vetoed election reform bill is very  
13 close, if not in that sweet spot. Is it possible for you  
14 to collaborate across the aisle, amend, and pass it  
15 unanimously, to do the best possible for our State? And it  
16 would be a shining model for others that Wolf would surely  
17 sign. Being a State where democracy is working in practice  
18 would help keep our Pennsylvania youth so we will no longer  
19 be 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 States in the census for growth and  
20 population ages 18 to 25. Is it possible?

21 Thank you.

22 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Connie. And  
23 I know Representative Solomon loves your shout-out of the  
24 PA One Caucus. He was probably cheering online.

25 Thank you so much for your testimony today.

1           Next up, we have Hill Jordan from Pittsburgh,  
2 Pennsylvania.

3           Mr. Jordan, come on up, and when you're  
4 comfortable, please begin.

5           MR. JORDAN:    Good morning.

6           My name is Hill Jordan, and I am a lifelong  
7 resident of the city of Pittsburgh. I added a little bit  
8 to my testimony, but.

9           I just want to start with, do we really care  
10 about our government being of, by, and for the people? We  
11 must have a redistricting process that values and protects  
12 communities of shared interests above carving up districts  
13 on purely political motivations.

14           I added that to my testimony, because as I was  
15 wrestling with this and just thinking about this the last  
16 week or so, it's really -- we need to get back to some of  
17 these foundational things that we are supposed to be about.  
18 And if we're about a country that represents each and every  
19 one of us equally and respects that which makes us special,  
20 which is your ethnic background or if you're in a tech  
21 sector or if you're in a various different subset, that  
22 those folks could vote together as a block. That's  
23 reasonable.

24           And to see some of these maps that are carved,  
25 looking like very strange homemade Rorschach tests of some

1 sort, is ridiculous. It's utterly ridiculous. It is  
2 purely political and it's shameful. It is utterly and  
3 absolutely shameful, when we are supposed to be putting  
4 what is important to us as individuals and constituencies  
5 first.

6 That's supposed to be how we get to of, by, and  
7 for the people regarding the redistricting process, not I'm  
8 more Republican so I'm going to carve this crazy pattern up  
9 over here, or I'm a Democrat so we'll steal power over here  
10 so we can get what we want in the Legislature. We're going  
11 to make this ridiculously crazy thing that advances only  
12 the political aspect of what makes us who we are as  
13 individuals and groups, and it's -- it's just shocking.

14 So I just -- that's not on my testimony, that was  
15 in my heart. So I have to share that, all right? Just  
16 kind of flat out, get that out of the way. All right.

17 I hear people chuckling, but am I right? All  
18 right. Thank you. I mean, it's really, it's funny how --  
19 it's absurd is what it is, not funny. It's absurd and it's  
20 shameful, and we chuckle, but let's do something about it.  
21 Like, you guys have the power to do that, and you represent  
22 people who are either enfranchised or disenfranchised by  
23 your choice as to what to put first.

24 So don't put politics first. I know you're  
25 politicians, but you're people first. And your



1 constituents -- I have been served greatly by some of the  
2 political leaders in my community. They have advocated and  
3 done things that have dramatically improved -- I live in  
4 Highland Park and Patrick Dowd -- putting their careers  
5 politically on the line to get infrastructure on the ground  
6 to make those businesses possible. And one got  
7 gerrymandered out of office, couldn't even run for office  
8 for a second term. That's shameful to me and it's not good  
9 for our citizens.

10 So I'm going to go. All right. So into my  
11 testimony, the written portion.

12 Regarding redistricting, I believe, based on the  
13 average size of districts across the State, that the  
14 Pittsburgh area is large enough and should not be changed.  
15 Also, because there are many overlapping communities of  
16 shared interests, they should remain intact. There is no  
17 need to redistrict districts in the city, which is 18.

18 I'm particularly concerned about the recent  
19 studies that show a large exodus of African Americans from  
20 Pittsburgh recently. In order to improve things for  
21 African Americans, it is imperative that our voting  
22 district boundaries not be chiseled or gerrymandered.

23 In addition to the data from several studies, I  
24 as a professional musician meet a large volume of people  
25 from all backgrounds and walks of life, and it gives me a

1 much broader understanding of these matters, I think, than  
2 the average person.

3           Also, Pittsburgh has a large but not very well  
4 represented New Arts scene and tech sector, and it's going  
5 to be critical for the further development of both of these  
6 things that their constituents be able to vote in a block,  
7 not be chiseled up into one of these Rorschach looking  
8 things.

9           I keep going back to that, because that's what it  
10 looks like. I was like, what in the world is -- where did  
11 they get this? What is this, you know? So anyway. I'm  
12 sorry, but it is what it is.

13           I would like to thank the Committee in advance  
14 for its hard work -- and I mean that very sincerely; you  
15 guys work hard at what you are doing -- your diligence, and  
16 for the opportunity to voice my concerns. Hill Jordan.

17           So thanks a lot. And I'm the kind of guy that  
18 once I get my interests up in a certain area, I stick to  
19 it. So I'll be watching you. I play horns. I play  
20 trombone. It's a big, loud instrument. So let me show up  
21 and play a reveille for you, not like some other kind of  
22 stuff, you know?

23           All right. Take care. Thanks.

24           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Mr. Jordan.  
25 We greatly appreciate your input today.

1                   Next, we have Rosemary Prostko from Bridgeville,  
2 Pennsylvania.

3                   Rosemary, please come forward, and when you're  
4 comfortable and ready, please begin.

5                   MS. PROSTKO: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

6                   I am not here to point fingers or call names. As  
7 a common citizen, I want to share my alarm with you. I  
8 listen to and read the news and hear distressing outcries.  
9 I talk to people who are also alarmed. Many in our country  
10 have lost their faith in our elected government.

11                   It is becoming evident that the words spoken by  
12 Abraham Lincoln, a recurring theme here, are no longer  
13 true. Our government does not appear to be "of" the  
14 people. It seems people who are elected today have their  
15 own money to run or they know people who can give large  
16 amounts of money. As a result, fewer and fewer people can  
17 run for public office.

18                   When a person is elected, they automatically  
19 "owe" something to their donors for helping them. Please  
20 don't try to tell me large donors have no standing with  
21 those who win office. That makes no sense. Why do they  
22 give if they expect nothing in return? Therefore, I and  
23 others must believe politicians are guided not "by" me but  
24 "by" those they know and listen to. If they have no  
25 influence in decisionmaking, why can't I see their names?

1           Which brings us to the subject of today -- fair  
2 voting districts. It has been said over and over, but I  
3 must say it again, the districts must be drawn "for" the  
4 good of the people in the district and not "for" the good  
5 of the politicians and their donors.

6           Many people do not vote every year because they  
7 say their vote doesn't count. They feel they have no  
8 impact on who is elected or what laws are passed. So why  
9 vote? If we have fairly drawn districts, it will help all  
10 voters, regardless of their party.

11           The majority Republican Legislators have an  
12 incentive to draw fair maps this year, and perhaps in the  
13 future. But this year, the Democratic Governor can veto  
14 the maps if he/she thinks them unfair. The PA Supreme  
15 Court has the same Chief Justice who ruled in 2018 that the  
16 Republican maps were extremely partisan and violated the  
17 Pennsylvania Constitution. State lawmakers cannot appeal  
18 to the Supreme Court of the United States because the court  
19 has declared they cannot intervene in State elections.  
20 That, I don't understand. But after all the money is spent  
21 and time wasted to appeal unfair maps, when will they be  
22 ready? Will we miss the primary?

23           The majority of United States citizens see  
24 themselves as fair. All but the most partisan on both  
25 sides want every vote to count. Gerrymandered districts

1 are not fair. Everyone's vote does not count. The  
2 Legislature has a chance to restore some faith in our  
3 electoral system.

4 That's the end of what I submitted, but I have  
5 some time left and I really want to comment on what  
6 happened yesterday. Because we're talking fairness and  
7 lack of trust, I'm compelled to comment on the announcement  
8 made by Senate President Pro Tempore Jake Corman yesterday.  
9 I quote:

10 "After many weeks of work behind the scenes, we  
11 are now moving forward to conduct a forensic review of  
12 recent elections."

13 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Ma'am?

14 MS. PROSTKO: Is this fair?

15 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Ma'am? Ma'am?

16 MS. PROSTKO: This says to me---

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Ma'am, that's outside  
18 the scope of this hearing.

19 MS. PROSTKO: No, it's not. It is fairness.

20 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: It is.

21 MS. PROSTKO: It is whether people think that we  
22 are a democracy or not.

23 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: We are here to gather  
24 information on congressional redistricting. You're outside  
25 the scope. Bring it back.

1 MS. PROSTKO: But again, Republicans are going to  
2 overturn any election they don't agree with.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you for your time  
4 today, ma'am.

