

PUBLIC MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FORT SMITH - GARDNER

LECTURE HALL

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

PROCEEDINGS

(Taken July 7th, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.)

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APPEARANCES

PRESENTER:

**JOE WOODSON, JR., REDISTRICTING COORDINATOR
ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT
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INDEX

STYLE AND NUMBER	1
APPEARANCES	2
PROCEEDINGS	4
PROCEEDINGS ENDED	76
COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	77-78

1 PROCEEDINGS

2
3 MR. WOODSON: That's me right there. I
4 am the redistricting coordinator for the
5 Board of Apportionment, and this is our
6 homepage, but our website -- if you ever need
7 to contact me or the Board, there's my phone
8 number, e-mail, mailing address. This is our
9 website, arkansasredistricting.org.

10 I just wanted to say a couple of things
11 to you. Many of you may have comments or
12 questions, and I'm going to be here tonight
13 until everybody gets a chance to say what
14 they want to say. We have a court reporter
15 here, and we have had a court reporter at all
16 of our meetings, because our main purpose of
17 these meetings is to get input, and we want
18 to make a record of that. So I would ask you
19 if you do have a question or a comment,
20 please stand at the microphone and say your
21 name and speak into the microphone so that
22 our court reporter can get a record of it.

23 Having said that, we're going to get to
24 some maps in about 15 minutes. I want to
25 open with several sort of introductory

1 comments. We've got many elected officials
2 here, several members of the General
3 Assembly. All of those members have just
4 gone through the congressional redistricting
5 process; and so a lot of you already know
6 most, if not all, of what I'm about to say.
7 But some of you may not know all of it or a
8 bunch of it so I want to sort of lay the
9 ground work.

10 Is the feedback okay? Is it too much,
11 too much --

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's still too
13 much.

14 MR. WOODSON: Too much?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're over
16 driving a little bit.

17 MR. WOODSON: What did she say?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're over
19 driving it on the amp a little bit.

20 MR. WOODSON: How's that? A little
21 better?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's good.

23 MR. WOODSON: Okay. But I want to sort
24 of get us all on the same page with sort of
25 what the process is and what the law is. To

1 do that, let me start with an extreme
2 example. In Arkansas, we've got 35 state
3 senate seats. Let's say, for example, that
4 instead of 35, we only had two state senate
5 seats, and let's say we drew a map that said
6 everybody in this room gets to elect one
7 state senator and the other 2.9 million
8 people get to elect the second state senator.
9 Well, it would be immediately apparent that
10 most of us in this room have a
11 disproportionate influence on the process.
12 And so I use that to say that the first goal
13 of redistricting is to equalize the
14 population within the districts. For
15 decades, even the Arkansas Constitution calls
16 for redistricting.

17 Prior to World War II and even a little
18 bit after, all around the country, a lot of
19 jurisdictions just simply wouldn't do it
20 because nobody cared. But beginning in the
21 '60s, the U.S. Supreme Court started to care,
22 and they mandated that all districts -- I
23 don't know why I'm feeding back -- all
24 districts should be equal size in population,
25 and that's the one person, one vote that we

1 all hear about.

2 Now, one of the things that I'm going to
3 talk about in a minute is the difference
4 between congressional districts and
5 legislative districts. But the whole reason
6 we're having to do this is because once every
7 ten years the constitution mandates it. The
8 Supreme Court says we've got to hit equal
9 population numbers. And so the U.S. Census
10 did their job last year in 2010, and early
11 this year they released their figures. And
12 those figures said that Arkansas had
13 2,915,000 people as of 2010. Well, if you
14 divide that number by 100 house seats, you
15 get a target number of 29,159. If you divide
16 that number by 35 senate seats, you get a
17 target number of 83,311.

18 Now, unlike the four congressional seats
19 that the general assembly just got through
20 drawing, those had to be almost identical in
21 population size, less than 1 percent
22 difference. We get a little bit of leeway
23 when we're drawing state house and senate
24 seats. We get an overall range of 10
25 percent. So, for example, if our target was

1 100 people, you could have the smallest
2 district be 95 and the largest be 105, a ten
3 person or a 10 percent overall range
4 difference.

5 If you take that same example, apply it
6 to our target senate number plus 5 percent
7 it's 87,000, ninety-five percent of that
8 figure is 79. So what that means for our 35
9 state senate seats, we could have a senate
10 seat as small as 79,000 people and one as
11 large as 87,000 and still be within the legal
12 variance.

13 Now, here's the problem. If you look at
14 a heat map of Arkansas, these are the current
15 Arkansas senate districts (indicating). All
16 of these green in the southern half of the
17 state and in the eastern part of the state,
18 those are underpopulated relative to the
19 population growth in Central and Northwestern
20 Arkansas. So what that means is those
21 districts have to grow geographically to pull
22 in the right number. For example, let me
23 zoom in here, Senate District 24 down here,
24 it needs 83,000 people, but it's only got
25 68,000 people; so it's short 15,000 people.

1 And it's immediately apparent to all of us
2 that this growth has to come from somewhere.

3 Now, if you look at Western Arkansas,
4 Fort Smith, Van Buren, these districts right
5 in here (indicating) 3, 13, 6, 4, 2, these
6 are just slightly overpopulated. The ones in
7 white theoretically they stay the same. But
8 the problem is all the districts to the south
9 are hungry for people and the districts in
10 Washington and Benton Counties have to shrink
11 because they're overpopulated; so that's
12 going to have a ripple effect on us here in
13 the western part of the state. You see the
14 similar -- oh, and by the way, if y'all have
15 any questions or comments, feel free to stop
16 me. I don't want to just give you a speech,
17 I'm interested in a conversation more than
18 that -- similar patterns for the house
19 districts.

20 Okay. So now we know we've got to -- let
21 me show you one other thing. This is just
22 very interesting. A good example of the loss
23 of population is this: Apparently, in south
24 Arkansas, you've got eight -- one, two,
25 three, four, five, six, seven, eight --

1 senate districts. If you take their current
2 actual population that's 573,000, if you
3 divide by the target senate number, you get
4 6.88. So, in other words, everything under
5 that black line will now hold -- support
6 seven senate districts instead of eight; so
7 they're, quote, losing a district. And
8 that's what I mean when I say that.

9 Conversely, if you go to Washington and
10 Benton Counties, those two counties
11 apparently have four senate districts, but
12 they have almost exactly an 83,000 person
13 growth. So instead of four districts, they're
14 going to add a state senate seat because the
15 population will support that.

16 Okay. Now that we've got -- we know that
17 we've got to move the map around to get to
18 our population targets. The question
19 becomes, how do we do that, and what are our
20 criteria for doing that? We just talked
21 about one person, one vote. There's the
22 difference in the congressional districts
23 versus the legislative districts, and that's
24 because they've got two different standards
25 in the U.S. Constitution.

1 Next, we've got to look at the Voting
2 Rights Act of 1965, and that's federal
3 legislation that says you can't discriminate
4 against racial or language minorities. At
5 the same time, you've got the equal
6 protection clause of the 14th Amendment,
7 which says you really can't draw a minority
8 district exclusively based on race,
9 especially if you disregard all of our other
10 redistricting principles, which I'm about to
11 show you, but they give us a couple of
12 exceptions to that rule. It says if you're
13 trying to avoid a voting rights act
14 violation, Section 2 or Section 5 or you're
15 trying to remedy past discrimination, then it
16 might be okay to be more focused in on race.
17 And so those are a couple of things that we
18 have to be very aware of when we're drawing
19 our map. And all of these bullet points are
20 what the courts call "traditional
21 redistricting principles."

22 Next, the maps need to be geographically
23 contiguous. That simply means that you can't
24 have an island. So if you've got 95 percent
25 of one district here (indicating), and then

1 unconnected geographically, you've got an
2 island part of a district over there
3 (indicating), you can't do that. It wouldn't
4 be geographically compact. A circle or a
5 square probably would be the perfect example
6 of a compact district. In practice, all
7 districts have some irregularity in shape.
8 But the point there is the more bizarre the
9 shape of the district, the less the courts
10 like it, you know, you get into the
11 traditional sort of gerrymandering, spidery-
12 looking arms, and that sort of thing. The
13 courts don't like that.

14 These five down through here
15 (indicating), I want you to take notice of
16 these qualifying words here (indicating),
17 minimize where possible, minimize. The
18 courts use those kinds of qualifying
19 language, which means all of these aren't
20 absolute, but they're sort of our best
21 practices. They're a goal to shoot for.
22 Nevertheless, we need to try to minimize
23 splitting political subdivisions like
24 counties, cities, voting precincts, et
25 cetera.

1 Maintain the core of existing districts
2 where possible. Historically, you know, what
3 has been the heart of the district, try to
4 keep that in the same district if you can.

5 Maintain continuity of representation.
6 That means where you can, try to keep
7 incumbents from running against each other.
8 The rationale there is that if any given
9 district has elected somebody once, they
10 ought to get the chance to elect them again.

11 Communities of interest. That's sort of
12 the catch phrase for all of redistricting;
13 what do communities have in common; what does
14 the River Valley have in common with the
15 Ozark, Ouachita Mountains, if anything; what
16 do the public school systems look like; what
17 do the economies look like; what's the
18 culture look like? I think the best
19 paraphrase of all is which Wal-Mart do the
20 people go to? And in Arkansas, you know,
21 that will tell you a lot about your community
22 of interest, you know, which Wal-Mart you're
23 going to go to.

24 And minimize partisanship. The most
25 recent Supreme Court case said it's possible

1 to bring a lawsuit about one party
2 gerrymandering the other, but what they didn't
3 tell us is what you can and can't do in that
4 context; so we need to be very cautious
5 there. And I think that would be the wise
6 thing to do in terms of partisanship.

7 A couple of caveats, I just said this,
8 nothing is absolute. Even the first rule,
9 the target population theoretically could be
10 violated, in other words, you could be
11 outside of that 10 percent range. And
12 there's actually been some court cases where
13 jurisdictions did exceed that variance, and
14 it was held to be constitutional. So even
15 that, sort of the Holy Grail of
16 redistricting, can be violated theoretically,
17 and so can all of these others if you've got
18 a good enough reason to do it. I don't
19 anticipate that we have violated any of
20 these, but I just want to make the point that
21 it's not absolute in that sense.

22 Another thing is these are court-made
23 rules, all these bullet points. And over the
24 decades, since the '60s, the U.S. Supreme
25 Court and the Arkansas Supreme Court, they

1 developed all these rules to essentially keep
2 one party from taking unfair advantage over
3 the other. And so I think some people have
4 the impression that, you know, redistricting
5 is sort of the Wild West and, you know, can
6 just completely redraw a map. I don't think
7 that's possible given the way the population
8 is and what the court rules are, at least not
9 without having a defensible plan. Okay. Any
10 questions or comments about that?

11 We're getting close to the maps, which is
12 the reason why we're here. I said this is
13 our website, it's got a lot of good stuff on
14 it. It tells you about the Board, tells you
15 about the process right through here
16 (indicating). You can go back and reread all
17 of this. I just gave you the thumbnail
18 version of all this through here. You go to
19 the bottom and here's the bullet points
20 again; we've got a calendar; here we are on
21 the 7th. The following proposed maps come
22 out on the 19th on the website. We're going
23 to have one more public meeting in Little
24 Rock on the 25th, which is going to be at the
25 -- I haven't put it on the website yet, but

1 The Association of Arkansas Counties building
2 right here by the Capitol. That's going to
3 be the 25th for final public comment, that's
4 a Monday.

