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ILLINOIS REDISTRICTING 2011
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE HEARING
CICERO, ILLINOIS

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS HELD
HELD ON APRIL 16, 2011

BEFORE: BARBARA FLYNN CURRIE, Chairperson
DANIEL BURKE, State Representative
ELIZABETH LISA HERNANDEZ, State Representative
MICHAEL ZALEWSKI, State Representative
MICHAEL FORTNER, Minority Representative
ARTHUR TURNER, State Representative
JAMES DURKIN, State Representative
ANDREW SPERRY, House Republican Representative
EDDY ACEVEDO, State Representative

[The public hearing commenced at 1:00 p.m.]

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1 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: The hearing will come
2 to order. My name is Barbara Flynn Currie. I am
3 in fact the Chair of the Redistricting Committee,
4 and I will be chairing this afternoon. We are
5 joined by other members of the General Assembly.

6 To my right is the minority spokesman
7 Mike Fortner, and I thought I saw Representative
8 Jim Durkin come in as well.

9 We also have Representative Eddy
10 Acevedo. We have the Representative who actually
11 calls this her home because she represents this
12 address right here, Lisa Hernandez. We also have
13 Representative Mike Zalewski and Representative
14 Dan Burke.

15 I would like at this point to ask if
16 the minority spokesman would like to say anything,
17 or do you want to wait until I finish with my
18 lengthy remarks? We can start with my lengthy
19 remarks.

20 I am very glad that you are all here
21 today. I think this is a great turnout for a very
22 important issue.

23 At the end of 2010 the United States
24 Census Bureau as it does every decade releases the

1 2010 population totals for Illinois.

2 The United States and the Illinois
3 Constitution require that in the year following
4 the census, the General Assembly has to redraw the
5 boundary lines of the Congressional legislative
6 and Representative Districts to account for the
7 way the population has changed over the previous
8 10 years.

9 These hearings -- and we have got
10 many scheduled that are part of that process.

11 The Redistricting Transparency and
12 Public Participation Act, while a mouthful,
13 requires us to hold at least four hearings
14 throughout the State. We are planning to do more
15 than that minimum number.

16 We want to hear from as many people
17 as possible, and we want to make sure that this
18 process, the procedures are open to everybody in
19 the State of Illinois.

20 We have currently scheduled 15, not
21 four, but 15 hearings so that we can get as much
22 information from you, the people, as we can
23 possibly have.

24 We are guided in this endeavor in

1 this process by the United States Constitution
2 which requires that we respect the one person, one
3 vote principle and draw districts that are
4 substantially equal in population.

5 We also plan to comply with the
6 Federal Voting Rights Act, which requires us to
7 provide minorities an equal opportunity to
8 participate in the electoral process and elect
9 candidates of their choice.

10 At the State level the Illinois
11 Constitution requires a district be substantially
12 equal in population, compact and contiguous.

13 Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights
14 Act further requires us to allow minorities a
15 voice in the electoral process after compliance
16 with the Federal and Constitutional requirements I
17 have just described.

18 In addition to these legal
19 requirements there are a myriad, countless other
20 factors that play a role in the redistricting
21 process, and we want to hear from you in
22 considering all of them.

23 We are interested in any relevant
24 demographic information, social, political,

1 economic, religious or other characteristics that
2 are unique to your community and to your
3 organizations.

4 We are interested in maps of your
5 community or your organizations, however you want
6 to present them.

7 We want to hear your specific views
8 on any social, political, economic or religious
9 interests commonly held in the community, any
10 specific interest groups that exist, any concerns
11 you have regarding current districting boundaries
12 and suggestions for the drawing of new boundaries.

13 In fact, we want to hear from you any
14 testimony that is relevant to the drawing of the
15 congressional legislative and the representative
16 districts.

17 If you have a proposed map, we will
18 take it and we will consider it; and if you want
19 to draw a map, but you don't quite know how to do
20 it, we have two public viewing stations where
21 census and map-making resources are available.
22 One is located in Springfield.

23 I think we can probably at the back
24 of the auditorium perhaps we can list exactly how

1 you can get to these.

2 In Springfield one is open Monday
3 through Friday 8:30 to 4:30. The second is
4 located on the 7th floor of the Bilandic Building
5 which is at 160 North LaSalle. You can schedule
6 an appointment if you want to access either public
7 station.

8 You can also submit comments,
9 information on proposed maps to us in person at
10 those viewing stations.

11 You can also e-mail us, and I hope
12 again that we have this information available to
13 you at the back, ilredistricting@gmail.com. We
14 are transcribing these hearings. We have a court
15 reporter in fact.

16 We are transcribing the testimony at
17 these hearings, and we are going to post the
18 testimony on our web site, which is
19 www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

20 Any documentary evidence we receive,
21 written testimony, other data, proposed maps will
22 also be uploaded on that web site.

23 Our only caveat is that because of
24 security concerns, we will not accept maps that

1 are on a disk or a flash drive. We will ask
2 instead for a hard copy.

3 As for today, we are going to begin a
4 short slide show that does give all of us a sense
5 and a starting point for what redistricting is all
6 about, and then after that we will have witnesses
7 who already told us they want to testify and then
8 of course there will be opportunities for people
9 who didn't sign up in advance to talk to us, too.

10 Because we have a fair number of
11 people who want to speak today, we are asking
12 people to limit their testimony to four or five
13 minutes.

14 We are going to do this in panels;
15 and, again, after we finish with the people who
16 have signed up in advance, anyone is welcome to
17 speak to us.

18 Representative Mike Fortner is the
19 minority spokesperson of the Special Committee.
20 If you would like to say a few words, now would be
21 a good time.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

23 First of all, I want to thank
24 everybody for coming here today. Redistricting is

1 a very important task that comes around only once
2 every 10 years; and because of that, it has
3 impacts that last with the legislature and your
4 voice in Springfield for the coming 10 years.

5 I would also like to thank the
6 Chairperson Currie for going beyond the required
7 four hearings. We have 15 here scheduled from now
8 until a week from Monday.

9 I also thank her and her staff for
10 really trying to coordinate what is a very hectic
11 schedule to make sure that we can accommodate
12 a lot of public testimony in a very short time.

13 One of the things that is important
14 is that some of you -- and I can see there are
15 some maps around the room. When we have proposed
16 maps, we do want to see those. We want to be able
17 to get those; but more than that at some point we,
18 the legislature, are going to put forward a map
19 that we are going to be voting on.

20 I am encouraged by statements from
21 the Senate's Redistricting Committee that they
22 will have some hearings on a proposed map.

23 I hope that our Chair will be able to
24 do the same thing for the house. I think that it

1 is extremely important for you, the public, to
2 have a chance to weigh in not just on things
3 important to your communities and how they could
4 come together to form good districts to represent
5 you, but also when all of those different
6 competing concerns are brought together in a map
7 that covers the whole state making sure that the
8 public, you, have a chance to weigh in again on
9 that point.

10 So, again, I would certainly
11 encourage both, you, to raise that concern as well
12 as our Chair to take that concern seriously that
13 we will need to have those hearings as well.

14 I look forward to your comments, your
15 testimony and hope that you will bring some
16 interesting ideas that we need to hear. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Perhaps,
19 Representative Hernandez, since this is your home
20 turf, you might like to say a few words as well.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you.
22 I am just very happy, very pleased to see that
23 this hearing has taken place in my own back yard.
24 I just find that it is an opportunity, and I

1 welcome all of you to host this show. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Anybody else like to
3 add a word for two?

4 If not, then we will go ahead and
5 proceed with our overview, our slide show.

6 MS. SCUDDER: Hello. My name is Bria
7 Scudder, and I work for the House of
8 Representatives. I am here to give a brief
9 overview of our State's redistricting procedure.

10 I will briefly discuss the procedures
11 and background of redistricting and information on
12 the Voting Rights Act.

13 I will also be going over the new
14 State redistricting guidelines that has been
15 signed into law.

16 Finally, we will look at the results
17 of the 2010 census and what those results say
18 about your community.

19 What is redistricting? Redistricting
20 is the process that ensures that all Illinois
21 residents are afforded equal representation in the
22 State legislature and Federal Congress, as
23 guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

24 Why do we do redistricting? The

1 United States Supreme Court held a series of
2 rulings in the 1960s that congressional and State
3 legislature districts in each state must be of
4 equal populations establishing the principle of
5 one person, one vote.

6 As a result, states redraw
7 congressional and state districts every 10 years
8 to reflect changes in population as shown by the
9 census.

10 The time line for redrawing the
11 legislative map is based on the Illinois
12 Constitution. On December 21st data collected
13 from the 2010 Census was delivered to the
14 President.

15 The full block by block census
16 profile of Illinois which will be used in the
17 redistricting process was released in February.

18 The Illinois State Legislature has
19 the initial responsibility of passing the new
20 congressional and state maps.

21 Both the State House and State
22 Senates must pass a plan with the majority votes.
23 The plan must then be signed by the Governor. If
24 a new map does not go into effect by the

1 constitutional deadline of June 30th,
2 responsibility for creating a new map passes from
3 the legislature and governor to a legislature
4 Redistricting Commission.

5 The Commission shall consist of eight
6 members with no more than four from the State
7 political party.

8 A majority vote of five or more
9 commission members will constitute final approval
10 of a new map.

11 However, if the Commission does not
12 agree to a map by September 1st, the Illinois
13 Supreme Court will submit two names, one from each
14 party to the Illinois Secretary of State who will
15 choose one name at random to serve the nine
16 members of the Commission. Five of the nine
17 members of the Commission must agree to a plan no
18 later than October 5th.

19 In order to understand how the Census
20 data is used to draw new districts, you must know
21 several legal guiding principles.

22 First among these principles is equal
23 population. State law merits that one person one
24 vote standard and may mandate congressional and

1 state districts to contain substantially equal
2 population.

3 As a result of the 2010 Census, the
4 target population of each house district is
5 180,734 residents.

6 While an ideal population for a
7 Senate District is 217,468 people, Federal and
8 State law also requires all districts to be
9 contiguous, which means that all parts of a
10 district must be next to each other unless
11 connected by water.

12 Annexation of unincorporated areas
13 and municipalities and counties sometimes mean
14 communities are just contiguous; however,
15 Congressional and State Districts must be adjacent
16 or connected at all points.

17 A more different requirement to
18 define is compactness. There are at least 30
19 different scientific ways to measure how compacted
20 the district is. But no statute or Court
21 precedent identifies standard criteria of
22 compactness.

23 In theory, compactness focuses on the
24 shape of the district boundaries, how spread out

1 the district is from a central core or where the
2 district's population center of gravity is.

3 In practice, compactness is hindered
4 by geography and on-the-ground realities. It's
5 all up to interpretation of compactness and
6 involves more of a visual test.

7 Illinois is one of 14 states that
8 nest two of its house districts also called
9 Representative Districts inside one of the
10 Senate's district also called Representative
11 Districts.

12 Map makers will also look where
13 possible to follow existing political and
14 geographic boundaries in ways that maximize the
15 community's opportunities to have its districts
16 represented.

17 As we know, however, County,
18 municipality, townships and natural geographic
19 boundaries are not always compact and contiguous.

20 By studying Census data and holding
21 public hearings like this to listen to the
22 thoughts of residents across the state, law makers
23 look to identify what are known as communities of
24 interest.

1 A community of interest is a group of
2 people concentrated in a geographic area who are
3 socially, culturally, ethnically, economically,
4 religiously or otherwise alike and can be joined
5 in a district who most effectively have their
6 voices heard.

7 The factors contributing to any
8 particular community of interest will vary
9 throughout the state.

10 Federal law requires redistricting
11 plans to respect minority representation.

12 The principles of the Federal Voting
13 Rights Act are in place to prevent the reduction
14 of opportunities for minority populations to
15 participate equally in the electoral process.

16 However, districts cannot be drawn
17 solely on the basis of race.

18 Earlier this year Governor Quinn
19 signed legislation to protect the representation
20 of racial and language minority groups.

21 Senate Bill 3976 helps to prevent
22 minority fracture or dividing of concentration of
23 minorities among two or more districts by
24 requiring map makers to consider creating

1 cross-over districts, coalition districts or
2 influence districts.

