

WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF

PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

RE: 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VIA ZOOM

Consisting of pages 1 to 64

June 26, 2021

Taken Before:

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14		
15	NOTE:	
16	(unreportable crosstalk)	= more than one person speaking at once causing audio to distort
17		
18	(indiscernible)	= words heard but not understood
19		
20	(phonetic)	= phonetic spelling of name
21		
22	(as read)	= not an exact quotation of document, paraphrased or not verified with source document
23		
24	(audio disruption)	= digital platform audio feed break or garbled transmission
25	(allotted time elapsed)	= Two minutes of time allowed per person ran out; testifier's audio was muted
	(extraneous noise)	= Noise from unmuted mic other than

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Saturday, June 26, 2021, at
2 10:00 a.m., before Sue E. Garcia, Washington State
3 Certified Court Reporter, residing at Tacoma,
4 Washington, the following proceedings were had, to wit:

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* * * * *

7

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: And good morning to
9 everyone. I'm Sarah Augustine, the Chair of the
10 Washington State Redistricting Commission. I would
11 like to welcome everyone to this public outreach
12 meeting, the ninth one of this 2021 redistricting
13 cycle.

14 The topic of discussion this morning is
15 Congressional District 9 and the legislative districts
16 included within the 9th CD.

17 I'll have more to say about that later. But first
18 let's kick things off with a video message from the
19 commissioners.

20 Maria?

21

(Video playing.)

22

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Maria.

24 For those you from the public joining us today,
25 welcome again. It is my goal as chair to facilitate a

1 process that is as participatory, fair, and equitable
2 as possible. I will endeavor to engage communities
3 across Washington as fully as I can and to hear and
4 address your concerns and requests.

5 Throughout our tenure as commissioners we will
6 hear public comments that are important. We will
7 listen to you. I will do my best to synthesize those
8 comments, and we will endeavor to respond as we are
9 able.

10 Still, it is possible that you will bring forward
11 in your public comments ideas, requests, and injustices
12 that we may not be able to address. We will certainly
13 deliberate on the issues where we do have jurisdiction.
14 Where we don't, I will do my best to refer you to those
15 who may be able to respond more effectively.

16 I'm going to begin today by reviewing the purpose
17 and the values of the commission. Together as a
18 commission we have agreed on the following values and
19 mission:

20 To provide an open, transparent, credible process
21 that is grounded in statute and where all voices are
22 welcome and there's access for everyone;

23 To conduct ourselves with transparency, respect,
24 and civility, where commissioners will participate and
25 negotiate in good faith;