5 On Friday the 29th, the Board is actually
6 going meet to adopt a plan. So after these
7 -- certainly you can before, but especially
8 after these maps come out on the 19th, if you
9 have an issue or a concern, then you're going
10 to have another chance to comment on that
11 before they vote on a plan to become final.

12 Resources, we've got a lot of websites
13 there. You can go back and reread the
14 transcripts of our other meetings and all the
15 other documents we've accumulated.

16 Last, but not least, we've got the maps.
17 You go over here and click on this maps tabs,
18 click on draft maps, we've got draft senate,
19 draft house, and miscellaneous maps, which
20 are, you know, requested or drawn by a third
21 party.

22 Let me read my disclaimers here. There's
23 been some confusion about that. I just want
24 to make it clear that I -- all the maps
25 available on the website that have been

1 posted, they're just possible versions,
2 they're for discussion purposes only, and
3 that's what we've got tonight. None of these
4 maps have been endorsed by the Board. The
5 maps stand independently of each other; so
6 they're not really progressions. If you look
7 at more recent map -- like we're going to
8 look at one here, independent, that I drew on
9 June 29th, it's not really -- I mean, I took
10 some things into consideration, but it's not
11 necessarily an evolution of an earlier map.

12 Final maps released on the 19th. And the
13 reason why we're here tonight is to receive
14 input prior to the release of the final maps.
15 And so I know at some of our other meetings,
16 people have shown up saying, "Well, where are
17 the proposed maps?" And they're not here
18 yet, and that caused some confusion and some
19 frustration, but I just want to make that
20 clear that we're not quite there yet.

21 But having said that, let's start looking
22 at some maps. I thought we would look at
23 some senate maps first, and then we can look
24 at some house maps. And what we want to know
25 is what do you like and what you don't like.

1 And from my perspective, an objection to
2 the map or somebody saying they like the map,
3 those are equally good, in my opinion,
4 because I have your information so that the
5 court reporter can take it down and the staff
6 of all three officers can go back and distill
7 all of that and take it into consideration
8 and make an informed decision when they
9 release the final maps. So I want
10 information. You're not going to hurt my
11 feelings if you say I hate that or, you know,
12 I love that or . . . I get more of the I hate
13 that than the I love that.

14 Anyway, let's look at -- start with the
15 senate maps right here (indicating). I'm
16 clicking on our software. This is how we
17 actually draw the maps. And on the boards
18 back here, I put up two of the versions, one
19 was drawn by me, one by the secretary of
20 state's staff. Any map is open for
21 discussion, but I picked those two from the
22 senate because I thought they were, you know,
23 a couple of the better ones, and I thought
24 for discussion purposes, they would serve our
25 purposes better.

1 Okay. Here is the statewide map of June
2 29th. I'll focus in here, and you can see
3 immediately that the district boundaries have
4 changed. Senate 20 is a good example of a
5 district being hungry for population, because
6 all of those counties down the western border
7 of the state, Southwestern Arkansas, are
8 hungry for population so they're reaching up.
9 Fort Smith actually stayed almost identical
10 to itself; so it didn't change a lot.

11 Senator Laverty, Senate District 2, I
12 pulled it down in through here primarily
13 because the mountains, you know, this is the
14 River Valley (indicating), that's a mountain
15 (indicating). Senate District 6, shrunk,
16 Senator Holland, I think, right here
17 (indicating). So with that, I'll open the
18 floor to questions, comments, concerns. And
19 again, we can look at any map, it doesn't
20 have to be this one. But we want to hear
21 what you like and what you don't like.
22 That's, I guess, the best way to put it
23 simply.

24 BILL TAYLOR: Why is Crawford County
25 63,000 people and you're tying it to

1 Franklin, Johnson, Newton, Madison Counties?

2 MR. WOODSON: Well, in broad strokes,
3 because you've got to go somewhere, and this
4 --

5 BILL TAYLOR: Well, I understand that.

6 MR. WOODSON: This is my process. I'm
7 just talking out loud. You look at
8 Washington and Benton County, and, you know
9 they've got dense population; so I drew two
10 districts here (indicating); you've got
11 Fayetteville, you've got Senator Pritchard.
12 We've stretched -- I've gone blank, no --
13 Hendren. We stretch him all the way down
14 here (indicating). And to answer your
15 question, because of the more densely
16 populated areas in here are Fort Smith and
17 Van Buren, these counties were still short of
18 population. And so on this particular map, I
19 went west to grab it because -- I actually
20 sort of worked my way from east to west, and
21 it's really no more magical than that.

22 LESLEE POST: What would have happened if
23 you would have just kept Crawford and
24 Franklin? What would your number have been?
25 And, I guess that's what Senator Whitaker's

1 current seat is.

2 MR. WOODSON: I don't know off the top of
3 my head. Let me do this back here, though.

4 BILL TAYLOR: I have a great concern
5 because of the area.

6 LESLEE POST: If you do what you're
7 proposing, we would lose. Our county would
8 be cut up, Crawford County and Franklin
9 County (inaudible).

10 MR. WOODSON: Let me -- by way of
11 comparison, let me draw (inaudible). This is
12 the May 5 senate map. Does one or the other
13 work better or neither of the them work?

14 LESLEE POST: I'd just like to know what
15 the reasoning is for cutting it up.

16 MR. WOODSON: I can't speak for the May 5
17 map. From my map, nothing other than
18 population in Fort Smith and the Senate 6
19 were --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But Van Buren is a
21 large area already. Why would you cut
22 Crawford? Crawford County is a large --
23 (multiple speakers).

24 MR. WOODSON: Well, just simply because
25 there's (inaudible) progression in the map.

1 I can hit my numbers and then keep the
2 districts fairly compact; that's the
3 reasoning. And if you go back to the bullet
4 points, try to -- based on what I know about
5 the area, what I know about the districts,
6 which admittedly, sitting in an office in
7 Little Rock may not be enough or accurate, I
8 would try to keep what, from my perspective,
9 are similar communities together. That's the
10 reasoning behind it. But I'm glad to hear if
11 y'all are saying or if anyone is saying that
12 doesn't work, it should be drawn a different
13 way.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a concern
15 because they've already split our county up
16 on the congressional. And as a county clerk
17 and putting in the voters into system, this
18 is even making more precinct splits. In the
19 long run, it's going to change all of our --
20 our JP districts. We're going to have more
21 splits than I know what to do with. And --
22 and why not keep the county at least somewhat
23 together compared to splitting it up like
24 that?

25 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Well, maybe it

1 should be done that way. I'm not saying any
2 of these maps are the way they should be
3 done, but it's a possibility.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, they've
5 already split the city of Alma apart. I
6 mean, now look what is being done. I mean,
7 go somewhere else. I mean, this -- this is
8 -- this is a nightmare. This is a nightmare
9 for the voter registration in Crawford
10 County.

11 MR. WOODSON: And you're talking about
12 the June 29th map? Is that --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All these and the
14 congressional.

15 MR. WOODSON: Well, one of the things I
16 did earlier in the process, on May 4th, I
17 drew a map that had Van Buren connected all
18 the way up, halfway through Benton County.
19 And I heard from several people from Van
20 Buren, some of them may be in the room, they
21 said, "Don't do that. We don't have anything
22 in common with the people in, you know,
23 southern Benton County, you know, we're River
24 Valley, they're mountains," and all that
25 stuff. And so that's one of the things I

1 took into consideration trying to keep Fort
2 Smith and Van Buren separate and apart from
3 those districts.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I --
5 personally I don't agree with the one that's
6 spitting Alma, but no one asked me so . . .

7 MR. WOODSON: Well, we're asking that; we
8 want to know.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, it's
10 already done. But if we can stop this from
11 happening, I think it needs to not happen.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

13 BILL TAYLOR: Well, the other thing too
14 is, is you've got -- Crawford County is
15 steadily a growing part of the state like
16 Washington County and Sebastian County. In
17 fact, we grew considerably (inaudible). And
18 why is it all at once we've got to tie our
19 self in (inaudible) the north part of the
20 state and Washington and Benton County
21 compact their's down?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we're going to
23 continue growing.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That last map you
25 showed, did it keep all of Crawford County in

1 the same district?

2 MR. WOODSON: This is the June 29th. The
3 southern half of Crawford County goes in
4 Senate 6 and the northern two-thirds would go
5 in Senate 2.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, fan that back
7 please. (Inaudible). Here's the issue that
8 I've got with this map and with one of the
9 other maps, which is the May 4th map and
10 that's the one you're referring to that split
11 the city Van Buren as you mentioned -- you
12 referred to earlier, look at the current
13 senate districts, I think it's 1, 2, 3, 4,
14 13, the current, those are all within
15 Holland's. And I understand you had the, you
16 know, ripple effect of moving -- of having a
17 move. And if you look at Northwest Arkansas
18 and you have their total and you divide by 5,
19 you can redistrict in Northwest Arkansas.
20 But what's happening on this map on the May
21 4th map is not just a ripple effect, because
22 you've taken and violated -- and I say
23 violated, but we've worked around five of the
24 seven bullets that drive the redistricting
25 process, not just the numbers. But this map

1 would make more (inaudible) the way they
2 split, Number 1, has to do with, you know,
3 geographically compact areas where you were
4 going from Crawford County all the way up to
5 the -- the northern border of Arkansas, which
6 would change the district boundaries, would
7 change the representation, would change, you
8 know, the common interests. So I think those
9 two maps, to me, they go well beyond what
10 we've seen before because, again, we've gone
11 from districts that really don't need to be,
12 to a wild, you know, redraw. And I think --
13 I mean, again, I understand some impact,
14 minimal impact, but both of these don't do
15 that. And when I looked at the house maps,
16 they seemed to, you know, follow those lines.
17 So those two maps, May 4th and June 29th map,
18 to me, just don't make sense.

19 MR. WOODSON: Good. Let me ask you a
20 question. Part of what you're saying -- I
21 tried to drop the current district
22 boundaries. For some reason, it's not
23 popping it up. But we want to keep all
24 Crawford together, right?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

1 MR. WOODSON: Tell me about the -- and
2 see, this isn't bad when you're sitting in an
3 office in Little Rock (inaudible). I sort of
4 have in my mind, the communities of interest
5 are different, and they're roughly divided
6 between the valley and mountain. Talk to me
7 about that. Is that incorrect? Is it good
8 the way this keeps Crawford together?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think it's good
10 to keep Crawford together. I think we've got
11 to move the lines that we (inaudible) maybe
12 to Franklin or somewhat more south, not to
13 the northeast as this shows. Again, we're
14 going from Cedarville to Jasper.

15 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. And that's a
16 problem. Let me say just to comment on that,
17 Number 1, excellent comments not only in
18 substance, but in form. If you can couch
19 your comments to me or anybody else, any of
20 the staff members from the three
21 constitutional offices in the context of
22 those bullet points, then you're really
23 speaking our language. Because, admittedly,
24 we can get sort of this narrow focus and
25 we're obsessed with getting population

1 figures exactly right, and it's easy to lose
2 sight of the things that you just said.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I empathize
4 with you, and I appreciate what you're doing
5 because you're trying to do same thing at the
6 local level. And you can take the software
7 and, say, draw lines and do it by population,
8 and you're going to end up with all sorts of
9 mathematical formulas, but when you look at
10 it, you go, "Wait a minute, does it really
11 make sense?"

12 MR. WOODSON: That's right.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what can
14 minimize that impact? And I think there are
15 a couple of other maps that do a better job
16 minimizing the impact. And again, I say,
17 well, why don't we just leave some of those
18 districts alone because they're within
19 tolerance anyway.