3 What are cross-over districts,
4 coalition districts and influence districts?

5 A cross-over district is one in which
6 a large minority group may elect the candidate of
7 its choice with help from voters from the majority
8 group.

9 The coalition district brings
10 multiple racial or language minority groups
11 together to elect the candidate of their choice.

12 An influence district allows a group
13 to influence an election outcome without saying
14 the majority population in the district.

15 These new state law requirements come
16 into play only after compliance with the Federal
17 law and after State constitutional requirements on
18 redistricting.

19 In addition, the law ensures
20 transparency by requiring public hearings across
21 the State, one of which we are having right now.

22 The hearing will provide the space or
23 residents to share their thoughts on the
24 redistricting process, a key component to creating

1 a map that best represents the people of Illinois.

2 At the end of the presentation we
3 will display an e-mail address on the screen where
4 you can submit your ideas for consideration.

5 The Committee is also accepting
6 written testimony and documentation today.

7 So now that we have covered the
8 redistricting process, let's take a look at the
9 census data that we use to draw the districts.

10 All of the maps that you are going to
11 see are drawn by the census blocks which is the
12 smallest level geography that the census bureau
13 uses to report population data.

14 As of the 2010 Census, the total
15 population of the State of Illinois is 12,830,632
16 as compared to the States 2000 total population of
17 12,419,293, an increase of about 410,000.

18 The counties with the largest
19 population by percentage increase since 2000 are
20 Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties.
21 Demographically speaking, Illinois has seen a lot
22 of change over the past decade.

23 The white population has risen
24 Statewide by 0.6 percent to 8,161,753.

1 Illinois' African-American population
2 has fallen statewide by 0.6 percent to 1,832,924.

3 Illinois Hispanic population, though,
4 has risen Statewide by 32.5 percent to a total of
5 2,027,578.

6 Illinois' Asian population has also
7 risen statewide by 38.6 percent to 580,586.

8 Let's have a look at the Cicero area.
9 In 2000 the area population was 239,830.

10 In the last 10 years the area's
11 population has decreased to 239,655 people in the
12 West Suburban area, losing 175 people over the
13 last decade.

14 The area includes villages of
15 Stickney, Riverside, Oak Park, North River Side,
16 Lyons, Forest Park, Cicero and Berwyn.

17 The 2010 census reports of the
18 African-American population is 22,669, an increase
19 of 4,563 people from the 2000 Census.

20 The 2010 Census reports that the
21 Hispanic population in the West Suburbs is
22 121,292. That is an increase of 26,822 people
23 from the 2000 Census.

24 The 2010 Census reports that the

1 Asian population is 5,706 people, a decrease of
2 167 people.

3 Here are some more maps of total and
4 minority populations at this time shown in a
5 broader range throughout the areas region.

6 Thank you very much for attending
7 today's hearing and sharing your thoughts and
8 opinions with us.

9 If you have any comments, you can
10 e-mail us at ilredistricting@gmail.com or visit
11 our web site www.ilhousedemps.com/redistricting
12 for more information. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you. That
14 was very instructive. We have been joined by
15 Representative Arthur Turner at the end of the
16 table here, and we are ready to begin our public
17 testimony.

18 Not all of the panels that we
19 anticipated testifying today, not all of the
20 members have arrived. I may be skipping about a
21 bit when it comes to who is speaking when.

22 One group that hopes to testify
23 together would be Elisa Alfonso from MALDEF,
24 Sylvia Puente representing the Latino Policy Forum

1 and the Illinois Latino Agenda and Artemio Areola
2 who I believe is with the Illinois Campaign for
3 Immigration and Refugee Rights.

4 Are you three all here?

5 A VOICE: Yes, we are.

6 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: If you would come up
7 and sit at this table.

8 First of all, all of you have to fill
9 out witness slips and be sure you speak clearly
10 into the microphone and telling us not only your
11 name but the organization you represent, if you
12 are here for an organization rather than just here
13 for yourself.

14 Let me also comment that although the
15 map is very helpful, I think where it's a Cicero
16 public hearing area is a representation of what is
17 the maps along the side, along the back there and
18 alongside this side, too are map proposals, I
19 believe, from organizations; and we expect that we
20 will be hearing more about them as the hearing
21 proceeds. Please begin.

22 MS. ALFONSO: We have a fourth person on
23 the panel as well, Teresa Dominguez from
24 Interfaith Leadership project.

1 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Welcome.

2 MS. ALFONSO: Good afternoon, Madam
3 Chairman, and Members of the House Redistricting
4 Committee. Thank you for allowing MALDEF to
5 present testimony today, as the Illinois
6 legislature continues the critical and highly
7 controversial process of redrawing the
8 congressional and legislative district lines.

9 My name is Elisa Alfonso,
10 Redistricting Coordinator with MALDEF, The Mexican
11 American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

12 MALDEF is a National Civil Rights law
13 firm that works to safeguard the rights of the 50
14 million Latinos in the United States.

15 For four decades MALDEF has worked to
16 protect the voting rights of Latinos through
17 advocacy and, when necessary, litigation since our
18 founding in 1968, and particularly in Illinois
19 since the 1980s. To many in the community, MALDEF
20 is known as the People's Law Firm.

21 MALDEF has also played a leadership
22 role in local and statewide redistricting and will
23 continue to do so in 2011.

24 MALDEF also has a history of

1 collaborating with other groups that are protected
2 under the Voting Rights Act.

3 This includes organizations that
4 represent African-Americans and Asian
5 American/Pacific Islanders.

6 As in the past, we are working to
7 develop a map that protects the rights of more
8 than 2 million Latinos now living in Illinois.

9 As you are aware, the Latino
10 population grew significantly during the past 10
11 years.

12 According to the 2010 census, the
13 Latino community has grown by 33 percent or nearly
14 500,000 people during this time period.

15 Latinos now represent the largest
16 population increase among all racial/ethnic groups
17 in Illinois, making us the second-largest
18 racial/ethnic group in the State.

19 Census data also shows that over 70
20 percent of all Latinos in Illinois are U.S.
21 citizens.

22 It is the growth of our community
23 that saved Illinois from losing a second
24 congressional seat.

1 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Let me just say that
2 if you have written testimony here, you are
3 welcome to share that with the Members of the
4 Committee.

5 MS. ALFONSO: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: We will reproduce it,
7 and it will be also on the web site.

8 MS. ALFONSO: All right. Thank you.

9 As co-convenor of the Illinois Latino
10 Agenda, made up of almost 49 community-based
11 organizations, we have established a redistricting
12 committee to ensure that Latino communities have a
13 voice in this important process.

14 Additionally, MALDEF is a member of
15 the Draw the Line Illinois project of the Illinois
16 campaign for accountable redistricting, which has
17 its goal to inform and engage the public in the
18 redistricting process.

19 This coalition of community-based
20 reform and civil rights organizations is providing
21 communities with the information and tools to be
22 fully engaged in the 2011 redistricting.

23 MALDEF seeks to ensure that elected
24 officials adequately protect the rights of

1 Latinos, particularly in areas that have seen
2 substantial growth in the Latino population. The
3 Voting Rights Act will be the lens through which
4 we will view your efforts.

5 In order for members of the Latino
6 community to have an effective voice in the
7 redistricting process, we will have to see the
8 maps developed by the relevant legislative
9 committees with enough time to analyze fully its
10 impact on Latinos and other protected groups.

11 While we appreciate the scheduling of
12 these hearings to receive input, we think it is
13 also critical to have hearings after the relevant
14 legislative committees have developed their
15 proposed maps and at least two weeks before any
16 vote is taken.

17 This will provide us with time to
18 review the maps for compliance with the Federal
19 and State Voting Rights Act.

20 Without such an opportunity, the
21 promise of a more transparent process is
22 meaningless.

23 We expect to testify again before
24 this Committee to discuss our proposed map after

1 consulting with various community leaders about
2 the political cohesiveness and shared interests of
3 neighborhoods, including income levels,
4 educational backgrounds, housing patterns,
5 language and meaningful access to educational
6 opportunity that bind these communities together.
7 Some of these community leaders are here today and
8 will testify regarding the communities of interest
9 that must be protected.

10 Thank you again for the opportunity
11 to testify before the Committee today; and as we
12 like to say, we will show you our maps, show us
13 yours.

14 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.

15 I should have said because we do have
16 a court reporter, it is important for the record
17 that each one say your names and be kind enough to
18 spell them.

19 MS. ALFONSO: My name is Elisa, E-l-i-s-a
20 Alfonso, A-l-f-o-n-s-o.

21 MS. DOMINGUEZ: My name is Teresa
22 Dominguez, T-e-r-e-s-a D-o-m-i-n-g-u-e-z.

23 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.

24 Ms. Puente, if you would like to

1 spell your name and then tell us the organization
2 you are representing.

3 MS. PUENTE: Thank you. My name is Sylvia
4 S-y-l-v-i-a Puente, P-u-e-n-t-e.

5 I am the Executive Director of the
6 Latino policy forum, and I am here today with my
7 colleagues testifying on behalf of Latino Policy
8 Forum and the Illinois Latino agenda.

9 Two of the member organizations of
10 the Latino agenda are Interfaith Leadership
11 Project as well as the Illinois Coalition for
12 Immigrant Refugee Rights, and we are committed to
13 working together to present maps which fairly
14 reflect the diversity of both the Latino and the
15 Immigrant community throughout the Chicagoland
16 region.

17 So the Latino Policy Forum is the
18 only organization in the Chicago area that
19 facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all
20 levels of public decision making.

21 Our goals are to improve education
22 outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote
23 just immigration policy and engage diverse
24 spectors of the community with an understanding

1 that advancing Latinos advances a shared future.

2 Before I go further, I left all of my
3 testimony handouts for you out there. So I do
4 have some maps I would like to walk through. I
5 don't know if you have received them yet, but they
6 were left with the one I was designated to leave
7 them with.

8 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Could staff provide us
9 with those. Thank you.

10 MS. PUENTE: I am told I can't put my flash
11 drive in the computer.

12 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Do we have the
13 capacity to scan and show the maps that way?

14 MS. SCUDDER: No.

15 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: I am told no, we can't
16 do that.

17 MS. PUENTE: I do have copies for you.

18 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: We would like your
19 written testimony as well.

20 MS. PUENTE: Yes. And I have copies of all
21 of that for you.

22 In the handouts are the 49 members of
23 the Latino agenda, and you can see that we are
24 working on this process together, and it is a

1 diverse array of Latino organizations throughout
2 the Chicago region.

3 As Elisa has commented on the growth
4 of the Latino population, I have some pretty
5 charts and graphs from you that show that. You
6 are all well aware that the Latino community grew
7 by one-third in the State.

8 I think what is most striking, as we
9 have heard from some of your staff, is that as the
10 Latino community grew by nearly half a million
11 while we have seen declines in both the White and
12 the African-American population in the state.

13 In fact, the Latino population growth
14 has superseded that of the State's total
15 population. The Latino population grew by nearly
16 half a million in the State. The State's
17 population only grew by 411.

18 As Elisa indicated, without growth of
19 the Latino population, the State would have in
20 fact lost a second congressional district.

21 So in the materials that I have for
22 you, we have the numbers to show you how we came
23 to that analysis as well.

24 So given that I would like to say

1 that as has been indicated, we are working in a
2 coalition as a Latino agenda and MALDEF policy for
3 co-convenors of that Latino agenda, we are also
4 members of the Draw the Line Coalition, and we are
5 thankful to the United Congress of Community and
6 religious organizations which today has been
7 providing us some of the capacity to draw maps.
8 We are thankful now that MALDEF has that capacity,
9 and we will have additional maps to show you.

10 So what I would like to go through
11 today are where we think influence districts can
12 be created outside of the City of Chicago and then
13 reserve where we think that those districts can be
14 drawn in Chicago for testimony later this week.

15 So the good news/bad news is that of
16 the two million Latinos in the State of Illinois,
17 if we had proportionate representation equal to
18 our numbers, that would equal 28 State House
19 Districts as opposed to the 12 that we currently
20 have.