1 And to meet the deadline outlined by law;

2 And produce the best possible maps.

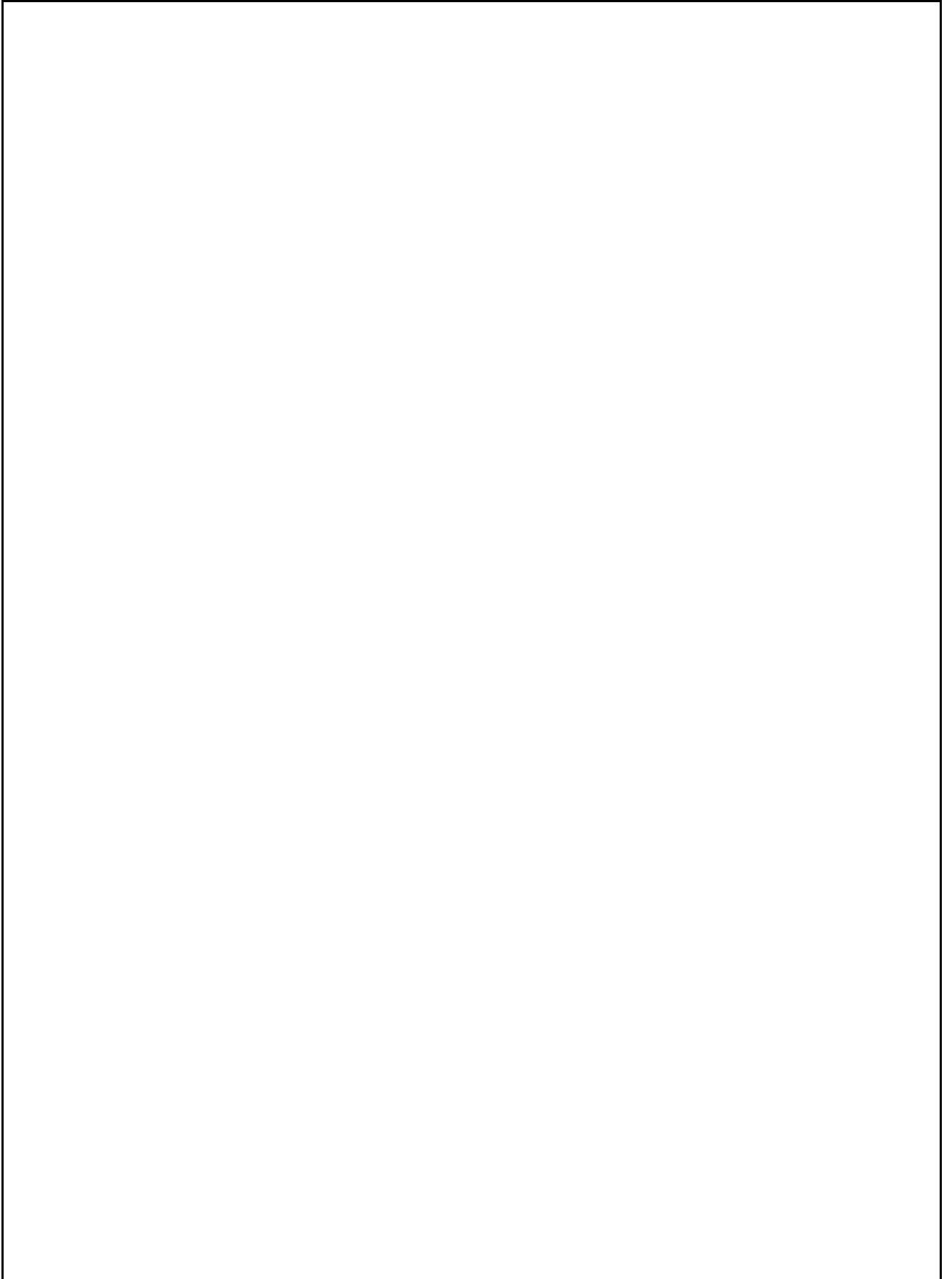
3 You may be aware that because of the pandemic this
4 redistricting cycle promises to be a challenging one.
5 While we should have received the data from the Census
6 Bureau that we need to begin to redistrict by April 1
7 of this year, we don't expect to have that data until
8 late August.

9 Nonetheless, in late April the Census Bureau did
10 deliver the President and the nation the apportionment
11 data, which told us which states would gain seats in
12 the U.S. Congress and electoral college and which would
13 not.

14 Based on that data, in the last decade the
15 population of our state grew by 14.6 percent and added
16 approximately 1 million residents. Despite that
17 population growth, it did not change the number of
18 congressional seats we're entitled to. Washington will
19 continue to have ten representatives in the U.S. House
20 of Representatives.

21 Based on the population growth in the state, our
22 job as a redistricting commission is to distribute as
23 equally as possible the population among ten
24 congressional districts and 49 legislative districts.

25 Based on the census data from April, Washington



1 had a population of 7,705,281 residents as of April 1,
2 2020. Therefore, we need to draw ten new congressional
3 districts that are compact, contiguous, and convenient,
4 and made up of approximately 770,528 residents, and 49
5 new legislative districts that are also compact,
6 contiguous, and convenient, and make up
7 approximately -- made up of approximately 157,251
8 residents.

9 Statute also instructs us, inasmuch as it is
10 practical, to minimize drawing district lines that cut
11 through counties, municipalities, or communities of
12 interest. And the commission is committed to applying
13 these principles while we try to create equally
14 proportioned districts.

15 So while we know the overall population of the
16 state according to the census, we don't yet know the
17 particulars of percentage growth across neighborhoods
18 and counties. State population estimates of the last
19 ten years do give us a relatively good idea of where
20 our 7.7 residents live and which districts will need to
21 get larger in area to add more be residents and which
22 districts will need to get smaller in order to shed
23 some residents. And as we add or subtract
24 neighborhoods from one district, it will cause the need
25 to make corresponding adjustments in the neighboring

1 districts.

2 To show you broadly, Marie can you please pull up
3 the first map.

4 This map shows Washington state and its ten
5 congressional districts. The darker the brown color,
6 the more the district needs to grow in size, and the
7 darker the teal color, the more the district needs to
8 shrink in size.