20 MR. WOODSON: Right, yeah. Yeah.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Woodson, do
22 you know off the top of your head what maps
23 -- which ones are you referring to?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think the May
25 5th map. I've looked at all of them again

1 today. I think the May 5th map is a little
2 bit closer.

3 MR. WOODSON: Here's the May 5th map.
4 Does that work there for you, the --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Better than the
7 May 4th and better than the June 29th, yes,
8 sir.

9 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because, again,
11 we're going into southern Washington if we
12 have to (inaudible).

13 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: But, sir,
14 doesn't southern Washington County have more
15 in connection with northern Crawford than,
16 say, Newton, Madison, Carol, and Boone
17 culturally?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

19 MR. WOODSON: Say that again, ma'am.

20 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: What I would
21 say is southern Washington County has more in
22 line with northern Crawford -- northern,
23 middle -- the middle county of Crawford
24 county than does Madison, Newton, Carol, and
25 Boone Counties culturally.

1 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, yeah.

2 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: As a matter of
3 fact, in that north central part of Arkansas,
4 it will take Harrison as kind of a hub. The
5 seven counties including Boone County -- the
6 seven counties surrounding Boone County being
7 Carol, Newton, Searcy, Baxter, Marion, et
8 cetera, the main commercial center for that
9 area is Harrison. It divided Harrison and
10 Mountain Home culturally, and has been for 50
11 years. And then of those people, it's kind
12 of like there's a middle line with Baxter and
13 Marion Counties and so on that the people in
14 Harrison, if they want more on a retail
15 basis, they'll come to Fayetteville and
16 Springdale, et cetera. The ones in Mountain
17 Home a lot of times will even go to Little
18 Rock or Jonesboro.

19 MR. WOODSON: And what was your name?

20 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: I'm Jean
21 McClellan-Chambers.

22 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

23 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Sorry.

24 MR. WOODSON: That's for the court
25 reporter. Excellent point. One way I've

1 sort of discovered this is what (inaudible)
2 is your community in. You know, I used the
3 Wal-Mart example, but another good example of
4 the way you put it, you know, where do people
5 go to shop? Do they go to Harrison, do they
6 go to Mountain Home, do they go, you know, to
7 Fayetteville or Rogers or whatever? I think
8 y'all told us a lot already about what we
9 need to know for this area of the state. As
10 you pointed out, sir, I don't think anybody's
11 going to get exactly what they want, but I
12 think the Board and all the staff really want
13 to do what makes sense and accommodate
14 communities as much as they can and as much
15 as possible.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think the
17 example of the May 4th map (inaudible) Van
18 Buren. If you're looking at minimizing
19 impact, that goes, you know, way out. All of
20 a sudden it goes from Van Buren to Siloam
21 Springs one direction, and you're all the way
22 down to where Hartford is in the other
23 direction.

24 MR. WOODSON: I'll pull that up. And you
25 can go look at all these on the . . . here's

1 the May 4th. Yeah, it goes all the way up,
2 halfway to Benton, down to Van Buren. I
3 heard you loud and clear on that a few weeks
4 ago. I've tried to avoid doing that as much,
5 but . . .

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Again, that one
7 looks like it was drawn by, you know,
8 mathematical formulas of what will fit.

9 MR. WOODSON: Good. Okay. What else?
10 Is there any different concerns --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The June 29th map.

12 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir.

13 PERRY MIKLES: I would just like to make
14 a statement on behalf of Logan County Judge,
15 Gus Young; long-time Paris Mayor, Bill
16 Elskan; present Paris Mayor, Daniel Rogers;
17 Booneville Mayor, Jerry Wilkins; Magazine
18 Mayor, Stanley McConnell; Blue Mountain
19 Mayor, Dale Dickens; former long-time
20 Danville Mayor, John Ed Chambers; present
21 Danville Mayor, Steve Pfeiffer; former
22 Representative, Nathan George; and former
23 Representative, John Paul Wells.

24 We want to strongly urge you -- in fact
25 this map isn't bad at all. Logan and Yell

1 County would like to be drawn together. It
2 has been 53 years since there has been a
3 state senator from Logan County. It has been
4 31 years since there has been one from Yell
5 County. In Logan County it is totally
6 dominated in the senatorial deal by Sebastian
7 County; Yell County is totally dominated by
8 the city of Russellville.

9 I know we -- when I say I know, it is
10 their opinion, we're in the same judicial
11 district; we're small rural counties in
12 Arkansas; we have the same tourist
13 attraction, Mt. Magazine, Lake Dardanelle, so
14 forth; we have the same type of economies; we
15 both have lost major employers in the last
16 five years. You put us with Franklin County,
17 Johnson County, wherever, there's no
18 connection between putting us with two big
19 metropolitan areas that can totally dominate
20 us. And I -- to be honest with you, I've
21 checked with -- I work for John Ed Chambers,
22 and I did my checking the last two days, and
23 I have not had one person, not one single
24 person say that they didn't agree with us,
25 and I talked to everyone I could get ahold

1 of. And I'm not saying this is the map we
2 want, but something like that. We prefer to
3 be in with counties that we have something in
4 common with, and that isn't a bad-looking
5 deal to us.

6 MR. WOODSON: And your name?

7 PERRY MIKLES: Perry Mikles.

8 MR. WOODSON: All right. Thanks for the
9 comments. Like I say, you know, good and
10 bad, I want to hear it all. That sort of
11 illustrates the problem if you -- maybe we
12 get two or three districts down here that
13 work, we get four or five up here that work,
14 and then we find out, well, this doesn't work
15 for Crawford County. And so what we've got
16 to do is go back and reshuffle the deck again
17 and try to come up with a way that it does
18 work here for Crawford County, but not, you
19 know -- not mess these up too much so that --
20 you know, it's trying to thread the needle in
21 all those. Yes, sir?

22 KEVIN: My name is Kevin (inaudible). My
23 question is: Why does Madison County stay
24 whole in every map I've seen -- the two maps?

25 MR. WOODSON: There's not very many

1 people there.

2 KEVIN: Well, it's ironic every other
3 county is getting split, but Madison stays
4 whole instead of east to west of the northern
5 section, because Madison, Washington, and
6 Benton Counties and Carol Counties have more
7 in common than Franklin, Johnson, and
8 Madison.

9 MR. WOODSON: The short answer is that
10 when you start drawing maps, you soon
11 discover that you can start out with a basic
12 premise for a map and that influences the way
13 the map ends up looking. If you start out in
14 a certain area of the state, you know -- if
15 you start out in Northwest Arkansas, it's
16 going to look different than Southeast
17 Arkansas by the time you get there and work
18 your way around to it.

19 I say all that to say on this particular
20 map, I was trying to keep whole counties
21 together as much as possible. If you look at
22 all these Southern Arkansas districts, I was
23 dragging whole counties, and so I was trying
24 to stay true to that theme up here. And I
25 got Washington and Benton nice and tight and

1 I got three whole counties here and I did the
2 River Valley, but I'm still short of people
3 so I pushed it west; so that's why. It may
4 not -- the result may be very bad, but that's
5 the reason why.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your premise in
7 Newton County, Crawford County is nothing
8 alike (inaudible). Newton County, Carol
9 County, Madison, and Washington (inaudible)
10 more like together.

11 (MULTIPLE SPEAKERS)

12 MR. WOODSON: I'm not arguing with you,
13 but tell me why they're not alike because I
14 want to hear that.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, because
16 they've got 412 going through all the way
17 through over to Harrison and it goes up. And
18 so you've got Huntsville and the 412 area
19 there that they all come together.

20 Unfortunately, the tunnel that divides us
21 should be uniting us, but it doesn't right
22 now, and Franklin, Johnson, and Crawford have
23 more in common than they do with Madison,
24 Newton, and Boone.

25 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Newton, if I

1 may, sir?

2 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

3 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Jean. Newton
4 County traditionally goes into Boone and that
5 direction for all their support, commercial
6 business, and so on, and it's been that way
7 for as long as I can remember.

8 MR. WOODSON: And, of course,
9 (inaudible), and I'm not saying that
10 Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson do have much
11 of anything in common with these. The
12 primary problem here is it's short. These
13 are likely possible counties, and so you've
14 got to reach out, you know, east, west, or
15 south. In this particular example, I went
16 south. I hear you loud and clear, that's a
17 very bad idea. But I just want to illustrate
18 the point that that's how I got that on this
19 one.

20 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Sir, take a
21 look at the Kings River which divides Carol
22 County and go south. That's kind of like a
23 geographic division line in Carol, and it
24 kind of carries on down into Madison between
25 the cultural differences, and they flow this

1 -- and they flow either way from that.

2 MR. WOODSON: Right. And that's
3 frequently the case in a lot of different
4 areas. Okay. I hear you loud and clear.

5 BILL TAYLOR: One more comment, Joe. You
6 know, legislature has dealt with this
7 situation and calling it the "Fayetteville
8 finger." And there's not much difference
9 with the Crawford County finger.

10 MR. WOODSON: Especially if you live
11 there and you don't like it. We can continue
12 talking about, you know, those districts or
13 any other districts we haven't talked about
14 or areas in Western Arkansas.

15 LESLEE POST: I think it's just -- Leslee
16 Post state representative for District 83. I
17 serve Franklin and Crawford County, and I
18 live in Franklin County. I think it's just
19 as important to note that -- I'd like to note
20 that I think Franklin goes very well with
21 probably Logan County and Johnson County in
22 the services that we provide and are alike
23 and cooperation, and currently we're with
24 Crawford County. And it's not that we are
25 not a like county, but we're more of a rural

1 county as Logan and Johnson. However, the
2 comments that were made earlier as far as
3 Logan County not being split and being able
4 to be the controlling county and Yell being
5 the controlling county, I'd like to comment
6 to that. I think it's very important to note
7 that that's not what this process is about is
8 to have one county controlling the other
9 counties. I think we're fair. We're trying
10 to be very conscious in making sure that that
11 doesn't happen in this process and that we
12 want to avoid that. And I don't want to be
13 in an area -- I don't want to be a part of an
14 area where I know that my county that I live
15 in has no possibility of ever having
16 representation. The area that I'm in, it's
17 been 30 years since they've had a
18 representative -- that's had any
19 representation, and I want to avoid that from
20 happening.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sir, I didn't mean
22 to imply control anything. I was talking
23 about kept from being controlled, not
24 controlling.

25 LESLEE POST: But I see that this map

1 that we had drawn right here where Franklin
2 County and the top of Johnson County of what
3 our Chair here is talking about in the
4 Crawford County of what this looks like here,
5 this is bad map, not necessarily the pink
6 map, but the blue that we've got going
7 across, that's a perfect example of it.

8 MR. WOODSON: So ideally, in your mind,
9 try to keep Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson
10 together at a minimum, and then --

11 LESLEE POST: It's not that we want to
12 keep them together at a minimum, I think that
13 it's -- we need to be very cautious of when
14 we're working with rural counties of
15 splitting them up, to try to keep them intact
16 as much as possible.

17 MR. WOODSON: Agreed.

18 LESLEE POST: Try to keep them whole when
19 you're working with rural counties.

20 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

21 BILL TAYLOR: Joe, I'd like to make
22 another comment about that. We call Crawford
23 County a rural county -- I'm Bill Taylor,
24 Crawford County Chair -- and we are in, we
25 associate, and we deal with Sebastian County,

1 we deal with Washington County. People are
2 moving from Washington County to northern
3 Crawford County establishing homes to get
4 away from population. People in Crawford
5 County are moving out of Sebastian County to
6 -- and we became a bedroom community, is what
7 we've become. And now then, you know, now
8 we're here and we're hooked with somebody
9 that's gone clear around to where we really
10 have no connection with them.