21 The challenge, as you know, of
22 course, with is numeric representation does not
23 translate into that geographic concentration which
24 as we know the basis for how we draw the

1 districts.

2 So all of the population growth of
3 every Latino community over the past decade, first
4 of all, it has been in the suburbs outside of the
5 City of Chicago.

6 You are well aware the City Latino
7 population only grew by 30 percent, but the
8 State's population grew by 32.5.

9 The region population if you take out
10 Chicago, the Latino population grew by 60 percent
11 over the past decade. But that population is
12 disbursed throughout the region.

13 So in having looked at that and with
14 the help of the United Congress, what we have seen
15 is that there will be the opportunity to create a
16 district in the Aurora area that has a total
17 Latino population of about 66.55 percent.

18 Now, we know that this district is
19 currently represented by Representative Chapa
20 LaVia. So, it is not necessarily going to
21 translate into a net plus in terms of
22 representation, but certainly a net plus in terms
23 of a district with a majority Latino
24 concentration.

1 You can see that in the map the first
2 map provides the potential boundaries of these
3 districts.

4 I would like to just add and
5 emphasize that these are not firm boundaries.
6 They are basically for discussion purposes because
7 there is still some nuances, of course, in the
8 negotiation to do that. But they do give you an
9 indication of where districts can be drawn.

10 We will also see potentially the
11 increase in one, two, three, four, five, six --
12 where we would see the greatest gains of potential
13 representation of the Latino community is up to
14 six influence districts that can be created where
15 they currently do not.

16 The second one would be in the
17 Franklin Park area, and that really is pretty
18 diverse, and you can see that on here. It
19 includes Franklin Park, Melrose Park, parts of
20 Addison, parts of Carpentersville, and the diverse
21 area.

22 But this is an area where there has
23 been tremendous Latino suburban population growth,
24 and we would suggest that an influence district

1 it's over 60 percent Latino can actually be drawn.

2 Beyond Franklin Park is the Waukegan
3 area, and there you can see the potential in the
4 draft for the potential Waukegan area, again, the
5 influence district at almost 56 percent Latino.

6 When you add in the African-American
7 population in that region, it's an additional 22
8 percent African-American.

9 So that between African-American and
10 Latino, it's almost 80 percent, and that will
11 obviously be an influence district for the Latino
12 community but a coalition district as well.

13 Beyond Waukegan is Elgin, and it's
14 based also on the Elgin and Carpentersville area.

15 This would also be a new influence
16 district. We think that it could be drawn at
17 about 55, almost 56 percent Latino; and you've got
18 the potential boundaries of that district here.

19 Then beyond Elgin you have the areas
20 of Joliet at 32 percent Latino, Evanston at 20
21 percent Latino, and Rockford at almost 23 percent
22 are additional influence districts that we are
23 proposing for your consideration.

24 We are still working on boundaries

1 for the north side district and the south side
2 Chicago area districts.

3 We will be presenting those to you
4 later in future testimony this past week; and,
5 again, to reiterate what my colleagues said is
6 part of this public process, we thank you for
7 having these hearings. But we know that
8 transparency is incredibly important. So we
9 really ask that as we show you our maps that you
10 continue to show us yours ideally before they are
11 voted on.

12 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much,
13 Ms. Puente.

14 I think we have as part of your panel
15 Mr. Arreola of the ICCIR Coalition of Immigrant
16 and Refugee Rights.

17 If you could confine your remarks to
18 under five minutes, that would be helpful, because
19 we do have a lot who wish to speak tonight.

20 MR. ARREOLA: I will be short.

21 My name is Artemio, A-r-t-e-m-i-o
22 Arreola A-r-r-e-o-l-a of ICIRR, the Illinois
23 Coalition for Immigrants and Refugee Rights.

24 We have been working for almost two

1 months with the Latino Agenda and MALDEF on the
2 proposal, and members from ICIRR fully support
3 their program 100 percent.

4 We are dedicated on this proposal,
5 and we really want our members that is a
6 multi-ethnic coalition, it's not just Latino.

7 We really want to see the proposal
8 that you bring to the table to conclusion block by
9 block specifically what it means when the lines
10 can move.

11 Based on our neighborhood and based
12 on the people living in the area, because in many
13 cases the Latino community lives with other
14 ethnicity groups together, but their interests are
15 the same.

16 That is why based on the proposal for
17 the Latino agenda, we try to share with the other
18 ethnic groups to be as much as possible close
19 together.

20 Just in conclusion, I want to tell
21 you that I live here in Bellwood, and I like to
22 see towns together, like the more you see people
23 from Waukegan from Aurora from Cicero in the same
24 area as possible. We think we are more accessible

1 to our community together.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you, sir. And
4 now it is time for questioning from the Committee
5 for all of these.

6 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Chairman Currie, I have
7 testimony to give as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: I'm sorry. I
9 apologize.

10 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
11 Teresa Dominguez. I have lived in Cicero for
12 almost 20 years and am the Citizenship Coordinator
13 for the Interfaith Leadership Project of Cicero
14 and Berwyn.

15 Interfaith is an institution-based
16 community organization working in Cicero and
17 Berwyn for the past 20 years.

18 Our members are mainly local churches
19 and health organizations whose mission is to call
20 to collaboration communities of faith and
21 organizations to create positive change in Berwyn
22 and Cicero by fostering a united voice through
23 organizing people, promoting civil engagement and
24 developing leadership for social justice.

1 Interfaith is also a member of the
2 Illinois Latino Agenda, a 49 member coalition of
3 Latino non-profit organizations working on issues
4 of concern to Latino communities in Illinois.

5 Currently we have been working on the
6 current redistricting process to protect Latino
7 Voting Rights and increase their ability to elect
8 candidates responsive to their issues.

9 Through this process we created a
10 proposal for new Representative districts based on
11 our agreed upon interests.

12 We have these maps here today, with
13 the exception of the South side map. We are still
14 in the process of finalizing legislative district
15 boundaries in that area and we plan to submit a
16 south side map at a House redistricting hearing
17 next week.

18 Also, having put much time, energy
19 and thoughtful discussion into our proposal, we
20 believe that we, as well as all Illinois
21 residents, should have the opportunity to view the
22 maps being considered by the General Assembly and
23 give out input on their impact on our communities.

24 If the idea of this process is to

1 create legislative districts that truly represent
2 their constituencies, then these residents must
3 have a voice on the final proposal.

4 We ask that there be another set of
5 hearings to discuss the proposed district maps and
6 a comment period of at least two weeks before a
7 vote is taken.

8 The Cicero/Berwyn communities have
9 seen significant growth in the Latino population
10 in the last few decades.

11 Cicero now has a Latino population
12 that makes up 86.6 percent of the community, and
13 the Berwyn Latino population represents 59.2
14 percent of the community.

15 This is an increase even from the
16 2007 Census estimates of 83.8 percent Latinos in
17 Cicero and 52.7 percent in Berwyn.

18 This continued increase in population
19 merits an increase in voting power and political
20 representation for the Latino community.

21 Being separate municipalities with
22 distinct governments, political systems, and
23 community needs, we feel that it is important that
24 in the redrawing of the districts, these

1 communities are afforded the opportunity to have
2 the strongest possible political representation.

3 Both communities already struggle to
4 attain appropriate political representation
5 because of the high number of non-citizens in
6 these areas.

7 Cicero and Berwyn are also distinct
8 from surrounding communities in that the majority
9 of residents are Mexican-American and Mexican
10 immigrants.

11 The communities are very young with
12 children representing about 20 percent of the
13 population.

14 Education levels in these communities
15 are relatively low with just 75 percent of Berwyn
16 residents and 48 percent of Cicero residents
17 having a high school diploma.

18 The median household income in Cicero
19 is \$41,989, while in Berwyn this figure is
20 \$48,414.

21 The per capita income in Cicero of
22 \$13,954 is significantly lower than the per capita
23 income of Berwyn \$20,951.

24 Over 80 percent of Cicero families

1 speak a language other than English at home, and
2 74.4 percent of Cicero residents are foreign born.

3 In Berwyn 53 percent of families
4 speak a language other than English at home and
5 only 18 percent are foreign born.

6 Given that there are specific needs
7 of growing, low income, immigrant communities, we
8 want to be sure that any redistricting proposal
9 takes into account the specific needs of these
10 communities.

11 Cicero currently is represented
12 entirely by one State Senate District and one
13 State Legislative District.

14 This has helped increase the
15 attention the State of Illinois paid to the needs
16 of the very large Latino community.

17 Currently Berwyn is represented by
18 three State Legislative Districts and three Senate
19 Districts. This is for a community of 56,600
20 people. This poses a real challenge for residents
21 to have sufficient voice in these districts.

22 We believe Cicero and Berwyn to be
23 specific communities of interest and request that
24 these interests be respected when drawing

1 legislative boundaries.

2 In closing, I would like to once
3 again request that after the legislative maps are
4 proposed to the General Assembly, we would once
5 again have the opportunity to provide our input.
6 As everybody has said to you so far, we have
7 showed you our maps, and we would like to see
8 yours before they are voted on. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much,
10 Ms. Dominguez.

11 I think we are ready for questioning
12 from members of the Committee.

13 Do you have any questions?
14 Representative Fortner.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair. Thank you very much for your testimony. I
17 appreciate particularly the maps. I do have one
18 question for the Chair, if I may.

19 I know we have a policy about getting
20 data through the computers because of concerns
21 about a virus.

22 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: That's right.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I know that for
24 analyzing districts at some point it might be

1 useful to have some kind of digital
2 representation.

3 Is there going to be any mechanism
4 available so we can get digital representation
5 from some of the proponents of particular map
6 ideas?

7 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Technologically I am
8 not competent to be able to answer that question,
9 but we will get an answer to that question for
10 you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: That would be very
12 helpful, because I think at some point we should
13 be able to compare what maybe different lines on a
14 piece of paper. That would give us a better sense
15 of comparing those ideas.

16 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: There is going to be
17 the public viewing stations, and there also will
18 be on the web site any maps that people present to
19 us.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I am just saying
21 when I say a "digital forum" as opposed to a
22 scanned image which doesn't easily lend itself to
23 that.

24 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: You want something

1 interactive, is that it?

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Well, something
3 that one can then put into a program much like the
4 mapping station that you have set up.

5 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: You can certainly do
6 it at the mapping station.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Or if we have
8 files compatible with the mapping stations so it
9 can be analyzed.

10 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: We will get an answer
11 for you.

12 Do you have any questions of the
13 witnesses?

14 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Yes, I do.

15 I guess first for Elisa, has MALDEF
16 gotten to the point of looking at kind of
17 macro-level goals for perhaps the number of
18 districts or what would be a number that would
19 make for districts that would be strong enough to
20 be able to let candidates of choice?

21 MS. ALFONSO: As Sylvia stated, we are
22 looking at this information and that is why we are
23 waiting for further hearings to present this
24 information and give you the answers. It is being

1 looked at very, very closely.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Also, in the
3 initial presentation as well as in some of the
4 comments, we have contrast between influence and
5 majority minority districts.

6 Is there a position from MALDEF as to
7 at what point does one leave an influence district
8 to come up with a majority minority?

9 Is this at 50 percent or how does
10 MALDEF look at that?

11 MS. ALFONSO: MALDEF looks at it from the
12 same lens that we are looking at whatever maps you
13 come through the Voting Rights act. That is our
14 No. 1 priorities. That is what we look at first,
15 second and third.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I guess this then
17 question is for Sylvia.

18 Along the same lines I appreciate
19 very much some of your ideas here.

20 I am trying to understand that when
21 you presented the district for Franklin Park and
22 then you show a 56 percent voting age population,
23 now you have termed it an influence district, and
24 I guess naively I might have thought that it looks

1 like a majority.

2 I just wonder under what basis would
3 you consider it still an influence and not a
4 majority minority district for the Latino
5 community.

6 MS. PUENTE: Well, I think the challenge
7 is that we all understand that one of the
8 challenges in the Latino community is that there
9 is substantial numbers of people who are not yet
10 citizens.

