

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**(Taken June 21, 2011, at 6:15 p.m.)**

**LITTLE ROCK  
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**APPEARANCES**

**ON BEHALF OF THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT:**

**JOE WOODSON, JR.  
REDISTRICTING COORDINATOR  
ARKANSAS BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT  
SUITE 160, VICTORY BUILDING  
1401 WEST CAPITOL AVENUE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
(501) 683-2080  
joe.woodson@arkansas.gov**

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. WOODSON: Let's go ahead and get started. I would encourage you if you're sitting on the side, you may want to move towards the middle because it appeared to me that these things get washed out a little bit on the sides, and so when we start looking at maps, you might not have the best view.

My name is Joe Woodson, Jr. I am the Redistricting Coordinator for the Arkansas Board of Apportionment, and this is me right down here (indicating), and you can -- if you want to submit anything, public comment, map, whatever, to the board, you can send it to me by mail or email here, and that's how you get in touch with me. You can call me, whatever you'd like.

For the decades before World War II and even a little bit after World War II, redistricting was largely ignored in this country, including Arkansas, even though Amendment 23 in 1936 created the Board of Apportionment and people just didn't do it. They weren't interested in it. But the 60's rolled around, and the U.S. Supreme Court

1 came out with a case called Reynolds v. Sims  
2 that essentially said that they found the one  
3 person, one vote requirement, and so that's  
4 why we're here today.

5 Representative Kerr asked me if we were  
6 taking suggestions. I said, "Absolutely."  
7 That's the whole point of this exercise  
8 tonight, is we're here for suggestions, pro  
9 and con on any given map, or if there's not  
10 even a map and you're aware of an issue  
11 that's that needs to be raised, that's why  
12 we're here.

13 We've got a court reporter, and we've had  
14 a court reporter at all our meetings. She  
15 will take down everything that's said, and  
16 then as soon as I get it, I'll post it on the  
17 website for all of us to go back and read and  
18 reread and distill whatever information comes  
19 out tonight.

20 I want this to be a conversation. I'm  
21 not here to give you a speech, although I do  
22 have some opening remarks I want to give just  
23 to lay the groundwork for our conversation.  
24 But feel free to interrupt me, raise your  
25 hand, ask a question, make a comment, that's

1 what we're here for. I would ask if you do  
2 speak, speak loudly and identify yourself for  
3 the court reporter and/or go to the  
4 microphone. The first person that's goes to  
5 the microphone will need to turn it on just  
6 by pushing it up.

7 Article 8 of the Arkansas Constitution  
8 creates the Arkansas Board of Apportionment  
9 with the Governor, the Attorney General, and  
10 the Secretary of State. They're invested  
11 with the responsibility and obligation of  
12 adopting a map once every ten years after the  
13 census numbers come out. Of course, we all  
14 know that in 2010, the Census Bureau did  
15 their thing, and so here we are in 2011  
16 redistricting.

17 We've got a lot of members of the General  
18 Assembly here tonight, and you guys have been  
19 hit with a double whammy. First, you had to  
20 be -- I lost my mic. Is it on?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what  
23 happens when you say "double whammy" to a  
24 legislator.

25 MR. WOODSON: All right. Y'all tell me

1 if it quits.

2 Let me give you an extreme example to  
3 illustrate the point.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's off.

5 MR. WOODSON: I've got one extra over  
6 here. Hold on just a second. Maybe this is  
7 why they gave me two. If this one quits,  
8 I'll just start yelling.

9 Okay. Let's say for example that instead  
10 of 35 state Senate seats we had only two, and  
11 then we drew a district that said that  
12 everybody in this room gets to elect one  
13 state Senator and the other 2.9 million  
14 people get to elect the second state Senator.  
15 It's immediately apparent that the people in  
16 this room would have a disproportionate  
17 influence on the process. So starting in the  
18 60's with Reynolds v. Sims, the U.S. Supreme  
19 Court said as nearly as possible, we want you  
20 to have one person, one vote, and what that  
21 means is equal population sizes for each  
22 district. And in a minute I'm going to go to  
23 some of the legal criteria.

24 Arkansas, according to the Census Bureau,  
25 as of 2010 has 2,915,918 people. If you

1 divide that by 100 House seats, you get an  
2 ideal target House District size of 29,159.  
3 Again, the same number divided by 35 Senate  
4 seats means an ideal target district size of  
5 83,311.

6 Now, back to the double whammy. Our job  
7 is a little bit easier in the sense that for  
8 Legislative Districts, we get a 10 percent  
9 variance or an overall range. If, for  
10 example, the ideal district size was 100  
11 people, all right, your smallest district  
12 could be as low as 95 and your largest  
13 district as high as 105. So 105 minus 95 is  
14 a 10 person difference or 10 out of 100 is 10  
15 percent. If you apply to the Senate size,  
16 83,000 plus 5 percent would be 87,476, minus  
17 5 percent would be 79.

18 So what that means is, when we're drawing  
19 our Senate Districts, the smallest district  
20 in the state could be as low as 79,145 and  
21 the largest as large as 87,476, which is  
22 different than the Congressional Districts  
23 that the General Assembly just drew. They  
24 had to be less than 1 percent accurate, and  
25 that's hard to do.



1           Let me show you a couple of heat maps  
2 that will illustrate the population shift in  
3 Arkansas. All of this green in through here  
4 (indicating), up through the eastern border  
5 of the state, all of that green has lost  
6 population relative to other certain areas of  
7 the state like Central Arkansas, Northwest  
8 Arkansas. And what that means is those areas  
9 of the state have to grow geographically.

10           Let me just say, I know a lot of you  
11 already know a lot of this, but some of you  
12 may not know any of it, and I think it's  
13 important for when we start talking about the  
14 maps here in a few minutes that we sort of  
15 lay this groundwork. I'm just trying to put  
16 us all on the same page. And also I need to  
17 say that I won't leave here tonight until  
18 everyone has had a chance to say what they  
19 need to say. Some people have prepared  
20 statements; some people have questions or  
21 concerns. So we're going to have an open mic  
22 in a few minutes, and you're going to get a  
23 chance to say what you need to say or want to  
24 say.

25           That was the House map. Similar pattern

1 with the Senate map with the population  
2 shift. Now, let me show you something here  
3 to further illustrate the point. This will  
4 take your breath away if you're in South  
5 Arkansas. There's currently eight Senate  
6 Districts in South Arkansas below this black  
7 line -- one, two, three, four, five, six,  
8 seven, eight. If you take the actual current  
9 population of those eight Senate Districts,  
10 it's 573,000, divide by the ideal Senate  
11 size, that's 6.88. So in other words, the  
12 population that currently exists in South  
13 Arkansas will only support 6.88 Senate seats  
14 as opposed to eight. And, of course, you get  
15 a little lean over up here (indicating), so  
16 you're talking about seven seats as opposed  
17 to eight. And so when people talk about,  
18 "Well, we lost a Senate seat," that's what  
19 they're talking about.