11 MR. WOODSON: No -- no connection with
12 what?

13 BILL TAYLOR: We have no connection with
14 Madison, Carol, Newton, or any of those
15 counties.

16 MR. WOODSON: Right. (inaudible) for all
17 practical purposes --

18 (Multiple speakers)

19 BILL TAYLOR: But we keep saying, well,
20 the rural communities. Well, Crawford County
21 is rural, but it's bedroom. So, you know,
22 it's hard to say it's rural because it's a
23 bedroom community because everybody is moving
24 out of the other counties to get there and
25 get away from the larger population areas and

1 it created a population area.

2 MR. WOODSON: Again, I want to hear
3 tonight if you're ready to say it, if you're
4 not ready tonight, myself and all the other
5 officers are receptive to ideas.

6 One of the things I think about is, you
7 know, where are the acres -- you can't escape
8 the fact -- I guess I'm trying to ask you to
9 help me solve the problem in a way that's
10 satisfactory to all of y'all.

11 You know, we've got the borders of the
12 state, we've got population centers here in
13 Fort Smith, Central Arkansas, and those -- in
14 my mind, those are just acres, and those
15 aren't going to move. They can't move
16 because the people are there; so they're
17 relatively static in the sense that you don't
18 have a lot to play with. So my question is:
19 Is there a way? Of course, I drew this one
20 to try to keep whole counties together and
21 went up the highway here. Is there a way to
22 take, you know, this swath of counties
23 through here and reshuffle it in a way
24 different than what I have it here, but that
25 would be more satisfactory to all of you?

1 That's the million dollar question, and we
2 want to hear that if you've got any ideas
3 about that.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think you need
5 to take Washington and Benton County and go
6 straight across to the east with the other
7 counties there and start splitting those
8 groups up and look at them that way.

9 MR. WOODSON: One of the reasons why we
10 probably can't do that would be the
11 population is so dense there that -- you
12 know, look at 8, 9, 35, and 7, you can't go
13 out that far because you get in population
14 figure almost immediately. Right here at the
15 county line (indicating), we don't need any
16 more people.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If I may, I'm
18 originally from Harrison, that's why I can
19 speak so strongly about the attitude. You're
20 looking at putting Harrison down with Searcy
21 and Van Buren. There's -- if you -- think
22 about this, look at concentric aeronautical
23 circles from the commercial centers of the
24 county. Harrison is one of the major
25 commercial centers for North Central

1 Arkansas, just like Mountain Home is, just
2 like Van Buren -- Van Buren, Craw -- Seba --
3 I mean, Fort Smith. If you start doing the
4 circles from around the major commercial
5 centers, you will get a better cultural fit,
6 and then -- and then kind of -- you know, and
7 actually you're going to have to -- I
8 understand you're going to have to go with
9 the more condensed districts to kind of --
10 you look at them and get them lined out, and
11 then you start compacting it. But I know
12 with what I see with Boone County put in with
13 Central Arkansas, culturally it doesn't go.
14 Because once you cross -- once you get past
15 south of Marshall and Clinton, the attitudes
16 change.

17 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. You're in to
18 northern Conway basically.

19 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Right, right.

20 MR. WOODSON: Greenbrier and all that.

21 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Exactly. It's
22 a totally different cultural attitude in that
23 sense. If there's some way you could put
24 Boone, Carol, Newton, Searcy, you know, maybe
25 split Madison -- Madison is one of those that

1 can split three diff -- three or four
2 different ways because people in Madison
3 County even go into Fayetteville, Springdale,
4 they'll come -- they'll go to Berryville or
5 Eureka Springs, but primarily they go west
6 into Washington and Benton County. And
7 Newton County primarily goes toward Benton
8 County -- I mean, Boone County rather.

9 MR. WOODSON: Right. It goes north.

10 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: And you'll find
11 Johnson -- Johnson and Franklin have a
12 tendency to either go to Russelville or come
13 to Van Buren and Fort Smith.

14 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Good. Okay.

15 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: So that's, you
16 know, food for thought.

17 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. That's what I want
18 to hear.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It would seem to
20 me as a policy matter if you're going to have
21 to split counties, and you probably do in
22 your final maps, it would be a better policy
23 to split the less populated counties than it
24 would be to split the more populated
25 counties.

1 MR. WOODSON: Okay. And especially if
2 you do it --

3 RAY GOSACK: I think you're separating
4 fewer people when you split a less populated
5 county than if you split a more populated --

6 LESLEE POST: I think that should be --

7 MR. WOODSON: That's a good point.

8 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Like I was
9 mentioning in Carol County, it pretty much
10 splits down the King River and has for years.

11 MR. WOODSON: What was your name, sir?

12 RAY GOSACK: My name is Ray Gosack, and
13 I'm the city administrator for Fort Smith.

14 MR. WOODSON: Excellent point.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you go back to
16 the map prior to the one where -- the
17 Crawford and Washington part of it?

18 MR. WOODSON: This one?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. From
20 Crawford County's perspective, I prefer that
21 one over what I've seen.

22 MR. WOODSON: I'm sorry? I couldn't hear
23 you.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I said from my
25 opinion on Crawford County's perspective, I

1 like that map.

2 MR. WOODSON: It makes more sense?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It makes more
4 sense, yes.

5 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Well, that would
6 make more sense too because it was drawn from
7 somebody from this area.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, all right.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do most all of the
10 versions of the senate maps keep Fort Smith
11 in a single senate district?

12 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Because it's
13 population hasn't changed hardly at all.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, it's right
15 at the threshold.

16 MR. WOODSON: Almost perfect, yeah.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Dare we ask to see
18 the house maps?

19 MR. WOODSON: If y'all got the stomach
20 for it, I do too. Let me close this. Any
21 other comments on senate maps? It's not now
22 or never, but since we've got them up. Let's
23 just take a couple minute break. Our court
24 reporter left. I'll give you five minutes.

25 (WHEREUPON, after a break was taken, the

1 proceedings resumed as follows, to wit:)

2 MR. WOODSON: If you don't mind, take
3 your seats, we'll bring up the house maps
4 now. This is the May 10th house map. This
5 is 81, 79 -- this light blue and darker blue
6 color here 81,79. Eighty stretches over here
7 towards Greenwood. What do you think?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You don't really
9 want to know.

10 MR. WOODSON: I didn't draw this one.
11 What doesn't work on this one?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

13 MR. WOODSON: Okay. That's Crawford.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's go back to
15 Van Buren. You already had a district that
16 was oversized; so you've got -- you didn't
17 really cut anything out of it and then added
18 a whole bunch more.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You dropped Kibler
20 out of this area (inaudible).

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What did you drop
22 out of Kibler?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nine hundred and
24 --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, 937

1 (multiple speakers).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Then you
3 went back and you added (inaudible).

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This right here
5 what you're talking about?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This what?

7 (Multiple speakers)

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

9 RHETT HATCHER: The county judge -- John
10 Hall sent a letter saying he wanted two seats
11 in Crawford County. That's what that is, two
12 whole seats in Crawford County.

13 MR. WOODSON: And that raises another
14 point. House or senate, I'm talking about
15 splitting counties and that sort of thing,
16 that's a two-way street if we were talking
17 about splitting one of the more rural
18 counties. They get a split, but the flip
19 side is they might get two or three senators
20 or house reps. So that's just food for
21 thought. I'm not trying to persuade you one
22 way or another. So I hear somebody saying
23 they kind of like the same senate
24 (inaudible). I hear you saying it doesn't
25 work. Tell me again why it doesn't work.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, Van Buren
2 already was overpopulated and then you took
3 the city of Kibler out and then you added a
4 volume of property up towards Rudy and
5 Cedarville. And what else did you add there?
6 It's sort of hard when you first see that.
7 First of all, I hadn't been paying a whole
8 lot of attention (inaudible).

9 MR. WOODSON: I didn't say that.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that came
11 out of the Little Rock office, in fact. So
12 we just quit looking at it.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cedarville is not
14 (inaudible)

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, Cedarville
16 wasn't in that.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't actually
18 see a problem with this map. It's just
19 strange Van Buren was oversized to start with
20 and then you-all (inaudible). Well, one --
21 you cut one city out and expanded it over
22 several thousand acres.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I personally have
24 no issue with this from -- from my
25 perspective.

1 MR. WOODSON: No core changes. Is that
2 fair?

3 ANDREW POST: I'm Andrew Post. And with
4 this map, I see what used to be District 83,
5 it's now divided up into three -- three
6 districts. It changes it dramatically.

7 MR. WOODSON: I misspoke. I was talking
8 about just Van Buren, but yeah, I wasn't
9 trying to say the whole map. Y'all excuse me
10 for a second, this software is very
11 particular when it's hooked up to the
12 Internet and it doesn't always . . . Rhett,
13 you got any idea why this -- I'm trying to
14 put the existing boundaries on top of this
15 and it won't come up.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it's one
17 example (inaudible)

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're with the
19 government, and we're here to help.

20 MR. WOODSON: That's the last time I'm
21 ever going to call on you. What else?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right down south
23 of Scott County. Is this the May 5th map?

24 MR. WOODSON: May 10th house map. Of
25 course, that's a huge district for population

1 purposes.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, what are the
3 districts -- the state rep districts? They
4 may have different numbers now than what we
5 currently have.

6 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. This is a different
7 numbering scheme on this particular map.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What are the
9 equivalent to Fort Smith representation
10 districts which represent (inaudible). I'm
11 in 65 --

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sixty -- I'm 64.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's 64 and the
14 other one is 62, so --

15 MR. WOODSON: Sixty-two would correlate,
16 I guess, with part of 81 and part of 80.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So what are you
18 doing? Are you splitting Fort Smith in three
19 different directions?

20 MR. WOODSON: Well, I didn't draw the May
21 10th --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, whatever
23 map. I mean, this map doesn't keep in
24 essence --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Fort Smith

1 numbers are not the same (multiple speakers).

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Flip back to the
4 map, you'll have to zoom in down in Fort
5 Smith.

6 MR. WOODSON: Oh, here, and I just
7 thought of something that might could help
8 us.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a little hard
10 to tell from these maps.

11 MR. WOODSON: There we go. The red lines
12 are the current district boundaries, and the
13 colors, you can see how they change. Now,
14 this is May 19th; 63 stayed pretty much the
15 same; 64 stayed the same pretty much; 65 went
16 up to the northwest here; here's the 66
17 current boundary. It went just a little bit
18 to the east. Now, 84, the current boundary
19 is here, but it changed, went south, went
20 west. Here is 62, Greenwood goes south of
21 Fort Smith.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: From what I'm
23 seeing, Joe, it looks like the map would be
24 (inaudible) was more respective of the
25 current districts as they are than what the

1 SOS did.

2 MR. WOODSON: Well, that could be
3 possible on this map, but I wouldn't read
4 anything into that because the same is true
5 and vice versa in all these maps you're
6 looking at, and, you know, I've certainly
7 drawn maps that weren't true to existing
8 districts.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Up in 83.

10 MR. WOODSON: Here's the current 83 along
11 the red boundary. It drops Cedarville
12 basically, this portion.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cedarville went
14 into --

15 MR. WOODSON: Sixty-seven.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's the other
17 rural spot that you have moved to -- there,
18 south of there, right there?

19 MR. WOODSON: I don't know specifically.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

21 MR. WOODSON: Does this work for 84,
22 coming in this far west of Barling?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that district
24 67?