11 So while we have adopted no firm
12 criteria and we really will take a leave from
13 MALDEF on this and say our legal representatives
14 on this, historically what we have said is that a
15 minute threshold for Latino candidates and Latino
16 individuals in a community to elect a candidate of
17 their choice is 65 percent, but that could be 65,
18 it could be 70 percent. It would just depend on
19 the particulars of the district history of the
20 Latino community in that area.

21 There are some places in the City
22 such as Berwyn where we know that there are a
23 significant group of second generation and third
24 generation Latinos, and in many of our communities

1 many are immigrants and not yet citizens.

2 So, Franklin Park is approaching that
3 threshold because it is at 62 percent, but
4 historically that minimum threshold has been at 65
5 percent.

6 Is that accurate?

7 MS. ALFONSO: Yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Then if -- and I
9 appreciate that you are still working on refining
10 these draft districts.

11 So you would prefer then if you can
12 get a district that becomes a majority minority
13 district that really can elect a candidate of
14 choice, that would be preferable than the
15 influence district agreeable to draft it that way.

16 That is kind of the direction that I
17 assumed that you were going.

18 MS. PUENTE: Of course, but we are pretty
19 confident that in the Franklin Park area it is
20 much more than Franklin Park, because it is
21 Franklin Park, Melrose Park, parts of
22 Carpentersville, many of the parts of Des Plaines.
23 We are pretty confident that it's going to be --
24 there are blocks of districts, as you know, that

1 you can take in and out.

2 We tried really to get to that 65
3 percent number, and it doesn't look like that is
4 going to happen which is why I termed it an
5 influence district as opposed to one that might
6 meet the threshold of the Voting Rights Act.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
9 Any other questions? We do have a lot of
10 witnesses today. Thank you very much for your
11 testimony. We all appreciate your input.

12 I am not sure we are going in quite
13 the order we thought we were going to go in.

14 I think at this point we will go to
15 Robert Steele who is a Cook County Commissioner,
16 William Mundy, Rory Hoskins is here, too.

17 He would be part of this panel, and
18 there was a possibility that Dr. James Descipio,
19 the Mayor of LaGrange Park, would be there as
20 well.

21 We said five minutes apiece for
22 testimony; but looking at the clock and looking at
23 the numbers of witnesses left on my desk, I think
24 we really want to see if we can ask you to focus

1 on only about three minutes.

2 If you have written testimony, we
3 will take that; and if you have written testimony,
4 you might want to give us the Cliff notes version.

5 Again, for the court reporter, if you
6 would spell your name and tell us your
7 affiliation, whether you are speaking for yourself
8 or you are speaking for an organization.

9 Please begin.

10 MR. STEELE: My name is Robert Steele, and
11 the name is spelled R-o-b-e-r-t S-t-e-e-l-e. I am
12 Cook County Commissioner of the 2nd District of
13 Cook County.

14 I am not representing any particular
15 organization, although I am representing the
16 interests of several constituent groups of my
17 community, particularly several areas of interest
18 of the population of my community.

19 Good morning to the committee and the
20 Panel that has asked us to have this public
21 hearing to talk about the redistricting.

22 I really appreciate you guys coming
23 out to the western area of Chicago and Cook
24 County, but also ask that you take a look at

1 hosting a meeting in the City of Chicago somewhere
2 in the near western area close to the downtown
3 community so we can have more of our communities
4 have their voice with this committee at some point
5 in time in the nature.

6 Beginning to make my comments, I
7 really am here to share with you that we are
8 interested in talking with you about what you
9 heard already as the mapping and how it's being
10 developed.

11 That is always an open opportunity
12 for the public to have comments, and I really
13 appreciate this opportunity to have public
14 comments about this.

15 The public debate is going to be very
16 interesting because there is so many challenges in
17 doing the redistricting process, and you guys are
18 really the first on hand to make this happen.

19 Certainly the City and the County
20 will come right behind you in following some of
21 the processes that you are doing. So we have to
22 follow your lead on how you take on this process
23 overall. I am here to learn more about what you
24 are doing.

1 Here in Cook County we have lost
2 about 300,000 residents overall in Cook County,
3 the 2nd largest county in the country. That is a
4 concern of ours.

5 Also in the City of Chicago we have
6 lost about 200,000 residents overall in the City
7 of Chicago which are most of the population in my
8 district is strictly the City of Chicago, and that
9 is very key concern.

10 Although we have had many shifts in
11 various communities around our districts and our
12 areas, we have to work together to make sure that
13 we are representing our population in the most
14 efficient way of giving the best representation as
15 we develop these maps for our new districts as
16 they come about.

17 There is going to be many challenges
18 before us as we look with you at the State level
19 to develop many of the districts that are going to
20 come out of this over the next two to four years
21 because that is when we have to come by the later
22 time.

23 Over the next two-and-a-half years
24 you should develop our district as well as the

1 County.

2 We certainly want to make sure that
3 we are following some of the good leads that you
4 put before us in trying to help evaluate what our
5 citizens are asking us to do and making sure that
6 we have the best representation overall for Cook
7 County.

8 There are key areas that I have to
9 represent and make sure that you understand are
10 going to be represented by this population.

11 One of the key areas for me is how we
12 provide health care to most of our citizens
13 throughout our districts around the county.

14 That is a key area for me in trying
15 to make sure that we have ample representation in
16 that area, so I hope that you consider how we do
17 public health care around the area of Cook County
18 and how you look at the districting around Cook
19 County at this time. The second key area for us
20 is public safety.

21 How do we deal with public safety?
22 How do we make sure that we keep the residents in
23 our communities as safe as possible but also
24 provide them with the best assistance as possible

1 as they look for adjudication if they have to deal
2 with public safety issues on a personal basis, and
3 that is dealing with our court system. We are the
4 largest court system in the country here in Cook
5 County.

6 We are seeing 1.8 million cases a
7 year that comes through our systems; and, as we
8 look at that, we have to also make sure we look at
9 how we provide the services and facilities for
10 those populations of people around this area.

11 So, I certainly want to make sure
12 that stays on your agenda as we look at the
13 redistricting and remapping of our communities.

14 The last area for me most of all is
15 housing. We have a key issue around the State and
16 around the government overall how we provide
17 housing and safe housing for individuals who are
18 in our population of people and mainly those who
19 are not able to afford housing at the most
20 moderate rates of developing housing at this time.

21 With the cutbacks in government that
22 are going on right now, we are going to be losing
23 funding for housing initiatives.

24 So we want to make sure that these

1 redistricting efforts that we are making are going
2 to best represent those individuals of who are
3 going to have these and are going to be coming
4 forth and more to our systems of government in the
5 future to provide us or ask us for more assistance
6 in providing them equitable housing opportunities.

7 So these areas that I ask you to
8 consider as you move forward, and I know that my
9 State Representative Turner will continue to hear
10 my voice, because he and I are closely working
11 together, and I hope my Representative Acevedo
12 will also be listening to some of the things that
13 I will be sharing directly with him.

14 I certainly thank you guys for having
15 this opportunity to come before us and set the
16 pace for how we are going to be going out to the
17 public and open up the debate about the
18 redistricting on the various levels of government
19 that we have to do in the very near future.

20 So, thank you guys for doing what you
21 are doing.

22 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you,
23 Commissioner, and thank you also for four minutes.

24 Next, please.

1 MR. MUNDY: William Mundy, M-u-n-d-y. I am
2 here on behalf of the Village President of Summit
3 Ray Strzelczyk. He is ill and couldn't be here.

4 Our biggest concern is that as the
5 districts get redrawn that we are represented only
6 by one representative and that you not split the
7 boundaries through the town or compartmentalize
8 it.

9 We would like to just be represented
10 by one just for ease of service and it creates
11 less confusion on behalf of our residents. It's
12 easier for the Village officials also. That's all
13 I have. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
15 That was really short. We like that a lot.

16 Next.

17 MR. HOSKINS: My name is Rory Hoskins.
18 The last name is spelled H-o-s-k-i-n-s.

19 I am speaking for myself, but I am a
20 Commissioner in the Village of Forest Park.

21 Forest Park is a community of 13,200
22 individuals. We are 32 percent African-American,
23 nine percent Latino and eight percent Asian and
24 others.

1 I am speaking in a very general
2 nature this afternoon. We think that the remap
3 should, of course, reflect the diversity of the
4 Western Suburbs.

5 We hope that you will avoid packing
6 as you draw the various district. Whereas, you
7 put more minorities in a district than necessary
8 to make a minority district; and, of course, we
9 know that you avoid fracturing districts so that
10 we can have adequate representation among minority
11 communities.

12 Forest Park has benefited from having
13 two State Representatives. We would like to
14 continue to have more than one State
15 representative.

16 One thing that we have noticed in
17 Forest Park is that we had very pronounced
18 demographic change in the last 10 years. We find
19 that more lower income residents in Forest Park.

20 We lack the social services
21 infrastructure to provide adequate resources,
22 particularly after-school programs.

23 So, as you hone in on the demographic
24 changes in our community, we hope that your

1 long-term decisions will help us to provide the
2 right resources at the local level to ensure that
3 all of our residences thrive.

4 With those comments I will close.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
7 I need a witness slip from you, if you don't mind,
8 would you fill one out.

9 MR. HOSKINS: Certainly.

10 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Are there any
11 questions from the members of the Committee?

12 Thank you very much all three of you.
13 We appreciate your appearing today.

14 Now, we will go to Juan Rangel of the
15 Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting, although
16 we think of Juan in his capacity as the head of
17 UNO, and Ismael Vargas in his capacity of UNO,
18 Angel Garcia.

19 Again, if you would spell your names
20 for the court reporter, we would be grateful and
21 tell us who you are speaking for if you are
22 speaking for somebody other than just yourself as
23 a citizen.

24 MS. RANGEL: Thank you very much members of

1 the community, Madam Chair, for this opportunity
2 to address you all on such an important matter.
3 My name is Juan Rangel, and I am the CEO of UNO,
4 as was mentioned. But I am here representing the
5 Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to
7 contribute our position on the proposed maps.

8 The Latino Coalition for Fair
9 Redistricting includes not only UNO but also the
10 largest organizations in the State of Illinois
11 representing interests of the Latino community,
12 and those include organizations such as CUPULA,
13 Colombianos Unidos Para Una Labor Activa, HACIA,
14 Hispanic American Construction Industry
15 Association; FEDEJAL, the Federacion Jalisciense
16 Del Medio Oeste de Los Estados Unidos, represented
17 by Mr. Sergio Suarez, who is their president, and
18 also the United Southwest Chamber of Commerce and
19 the Latino Coalition of Waukegan.

20 The Latino Coalition for Fair
21 Redistricting is involved in this process to, one,
22 protect the gains we have made over the years as
23 the Latino community and the number of Latino
24 represented districts and also to demand the

1 creation of additional Latino majority and
2 cross-over districts in the Illinois General
3 Assemblies.

4 The map presented today illustrates
5 that it's both proper to create 13 districts with
6 Latino voting blocks and possible to do so while
7 meeting legal requirements.

8 As you know, Illinois is going at a
9 slower rate than other states of its size.
10 Illinois population increased by a mere 3.3
11 percent.

12 States in the south and west regions
13 of the country grew at an average of about 14
14 percent. The Latino populations in Illinois have
15 increased 32.5 percent since 2000. Asians also
16 increased their population by 38.2 percent.

17 Our proposed map reflects Illinois'
18 changing demographics.

19 In every district we address here
20 today the number of Latino residents has gone up
21 to a remarkably higher rate than the overall
22 population, which in most cases has gone down, as
23 you see the maps around the room here.

24 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: So, all of the maps

1 back around here and back over here, these are all
2 maps presented by UNO or by the Latino Coalition
3 for Fair Redistricting; is that right?

4 MR. RANGEL: That is correct.

5 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: We have heard from
6 earlier witnesses they were talking about later
7 presenting what they might describe as their final
8 offer.

9 Are these your final offers, or are
10 these works in progress?

11 MR. RANGEL: Let me explain what we have
12 here today. These maps that we are proposing
13 address the growing Latino population in the areas
14 such as Waukegan, Aurora, West Chicago, Elgin,
15 Franklin Park and Chicago among others.

