

PUBLIC MEETING

**FAULKNER COUNTY TEA PARTY
THE MCGEE CENTER
CONWAY, ARKANSAS**

PROCEEDINGS

(Taken June 9th, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.)

**LITTLE ROCK
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APPEARANCES

PRESENTER:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

RHETT HATCHER

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INDEX

STYLE AND NUMBER	1
APPEARANCES	2
PROCEEDINGS	4
PROCEEDINGS ENDED	58
COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	59-60

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
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15
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PROCEEDINGS

MR. CROW: So what I'd like to do without continuing on here is let's invite Joe to come up and take over.

MR. WOODSON: Thank you, David; thank you, Janet. David introduced me, but I forgot to introduce myself Tuesday in Monticello. That's me on the bottom left-hand corner and my e-mail address, contact information. So if you decide later on you want to use that, that's me and that's where you can get me.

Thank you so much for having me. It's always nice to see folks turn out to hear what you have to say. Speaking of what I have to say, I've got to recognize Mr. Bobby Allison. I grew up at his house. His son and I are best friends. And if I say something you don't like, it's his fault.

Driving over, I came the back way from Highway 10 to Little Rock, and I came across Toad Suck. And I remember back in 1985 -- another UCA story, Rhett -- when I was a freshman linebacker at UCA, my roommate got a

1 brand new Trans Am, and it wasn't the Smokey
2 and the Bandit style, it was the new modern-
3 style Trans Am. And we left, I guess the
4 southeast corner of the campus -- is that
5 Donagey and Ward -- and he punched it, and we
6 were going about a 100 miles an hour. And
7 after I figured out that I wasn't going to
8 die, I realized that we were almost
9 immediately out in the countryside.

10 And that's relevant to redistricting in
11 this way: Conway and Faulkner County has
12 experienced phenomenal growth, right, in the
13 last 25 years, and especially so in the last
14 ten years. And so that's going influence a
15 lot of what we have to say tonight. I told
16 another UCA story back in Monticello, and
17 Rhett had to hear that one too; so I promise
18 I won't tell another UCA story, Rhett.

19 One other thing, we've got a court
20 reporter here. I called Janet -- Janet thank
21 you, again, for the invitation -- and I
22 called her and asked her if it would be okay
23 to bring a court reporter to create a record
24 of what we're saying. The reason is this: A
25 big part of my job as the redistricting

1 coordinator, not only am I involved in
2 drawing maps, but I'm very interested in
3 developing a record for the process of
4 redistricting.

5 What we're in the middle of right now is
6 our seven-week listening tour where we're
7 going around the state, we're having public
8 meetings, which this has become one of those.
9 It's your event, and I realize we're a guest
10 here, and I appreciate that. But at the same
11 time, I'm very interested in what you have to
12 say and what your comments are.

13 And after I go through my introductory
14 remarks -- if, tonight, you're not ready to
15 make a comment, but you think of something in
16 a day or two or a week or two, you can e-mail
17 me, you can write me a letter, you can come
18 to another one of our public meetings. We're
19 having one a week from Tuesday at Little Rock
20 at UALR. So I'm inviting you to let your
21 voices be heard.

22 And one other thing about Rhett, Rhett is
23 one of those guys that's scary smart, you
24 know. You listen to him for about five
25 minutes, and you go how does anybody know

1 that much stuff, first of all, and how does
2 anybody remember it? But he does. And it's
3 been a pleasure working with him, and he's a
4 very good resource for redistricting and the
5 secretary of state's office. So he's a smart
6 guy. You need to listen to what he says.

7 Okay. I want to do essentially three
8 things tonight, and feel free at any point
9 tonight to interrupt me to ask a question, if
10 you don't understand something I said or if
11 you didn't hear it. I just want a dialog.
12 I'm not trying to just sit up here and
13 lecture.

14 And I want to do three things. I want to
15 talk about a brief summary of the law; and
16 then I'm going to show you -- Number 2 is
17 show you the software that we're using to
18 actually draw the maps; and then we will open
19 the floor even more for questions or comments
20 and discussions about the maps that are out
21 there right now.

22 There are basically ten principles of law
23 that -- they guide and direct how the maps
24 can be drawn. And it just happened to be
25 ten; it's the top ten, I guess you would say.

1 Am I cutting in and out?

2 The first one is one person, one vote.

3 Let me start with this extreme example.

4 Let's say instead of having 35 state
5 senators, we only have two, and there was two
6 state senate districts in the state of
7 Arkansas, and the board drew a map that
8 included everyone in this room, let's say 100
9 people. Let's say this 100 people elected
10 one state senator, and the other 2,518,514
11 people elected the other state senator.

12 Well, obviously, you 100 people would have a
13 disproportionate influence on the process.

14 And so the cornerstone of all redistricting
15 as the U.S. Supreme Court has said is one
16 person, one vote. And so what you have to do
17 once every ten years is go through the
18 process of essentially equalizing the
19 district populations.

20 Now, I want to make a distinction here.
21 As you can see, there's a difference between
22 congressional and legislative districts. And
23 congressional districts, they're held to a
24 strict quality standard, and that's because
25 it comes with an apportionment clause in the

1 U.S. Constitution. We've got several members
2 of the general assembly here tonight, and we
3 all know they just went through that process.

4 What that means is, of the four
5 congressional districts, those four districts
6 have to be almost exactly the same number in
7 population size, less than 1 percent.

8 There's a federal court case from Arkansas
9 that held that .74 percent was legal, but
10 it's got to be almost that low and that
11 precise to pass legal muster.

12 What we're doing with the Board of
13 Apportionment is redistricting legislative
14 seats as opposed to congressional seats; so
15 100 house seats, 35 senate seats. And again,
16 what we're shooting for, the cornerstone, is,
17 roughly, equal population size, except per
18 the law, we get from the protection clause in
19 the 14th Amendment, we get a little bit
20 bigger variance. We can be plus or minus 5
21 percent in any given district.

22 For example, let's say the ideal house
23 seat size was 100 persons, but the variance
24 with an overall range that we get is that the
25 smallest house district seat in Arkansas

1 could be 95 people, the largest could be 105
2 people, an overall range of 10 percent. And
3 so we get that much wiggle room when we're
4 drawing the senate and house seats for the
5 state.

6 The U.S. Census said that Arkansas had
7 2,915,118 people; that number divided by 100
8 is 29,159 for the ideal house seat size, and
9 that number divided by 35 is 83,311 for the
10 ideal senate size. And so each of the
11 districts have to be within plus or minus
12 that percent. Okay. That's the top sort of,
13 I guess you would say, most important and
14 essential factors in redistricting.

15 The next two are the Voting Rights Act of
16 1965, which was civil rights legislation
17 passed by congress, and it said that it made
18 it illegal to discriminate against any racial
19 or language minority with any sort of
20 practice or procedure, or map in this case
21 would fall within that category. And to do
22 so, would be a violation of law.

23 The next thing is the Equal Protection
24 Clause of 14th Amendment. And the U.S.
25 Supreme Court has said, even though we have

1 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and you can't
2 discriminate against racial or language
3 minorities, at the same time, the U.S.
4 Supreme Court has said we don't want you
5 drawing districts based primarily or
6 exclusively on race and disregarding all of
7 your other redistricting principles.

8 And they set out a couple of exceptions.
9 If you're trying to comply with the Voting
10 Rights Act of 1965 or if you're trying to
11 remedy past discrimination, you can go a
12 little bit further down that spectrum in
13 terms of how you draw them out, but as the
14 map drawers -- and the board has be to very
15 conscious of not running afoul of either one
16 of these because they're both very important.

17 The next would be compact districts, and
18 what I mean by that is the shape. The
19 example I always think of is a circle or a
20 square would be the perfect compact district.
21 It's the perfect shape. In practice, we all
22 know that districts have different shapes.

23 But the moral or the point here is: The
24 more bizarre looking the shape of the
25 district in appearance, the less the courts

1 like it. And so you want to stay away as
2 much as you can from just, you know, really
3 crawling out there with spider arms and doing
4 these weird things that a lot of the
5 litigation has resulted from over the past
6 few decades.

7 Another thing is they've got to be
8 geographically meticulous, and that is they
9 have to touch. The district has to touch
10 somewhere physically. You can't have an
11 island to itself; it's going to be part of
12 this district over here.

13 I think we've covered the first five.
14 Then you get into some other factors that
15 overlap on the -- the next one is minimizing
16 the splitting of political subdivisions. And
17 that means, to the extent possible, you want
18 to maintain counties and cities and voting
19 precincts. Any political subdivision that's
20 out there, we want to try and maintain that
21 political subdivision if you can.

22 Next, you have maintain the core of
23 existing districts. You know, what's the
24 historical core of your district? Has Conway
25 historically and traditionally been in

1 District A or has it been in District B? To
2 the extent you can, the courts say you want
3 to keep that, maintain that continuity and
4 representation. That is if -- to the extent
5 you can, you want to minimize circumstances
6 where you have incumbents running against
7 each other.

8 Of course, the rationale for that is if
9 you have an incumbent that has been elected
10 from a given district and the people in that
11 district have voted them in, they ought to
12 get the chance to continue to vote them in.
13 And so that's one of the factors that you try
14 to minimize.

15 Another one, and maybe the best shorthand
16 version of all of this, is to maintain
17 communities of interest, and that one factor
18 sort of covers many of the factors at once.
19 What does any given district have in common?
20 What does it have in common socially? What
21 do the school districts look like? What does
22 the economy look like? What does the
23 partisanship look like? Those are all things
24 that sort of play together. And ideally, in
25 every district, you're going to be able to

1 keep communities together in that sense.

2 And the reason why is the Holy Grail of
3 redistricting is to give all voters
4 everywhere an equal opportunity to elect the
5 person that they want to elect. That's sort
6 of the goal of this whole exercise, is to get
7 to the point where everyone has got the same
8 chance. All right. One person, one vote,
9 you get the same chance; and so that's what
10 the courts have said we need to try to do.