25 MR. WOODSON: I'm sorry?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is the old
2 67?

3 MR. WOODSON: I think so. This is just a
4 PDF snapshot. Let me see if I can throw the
5 road on there; 255 maybe. Is that the same
6 thing?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, 22.

8 MR. WOODSON: Sorry. I get click happy
9 on this. Yeah, it's 22. So back to the
10 current districts in red.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does that map have
12 a district that straddles the Arkansas River
13 between Fort Smith and Van Buren?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, yes.

15 MR. WOODSON: This would be the river
16 right here, I think.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Zoom on your 65.

18 MR. WOODSON: Zoom on 65?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There on the far
20 west.

21 MR. WOODSON: Oh, yeah. Here let me look
22 at it -- let's look at it here because I can
23 turn the water in theory, the water layer.
24 There you go, there's the river.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And right there in

1 that section, there's not a crossing for the
2 river.

3 MR. WOODSON: Oh, okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The closest
5 (inaudible) are going to be at Ozark.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you zoom that
7 map --

8 MR. WOODSON: The one with the
9 boundaries?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

11 MR. WOODSON: I can, but it's not -- it
12 doesn't . . .

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it shows
14 that that district 65 is on the east side
15 road and the west half of Van Buren --

16 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, yeah, it does. And
17 here's -- this is the current 65 western
18 boundary, but yeah, it goes beyond that.
19 Anybody else?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is the reason
21 (multiple speakers) belong to 67?

22 MR. WOODSON: I don't recall
23 specifically, but imagine I was just trying
24 to get a population number. It's nothing
25 beyond that.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, we have
2 Mountainburg and --

3 MR. WOODSON: Just my perception and
4 probably thought it looked similar to
5 Mountainburg or the River Valley.

6 (Multiple speakers)

7 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. I would have thought
8 just the opposite, you know, driving old 71
9 up to school in Fayetteville, but not so. Is
10 that what you're saying?

11 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: No. Winslow is
12 more -- Winslow will fit in more with
13 (inaudible) and Greenwood and Fayetteville,
14 and Mountainburg will be --

15 MR. WOODSON: Go south?

16 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Mountainburg
17 will come south.

18 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Good. I didn't
19 realize that.

20 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: You thought
21 they were (inaudible) point.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's showing that
23 you have two districts -- or two incumbents
24 together on this map. Are you seeing that a
25 lot, where they're being drawn together with

1 (inaudible).

2 MR. WOODSON: Certainly it is not unusual
3 to see it. But most of the time when I'm
4 drawing a map, I'm having such a hard time
5 getting, you know, just basic population
6 numbers that it's not an unimportant concern,
7 but it's secondary to getting the population.
8 Most of the maps I draw are fine tuned in
9 that regard, they're rough drafts to try get
10 something that's close and then the idea, in
11 my mind, would be go back and try to find
12 something on the incumbent issue.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does it do that on
14 the senate maps also?

15 MR. WOODSON: My map that I'm drawing,
16 yes. I can't speak for anybody else, but for
17 me, yes.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you zoom in
19 on the Fort Smith area?

20 MR. WOODSON: We can look at some. Which
21 one do you like better, this one or the PDF
22 for the zoom? It's the same map, I'm just
23 saying for your view. Is that what you want
24 to see?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, thank you.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Does 65 cross the
2 river?

3 MR. WOODSON: Sixty-five crosses the
4 river and goes north in that. It's current
5 boundary is right though here, which probably
6 is the river, actually.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's going to
8 split the county four ways.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's going to
10 split four districts in Crawford County now.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Either way you cut
12 it, it's going to split four districts.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It would almost
14 seem like what would make more sense in terms
15 of commonality would be to pull 65 south of
16 the river and then start moving the other
17 districts in Fort Smith southeastward, and
18 then take the district that's east of Fort
19 Smith and move it to the eastern part of
20 Crawford County to pick up population, and
21 then take that one district that covers Van
22 Buren and take it all the way over to the
23 Oklahoma State Line.

24 MR. WOODSON: Wrap it around the top --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

1 MR. WOODSON: -- or all the way to the
2 west?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Kind of do a
4 counterclockwise loop of those districts.

5 MR. WOODSON: So stretch 66 to the west?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

7 MR. WOODSON: Push out down to the
8 southeast with 64 and 63?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Taking part of
11 what's 63 and move it to the northern part of
12 Fort Smith putting it together?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And take 84 and
15 move it a little further east, and then you'd
16 probably have to pick up area 67, maybe.

17 MR. WOODSON: And so push 84 to the east?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

19 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then it might
21 make sense for 84 to pick up some of what
22 you're showing to the north of it.

23 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Because you're
24 looking at -- I know what you're looking at,
25 Ray, you're looking at Barling and Lavaca

1 being more in with Fort Smith --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

3 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: -- than you are
4 with --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Franklin and
6 Logan.

7 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Yeah.

8 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Good. And that
9 makes sense that they would be in that order.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then that
11 would keep Crawford County, particularly Van
12 Buren and Dora areas staying the same in the
13 same district rather than being separated.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It looks like what
15 -- that area he's talking about goes around
16 Booneville, doesn't it?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't tell how
18 far (multiple speakers).

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree with what
20 Ray is saying on the Van Buren side too,
21 because that splits Van Buren at Lee Creek so
22 you have a major -- couple of (inaudible)
23 subdivision, Park Ridge, and that's where the
24 populations driving it, to wrap that around
25 --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You'll keep the
2 common interests together if you took that
3 map and just did kind of a counterclockwise
4 movement --

5 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- of the
7 population.

8 MR. WOODSON: Just turn it back that way?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: About 15, 20
11 degrees or so.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I haven't
13 measured it.

14 MR. WOODSON: See, this a clock right
15 here or the compass, whatever you want to
16 say. When you're drawing these just for
17 demonstration purposes, you know, when we're
18 drawing these districts, we're constantly
19 looking at the spreadsheet.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But again, though,
21 the fact of the situation is we're trying to
22 eliminate so much movement with splits.
23 Basically, Crawford County the way that it's
24 being spilt right now, every voter in
25 Crawford County will have somewhere else or

1 somebody who's (inaudible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just think Dora,
3 the pink Dora precinct, Dora area needs to
4 stay intact with Van Buren city, it's all the
5 same area.

6 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, yeah. And those
7 concerns -- you know, I can't guarantee you
8 anything, but those concerns are not falling
9 on deaf ears. Because one of the things that
10 we're aware of is the county clerks have a
11 huge job when we get through, putting people
12 in the right districts, you know, balance
13 the, you know -- on and on and on. And we
14 watch and make it as best we can where, you
15 know, just your average voter can say, well,
16 I know which district I'm in because I'm
17 north of the river or whatever. That's after
18 the rough draft phase, what I call "the rough
19 draft phase," I mean. But once we get close
20 to something that we think will work from a
21 common sense legal perspective, then we're
22 going to try to go back in and fine tune on
23 those sorts of issues so that your job can be
24 easier.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have been

1 through that once before when Fort Smith, Van
2 Buren split 20 something years ago, and that
3 was the days (inaudible) Ed Dixon and those
4 folks. And, you know, it sort of gets hairy
5 as to when you cross the river, where you
6 don't cross the river, where you cross the
7 river at, which one votes where, you know,
8 and it's really confusing for people in the
9 western part of Van Buren or Crawford County
10 to know where they go vote, who do you
11 support, who you don't support. What do you
12 do, you know? I mean, it's -- it's really
13 confusing.

14 MR. WOODSON: One of the things we talked
15 about are the three Rs, the river, the
16 railroad, or a road. But if you can put
17 district boundaries on them, physical
18 landmarks, then it's much easier for people
19 to say, well, you know, I'm south of the
20 creek, I'm north of the road or whatever."

21 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: Or a mountain.

22 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, a mountain, a
23 railroad, whatever.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's solid
25 marks that stays there forever.

1 MR. WOODSON: Right, exactly.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can't change
3 those; we can't change those.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do most of the
5 other versions of the house maps treat this
6 area in a similar fashion?

7 MR. WOODSON: Well, I wouldn't say that.
8 I just disconnected my Internet. If you'll
9 bear with me a second, I'll pull those back
10 up. But as I recall, I think these were the
11 two primary maps for the western part of the
12 state.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would think even
14 our population densities in this area, it's
15 going to be much easier drawing logical house
16 district numbers.

17 MR. WOODSON: And that's true all over
18 the state, sort of counterintuitive because
19 there's more seats, but because you've got
20 smaller population targets, it's easier to
21 keep like communities together.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I think the
23 comment about the Dora area, you definitely
24 ought to keep like communities together.

25 MR. WOODSON: Well, I was going to go to

1 the website and look at the other house maps
2 that are posted, but it doesn't seem to want
3 to let me do that. Here is just one other
4 earlier version. This is just a PDF, it's
5 got all these labels in the way. That's
6 drastically different, I think. I can't even
7 see underneath them, though.

8 If you think we just don't have a clue,
9 though, and you don't like anything you see,
10 there's a website called "Dave's
11 Redistricting," that a lot of people have
12 used; just Google Dave's Redistricting, and
13 it will allow you to draw maps, house or
14 senate, down to the precinct level. Yes,
15 Representative?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, I think one
17 of the things that -- I'm on state agencies
18 in the house, and that was the big fight we
19 had over congressional maps (inaudible). And
20 so when it comes to drawing legislative
21 districts, I know the house districts look
22 quite different in some respect. But I think
23 what I'm interested in is what is going to
24 maximize the influence of Western Arkansas.
25 And we often get lumped in with different

1 parts of the state. The River Valley is
2 different in character. And so I'm
3 interested regardless of what the size is
4 going to be. You told us about 25,000, I
5 believe. I'm interested in drawing those
6 state districts so that they maximize our
7 influence in state legislature because we are
8 the second largest -- if you count Van
9 Buren/Fort Smith area, we're the second
10 largest regional metro area in the state, and
11 we have worked hard in both Crawford County
12 and Sebastian County to come together around
13 some regional issues which affect our sister
14 cities like Charleston, Booneville, and
15 Greenwood, other areas here in Western
16 Arkansas, in Alma, I mean, all of these
17 cities that surround this area.

18 So whatever you do, I would just give you
19 sort of that overlay that maximizing that and
20 reinforcing the regional efforts an area has
21 made is very important to me.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's important to
23 a lot of people.

24 MR. WOODSON: Sure. Certainly, I think
25 that's a great goal. And I don't really say

1 this to argue with you, but I don't see --
2 there's only so much that can be done simply
3 because the numbers are what they are. And
4 remember my South Arkansas map where --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I understand that,
6 but I'm just -- I'm giving you that overlay.
7 I mean, just keep that in mind when you're
8 thinking about -- I mean, being the second
9 largest -- Van Buren and Fort Smith being the
10 second largest metro area in the state, and
11 it's very important that this part of the
12 state have a significant amount of influence.
13 And I think that needs to be paid attention
14 to.

15 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've seen the July
17 19th map dates. Are we pretty close and
18 pretty certain we're going to hit those
19 dates?

20 MR. WOODSON: I have every indication
21 that the maps will come out on the 19th.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And do you
23 anticipate them being voted on and approved?
24 Are the other deadlines still --

25 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. I will be surprised

1 if those dates change based on what I hear
2 people talking about.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When those maps
4 come out, they will hit the website?