16 But the primary goal of the Latino
17 Coalition is to both maintain the current
18 representative districts and to better reflect the
19 growing Latino populations.

20 What we have here is the starting
21 point. We do think it's a starting point, and I
22 think more than anything it's an opportunity to
23 demonstrate that it is possible to create majority
24 Latino districts in these areas.

1 Districts in the suburbs of Chicago
2 require particular attention, DuPage County, the
3 overall population grew by 1.41 percent, but the
4 Latino population grew by 49.33 percent.

5 In Lake County the overall population
6 grew by 9.17 percent, but the Latino population
7 grew by 50.98 percent. Cook County lost 3.39
8 percent of its overall population, but the Latino
9 population went up by 16.14 percent.

10 So clearly this demonstrates the
11 tremendous growth of the Latino population.
12 Again, our primary goals of this coalition is to
13 maintain the current representative district and
14 to expand to better reflect the growing Latino
15 population in Illinois.

16 We view our proposed maps as a
17 starting point and welcome further discussion with
18 members of the Illinois State Legislature and
19 other communities.

20 Just to give you a few examples of
21 what we are talking about, for instance, in
22 Chicago the 4th Legislative District it's
23 currently represented by Representative Soto.

24 In 2001 the Hispanic population at

1 63.66 percent in terms of population, Hispanic
2 population and Hispanic voting age population was
3 57.60 percent.

4 Today that same district as it is
5 currently represented is now only 49.25 percent
6 and 44.08 percent, yet even without those numbers,
7 they have still managed to elect an Hispanic in
8 that position.

9 We are saying, though, that there is
10 a possibility with shifting districts that that
11 district can once again go up to 56.2 percent on
12 Hispanic population of 51.51 percent in voting
13 age.

14 But I will highlight two other
15 districts. Currently the 77th District that's
16 represented by Representative Saviano.

17 In 2001 the district was 25.55
18 percent Latino with 21.7 percent voting age of
19 Hispanic.

20 Today's census would have that
21 district at 35.50 percent. We are suggesting a
22 proposed map that would increase that number up to
23 54.8 percent Hispanic population with a 48.32
24 percent voting age population.

1 So clearly it is doable. I think you
2 all have a copy of each of the maps for the
3 different areas.

4 Representative Chapa LaVia's district
5 again in Aurora that is represented by Latino we
6 are looking at creating a second district within
7 that. That would be an influence district of 41.9
8 percent.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
11 I should say at the last panel we expected to hear
12 from President James Descipio of the Village of
13 LaGrange Park. He wasn't able to join us, but he
14 has left written testimony for the Committee
15 members.

16 Next.

17 MR. SUAREZ: Good afternoon. My name is
18 Sergio Suarez, S-e-r-g-i-o S-u-a-r-e-z. I am the
19 President of the leadership of our Native State of
20 Hallazco, Mexico. I represent 60 hometown
21 associations in the State of Illinois, 70 total in
22 the Midwest and 400 nationwide.

23 We have a vision of a comprehensive
24 development of our community and the social and

1 economic and civic areas.

2 Our base is in Melrose Park where we
3 have our headquarters. We want our Latino
4 community properly represented.

5 That is why we are participating in
6 this remapping and throwing these ideas. We don't
7 want the strength of the Latino community to be
8 weakened by redrawing and making us irrelevant in
9 the districts that we live.

10 Even though we use the name of
11 Latino, I think it is more about the needs of the
12 community than the race. But that is the way they
13 are drawn. We want to be able to choose our
14 representatives of our choice.

15 Here in these maps we make known our
16 perspective and our recommendations and the
17 boundaries of them; but, as Juan mentioned, we
18 will be discussing and working even further on
19 this.

20 Thank you very much for giving me the
21 opportunity to be here.

22 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.

23 Next.

24 MR. VARGAS: My name is Ismael Vargas,

1 I-s-m-a-l-e V-a-r-g-a-s. I am the director of
2 Interracial Program for Community Services. I am
3 also a pastor in this community being here for the
4 past 12 years.

5 On behalf of the community services,
6 the Board of Directors, staff and children, youth
7 and family services, we do not support this
8 dividing of our communities in Cicero.

9 With three locations in different
10 parts of the town, some have the potential of
11 having different sets of electoral presentations
12 to work with potentially creating a situation
13 where it competes with itself for limited
14 resources.

15 Over the last eight years it has been
16 the catalyst for community change through our
17 programs and services to youth and their families.

18 We have been able to grow during the
19 recession doing part of the unity that assists
20 with our community.

21 The elected officials are our
22 representative, Ms. Hernandez, Martin Sandoval,
23 our town president, Eric Dominick, with the Board
24 of Trustees.

1 Collectively we have worked to
2 support the growth of the programs to the
3 community.

4 ICCIR is also a member of the Cicero
5 Youth Task Force and also of the Latino Agenda and
6 on a grander scale the Cicero Youth Task Force
7 formed almost seven years ago has brought almost
8 80 non-profit organizations who do work in Cicero
9 under one umbrella with the support of one State
10 representative and one State senator to see what
11 they can reduce and prevent youth risk factors
12 through a coalition approach.

13 We have been successful in doing
14 community data gathering on teen's health,
15 community safety and gangs on the gap it services.

16 This coalition does not fight for
17 limited resources, but comes together to apply as
18 one.

19 We have established a very strong
20 sense of trust engaged in ability dividing Cicero
21 or separates Cicero or has the potential and
22 effect of placing agencies at ads with one another
23 of limited funding and competing district
24 representation priorities.

1 I asked today that Cicero do not be
2 divided in an effort to preserve the unity that
3 exists with a nonprofit community and within
4 Cicero.

5 Finally, as a pastor and as a father
6 of three and representing many organizations here
7 in the community, respectfully we ask you to show
8 us your maps before you make any decisions before
9 your votes so that we can come out and see them,
10 and we can also give our opinions.

11 Thank you very much and God bless.

12 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
13 Now, there is opportunity for questions from the
14 panel.

15 Representative Durkin.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Madam Chair, I just
17 have one question from you.

18 When the maps are going to be
19 released from the Chambers, will there be public
20 hearings following?

21 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: It's unusual to ask
22 members of the Committee questions.

23 Usually we reserve those for the
24 people who are on the panels before us.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I know, but over
2 the years we have always had some good questions.

3 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Certainly I know there
4 is a lot of enthusiasm for additional hearings.

5 In fact, I think it's pretty
6 impressive that we are having 15, although the
7 statute that we passed and the Governor signed
8 required four.

9 So, when it comes to what happens
10 after the maps are drawn, it's very difficult.
11 We are in the middle of April to figure out what
12 is going to happen in each detail of this
13 procedure.

14 We have to draw 118 house districts.
15 Each Senate district has to include precisely two
16 and no more.

17 Of the House District it's going to
18 be difficult and time consuming. We have involved
19 the public more than any redistricting effort that
20 I know of, and I know of at least a couple.

21 So we are responsive to the issues
22 that everyone is raising, and we are going to
23 accommodate the concerns of people that have come
24 before for us. Beyond that I can't tell.

1 Do you have any other questions for
2 the Panel?

3 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Mr. Rangel, I did
4 not see any drawings for congressional maps? Is
5 that a work in progress? Are you involved in
6 that?

7 MR. RANGEL: Yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Is that part of
9 your group? Maybe I am not reading this right or
10 looking at it correctly.

11 But you have congressional districts
12 that you have?

13 MR. RANGEL: What we are presenting today
14 is for the house districts, and we will be
15 presenting for the Senate next week and then when
16 there is congressional hearings, we will be
17 presenting our maps as well.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I don't know if
19 there are Congressional hearings.

20 MR. RANGEL: If there are.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: Let me ask this one
22 last question.

23 Do you think the members of the
24 legislature are in a better position to draw

1 congressional maps than members of Congress
2 themselves?

3 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: This hearing is for
4 congressional maps as well.

5 I think I started out by saying that
6 as well as legislative and representative
7 districts.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DURKIN: I guess I have an
9 open-ended question.

10 We are the ones that that draw the
11 maps for the House, the Senate and Congress.

12 So, I guess my question, as I said,
13 are we in a better position to draw congressional
14 maps as members of congress?

15 MR. RANGEL: I believe that is up to the
16 legislature and for congress and not for me to
17 decide.

18 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: We look forward to
19 hearing you on that point as well.

20 Representative Fortner.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 Mr. Rangel, obviously you have put
24 a lot of work in with all these panels, and I

1 really appreciate you bringing them to this
2 hearing.

3 The question I have in one of our
4 previous panels is there was a characterization of
5 influence versus majority/minority.

6 Have you been able to identify which
7 of your 13 districts would be influenced and which
8 would be majority/minority?

9 MR. RANGEL: I think that everyone has a
10 different definition as to what majority district
11 may be an influence district maybe obviously.

12 I think from the example that I gave
13 of Representative Soco's district history clearly
14 she was elected with under a 50 percent Hispanic
15 population.

16 I think she represents her community
17 very well nevertheless, but I think what we are
18 looking at is trying to -- our preference would be
19 around 55 percent as a majority with a voting age
20 of 50 percent.

21 I guess we would look at that in a
22 case-by-case basis in the region depending on the
23 interest.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: There are two

1 different proposals that you brought us.

2 How many of them would reach the
3 majority minority versus influence?

4 MR. RANGEL: Looking at the suburban areas,
5 I think we are accounting for all of those
6 districts and one of the influence districts in
7 the West Chicago area.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay.

9 Now, in the earlier presentation by
10 Ms. Puente, what I see in some of the areas is
11 they were actually able to get higher percentages
12 than the couple pages that you had in here.

13 If we could get some of the
14 percentages higher so they are getting over the 55
15 percent, is that something that you would prefer
16 going forward?

17 MR. RANGEL: I guess it would depend on the
18 areas, too. We would differ from what was
19 presented before looking at the Aurora District.

20 I believe, if I remember correctly,
21 they were looking at a district that would be over
22 60 percent Hispanic.

23 We are actually looking at a district
24 that is 55 percent which would be a little under

1 four percent of what is currently there today, but
2 that would allow us to create an influence
3 district along with West Chicago. That would
4 bring us up to four 41.9 percent, almost 42
5 percent there.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: So your position
7 is that it would be better to have two districts
8 with a voting age population that is below 50
9 percent than one where it is at 60 percent as
10 presented?

11 MR. RANGEL: I think what I am saying is
12 that we would want to maximize the number of
13 Hispanics within an area.

14 In that particular area West Chicago
15 is not that far away from Aurora that we can
16 actually create an influence district there as
17 well.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: But what you have
19 presented lowered the Aurora number below 50
20 percent voting age population.

21 MR. RANGEL: I think we can get to the 50
22 percent there. Again, what we presented is a
23 first draft of where we are. I think we could
24 easily go over the 50 percent there.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: That would then be
2 your preference again.

3 You have that plus the influence
4 rather than the standard that was presented in the
5 earlier map?

6 MR. RANGEL: I think we are trying to
7 create districts that represent the interests of
8 those communities. We would prefer 50 percent
9 less. We are saying it's doable.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Any other questions?
12 Thank you all very much. We appreciate your
13 testimony.

14 If you have written material, we
15 would appreciate that.

16 MR. RANGEL: Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: If people could hold
18 their remarks to under four minutes, that would be
19 great.

20 The next group is Phyllis Logan,
21 Sandi Radtke, Steve Orlando. Remember to spell
22 your names as you speak.

23 Why don't we start at this end.

24 MS. LOGAN: Phyllis, P-h-y-l-l-i-s Logan,

1 L-o-g-a-n. Good afternoon everyone.

2 My testimony is on behalf of the west
3 side branch of the NAACP as well as the Illinois
4 State conference. And Good afternoon to the
5 Illinois House Redistricting Committee.

6 My name is Phyllis Logan, and I am a
7 member of the west side branch of the NAACP, and I
8 am here today to represent the NAACP Illinois
9 State conference as well with its 37 branches
10 throughout the State of Illinois.