11 And then, lastly, we want to minimize
12 partisanship. The U.S. Supreme Court most
13 recently has said it's possible to bring a
14 lawsuit over, you know, one party taking
15 advantage of the other. But what they didn't
16 do was tell us what is or isn't legal in
17 doing that. So there's no way right now to
18 identify what the U.S. Supreme Court would
19 consider to be legal or illegal in that
20 context. So the word of the day there is
21 "caution." We need to minimize partisanship
22 as much as possible.

23 Two caveats, nothing is absolute in
24 redistricting, similar to most things in
25 life; I won't say all things in life. All of

1 these factors can be violated or not complied
2 with in varying degrees.

3 And David mentioned I was a lawyer. You
4 know that lawyers always like to say, "Well,
5 it depends," you know, "it depends." And
6 that's true. The context of what you're
7 talking about depends; and so there's nothing
8 absolute. Probably the most absolute thing
9 would be the population equality, bullet
10 point -- the very first one. But even that
11 could be violated theoretically if you had a
12 good enough reason; so nothing is absolute.

13 And then, lastly, all of these rules have
14 been made by the courts to serve as
15 limitations on the party that's empowered
16 from taking unfair advantage of the other.
17 So if you recognize the fact that there's two
18 Democrats on the Board of Apportionment and
19 one Republican, you can take some comfort in
20 the fact that these are all designed by the
21 U.S. Supreme Court and the lower courts as
22 limitations on what one party can do to the
23 other. Any questions on that?

24 All right. Well, all that's on the
25 website, arkansasredistricting.org, up here

1 (indicating), arkansasredistricting.org. You
2 can go to the homepage here, you can see
3 about the members of the board and read about
4 the process, and that's a more detailed
5 explanation of what the law is. And right
6 here (indicating), the redistricting
7 criteria, those are all the bullets points we
8 just went over. We've got a calendar. We've
9 posted all of our documents, and then we've
10 got maps too that we'll get to in a minute.

11 DAVID CROW: Joe?

12 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir.

13 DAVID CROW: I have a question for you.
14 This is David Crow from Conway. That's what
15 we all have to say whenever you ask a
16 question, announce who we are and where we're
17 from. My question has to do with the
18 redistricting that occurred within the
19 legislature. Looking at that criteria that
20 you had up there, did you think that that was
21 followed with a Fayetteville finger?

22 MR. WOODSON: Well, I --

23 DAVID CROW: Or are there two separate
24 set rules for the two different process?

25 MR. WOODSON: I truly can't comment. I

1 don't want to comment on it. But second of
2 all, I really didn't follow it that closely.
3 I mean, I didn't study that map. But the
4 answer is yes, the same rules apply to
5 congressional redistricting as to state
6 redistricting, to JP districts, to city
7 wards, school boards. The same rules apply
8 because there's one person, one vote, and
9 that's what you're after. And so I assume
10 that it did, because they had a lot of smart
11 people looking at it. But, you know, I
12 haven't studied it in that regard.

13 DAVID CROW: The reason I was asking that
14 too was of John (inaudible). He's not one to
15 normally quote. He says, "If we continue
16 with the same pattern that existed within the
17 state legislature with the reapportionment,
18 we might have a bunch of Fayetteville fingers
19 all over the entire state."

20 MR. WOODSON: You'll have to ask John
21 about that. The word of the day -- in my
22 position, everybody I've talked to and
23 everywhere I go to speak, I'm constantly
24 directing these -- bless your heart. He's
25 heard this speech three times already. He's

1 going to hear it three or four more if they
2 make him. You ought to ask for extra pay for
3 that. So I'm constantly reminding myself and
4 others that these are the rules. And if you
5 get outside these rules, you are at risk for
6 having a plan invalidated, and I don't think
7 anybody wants that.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that the
9 citizens' remedy if they feel like that it's
10 not valid, is they, then --

11 MR. WOODSON: That's the remedy. I've
12 been saying a lot of things. One of the
13 things I frequently say is that, you know,
14 everyone involved on the board and the staff
15 are very aware that a lot of people, maybe
16 even most people, aren't going to be happy
17 with the end result.

18 My goal, though, is that everyone would
19 be satisfied. What I mean by that is: If
20 you were so upset that you went into a
21 lawyer's office and said, Dadgum it, we need
22 to sue him because they really stuck it to
23 us, and a lawyer that knew what they were
24 talking about sat down and went through all
25 those bullet points and said, you know, was

1 the population right, did it comply with the
2 equal voting rights, was there, you know,
3 equal protection -- in fact, contiguous, all
4 through that line -- the lawyer would have to
5 say, yeah, they did; and so you don't have a
6 case. That's my goal, is to make the plan
7 legal and fair and just and -- well, it makes
8 common sense.

9 MR. BARTLES: Ron Bartles, Conway. How
10 do we know that you are not going to, in any
11 way, gerrymander?

12 MR. WOODSON: You don't. But Article 8
13 of the Arkansas Constitution gave the Board
14 of Apportionment, which is the government,
15 the attorney general, and secretary of state,
16 the authority and the right and the
17 obligation to do this function. It's been
18 there for 75 years, since 1936; so, you know,
19 it's the three-person board. It could be
20 unanimous. It could be a two to one vote.
21 But that's the way the constitution has it
22 set up.

23 You know, I hope that there's not, and I
24 hope that there's nothing that's illegal or
25 unfair or unjust, but, you know, it is what

1 it is.

2 SCOTTIE: Could you address the fact --
3 oh, I'm Scottie Keller (phonetic), I'm from
4 Conway. Could you address the fact that has
5 it not been historically the procedure for
6 the secretary of state's office to perform
7 this? And how often has somebody like
8 yourself done this in the past?

9 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Well, certainly,
10 there's no question that the secretary of
11 state historically had the lead in it and
12 that the secretary of state staff folks have
13 the lead in it now. Once they really got up
14 to speed, all three offices would have their
15 folks involved. But there's no question
16 about that. And the two Democrats voted that
17 they didn't want the secretary of state
18 taking the lead on it; so they hired me. But
19 again, that's the truth. You know, that's
20 what they did.

21 SCOTTIE: How often in the past has that
22 happened? Do you know?

23 MR. WOODSON: Well, every other time in
24 the past, whoever the secretary of state was,
25 was the majority with whoever the governor or

1 attorney general was. So most recently
2 Governor Huckabee was the Republican,
3 secretary of state and Attorney General Mark
4 Pryor was the two Democrats; so, you know,
5 that's where that comes from.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

7 MR. WOODSON: Not to my knowledge. She
8 said it's never helped. To my knowledge, I
9 think it's always been the secretary of state
10 that was in the majority.

11 MR. BARTLES: Joe, if we decide that we
12 want to bring action, does the state mandate
13 and statute mandate that we bring it on a
14 case-by-case basis or do we bring it as a
15 class action?

16 MR. WOODSON: Honestly, I haven't looked
17 at the procedure. I would imagine that any
18 citizen would have a standing to bring that
19 case. I don't think it would have to be a
20 class action. I think any citizen, certainly
21 any voting-age citizen would have a standing.
22 I'm 99 percent sure of that. I haven't
23 researched it, but . . .

24 Yes, ma'am?

25 GAYE PRICE: (Inaudible.)

1 COURT REPORTER: I'm not able to hear
2 that.

3 MS. PRICE: -- cities. I know Alma -- I
4 remember that Alma was split. Would you try
5 not to split a town or city? Why would you
6 do that?

7 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, yeah, absolutely.
8 And that's one of the factors listed, and to
9 the extent you can avoid doing that, the
10 courts like that more. Now, as a practical
11 matter, lots of things get spilt a lot of
12 different ways; and so that's the reality and
13 probably will be this time.

14 Arkansas, ten years ago, was -- I think
15 there were two or three other states who had
16 not yet split a county. And Arkansas, ten
17 years ago, was able not to split any counties
18 for the congressional district, but this
19 time, they felt like they had to.

20 MS. PRICE: We just want it to be fair.
21 Gaye Price from Conway.

22 MR. WOODSON: Sure.

23 MARVIN: I was just instructed not to
24 give any speeches; so I won't. But I do have
25 a couple of questions. On the maps back

1 here, are these the Apportionment's? Are
2 these maps that you guys did?

3 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. I didn't already
4 have any display boards drawn up for Faulkner
5 County. But yeah, I did one for the Board of
6 Apportionment, and the secretary of state's
7 folks did the other one. I think they did
8 the May 5th version, and I did the May 4
9 version.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So on the house
11 number can you explain the Faulkner finger
12 and the splitting of the districts?

13 MR. WOODSON: We'll pull it up here.
14 Which date are you referring to?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The one that's
16 published back here.

17 MR. WOODSON: Admittedly, those are hard
18 to look at for Faulkner County. I'll blow up
19 a much bigger picture. Before we go to the
20 software, any other questions about the law
21 or general comments? Yes, sir?

22 JACK: Just a quick one. Jack of Conway.
23 The secretary of state has drawn a map, and a
24 lot of us have seen it. The governor and the
25 AG have not. And you're out now, getting

1 input from us as to, I assume, what the
2 governor and the Ag will use to make their
3 maps. Will there be any citizen-input time
4 after those maps are out, or once those maps
5 are out, it's just done?

6 MR. WOODSON: Yes. Now, because of that
7 concern, the governor has stated publicly,
8 and the attorney general also, that they're
9 going to give at least two weeks after they
10 come out with their maps for more public
11 comment before they take any final action.

12 Okay. Go ahead. I'll come back to your
13 -- remind me here in just a second. Let me
14 sort of give you a little bit of context for
15 this.