5 MR. WOODSON: Yes. And a footnote to
6 that is the IT folks -- a lot of y'all know
7 Shelby Johnson, they're helping us come up
8 with a tool so that when the final proposed
9 maps come out -- our goal is to have it so
10 that on the website, you can lay that on top
11 of like a Google map, and you can drill down
12 to the street or the block level to see
13 exactly where that line is, you know, down to
14 the smallest detail, be able to see what is
15 and isn't in a particular district.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Be able to do an
17 overlay?

18 MR. WOODSON: Yes. It's our intention to
19 have that available for those final maps that
20 come out on the 19th.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On that map, could
22 you go a little further south --

23 MR. WOODSON: Sure.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to show where 80
25 and 81 match up? So that appears to get

1 Greenwood in District 80. Am I reading that
2 right?

3 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. And it -- the label,
4 I don't think -- I think this -- the label is
5 not real accurate, but I think Greenwood is
6 right here; so yeah, it put Greenwood in 80.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think they would
8 have much more in common than with the rest
9 of Sebastian County than they would with the
10 counties in District 80. I can't speak for
11 Greenwood.

12 JEAN McCLELLAN-CHAMBERS: I would say so.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're much more
14 connected with Sebastian County and Fort
15 Smith than they are with Logan County.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You know, I would
17 think so too.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, one thing on
19 this map. (Multiple speakers) same on
20 Greenwood, which is (inaudible) my current
21 district, but it does have a courthouse,
22 Sebastian County Courthouse, as well as Fort
23 Smith. One thing this map does have in my
24 home county, Scott, it looks like it keeps it
25 whole. If I remember, there may have been a

1 little bit of southern piece taken off. But
2 the other map, the last map you had, divided
3 the counties. And I just was reminded, we
4 have one town where. We do share a
5 magistracy, but we have (inaudible) one town,
6 one shopping center, one school system for
7 the whole county; so keeping the county whole
8 is -- where it can be some place, but you do
9 have multiple towns (inaudible). We don't
10 have in Scott.

11 MR. WOODSON: You have multiple what?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We do not have
13 multiple towns in Scott County (inaudible).

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Waldron is mainly
15 it.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Waldron is it.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. I think
18 that map seems to generally make sense with
19 the exception of Greenwood.

20 MR. WOODSON: Right.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

22 MR. WOODSON: If you couldn't, let me ask
23 you this. See the difference in colors right
24 here, the two blues?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. WOODSON: If you put Greenwood in 81
2 or 79, which would be better? And if you
3 couldn't, push it into Fort Smith proper,
4 which you probably can't given the population
5 density.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You might be coin
7 tossing because it's right on the edge of the
8 two.

9 (Multiple speakers.)

10 MR. WOODSON: Say again.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It might be a coin
12 toss since it's right on the edge of those
13 two districts, 81 and 79. If I'm reading --
14 looking at the colors right --

15 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- it looks like
17 81 and 79 merge almost at Greenwood.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

19 MR. WOODSON: My first inclination would
20 be 81 given Highway 71.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that would
22 probably make more sense.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Greenwood
24 finger (inaudible).

25 MR. WOODSON: The Greenwood finger.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Also on that
2 property, north of Greenwood is Fort Chaffee
3 (inaudible).

4 MR. WOODSON: Oh, okay.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's a good
6 point.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It appears there's
8 to be about 17, 18 sections, all of the
9 sections between Greenwood and Highway 22
10 that is Federal Reserve land that is, correct
11 me if I'm wrong, zero population.

12 (Multiple speakers.)

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So probably 81 --
14 we did ask to go to 81, with 79 you're going
15 to travel through all 55,000 acres.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Eighty-one
17 probably would make more sense for Greenwood.
18 So I think that would be an important change
19 to that map, would be to put Greenwood -- as
20 much of that section in Sebastian County is
21 going to be moved into 81. It's almost like
22 that finger, if that could be put into 81,
23 and then some of the land area, maybe one,
24 moved into 80.

25 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

1 (Multiple Speakers.)

2 MR. WOODSON: Just by way of contrast,
3 here's the -- I heard you say this does not
4 work, which is Scott County. I think I heard
5 you say that, because it's cut off here.
6 Yeah, yeah. I see what you're saying. Okay.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In all of your
8 maps, you do use present precinct boundaries,
9 don't you?

10 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. And almost all of
11 the time those precinct boundaries you can --
12 on the software -- did I finish about Dave's
13 Redistricting? By the way, on that Dave's
14 Redistricting, if you see something we're
15 missing, you can go draw your own map and e-
16 mail it to me and say, "Look, this is the way
17 it should look," house or senate.

18 But yes, on the software, 99 percent of
19 the time we're drawing, myself and I think
20 the others too, based on precinct boundaries.
21 And you can go down to the block level, the
22 census block level, but it's very slow and
23 that's really more of a fine tuning tool.
24 The vast majority of these maps are on
25 precinct boundaries.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, can you spell
2 the name of that website you're talking
3 about?

4 MR. WOODSON: D-a-v-e apostrophe "s"
5 redistricting, Dave's.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you Google
7 that?

8 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Just Google it, and
9 you can start drawing you own maps; let us
10 know where we messed it. If you e-mail it to
11 me, I'll put them up on the website. There's
12 a dozen maps up under miscellaneous tab right
13 now. Anything else?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Personally, I
15 think make those changes that we just talked
16 about, and I think you're probably in pretty
17 good shape. Leslee, would you -- are you
18 satisfied with those changes?

19 LESLEE POST: (Inaudible).

20 MR. WOODSON: Well, just for the record,
21 I'm not going to say they're going to get
22 made one way or the other, but here you'll
23 have -- we've got the record with the court
24 reporter and the information will be passed
25 on.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So will they be
2 open for public comment on the night of July
3 29th?

4 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Yes. Open for
5 public comment all through that period of
6 time via e-mail and letter or whatever and
7 another public meeting on July 25th -- Monday
8 the 25th at Little Rock if you want to come
9 in person. Well, if there's nothing else,
10 thank you-all for coming, it's been very
11 productive, and I appreciate your time.

12 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were
13 concluded in the matter at 7:38 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)ss
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, Terri J. Wolfe, Certified Court Reporter #698,
do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the
caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and
that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim
through the use of the voice-writing method and
thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct
supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the
time and place set out on the caption hereto.

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

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

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 15th day of July, 2010.

TERRI J. WOLFE

Arkansas State Supreme Court
Certified Court Reporter #698

<hr/> A <hr/>	average 63:15	bring 48:3
accommodate 31:13	avoid 32:4 39:12,19	bunch 48:18
accurate 70:5	aware 63:10	Buren 31:18,20 32:2 43:21 44:2 45:13 48:15 50:1,19 51:8 55:13 56:15 59:22 61:12,20,21 63:4 64:2, 68:9
acres 42:7,14 50:22 73:15	<hr/> B <hr/>	business 37:6
add 50:5	back 34:16 46:15 48:14 53:3 55:9 58:11 62:8 63:22 65:9	<hr/> C <hr/>
added 48:17 50:3	bad 32:25 34:4,10 36:4 37:17 40:5	call 40:22 51:21 63:18
administrator 46:13	balance 63:12	called 66:10
aeronautical 43:22	Barling 54:22 60:25	calling 38:7
affect 67:13	based 69:1 74:20	Carol 29:16,24 30:7 35:6 36:8 37:21,23 41:14 44:24 46:9
agencies 66:17	basic 35:11 58:5	carries 37:24
agree 33:24 61:19	basically 44:18 54:12 62:23	case 38:3
Agreed 40:17	basis 30:15	cautious 40:13
ahold 33:25	Baxter 30:7,12	Cedarville 50:5,13,15 54:11,13
alike 36:8,13 38:22	bear 65:9	census 74:22
Alma 67:16	bedroom 41:6,21,23	center 30:8 71:6
amount 68:12	behalf 32:14	centers 42:12 43:23,25 44:5
Andrew 51:3	belong 56:21	central 30:3 42:13 43:25 44:13
anticipate 68:23	Benton 32:2 35:6,25 43:5 45:6,7	cetera 30:8,16
anybody's 31:10	Berryville 45:4	Chaffee 73:2
apostrophe 75:4	big 66:18	Chair 40:3,24
appears 69:25 73:7	Bill 32:15 38:5 40:21,23 41:13,19	Chambers 29:13,20 30:2,20,21, 23 32:20 33:21 36:25 37:3,20 44:19,21 45:10,15 46:8 57:11, 16,20 60:23 61:3,7 64:21 70:12
approved 68:23	bit 53:17 71:1	change 44:16 53:13 65:2,3 69:1 73:18
area 31:9 35:14 36:18 39:13,14, 16 42:1 47:7 48:20 58:19 60:16 61:15 63:3,5 65:6,14,23 67:9,10, 17,20 68:10 73:23	block 69:12 74:21,22	changed 47:13 53:19
areas 33:19 38:4,14 41:25 61:12 67:15	blue 32:18 40:6 48:5	character 67:2
argue 68:1	blues 71:24	Charleston 67:14
arguing 36:12	Board 31:12	checked 33:21
Arkansas 30:3 33:12 35:15,17, 22 38:14 42:13 44:1,13 55:12 66:24 67:16 68:4	Boone 29:16,25 30:5,6 36:24 37:4 44:12,24 45:8	checking 33:22
associate 40:25	Booneville 32:17 61:16 67:14	circles 43:23 44:4
attention 50:8 68:13	borders 42:11	cities 67:14,17
attitude 43:19 44:22	boundaries 51:14 53:12 56:9 64:17 74:8,11,20,25	city 33:8 46:13 50:3,21 63:4
attitudes 44:15	boundary 53:17,18 54:11 56:18 59:5	
attraction 33:13	break 47:23,25	

clear 32:3 37:16 38:4 41:9
clerks 63:10
click 55:8
Clinton 44:15
clock 62:14
close 47:20 58:10 63:19 68:17
closest 56:4
clue 66:8
coin 72:6,11
color 48:6
colors 53:13 71:23 72:14
comment 39:5 40:22 65:23
76:2,5
comments 34:9 39:2 47:21
commercial 30:8 37:5 43:23,25
44:4
common 34:4 35:7 36:23 37:11
62:2 63:21 70:8
commonality 59:15
communities 31:14 41:20
65:21,24
community 31:2 41:6,23
compacting 44:11
compass 62:15
concentric 43:22
concern 58:6
concerns 32:10 63:7,8
condensed 44:9
confusing 64:8,13
congressional 66:19
connected 70:14
connection 29:15 33:18 41:10,
11,13
conscious 39:10
constantly 62:18
continue 38:11
contrast 74:2
control 39:22

controlled 39:23
controlling 39:4,5,8,24
Conway 44:18
cooperation 38:23
core 51:1
correct 73:10
correlate 52:15
count 67:8
counterclockwise 60:4 62:3
counterintuitive 65:18
counties 29:25 30:5,6,13 33:11
34:3 35:6,20,23 36:1 37:13 39:9
40:14,19 41:15,24 42:20,22 43:7
45:21,23,25 49:15,18 70:10 71:3
county 29:14,21,23,24 30:5,6
32:14 33:1,3,5,7,16,17 34:15,18,
23 35:3 36:7,8,9 37:4,22 38:9,
17,18,21,24,25 39:1,3,4,5,8,14
40:2,4,23,24,25 41:1,2,3,5,20
43:5,15,24 44:12 45:3,6,7,8
46:5, 49:9,11,12 51:23 59:8,10,
20 61:11 62:23,25 63:10 64:9
67:11,12 70:9,14,15,22,24 71:7,
13 73:20 74:4
County's 46:20,25
couple 47:23 61:22
court 30:24 75:23
courthouse 70:21,22
covers 59:21
Craw 44:2
Crawford 29:15,22,23 34:15,18
36:7,22 37:10 38:9,17,24 40:4,9,
22,24 41:3,4,20 46:17,20,25
48:13 49:11,12 59:10,20 61:11
62:23,25 64:9 67:11
created 42:1
creek 61:21 64:20
cross 44:14 59:1 64:5,6
crosses 59:3
crossing 56:1
cultural 37:25 44:5,22
culturally 29:17,25 30:10 44:13