11 Like others in this room, we are
12 extremely concerned with the redistricting
13 process.

14 Allow me to proceed by stating that
15 we do believe in Illinois' Voting Rights Act of
16 2011.

17 It promises a fair redistricting
18 process for all racial minorities if it is
19 properly implemented.

20 We have read the Illinois Voting
21 Rights Act, and it requires the legislature to
22 create a crossover coalition or influence district
23 where it is not feasible to create a
24 majority/minority district and where doing so was

1 otherwise consistent with other redistricting and
2 the United States Constitution.

3 The NAACP's position is the IVRA or
4 the Illinois Voting Rights Act serves as a
5 protection against the gerrymandering of the black
6 vote.

7 Thus our first minimum prerequisite
8 for a fair redistricting process is that that
9 Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 be followed.

10 However, for a vote to be meaningful,
11 it must also be effective; and, as stated by the
12 African-Americans who are legislative districting,
13 a vote is only as effective as the boundaries of
14 the district in which it is cast.

15 We, too, believe that the 2001
16 mapping was effective for African-American voters
17 in Illinois, and in most instances agree that it
18 should be maintained.

19 The 2001 map did help to produce the
20 first black state senate president in Illinois'
21 history, and it did create the district history
22 from which Barack Obama launched his senate
23 campaign which in turn made his presidency
24 possible; and, therefore, it is our position that

1 this map is something to be proud of and that it
2 works not only for African-Americans, but it works
3 well for the State of Illinois as a whole and has
4 an impact nationally as well.

5 Under the 2001 map black state
6 legislatures have chaired an important committee
7 such as insurance, elementary and secondary
8 education, appropriations, small business
9 empowerment and work force, housing, financial
10 institutions, revenue, health and human services
11 and pension and investments.

12 Throughout the past decade many of
13 the hundreds of bills sponsored by the
14 African-American legislatures have had a
15 particular focus and impact on minority
16 communities throughout Illinois.

17 In our district African-American
18 legislatures have sponsored bills covering these
19 issues, the Prisoner Census Adjustment Act, the
20 African-American Employment Plan, the Juvenile
21 Justice Reform, Housing legislation as well as
22 education issues relating to student loan
23 forgiveness for graduates who work in the public
24 sector.

1 I would like to conclude this
2 testimony by remarking on two other concerns.

3 First we understand that it is the
4 practice in Illinois to count prison inmates as
5 residents in the localities in which they are
6 imprisoned.

7 Because blacks and Latinos constitute
8 a disproportionately high share of state and
9 federal prison population in Illinois, we believe
10 this practice is harmful to minority interests in
11 the redistricting process.

12 Therefore, another minimum
13 prerequisite for fair redistricting is to count
14 inmates as residents of the localities from which
15 they have come and to which most of them return.

16 This is a current practice in other
17 large racially diverse states such as Maryland and
18 New York.

19 It is inequitable to return them to
20 communities without the resources to assist them
21 in a successful reintegration which proves harmful
22 to all of the residents in these communities and
23 ultimately our society as a whole. We strongly
24 urge this policy be changed.

1 Finally, although we are aware that
2 the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 does not
3 expressly apply to congressional redistricting, we
4 assert the same discretion afforded to the states
5 does apply to the congressional redistricting as
6 well.

7 We believe as a final minimum
8 prerequisite for fair redistricting that the
9 legislatures should apply the basic framework of
10 the IVRA to its congressional redistricting.

11 The NAACP is looking forward to
12 participating in future hearings, and we thank you
13 for your time.

14 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much
15 Ms. Logan. Next.

16 MS. RADTKE: My name is Sandi Radtke,
17 R-a-d-t-k-e. I am a resident of Berwyn, and I
18 will keep this very short.

19 Our community is so fractured among
20 so many districts that we have really no
21 representation.

22 We don't have a voice, and I hope
23 that when you do redraw these plans, you take that
24 into consideration. You talk about compact and

1 contiguous.

2 Most of our residents don't know who
3 represents them because there are so many of you
4 that represent us. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you. We
6 appreciate your point, and we appreciate your
7 brevity.

8 Next.

9 MR. ORLANDO: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
10 My name is Steve Orlando, O-r-l-a-n-d-o
11 representing a group of Illinois Latinos for fair
12 representation.

13 We are a group of Illinois Hispanics
14 from Chicago, the suburbs and Northern Illinois.

15 With basically just a few requests
16 and hoping that you are listening to our desires
17 which is echoing a point that was brought up
18 before transparency.

19 Any map that happens to come out we
20 do ask for at least two weeks to be able to review
21 and comment on them before even this committee or
22 the house as a whole passes said map.

23 A long story short, we want the
24 committee to please respect the uniqueness of the

1 various communities in the State not just based on
2 racial and ethnic lines but also Catholic Church
3 parishes, community groups, church groups,
4 townships, villages and keep them just like the
5 requirements of these districts, keep them compact
6 and continuous.

7 In looking at the map that we have
8 had for the last 10 years some districts really
9 stand out as not really being compact at you such
10 as the 5th and 8th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st,
11 34th and 35th representative districts. Some of
12 them are shaped like little dangling pieces of
13 spaghetti. Some of them look like boomerangs. We
14 haven't gotten as far as octopus-shaped districts
15 yet. But hopefully in the next 10 years we won't
16 see those on the new maps.

17 So a long story short, I want to be
18 brief, I am hopeful that there will be more of a
19 majority minority district as opposed to influence
20 district.

21 My concern is that the Illinois
22 Voting Rights Act seems to have a preference for
23 influence districts as opposed to the majority and
24 minority districts. I would rather have the

1 majority minority districts if you don't mind.

2 I think with the increase of the
3 Hispanic population towering over two million
4 people now, I would really love to see more
5 opportunities for Hispanics to run for and win
6 State representative districts. I guess that is
7 where my comments end, and I thank you for the
8 opportunity.

9 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you,
10 Mr. Orlando.

11 And with you is Angel Garcia that we
12 called up earlier and wishes to present along with
13 you.

14 Mr. Garcia.

15 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. I am representing
16 with Steve Orlando. I am also a statewide
17 Commissioner for the Family Latino Commission.

18 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Spell your name for
19 the court reporter.

20 MR. GARCIA: A-n-g-e-l G-a-r-c-i-a. I am
21 speaking not for the Latino Family commission
22 today.

23 Growing up my father was a mechanic,
24 and we would kick the tires around of the car

1 before we bought it. We checked the engine of the
2 car before we bought it. We looked at that car.
3 Yet here today I am very happy that we get to talk
4 about redistricting, but we don't see the car. We
5 can't look at the car. We can't kick the tires
6 around.

7 I think transparency is of the most
8 importance if we are going to be talking about
9 making changes that will last over a decade and
10 that will change a generation of leaders, a
11 generation in the State of Illinois.

12 The fact that it will be difficult
13 and it will work, that's good. That is how
14 legislation is done, and that is how things are
15 done.

16 So, please, please I am asking for
17 transparency after the map comes out.

18 So that all community leaders that we
19 have had here today will be able to look at the
20 map, discuss the map and then have real
21 conversation at the very least two weeks to look
22 at the proposed map and then to give everyone here
23 a chance to see what the community is thinking
24 after that map has been proposed. Please give us

1 a chance to kick the tires around.

2 As a Latino leader, it is very
3 important for me to see what is going on. We have
4 great representatives that I have worked with; but
5 when we look at it, it is only a mere six percent
6 of the population of Illinois.

7 As we saw based on your own numbers,
8 we saw a 32 percent increase in the Latino
9 population; and even if you just look at the
10 Voting age population, Latinos are still way under
11 represented here.

12 How do we fix that by what we are
13 doing here today, redistricting? We really do
14 need districts where Latinos can actually run and
15 win.

16 The difference with the Latino
17 population is that there is many Latinos that
18 cannot vote or are undocumented. Therefore, the
19 threshold for Latino districts I believe must be
20 looked at differently from other minority
21 districts, because the opportunities for them to
22 actually vote their representative is so much
23 lower.

24 At the very least 50 percent moving

1 up to 55 percent, because we have to take into
2 account the fact that many Latino cannot vote.

3 Given that it is only two weeks we
4 are asking for that number itself should be fine;
5 but if we could look at it even deeper, there are
6 some communities that actually have a large
7 percentage of residents that cannot vote, but then
8 we have other Latino areas where there is actually
9 a generation, second and third generation.

10 So even then the Latino population is
11 very difficult to gauge just by sure numbers
12 depending on where you are looking at it, you are
13 looking at different numbers.

14 The Inner City of Chicago would be
15 different from some suburban areas where the
16 percentage of Latinos that vote are actually
17 larger.

18 I echo the statements of many people
19 before us. It is important to keep the
20 communities together and not split up.

21 I think the Voting Rights Act, part
22 of the reason it was tasked was because in China
23 Town we saw that area split up many ways. But it
24 doesn't have to be split up, three, four different

1 sections to dilute the vote.

2 If you could just break a part a
3 little bit, it still won't hurt the Latino vote.
4 It is of much importance to keep it together as
5 much as we can to be able to attract Latinos to
6 run and when they run that they can have a chance
7 to win and that the community can have a voice.
8 That is all we ask for.

9 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.

10 Are there any questions from this
11 Panel?

12 Representative Fortner.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair.

15 My first question for Ms. Logan, I
16 guess, is similar to the question I asked the
17 representative from MALDEF.

18 Does the NAACP have a sense of this
19 question of thresholds?

20 At what point would there be a
21 majority/minority district?

22 Because in your earlier comments you
23 talked about coalition, crossover influences where
24 a majority/minority district is not possible.

1 So I guess the question is: Does
2 your organization have an idea of where that
3 threshold would be?

4 MS. LOGAN: Unfortunately I cannot answer
5 that today. I cannot answer that today. I was
6 asked to bring the questions back to our
7 committee.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Do you anticipate
9 that you will be presenting at one of the later
10 House redistricting Committee hearings over this
11 next week or so?

12 MS. LOGAN: Yes. I do also bring a request
13 that we would also, as they stated earlier, have
14 these hearings within the City of Chicago as well?

15 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: We do. We have one
16 planned for Chicago State University. I think
17 that is Wednesday. I think there is one in
18 downtown Chicago on Thursday, and the south
19 suburban one is not very far from the City limits,
20 and I think there is one in Waukegan as well.

21 MS. LOGAN: We were requesting for the west
22 side of Chicago.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Then I had a
24 question for Mr. Orlando.

1 MR. ORLANDO: Yes, Representative.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: One of the things
3 you brought out was the shape of some of the
4 districts, and that leads me to question we have
5 talked and heard a lot about transparency as far
6 as seeing the maps.

7 What you brought up I think is an
8 important point about some of the criteria, things
9 like compactness, the shapes. It feeds into the
10 community integrity question probably, too.

11 At least from your perspective, do
12 you think it would be useful to have not just a
13 map with some time to review it but also what
14 criteria went into forming that map?

15 MR. ORLANDO: I think we would be very
16 welcome to that. I grew up in Cook County in
17 Thornton Township and later in Orland Township.

18 Over the past 10 years in Orland
19 Township we were represented by four different
20 representatives, and I think prior to that in the
21 '90s we were represented by two representatives,
22 one on the west side of LaGrange Road and one on
23 the east side of LaGrange Road.

24 I think it really builds a sense of

1 community to have more cohesive districts.

2 In one of the districts somebody kept
3 using North Avenue and having their state
4 representative office be at 30th and State, and I
5 don't believe that really encourages somebody who
6 lives on the opposite side of the district to
7 really want to get involved in knowing.

8 There is too many voters in Illinois
9 that don't even know who their State
10 Representative is. I think that is part of the
11 reason why.

12 If we had more districts that looked
13 like squares as opposed to stretched out pieces of
14 silly putty, I think the interest of the voting
15 public of the state would be much more happy
16 compared to what it has been the last 10 years.

17 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Any further questions?

18 Thank you very much. We appreciate
19 your input.

20 The next panel will be Charles
21 Hernandez, who is a Democrat Committeeman here in
22 Cicero, Valerie Leonard representing the Lawndale
23 Alliance, Jacob Meister from the Civil Rights
24 Agenda.