9 So regarding the topic of discussion today, the
10 9th Congressional District, the map indicates that the
11 9th CD, according to state population estimates, has
12 slightly more residents than the needed 770,000 to make
13 it proportional. Depending on the final number we get
14 back from the Census Bureau, it looks like this
15 congressional district may have to shed a few
16 residents.

17 Now, next slide, please, Maria.

18 The 9th Congressional District includes
19 Legislative Districts 11, 27, 30, 33, 37, 41, 47, and
20 48. Based on state population estimates, we can see
21 that the 37th, 41st, and 48th have more than the
22 157,000 residents each district should have, while
23 Districts 11, 27, 39, 33, and 47 have less than the
24 needed 157,000 residents.

25 Thank you, Maria.

1 So that's just a brief overview of the challenges
2 that your redistricting commission face this year. In
3 essence, commissioners have to create a new puzzle out
4 of the state, and the puzzle pieces have to contain
5 nearly exactly the same population. As we make one
6 puzzle piece smaller, its adjacent puzzle pieces will
7 need to absorb those additional areas, meaning that
8 every time a boundary is moved, it creates a cascade of
9 changes in surrounding districts.

10 I was at a conference two weeks ago where
11 Secretary of State Kim Wyman linked our task as similar
12 to solving a Rubik's cube, which is an apt analogy.

13 So the purpose of our meeting today is to listen
14 to your input about your community and how to ensure
15 that the districts are fairly balanced in terms of
16 population but also respect shared community interests.
17 The commission may not be able to meet every interest,
18 but as commissioners are trying to weigh the trade-offs
19 inherent in this process, your opinions are welcome and
20 vital.

21 As of the end of the workday yesterday, we had
22 more than 40 individuals who had signed up to testify.
23 We're going to invite individuals in groups of four to
24 come forward and testify. Each individual will have
25 two minutes to offer their comments. After four people

1 have testified, we will see if the commissioners have
2 any questions of the testifiers, and then we will move
3 on to the next group.

4 With that summary, Sean, let's begin. Please call
5 the first panel.

6 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Could I jump in,
7 Commissioner Augustine, just with a quick --

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Sure.

9 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: -- point of
10 personal privilege as we dive in?

11 I just want to thank everyone for coming out today
12 and just wanted to also recognize that we're all here
13 in Pride Month and today's Pride. So thank you all for
14 being here on a day that celebrates a lot of rights for
15 a lot of Washingtonians. So just wanted to take a
16 moment and recognize that.

17 And so we're hearing a lot of testimony today. So
18 thank you. And also just hope folks are keeping safe
19 in this heatwave.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
21 Walkinshaw.

22 Sean?

23 MR. MURRAY: Good morning, commissioners.

24 Our first panel will be Dan Rystrom, David
25 Kulcsar, Tiffany Mendoza, and Adam Fal- -- I'm sorry.

1 I'm going to mispronounce your last name -- Falsafi,
2 Falsafi.

3 We will begin with Dan, if you can turn on your
4 video and begin your testimony.

5 MR. D. RYSTROM: Hi.

6 MR. MURRAY: Good morning.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Hi, Dan. We're glad you're
8 here.

9 MR. D. RYSTROM: Yes. I'm caught living in
10 the Fairwood area. We're in an area called No Man's
11 Land. We've been shortchanged, it seems, moved around
12 from, "We're the county. Are we the City of Renton?"
13 And we find that even in the congressional district
14 we're -- we're not -- we're totally ignored.

15 And I think it would be better to move the
16 Fairwood community north towards the east side. That
17 community I can identify more with.

18 And the vast people are -- here are blue-collar
19 people of color. And we don't have examples --
20 representation with our congressman we have now. So
21 that's why I'd like one better.

22 Mr. Smith, in my opinion -- I'm -- two of us went
23 down there to talk to him at his congressional office,
24 and he wouldn't even make eye contact about a concern
25 we have about blue-collar people of color. I'm not

1 going to go into it 'cause I don't have time to talk
2 about it.

3 But I'm asking the Fairwood area -- that's 98- --
4 98058 ZIP code -- be included further up in the east
5 side. I think that better represents our community
6 members and what we need. And that would help
7 everybody out, especially the blue-collar people here,
8 people of color, and the working poor. We have a much
9 better identity north 'cause we also drive there for
10 work and commute there.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
13 your comments.