16 This right here (indicating) is our
17 mapping software. And by the way, you can go
18 out on the Internet, some place called
19 "Dave's Redistricting" that Rhett and I have
20 even used quite a bit, and you can draw your
21 own map. It's got some limitations. You
22 can't really fine tune your map. You're
23 limited to voting precincts. Nevertheless,
24 it's a very instructive exercise. If you're
25 interested, you can go do that. You can even

1 submit those to the board.

2 Like I said, this is our mapping
3 software. It's essentially this mapping
4 software. And on top of that, they built a
5 program that would take in the census data.
6 As we all know, last year, 2010, the U.S.
7 Census Bureau went out and counted the
8 nation, and they came out with their official
9 figures; Arkansas has 2,915,000.

10 And what we did, I had two folks help me
11 because I didn't know how to do it, but they
12 loaded in the census data, and this program
13 will automatically tabulate your -- any given
14 district and its size, so . . .

15 Sir, did you say May 5?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

17 MR. WOODSON: Senate or house?

18 (MULTIPLE SPEAKERS.)

19 MR. WOODSON: May 5th senate. Okay. Let
20 me look on the map, and we'll use that one as
21 an example. This program is already opened.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The green.

23 MR. WOODSON: The green?

24 (MULTIPLE SPEAKERS.)

25 MR. WOODSON: This was the May 5th senate

1 map. This was drawn by the secretary of
2 state's folks, and what we're looking at
3 here, District 6, these are senate districts,
4 remember 83,312. District 14, this is a
5 different numbering scheme than, I think, the
6 current district number.

7 But if you look at District 6, right here
8 (indicating) -- yeah, this was one that they
9 fine tuned, and they got it really low. If
10 you look, here's the ideal population size,
11 the target number; here's what's actually in
12 this current District 6, and it's down just
13 2.6 percent or down 218 people. Fourteen,
14 likewise, is right on the lake and slightly
15 down 1.1 percent. This might not be a good
16 example. Well, I'll see what -- I'll change
17 this.

18 All I want to do here -- and I'll only
19 take a couple of minutes, and then we'll get
20 back to the questions and comments, and we
21 can talk about maps. But I want to show you
22 sort of the ripple effect that occurs. Let
23 me . . .

24 Okay. All of these yellow lines are
25 voting precincts. Now, if we look at, for

1 example, District 6 -- I'm sorry. I'm
2 getting a little click happy here. It's a
3 little bit harder to do this with one screen.
4 But District 6 is down just 218 people from
5 it's ideal size.

6 Let's say we want to try to really fine
7 tune it, and we'll come over here and say I'm
8 going to select District 6, and I'm going to
9 assign -- that would be a voting precinct
10 level, which is what a VTP -- and I'm going
11 to grab Wooster and put it down in District
12 6, in that precinct.

13 Well, look at District 6. Whoa, that
14 went haywire on me. Rhett, what did I do on
15 that? It was only supposed to add the . . .

16 RHETT: (Inaudible.)

17 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Something messed up
18 there. Anyway, I'm not going to belabor the
19 point, but let me undo that. One of the
20 things I've figured out is my --

21 RHETT: (Inaudible.)

22 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, I undid it. I went
23 back to the 218. This software doesn't like
24 it when it's hooked up to a wireless Internet
25 for some reason. In any event, let me pull

1 this down to get the gentleman's question.

2 Okay. Now, is this what you're talking
3 about right here (indicating), sir?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

5 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Well, Rhett can
6 probably talk about it more, but I imagine
7 that was never to go grab population to make
8 the districts equalize.

9 MR. BARTLES: So they went there rather
10 than going somewhere else.

11 MR. WOODSON: Yeah, go ahead, go ahead.

12 RHETT: The first thing I want to say
13 before I talk about this map is that, you
14 know, working with government's office and
15 the attorney general's office has been a
16 pleasant surprise. They have really worked
17 with us.

18 Matter of fact, my wife is sitting up
19 here. Much to her consternation on the way
20 out here, I spent 30 minutes on the phone
21 with James Miller. You guys don't know who
22 James Miller is, but he's the governor's
23 point guy on the drawing of the maps. We
24 talked about some different things. They've
25 been very open. They've worked with us.

1 I know that it's kind of caused a fuss,
2 they haven't put out any maps, but they're
3 taking public comment right now, and then
4 they're going to work on some maps. But they
5 have been very good to work with us. Joe has
6 been great.

7 I think it's largely myth out there that
8 they're in some back room formulating this
9 ultimate plan to, you know, just stick it to
10 everybody. Like I said, they've really
11 worked great with us. So I don't have any
12 complaints about the AG's office or the
13 governor's office, and I sincerely mean that.

14 As far as this map here (indicating), and
15 I don't know if you can see it in the back
16 there, but whenever you start a map, you kind
17 of have to have an overarching goal like Joe
18 was talking about; and that is, the goal is
19 either, perhaps, to keep the variance down to
20 plus or minus ten or 15 people. The goal is
21 to maximize the number of districts that
22 minorities have, majority/minority seats.

23 The goal on this map was to avoid
24 splitting as many counties as possible. If
25 you look at the map back there and if he were

1 to kind of zoom out on it, you're going to
2 see more counties and therefore more cities
3 stay whole on this map than you would on any
4 other map. For instance, you know, District
5 5 there, that's four whole counties, Madison,
6 Franklin, Johnson, and Logan. Every one of
7 those counties stayed whole in that district.

8 The deal with Conway here is, you take
9 Yell, Conway County, Perry County, all three
10 of those districts stayed whole, all three of
11 those counties, and Conway city, the majority
12 of Faulkner County, stayed whole on this map.
13 It just happens that Faulkner County has
14 111,000 people, which means you can put one
15 whole senate seat in there, 83,000 people,
16 and you're still going to have 30,000 people
17 left over. Those 30,000 people are going to
18 feel like they have been drawn out, you know,
19 in some kind of conspiracy plan, and
20 rightfully so.

21 But the fact of the matter is, you can't
22 draw a senate district with 111,000 people.
23 You can't draw a senate district with just
24 65,000 people. You've got to put 83,000
25 people in there. So this map and Joe's are

1 just a comparison. I'm glad Joe brought that
2 other one back there. And Joe drew up a
3 great map as well, but you're going to see
4 that he splits a lot more counties -- or he
5 said the goal on this map was strictly, Hey,
6 we're going to try and do it with splitting
7 as few of the counties as possible.

8 So there's other maps we've drawn that
9 have Conway city whole, and that leaves the
10 30,000 people -- 80,000 people in and around
11 Conway in a senate seat. And then the 30 or
12 so thousand people outside of Conway are kind
13 of lumped in either with White County or
14 Cleburne or Pulaski County or whatever. I
15 don't know if that answers your question
16 satisfactorily, but that's kind of what
17 happened on that map. Like I said, we have
18 other maps, I'm sure, that will make you
19 happy.

20 MR. WOODSON: I want to reiterate the
21 point that we are very interested in what you
22 have to say. In this and all of our other
23 public meetings, this is also the point where
24 I try to quit talking as much and we open the
25 floor, just like we have tonight, to

1 questions and comments for the record so that
2 we start to figure out what people like and
3 what they don't like.

4 Another thing Rhett said that's
5 absolutely true is where you start or
6 whatever goal you have in mind when you start
7 has a strong influence on how you finish.
8 For example, that May 4 map that I did, my
9 primary goal in that was to just shrink heavy
10 population districts within the geographic
11 boundaries.

12 I forgot to -- I knew I was missing
13 something. This is what we call a "heat
14 map." This just simply shows the population
15 density shift. All of the green here
16 (indicating) are too low in population. For
17 example, Senate District 23, the ideal
18 population is 83,000. It's only got an
19 actual population of 75,000. All of these
20 districts are like that; and so every
21 district that is in the green, these are
22 senate districts, has to grow geographically
23 to get enough people in it.

24 And we were in Monticello Tuesday night,
25 and I drew a line across -- roughly, across

1 here (indicating). I added up all of the
2 actual population numbers within these eight
3 districts, divided by 83,000, ended up with
4 6.88. In other words, the current population
5 of South Arkansas will always support almost
6 seven districts, and there's currently eight
7 here.

8 The reverse of that is all of the red --
9 and these are yellow (indicating). You can't
10 see it real well -- but Faulkner County is
11 one of them, has too much population; so they
12 have to shrink. And so that's a long way of
13 getting to my point about the May 4 map, was
14 I said, Well, what would a map look like if
15 you just went to existing districts that had
16 to shrink and you shrunk them in and then you
17 drew everything else around them. And I
18 think on my map, I think it said Conway
19 essentially became an island to itself, which
20 it wasn't split up, so you could do that.

21 More questions, more comments, that's
22 what I'd like to hear.

23 ELIZABETH: Elizabeth from Conway. I
24 guess the problem I have is that any of the
25 maps that I've seen, I have no earthly idea

1 where the boundaries are. There are no
2 street signs. There are no highways.
3 There's no real identifying factors. How are
4 we supposed to really know what the lines are
5 looking like? Thank you.

6 MR. WOODSON: Well, I apologize for that.
7 That's -- well, I unplugged my Internet. We
8 take a snapshot of the maps, we put them up
9 on the website, and especially statewide
10 maps. I don't know of any way to get that
11 sort of detail. But if you go look at the
12 website right now at regional maps for, you
13 know, Central Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas,
14 et cetera, et cetera, there's some more
15 detail in terms of streets and that sort of
16 thing; so that's very much possible.

17 If anybody is interested in that, you
18 know, I can get it to you and that's not
19 something we're trying to not show.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We would like to
21 see one of those maps for Faulkner County
22 (inaudible).

23 MR. WOODSON: Well, let me . . . I got
24 ambitious here and unplugged my Internet.
25 Anybody got another question while I fire

1 this thing up?