20 Just the opposite has occurred in  
21 Northwest Arkansas where their population has  
22 gained almost exactly enough for an  
23 additional Senate seat. And here's the heat  
24 map for Central Arkansas going yellow,  
25 orange, red, yellow, yellow. Those five

1 districts have all grown in population  
2 relative to the other districts. These five  
3 districts in here that are green have lost.

4 Now, if you do the same exercise -- and,  
5 of course, the House patterns are similar to  
6 the Senate patterns it's just the maps get so  
7 cluttered up and hard to read. So what I did  
8 was, I went in and the five Senate Districts  
9 that had gained -- one, two, three, four,  
10 five -- I added those up for a current actual  
11 population of 482, which is 65,000 over the  
12 ideal number for five Senate seats added  
13 together. And if you take these districts  
14 that had lost -- A, B, C, D, and E -- they've  
15 got a current actual of 360,000 which is  
16 56,000 below their ideal number.

17 So if you take all the bordering  
18 districts that are plus or minus 2,000, what  
19 that means is, unlike South Arkansas, Central  
20 Arkansas is pretty much a wash. The  
21 population will still support about the same  
22 number of districts, but the district  
23 boundaries have to move. One, two, three,  
24 four, and five are going to have to shrink  
25 geographically and A, B, C, D, and E are

1 going to have to grow geographically.

2 Any questions or comments so far?

3 AUDIENCE: (No verbal response.)

4 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Let's talk about the  
5 law for a minute. We've already touched on  
6 the Congressional Districts. The reason the  
7 Congressional Districts have a smaller  
8 standard is that they're governed by the  
9 Apportionment Clause of the U.S.  
10 Constitution. Legislative Districts, state  
11 House and Senate Districts are governed by  
12 the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th  
13 Amendment. And the case law over the years  
14 has said that the Legislative Districts get  
15 the bigger 10 percent range, and we've  
16 already talked about that.

17 Next we've got the Voting Rights Act of  
18 1965. That was federal legislation that made  
19 it illegal to discriminate against any racial  
20 or language minority through any rule,  
21 practice, procedure, map, whatever you were  
22 doing. If you were discriminating against a  
23 racial or language minority, it violated or  
24 it could violate the Voting Rights Act of  
25 1965.

1           In the early 90's, about 1993, the U.S.  
2       Supreme Court came out with the Shaw case,  
3       and the Shaw case was the first in a series  
4       of cases that were handed down by the U.S.  
5       Supreme Court, and they said essentially that  
6       we want you to be color blind when you're  
7       drawing districts, and that's the noble goal  
8       indeed. And they, through their decisions --  
9       I'm paraphrasing the U.S. Supreme Court  
10      decision which, I guess, is sort of  
11      impossible to do. But the way I distill it  
12      down in my mind is they want us to be color  
13      blind. And they have said in a series of  
14      cases that if you draw districts that are  
15      based exclusively on race and you ignore your  
16      other traditional redistricting principles,  
17      then your plan may be at risk. And so, at  
18      first glance, these two seem to be at odds  
19      with each other.

20           The courts have said, "No, they're not.  
21      You can do them both at the same time." And  
22      the way you do both at the same time is, if  
23      you're trying to avoid a Section 2 or Section  
24      5 violation of the Voting Rights Act, you can  
25      take race into account. You can be race

1     conscious, but they say, We still don't want  
2     you to just throw all the other factors out  
3     the window. And what are the other factors?  
4     Well, they're all these bullet points that  
5     we're talking about here tonight.

6             The next would be geographically  
7     contiguous. That is just exactly what it  
8     sounds like, that a district can't have an  
9     island, that a district has to be  
10    geographically connected. You can't have  
11    part of a district -- one here and another  
12    part completely separate over here.

13            Also geographically compact districts.  
14    The shape of the district, the appearance of  
15    the district is important. Ideally, if you  
16    have a circle or a square, that would be a  
17    good looking shape to a district. In  
18    practice we know that all districts have some  
19    irregular shape. The point here is that the  
20    more bizarre the shape, the less the courts  
21    are going to like it unless -- you know, the  
22    famous cases in districts where they had  
23    these spider-looking arms going out  
24    everywhere and that sort of thing.

25            The next five -- and these are court made

1 rules -- talk about -- and all of these have  
2 some overlap, and they've all sort of kept  
3 this qualifying language in them, "minimize  
4 splitting political subdivisions." Try to  
5 keep whole counties, whole cities, old voting  
6 precincts intact when you can and as best you  
7 can. Maintain core of existing districts  
8 where possible. What is the heart? What is  
9 the traditional core of the district? Try to  
10 maintain that if you can.

11 Maintain continuity of representation.  
12 That means, where possible, try not to make  
13 incumbents run against each other. The  
14 rationale for that, the courts say, is that  
15 if we get in a district that has elected  
16 someone, they ought to have the chance to  
17 elect them again. So try not to make  
18 incumbents run against each other.

19 Maintain communities of interest where  
20 possible. This is sort of a catch all. What  
21 do communities have in common socially?  
22 economically? the schools? the judicial  
23 districts? You know, what kind of an orbit  
24 do communities have with each other, if any?  
25 And so this sort of community of interest

1 catch-all phrase is something that is sort of  
2 (indiscernible) and come back to when we  
3 start talking about the maps.

4 And then lastly, minimize partisanship.  
5 The most recent U.S. Supreme Court case said  
6 it's possible to bring a lawsuit over  
7 political gerrymandering, but what they  
8 didn't tell everybody was what's legal and  
9 what's not legal. So there's a great deal of  
10 uncertainty about that sort of thing, so the  
11 most cautious approach would be to minimize  
12 that.

13 Nothing is absolute in redistricting. If  
14 you go back up here to the one person, one  
15 vote, clearly that's the cornerstone of all  
16 redistricting, but even that could be  
17 violated and has been violated, and it has  
18 been upheld where districts were outside of  
19 their (indiscernible). I don't anticipate  
20 that happening in Arkansas, but my point is  
21 if this cornerstone criteria can be deviated  
22 from, certainly all of the others can be too.  
23 So I hate to sound too much like a lawyer,  
24 but, you know, the answer sort of depends on  
25 a lot of other factors when you draw maps and



1 look at what's legal and not legal.