5 The next testifier is Xiaohong Doughty. How  
6 close was I on the name, on your first name?

7 MS. DOUGHTY: Um, 80 percent.

8 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Eighty percent?

9 MS. DOUGHTY: Yeah.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: All right. Give me the  
11 correct pronunciation.

12 MS. DOUGHTY: Xiaohong.

13 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Xiaohong.

14 MS. DOUGHTY: Yeah.

15 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

16 MS. DOUGHTY: Thank you.

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: And get comfortable,  
18 and whenever you're ready, please.

19 MS. DOUGHTY: Okay.

20 My name is Xiaohong Doughty. I am from  
21 Pine Township in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. I'm  
22 originally from Ohio and was lucky enough to call Greater  
23 Pittsburgh home for the past 12 years. I used to travel to  
24 Pittsburgh to have a Primanti Bros.'s sandwich. Now I have  
25 it in my back door, so it's great. I have been loving the

1 area and the city.

2 This is not in my testimony, and I have to echo  
3 the previous testifier to applaud the Pennsylvania Supreme  
4 Court in 2018 to be able to put a stop to the obvious  
5 gerrymandering that they have seen. In all honesty, that  
6 event is one of the events that has prompted me to be more  
7 involved and politically active in the community, because  
8 that gave me great hope of this great State of the  
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be able to put democracy on  
10 top of, you know, above partisan politics. And it  
11 literally gave me great hope, and since then I have been  
12 more involved in the community, more vocal and just to get  
13 my voice heard, and collect, you know, wisdoms and  
14 feedbacks from my community. And it gives me hope, so  
15 that's why I'm here. And I'm still hopeful, and I have  
16 trust in the process. I have trust in the process. So,  
17 okay. So to go back to my testimony.

18 So I'm from Pine Township, the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional  
19 District of Pennsylvania. I have lived here and have been  
20 an active member of the community for 12 years.

21 I would like to thank the House State Government  
22 Committee for the opportunity to provide my testimony here.

23 Given the population loss in the central,  
24 northern, and western parts of the State based on the  
25 2021 census data released on August 12<sup>th</sup>, I would anticipate

1 a shift in congressional and State House representation.  
2 In theory, representation should increase where we see  
3 population growth such as southeastern PA and around and  
4 in the city of Pittsburgh. Specifically, the  
5 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District should be kept whole for a  
6 number of reasons that previous redistricting bodies as  
7 well as courts have honored by keeping intact.

8 In the past 10 years, we have seen growth in  
9 Pittsburgh's suburban population and an increase of  
10 minority populations in and around Pittsburgh. Any  
11 congressional and State seat shifting should not come from  
12 Allegheny County.

13 According to data released by the census, from  
14 2010 to 2020, Allegheny County's population increased by  
15 about 27,000, a 2.2-percent increase that pushed the total  
16 population to 1.25 million.

17 Pine Township, where I call home, alone has seen  
18 a population increase of 19.7 percent from 2010 to 2020.  
19 And if the amount of new home building is any indication,  
20 it will continue to increase exponentially.

21 This is a tight-knit community with very engaged  
22 citizens and home to some famous people, including  
23 Jackie Evancho and Neil Walker. Our award-winning  
24 Pine-Richland School District continues to increase its  
25 numbers as well. Starting from the nineties, school



1 district enrollment regularly increased at a rate of  
2 7 percent every year. In this 10 years from 1990 to 2000,  
3 the districtwide enrollment increased by a total of  
4 83.21 percent. Currently, the district has 4,632 students,  
5 two of which are my own daughters.

6 State Route 910, which transects Pine Township  
7 east to west, follows a Native American trail through the  
8 wilderness before European settlement beginning at the  
9 Allegheny River and ties the townships of Richland and  
10 West Deer to our east and Marshall to our west together.  
11 Today, it is a heavily traveled road that supports our  
12 unified Pine-Richland School District.

13 State Route 19, which transects Pine Township  
14 south to north, is equally historic, as it was the main  
15 road between Pittsburgh and Erie and is named Perry Highway  
16 after Commodore Perry, who defended the United States in  
17 the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

18 Commerce has grown outward from Pittsburgh, and  
19 today, one travels seamlessly through the 17<sup>th</sup> District  
20 townships of Ross and McCandless to our south into Pine,  
21 which forms the north border of Allegheny County. Within  
22 the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District boundary is also North Park,  
23 an iconic Pittsburgh Park with a rich history by itself.  
24 Its swimming pool was the largest in the United States when  
25 it opened on July 5, 1937.

1           So I'm speaking as a constituent of the  
2 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Please keep the district  
3 intact.

4           Thank you.

5           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
6 your time today and your testimony. We greatly appreciate  
7 it.

8           I think I got this one: Nick Flower. Thank you  
9 so much for your testimony today, and when you're  
10 comfortable and ready, please begin.

11          MR. FLOWER: I want to start by saying you  
12 totally messed up my name.

13          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: You know, it wouldn't  
14 surprise me.

15          MR. FLOWER: I'm offended. Just kidding.

16                 Thank you to the Committee for holding this  
17 hearing. Thank you for your attention. I appreciate this  
18 opportunity to speak as a citizen before you today.

19                 My name is Nick Flower. I'm a clinical  
20 psychologist, and I just want to make a mention to what  
21 Hill was saying earlier with the Rorschach test.

22                 I actually used the 2011 map as a replacement for  
23 the drawings. It has been really nice for me. So  
24 gerrymandering isn't all bad, people. There is some good  
25 that can come from it. So I hope that I'm making -- I'm

1 just kidding. I'm totally kidding; I used the 2020 map.

2           Okay. Let me find my testimony, briefly, if  
3 you'll just bear with me here. I have to start with jokes  
4 always.

5           Okay. Like I said, my name is Nick Flower. I'm  
6 a clinical psychologist. I work here in Bridgeville down  
7 the hill, and I live in Upper St. Clair.

8           Man, it's redistricting time. The census is out,  
9 and you all have a tremendous duty, and thank you for  
10 taking it on. I have some warnings, however.

11           I am here today because I believe so strongly in  
12 this issue, and I desperately hope that you do, too. I  
13 believe that this is a fight for the soul of our democracy,  
14 and I know that's big language, but I mean it. What we  
15 currently have is a manifestly unfair process that has the  
16 majority party of the State Legislature -- in this case,  
17 most of you, I assume, if you are Republicans. I don't  
18 know. Most of you all, or yinz, as we say in Pittsburgh.  
19 Let me just be very clear.

20           So the majority party in power at the time of the  
21 census gets to redraw the districts to account for our  
22 population change, and in this system, we the people have  
23 to hope that you will not take unfair advantage when you  
24 carry out this important duty to redraw the maps. I simply  
25 do not understand why our country has decided to continue

1 on with a process that is so ripe and ready for  
2 exploitation by the party in power.

3           Gerrymandering is a scorched-earth policy, as I  
4 see it. And I was trying to think of another way that this  
5 might happen in life, and I was thinking, the Steelers are  
6 about to play again. You know, football season is coming  
7 up. We're excited about that. You know, it's like if  
8 we're playing the Ravens and, you know, every time we score  
9 a touchdown, we subtract a couple of their players as a new  
10 rule, a new fun rule. As a Steelers fan, I would love  
11 that, you know, because the Ravens would be less likely to  
12 win, but then I would probably reflect later and be like,  
13 you know, that wasn't great. It didn't feel that great  
14 because it wasn't fair, you know, and this is what  
15 gerrymandering is, but politically. It would be  
16 devastating to football, and it's devastating to our  
17 democracy.

18           The party in power gets an opportunity to take an  
19 unfair advantage, and they almost always do. Democrats did  
20 it and advocated for it when they held power in most of the  
21 State Legislatures in the eighties. And guess who's in  
22 charge now in most of the State Legislatures? You read the  
23 news; you know. It's Republicans. It was wrong then and  
24 it's wrong now if it's done.

25           I look at this issue like a capitalist. Let's

1 let the market decide. If we end gerrymandering, we can  
2 set up a system in which the most popular ideas win.  
3 That's how the business world works. May the best company  
4 reap the rewards of the good idea or the product, and the  
5 same should be true of our politics. Let the candidate  
6 with the best idea go on the stump and convince enough  
7 voters to vote for them to send them to Harrisburg or to  
8 Washington. This is how it should be in a district, with  
9 district lines that are drawn with the health and the  
10 fairness of our small "d" democracy as it's only priority.  
11 Sorry I'm pointing.

12 Let me tell you about my three most hated  
13 components of gerrymandering:

14 Number one, politicians choose the voters rather  
15 than the other way around. That's wrong. We should  
16 choose, not you. And when you were on this side of things,  
17 you would probably say the same thing.