2 MARY BENTLY: My name is Mary Bently, and
3 I'm from Perry County; so I'm looking at your
4 map over here. Perry County only has 6,000
5 registered voters, and our last election was
6 about 3,000 -- less than 3,000 people voted.

7 So if you take our county, like you did
8 there, split it in half, we're going to be
9 irrelevant to any senator running for a seat
10 and our vote is just going to be totally -- I
11 just don't feel we're represented at all, and
12 that's why I put my voice out there that
13 splitting Perry County makes us irrelevant to
14 a senate election.

15 MR. WOODSON: And that's to elect a
16 senator?

17 MARY BENTLY: Yes.

18 MR. WOODSON: Okay. Thank you. I guess
19 one thing I have to say is I'm not here to
20 sell you a map or say that these are the
21 right maps. These maps have been drawn to
22 solicit input. Admittedly, it's easy for me
23 or Rhett or anybody else that's been in
24 office in Little Rock to start moving lines
25 around, but we don't know what those

1 districts would like. I mean, we don't know,
2 you know, a lot of what you know and what you
3 live with; and so that's why we're here.
4 That's why I'm here tonight, and I appreciate
5 that kind of comment. I'm not trying to get
6 away from it. I want that. That's exactly
7 what I want to hear, because it's going to
8 help the board to make a more informed
9 decision on a final map.

10 Let me go back to the last one. Yes,
11 sir?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If I could make a
13 comment about the map --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear you.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- Faulkner County
16 (inaudible). The only thing I've seen on any
17 of the maps you present (inaudible) is a
18 Doppler signature of a tornado right over
19 Conway. It looks just like there's a tornado
20 right over Conway the way you've drawn this
21 map.

22 MR. WOODSON: Which one?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The maps you've
24 been showing us, the Faulkner finger one
25 we've been looking at. May 5, it looks

1 really suspicious.

2 MR. WOODSON: Okay.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They call that the
4 "Conway Finger."

5 MR. WOODSON: Again, you know, that's --
6 I want to hear that. There's so many factors
7 to me and then, as you know, there's so many
8 communities around the state, it is very
9 helpful to try and process the -- or receive
10 the information so that we can process it.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got one.
12 Maybe this is for Rhett. On that Conway map,
13 when you went south, why not go north? I
14 mean, how do you decide how that's going to .
15 . .

16 RHETT: I mean, a lot of it depends on,
17 you know, what part of the state you start
18 from. Do you start from Southwest Arkansas?
19 Do you start in Northwest Arkansas? You've
20 got a lot of lines you're moving. You have
21 to start in pretty much one area of the
22 state, and then you kind of got to work your
23 way.

24 I'll tell you this, it's a lot of work to
25 -- you'll get about 20 out of 35 seats drawn

1 up -- you'll get about 28 drawn and realize
2 that the last seven are all going to be about
3 10,000 people short. And so you have to
4 really -- you have to draw a lot of maps, and
5 then you have to -- as you're doing it, you
6 start to kind of realize the effects of the
7 moves you make.

8 There's no real rhyme or reason other
9 than, you know, we're kind of trying to maybe
10 keep downtown Conway together. I honestly,
11 can't remember specifically why we took that
12 part and not the north part, other than, you
13 know, it could have been a factor where maybe
14 that was the end of the map and that was all
15 that was left or . . . you know, you just
16 have to play with it. And these precincts
17 aren't all the same size either; some of them
18 just have as few as 100 voters in them, some
19 of them have as many as 12,000 voters in
20 them.

21 And as you split a precinct, you make the
22 job harder of a county clerk and you actually
23 open it up to the likelihood -- you have a
24 higher likelihood of fraud happening if
25 somebody in your precinct -- you live across

1 the street from them and they're voting in
2 one race and you're voting in the other. It
3 gets real difficult to keep up with that
4 without getting into a lot of the election
5 stuff. It's best if you cannot spilt a
6 precinct; that way everybody that lives in
7 that area and is voting at First Baptist
8 Church is voting for the same candidates. So
9 anyway, there's a lot of things that go into
10 it, but I can't give you a reason why we went
11 to downtown Conway as opposed to . . .

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One thing I was
13 going to ask is in doing stuff like this, how
14 much demographic data do you deal with when
15 you're putting that stuff together? In other
16 words, do you know where the incumbents live?

17 RHETT: Yes.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you mess with
19 that? Does that happen (inaudible)?

20 RHETT: And Joe may, you know, tell us.
21 Shelby Johnson is kind of our point guy at
22 the GIS office, Geographic Information
23 Systems, and they do all the mapping of the
24 county, you know, a lot of the county 911
25 systems. I used to work as a police officer,

1 and if you call 911, the dispatcher is
2 sitting there and pinpointing your address.
3 These are the guys that do the -- we're
4 getting the top-notch help from these guys.

5 But what they do is, they put up little
6 stars where the different representatives
7 live, different senators. As far as
8 demographic data on each, we have it set up
9 it where on each precinct, I see three
10 numbers. I don't see the name of the
11 precinct. I don't see, you know, who lives
12 in the precinct. I see three numbers. The
13 top number is total people that live in that
14 precinct, second number is total number of
15 African/Americans that live in that precinct,
16 the third number is total number of Hispanics
17 that live in that precinct.

18 The reason I have those three numbers
19 like that and in that order is because of the
20 majority/minority seats. And like I said,
21 we're trying to put communities of interest
22 and everything like that together. So I see
23 all that information. You can see it down to
24 the block level, which is almost street
25 level.

1 And that's really what he was alluding to
2 earlier is I can look at most counties now
3 and tell you, Hey, there's 3,000 people here.
4 I can tell you that Conway has some voting
5 districts that make funky shapes. I can tell
6 you that Hot Springs has one that goes all
7 the way around the city. So whenever you
8 light it up, it causes all kinds of problems.
9 But anyway, I've spent six months looking at
10 maps.

11 MR. WOODSON: Come right back here. The
12 information is in there. And I just want to
13 add to that, right now we're really having
14 sort of a roughing-in phase. You can really
15 fine tune and ultimately will have to. The
16 information is there, and it's just the maps
17 that are posted on the website, I haven't
18 really -- I honestly haven't thought that
19 much about showing that much detail. Because
20 what we're trying to do is -- say, we're kind
21 of operating up here right now, saying is
22 this kind of close, you know, and can you
23 live with this.

24 And then once we get an idea about what
25 will and won't work, then we can drill down

1 and fine tune.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Would you mind
3 leaving that up on the screen (inaudible)?

4 MR. WOODSON: Yes, okay.

5 JACK: And once in that direction
6 (inaudible). Are there detailed maps going
7 to be available so we can view what Faulkner
8 County (inaudible)?

9 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. Now, as a caveat to
10 that, we can talk about -- we're talking
11 about a ton of maps. If you want to drill
12 down and see street level all over the state,
13 there's going to be hundreds, maybe
14 thousands. But if the information is there
15 to be looked at, it's open for inspection.
16 Yes, sir, back here.

17 JOHN: John Nabholtz of Conway. I've got
18 two questions. Can you give me who the
19 players are? In other words, you've got Mark
20 Martin and his map; you've got (inaudible)
21 Beebe with his map that he's not sharing, I
22 guess (inaudible) working cooperatively with
23 McDaniels or not, but McDaniels has his map.
24 Can you discuss the important players, I
25 guess yourself --

1 MR. WOODSON: Myself. I'm the chief cook
2 and bottle washer. I mean, I'm the only
3 staff at the Board of Apportionment.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So the Board of
5 Apportionment itself has maps, Mark Martin
6 has maps, and then in the future, we'll see a
7 few more sets of maps from the governor and
8 from McDaniels; is that correct?

9 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. There's been general
10 assembly members that have submitted maps.
11 Mostly those are just regional maps, and
12 those, too, are on the website under the
13 documents page. I'm going to move them back
14 over to the maps page. I did that because I
15 didn't want to leave the impression that the
16 general assembly members had drawn the maps
17 and confuse them with what we have done. But
18 there is a few of those out there, say, half
19 a dozen. And that's 95 percent of the
20 players, and then there's the voters that,
21 you know, are free to input.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I really
23 appreciate you guys coming out, asking for
24 input. But I've got a question. What can
25 any voter give when these aren't even the

1 maps that are really going to matter? In
2 other words, I can give all kind of comments
3 on this, but Beebe and McDaniels could come
4 out with a totally different map and these
5 comments are irrelevant.

6 MR. WOODSON: I understand that. All I
7 can say is that that's how they've decided to
8 do it, and I've heard that criticism before.
9 And they've just said they're going to come
10 out after we get through with the public
11 meetings.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe, I have a
13 quick question back here. Is it possible to
14 very easily just show the precincts up there
15 so later on, you know, when people look at
16 that, they can see it? And then this is all
17 the senate. Is there a similar set of maps
18 for the representatives?

19 MR. WOODSON: Sure. Yeah. If you go to
20 the website, you can look at drafts. Go to
21 the maps tab, there's draft maps. Click on
22 that and you've got draft senate maps and
23 draft house maps, and all of that is there
24 with -- it's not there in that detail. The
25 detail exists, but the snapshots under the

1 website don't look like that. If you're
2 really interested, you know, call me or e-
3 mail me, and I can make you a snapshot of the
4 street-level view. But that street-level
5 view isn't on the website right now.

6 RON BARTLES: If we the people let you
7 know that Faulkner finger is totally
8 unacceptable, will you re-engineer it?

9 MR. WOODSON: The good news for me is
10 that I don't have to make that decision, but
11 I will certainly relate that to the board and
12 the other staff, as will Rhett, and let them
13 know that you have objected to it.