1 If you would all come forward, please
2 and remember to spell your name for the court
3 reporter.

4 Again, if you could stick to the time
5 limits, that would be helpful. If you have
6 written material, if you could just phrase it for
7 us and give us a copy of your written material.

8 Mr. Meister, we will start with you.

9 MR. MEISTER: Thank you very much, Madam
10 Chair, and Members of the Committee.

11 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Spell your name.

12 MR. MEISTER: It's Jacob Meister,
13 M-e-i-s-t-e-r.

14 I come today in two capacities. One
15 is as the first and only openly gay candidate to
16 have run for Statewide office in Illinois, and the
17 experiences that that gave me dealing on a
18 statewide basis with the LBGT community; and,
19 secondly, as the founder of the Civil Rights
20 Agenda, I am the Chairman and founder that came
21 out of my statewide race and my understanding of
22 how important it is for the LBGT community to
23 achieve a level of representation around this
24 State because of the great diversity that there is

1 in the LBGT community.

2 One misconception is that the LBGT
3 community is centered in the north side of the
4 City of Chicago, and this might have been more
5 true in the past, but the migration has been
6 fantastic.

7 We see pockets of LBGT voters
8 throughout the State that really need to be taken
9 into account. I can't say that we would have
10 majority districts in any given areas. Certainly
11 the north side of Chicago is still important.

12 The Civil rights agenda has
13 undertaken a census trying to do its own census of
14 LBGT-based group.

15 We have assembled probably what
16 accounts for roughly 25 percent of the LBGT voters
17 in the State.

18 We have been using some very
19 sophisticated algorithms and putting it together
20 with publicly available data.

21 Unfortunately the census did not and
22 has not included LBGT questions so that we don't
23 have those statistics.

24 The secondary census had some

1 questions, but the information is not all that
2 useful.

3 We are in the process right now and
4 we plan on coming before the Committee at a later
5 hearing with some maps showing concentrations; but
6 just for purposes of this hearing today, we ran
7 some figures, if I could find them, of the
8 six-and-a-half mile radius that includes Cicero
9 and have found that there are approximately 23,000
10 gay and lesbian voters that would be within this
11 region.

12 It's a significant number, and it's
13 also a growing number as the LBGT community
14 becomes more diverse, move out of what we have
15 called the ghetto of the north side of Chicago
16 which is something that became necessary in
17 decades past, but now we are everywhere in every
18 community.

19 Traveling around the State I was
20 absolutely amazed at the outpouring from the LBGT
21 community in small communities and cities around.

22 The other demographic that is very
23 important for building coalitions that would
24 support LBGT matters would be the under 40 voting

1 age.

2 So to include districts where you
3 would have, for instance, in Champaign where you
4 would have the college students, areas of Peoria
5 are very important. Those are things that should
6 be taken into consideration.

7 We are vastly under represented in
8 both the legislature.

9 We have two members in the State
10 house, none in the Senate, nationally there is
11 only four U.S. house members, Massachusetts, Rhode
12 Island, Wisconsin and Colorado. Illinois does not
13 have an openly gay member of Congress.

14 There is probably one million voters
15 in this State who are LBGT, so I would encourage
16 the Committee to take that into consideration in
17 trying to build the coalitions and districts.

18 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
19 We look forward to looking at your data.

20 It is my understanding, or at least
21 it's my very best guess that the Illinois House of
22 Representatives is likely to have a third openly
23 gay member some time between now and May 16th.

24 MR. MEISTER: Yes, that is true.

1 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Next.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Charles Hernandez, H-e-r-n-a-n-d-e-z.

4 First of all, I would like to take
5 this opportunity to welcome you all to the town of
6 Cicero, my hometown and to thank you all for the
7 hard work you do down in Springfield, the fruits
8 of your labor in Springfield and the fruits of the
9 labor from our town-elected officials who are
10 responsible for this beautiful building we are in
11 today. 10 years ago we wouldn't have had this
12 building. We do have it today.

13 So, thank you very much for all that
14 you do.

15 I am an elected official in Cicero.
16 I am your Democratic committeeman, but I am here
17 to testify our experience shows there is a
18 markedly cohesive community of interest in our
19 town.

20 That geographic area includes Cicero
21 and Berwyn that deserves the right representation
22 at the State government level.

23 Since the release of the census data,
24 the population changed in the Chicago area and the

1 suburban towns like Cicero have shown and been
2 reported that the changes have been portrayed in
3 terms of race or National origin to reflect the
4 tremendous growth of the population of the
5 Hispanic origin.

6 But the demographic changes of those
7 effected some of the communities cannot simply be
8 reduced to National origin.

9 These changes have taken place in the
10 last decade, and some geographic areas are much
11 more substantive than just classifications of race
12 or National origin can convey such as
13 not-for-profit organizations, churches and schools
14 in these affected areas are very much aware.

15 Adjustments need to be made
16 accordingly to public institutions to meet the
17 needs of these new constituencies.

18 Speaking as a life-long resident in
19 the town of Cicero, I believe there is a glaring
20 need to provide electoral opportunities to a
21 community that has been electorally
22 disenfranchised in some cases and the rights to
23 have this clearly cohesive community the right to
24 elect public official that can fairly represent

1 their concerns.

2 I ask only that you do what is
3 reasonable and based upon the principles and
4 values of a Representative government, and I ask
5 for you to support the redistricting changes in
6 Cicero and Berwyn.

7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much,
9 Mr. Hernandez.

10 MS. LEONARD: My name is Valerie Leonard.
11 You spell my name V-a-l-e-r-i-e L-e-o-n-a-r-d.

12 I am the co-founder of the Lawndale
13 Alliance in Chicago.

14 I want to say, first of all, thank
15 you very much for hosting these hearings. It has
16 been a really good opportunity for us to learn
17 about the process as citizens, and I would imagine
18 you guys are learning as well.

19 I am a resident of North Lawndale.
20 We are located on the west side of Chicago about
21 15 minutes west of the loop. I am about two
22 minutes from here east of here.

23 We cover about 50 percent of the land
24 mass of District 9 and about 25 percent of the

1 land mass of Senate District 5.

2 We are very concerned as you do your
3 redistricting that you take into consideration
4 that the Lawndale community is entirely within the
5 District 9.

6 Hearing some of the horror stories
7 from other hearings about other communities being
8 split up, we prefer not to go through that and
9 experience it.

10 As you know or may have heard, in
11 North Lawndale we have a number of serious issues
12 at it relates to housing, unemployment, poor
13 performing schools; and while that might not
14 necessarily be desirable, those are concerns that
15 it will be very difficult to address if we have
16 more than one person representing us.

17 So we prefer that when you do your
18 redistricting that you take that into account and
19 keep us together.

20 Another concern that we have is
21 District 5 has District 9 and District 10.
22 District 9 we know is probably going to have about
23 4,000 people more than necessary.

24 We also know that District 10 is

1 probably going to need about 13,000 people in
2 order to come up to the 108,000.

3 So we ask that you try to keep the
4 senate district as cohesive as possible to try to
5 make minimal changes.

6 Any overage from District 9 we ask
7 that it can overflow into District 10 to keep
8 Senate District 5 in tack to the extent possible.

9 We are also concerned about the loss
10 of Congressional seat. We don't know who is going
11 to leave, but we ask that you consider District 7,
12 which heretofore has been protected by the Voting
13 Rights Act.

14 We ask that you take that into
15 consideration; and, as you redraw the
16 congressional districts that you continue to
17 protect our district.

18 So with that in mind, we will not
19 have any formal proposals before May 5th.

20 We are going to go through a process
21 in our community where we are actually looking at
22 the census data, and we will be able to provide
23 some proposals, some real hard proposals as far as
24 what we think the maps ought to look like some

1 time after May 5th.

2 We realize that there is a serious
3 time constraint, and we want to adhere to that.
4 But we just hoped to have them on a more concrete
5 proposal. Thank you very much

6 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you,
7 Ms. Leonard.

8 Any questions from this Panel?
9 Representative Fortner.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair.

12 Mr. Hernandez, I guess this would be
13 the appropriate question for you as the local
14 committeeman.

15 What role do you think political data
16 like election returns should play in the
17 redistricting process?

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: I think given the fact that
19 the Town of Cicero is upwardly mobile towards 80
20 percent of our population; but out of that 80
21 percent, probably 20 percent are eligible to vote.

22 I think any return of data coming
23 back as far as the voter turnout would not
24 adequately reflect the needs and especially at

1 social service levels of its constituency?

2 Is that what you are getting at?

3 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I am thinking more
4 towards using the election returns looking at
5 precinct results, how many Republicans versus
6 Democrats that are in a precinct?

7 As a Democratic Committeeman, would
8 that probably fall into your bailiwick to ask that
9 question?

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: I would love to say because
11 of my smiling and charming personality, the
12 Democratic party is upwardly mobile in the Town of
13 Cicero.

14 I think the changing demographics. I
15 think that a lot of residents are moving to both
16 Cicero and Berwyn, and they have their roots
17 within the demographic party.

18 For conversation purposes when I
19 first embarked upon a political career back in
20 1997, the Town in Cicero was basically a
21 Republican stronghold.

22 So we just had to put our mind
23 together and get -- I do think that the
24 demographics as far as the Democratic turnout vote

1 is basically on the north end of town; and as you
2 are south, the Republicans vote is a lot stronger.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: But to what role
4 should that, if at all, play in redistricting?

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: As far as redistricting
6 goes, it should be reflected upon the needs of our
7 community.

8 I don't think it should be --
9 although once again, I would like to see the fact
10 that National origin should play a factor.

11 I think that if a particular area is
12 80 percent Latino and 20 percent are eligible to
13 vote, I think that the eligibility to vote should
14 have the opportunity to determine who is in fact
15 elected.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Any further questions?
18 We look forward to your data, Mr. Meister.

19 We look forward to your proposed
20 maps, Ms. Leonard, and we appreciate the input
21 from all of you.

22 MS. LEONARD: Thank you.

23 MR. MEISTER: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: The next panel will be

1 Robert Laverro who is the Mayor of Berwyn, and we
2 have Michele Skyrd. I don't know if he wants to
3 testify or not.

4 You are welcome to come up to the
5 table right now since we have two elected
6 officials from Berwyn.

7 We have more people that were not
8 only on the original listing.

9 We will get to those very shortly,
10 especially if you could keep your remarks to the
11 prescribed four minutes.

12 Please tell us your name and spell it
13 for the court reporter.

14 MR. LOVERO: Robert Lovero, L-o-v-e-r-o. I
15 am the Mayor of Berwyn. I am also the Democratic
16 Committeeman of Berwyn, too.

17 A lot here has been said with respect
18 to the percentages of Latino and
19 African-Americans.

20 When I look at my community of
21 Latinos, African-Americans, Polish Americans,
22 Czechs, Italians, I look at them as Berwynites.

23 I don't look at them as what their
24 race ethnicity is. So, I am here more concerned

1 for what is best for Berwyn and not necessarily
2 for any particular race.

3 I will let you all decide as the
4 demographics of representation in the City of
5 Berwyn. I have enjoyed the representation that we
6 have had. We actually have four state reps.
7 There was testimony earlier that there were three.
8 There are four, and three of them are sitting
9 right here. I have enjoyed the representation
10 that we do have in Berwyn, and I must say that
11 they have all been open to any questions or asked
12 for help that I have always had.

13 What I worry about, though -- and I
14 have had this conversation with Representative
15 Zalewski.

16 What I worry about is whether or not
17 their voices are de minimized because they only
18 hold a small portion of Berwyn as opposed to a
19 whole of Berwyn, and that is what concerns me.

20 Berwyn is split up, and I was dead
21 set against that when I first became mayor. I am
22 not so dead set against it now, but I do worry
23 that we are split too thin. That de minimizes the
24 voice that our representative has in the State

1 legislature, and that would be my concern.

2 I would not like us to have four. I
3 don't mind having more than one, but I would like
4 it to be reduced.

5 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you, Mayor.