18 Gerrymandering rewards political extremism. When  
19 voters are segregated in the way that gerrymandering does,  
20 the politicians no longer have to listen to citizens with  
21 opposing viewpoints. That's bad for democracy. This  
22 encourages extremism and discourages working together to  
23 get things done, and I want to see things done.

24 Number three, outcomes do not match votes. This  
25 is so crazy. This is so absurd, as someone said before.

1 The goal of gerrymandering is to make sure that the votes  
2 for the opposing party lead to as few seats as possible for  
3 them. During the 2012 election in Pennsylvania, the  
4 Democrats won about half the votes cast for Congress but  
5 only a quarter of the seats drawn by the Republican  
6 Legislature. In Maryland and in Illinois in that same  
7 election, the Democrats did it in their States, and that's  
8 wrong. Everyone hates this practice, everyone except for  
9 the people in power, but the people in power should also  
10 hate this nonsense.

11 Let me read off some of the main organizations  
12 that I could find and also some prominent politicians of  
13 both parties that oppose gerrymandering and are working or  
14 have worked against the process: The Committee of Seventy;  
15 Draw the Lines; Fair Districts. There are apps out there  
16 for citizens to draw maps, if you're wonky enough, and I  
17 suppose bored -- or patriotic, excuse me -- to draw maps.  
18 Some of these organizations have contests. I urge you to  
19 look at them. Maybe they're good. How about that? And  
20 maybe the work is already done for you. How about that? I  
21 love when the work is already done. You get to take a peek  
22 at them and see.

23 Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Terminator, is against  
24 this. If that doesn't scare you, it should. John Kasich  
25 of Ohio. The late great John McCain of Arizona said,

1 "Partisan gerrymandering has become a tool for powerful  
2 interests to distort the democratic process." Bob Dole of  
3 Kansas. Larry Hogan in Maryland. John Danforth of  
4 Missouri. Richard Lugar of Indiana. Alan Simpson of  
5 Wyoming says, "Quite literally, gerrymandering is killing  
6 our system. Most Americans think politicians are corrupt,"  
7 -- I'm so sorry, you guys, that people think that -- "and  
8 when they're rigging maps to pick their own constituents,  
9 they're giving them reason to believe it."

10 Representative Brian Fitzpatrick of the newly  
11 drawn 1<sup>st</sup> District, formerly the 8<sup>th</sup> -- I'm sure many of you  
12 know him -- said this: "You have 435 districts...only  
13 20 or so that are legitimate swing districts." That means  
14 "For the 415 safe seats, their main election is in the  
15 primary, not the general. When the main election is in the  
16 primary, you legislate accordingly. The result has been a  
17 growing cavernous divide..." like "Hatfield v. McCoy...and  
18 it's hurting the American people." Former President Ronald  
19 Reagan referred to it as a national scandal and called for  
20 the end of the process, of the practice.

21 What do we want from our democracy? What is a  
22 democracy? What should it be? Should it be fair? I  
23 believe that it should. Gerrymandering is inherently  
24 unfair, and everyone knows it, and you know it. You know  
25 it.

1           It was a shame and a great mistake that our  
2 Pennsylvania Republican majority failed to pass measures  
3 that would have allowed an independent redistricting board  
4 made up of citizens to draw these maps in a nonpolitical  
5 fashion. That was a mistake, but it can be corrected. In  
6 the unlikely event that the For the People Act is passed,  
7 one of the provisions is to provide for these for States  
8 that require them. That would be great. Can we do that  
9 here? Can we beat them to the punch?

10           These measures have not been taken up by the  
11 Republican State Legislature, and I'm quite sure that if  
12 the Legislature was underneath Democratic control, when  
13 that measure came up, it would have been killed, too, and  
14 that's wrong.

15           We have to get this right. We are 245 years old  
16 this year, the longest and best example of a Western  
17 democratic world the world has ever known. I love this  
18 country and hope that you do, too, and will do right by the  
19 democratic process that makes it so great.

20           I'm almost done.

21           I want to have hope for our State, for our  
22 country, and if we can demonstrate that in Pennsylvania we  
23 can get it right, maybe other States will follow, that we  
24 could be the example for how this could be done with a  
25 Republican Legislature and a Democratic Governor. What an



1 achievement that would be.

2 Thank you.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much for  
4 your time and your testimony this morning. We greatly  
5 appreciate it.

6 Next, we have Timothy Campbell from Bethel Park.

7 Please come forward and have a seat, and when  
8 you're comfortable and ready, please begin.

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Good morning.

10 And in reference to the last comments that were  
11 made in the hearing, it's "yinz," not "yunz." I just want  
12 to say that as an official yinz-er.

13 Good morning. I'm Tim Campbell. I'm from  
14 Bethel Park. It's a community in the South Hills of  
15 Pittsburgh. I'm in internal medicine doc who also does a  
16 lot of hospice, palliative-care medicine, disaster and  
17 humanitarian medicine.

18 And we have heard tonight, every single one of  
19 the folks who have testified, or this morning, rather,  
20 every single one of the individuals who have testified have  
21 talked about politics, power, party, gerrymandering, vote  
22 registration -- I made a little checklist here -- majority  
23 and minority leadership and power. I'm not going to talk  
24 about any of those today. I'm going to take a little bit  
25 of a different tact. I would like to talk to you a little

1 bit more about community sentiment and feeling and a true  
2 representative representing the interests of that  
3 community.

4 I was born and raised in Bethel Park. I married  
5 my high school sweetheart. My wife and I specifically  
6 chose to live there to raise our six children. As such, I  
7 have lived my entire life in Bethel Park. Our parents live  
8 there. Our parents died there. Our six kids have attended  
9 the same schools that we have had, and in some cases, had  
10 the same teachers. Bethel Park has become fundamentally a  
11 part of our DNA.

12 We love its charm. We love its down-to-earth  
13 feel. We love its kind, neighborly, friendly demeanor.  
14 Bethel has been a fantastic place to live and a fabulous  
15 place to raise our kids. We appreciate the community  
16 values and its way of life, and as parents, we wanted our  
17 children to experience the exact same opportunities and  
18 environment and schooling that we had when we were growing  
19 up.

20 I have served on the school board in Bethel Park.  
21 I currently serve on the municipal council there. I  
22 volunteer with a number of our local charity organizations  
23 in service and emergency response teams. I walk our  
24 neighborhoods. I talk with folks at the grocery store, at  
25 the pharmacy, and regularly attend community events. My

1 constituents frequently call and visit with their concerns  
2 or email their observations, their comments, and with this  
3 background, I feel I firmly have my finger on the pulse of  
4 the sentiment of our community.

5           And since redistricting has been proposed, I have  
6 talked with, listened to, and read the comments from many  
7 folks in my ward in Bethel Park and other South Hills  
8 communities about specifically their concerns with  
9 redistricting. Absolutely 100 percent of the constituents  
10 who have contacted me have shared that they have no desire,  
11 none, zero, to be lumped in with the city of Pittsburgh.  
12 And "lumped in" is a phrase that I heard repeatedly. In  
13 the interests of time and respectful of your time, I would  
14 like to distill them down to just two comments that I hear  
15 over and over again.

16           First, Bethel Park and the South Hills of  
17 Allegheny County in general provides a very different  
18 lifestyle from that of the city of Pittsburgh. Part of  
19 that is geography, part of that is the people. Now, I'm  
20 not saying that one is certainly better than the other,  
21 they are just fundamentally very different. Each  
22 municipality, each borough, each township, has a unique and  
23 distinct personality.

24           People often live where they feel comfortable.  
25 Sometimes, they prefer a city. Sometimes, they prefer a

1 suburb. Unfortunately, many folks don't have a choice for  
2 maybe perhaps personal or socioeconomic reasons. I have  
3 been told countless times by my constituents that they  
4 specifically moved to Bethel Park because they did not want  
5 to live in the city. They wanted and sought out the  
6 suburban and the small-town feel.

7           The reasons are myriad. They are personal, they  
8 are intimate, and too many numerous, certainly, to address  
9 here. It's as numerous as there are people. But most of  
10 the folks who I have talked to shared that Bethel Park  
11 living offers a perfect mix of smaller communities, a  
12 slower pace, more agrarian living. The citizens I have  
13 talked to feel it would be a huge mistake to have their  
14 representative serving two masters, so to speak. They feel  
15 that their concerns will be swallowed up by the city's  
16 needs, which are many.

17           The city has its own needs and issues, which are  
18 vastly different than that of the suburbs. Bethel Park is  
19 not Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh is not Bethel Park. Homogeneity  
20 is not the answer. Life may still be reflected from the  
21 different facets of the exact same jewel. There is  
22 strength in diversity, just like there is strength in  
23 diverse neighborhoods.