2 Okay. Any questions about that?

3 AUDIENCE: (No verbal response.)

4 MR. WOODSON: Let me do one other thing  
5 and then we'll go to the maps which is why  
6 y'all are here.

7 This right here (indicating) is our map  
8 drawing software, and the staffs of all three  
9 offices have it. You members of the General  
10 Assembly know that BLR has it, and it is the  
11 way that we actually draw these maps.

12 Let me go to the current House -- and  
13 this (indiscernible). And our goal here is  
14 to demonstrate the mechanics not only of how  
15 we're drawing the maps, but what they look  
16 like and just -- I lost my little matrix.

17 There's a spreadsheet that shows all of  
18 the numbers. Let me -- I'm going to close  
19 this real quick and then open it back up. It  
20 disappears on this small laptop screen I've  
21 got it on here.

22 The other thing I've figured out is the  
23 software doesn't like it when I'm connected  
24 to wireless Internet, and it slows down for  
25 some reason. So let me unhook that, close

1 that, and go in again and open it back up.  
2 I'm just trying to get the current House --  
3 well, bear with me one second. The whole  
4 point of this was to show you a spreadsheet.  
5 Try it again. If any of you knows what I'm  
6 doing wrong -- lost that matrix.

7 Anyway, you're going to assign an  
8 unassigned population to any given district -  
9 - sorry about this. Let me see if it pops  
10 up. Well, last time or we're going to quit  
11 and go on. Well, I apologize.

12 Anyway, you can go in there to any given  
13 district, you can assign population to get it  
14 within those variances we've been talking  
15 about. And I was going to demonstrate how  
16 you -- let's say you have a district that's  
17 short by 1,000 people, you scroll down and  
18 you bring up additional population and you  
19 get that one just where you want it, and then  
20 you look at the one you just (indiscernible).  
21 And you just start checking (indiscernible).

22 Anyway, I'm done with my introductory  
23 remarks, and I thought we'd talk about the  
24 Senate first and then the House. And, again,  
25 I am here and the court reporter is here to

1 listen to public comment about any maps that  
2 are already out there on our website, or even  
3 if there's not a map out there, to listen to  
4 what you have to say about that. And at this  
5 point I'll open the floor for questions and  
6 comments.

7 MAYOR HAYS: Is this where you're  
8 supposed to do this?

9 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir. Turn it up.  
10 Pull it up at the top.

11 MAYOR HAYS: There we go.

12 MR. WOODSON: There you are, great.

13 MAYOR HAYS: Not being bashful, let me  
14 just get started if I could. I'm Pat Hays,  
15 Mayor of North Little Rock, and I guess we're  
16 talking about Senate Districts. And I know  
17 that -- I think I sent a letter not too long  
18 ago. We're good friends of Sherwood,  
19 Jacksonville, and I don't know if I -- at  
20 least I've understood that, you know, that  
21 Senate District 31 is one that, you know,  
22 we're particularly interested in.

23 I know that we've got several Senate  
24 Districts, but one that's principally  
25 composed of North Little Rock. I think

1 there's one that comes over from Little Rock  
2 that's perhaps (indiscernible) in terms of  
3 our city, and I just wanted to say that -- a  
4 couple of things. One is that we -- looking  
5 at your points of, we'll say, consideration,  
6 geography, continuity (indiscernible),  
7 neighborhood, District 31 -- I know in the  
8 area where I live -- I understood that as far  
9 as the last redistricting, that it was going  
10 to be perhaps in District 31 that has just a  
11 little bit of nose up on and into Park Hill.

12 So, you know, I would at least like to go  
13 on the record, following along with some of  
14 the points that you made, and ask that that  
15 the Cherry Hill area that's just north of --  
16 which is basically Park Hill area, that we  
17 consider putting that in 31, and that the  
18 district as we look going north, that  
19 Sherwood and Jacksonville are certainly  
20 something that we would be comfortable with  
21 if those cities fell the same way, and I  
22 understand they may very well.

23 MR. WOODSON: And so this portion right  
24 in here (indicating) I think is Cherry Hill,  
25 Park Hill.

1           MAYOR HAYS: Yeah, just whatever is Park  
2 Hill, you know, that is now not inside -- in  
3 that Senate District. That's a neighborhood  
4 I know that I grew up in. It's a fairly  
5 contiguous neighborhood, Cherry Hill, Park  
6 Hill, going on north to Indian Hills and then  
7 over into the Lakewood area.

8           So, you know, there's a real continuity  
9 of interest with that -- with those  
10 neighborhoods in terms of both geography and  
11 a general reflection of, you know, the kind  
12 of, we'll say "bringing together of the  
13 neighborhoods" that -- you know, that have  
14 various neighborhood associations and have  
15 that kind of an affiliation. So if I could  
16 just underline, you know, that, and I don't -  
17 - well, you know it's not time to say  
18 anything about the House Districts yet, is  
19 it?

20           MR. WOODSON: You can go on to the House  
21 Districts (indiscernible).

22           MAYOR HAYS: All right. Well, let me  
23 just -- real quickly -- we like the House  
24 Districts like they are. We've had -- hadn't  
25 heard any real criticism from our neighbors,

1 and so just to go on record and say we like  
2 the way they are. So that takes care of me  
3 then.

4 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Thank you.

5 MAYOR HAYS: Okay. Thanks.

6 MR. WOODSON: Let me -- Central Arkansas,  
7 this is the May 4 map that I drew, and it's  
8 up here for no other reason than it's just  
9 for discussion-wise. This one I'm familiar  
10 with and (indiscernible).

11 With the Senate and the House Districts,  
12 it's -- when we take into account the  
13 minority Districts 33 and 34, for example, on  
14 the Senate side, the minority population,  
15 just like the rest of the population in the  
16 state, have moved around a little bit. So  
17 when you're trying to maintain a minority  
18 district, you have to go looking here  
19 ethnically for minority population and get  
20 your percentages that way. And so my only --  
21 the only point in saying that -- and I hear  
22 it -- is 33 and 34 sort of act as an anchor  
23 and (indiscernible) --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

25 MR. WOODSON: I was just going to say

1 that one of the problems is finding minority  
2 populations and let 34 maintain its minority  
3 status. And so I'll just throw that out for  
4 us all to chew on, that that's one of the  
5 factors that comes in. But your point is  
6 well taken, you know. Park Hill and Cherry  
7 Hill have -- you know, that's part of North  
8 Little Rock, that's North Little Rock proper,  
9 and so that, too, is important.