6 And now Alderman.

7 MS. SKRYD: My name is Michele Skryd,
8 M-i-c-h-e-l-e S-k-y-r-d. I am an alderman in the
9 City of Berwyn.

10 Berwyn is a multi-ethnic community
11 with approximately 60 percent of our population
12 being Latino.

13 The purpose of the redistricting is
14 for equal representation. I would just ask this
15 panel to move forward and use fair and equal
16 consideration for the entire city.

17 As an elected official, I would like
18 to thank the Latino Policy Forum, MALDEF and all
19 of the organizations that are working together on
20 behalf of the goal of equity on the redistricting
21 map; and if I could be of assistance to any of
22 you, I would be happy to lend a hand.

23 Just echoing on what the Mayor said,
24 we do enjoy the fruits of the labor of four state

1 reps and three state senators, and I enjoy working
2 with all of them.

3 My ward has two state reps, and one
4 senator. I think moving forward that because of
5 just again not being left out, but just having
6 those State reps be strong enough for us, I would
7 like to see possibly one senator and two State
8 reps. So that is my opinion. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much,
10 Alderman Skryd. Any questions from the Panel?
11 Thank you very much. We appreciate hearing from
12 you.

13 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: The next panel will be
14 Jonathan Siner, who is from the Jewish coalition,
15 Richard Barnett and Sam Sandoval. Proceed.

16 MR. SINER: Good afternoon, Representative
17 Currie and Representative Fortner and other
18 members of the Panel.

19 My name is Jonathan Siner. I live in
20 Glenwood, Illinois on the south suburbs.

21 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Spell your name for
22 the court reporter.

23 MR. SINER: I live in the south suburbs. I
24 understand you are holding hearings next Thursday

1 down there, and I am unable to attend then. So I
2 hope it's all right that I am testifying here
3 today.

4 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: It's not only all
5 right, we are delighted to have you here in
6 Cicero.

7 MR. SINER: Thank you. It has been very
8 interesting to watch the whole thing.

9 I live in the Village of Glenwood,
10 and I am the Chairman of the Planning Commission
11 in the Village of Glenwood and also a member of
12 the Republican Jewish coalition in the State of
13 Illinois.

14 I want to spend about two minutes on
15 two different topics.

16 One is on the State Senate and House
17 District and another on the Congressional
18 district. So, I will try to go through it
19 quickly, two minutes each.

20 Glenwood, Illinois is actually part
21 of the Homdwood/Flossmoor/Glenwood area in the
22 south suburbs. We are contiguous to each other.
23 We have a lot in common. We share the same
24 schools. We share the same parks. We have many

1 integrated government agencies such as our 911.
2 We share police and fire, and yet our
3 Representative and Senate Districts, State Senate
4 Districts, are not contiguous. The communities go
5 east and west, and the districts really go north
6 and south.

7 In Glenwood itself we are in two
8 different senate districts, one that goes as far
9 south as Kankakee. That is the 40th. We have
10 another that goes the 15th, which goes into the
11 City of Chicago on the south side.

12 The same with our state
13 representatives, we have two districts, one that
14 goes into Will County and one that goes into the
15 south suburbs.

16 We are asking that when you look at
17 these maps that you look at the
18 Homewood/Flossmore/Glenwood area together and try
19 to make these more east/west more than north/south
20 so we can have common representatives there rather
21 than have them so spread apart.

22 I don't have the population figures
23 in front of me. We basically have stayed the same
24 in our areas over the 10 years, and it's not the

1 numbers so much, but it's to try to get those
2 together. So that is the point that I would like
3 to make on that.

4 I would also like to make a few
5 comments on the congressional districting. I am
6 in Glenwood.

7 I am in the 2nd Congressional
8 District, which is Jesse Jackson Jr's. District.
9 That is currently evenly divided among between the
10 south suburbs and the south side of Chicago.

11 As you know and from what you have
12 seen in the paper, the whole City of Chicago and
13 the south side have lost a substantial amount of
14 population.

15 We think the 2nd Congressional
16 District even if it remains similar has to extend
17 much further south than it is and taking much more
18 of the south suburbs and much less of the City
19 than it does to give us more of a balanced
20 population in the south suburbs and because of the
21 loss of population of the City.

22 Directly to the west of us is the
23 11th Congressional District. That is now
24 represented by Adam Kinsiger, a Republican. It

1 was previously represented by Debbie Halvorson, a
2 Democrat. In fact, Debbie Halvorson was our state
3 senator. So, we are right on the edge of it.

4 This 11th Congressional District is a
5 very balanced district. It's divided somewhat
6 evenly Democratic/Republican.

7 That is why you have had Democratic
8 and Republican Congressman elected from there. It
9 has large cities in it, Joliet, Kankakee; and it
10 goes down to Bloomington. It has large amounts of
11 farmland. It goes west almost to the Iowa border.
12 It just stops right before Moline. So, that is
13 why it's evenly divided because it has a balance
14 of the cities and the farm lands.

15 We know it is represented now by Adam
16 Kisinger. He is a Republican. He is a tea party
17 congressman.

18 As a member of the Republican Jewish
19 Coalition, we are asking the legislature to resist
20 the temptation to carve out that district to
21 eliminate his district. We ask that you keep the
22 11th District balanced.

23 That is the way it is now, and we
24 think that is the way it should be to give either

1 party an even shot at this district for the next
2 10 years.

3 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
4 You have kept to the time table. We appreciate
5 that.

6 MR. Siner: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Next is Richard
8 Barnett. It is my particular pleasure to welcome
9 you having worked with you over the years. It's
10 great to see you; and, again, please spell your
11 name for the court reporter.

12 MR. BARNETT: Richard, R-i-c-h-a-r-d
13 Barnett, B-a-r-n-e-t-t. I am here to talk
14 concerning the treatment of prisoners as far as
15 the census count is concerned.

16 Under the current laws incarcerated
17 prisoners are not counted in the census numbers of
18 the community from which they originated; but in
19 the population of the town in which the prison is
20 in, and as a result of that, no monies have come
21 to the town that they came from, because the towns
22 where the prison has originated they get the
23 benefit of the census count and the census funds.

24 Depending on how long their sentence

1 is, it doesn't respect the originating town.

2 If I commit a crime and do the time
3 of two years at a prison downstate, they get 10
4 years of the benefits of the census, in other
5 words, the \$400 a year that my town would get.
6 They don't receive 10 years. The town where the
7 prion is receives those moneys for 10 years.

8 So once they are through with their
9 sentence, they come back to my town, and I have to
10 deal with housing, health, job training,
11 everything else that they should have gotten in
12 prison while they have got idle time to do
13 nothing.

14 If I got time to do nothing, why
15 can't I get some education or training? That
16 doesn't happen anymore in all prisons. So you
17 keep them in prison for however many years they
18 got.

19 Then you send them back to my
20 community angry after serving all of that time;
21 but knowing nothing that they can take care of
22 themselves that caused them another one that says
23 if you are convicted of a felony, you can no
24 longer get Pel grants. You can't do this. You

1 can't do that. So, all of those things hurt the
2 community that someone comes from when they are
3 sent to prison.

4 So, I think the State legislature
5 should look at the fact that you can't just house
6 someone for seven, eight, 10 years and teach them
7 nothing, and that's what happened.

8 The towns in which they are
9 incarcerated in, they have no representation
10 because those state rep and state senators vote
11 against anything that comes up that would give
12 them the training that they need to come back to
13 my community from where they came from.

14 So I am asking the Board to please
15 help Representative LaShon Ford as far as his
16 legislation that he has presented to deal with
17 that and although a prisoner might go to Menard or
18 Marion whatever, their census funds would come
19 back to the City of Chicago where their home is
20 and where their representation is. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
22 Next.

23 MR. SANDOVAL: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Sam Sandoval, S-a-n-d-o-v-a-l. I am here to

1 respond to those presentations earlier in the day.

2 First let me compliment UNO on their
3 good work on all those maps. My remarks are
4 limited to RD3, which is UNO's proposed district
5 to Illinois House District No. 3.

6 I just had a moment to review the
7 map, and now it has been removed, but I noticed
8 some defects in it that I would like to state
9 today.

10 In light of the parameters of
11 continuity, compactness and the 7th Circuit's
12 guidance on redistricting, there is some troubling
13 elements with RD3.

14 First in the southeastern part of the
15 District UNO is proposing to chop off or
16 cannibalize the east, the southeastern part of
17 House District No. 3. This would create a VR8
18 dilution claim by residents of that area.

19 Second, they would spread the
20 southwestern part of the district into a zero
21 population and African-American population.
22 Hispanic population according to UNO's numbers
23 range between zero and 10 percent.

24 UNO has also suggested moving the

1 northwest border into non-Hispanic areas where
2 Hispanics total 25 percent of the population.

3 All of this creates a reduction in
4 the Hispanic population of the third district and
5 avoid dilution claims of residents there.

6 According to UNO under their proposed
7 map, the Hispanic population of the 3rd District
8 would fall from 53,056 people to 23,958.

9 On RD3 UNO calculated this reduction
10 as leading the 3rd District with 69 percent
11 Hispanic option. That is just factually
12 inaccurate.

13 If there is a 77,000 total population
14 and 23,000 Hispanic population, that would leave
15 the 3rd District with 30 percent Hispanic
16 population.

17 I would also like for UNO to provide
18 an explanation on why they would dilute the 3rd
19 District from 73 percent as it currently stands to
20 30 percent in light of the City of Aurora decision
21 where the 7th Circuit has taken umbrage with
22 fill-in districts where Hispanic groups in one
23 area are fractured off to the benefit of another
24 district.

1 I would also like to know if UNO
2 began with a race neutral map initially to see
3 what the realistic goals for the Latino District
4 runs through the State would be.

5 Again, once UNO provides these
6 explanations, I would like to reserve time to
7 respond as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Have you talked to UNO
9 yourself?

10 MR. SANDOVAL: Briefly. They left after
11 the presentation.

12 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Well, they are going
13 to provide some different parameters, I gather, in
14 future meetings, and I don't know that it is
15 appropriate for one panel member to question
16 another.

17 But if you want to give us your
18 questions, we might be able to ask them for you.

19 Can I ask, Mr. Sandoval, are you
20 representing yourself or do you represent an
21 organization?

22 MR. SANTOY: I represent Representative
23 Aroya in the 3rd.

24 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Okay. Are there

1 questions for any members of this panel?

2 Representative Acevedo?

3 MR. ACEVEDO: You mentioned that under a
4 proposal from UNO, that it would go down to 66
5 percent?

6 MR. SANDOVAL: That is what they are
7 claiming.

8 MR. ACEVEDO: Not the majority of it goes
9 down from 78 percent to 73 almost 74 percent?

10 MR. SANDOVAL: But 74 percent is wrong
11 because if there is 23,598 Hispanics out of
12 77,000, there is no way that 74 percent. 23 out
13 77,000 is not 74 percent. That's an error. It's
14 30 percent.

15 CHAIRPERSON CURRIE: Thank you very much.
16 We appreciate your testimony.

17 These actually are the last witnesses
18 slips I have; but if anybody else would like to
19 testify, now is the time to come forward and do
20 so.

21 Any other takers? Raise your hand.

22 If not, I certainly do appreciate the
23 interest and enthusiasm that presenters and other
24 members of the audience have shown today.

1 This is a very important building
2 block in our Democratic governance, the
3 reapportionment of the house, the districts, in
4 the State and in the Federal Congress.

5 So we are grateful for all of you
6 that have offered us all of your opinions, ideas
7 and proposals and anybody who didn't present
8 today, but would like to give some written
9 testimony to the Committee is more than welcome to
10 do so.

11 I believe there was information on
12 the slide show that will tell you how to find us,
13 and we hope to hear from you soon.

14 We hope that some of you will come to
15 one of our other of the 15 hearings. We are going
16 to stand in recess. Thank you.

17 (Whereupon, the hearing
18 concluded at 3:10 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Patricia A. Armstrong, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter within and for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the testimony of said witnesses were taken on April 16, 2011, by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the proceedings.

Patricia A. Armstrong, CSR-RPR
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