24           My ancestors knew this when they immigrated to  
25 southwestern PA. They sought to live in the Belgian

1 communities, the Polish communities, the Irish  
2 neighborhoods. The framers of the Constitution knew this  
3 as well and understood that. That is why they established  
4 States' rights. They knew that the diversity in States and  
5 specifically the right to self-govern were critical in  
6 maintaining a strong union. It was vital to make sure the  
7 voices of the smaller States was not diluted by the larger,  
8 more populous States, hence the Senate. Things important  
9 to Pennsylvanians are frequently radically different from a  
10 resident of California or Connecticut or Iowa, but is it  
11 any different really on a smaller scale within the State?

12           It is clearly manifest that there are fundamental  
13 differences between the concerns and the priorities of a  
14 Pennsylvania farmer versus the suburban homemaker versus  
15 the metropolitan city dweller. Everyone must have a voice.  
16 Everyone must be heard. And in particular, everyone must  
17 be represented by an advocate who truly speaks for them.

18           Second, and perhaps the most common concern I  
19 have heard, every person I have talked with was worried  
20 that their voice would not be heard with the redistricting.  
21 All have said that if they have the same representative  
22 shared with the city of Pittsburgh that their opinion would  
23 be dismissed. It would be lost. Repeatedly I have heard  
24 citizens state that they believe their representative would  
25 pay more attention to a higher profile city agenda. They

1 feel their representative would acquiesce to the  
2 overshadowing concerns and needs of the city. In short,  
3 their representative would only end up enlarging  
4 Pittsburgh's interests. Bethel Park would be lost in the  
5 background noise. Voices would be ignored in favor of  
6 those of the city. They would become the forgotten cities  
7 of Allegheny County in southwestern Pennsylvania.

8           Additionally, folks opine that such redistricting  
9 would be less responsive, glacial, more mobile. They feel  
10 degrees of efficiency and effectiveness in government would  
11 be lost with the wildly competing agenda needs and  
12 attentions of city versus suburb.

13           This redistricting is not about race. It's not  
14 about socioeconomic. It's absolutely not about  
15 exclusivity and should never be born out of the rapid  
16 pursuit of the barren, plain flavor from the lips of  
17 sameness. It's not about politics. It is about  
18 representation, having a representative represent the  
19 citizens' interests and their desires and their wishes.

20           This issue is basically about priorities. All  
21 communities have problems, big and small. Bethel Park has  
22 community problems; the city of Pittsburgh has community  
23 problems, but the issues in Bethel Park are radically  
24 different from those of the city of Pittsburgh. All  
25 citizens should have the right in a representative republic

1 to have their voices heard by an elected official who truly  
2 represents all of them. Please remember that in your  
3 calculus and your deliberations in our redistricting. Your  
4 decision truly affects hundreds of thousands of people.  
5 Not one, not a single Pennsylvanian, should be  
6 disenfranchised.

7 Thank you for your time and your consideration.

8 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
9 your testimony and your time this morning. We really  
10 appreciate it.

11 Next up is Mr. GL Johnson, Gabriel Johnson.

12 Thank you, sir, and come on forward, and when  
13 you're comfortable and ready, please begin.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning.

15 My name is GL Johnson, a Pittsburgh resident of  
16 the sixth ward, one of the metropolitan city dwellers that  
17 the previous testimony referenced.

18 Before I dive into the meat of this, I also, I  
19 first want to address actually the location, the very  
20 location of this hearing. I looked it up by mass transit,  
21 and the closest bus stop is off the 41 bus. That means  
22 from downtown, it's a bus that only comes every half hour.  
23 It's a 37-minute bus ride and then a 30-minute walk from  
24 that closest bus stop. So I really hope that when you have  
25 more hearings, and I don't think this is supposed to be the

1 last one in the area, that you try and have one and find  
2 some space in downtown, or on the North Side, or in  
3 East Liberty, because if this hearing were 2 weeks ago, I  
4 wouldn't have been able to make it because I didn't have a  
5 car back then. So I definitely hope you have a meeting,  
6 your next meeting somewhere so people who don't have cars  
7 can actually access it, realistically speaking.

8 All right. So obviously these maps are very  
9 complicated, but one thing I do feel strongly about in  
10 terms of them is that the East End and North Side of  
11 Pittsburgh should be joined with the eastern suburbs from  
12 the Wilkinsburg/Penn Hills area and the Mon Valley. These  
13 areas, first of all, they have the vast majority of Black  
14 voters in the area, and as one of them, I do feel it is  
15 important to have us unified in a congressional district at  
16 the Federal level.

17 They also share vital mass transportation links.  
18 The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway has been a  
19 lifeline for many people recently priced out of  
20 neighborhoods like East Liberty and my own sixth ward that  
21 covers Polish Hill and Lower Lawrenceville. Folks are  
22 moving to areas like Wilkinsburg, Penn Hills, Edgewood,  
23 Swissvale, even farther out in the Mon Valley area served  
24 by the busway flyers, and yet, they maintain social and  
25 employment ties to the inner city. I can't tell you how



1 many folks, how many colleagues I have had working on  
2 Butler Street, in the service industry on Butler Street in  
3 Lawrenceville, who live out in places like Wilkinsburg, out  
4 in Swissvale, out in Edgewood, and it's that busway that  
5 enables them to keep those economic links as well as social  
6 links. So definitely don't cut those off into another  
7 district.

8           And also, let those, you know, and I say this  
9 lovingly, let those suburban squares in the 17<sup>th</sup> keep their  
10 districts. They have been really politically involved,  
11 especially over the past few years. And I think, you know,  
12 hearing, especially hearing the previous testimony where  
13 the testifier was talking about race, socioeconomics, and  
14 politics not being a factor, these are of course key points  
15 in representation, and I think the very fact that those  
16 views are commonly shared by the residents of the current  
17 17<sup>th</sup> suburban district shows that they should probably be in  
18 a separate district from those of us in the city and those  
19 of us in the Mon Valley who maybe, you know, view politics  
20 more representationally, who maybe we are, you know, Black  
21 voters, we are LGBT voters who recognize ourselves  
22 collectively as such and don't have this view from nowhere  
23 that we have seen from a lot of the folks in the suburbs.

24           So, yeah, basically I think, you know, keep the  
25 city together with the Mon Valley, with those eastern

1 suburbs. That's very important. And I think if you do try  
2 and crack those suburban areas, I think you'll see some  
3 surprises that maybe the majority doesn't like in terms of  
4 the Federal representation toward the end of the decade.

5 So I'll hold off on thanking the Committee until  
6 we see some maps that don't dice us up, or even a venue  
7 that is less than 90 minutes by mass transit from my house.  
8 But either way, I hope you all have a day that is as  
9 pleasant as the maps you end up drawing. Have a good one.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much for  
11 your testimony today. We greatly appreciate your time this  
12 morning.

13 Next up, we have Nancy Naragon, the League of  
14 Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, who is replacing, I  
15 believe, Cristina Beuger. So thank you, Nancy, and when  
16 you're comfortable and ready, please begin.

17 MS. NARAGON: Good morning.

18 My name is Nancy Naragon, and I am a resident of  
19 Franklin Park Borough in Allegheny County. I am currently  
20 the First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of  
21 Greater Pittsburgh, and I'm submitting this testimony on  
22 behalf of that organization.

23 The League is a nonpartisan political  
24 organization that encourages the informed and active  
25 participation of citizens and government and influences

1 public policy through education and advocacy. It is a  
2 political organization in that we take action on public  
3 policy positions established through member study and  
4 agreement. The League never supports or opposes any  
5 political party or any candidate.

6 For those of you who do not know, on the  
7 national, State, and local levels, the League has long  
8 advocated for a better, fairer, more transparent  
9 redistricting process. We have worked on this issue for  
10 more than 50 years. In fact, the League of Women Voters of  
11 Pennsylvania is one of the plaintiffs in the case brought  
12 to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2018 challenging the  
13 2011 maps for congressional redistricting. That successful  
14 challenge resulted in the redrawing of a congressional map  
15 that we believe more fairly represents the voters of  
16 Pennsylvania.

17 The League believes that responsibility for  
18 redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent  
19 special commission that includes citizens-at-large,  
20 representatives of public interest groups, and members of  
21 minority groups. Unfortunately, the legislation  
22 supporting such a commission never received a vote in the  
23 PA Legislature, and we must continue with the process as it  
24 currently exists.

25 In view of that, we believe there are some

1 general parameters that should be adhered to. Any  
2 redistricting process, whether congressional or  
3 legislative, should include the following:

- 4
- 5 • Specific timelines for the steps leading to a
- 6 redistricting plan;
- 7 • Full disclosure throughout the process and
- 8 public hearings, most particularly on the plan
- 9 proposed for adoption;
- 10 • We suggest that all testimony, whether written
- 11 or provided orally, should be available to the
- 12 public in an easily accessible method.
- 13

14 Any redistricting plan that is developed should  
15 be based on the following standards:

- 16
- 17 • Substantially equal population within a
- 18 geographic contiguity;
- 19 • Effective representation of racial and
- 20 linguistic minorities;
- 21 • Preservation and protection of "communities of
- 22 interest";
- 23 • Respect for boundaries of municipalities,
- 24 school districts, and counties; and
- 25 • Compactness.