10 MAYOR HAYS: Thank you.

11 MR. WOODSON: Thank you.

12 MAYOR HAYS: One of the shortest comment  
13 periods I've ever made.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, I'm  
15 (indiscernible), North Little Rock. Anyway,  
16 what I'm here about is (indiscernible). We  
17 have a working relationship with Sherwood,  
18 Jacksonville, North Little Rock. Our kids  
19 (indiscernible). You know, we have common  
20 ground, (indiscernible). We all kind of work  
21 together. (Indiscernible) it seems to be  
22 natural if you continue that with everybody's  
23 permission, to North Little Rock, Sherwood,  
24 and Jacksonville. It's a good relationship.  
25 (Indiscernible) Little Rock Air Force Base

1 (indiscernible). Sometimes you don't know  
2 when you're going to, say, North Little Rock  
3 and Sherwood and Jacksonville, so  
4 (indiscernible).

5 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. You know,  
6 Central Arkansas has just the opposite  
7 problem of South Arkansas. If you're down  
8 there they say, "Well, what does Camden and  
9 Magnolia and El Dorado have in common?" And  
10 depending on who you're talking to, either a  
11 lot or not much. Whereas North Little Rock,  
12 for example, and Sherwood and Maumelle and  
13 the densely populated areas are so seamless  
14 in the transition that unless you really know  
15 where you're at, you don't know when you're  
16 going from one to the other. So -- but yeah,  
17 because they're densely populated, the lines  
18 are going to have to go somewhere.

19 Yes, ma'am?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm Linda  
21 (indiscernible), and I grew up in North  
22 Little Rock. I agree with everything that's  
23 done and said except for the fact that our  
24 neighborhood is basically -- what we had was  
25 downtown North Little Rock, and I know it's



1 probably not going to happen, but I want to  
2 go on record as saying that the heart of  
3 North Little Rock should be in same district  
4 which would be downtown (indiscernible). I  
5 just think that downtown North Little Rock,  
6 if possible, should be put in that same  
7 Senate District.

8 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. And, you know,  
9 all of us being in Central Arkansas probably  
10 know that there's a big difference between  
11 downtown Little Rock and downtown North  
12 Little Rock, and North Little Rock certainly  
13 is -- downtown North Little Rock certainly is  
14 culturally and economically similar to the  
15 rest of North Little Rock.

16 MAYOR WATSON: I'm Mike Watson. I'm the  
17 Mayor of Maumelle. My colleague Mayor Hayes  
18 here mentioned the other cities to the east  
19 of him, but he didn't mention Maumelle.  
20 We're currently a part of District 31, and  
21 we'd like to stay a part of that district and  
22 not (indiscernible), and try to keep it all  
23 in Pulaski County because of the like  
24 interest.

25 And we have the same problem on the west

1 side of North Little Rock in that you don't  
2 know when you leave North Little Rock and  
3 when you go into Maumelle. And a lot of  
4 North Little Rock residents shop in Maumelle  
5 now. They go to school in Maumelle. So  
6 that's an issue there that needs to be -- we  
7 don't -- we didn't want to see Maumelle spilt  
8 into two districts in order to accommodate  
9 the numbers that you're trying to reach. And  
10 we also -- we're one of the fastest growing  
11 cities in Arkansas, and so we think that  
12 should be taken into consideration also.

13 MR. WOODSON: So --

14 MAYOR HAYS: I want the record to reflect  
15 that we like Maumelle.

16 MR. WOODSON: Just for clarification, the  
17 -- are you saying that as it's drawn on this  
18 May 4 map that you like the Senate District  
19 currently drawn?

20 MAYOR WATSON: Well, I don't like the  
21 purple that's going up into Faulkner County,  
22 if I'm reading the map correctly. I mean,  
23 why doesn't it stay in Pulaski County, or it  
24 could go down and pick up the area that Mayor  
25 Hays was talking about in Park Hill or Cherry

1 Hill.

2 MR. WOODSON: Well, certainly it could.  
3 As I recall, this square, purple, is not as  
4 densely populated as Jacksonville is, but  
5 certainly it's easy enough to come over here  
6 and grab part of Jacksonville. I think, if I  
7 recall, part of the reason I did this was  
8 that -- to grab all of Jacksonville, which is  
9 also one of (indiscernible) had too much  
10 population.

11 MAYOR WATSON: I mean, I understand that,  
12 and I'll let the Mayor of Jacksonville speak  
13 on that.

14 MR. WOODSON: Sure. But some -- that's -  
15 -

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening, I'm  
18 Jack (indiscernible) and I'm from Pine Bluff,  
19 so this is more kind of a South Arkansas  
20 (indiscernible). But in our area, we're more  
21 concerned about some of these maps that split  
22 Jefferson County into three different Senate  
23 districts. There's some of them that we've  
24 seen that stretch part of the county all the  
25 way down to Junction City on the Louisiana

1 line, and then at the same time stretch parts  
2 of the county west over towards Malvern. And  
3 it's kind of the same principle that some of  
4 these folks from North Little Rock and  
5 Maumelle have expressed. It just divides up  
6 (indiscernible).

7 So, you know, we just ask that somewhere  
8 in the process -- or I guess those maps that  
9 stretch Jefferson County into three different  
10 areas like that, kind of get away from some  
11 of these factors about minimizing, splitting  
12 in the political subdivisions. It says it's  
13 better to, you know, hold counties together  
14 and so forth and maintain communities of  
15 interest and so forth.

16 So from our part of the state, you know,  
17 we hope there will be some recognition of  
18 that and some account to keep -- excuse me --  
19 to keep Jefferson County in no more than two  
20 different Senate Districts. We appreciate  
21 any -- I know there are a lot of loose parts  
22 to this and a lot of factors to consider, but  
23 we appreciate the Board's consideration of  
24 that.

25 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. And I would

1 just paraphrase that. To the extent that you  
2 can (indiscernible) on each of those bullet  
3 points that we talked about. It's my  
4 personal opinion that that will help you  
5 because it's going to be more persuasive to  
6 me -- although, you know, I don't have any  
7 say of the final decision -- but to the three  
8 board members and their staff. In other  
9 words, like you just said, the central  
10 majority of this (indiscernible) and I think  
11 it's more persuasive to say, We don't like it  
12 because X, Y, and Z, one of those bullet  
13 points, as opposed to, Well, we just don't  
14 like this (indiscernible). Those points are  
15 more persuasive, and so I would applaud you  
16 on that.

17 And whether it's tonight or whether it's  
18 a letter you write or whether it's a private  
19 conversation you have with me or anybody  
20 else, I encourage you to point out those  
21 things because the -- I think that would help  
22 you.