14 PHILLIP LIGGITT: Phillip Liggitt,
15 Conway, Faulkner County election
16 commissioner. I was wondering about -- when
17 you were talking about doing and trying to
18 not -- I mean, working with the precinct.
19 Because it's my understanding, and it is
20 certainly true at Faulkner County, that once
21 this is all done, we're going to be doing the
22 JP districts. And once we do that, we're
23 going to be looking at redrawing our
24 precincts, our voting precincts. So the fact
25 that you don't want to split a precinct may

1 not be really a critical factor in that. It
2 may help doing the drawing in a more
3 appropriate manner.

4 JUDY: I'm Judy (inaudible). Am I
5 correct, back when you had the precincts on
6 there, that most of them -- did it show which
7 precinct was voted Republican and which
8 precinct was voted Democrat?

9 MR. WOODSON: No. That information is
10 not in this software. That information
11 exists out in the world, out there somewhere.
12 I don't have it, and I don't --

13 RHETT: What he's talking about is that
14 listed the senators, whether they were
15 Republicans or Democrats.

16 JUDY: Oh, okay.

17 RHETT: That just listed the senators,
18 whether it was a Republican senator or a
19 Democrat senator. When it's connected to the
20 Internet, sometimes it posts a picture just
21 so we kind of know, you know, when we click
22 on a senate district, that's Jason Rayford,
23 he lives in Perry County. That's not
24 something we requested, that's just the way
25 the software does it.

1 MR. MEEKS: Representative Steven Meeks.
2 I just wondered if you would just go over the
3 timeline with the folks here and kind of talk
4 to them about what the steps are and when
5 we're looking at having the final product
6 ready and so on.

7 MR. WOODSON: We are -- got about,
8 roughly, four more weeks. Our last scheduled
9 public meeting is the first week in July,
10 July 7th -- Thursday, July 7th in Fort Smith.
11 Sometime after that, within a week or two,
12 the governor and the attorney general are
13 going to release their maps, and then add to
14 that, another couple of weeks.

15 At the most recent board meeting, the
16 self-imposed deadline by the board was to
17 adopt a plan on August 1st. You know, we may
18 go past that a week or two into the middle of
19 August. But, you know, the first part of
20 August to the middle part of August, the
21 board plans to make and adopt a plan, and by
22 law, after it is adopted and filed with the
23 secretary of state, it becomes effective 30
24 days later.

25 MARY BENTLY: Just one more. Mary Bently

1 from Perry County again. I'm interested with
2 the secretary of state's office. When we get
3 done with all of this, then we're going to go
4 down to precincts. I mean, we'd like to
5 recruit people for JP and those kind of
6 things. Any idea when we might have some
7 precincts done or . . .

8 RHETT: That's up to your local election
9 commissions in each county to do the JP --

10 MARY BENTLY: So they don't have to wait
11 until this is over with in order to do that?

12 MR. WOODSON: Not strictly. I know of a
13 few counties that have already started
14 drawing JP districts. They don't have to.
15 Most counties usually wait to see where the
16 state house and senate lines are going to
17 fall, but the County Board of Election
18 Commissioners, by law, is responsible for
19 redrawing the JP districts and for setting
20 the voting precincts in the county.

21 So it's a downstream thing, and that's
22 one of the reasons why the board is
23 interested in getting done the first to
24 middle of August, is because there's a lot of
25 folks around the state, a lot of county and

1 city officials waiting to see what happens so
2 that they can do their job so that candidates
3 can figure out where they're going to able to
4 run for the following period in March. And
5 so there's a lot of things yet to happen.

6 ROGER PARKER: Roger Parker, Conway. I
7 have a question about school boards. At what
8 level is that handled for school districts?

9 MR. WOODSON: The school districts
10 redistrict themselves.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The school
12 districts themselves.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you know when
14 that's going to (inaudible).

15 MR. WOODSON: They got a pass last pass.
16 But last session, there was some legislation
17 that changed the fact that the school boards
18 could wait until 2012 to redistrict because
19 they were on such a short leash for doing the
20 2011 --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So the school
22 district, where are you going to go to
23 express your concerns --

24 MR. WOODSON: The school board, it
25 redistricts itself, and the cities redistrict

1 themselves, County Board of Election
2 Commissioners redistrict county JP seats. We
3 do the state house and senate seats. The
4 general assembly does the congressional
5 seats.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have the
7 main house seats that you can show as well
8 for Faulkner?

9 MR. WOODSON: Yes, sir. Let me -- I will
10 -- I thought about closing it up, but I'll
11 just keep it up.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: While you're
13 pulling that up, I've got to ask a question.
14 Once this is firmed up, the map is firmed up,
15 then at that point in time, the County
16 Election Commission will then determine the
17 local districts as it relates to the JPs and
18 the city council, et cetera.

19 MR. WOODSON: Yeah. I think I
20 understood. By statute, the County Board of
21 Election Commissioners is responsible for
22 redrawing JP districts.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's after?

24 MR. WOODSON: It doesn't have to be;
25 usually it is. And the other practical

1 problem is that most counties and most cities
2 don't have this Brisbane software to do the
3 work, and in the past, they've relied on the
4 secretary of state's office. And I think
5 they are planning on assisting counties and
6 cities, and to the extent I can, I will do
7 that too after we get finished.

8 Let's look at a house map.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is your house
10 map?

11 MR. WOODSON: This is one I drew. For
12 example, we were in Monticello on Tuesday,
13 and a lot of folks from Dumas wanted to be
14 drawn back in so that Desha and Chicot
15 Counties could be whole and be together
16 because they form some economic alliances
17 with each other, and Dumas didn't want to be
18 part of Pine Bluff because they felt like
19 they were getting lost in the noise and Pine
20 Bluff is a bigger urban area. And so those
21 are, to me, compelling arguments.

22 If you go back to the bullet points and
23 the legal requirements and the communities of
24 interest and what we have in common and why
25 should we be together or not be together, I

1 think it is to anyone's advantage that they
2 make their arguments in that context to the
3 board and couch the arguments in that
4 context, because, to me, that's just more
5 persuasive than saying I just don't like it
6 because it's different. Well, that's not
7 real persuasive.

8 But if you were to approach me or Rhett
9 and say, Hey, your district is wrong because
10 your population is out of whack, we'd say,
11 Really, and we'd go look at it; or your
12 district is wrong because it violates the
13 equal protection clause, Oh, really, and that
14 would really get our attention; or your
15 district is wrong because you don't have
16 communities of interest together; or you're
17 making two incumbents run against each other.

18 Those things get our attention, as staff,
19 they'll get the board's attention. And so I
20 just think, you know, that's what anybody
21 ought to know, if you like or don't like any
22 given map. To me, that's a persuasive way to
23 make your argument.

24 Okay. This is a house map that I drew,
25 and the blue lines are county lines. The red

1 lines are existing house districts. Let me
2 turn off these yellow numbers. Those are the
3 existing house numbers. There they go. It
4 just clutters it up.

5 Here, this blue, is House 45. Right
6 underneath it is -- and I can zoom in. See,
7 just this geographical area right here
8 contains enough population to support one
9 house seat, 29,159.

10 I'm looking for my little spreadsheet.
11 Well, I can certainly give them to you. It
12 takes a while. Now, admittedly, this
13 software is kind of slow, especially when you
14 get down to really fine tuning stuff or real
15 detailed stuff.

16 We can get numbers to the very block
17 level, which is -- the Census Bureau, when
18 they do their census, the most basic building
19 block of the census is what they call a
20 "census block." And it could be a
21 traditional city block, it could be, you
22 know, 1,000 square acres that nobody lives
23 in, it could be a river, it could be the
24 median of an Interstate, all these bizarre
25 shapes. But those census blocks contain the

1 basic numbers. And then they compile those
2 on top of each other, then they come up to --
3 the VTP is the voting precincts, then on top
4 of that, the county level.

5 DAVID: Joe, we can show on this right
6 here (indicating). Didn't Faulkner County
7 pick up a representative due to expansion of
8 the population? And how is that -- where is
9 that new district?

10 MR. WOODSON: Rhett, do you know the
11 numbers off the top of your head?

12 RHETT: Yeah. I think everything
13 (inaudible), not necessarily picking up the
14 new seat, but just determining -- I'm trying
15 to think of everything, not picking up a new
16 seat or losing a seat, but determining the
17 population.

18 Faulkner County went from like 87,000
19 people to 111,000. All right. 111,000
20 divided by 29,000 for each house seat, you
21 come out to almost three full seats and two-
22 thirds of another seat, and that's if you
23 start in Faulkner County. You could wind up
24 with just two full seats in Faulkner County,
25 but have three seats where the majority of

1 all three of those seat are in Faulkner
2 County. And so you would actually have
3 control of, quote, unquote, five seats at
4 that point, which would be more than having
5 just three full seats and two-thirds of one.
6 You know, that would only be four seats.

7 So there's a multitude of ways you can
8 get it. The key thing is to think, Hey, I've
9 got 111,000 people here, and I've got, you
10 know, three population centers in Faulkner
11 County where you're going have a large
12 (inaudible) of people. Of course, Conway is
13 the major one, Vilonia, and then Greenbrier.

14 You know, Representative Steven Meeks has
15 come by our office and indicated that he'd
16 like to keep Vilonia and Greenbrier together.
17 That's doable on some maps. On some maps --
18 because Vilonia and Greenbrier have so much
19 population and there's such a distance
20 between them, on some maps, that's not
21 doable.

22 So I just say try and think of things as
23 far as geography, where the people are, that
24 will help explain the situation, whether you
25 gain or lose a seat.

1 STEVEN MEEKS: A question on this map.
2 I'm going to pick my district for obvious
3 reasons. I know the goal is to try to
4 maintain your continuity and so forth.

5 On this particular map, in trying to
6 maintain your geographic areas, I noticed
7 that Guy and Quitman up in the top corner
8 were given to another district outside the
9 county and also over here south of Wooster.
10 I'm kind of wondering why, for example, on
11 this map, I wouldn't be given Wooster and the
12 other part of Conway County go to the
13 District 46 to maintain that continuity in
14 Conway County and maintain the continuity in
15 Faulkner County.