1           Any plan should also explicitly reject protection  
2 of incumbents through such devices as considering an  
3 incumbent's address. There also should be no preferential  
4 treatment for a political party through such devices as  
5 considering party affiliation, voting history, and  
6 candidate residence.

7           We commend the House State Government Committee  
8 for convening these public hearings throughout the State  
9 during the months of August, September, and October. That  
10 is certainly a good step toward transparency. However, it  
11 is concerning that these hearings are not being conducted  
12 jointly with the Senate State Government Committee since  
13 whatever plan is ultimately drawn up must be agreed to by  
14 both Chambers, and by conducting separate hearings, you're  
15 forcing Pennsylvania citizens to provide the same  
16 information in separate locations, at separate times.

17           In addition, this location, as an example, is not  
18 easily accessible by mass transit, and your failure to  
19 provide the option of virtual testimony, especially in view  
20 of rising COVID cases, may have limited people's ability to  
21 voice their concerns.

22           We also strongly urge you to look at the issue of  
23 prison gerrymandering. Prisoners should be counted at  
24 their last home address. This would correct an inequity in  
25 certain locales.

1           I would like to draw your attention to some  
2 specific Allegheny County concerns. Based on the 2010  
3 census, each congressional district should have contained  
4 around 710,000 people. At that time, Allegheny County's  
5 population was 1,223,348; Beaver County, 170,000;  
6 Westmoreland, 365,000; Washington County, 207,000; Cambria  
7 at 140,000; Fayette, 136,000; Lawrence, 91,000; Somerset,  
8 77,000; Greene, 36,000. The Allegheny County population  
9 could have supported two congressional districts with  
10 perhaps one other smaller county such as Beaver added in.  
11 The districts would have been cohesive and contiguous with  
12 common interests and concerns. Instead what we got was the  
13 division of Allegheny County into three districts, taking  
14 pieces of all of the above-listed counties to make the  
15 numbers work.

16           That 2011 map did not serve the citizens of  
17 Allegheny County well, nor did it serve the residents of  
18 other counties who were split in multiple ways. That map  
19 was an example of egregious gerrymandering, and while the  
20 Legislature may be unhappy with the Supreme Court redrawing  
21 of the districts in 2018, the current map does a reasonable  
22 job of minimizing county splits and ensuring that  
23 congressional representatives can adequately represent  
24 their constituents.

25           As you proceed with your process, please take

1 into consideration some of the specifics of Allegheny  
2 County. It is an urban/exurban area, which has migrated  
3 from heavy industry, although we still have some, to a  
4 robust medical, educational, and technical hub with a  
5 growing, very diverse population. We have 40 school  
6 districts, 130 municipalities. Our municipalities often  
7 function together with shared services, so in drawing  
8 congressional districts, those things need to be  
9 considered.

10 Drawing a congressional map during this year will  
11 be a challenge in that Pennsylvania is losing a seat. In  
12 addition, the recently released census data suggests that  
13 population growth has not been even across the State, with  
14 much of it concentrated in the areas around Philadelphia.  
15 This requires that any congressional map be completely  
16 redrawn rather than simply trying to tweak around the  
17 edges. The League certainly urges that approach.

18 As you continue your hearings and begin the work  
19 of drawing a congressional map, the League of Women Voters  
20 of Greater Pittsburgh asks that you consider the following:

- 21
- 22 • Pennsylvania voters should be informed of your
- 23 actions in a transparent and open manner.
- 24 • There should be ample time for citizens to
- 25 comment on proposed maps.

- 1           • The names and credentials of any mapping
- 2           experts you utilize should be made known to
- 3           the voters. Mapping experts should be
- 4           nonpartisan.
- 5           • Any proposed map should be accompanied by the
- 6           reasoning behind the map.

7

8           Thank you very much for the opportunity to

9 provide this statement on behalf of the League of Women

10 Voters of Greater Pittsburgh.

11           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for

12 your time this morning and your testimony. We greatly

13 appreciate it.

14           Next up is Susan Fudurich from Monaca,

15 Pennsylvania.

16           Susan, come on up, and when you're comfortable --

17 Monaca? Monaca. Monaca. My apologies.

18           MS. FUDURICH: They know. They know that it's

19 Monaca.

20           Okay. You almost got it right. Susan Fudurich.

21 Fudurich. Fudurich rhymes with "good" and there's a hard

22 "ch" on the end. Fudurich. That's my married name,

23 though.

24           Okay. Although I have always kept up with

25 current events in government and I have voted in almost



1 every single election since I turned 18, I confess that my  
2 focus on State Government has been minimal at best. I  
3 obtained a university education, and I took an engineering  
4 job with an oil company, a national oil company. Later, I  
5 married, had children, and I became a stay-at-home mom to  
6 raise my family.

7 Later, we moved to Pennsylvania, my husband's  
8 home county, actually, and we subsequently purchased a  
9 small business and operated it side by side -- yes, we  
10 worked together 24/7 for 20 years -- and we sold it last  
11 year. So now I have the time to fully engage in politics.

12 My appearance today has its origin in 2018.  
13 Three years ago, I attended a presentation by  
14 Fair Districts PA that was eye-opening, to say the least.  
15 I learned about the extent of gerrymandering in  
16 Pennsylvania and the real damage that results.

17 Gerrymandering has become increasingly  
18 sophisticated, enabling the carving of districts with  
19 surgical precision so that Legislators choose their voters  
20 instead of the other way around. Proof of this was the  
21 Turzai precinct data that was portrayed on a color-coded  
22 map with analysis provided by reporters and good government  
23 groups. The website Azavea -- that's a-z-a-v-e-a.com -- if  
24 you Google that name with "Turzai precinct data," you'll  
25 find the article that I am going to reference here.

1           That website detailed how the 2011 congressional  
2 map, which produced the nationally mocked 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional  
3 District, referred to as "Goofy kicking Donald Duck," which  
4 is -- I cannot believe that I live in a State that is  
5 nationally mocked. That's shameful. That district was  
6 meticulously drawn, or actually the entire map was  
7 meticulously drawn so as to both crack and pack Democratic  
8 voters, making the election of Republican candidates much  
9 more likely and entrenching the party's dominance in the  
10 congressional delegation.

11           And in the next three election cycles, that's  
12 exactly what happened. In 2012, 2014, 2016, the same  
13 13 districts elected Republicans and the same 5 districts  
14 elected Democrats. Entrenchment.

15           This information angered and propelled me to  
16 action. It shattered my complacency into thinking that  
17 gerrymandering really wasn't that harmful.

18           My county, Beaver, was made a pawn in the 2011  
19 map. Because Pennsylvania lost one congressional seat,  
20 two incumbent Democrats were drawn into the same district.  
21 The 4<sup>th</sup>, which included Beaver County, was substantially  
22 absorbed into the 12<sup>th</sup>. And as Suzanne Broughton so  
23 eloquently told you in the very beginning here,  
24 Jason Altmire was targeted for elimination. So from that  
25 same Azavea article, here's a direct quote providing

1 analysis of the 12<sup>th</sup> District:

2           “The 12<sup>th</sup> District’s odd shape -- with two masses  
3 on either end, include both Altmire and Critz’s home, as  
4 well as heavily Republican territory in the middle, making  
5 the combined district a Republican performing seat.”

6           As much as I disliked the 2011 map, I had the  
7 opposite reaction to finding myself in the court-remediated  
8 17<sup>th</sup> District in 2018. This district is much more compact,  
9 and public analysis by experts confirms that the map has  
10 removed the artificial Republican advantage from the State  
11 as a whole.

12           I am relieved that our State Constitution makes  
13 the explicit declaration that our elections shall be free  
14 and equal and that our Supreme Court legally and  
15 expeditiously gave the voters a fair map in 2018. That’s  
16 true, Mr. Kail. Your challenge is to heed the lesson and  
17 do likewise.

18           Last week, I attended another Fair Districts  
19 presentation, a statewide mapping conversation conducted  
20 via Zoom to hear from winning mappers who drew maps to  
21 specifications included in House Bill 22 currently sitting  
22 in the State Government Committee, your committee, awaiting  
23 a vote. This gathering of more than 100 people is a model  
24 for how the General Assembly should approach the task. The  
25 benefit of crowd sourcing is that good ideas get promoted.

1           We were presented several maps and heard from  
2 mappers their thoughts on what the trade-offs were in  
3 maximizing various criteria. Then we broke into smaller  
4 groups, aligning with where we reside, and we gave  
5 feedback. Everyone in my breakout group, including the  
6 mapper whose map we examined, agreed that the conversation  
7 was valuable for both mapper and viewers.