current 53:12,17,18,25 55:10
56:17 59:4 70:20
cut 48:17 50:21 59:11 74:5

D

Dale 32:19
Daniel 32:16
Danville 32:20,21
Dardanelle 33:13
Dare 47:17
darker 48:5
dates 68:17,19 69:1
Dave's 66:10, 74:12,13 75:5
days 33:22 64:3
deadlines 68:24
deaf 63:9
deal 33:6 34:5 40:25 41:1
dealt 38:6
deck 34:16
degrees 62:11
demonstration 62:17
dense 43:11
densities 65:14
density 72:5
detail 69:14
Dickens 32:19
diff 45:1
difference 38:8 71:23
differences 37:25
direction 31:21,23 37:5
directions 52:19
disconnected 65:8
discover 35:11
discovered 31:1
district 33:11 38:16 47:11 48:15
51:4,25 53:12 54:23 55:12 56:14
59:18,21 61:13 63:16 64:17
65:16 69:15 70:1,10,21

districts 34:12 35:22 38:12,13
44:9 51:6 52:3,10 53:25 54:8
55:10 57:23 59:10,12,17 60:4
62:18 63:12 66:21 67:6 72:13

divided 30:9 51:5 71:2

divides 36:20 37:21

division 37:23

Dixon 64:3

dollar 43:1

dominate 33:19

dominated 33:6,7

Dora 61:12 63:2,3 65:23

dozen 75:12

draft 63:18,19

drafts 58:9

dragging 35:23

dramatically 51:6

drastically 66:6

draw 48:10 52:20 58:8 66:13
74:15

drawing 35:10 58:4,15 62:16,18
65:15 66:20 67:5 74:19 75:9

drawn 32:7 40:1 47:6 54:7 57:25

drew 42:19

drill 69:11

driving 57:8 61:24

drop 48:21

dropped 48:19

drops 54:11

E

earlier 39:2 66:4

ears 63:9

easier 63:24 64:18 65:15,20

east 35:4 37:14 43:6 53:18 56:14
59:18 60:15,17

eastern 59:19

economies 33:14

Ed 32:20 33:21 64:3

edge 72:7,12

efforts 67:20

Eighty 48:6 73:16

eliminate 62:22

Elsken 32:16

employers 33:15

ends 35:13

equivalent 52:9

escape 42:7

essence 52:24

establishing 41:3

Eureka 45:5

Excellent 30:25 46:14

exception 71:19

excuse 51:9

existing 51:14 54:7

expanded 50:21

F

fact 30:3 32:24 42:8 50:11 62:21

fair 39:9 51:2

falling 63:8

fashion 65:6

Fayetteville 30:15 38:7 45:3
57:9,13

Federal 73:10

fewer 46:4

fight 66:18

figure 43:14

final 45:22 69:8,19

find 34:14 45:10 58:11

fine 58:8 63:22 74:23

finger 38:8,9 72:24,25 73:22

finish 74:12

fit 32:8 44:5 57:12

flip 49:18 53:3

flow 37:25 38:1

folks 64:4 69:6

food 45:16 49:20

footnote 69:5

forever 64:25

formulas 32:8

Fort 42:13 44:3 46:13 47:10
52:9,18,25 53:4,21 55:13 58:19
59:17,18 60:12 64:1 68:9 70:14,
22 72:3 73:2

Franklin 33:16 35:7 36:22 37:10
38:17,18,20 40:1,9 45:11 61:5

frequently 38:3

G

generally 71:18

geographic 37:23

George 32:22

give 47:24 67:18

giving 68:6

goal 67:25 69:9

good 31:3 34:9 45:14 46:7 57:18
61:8 73:5 75:17

Google 66:12 69:11 75:6,8

Gosack 46:3,12

government 51:19

great 67:25

Greenbrier 44:20

Greenwood 48:7 53:20 57:13
67:15 70:1,5,6,11,20 71:19 72:1,
17,23,25 73:2,9,17,19

groups 43:8

guarantee 63:7

guess 42:8 52:16

Gus 32:15

H

hairy 64:4

half 56:15

halfway 32:2

Hall 49:10
happen 39:11
happening 39:20
happy 55:8
hard 41:22 50:6 53:9 58:4 67:11
Harrison 30:4,9,14 31:5 36:17
43:18,20,24
Hartford 31:22
HATCHER 49:9
hear 34:10 36:14 37:16 38:4
43:2 45:18 49:22,24 69:1
heard 74:3,4
helping 69:7
highway 42:21 72:20 73:9
hit 68:18 69:4
home 30:10,17 31:6 44:1 70:24
homes 41:3
honest 33:20
hooked 41:8 51:11
house 47:18 48:3,4 49:14,20
51:24 65:5,15 66:1,13,18,21
74:17
hub 30:4
huge 51:25 63:11
hundred 48:23
Huntsville 36:18

I

idea 37:17 51:13 58:10
ideally 40:8
ideas 42:5 43:2
illustrate 37:17
illustrates 34:11
imagine 56:23
immediately 43:14
impact 31:19
imply 39:22
important 38:19 39:6 67:21,22
68:11 73:18

inaudible 29:12 31:1,17 34:22
36:8, 37:9 41:16 48:12,20 49:3,
8,24 50:8,14,20 51:17 52:10
53:24 56:5 57:13,21 58:1 61:22
63:1 64:3 66:19 70:20 71:5,9,13
72:24 73:3 75:19

inclination 72:19
including 30:5
incumbent 58:12
incumbents 57:23
indicating 43:15
indication 68:20
influence 66:24 67:7 68:12
influences 35:12
information 75:24
intact 40:15 63:4
intention 69:18
interested 66:23 67:3,5
interests 62:2
Internet 51:12 65:8
ironic 35:2
issue 50:24 58:12
issues 63:23 67:13

J

Jean 29:13,20 30:2,20,23 36:25
37:3,20 44:19,21 45:10,15 46:8
57:11,16,20 60:23 61:3,7 64:21
70:12
Jerry 32:17
job 63:11,23
Joe 38:5 40:21 52:2 53:23 66:16
70:18 75:1
John 32:20,23 33:21 49:9
Johnson 33:17 35:7 36:22
37:10 38:21 39:1 40:2,9 45:11
69:7
Jonesboro 30:18
judge 32:14 49:9
judicial 33:10

July 68:16 76:2,7
June 32:11

K

keeping 71:7
Kevin 34:22 35:2
Kibler 48:19,22 50:3
kind 30:4,11 37:22,24 44:6,9
49:23 62:3
King 46:10
Kings 37:21

L

label 70:3,4
labels 66:5
Lake 33:13
land 73:10,23
landmarks 64:18
larger 41:25
largest 67:8,10 68:9,10
Lavaca 60:25
lay 69:10
layer 55:23
Lee 61:21
left 47:24
legal 63:21
legislative 66:20
legislature 38:6 67:7
Leslee 38:15 39:25 40:11,18
46:6 75:17,19
letter 49:10 76:6
level 66:14 69:12 74:21,22
light 48:5
lined 44:10
lines 53:11
live 38:10,18 39:14
Logan 32:14,25 33:3,5 38:21
39:1,3 61:6 70:15

logical 65:15

long 32:15,19 37:7

looked 57:4

loop 60:4

lost 33:15

lot 30:17 31:8 38:3 42:18 50:8
57:25 66:11 67:23 69:6

loud 32:3 37:16 38:4

lumped 66:25

M

made 39:2 67:21 75:22

Madison 29:16,24 34:23 35:3,5,
8 36:9,23 37:24 41:14 44:25
45:2

Magazine 32:17 33:13

magistracy 71:5

mail 74:16 75:10 76:6

main 30:8

major 33:15 43:24 44:4 61:22

majority 74:24

make 32:13 40:21 47:6 59:14
60:21 63:14 71:18 72:22 73:17
75:15

makes 31:13 47:2,3 61:9

making 39:10

map 31:17 32:11,25 34:1,24
35:12,13,20 39:25 40:5,6 46:16
47:1 48:4 50:18 51:4,9,23,24
52:7,23 53:4,23 54:3 55:11 56:7
57:24 58:4,15,22 62:3 68:4,17
69:11,21 70:19,23 71:2,18 73:19
74:15

maps 34:24 35:10 45:22 47:10,
18,21 48:3 53:10 54:5,7 58:8,14
65:5,11 66:1,13,19 68:21 69:3,9,
19 74:8,24 75:9,12

Marion 30:7,13

marks 64:25

Marshall 44:15

Mart 31:3

match 69:25

mathematical 32:8

matter 30:2 45:20

maximize 66:24 67:6

maximizing 67:19

Mayor 32:15,16,17,18,19,20,21

McClellan 29:13,20 30:2,20,21,
23 36:25 37:3,20 44:19,21
45:10,15 46:8 57:11,16,20 60:23
61:3,7 64:21 70:12

McConnell 32:18

measured 62:13

meeting 76:7

mentioning 46:9

merge 72:17

mess 34:19

messed 75:10

metro 68:10

metropolitan 33:19

middle 29:23 30:12

Mikles 32:13 34:7

million 43:1

mind 40:8 42:14 48:2 58:11 68:7

minimizing 31:18

minimum 40:10,12

minute 47:23

minutes 47:24

miscellaneous 75:12

missing 74:15

misspoke 51:7

Monday 76:7

mountain 30:10,16 31:6 32:18
44:1 64:21,22

Mountainburg 57:2,5,14,16

move 42:15 59:19 60:11,15

moved 54:17 73:21,24

movement 62:4,22

moving 41:2,5,23 59:16

Mt 33:13

multiple 36:11 41:18 49:1,7
53:1 56:21 57:6 61:18 70:19
71:9,11,13 72:9 73:12 74:1