23 Yes, sir?

24 MAYOR FOSTER: My name is Doyle Foster.  
25 I'm the mayor for the City of White Hall in

1 South Arkansas. We're contiguous with Pine  
2 Bluff. We are the only (indiscernible) city  
3 in Jefferson County. We -- the latest maps  
4 that I've seen have us being represented all  
5 the way over around Diamondhead, that way.  
6 We don't know any of those folks.

7 (Indiscernible) my city limits, and I -- some  
8 of the same points that Jack just made, I'll  
9 make those same points.

10 You know, I want to be represented -- I  
11 would rather our city be represented -- we're  
12 just a little ol' city of 5,500, but I'd  
13 rather be represented by people -- my  
14 Representative and my Senators from Pine  
15 Bluff, Southern Jefferson County are from the  
16 southern districts. I've always --  
17 (indiscernible). I'm retired 23 years as the  
18 Chief of Police in the City of White Hall,  
19 and I've always had access to my own Senators  
20 that -- on a national level or our  
21 Congressman, working with them on grants and  
22 things like that.

23 You know, we want -- even though we're a  
24 small community, we want fair representation,  
25 but I don't think we're going to get that

1 from somebody -- nothing against folks over -  
2 - they're good folks, you know, but I don't  
3 know what goes on with those people over  
4 there. And so, you know, it seems kind of  
5 silly for us over around -- over to the west.  
6 I'd rather be represented by somebody in the  
7 south. I know the Senators from Pine Bluff  
8 and the Representatives, and they're  
9 accessible to us. So that -- you know, I  
10 just felt like it was important that we  
11 (indiscernible) Monticello (indiscernible).

12 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Thank you. Good  
13 point.

14 WINSTON COLLIER: Good evening, my name  
15 is Winston Collier, and I'm the election  
16 commissioner in White County, more  
17 importantly, I'm a citizen in White County  
18 and one that's concerned about the well being  
19 of our Senate District.

20 One thing that I can point out is  
21 something that I'm very glad that you said  
22 early on, is that we'll stand a better chance  
23 if we can kind of couch our considerations in  
24 the bullet points that you just noted. And I  
25 want to say on the record that there are few

1 counties that can make a legitimate case for  
2 embodying all of those as White County.

3 If you look at it from a practical  
4 standpoint, we're right around 77,000, not  
5 very far off of our target population. So  
6 that's kind of the practical side of things.  
7 But taken from a "feel good" side of things  
8 is that as we're growing, we're continuing to  
9 solidify our identity.

10 We recently launched an "Advancing White  
11 County" campaign that is countywide focused.  
12 We have the same objectives, the same goals,  
13 and what you show there seems to really  
14 deplete any sense of identity that we have  
15 worked so very vigorously to maintain.  
16 Should the primary goals through this process  
17 be keeping whole counties together as is was  
18 termed over there, should it be important  
19 that you maintain a sense of community  
20 interest in a county that is almost perfectly  
21 populated (indiscernible). I would just like  
22 to say on behalf of our county, I feel like  
23 we're a candidate that warrants quite a bit  
24 of consideration when it comes to keeping our  
25 nice little (indiscernible).



1           But we are proud of White County, and not  
2           only are we proud of it, but (indiscernible)  
3           warrant us (indiscernible). So we would ask  
4           -- well, I ask on behalf of White County that  
5           when we have a new found drawing board, that  
6           that at least be noted and that at least be  
7           respected that our efforts to build this  
8           sense of unity within our county not go  
9           unnoticed. Thank you.

10           MR. WOODSON: All very good points. I  
11           mean, here on this map there's four different  
12           Senate Districts -- one, two, three, four --  
13           in White County, and those factors that I've  
14           stated, you stated, those are all very  
15           important. And I agree that those all are  
16           important factors.

17           The only thing I would say, not in  
18           rebuttal, just to point out, but the simple  
19           matter of fact is if you look at the state  
20           map, the problem, the rub to all of this is  
21           all of the neighboring districts, they're one  
22           group of people. And so it's really a  
23           question of how are we going to sort of  
24           balance some of these from being  
25           (indiscernible), because everything to the

1 south of Central Arkansas has got to grow a  
2 lot to the east. And so that's what we're  
3 competing against.

4 JACKIE MARTIN: My name is Jackie Martin.  
5 I am the Cleburne County Republican Chair.  
6 And we worked very hard last year to elect  
7 the first Republican state Senator in our  
8 district, and that is State Senator Jason  
9 Rapert, and we would like to keep him.

10 And that was mainly the western -- most  
11 of the western, starting just east of Heber  
12 Springs, over. And the way I see you drawing  
13 State Senate District 18, you come over to  
14 Polk -- and we have very little change in our  
15 population. So we would really like to keep  
16 our state Senator if all possible. And I  
17 have some other comments about state  
18 Representative maps also, but I'll put those  
19 -- for later.

20 MR. WOODSON: Very good, thank you. Let  
21 me see if, by way of illustration, I can add  
22 -- I had this all set up and ready to go, but  
23 then it's acting up on me.

24 Anyway, there's a tool on here where I  
25 can lay on top of a map, any map, the

1 existing Senate Districts, and it's a good  
2 tool to look at to see what a proposed change  
3 might be. Got to do this -- it seemed to be  
4 working -- but, yeah, your point is well  
5 taken.

6 JACKIE MARTIN: But you've got a state  
7 Senate District going around Conway. Is that  
8 the way I'm reading --

9 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, that one is, yeah.

10 JACKIE MARTIN: It looks gerrymandered to  
11 me, because you've got District 30 right in  
12 the center.

13 MR. WOODSON: Well, the primary -- one of  
14 the things I've learned in this process is  
15 that your basic premise when we start drawing  
16 the map has an impact on how you finish. The  
17 primary -- my primary goal with this map,  
18 which I drew around May 4, was to go in and  
19 first shrink the more densely populated  
20 districts like Conway, shrink those in and  
21 then come in and fill in the gaps with what  
22 (indiscernible). But that was the primary  
23 goal, and so, for example, Senator Rapert  
24 would (indiscernible) constituents in  
25 Mayflower, Vilonia. Those -- would those be

1 similar -- sort of like, we go up here --  
2 you're talking about tonight, to his existing  
3 constituents? That's sort of the thought  
4 process behind it.