14 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

15 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

16 Next we have David Kulcsar, if you can turn on
17 your video and begin your testimony, please.

18 MR. D. KULCSAR: All right. Just one moment.
19 I don't know if my light's working again.

20 MR. MURRAY: Tiffany, I see you have your
21 video on. You look like you're ready. We'll begin
22 with you, and we'll come back to David.

23 MR. D. KULCSAR: Thank you.

24 MS. T. MENDOZA: Hello. Thank you so much
25 for your time.

1 My name is Tiffany Mendoza. I use she/her
2 pronouns. I'm testifying because I grew up in the 9th
3 Congressional District, spending most of my life in
4 Kent, Auburn, and Des Moines.

5 I've seen how south King County has shifted with
6 increased diversity and the needs come with supporting
7 new population growth, especially from impacted
8 families who have been gentrified and pushed into south
9 King County. This is emblematic of the shift in
10 demographics and needs across the state from Spokane to
11 Vancouver to Gig Harbor.

12 So I want to echo a request around ensuring strong
13 representation of communities of color and honoring the
14 sovereignty of tribes by keeping them intact.

15 And at the same time I would like the commission
16 to honor those populations by ensuring people of color
17 are both adequately represented throughout state with a
18 delicate balance of ensuring districts with strong
19 majorities of people with color while not packing them
20 all into a couple of areas.

21 I want to also thank the commission for this
22 important preliminary outreach. It's critical to gain
23 that broad insight into areas across the state. Since
24 the census data has been delayed, I know that there
25 also might be a delay as to when the maps get created.

1 And want to reinforce the importance of going back to
2 people and getting their insights as those maps get
3 further developed. As such, I encourage the commission
4 to ensure similar efforts after initial maps are
5 created.

6 And finally, I do want to share my concerns around
7 Commissioner Fain being a part of this process after
8 credible sexual-assault allegations were shared
9 publically. I recognize that it's unlikely he will
10 step down at this point. But I would like it stated
11 that it's unfortunate that his presence has created a
12 distraction of time and energy from communities,
13 especially from sexual-assault survivors, when the
14 focus should be on how they can best be represented.

15 So, again, thank you so much for your time, and
16 have a great day.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you for your
18 testimony.

19 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

20 MR. MURRAY: Aram, if we can have you turn on
21 your video and begin your testimony, please.

22 MR. A. FALSAFI: Hi. Good morning. And
23 thank you for taking our testimony. I really
24 appreciate and respect the process that you've put into
25 place here.

1 I've been living in Columbia City since I moved to
2 Seattle in 2004. So I have's been in the 9th District
3 this whole time. I've seen a lot of changes in our
4 neighborhood and further south.

5 And I really, really appreciate the fact that
6 there is at least one majority-people-of-color district
7 in our -- congressional district in our state. But I
8 feel like it's at risk based on gentrification, based
9 on demographic changes. Even if -- it was barely a
10 majority-people-of-color district in -- after
11 redistricting in 2000.

12 And it needs to -- we need to maintain it, and we
13 need to maintain it guaranteed against changes that
14 will happen in the next ten years. So it needs to be
15 seriously enhanced as a majority-person-of-color
16 district in order to maintain so ten years from now
17 when we redistrict again.

18 And also, one of the requirements that you all
19 have is to keep communities of interest together. I
20 honestly don't see a whole lot of shared interest
21 between, say, Mercer Island and Bellevue versus, you
22 know, Renton or parts of Rainier Beach, et cetera. So
23 that is kind of a mishmash that has come together over
24 the years that I really, really would like you to
25 reconsider.

1 Also, finally, I want to point you to a website.
2 Some of us created a petition called preserveour9th.org
3 with a number 9. I really -- we have collect --
4 signatures (audio disruption) organizations, at least
5 one elected official. And we will collect more
6 signatures and pass this on to you by -- before the end
7 of the summer. And I would like you to please take
8 those into account.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

10 MR. A. FALSAFI: Again, the site is
11 preserveour9th --

12 (Allotted time elapsed.)

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much. We
14 appreciate your testimony.

15 Sean, if you would call the next speaker for this
16 panel, please.

17 MR. MURRAY: Yes. Our final speaker, we'll
18 go back to David Kulcsar, if you're able to unmute and
19 begin your testimony, please.

20 MR. D. KULCSAR: Sure. I don't know if I
21 have to be on camera or not. But my camera isn't
22 really working right now. So --

23 MR. MURRAY: Go ahead.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: That's okay. Go forward.

25 MR. D. KULCSAR: Yeah. Yeah.

1 I'd like to just sort of echo a little bit. Like
2 the last commenter, I do feel like at least our
3 district is kind of like a hodgepodge of sorts. It's
4 maybe like the leftover district from the last go
5 round, I feel, the 9th.