8           In order to best take advantage of the collective  
9 good ideas of Pennsylvanians, I make the following  
10 suggestions:

- 11  
12           1. Begin with a blank map. Do not use existing  
13 district cores as the basis for the new map,  
14 particularly now that we have lost another  
15 seat. I don't want Beaver County to be  
16 swallowed wholesale into another district.
- 17           2. Do not construct districts around the home  
18 addresses of incumbents. In this day and age  
19 with the tools available to us -- Internet;  
20 public input; we can draw our own maps --  
21 this is a relic that must be allowed to slip  
22 into the past, placing the incumbents in the  
23 center and drawing the districts around them.
- 24           3. Adhere to requirements as prescribed by legal  
25 precedent and applicable Federal laws, which

1                   of course I know you will.

2                   4. Consider regional similarities as the basis  
3                   for district cores.

4                   5. Publish all data being used by your mapper  
5                   and announce the criteria by which the map is  
6                   to be drawn. We want to understand what you  
7                   are drawing and why. I suggest limiting  
8                   political bias where possible. In naturally  
9                   occurring purple areas, candidates should be  
10                  prepared to earn the vote of constituents  
11                  regardless of party affiliation.

12                  6. Please make all citizen maps and comments  
13                  easily accessed by the public on your  
14                  redistricting website. The ability to create  
15                  tags and search by keywords, as the LRC has  
16                  done on their website, is commendable.  
17                  Please consider adding this feature.

18                  7. Allow adequate time for citizen review and  
19                  critique of the preliminary map and provide  
20                  explanation for any deviations from the  
21                  stated criteria.

22  
23                  And finally---

24  
25                  8. Provide explanations for any revised map.

1           I don't want to see the congressional map decided  
2 by litigation, and I know you don't. Please approach this  
3 important task in good faith and with full transparency.

4           Thank you for taking my comments into  
5 consideration.

6           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
7 your time and testimony today. We greatly appreciate it.

8           And I did skip over a testifier. Actually, we're  
9 going to go back. Barbara Grover.

10          Barbara, please come forward. I apologize for  
11 that. And then when you're comfortable and ready, please  
12 begin your testimony.

13          MS. GROVER: My name is Barbara Grover, and I  
14 live in Pittsburgh.

15          I am greatly concerned about the way the  
16 redistricting process is occurring now and the way it has  
17 occurred for over the past 50 years or more, and I have  
18 just three points to make.

19          Gerrymandering, as we have heard this morning,  
20 has constantly and consistently eroded the opportunity for  
21 competitive races to occur in each district. Some  
22 districts have become "safe" for Democrats and others for  
23 Republicans. I live in Allegheny County, and many of my  
24 representatives at the local, State, and Federal level are  
25 "safe" Democratic districts. This is not the way a

1 democracy should work. The current redistricting must  
2 result in allowing for competitive races in every district.

3 The process being used by State Senate and State  
4 House Committees is not easily accessed by the public.  
5 That's point two. To the best of my knowledge, no  
6 Pennsylvania government websites offer a citizen the  
7 opportunity to learn about proposed redistricting meetings,  
8 watch those meetings via Zoom, how to give testimony, or  
9 submit ideas for redistricting maps. This lack of  
10 transparency for the redistricting process is unacceptable.  
11 Redistricting defines how a citizen's voice can be heard  
12 for the next 10 years. Citizens must have access to the  
13 process and be able to offer comments about it.

14 Number three, given the time crunch faced by  
15 Legislators because the census data has only recently been  
16 made available, joint committee hearings between the House  
17 and Senate should occur immediately. However, it is my  
18 understanding that the Senate State Government Committee  
19 has not even started to set up such committee meetings.  
20 This delay is irresponsible and a dereliction of duty.  
21 These joint meetings must begin immediately and be  
22 accessible to the public.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much.  
25 We appreciate your time and your testimony this morning.

1           Next, Sean Meloy, Vice President of Political  
2 Programs at LGBTQ Victory Fund.

3           Sean, come on up. I appreciate your time, and  
4 when you're comfortable and ready, please begin.

5           MR. MELOY: Hello. I'm Sean Meloy. I am the  
6 Vice President of Political Programs at LGBTQ Victory Fund,  
7 the only nonpartisan group dedicated to electing LGBTQ  
8 people at all levels of government all across the country.  
9 I also serve on Governor Wolf's LGBTQ Affairs Commission  
10 and live here in Allegheny County. I'm also a proud  
11 Penn Stater.

12           An exciting project I'm leading at LGBTQ Victory  
13 Fund is our "We Belong Together" project, which embarks on  
14 a first of its kind national effort for the LGBTQ community  
15 to be accounted for when redistricting occurs this decade.

16           As you can see at [LGBTQredistricting.org](https://www.lgbtqredistricting.org), we have  
17 launched a toolkit to help educate allied organizations,  
18 elected officials such as yourselves, why LGBTQ people are  
19 a legitimate "community of interest" as designated under  
20 the Voting Rights Act; to help provide resources and  
21 information to advocates and organizations to engage  
22 redistricting authorities; and to help gather and provide  
23 the LGBTQ population data necessary to assist mapmakers.

24           Historically, LGBTQ people are largely absent  
25 from discussions on redistricting among redistricting



1 entities and elected officials, in media stories, and  
2 importantly, even within the LGBTQ movement itself. But we  
3 are still struggling for our basic rights under the law, so  
4 a focus on ensuring our government account for us in its  
5 data collection is a newer front in our fight for equality.

6           However, we know how consequential redistricting  
7 is for LGBTQ representation. A line drawn in the middle of  
8 a neighborhood with a large LGBTQ population, or even a  
9 line drawn to cut off a corner of that neighborhood, can be  
10 the difference between electing an LGBTQ person, an ally,  
11 or anti-LGBTQ bigot to office.

12           However, I hope we can count on you to help  
13 ensure LGBTQ people are considered a "community of  
14 interest" as we meet all the criteria under the 1982  
15 amendments to the Voting Rights Act, which makes it plain  
16 the LGBTQ community is a community of interest. It says  
17 that a community of interest should have a history of  
18 official discrimination, especially in education,  
19 employment, and health, a sad check; polarized voting, also  
20 a check; to the extent that political campaigns feature  
21 overt or subtle appeals against the community, also a  
22 check; and the degree that elected officials are  
23 unresponsive to the concerns of that community. I need not  
24 remind you, or maybe I should, that LGBTQ people can still  
25 be fired and kicked out of their homes for who they love in

1 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and children can still be  
2 tortured in a futile attempt to change who they are here in  
3 our State.

4           However, because of that same lack of concern for  
5 our well-being from our government, there is also still a  
6 lack of LGBTQ population data necessary to be seen as  
7 plainly as other communities of interest such as race,  
8 which is accounted for on the census.

9           Although we have some better data, having gained  
10 marriage equality over the last decade and same-sex  
11 marriage information is available from the American  
12 Community Survey of 2018, that does not reflect the full  
13 diversity of the LGBTQ community. However, you can help  
14 make sure that we're represented by looking at community  
15 data such as lists of LGBTQ orgs and their membership;  
16 areas where LGBTQ health and resource centers cover;  
17 locations of LGBTQ-owned businesses and nightlife  
18 locations; where hate crimes have sadly occurred; and even  
19 some sexual orientation/gender identity SOGI data that some  
20 municipalities have taken the initiative to collect. You  
21 can begin to see what neighborhoods and areas LGBTQ people  
22 are concentrated.

23           There are lots of neighborhoods that have known  
24 LGBTQ populations right here in Allegheny County --  
25 Lawrenceville, East Liberty, Shadyside, the Mexican War

1 Streets on the north side in Pittsburgh, and even towns  
2 like Crafton and Sharpsburg, which are emerging as LGBTQ  
3 families grow there, and those communities elect LGBTQ  
4 officials.

5 And studies show that Generation Z are now  
6 identifying at 16 percent as LGBTQ+, which means that any  
7 place where people under the age of 30 are moving is likely  
8 to be a hotbed of LGBTQ population.

9 However, despite our continued growth, LGBTQ  
10 people are underrepresented at all levels, especially in  
11 Congress and the Pennsylvania Legislature. Pennsylvania  
12 has never elected an out LGBTQ person to Congress or to  
13 statewide office, and only three serve in the entire  
14 Chamber of the House of Representatives.

15 Right now, just 986 LGBTQ elected officials exist  
16 in the entire United States, just .19 percent of elected  
17 positions in the United States, despite being at least  
18 5.6 percent of the population in the United States. We  
19 would need to elect 28,000 more people just to have an  
20 equitable representation at that 5.6 percent number.