16 I would rather represent the folks in
17 Wooster that are closer geographically than
18 Greenbrier and whatnot, than representing the
19 folks way up there in the corner of Conway.
20 Do you see what I'm saying?

21 And I don't know, maybe it was just --
22 you know, like I said, I understand these are
23 all rough maps and there's nothing written in
24 stone, but I didn't know if there was any
25 particular reasoning behind that or if that's

1 just how it fell out.

2 MR. WOODSON: Well, there wasn't, and I'm
3 glad to hear you say that. And again, this
4 house map was like the senate map I drew. It
5 was primarily an exercise in shrinking
6 districts that had the strength of me coming
7 in and filling the gaps and with the lesser
8 population districts above coming in to build
9 those up. But, see, I love that kind of
10 comment.

11 Senator Bledsoe from Benton County came
12 to see me a couple of weeks ago, and Benton
13 County, just like Conway, is shrinking. And
14 I sort of assumed that this sort of -- you
15 know, for whatever reason, that she would
16 prefer to shrink towards Highway 71, towards
17 Bentonville, towards the commerce, towards
18 all the urban. And she said, No, no. My
19 constituents, my base, is all of eastern
20 rural Benton County. I was like, Oh, okay.
21 I didn't know that.

22 And so in the same way, I didn't know
23 that, you know, your base may be up here,
24 most of your constituents may be up here.
25 And that's the thing we want to know, because

1 that informs the decision about the maps,
2 and, see, that helps me and it helps the
3 staff and it helps the board. Because, you
4 know, if you're more informed, you have a
5 better chance of being in compliance with the
6 law and making a better map. So that's an
7 excellent point.

8 DAVID CROW: Okay. I will take one last
9 question or we'll just go ahead and call it a
10 night. Right back here; Scottie.

11 SCOTTIE: It's really not a question for
12 you. But I want to tell you thank you. I
13 know this is not an easy thing to do.

14 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were
15 concluded in the matter at 8:27 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
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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 17th day of
June, 2011.

TERRI J. WOLFE

Arkansas State Supreme Court
Certified Court Reporter #698

<hr/> A <hr/>	33:5 34:13 37:18,19	blow 23:18
absolutely 22:7 32:5	Article 19:12	blue 52:25 53:5
acres 53:22	assembly 43:10,16 50:4	Bluff 51:18,20
action 21:12,15,20 24:11	assign 27:9	board 18:14 19:13,19 23:5 25:1 36:8 43:3,4 45:11 47:15,16,21 48:17,22 49:24 50:1,20 58:3
actual 32:19 33:2	assisting 51:5	board's 52:19
add 27:15 47:13	assume 17:9 24:1	boards 17:7 23:4 49:7,17
added 33:1	assumed 57:14	bottle 43:2
address 20:2,4 40:2	attention 52:14,18,19	boundaries 32:11 34:1
admittedly 23:17 35:22 53:12	attorney 19:15 21:1,3 24:8 28:15 47:12	bring 21:12,13,14,18
adopt 47:17,21	August 47:17,19,20 48:24	Brisbane 51:2
adopted 47:22	authority 19:16	brought 31:1
advantage 52:1	automatically 25:13	build 57:8
African 40:15	avoid 22:9 29:23	building 53:18
Ag 23:25 24:2	aware 18:15	built 25:4
AG'S 29:12	<hr/> B <hr/>	bullet 18:25 51:22
age 21:21	back 22:25 23:16 24:12 26:20 27:23 29:8,15,25 31:2 36:10 41:11 42:16 44:13 46:5 51:14,22 58:10	bunch 17:18
ahead 24:12 28:11 58:9	Baptist 39:7	Bureau 25:7 53:17
alliances 51:16	Bartles 19:9 21:11 28:9 45:6	<hr/> C <hr/>
alluding 41:1	base 57:19,23	call 32:13 37:3 40:1 45:2 53:19 58:9
Alma 22:3,4	basic 53:18 54:1	called 24:18
ambitious 34:24	basis 21:14	candidates 39:8 49:2
Americans 40:15	Beebe 42:21 44:3	case 19:6 21:14,19
announce 16:16	belabor 27:18	caused 29:1
answers 31:15	Bently 35:2,17 47:25 48:10	caveat 42:9
anyone's 52:1	Benton 57:11,12,20	census 25:5,7,12 53:17,18,19, 20,25
apologize 34:6	Bentonville 57:17	centers 55:10
apply 17:4,7	bigger 23:19 51:20	Central 34:13
Apportionment 19:14 23:6 43:3,5	bit 24:14,20 27:3	cetera 34:14 50:18
Apportionment's 23:1	bizarre 53:24	chance 58:5
approach 52:8	Bledsoe 57:11	change 26:16
area 37:21 39:7 51:20 53:7	bless 17:24	changed 49:17
areas 56:6	block 40:24 53:16,19,20,21	Chicot 51:14
argument 52:23	blocks 53:25	chief 43:1
arguments 51:21 52:2,3		
Arkansas 19:13 22:14,16 25:9		

Church 39:8
cities 22:3 30:2 49:25 51:1,6
citizen 21:18,20,21 24:3
citizens' 18:9
city 17:6 22:5 30:11 31:9 41:7
49:1 50:18 53:21
class 21:15,20
clause 52:13
Cleburne 31:14
clerk 38:22
click 27:2 46:21
close 41:22
closely 17:2
closer 56:17
closing 50:10
clutters 53:4
comment 16:25 17:1 24:11 29:3
36:5,13 57:10
comments 23:21 26:20 32:1
33:21 44:2,5
commerce 57:17
Commission 50:16
commissioner 45:16
Commissioners 48:18 50:2,21
commissions 48:9
common 19:8 51:24
communities 37:8 40:21 51:23
52:16
comparison 31:1
compelling 51:21
compile 54:1
complaints 29:12
compliance 58:5
comply 19:1
concern 24:7
concerns 49:23
confuse 43:17
congressional 17:5 22:18 50:4

connected 46:19
conspiracy 30:19
constantly 17:23 18:3
consternation 28:19
constituents 57:19,24
constitution 19:13,21
context 24:14 52:2,4
contiguous 19:3
continue 17:15
continuity 56:4,13,14
control 55:3
Conway 16:14 19:9 20:4 22:21
23:22 30:8,9,11 31:9,11,12
33:18,23 36:19,20 37:4,12 38:10
39:11 41:4 42:17 45:15 49:6
56:12,14,19 57:13
cook 43:1
cooperatively 42:22
corner 56:7,19
correct 43:8 46:5
couch 52:3
council 50:18
counted 25:7
counties 22:17 29:24 30:2,5,7,
11 31:4,7 41:2 48:13,15 51:1,5,
15
county 22:16 23:5,18 30:9,12,
31:13,14 33:10 34:21 35:3,4,7,
13 36:15 38:22 39:24 42:8
45:15,20 46:23 48:1,9,17,20,25
50:1,2,15,20 52:25 54:4,6,18,23,
24 55:2,11 56:9,12,14,15 57:11,
13,20
couple 22:25 26:19 47:14 57:12
COURT 22:1
courts 22:10
criteria 16:19
critical 46:1
criticism 44:8
Crow 16:13,14,23 17:13 58:8
current 26:6,12 33:4

D

Dadgum 18:21
data 25:5,12 39:14 40:8
date 23:14
Dave's 24:19
David 16:13,14,23 17:13 54:5
58:8
day 17:21
days 47:24
deadline 47:16
deal 30:8 39:14
decide 21:11 37:14
decided 44:7
decision 36:9 45:10 58:1
Democrat 46:8,19
Democrats 20:16 21:4 46:15
demographic 39:14 40:8
density 32:15
depends 37:16
Desha 51:14
detail 34:11,15 41:19 44:24,25
detailed 42:6 53:15
determine 50:16
determining 54:14,16
difficult 39:3
directing 17:24
direction 42:5
discuss 42:24
dispatcher 40:1
display 23:4
distance 55:19
district 22:18 25:14 26:3,4,6,7,
12 27:1,4,8,11,13 30:4,7,22,23
32:17,21 49:22 52:9,12,15 54:9
56:2,8,13
districts 17:6 23:12 26:3 28:8
29:21 32:10,20,22 33:3,6,15
36:1 41:5 45:22 48:14,19 49:8,9,

12 50:17,22 53:1 57:6,8
divided 33:3 54:20
doable 55:17,21
documents 43:13
Doppler 36:18
downstream 48:21
downtown 38:10 39:11
dozen 43:19
draft 44:21,22,23
drafts 44:20
draw 24:20 30:22,23 38:4
drawing 28:23 46:2 48:14
drawn 23:4,23 26:1 30:18 31:8
35:21 36:20 37:25 38:1 43:16
51:14
drew 31:2 32:25 33:17 51:11
52:24 57:4
drill 41:25 42:11
due 54:7
Dumas 51:13,17

E

earlier 41:2
earthly 33:25
easily 44:14
eastern 57:19
easy 35:22
economic 51:16
effect 26:22
effective 47:23
effects 38:6
elect 35:15
election 35:5,14 39:4 45:15
48:8,17 50:1,16,21
Elizabeth 33:23
end 18:17 38:14
ended 33:3
engineer 45:8

entire 17:19
equal 19:2,3 52:13
equalize 28:8
essentially 25:3 33:19
event 27:25
excellent 58:7
exercise 24:24 57:5
existed 17:16
existing 33:15 53:1,3
exists 44:25 46:11
expansion 54:7
explain 23:11 55:24
express 49:23
extent 22:9 51:6
extra 18:2