5 JACKIE MARTIN: (Indiscernible) Faulkner  
6 County, Conway County areas versus Polk and  
7 Johnson County, getting over to Russellville  
8 at that point. Besides, it looks like 18  
9 totally surrounds Conway, and I would not  
10 call that a contiguous district. That is not  
11 compact. But if the district is firmly  
12 drawn, I would say that was a contiguous,  
13 compact district, even though it went from  
14 Cleburne County over down into Hot Springs  
15 Village, the southern tip of it.

16 So, I mean, as far as commonality between  
17 communities, Cleburne County with the lake  
18 has much more in common with Faulkner area  
19 for shopping, for tourists who, you know,  
20 would like to have more selection of shops  
21 but they're vacationing on the lake. So I  
22 would just prefer that (indiscernible) drawn  
23 along the lines that exist in Cleburne County  
24 at this point in time, makes it more  
25 contiguous and compact.

1           MR. WOODSON: And thanks for that. Just  
2 so y'all know, I am interested -- I am just  
3 as happy with harsh criticism as I am with  
4 the praise about any map I draw or any map  
5 that's up on the board. My goal is to help  
6 (indiscernible). So it doesn't hurt my  
7 feelings at all, and I appreciate you saying  
8 that, you know, "Well, this doesn't work  
9 because these communities don't have anything  
10 in common with those people."

11           That's what we want to know, because,  
12 like I said, it's easy to point and click at  
13 your computer, you know, sitting in your  
14 office, but when you get out and talk to  
15 people and you find out, "No, we don't have  
16 anything in common with these people. We  
17 don't ever go over there. Nobody from our  
18 city has ever been there in 100 years," you  
19 know, that sort of thing, you know, that is  
20 the things we don't know, and that's what  
21 we're after.

22           JAMIE GATES: Jamie Gates from Conway. I  
23 neither have praise nor criticism. The two  
24 previous speakers brought up some good  
25 points, and we're kind of in a different

1 situation than White County is in that we are  
2 going to dramatically change.

3 We have had a relatively -- our county  
4 line has pretty much geared our Senate  
5 District for the last ten years, and so we're  
6 going to be in the mode of having two, three,  
7 or even more Senators representing Faulkner  
8 County. I don't think -- I don't know that  
9 that's a bad thing. I'm less concerned about  
10 the integrity of city and county lines than I  
11 am kind of our natural trade area patterns.  
12 With the lifestyle that -- you know, we have  
13 more common interest with the people we share  
14 a Walmart with than we do someone who has the  
15 same county judge.

16 So I think that my preference would be  
17 that you recognize those communities of  
18 interest. And, you know, in Conway, we have  
19 a hospital, you know, transportation  
20 infrastructure, airport, major employers,  
21 shopping amenities. Those are not for the  
22 city of Conway. Those are regional and it is  
23 a destination for the northern part of really  
24 the Little Rock metro.

25 And so we service and trade and work next

1 to people in small towns to the west and  
2 north and east, and so I would prefer they  
3 put an emphasis on -- less emphasis on  
4 keeping the integrity of the county line --  
5 it's just arbitrary -- and really look at how  
6 people live and interact and commute and  
7 those things.

8 MR. WOODSON: That was very well said.  
9 Yeah, that's -- I couldn't agree more with  
10 all of those factors, and that's what we're  
11 looking for is what makes the most sense.  
12 And there will be hard decisions that have to  
13 made, but at least we (indiscernible). We  
14 all need to be up to informed (indiscernible)  
15 before we make a decision.

16 JAMIE GATES: I work as an economic  
17 development professional, and we welcome the  
18 opportunity to work with state Senators,  
19 county judges, everybody. We know that --  
20 we're open to everyone having some ownership  
21 in our economic well being, not only as  
22 people understand now, but they are drawn  
23 lines that none of us (indiscernible).

24 MR. WOODSON: There's two schools of  
25 thought on that. I've heard people argue

1 strongly for it, any given community of  
2 interest having one House or Senate member so  
3 that they're -- they've got solidarity and  
4 they know who to go to. And then I've heard  
5 the other side that, like you're saying, it  
6 might be to a community's interest to be --  
7 have two or three Senators or Representatives  
8 because, you know, you've got more people  
9 interested in those constituents.

10 JAMIE GATES: Well, we work mainly with  
11 adjoining counties, county governments, and  
12 then the private sector as well, so we'll  
13 continue to do that. So please take that  
14 into account.

15 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. Anymore  
16 comments or questions about the Senate maps?

17 AUDIENCE: (No verbal response.)

18 MR. WOODSON: Well, let me move to the  
19 House then. Let me do something real quick.  
20 Just bear with me a couple of minutes. I'm  
21 going to disconnect this projector briefly  
22 and see if I can get this software to open  
23 back up with all my maps. It is very  
24 cantankerous when it comes to projectors and  
25 Wi-Fi. (Indiscernible). This won't



1 cooperate. Let me connect this back to the  
2 projector.

3 Okay. This is the May 10 House map, and  
4 again, I'm putting it up here for no other  
5 reason than it's just one of the maps that's  
6 been published on our website.

7 Okay. Questions, comments on House map?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

9 MR. WOODSON: Well, the one we've been  
10 looking at was a May 4 Senate map.

11 JACKIE MARTIN: I have a question on  
12 Cleburne County. The last map I looked at  
13 that was online had us divided into four  
14 state Representative Districts, or three  
15 depending on which map you looked at. This  
16 newest one, that's the way we want it to  
17 stay, with Josh Johnston as our State  
18 Representative. That's probably how it's  
19 drawn out. But I think one of the maps had  
20 us in District 71 and the northeastern was  
21 District 58 or 72.

22 But anyway, it was one of the map  
23 (indiscernible). We do not want our county  
24 split up. I mean, the main central cultural  
25 area in Cleburne County is Greers Ferry Lake

1 and all the surrounding (indiscernible), but  
2 mainly it's the lake. And so everybody  
3 around there, they mainly support the lake,  
4 the tourist season. You've got Little Red  
5 River, and so, you know, Cleburne County,  
6 that's who we are, and we would like to stay  
7 in one state Representative District  
8 (indiscernible).

9 MR. WOODSON: (Indiscernible.)

10 JACKIE MARTIN: I like this one where  
11 it's all in District 56.

12 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

13 JACKIE MARTIN: Where you just got a  
14 little piece -- that's the way it's drawn  
15 right now.

16 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Thank you.

17 If you're not prepared to say something  
18 tonight and you think of something later that  
19 you haven't thought of tonight, you know, you  
20 can email me, you can write me, you can  
21 contact the staff of the different offices.  
22 And the lead person for each office is listed  
23 on the website. You can call them or go  
24 visit with them. So this isn't your last  
25 chance to say something, but we're just

1 trying to provide a forum. Go ahead.