N

Nathan 32:22

necessarily 40:5

needle 34:20

Newton 29:16,24 36:7,8,24,25
37:3 41:14 44:24 45:7

nice 35:25

night 76:2

north 30:3 43:25 45:9 59:4 60:22
63:17 64:20 73:2

northern 29:15,22 35:4 41:2
44:18 60:11

northwest 35:15 53:16

note 38:19 39:6

number 56:24

numbering 52:7

numbers 52:4 53:1 58:6 65:16
68:3

O

office 50:11

officers 42:5

Oklahoma 59:23

open 76:2,4

opinion 33:10 46:25

opposite 57:8

order 61:9

originally 43:18

overlay 67:19 68:6 69:17

overpopulated 50:2

oversized 48:16 50:19

Ozark 56:5

<hr/> P <hr/>	<hr/> population 41:4,25 42:1,12 43:11, 47:13 51:25 56:24 58:5,7 59:20 62:7 65:14,20 72:4 73:11	<hr/> R <hr/>
paid 68:13	populations 61:24	railroad 64:16,23
Paris 32:15,16	portion 54:12	raises 49:13
Park 61:23	possibility 39:15	Ray 46:3,12 60:25 61:20
part 30:3 39:13 46:17 52:16 59:19 60:10,11 64:9 68:11	Post 38:15,16 39:25 40:11,18 46:6 51:3 75:19	reach 37:14
parts 67:1	posted 66:2	read 54:3
passed 75:24	practical 41:17	reading 70:1 72:13
past 44:14	precinct 63:3 66:14 74:8,11,20, 25	ready 42:3,4
Paul 32:23	prefer 34:2 46:20	real 70:5
paying 50:7	premise 35:12 36:6	realize 57:19
PDF 55:4 58:21 66:4	present 32:16,20 74:8	reason 36:5 56:20
people 30:11,13 31:4 35:1 36:2 41:1,4 43:16 45:2 46:4 63:11 64:8,18 66:11 67:23 69:2	pretty 46:9 53:14,15 68:17,18 75:16	reasons 43:9
percent 74:18	primarily 45:5,7	recall 56:22 65:10
perception 57:3	primary 37:12 65:11	receptive 42:5
perfect 40:7 47:16	prior 46:16	record 75:20,23
period 76:5	problem 34:11 37:12 42:9 50:18	red 54:11 55:10
Perry 32:13 34:7	proceedings 48:1	redistricting 66:11,12 74:13,14 75:5
person 33:23,24 76:9	process 39:7,11	regard 58:9
personally 50:23 75:14	proper 72:3	regional 67:10,13,20
perspective 46:20, 50:25 63:21	property 50:4 73:2	reinforcing 67:20
persuade 49:21	proposed 69:8	remember 37:7 68:4 70:25
Pfeiffer 32:21	provide 38:22	reminded 71:3
phase 63:18,19	public 76:2,5,7	rep 52:3
physical 64:17	pull 31:24 59:15 65:9	reporter 30:25 75:24
pick 59:20 60:16,21	purposes 41:17 52:1 62:17	represent 52:10
piece 71:1	push 60:7,17 72:3	representation 39:16,19 52:9
pink 40:5 63:3	pushed 36:3	representative 32:22,23 38:16 39:18 66:15
place 71:8	put 31:4 33:16 44:12,23 51:14 64:16 70:6 72:1 73:19,22 75:11	reps 49:20
play 42:18	putting 33:18 43:20 60:12 63:11	Reserve 73:10
point 30:25 37:18 46:7, 49:14 57:21 73:6	<hr/> Q <hr/>	reshuffle 34:16 42:23
pointed 31:10	question 34:23 42:18 43:1	respect 66:22
policy 45:20,22	quit 50:12	respective 53:24
populated 45:23,24 46:4,5		rest 70:8
		result 36:4

resumed 48:1	72:22 73:17	sort 31:1 34:10 49:15 50:6 64:4 65:18 67:19
retail 30:14	separated 61:13	sorts 63:23
Rhett 49:9 51:12	separating 46:3	SOS 54:1
Ridge 61:23	serve 38:17	south 37:15,16,22 44:15 51:22 53:19,20 54:18 57:15,17 59:15 64:19 68:4 69:22
river 36:2 37:21 46:10 55:12,15, 24 56:2 57:5 59:2,4,6,16 63:17 64:5,6,7,15 67:1	services 38:22	southeast 35:16 60:8
road 55:5 56:15 64:16,20	shape 75:17	southeastward 59:17
Rock 30:18 50:11 76:8	share 71:4	southern 29:11,14,21 35:22 71:1
Rogers 31:7 32:16	Shelby 69:7	speak 43:19 58:16 70:10
rough 58:9 63:18	shop 31:5	SPEAKER 29:10,18 31:16 32:6, 11 36:6,15 39:21 43:4,17 45:19 46:15,19,24 47:3,8,9,14,17 48:8, 12,14,19,21,23,25 49:2,4,6,8 50:1,10,13,15,17,23 51:16,18,22 52:2,8,12,13,17,22,25 53:3,9,22 54:9,13,16,20,23 55:1,7,11,14, 17,19,25 56:4,6,10,13,20 57:1, 22 58:13,18,25 59:1,7,9,11,13, 25 60:3,6,9,10,13,14,18,20 61:2, 5,10,14,17,19 62:1,6,9,10,12,20 63:2,25 64:24 65:2,4,13,22 66:16 67:22 68:5,16,22 69:3,16, 21,24 70:7,13,16,18 71:12,14, 16,17,21,25 72:6,11,16,18,21,23 73:1,5,7,13,16 74:7 75:1,6,14 76:1
Rs 64:15	shopping 71:6	speakers 36:11 41:18 49:1,7 53:1 56:21 57:6 61:18 70:19 72:9 73:12 74:1
Rudy 50:4	short 35:9 36:2 37:12	specifically 54:19 56:23
rural 33:11 38:25 40:14,19,23 41:20,21,22 54:17	show 69:24	spell 75:1
Russellville 33:8	showing 60:22	spilt 62:24
Russelville 45:12	shows 56:13	split 39:3 44:25 45:1,21,23,24 46:4,5 49:18 59:8,10,12 64:2
<hr/>		
S		
<hr/>		
satisfactory 42:10,25	side 49:19 56:14 61:20	splits 46:10 61:21 62:22
satisfied 75:18	significant 68:12	splitting 40:15 43:7 49:15,17 52:18
scheme 52:7	Siloam 31:20	spot 54:17
school 57:9 71:6	similar 57:4 65:6	spreadsheet 62:19
Scott 51:23 70:24 71:10,13 74:4	simply 68:2	Springdale 30:16 45:3
Searcy 30:7 43:20 44:24	single 33:23 47:11	Springs 31:21 45:5
seats 48:3 49:10,12 65:19	sir 29:13 31:10 32:12 34:21 37:1, 20 39:21 46:11 68:15	staff 31:12
Seba 44:2	sister 67:13	
Sebastian 33:6 40:25 41:5 67:12 70:9,14,22 73:20	situation 38:7 62:21	
secondary 58:7	Sixty 52:12, 54:15 59:3	
section 35:5 56:1 73:20	size 67:3	
sections 73:8,9	slow 74:22	
senate 47:10,11,21 49:14,23 66:14 74:17	small 33:11	
senator 33:3	smaller 65:20	
senatorial 33:6	smallest 69:14	
senators 49:19	Smith 42:13 44:3 46:13 47:10 52:9,18,25 53:5,21 55:13 58:19 59:17,19 60:12 64:1 68:9 70:15, 23 72:3	
sense 31:13 42:17 44:23 47:2,4, 6 59:14 60:21 61:9 63:21 71:18	snapshot 55:4	
	software 51:10 74:12,18	
	solid 64:24	
	solve 42:9	

Stanley 32:18

start 35:10,11,13,15 43:7 44:3,
11 50:19 59:16 75:9

state 31:9 33:3 35:14 38:16
42:12 52:3 59:23 65:12,18 66:17
67:1,6,7, 68:10,12

statement 32:14

static 42:17

stay 34:23 35:24 63:4

stayed 53:14,15

staying 61:12

stays 35:3 64:25

Steve 32:21

stomach 47:19

straddles 55:12

straight 43:6

strange 50:19

street 49:16 69:12

stretch 60:5

stretches 48:6

strongly 32:24 43:19

subdivision 61:23

sudden 31:20

support 37:5 64:11

surprised 68:25

surround 67:17

surrounding 30:6

swath 42:22

system 71:6

T

tab 75:12

Taking 60:10

talked 33:25 38:13 64:14 75:15

talking 38:12 39:22 40:3 49:5,
14,16 51:7 61:15 75:2

targets 65:20

Taylor 38:5 40:21,23 41:13,19

tendency 45:12

terms 59:14

theme 35:24

theory 55:23

thing 49:15 55:6 70:18,23

things 42:6 63:9 64:14 66:17

thinking 68:8

thought 45:16 49:21 53:7 57:4,
7,20

thousand 50:22

thread 34:20

threshold 47:15

throw 55:4

tight 35:25

time 32:15,19 35:17 51:20 58:3,4
74:11,19 76:6

times 30:17

told 31:8 67:4

tonight 42:3,4

tool 69:8 74:23

top 40:2 51:14 59:24 69:10

toss 72:12

tossing 72:7

totally 33:5,7,19 44:22

tourist 33:12

town 71:4,5

towns 71:9,13

traditionally 37:4

travel 73:15

treat 65:5

true 35:24 54:4,7 65:17

tune 63:22

tuned 58:8

tuning 74:23

tunnel 36:20

turn 55:23 62:8

type 33:14

U

underneath 66:7

understand 44:8 68:5

UNIDENTIFIED 29:10,18 31:16
32:6,11 36:6,15 39:21 43:4,17
45:19 46:15,19,24 47:3,8,9,14,
17 48:8,12,14,19,21,23,25 49:2,
4,6,8 50:1,10,13,15,17,23 51:16,
18,22 52:2,8,12,13,17,22,25
53:3,9,22 54:9,13,16,20,23 55:1,
7,11,14,17,19,25 56:4,6,10,13,
20 57:1,22 58:13,18,25 59:1,7,9,
11,13,25 60:3,6,9,10,13,14,18,
20 61:2,5,10,14,17,19 62:1,6,9,
10,12,20 63:2,25 64:24 65:2,4,
13,22 66:16 67:22 68:5,16,22
69:3,16,21,24 70:7,13,16,18
71:12,14,16,17,21,25 72:6,11,
16,18,21,23 73:1,5,7,13,16 74:7
75:1,6,14 76:1

unimportant 58:6

uniting 36:21

unusual 58:2

urge 32:24

V

Valley 36:2 57:5 67:1

Van 31:17,20 32:2 43:21 44:2
45:13 48:15 50:1,19 51:8 55:13
56:15 59:21 61:11,20,21 63:4
64:1,9 67:8 68:9

vast 74:24

versa 54:5

version 66:4

versions 47:10 65:5

vice 54:5

view 58:23

volume 50:4

vote 64:10

voted 68:23

voter 62:24 63:15

votes 64:7

<u>W</u>	<u>Y</u>
Wal 31:3	y'all 31:8 42:10 47:19 51:9 69:6
Waldron 71:14,16	years 30:11 33:2,4,16 39:17 46:10 64:2
wanted 49:10	Yell 32:25 33:4,7 39:4
Washington 29:11,14,21 35:5, 25 36:9 41:1,2 43:5 45:6 46:17	Young 32:15
watch 63:14	<u>Z</u>
water 55:23	zoom 53:4 55:17,18 56:6 58:18, 22
ways 45:2 59:8	
website 66:1,10 69:4,10 75:2,11	
weeks 32:3	
Wells 32:23	
west 35:4 36:3 37:14 45:5 53:20 54:22 55:20 56:15 60:2,5	
western 38:14 56:17 64:9 65:11 66:24 67:15	
Wilkins 32:17	
Winslow 57:11,12	
wit 48:1	
WOODSON 29:9,19 30:1,19,22, 31:24 32:9,12 34:6,8,25 35:9 36:12 37:2,8 38:2,10 40:8,17,20 41:11,16 42:2 43:9 44:17,20 45:9,14,17 46:1,7,11,14,18,22 47:2,5,12,16,19 48:2,10, 49:13 50:9 51:1,7,20,24 52:6,15,20 53:6,11 54:2,10,15,19,21,25 55:3,8,15,18,21 56:3,8,11,16,22 57:3,7,15,18 58:2,15,20 59:3,24 60:1,5,7,17,19 61:8 62:5,8,14 63:6 64:14,22 65:1,7,17,25 67:24 68:15,20,25 69:5,18,23 70:3 71:11,20,22 72:1,10,15,19, 25 73:4,25 74:2,10 75:4,8,20 76:4	
work 33:21 34:13,14,18 35:17 48:11 49:25 54:21 63:20 74:4	
worked 67:11	
working 40:14,19	
wrap 61:24	
wrong 73:11	