F

fact 19:3 20:2,4 28:18 30:21
45:24 49:17
factor 38:13 46:1
factors 22:8 34:3 37:6
fair 19:7 22:20
fall 48:17
Faulkner 23:4,11,18 30:12,13
33:10 34:21 36:15,24 45:7,15,20
50:8 54:6,18,23,24 55:1,10
56:15
Fayetteville 16:21 17:18
feel 18:9 30:18 35:11
fell 57:1
felt 22:19 51:18
figure 32:2 49:3
figured 27:20
figures 25:9
filed 47:22
filling 57:7
final 24:11 36:9 47:5
fine 24:22 26:9 27:6 41:15 42:1
53:14

finger 16:21 23:11 36:24 37:4
45:7
fingers 17:18
finish 32:7
finished 51:7
fire 34:25
firmed 50:14
floor 31:25
folks 20:12,15 23:7 25:10 26:2
47:3 48:25 51:13 56:16,19
follow 17:2
forgot 32:12
form 51:16
formulating 29:8
Fort 47:10
Fourteen 26:13

Franklin 30:6
fraud 38:24
free 43:21
frequently 18:13
full 54:21,24 55:5
function 19:17
funky 41:5
fuss 29:1
future 43:6

G

gain 55:25
gaps 57:7
gave 19:13
Gaye 21:25 22:21
general 19:15 21:1,3 23:21 24:8
43:9,16 47:12 50:4
general's 28:15
gentleman's 28:1
geographic 32:10 39:22 56:6
geographical 53:7
geographically 32:22 56:17

geography 55:23
gerrymander 19:11
GIS 39:22
give 22:24 24:9,14 39:10 42:18
43:25 44:2 53:11
glad 31:1 57:3
goal 18:18 19:6 29:17,18,20,23
31:5 32:6,9 56:3
good 26:15 29:5 45:9
government 19:14
government's 28:14
governor 20:25 21:2 23:24
24:2, 43:7 47:12
governor's 28:22 29:13
grab 27:11 28:7
great 29:6,11 31:3
green 25:22,23 32:15,21
Greenbrier 55:13,16, 56:18
grow 32:22
guess 33:24 35:18 42:22,25
guy 28:23 39:21 56:7
guys 23:2 28:21 40:3,4 43:23

H

half 35:8 43:18
handled 49:8
happen 39:19 49:5
happened 20:22 31:17
happening 38:24
happy 18:16 27:2 31:19
hard 23:17
harder 27:3 38:22
haywire 27:14
head 54:11
hear 22:1 33:22 36:7,14 37:6
57:3
heard 17:25 44:8
heart 17:24

heat 32:13
heavy 32:9
helped 21:8
helpful 37:9
helps 58:2,3
Hey 31:5 41:3 52:9 55:8
higher 38:24
Highway 57:16
highways 34:2
hired 20:18
Hispanics 40:16
historically 20:5,11
honestly 21:16 38:10 41:18
hooked 27:24
hope 19:23,24
Hot 41:6
house 23:10 25:17 44:23 48:16
50:3,7 51:8,9 52:24 53:1,3,5,9
54:20 57:4
Huckabee 21:2
hundreds 42:13

I

idea 33:25 41:24 48:6
ideal 26:10 27:5 32:17
identifying 34:3
illegal 19:24
imagine 21:17 28:6
important 42:24
imposed 47:16
impression 43:15
inaudible 17:14 21:6,25 27:16,
21 34:22 36:16,17 39:19 42:3,6,
8,20,22 46:4 49:14 54:13 55:12
incumbents 39:16 52:17
indicating 24:16 26:8 28:3
29:14 32:16 33:1,9 54:6
influence 32:7

information 37:10 39:22 40:23
41:12,16 42:14 46:9,10
informed 36:8 58:4
informs 58:1
input 24:1,3 35:22 43:21,24
inspection 42:15
instance 30:4
instructed 22:23
instructive 24:24
interest 40:21 51:24 52:16
interested 24:25 31:21 34:17
45:2 48:1,23
Internet 24:18 27:24 34:7,24
46:20
Interstate 53:24
invalidated 18:6
involved 18:14 20:15
irrelevant 35:9,13 44:5
island 33:19

J

Jack 23:22 42:5
James 28:21,22
Jason 46:22
job 38:22 49:2
Joe 21:11 29:5,17 31:1,2 39:20
44:12 54:5
Joe's 30:25
John 17:14,20 42:17
Johnson 30:6 39:21
JP 17:6 45:22 48:5,9,14,19 50:2,
22
JPS 50:17
Judy 46:4,16
July 47:9,10

K

Keller 20:3

key 55:8
kind 29:1,16 30:1,19 31:12,16
36:5 37:22 38:6,9 39:21 41:20,
22 44:2 46:21 47:3 48:5 53:13
56:10 57:9

kinds 41:8
knew 18:23 32:12
knowledge 21:7,8

L

lake 26:14
large 55:11
largely 29:7
law 23:20 47:22 48:18 58:6
lawyer 18:23 19:4
lawyer's 18:21
lead 20:11,13,18
leash 49:19
leave 43:15
leaves 31:9
leaving 42:3
left 30:17 38:15
legal 19:7 51:23
legislation 49:16
legislature 16:19 17:17
lesser 57:7
level 27:10 40:24,25 42:12 45:4
49:8 53:17 54:4
Liggitt 45:14
light 41:8
likelihood 38:23,24
likewise 26:14
limitations 24:21
limited 24:23
lines 26:24 34:4 35:24 37:20
48:16 52:25 53:1
listed 22:8 46:14,17
live 36:3 38:25 39:16 40:7,13,15,
17 41:23

lives 39:6 40:11 46:23 53:22
loaded 25:12
local 48:8 50:17
Logan 30:6
long 33:12
looked 21:16 42:15
lose 55:25
losing 54:16
lost 51:19
lot 17:10 18:12,15 22:11 23:24
31:4 36:2 37:16,20,24 39:4,9,
48:24,25 49:5 51:13

lots 22:11
love 57:9
low 26:9 32:16
lumped 31:13

M

Madison 30:5
mail 45:3
main 50:7
maintain 56:4,6,13,14
major 55:13
majority 20:25 21:10 29:22
30:11 40:20 54:25
make 18:2 19:6 24:2 28:7 31:18
36:8,12 38:7,21 41:5 45:3,10
47:21 52:2,23
makes 19:7 35:13
making 52:17 58:6
mandate 21:12,13
manner 46:3
map 17:3 23:23 24:21,22 25:20
26:1 28:13 29:14,16,23,25 30:3,
4,12,25 31:3,5,17 32:8,14 33:13,
14,18 35:4,20 36:9,13,21 37:12
38:14 42:20,21,23 44:4 50:14
51:8,10 52:22,24 56:1,5,11 57:4
58:6
mapping 24:17 25:2,3 39:23

maps 22:25 23:2 24:3,4,10
26:21 28:23 29:2,4 31:8,18
33:25 34:8,10,12, 35:21 36:17,
23 38:4 41:10,16 42:6,11 43:5,6,
7,10,11,14,16 44:1,17,21,22,23
47:13 55:17,20 56:23 58:1

March 49:4
Mark 21:3 42:19 43:5
Martin 42:20 43:5
MARVIN 22:23
Mary 35:2,17 47:25 48:10
matter 22:11 28:18 30:21 44:1
maximize 29:21
Mcdaniels 42:23 43:8 44:3
means 30:14
median 53:24
Meeks 47:1 55:14 56:1
meeting 47:9,15
meetings 31:23 44:11
members 43:10,16
mess 39:18
messed 27:17
middle 47:18,20 48:24
Miller 28:21,22
mind 32:6 42:2
minorities 29:22
minority 29:22 40:20
minus 29:20
minutes 26:19 28:20
missing 32:12
months 41:9
Monticello 32:24 51:12
move 43:13
moves 38:7
moving 35:24 37:20
MULTIPLE 25:18,24
multitude 55:7
myth 29:7

<hr/> N <hr/>	<hr/> P <hr/>	
Nabholtz 42:17	Parker 49:6	police 39:25
nation 25:8	part 37:17 38:12 47:19,20 51:18 56:12	population 19:1 26:10 28:7 32:10,14,16,18,19 33:2,4,11 52:10 54:8,17 55:10,19 57:8
necessarily 54:13	pass 49:15	position 17:22
news 45:9	past 20:8,21,24 47:18 51:3	posted 41:17
night 32:24 58:10	pattern 17:16	posts 46:20
noise 51:19	pay 18:2	practical 22:10 50:25
north 37:13 38:12	people 17:11 18:15,16 26:13 27:4 29:20 30:14,15,16,17,22, 24,25 31:10,12 32:2,23 35:6 38:3 40:13 41:3 44:15 45:6 48:5 54:19 55:9,12,23	precinct 27:9,12 38:21,25 39:6 40:9,11,12,14,15,17 45:18,25 46:7,8
Northwest 34:13 37:19	percent 21:22 26:13,15 43:19	precincts 24:23 26:25 38:16 44:14 45:24 46:5 48:4,7,20 54:3
notch 40:4	perform 20:6	prefer 57:16
noticed 56:6	period 49:4	present 36:17
number 23:11 26:6,11 29:21 40:13,14,16	Perry 30:9 35:3,4,13 46:23 48:1	pretty 37:21
numbering 26:5	person 17:8 19:19	Price 21:25 22:3,20,21
numbers 33:2 40:10,12,18 53:2, 3,16 54:1,11	persuasive 52:5,7,22	primarily 57:5
<hr/> O <hr/>	phase 41:14	primary 32:9
objected 45:13	Phillip 45:14	problem 33:24 51:1
obligation 19:17	phone 28:20	problems 41:8
obvious 56:2	phonetic 20:3	procedure 20:5 21:17
occurred 16:18	pick 54:7 56:2	process 16:24 37:9,10
occurs 26:22	picking 54:13,15	product 47:5
office 18:21 20:6 28:14,15 29:12,13 35:24 39:22 48:2 51:4 55:15	picture 23:19 46:20	program 25:5,12,21
officer 39:25	Pine 51:18,19	protection 19:3 52:13
offices 20:14	pinpointing 40:2	Pryor 21:4
official 25:8	place 24:18	public 24:10 29:3 31:23 44:10 47:9
officials 49:1	plan 19:6 29:9 30:19 47:17,21	publicly 24:7
open 28:25 31:24 38:23 42:15	planning 51:5	published 23:16
opened 25:21	plans 47:21	Pulaski 31:14
operating 41:21	play 38:16	pull 23:13 27:25
opposed 39:11	players 42:19,24 43:20	pulling 50:13
order 40:19 48:11	pleasant 28:16	put 27:11 29:2 30:14,24 34:8 35:12 40:5,21
overarching 29:17	point 27:19 28:23 31:21,23 33:13 39:21 50:15 55:4 58:7	putting 39:15
	points 18:25 51:22	<hr/> Q <hr/>
		question 16:13,16,17 20:10,15