2 JAMIE GATES: Jamie Gates commenting  
3 again. Now, talking about the House maps,  
4 I'm really familiar with where the lines fall  
5 on this version, but we are currently split  
6 east and west, really the city population is  
7 split down the middle east and west. This is  
8 at conflict with --

9 MR. WOODSON: By the Interstate?

10 JAMIE GATES: No, we're split by Donaghey  
11 Avenue --

12 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

13 JAMIE GATES: -- which is closer to -- if  
14 you're familiar with Conway -- but it's just  
15 running contrary to all the community  
16 planning and efforts made at the school  
17 district and city government level. The  
18 school district has bent over backwards to  
19 try and divide things north and south for a  
20 number of equity issues. When we eventually  
21 add another high school, they've already made  
22 it clear to everyone that we'll be dividing  
23 north and south on the same issues.

24 The result of east and west split is two  
25 dramatically different districts with regard

1 to income, race, you know, your tendencies on  
2 employers versus residential, two very  
3 different districts within the same city.  
4 And so by splitting the city north-south, you  
5 achieve a -- you know, two districts that at  
6 least resemble each other, and those  
7 differences I think will only be more stark  
8 now than they were in 2000 if we continue to  
9 have a western city seat and an eastern city  
10 seat.

11 So really (indiscernible) efforts over  
12 the last ten years. (Indiscernible) work to  
13 eliminate any sort of east-west dynamic of  
14 the city. If you do have to split the city  
15 in some fashion, we just ask that you do it  
16 in a way that compliments our effort to  
17 (indiscernible).

18 MR. WOODSON: This is not in response to  
19 that, but you reminded me, there's a lot of  
20 other downstream issues or (indiscernible).  
21 Once we get through drawing our maps, the  
22 courts have to come in and put all the voters  
23 in the right districts and, you know, there's  
24 the (indiscernible). A lot of these  
25 different entities, you know, have a lot of

1 overlap in economic development, that sort of  
2 thing, and that's the kind of information  
3 that we're looking for, we don't -- we're not  
4 necessarily aware of, you know, to draw  
5 Senate and House maps.

6 So there's a lot -- I don't want to say  
7 "at stake" -- but there is a lot at stake.  
8 But there's a lot of other people waiting for  
9 us to get done with our job so they can do  
10 their job, and to the extent that we can  
11 accommodate those similarities as opposed to  
12 running contrary to them, then that makes  
13 everybody else's life easier.

14 One other thing I'd say on that is  
15 there's a pretty large (indiscernible).  
16 Anytime we can match up a geographic  
17 boundary, a community place, a road, a river,  
18 or a railroad, that really makes everybody  
19 else's life easier. It makes the voter's  
20 life easier because they go, "Well, I'm north  
21 of the river or" -- (indiscernible). And it  
22 makes it easier (indiscernible), in the right  
23 precincts and give them the right ballots and  
24 on and on and on. Not to be too over  
25 dramatic about the whole thing, but I think

1 it helps democracy where it's better at the  
2 end day when people see -- you know, when  
3 they go to vote and we have fewer rather than  
4 more problems, then I think it helps us all,  
5 you know, helps our system.

6 JAMIE GATES: Thank you.

7 MR. WOODSON: Thank you. Any other  
8 questions or comments? Yes, sir?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)  
10 pull up that Senate map you had.

11 MR. WOODSON: The -- four?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The west side and  
13 just kind of the map before it didn't match  
14 up to what we saw in this (indiscernible).  
15 Is there a way we can get a copy of that  
16 because I think it's (indiscernible).

17 MR. WOODSON: Yes. The short answer is  
18 yes. I can get it to you. Hopefully, it  
19 will come back up. Does that match up? This  
20 is -- it should be the May 4 Senate map off  
21 the website.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May 10 or May 4?

23 MR. WOODSON: Well, this is May 4. Now,  
24 I have the May 10 House map. I think maybe  
25 that got lost in translation. Most recently

1 I was on the May 10 House map.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

3 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, but that's not --  
4 yeah, this is the Senate map right here.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

6 MR. WOODSON: That's not accurate. I  
7 don't know why the software puts that up  
8 there, but let me try it one more time. So  
9 I'm going to grab this May 4 Senate statewide  
10 and open it. And you can tell by the size  
11 that's the Senate map. This is 32  
12 (indiscernible).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

14 MR. WOODSON: The May 10 was the House  
15 map. This is not -- I don't know why the  
16 software puts that up there, but this is the  
17 May 4 Senate map. Do you want me to me pull  
18 up the May 10 map?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

20 MR. WOODSON: Okay, sure.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).  
22 Senate District 29 appears to be Senate  
23 District 17 in the future, and very  
24 cautiously I would say that I would prefer  
25 that the Senate District stand as it is now

1 as much as possible. But in reference to  
2 this particular map, that it looks like it  
3 draws from Beebe all the way to Tuckerman. I  
4 don't believe that's very well -- and I  
5 understand that this is your map, and I think  
6 this ought to be seriously considered -- but  
7 I don't believe that that follows many of the  
8 parameters, especially for that Senate  
9 District, that are outlined in your initial  
10 presentation. So I'd just like for you to  
11 take that into consideration when you  
12 adjusting your map.

13 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, that's a  
14 (indiscernible). The problem -- and I guess  
15 y'all are getting tired of me saying this is,  
16 the difficulty in the whole process is when  
17 you have these under populated areas and they  
18 go looking for people, it effects almost  
19 everything else. It's very hard to  
20 (indiscernible). But that's a good point.

21 Well, unless there's more comments or  
22 questions -- yes, ma'am?

23 JACKIE MARTIN: I noticed on the website  
24 that you have put your maps up there and so  
25 has Secretary of State Mark Martin. Where



1 are Governor Beebe's maps and Attorney  
2 General Dustin McDaniel's maps?

3 MR. WOODSON: They haven't released any  
4 of them. They said that they're going to  
5 publish their actual proposed maps on July 19  
6 on the website and then have another week or  
7 so public comment. And we're going to have  
8 another meeting for public comment on the  
9 final proposed map. So I don't know -- I  
10 haven't talked to the Secretary of State's  
11 folks, but I think we'll probably have a  
12 final proposed map coming out about the same  
13 time too.