21 LGBTQ people are severely underrepresented, and  
22 it comes with enormous consequences as we can see with  
23 anti-trans bills in State Legislatures and lack of  
24 protections for LGBTQ people in places just like here in  
25 Pennsylvania, which stands at odds with all of our fellow

1 New England and Mid-Atlantic States' neighbors.

2 This redistricting effort should tread new ground  
3 and ensure LGBTQ people are considered a "community of  
4 interest" and analyze the aggregate data to that end. And  
5 this is not a foreign concept. California's Redistricting  
6 Authority did exactly this in 2011, and it has led to them  
7 being a leader on LGBTQ representation, including several  
8 congressional, State legislative, and municipal districts  
9 that have a propensity to elect out LGBTQ people and allies  
10 that will effectively represent their constituents.

11 I implore you to ensure LGBTQ people are  
12 considered a "community of interest" so that we can have  
13 lines that are not purposely meant to divide our community,  
14 or any other community of interest. Please make sure that  
15 you keep those communities together.

16 Victory Fund stands ready to assist where we can,  
17 and I will include a copy of our "We Belong Together"  
18 toolkit in my supplemental materials, which can be seen at  
19 [www.LGBTQredistricting.org](http://www.LGBTQredistricting.org).

20 Thank you.

21 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
22 your testimony today and your time.

23 Next, we have Mr. Wesley Gadsden from  
24 One Pennsylvania. It's good to see you again. He  
25 testified at our election hearings, so he's becoming a

1 hearing expert.

2 MR. GADSDEN: Yeah, I get around. How are you  
3 doing?

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Good; good.

5 Whenever you're ready and comfortable, please  
6 feel free to begin your comments. So thank you.

7 MR. GADSDEN: Absolutely. You guys don't mind if  
8 I take my mask off? We're kind of far away. Okay; cool.

9 Well, good morning, House Members of the  
10 State Government Committee. I thank you guys for having me  
11 here today, and I appreciate you, first off, for just  
12 hearing me out and letting me testify today.

13 My name is Wesley Gadsden. I am the Statewide  
14 Field Director at One Pennsylvania. We are a community  
15 organization that works within a broad coalition of labor,  
16 faith, student organizations, the whole nine, working with  
17 communities across the State from Philadelphia to Allegheny  
18 County.

19 Our main work that we do is amplifying the voices  
20 in our communities that are underpaid, underserved, in our  
21 current economy. Right now, we're focusing on educating  
22 and mobilizing our neighbors to become informed and active  
23 voters in this political process.

24 We are extremely excited, I am extremely excited,  
25 our community members, my organization is extremely

1 excited, to have this once-in-a-decade opportunity to be  
2 able to really just make sure the maps are right, make sure  
3 the maps are inclusive, make sure that they are fair and  
4 make sure that they're equal, and just completely like  
5 nonpartisan. It's just about the people.

6           So from our extensive statewide work on racial  
7 equity, voting rights and access, and civic engagement, we  
8 know that elections, they're decided long before the  
9 election day in a lot of cases, and it's so crucial with  
10 this one chance we have right now in 2021 that racial  
11 equity is in the redistricting process to ensure equal  
12 rights and representation that actually reflects the people  
13 in the communities and making sure that they are having  
14 representation that is morally in line with them.

15           So with that being said, a couple of things that  
16 we do want to see that will help make that system a lot  
17 more equitable.

18           Number one is, like holding eight public hearings  
19 across the Commonwealth before the census data is released  
20 is a really good first step. We would like to really see  
21 two more after the September 30<sup>th</sup> date when census data is  
22 released again.

23           We would like to see these meetings scheduled in  
24 advance and provide options for virtual participation where  
25 everyone who wants to testify has the opportunity to. I

1 know this is a public hearing right now. The whole public  
2 doesn't know that we're in here doing this right now, you  
3 know, and we should make it more public.

4 Just going on from there, language interpretation  
5 should be offered for folks that are leaders in their  
6 communities and want to lift up the voices of their  
7 communities that may speak multiple languages.

8 We must set a standard for robust community  
9 engagement through the map-drawing process. This means  
10 actively reaching out to community members, educating, and  
11 seeking feedback, especially from impacted communities.  
12 I'm not just giving symbolic opportunities to be able to  
13 make a statement and nobody listens and nobody does  
14 anything about it.

15 Communities of color need to be engaged as active  
16 participants in determining how voting maps are drawn.  
17 Community members and voters want to see political maps  
18 drawn in 2021 that reflect the rapidly changing  
19 demographics of the Commonwealth and create opportunities  
20 for Black, indigenous, and other communities of color.  
21 Right now, historically, we have been undercounted,  
22 communities of color, in the census and have been left out  
23 of the redistricting process. That's why I'm here today.

24 We want to produce a truly equitable result. We  
25 have to throw out the old maps and start brand new. Like,

1 I feel like we're all here for the same reason today. I  
2 want to believe we all are. I have been doing work in  
3 politics for like 17 years, in a selfless way, not for  
4 myself, you know. I'm doing it to help people in the  
5 communities and make a difference, and I want to see  
6 people's lives improve for the best. And this doesn't just  
7 begin with like final maps; it's all about the process of  
8 the maps being created, and right now, the current district  
9 lines still do not account for the changes in PA.

10 And so we have seen communities of color growing  
11 at 12 times across the State of Pennsylvania. People of  
12 color make up 23 percent of Pennsylvania's total  
13 population. And as of 2018, the highest lawmaking body,  
14 the Legislature, you know, just look at the demographics  
15 right here between you and us. You know, it's really  
16 White. And we have to create seats at the table so that  
17 communities get the representation that they deserve and  
18 are constitutionally entitled to.

19 The bottom line is, both parties have been  
20 complicit in drawing these voting districts that  
21 disadvantage Pennsylvania's communities of color by  
22 choosing their voters rather than allowing voters to choose  
23 their representatives. Black, indigenous, communities of  
24 color, deserve the opportunity to elect representatives  
25 that reflect their communities' interests. And maps that



1 are not drawn with racial equity as a guiding principle  
2 will never be "fair" in any meaningful sense of this  
3 term.

4           So I just want to say, like, all of us, let's all  
5 work together. We need to work together. That's why we're  
6 here. That's what we're supposed to do, this democracy, to  
7 make fair and equitable maps. This is not a partisan issue  
8 at all.

9           And, like, just personally for me, I live in one  
10 of the two federally-mandated districts in Allegheny  
11 County, in House districts. I know this isn't a  
12 congressional hearing today. But the point is, I like  
13 living in a district where I know I have a representative  
14 that is representing my morals and representing my  
15 community and the things that I care about, and I would  
16 really like to see and have that same opportunity on the  
17 congressional level.

18           Just for me as a voter, it makes me excited to go  
19 vote when I know down the road I'm going to be able to have  
20 a Legislator that, oh, if I need to reach out to them, I'll  
21 be able to reach out to them, or they're thinking about  
22 what I need to reach out to them for before I have to.

23           But I thank you guys for coming together today  
24 and hearing us. I appreciate you. My name is  
25 Wesley Gadsden.

1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
2 your time and your testimony today. We greatly appreciate  
3 it.

4 MR. GADSDEN. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Our last testifier in  
6 person is Maureen Grosheider from Wexford.

7 Maureen, come on up, and when you're comfortable  
8 and ready, please begin.

9 MS. GROSHEIDER: Good morning.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide  
11 testimony to the House State Government Committee on the  
12 issue of congressional redistricting. This is an important  
13 and significant issue that will affect all Pennsylvanians.

14 My name is Maureen Grosheider. I am a resident  
15 of Allegheny County, and I reside in Marshall Township,  
16 which is in the very northwest corner of the county. I'm  
17 very close to Beaver County and also to Cranberry.

18 My background is in financial services, primarily  
19 benefit plans, and I have an MBA from the University of  
20 Pittsburgh. I served as a local Republican committeewoman  
21 for a number of years, and I have been a volunteer with  
22 Fair Districts Pennsylvania and with the Greater Pittsburgh  
23 League of Women Voters, as well as having served on my  
24 local school board as the school director for 20 years.

25 Serving as a school director in a district that

1 was represented by more than one State Representative  
2 provided me with one of my earliest lessons about the  
3 importance of drawing fair maps that help to create and  
4 support good government.

5 In fact, when I called one of the Legislators who  
6 represented our school district, represented only a very  
7 small portion of our school district, he didn't even  
8 realize that he represented any portion of the school  
9 district. Not a good look and not something that inspires  
10 confidence.

11 I have strong beliefs about redistricting in  
12 general, believing that districts should be compact,  
13 contiguous, as close in population as practicable, and  
14 share common interests so as to allow citizens in those  
15 districts to receive appropriate representation from their  
16 elected officials. Districts should not be packed,  
17 cracked, or designed simply to protect incumbents.

18 First, some comments about the process of drawing  
19 congressional districts.

20 The fact that we are having this hearing is  
21 evidence that you believe it's important to hear from  
22 constituents about their concerns and issues. I know that  
23 the Senate State Government Committee has also committed to  
24 doing hearings. From my perspective, it would have made  
25 far more sense for the two committees to schedule hearings

1 together rather than separately. Since both committees  
2 ultimately have to agree on a map, why ask citizens to say  
3 the same thing twice to two different groups?