28:1 31:15 34:25 43:24 44:13
49:7 50:13 56:1 58:9,11

questions 22:25 26:20 32:1
33:21 42:18

quick 23:22 44:13

quit 31:24

Quitman 56:7

quote 17:15 55:3

R

race 39:2

Rayford 46:22

ready 47:6

real 33:10 34:3 38:8 39:3 52:7
53:14

reality 22:12

realize 38:1,6

reapportionment 17:17

reason 17:13 27:25 38:8 39:10
40:18 57:15

reasoning 56:25

reasons 48:22 56:3

receive 37:9

recent 47:15

recently 21:1

record 32:1

recruit 48:5

red 33:8 52:25

redistrict 49:10,18,25 50:2

redistricting 16:18 17:5,6 24:19

redistricts 49:25

redrawing 45:23 48:19 50:22

referring 23:14

regard 17:12

regional 34:12 43:11

registered 35:5

reiterate 31:20

relate 45:11

relates 50:17

release 47:13

relied 51:3

remedy 18:9,11

remember 26:4 38:11

remind 24:13

reminding 18:3

REPORTER 22:1

represent 56:16

representative 47:1 54:7 55:14

representatives 40:6 44:18

represented 35:11

representing 56:18

Republican 21:2 46:7,18

Republicans 46:15

requested 46:24

requirements 51:23

researched 21:23

responsible 48:18 50:21

result 18:17

reverse 33:8

Rhett 24:19 27:14,16,21 28:5,12
32:4 35:23 37:12,16 39:17,20
45:12 46:13,17 52:8 54:10,12

rhyme 38:8

rightfully 30:20

rights 19:2

ripple 26:22

risk 18:5

river 53:23

Rock 35:24

Roger 49:6

Ron 19:9 45:6

room 29:8

rough 56:23

roughing 41:14

roughly 32:25 47:8

rules 16:24 17:4,7 18:4,5

run 49:4 52:17

running 35:9

rural 57:20

S

sat 18:24

satisfactorily 31:16

satisfied 18:19

scheduled 47:8

scheme 26:5

school 49:7,8,9,11,17,21,24

Scottie 20:2,3,21 58:10,11

screen 42:3

seat 30:15 31:11 53:9 54:14,16,
20,22 55:1,25

seats 29:22 37:25 40:20 50:2,3,
5,7 54:21,24,25 55:3,5,6

secretary 19:15 20:6,10,12,17,
24 21:3,9 23:6,23 26:1 47:23
48:2 51:4

select 27:8

sell 35:20

senate 25:17,19,25 26:3 30:15,
22,23 31:11 32:17,22 35:14
44:17, 46:22 48:16 50:3 57:4

senator 35:9,16 46:18,19 57:11

senators 40:7 46:14,17

sense 19:8

separate 16:23

session 49:16

set 16:24 19:22 40:8 44:17

sets 43:7

setting 48:19

shapes 41:5 53:25

sharing 42:21

Shelby 39:21

shift 32:15

short 38:3 49:19

show 26:21 34:19 44:14 46:6
50:7 54:5
showing 36:24 41:19
shows 32:14
shrink 32:9 33:12, 57:16
shrinking 57:5,13
shrunk 33:16
signature 36:18
signs 34:2
similar 44:17
simply 32:14
sincerely 29:13
sir 23:21 25:15 28:3 36:11 42:16
50:9
sitting 28:18 40:2
situation 55:24
size 25:14 26:10 27:5 38:17
slightly 26:14
slow 53:13
smart 17:10
Smith 47:10
snapshot 34:8 45:3
snapshots 44:25
software 23:20 24:17 25:3,4
27:23 46:10,25 51:2 53:13
solicit 35:22
sort 24:14 26:22 34:11,15 57:14
south 33:5 37:13 56:9
Southwest 37:18
speak 17:23
SPEAKER 18:8 21:6 23:10,15
25:16,22 28:4 34:20 36:12,14,
15,23 37:3,11 39:12,18 42:2
43:4,22 44:12 49:11,13,21 50:6,
12,23 51:9
SPEAKERS 25:18,24
specifically 38:11
speech 17:25
speeches 22:24

speed 20:14
spent 28:20 41:9
spilt 22:11 39:5
split 22:4,5,16,17 33:20 35:8
38:21 45:25
splits 31:4
splitting 23:12 29:24 31:6 35:13
spreadsheet 53:10
Springs 41:6
square 53:22
staff 18:14 20:12 43:3 45:12
52:18 58:3
standing 21:18,21
stars 40:6
start 29:16 32:2,5,6 35:24 37:17,
18,19,21 38:6 54:23
started 48:13
state 17:5,17,19 19:15 20:11,12,
17,24 21:3,9,12 23:23 37:8,17,
22 42:12 47:23 48:16,25 50:3
state's 23:6 48:2 51:4
stated 24:7
states 22:15
statewide 34:9
statute 21:13 50:20
stay 30:3
stayed 30:7,10,12
steps 47:4
Steven 47:1 55:14 56:1
stick 29:9
stone 56:24
street 34:2 39:1 40:24 42:12
45:4
streets 34:15
strength 57:6
strictly 31:5 48:12
strong 32:7
stuck 18:22
studied 17:12

study 17:3
stuff 39:5,13,15 53:14,15
submit 25:1
submitted 43:10
sue 18:22
support 33:5 53:8
supposed 27:15 34:4
surprise 28:16
suspicious 37:1
systems 39:23,25

T

tab 44:21
tabulate 25:13
takes 53:12
taking 20:18 29:3
talk 26:21 28:6,13 42:10 47:3
talked 17:22 28:24
talking 18:24 28:2 29:18 31:24
42:10 45:17 46:13
target 26:11
ten 22:14,16 29:20
terms 34:15
thing 28:12 32:4 34:16 35:1,19
36:16 39:12 48:21 55:8 57:25
things 18:12,13 22:11 27:20
28:24 39:9 48:6 49:5 52:18
55:22
thirds 54:22 55:5
thought 41:18 50:10
thousand 31:12
thousands 42:14
Thursday 47:10
time 20:23 22:13,19 24:3 50:15
timeline 47:3
times 17:25
ton 42:11
tonight 31:25 36:4

top 40:4,13 54:2,3,11 56:7
tornado 36:18,19
total 40:13,14,16
totally 35:10 44:4 45:7
town 22:5
traditional 53:21
true 32:5 45:20
truth 20:19
Tuesday 32:24 51:12
tune 24:22 27:7 41:15 42:1
tuned 26:9
tuning 53:14
turn 53:2

U

ultimate 29:9
ultimately 41:15
unacceptable 45:8
unanimous 19:20
underneath 53:6
understand 44:6 56:22
understanding 45:19
understood 50:20
undid 27:22
undo 27:19
unfair 19:25
UNIDENTIFIED 18:8 21:6
23:10,15 25:16,22 28:4 34:20
36:12,14,15,23 37:3,11 39:12,18
42:2 43:4,22 44:12 49:11,13,21
50:6,12,23 51:9
unjust 19:25
unplugged 34:7,24
unquote 55:3
upset 18:20
urban 51:20 57:18

V

valid 18:10
variance 29:19
version 23:8,9
view 42:7 45:4,5
Vilonia 55:13,16,18
violates 52:12
voice 35:12
vote 17:8 19:20 35:10
voted 20:16 35:6 46:7,8
voter 43:25
voters 35:5 38:18,19 43:20
voting 19:2 21:21 24:23 26:25
27:9 39:1,2,7,8 41:4 45:24 48:20
54:3
VTP 27:10 54:3

W

wait 48:10,15 49:18
waiting 49:1
wanted 51:13
wards 17:7
washer 43:2
ways 22:12 55:7
website 34:9,12 41:17 43:12
44:20 45:1,5
week 47:9,11,18
weeks 24:9 47:8,14 57:12
whack 52:10
whatnot 56:18
White 31:13
Whoa 27:13
wife 28:18
wind 54:23
wireless 27:24
wondered 47:2
wondering 45:16 56:10

WOODSON 16:22,25 17:20
18:11 19:12 20:9,23 21:7,16
22:7,22 23:3,13,17 24:6 25:17,
19,23,25 27:17,22 28:5,11 31:20
34:6,23 35:15,18 36:22 37:2,5
41:11 42:4,9 43:1,9 44:6,19 46:9
47:7 48:12 49:9,15,24 50:9,19,
24 51:11 54:10 57:2

Wooster 27:11 56:9,11,17
word 17:21
words 33:4 39:16 42:19 44:2
work 29:4,5 37:22,24 41:25 51:3
worked 28:16,25 29:11
working 28:14 42:22 45:18
world 46:11
written 56:23
wrong 52:9,12,15

Y

year 25:6
years 19:18 22:14,17
Yell 30:9
yellow 26:24 33:9 53:2

Z

zoom 30:1 53:6