14 JACKIE MARTIN: Is there a reason why  
15 they don't want to publish any maps?

16 MR. WOODSON: You'd have to ask them. I  
17 don't know that.

18 JACKIE MARTIN: (Indiscernible). I was  
19 just curious, is there some reason why  
20 they're hiding their maps, or do they give a  
21 reason at all as to why they will not publish  
22 the maps that they're --

23 MR. WOODSON: They (indiscernible), and  
24 so you'll have to talk to their office. You  
25 know --

1 JACKIE MARTIN: (Indiscernible).

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

3 MR. WOODSON: We'll have, yes, another  
4 meeting in Little Rock, and (indiscernible).

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

6 MR. WOODSON: I'm going to find us  
7 another spot where parking is easier. Public  
8 comment on the 25th, which will be -- that's  
9 a Monday. July 25th is a Monday, and right  
10 now I think we'll have (indiscernible)  
11 somewhere in Little Rock for public comment  
12 (indiscernible) Attorney General and  
13 Secretary of State (indiscernible) in those  
14 final proposed maps.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

16 MR. WOODSON: That's the 25th, which is a  
17 Monday. The final map is going on the 19th -  
18 - July 19th on the website. The 25th is  
19 another public meeting, and then the 29th  
20 right now is still the final board meeting  
21 (indiscernible).

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

23 MR. WOODSON: It's a self-imposed  
24 deadline. It's not a statute of the  
25 Constitution to be finished. We'd like to be

1 finishing earlier. There's a lot of  
2 downstream folks waiting on us to get done,  
3 and we're -- the staff in all three offices,  
4 we're trying to process all of the input to -  
5 - you know, to get to the finish line.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

7 MR. WOODSON: What's that?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was the final  
9 date that --

10 MR. WOODSON: Originally it was August  
11 1st, and we scooted it back a couple of days  
12 to try -- the 29th of July.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

14 MR. WOODSON: You know, it's easy to grab  
15 the wrong file. Let me fire up my wireless  
16 here. I will say one thing for  
17 (indiscernible). The colors may have  
18 changed. Here's the May 4 off the website  
19 for whoever wants it.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When will those  
21 maps -- and we discussed this earlier  
22 (indiscernible) and see exactly where the  
23 districts are.

24 MR. WOODSON: (Indiscernible). I am  
25 working with the IT folks --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

2 MR. WOODSON: -- to get an application.

3 By the time the three officials  
4 (indiscernible) those maps, I hope to have an  
5 application on the website that will lay on  
6 top of a Google map and you can zoom down to  
7 a street level, block level.

8 Administratively with this approach, it's  
9 hard to look at that map, that level of  
10 detail on the website just because of the  
11 (indiscernible). You get down that close to  
12 zoom in that close, you know, you'd have to  
13 have little bitty maps.

14 Our goal -- to answer your question -- is  
15 by the time those final proposals come out on  
16 July 19th, to have a way that everybody can  
17 look at any of the maps that come out and  
18 zoom in to see your home, your city, and look  
19 at streets and all of that.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the way it is  
21 now, we're in (indiscernible). We can't --

22 MR. WOODSON: Yeah.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) at  
24 one in the area that's going into Saline  
25 County.

1 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, and that's very much  
2 (indiscernible). And the detail does exist,  
3 it just hasn't been put out on the website,  
4 but I hope to have that available.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. WOODSON: Yes, ma'am.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

8 MR. WOODSON: Well, every impression that  
9 I get is that the Board intends to the best  
10 they can, maintain minority districts in the  
11 state. There's four State Senate minority  
12 Districts and thirteen House minority  
13 Districts.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

15 MR. WOODSON: Well, I think that's  
16 (indiscernible). The federal court said that  
17 Arkansas (indiscernible) Voting Acts Right of  
18 1965, and so they ordered the state to go  
19 back and redraw certain districts and --  
20 which they did and the court removed it so  
21 that (indiscernible) a court approved plan  
22 redistricted after the 2000 census. So 2001  
23 had a new plan, and I think -- I don't think  
24 there's any political will that exists to not  
25 have those minority districts --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

2 MR. WOODSON: It's maintaining compliance  
3 with -- the court ordered that it's being  
4 violated (indiscernible). But my impression  
5 is that it needs to maintain those districts  
6 to maintain compliance.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

8 MR. WOODSON: Well, I guess the -- it  
9 depends. The people that brought the lawsuit  
10 said that the state had violated the Voter's  
11 Act of 1965. The members of the minority  
12 districts didn't have as fair a chance to  
13 elect their representatives as the other  
14 districts did which is --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

16 MR. WOODSON: Oh, I'm sorry, okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

18 MR. WOODSON: They couldn't hear your  
19 comments, but you can come to the microphone.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, can you hear  
21 me?

22 MR. WOODSON: Yes.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On Senate 33 and  
24 34, I do not understand why you want to  
25 maintain minority status.

1           MR. WOODSON: Well, let me start over on  
2 this whole deal that not everyone heard, I  
3 don't guess. In 1989 there is a Federal  
4 Court case called Jeffers v. Clinton , and the  
5 Federal Court ruled in 1989 that the State of  
6 Arkansas in their 1980 plan, that after the  
7 1980 census, the state had violated the  
8 Voting Rights Act of 1965. So the Court  
9 ordered the state to go back and redraw it so  
10 it can create a number of minority districts,  
11 House and Senate, and that court ordered plan  
12 became effective in '91.

13           So through the 90's we were under a court  
14 ordered plan -- court approved plan --  
15 there's a subtle distinction there. And so  
16 we're only one redistricting removed from  
17 that. And we had the redistricting after the  
18 2000 census, and here we are one removed from  
19 that. And I think -- my impression is that  
20 none of the constitutional officers are  
21 interested in reducing or eliminating those  
22 minority districts because we're so  
23 (indiscernible) that they intend to maintain  
24 those minority districts as best they can to  
25 remain in compliance with (indiscernible)

1 that the court said we had violated back in  
2 1989.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

4 MR. WOODSON: I'm not familiar or aware  
5 of that, but, no. I mean, we've got to meet  
6 the population, whereas we've got to have  
7 districts that are the same size.

8 And back to my opening remarks, you know,  
9 the Supreme Court, U.S. Supreme Court, just  
10 said that any jurisdiction has to be very  
11 careful when they're drawing minority  
12 districts, and you can't just declare all the  
13 other factors out the window to just draw a  
14 racial district. But at the same time, it is  
15 allowable to take consideration and maintain  
16 minority districts if you take the other  
17 criteria in consideration as well.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

19 MR. WOODSON: All right. Well, if there  
20 are no other questions or comments, we're  
21 adjourned. Thank you for coming.

22 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were  
23 concluded in the matter at 7:30 p.m.)

24 \* \* \* \* \*

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 1st day of July,  
2011.

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SHERRI RENAUD

Arkansas State Supreme Court  
Certified Court Reporter #690



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