4 In addition, information about the time and  
5 location of these hearings has been contained on the House  
6 GOP website rather than a nonpartisan website, making it  
7 more difficult for citizens to find. These facts don't  
8 help to provide confidence in the transparency and  
9 impartiality of the redistricting process, which is so  
10 crucial to restoring the confidence of Pennsylvania voters.

11 I am unaware of why this particular location was  
12 chosen for the hearing, but it's a difficult location for  
13 many to access, requiring either a car or a long bus ride  
14 and then a fairly significant walk. Given that this is to  
15 be the only Allegheny County hearing, a more central  
16 location would have been a better choice. In addition, it  
17 would have been helpful had an option for virtual testimony  
18 been provided to citizens. As you move forward with your  
19 subsequent hearings, I hope that you will consider those  
20 options, location and an option for virtual testimony.

21 At the time of the last redistricting, Allegheny  
22 County's population was 1,223,348, and based on the total  
23 census data, each congressional district was to contain  
24 around 710,000 people. Clearly, the population of  
25 Allegheny County called for more than one congressional

1 district but not the three that we got, Districts 12, 14,  
2 and 18. The three districts in 2011 were not designed to  
3 serve the interests of the citizens but rather to serve  
4 political interests. Results like that should not happen  
5 again during this round of redistricting.

6 I reside in what is currently the  
7 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which covers a significant  
8 portion of Allegheny County and all of Beaver County. This  
9 is due to the State Supreme Court ruling on the redrawing  
10 of the Pennsylvania congressional map in 2018. The  
11 17<sup>th</sup> District replaced my old district, which was the 12<sup>th</sup>,  
12 which had been drawn in 2011 and stretched from Johnstown,  
13 Pennsylvania, in Cambria County all the way to the Ohio  
14 border. It included parts of Cambria, Somerset,  
15 Westmoreland, Allegheny, Beaver, and a little sliver of  
16 Lawrence County.

17 While you can say that the district was  
18 contiguous, it was just barely so since a sliver of  
19 Congressional District 14 jutted into it. The old  
20 District 12 made absolutely no sense from a geographic  
21 perspective, nor did it reflect common interests or  
22 concerns by its constituents. The concerns of the voters  
23 in the Allegheny County portion of the 12<sup>th</sup> District truly  
24 did not mesh with the concerns of the voters in Johnstown  
25 in Cambria County.

1           In one example of the egregious gerrymandering of  
2 the 2011 map, two small boroughs on the northeast side of  
3 the Ohio River, Leetsdale and Edgeworth, were moved from  
4 their former home in District 12 into Congressional  
5 District 18 on the southwest side of the river, despite  
6 sharing a common school district and community events with  
7 neighboring municipalities also on the northeast side of  
8 the river. This was done purely for political purposes,  
9 not to provide good governance.

10           In that same 2011 map, the three Allegheny County  
11 congressional districts were drawn in such a way that in  
12 some locations, neighborhoods and even streets were split  
13 between the 18<sup>th</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 14<sup>th</sup>. Results like that  
14 should never occur again in a fair and impartial process,  
15 and I urge you not to replicate those kinds of maps.

16           Allegheny County's current population is  
17 1,250,578, an increase from 2010, albeit it's a fairly  
18 small increase. Based on the Pennsylvania population, each  
19 congressional district is going to be around 765,000  
20 people, give or take a few. While the county is not large  
21 enough to support one congressional district, it shouldn't  
22 be split more than two ways. A split larger than that  
23 would mean diluting citizen input.

24           Drawing redistricting maps is a tough, tough  
25 operation. It means balancing competing interests against

1 one another. That's very much like the legislative process  
2 where the art of compromise is very critical. It can be  
3 difficult, but with the technical tools that are now  
4 available, it's not insurmountable.

5 As you move forward in this process, I urge you  
6 to consider the following:

7 Think about the natural geographic boundaries of  
8 areas. How you get from here to there in Pennsylvania  
9 really matters. Rivers matter. Ridges matter. So you  
10 need to consider those things when you are drawing  
11 districts.

12 Please consider municipal and school district  
13 borders. As a former school board member, I feel really  
14 strongly about this. Sometimes the most important  
15 community of interest is in fact a school district, so you  
16 need to think very long and hard about that.

17 The methods for providing the public with easier  
18 accessibility to information about the process should be  
19 much more transparent, much easier for the average citizen  
20 to access.

21 I urge you also for a commitment to providing the  
22 public with sufficient time to review whatever maps you  
23 come up with and to provide input on those maps prior to  
24 any vote being scheduled.

25 You also need to provide a detailed explanation

1 of the reasons and the justification for whatever map you  
2 develop.

3           The truth is, some of us may not like the map  
4 that you develop. We may have our own personal opinions.  
5 But if you explain to us the rationale behind it and why  
6 certain maps are considered and others were rejected, most  
7 of us are reasonable people. We will accept that. So you  
8 need to be open and transparent with us.

9           Pennsylvanians need to believe that our  
10 Legislators hear what we are saying and are acting in good  
11 faith. Please, please help to restore our confidence by  
12 acting in a transparent and accountable manner and  
13 producing maps that are nonpartisan and unbiased.

14           Thank you very much for allowing me to  
15 participate in this process. It has been a great learning  
16 experience.

17           Thank you.

18           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much for  
19 your testimony.

20           That's all the in-person testimony we have had.  
21 I'm going to read through who provided written testimony  
22 for this hearing as of 10 a.m. on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, if  
23 individuals want to continue submitting testimony for this  
24 regional hearing, we are accepting that up until  
25 October 12<sup>th</sup> at [paredistricting.com](http://paredistricting.com):



1 Frederick A., Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania;  
2 Claire G., Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania;  
3 Jeremy B., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
4 Francisco E. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
5 Joseph S. from Glenshaw, Pennsylvania;  
6 Trevor R. from Oakdale, Pennsylvania;  
7 Fran H. from Munhall, Pennsylvania;  
8 Philip W. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
9 Suzanne G. from Wexford, Pennsylvania;  
10 Tim K. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
11 Preston S. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
12 Joanne G. from Swissvale, Pennsylvania;  
13 Catherine W. from South Park, Pennsylvania;  
14 Renee I. from Sewickley, Pennsylvania;  
15 Jeanne S. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
16 Joan P. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
17 Douglas M. from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania;  
18 Michael E. from Wexford, Pennsylvania;  
19 Patricia M. from Sewickley, Pennsylvania;  
20 Roberta E. from Oakmont, Pennsylvania;  
21 Susan W. from Sewickley, Pennsylvania;  
22 Maureen P. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
23 Kathleen H. from South Park Township;  
24 Sharon H. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
25 Peggi H. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

1 Kathleen M. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
2 Martina B. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
3 Laura H. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
4 Alan W. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
5 Mary O. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
6 Judith L. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
7 Elizabeth N. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
8 Marlene M. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
9 Joseph M. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
10 Carol B. from Wexford, Pennsylvania;  
11 George C. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
12 Mimi D. from Bridgeville, Pennsylvania;  
13 Kevin K. from Canonsburg, Pennsylvania;  
14 Maria G. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
15 Lawrence E. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
16 Annmarie R. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
17 Adrienne G. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;  
18 Robert H. from Wexford, Pennsylvania;  
19 Douglas M. from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania;  
20 Mary K. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and  
21 Kirk M. from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

22  
23 That's 46 written testifiers we have had for this  
24 hearing.

25 With that, I'll throw it over to Chairman Conklin

1 for closing comments.

2           MINORITY CHAIRMAN CONKLIN: I want to thank you.  
3 I want to thank the Legislature for coming out today. But  
4 most of all, I want to thank yinz for showing up here  
5 today.

6           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

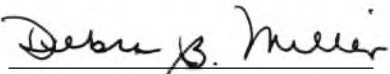
7           I also appreciate the individuals testifying in  
8 person and everybody submitting written testimony. Again,  
9 written testimony will be open from [paredistricting.com](http://paredistricting.com)  
10 until October 12<sup>th</sup>. Residents can also submit communities  
11 of interest and, at some point, submit maps to the  
12 Committee as well for our review, and obviously we have  
13 multiple ways to continue to comment on congressional  
14 redistricting.

15           With that, we are adjourned. Thank you.

16

17           (AT 11:12 a.m., the public hearing adjourned.)

1           I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings  
2 are a true and accurate transcription produced from video  
3 on the said proceedings and that this is a correct  
4 transcript of the same.

5  
6  
7 

8 *Debra B. Miller*

9 *Transcriptionist*

10 [dbmreporting@msn.com](mailto:dbmreporting@msn.com)