6 Just in fairness, like the map that was shown at
7 the beginning with the -- I believe the districts in
8 eastern Washington needing to kind of like gain
9 population, I would imagine, like, perhaps like the
10 Wenatchee and Kittitas area would need to maybe absorb,
11 like, into the 4th or the 5th or something.

12 So coming over the Cascades, you know, there --
13 there's a lot more population in western Washington, as
14 we know. But I would just like to maybe suggest,
15 like -- you know, coming from, you know, a resident of
16 maybe five years here, so I don't want to necessarily
17 say I have all the same experiences that some of our
18 other commenters have had. But maybe like a south --
19 like south of the Ship Canal, Seattle, with south King
20 County, try to catch some of the communities like
21 Renton as well as like down to Burien, Federal Way, if
22 that's maybe a better fit.

23 And then places like a Bellevue or Mercer Island
24 maybe switch into like the 8th kind of a district. And
25 then perhaps like the north of the Ship Canal part of

1 the Seattle goes up north to Snohomish, and maybe some
2 of the east side kind of sprinkles into there.

3 I don't know how that may add up in the population
4 or so, but that's just kind of the gist of what I was
5 thinking about.

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We really
7 appreciate your time this morning. Thanks for sharing
8 your thoughts with us.

9 I would like to ask the commissioners at this
10 point if you have questions or comments for the folks
11 on this panel.

12 Commissioner Graves.

13 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: I do. Thank you very
14 much, Madam Chair.

15 And this will be quick questions for -- thank you
16 for -- the four of you for some really great testimony.
17 And then this will probably be a recurring question, I
18 imagine, for the rest of this hearing here.

19 But as we try to balance two things that are
20 intention, having a majority-person-of-color district
21 but then making sure we're not packing people of color
22 inappropriately, I'm interested to hear from the
23 community about where we balance that and which of
24 those, if we're faced with the choice, we should be
25 trying to focus on.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

2 So I would like to ask the folks on this panel, if
3 you would just raise your hand, and I'll recognize you.
4 Thank you.

5 So I see Aram has his hand up. Go ahead.

6 MR. A. FALSAFI: Yeah. I -- I guess my
7 thought on that is, you know, there is some
8 jerrymandering happening in other states where they
9 pack all people of color into one district to kind of
10 dilute their vote across multiple districts.

11 I don't see that as the risk here. I may be wrong
12 on this, but my -- what I saw on numbers was that the
13 9th was only 51 percent people of color ten years ago.
14 Now it may be a little more, maybe a little less
15 because a lot of people of color have been gentrified
16 out of Seattle into south King County. At the same
17 time, a lot of new arrivals who have come here for tech
18 jobs, et cetera, are moving into those areas, too.

19 But I don't think the packing in of -- like making
20 a district be 90 percent people of color is the risk
21 here. I don't know. It just -- that's -- you guys see
22 the numbers more than I do.

23 But that is my sense of it, is that it's more
24 important to put in some margin against future
25 gentrification versus, oh, we can't go above 60 percent

1 because that then puts too many in one district.

2 I don't know. That's just my personal thought.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

4 Others on the panel, would you like to respond to
5 Commissioner Graves' question?

6 (No audible response.)

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Then let's move on
8 to Commissioner Fain.

9 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Thank you.

10 I just heard a question or a comment about the
11 east side and communities of color. And Bellevue is
12 the largest majority-minority district in the state of
13 Washington. And so I'm trying to --

14 Is there a particular minority population that
15 should be prioritized moving into the 9th?

16 Because shifting the 9th out of Bellevue actually
17 makes it less diverse in many cases. So just wondering
18 if there was any more feedback to that.

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Fain.

21 So question to the panelists: If you have a
22 response for Commissioner Fain, if you would raise your
23 hand, and I'll acknowledge you.

24 Okay. So I see Tiffany has her hand up and then
25 David. And so let's start with Tiffany and then David.

1 Thank you, Tiffany. Go ahead.

2 MS. T. MENDOZA: Thank you for that question.
3 I actually didn't make that comment, so I think David
4 will probably speak to it better.

5 However, I have -- from living in south King
6 County, I think that it's not just about the diversity
7 in terms of race but also in terms of the impacts in
8 terms of how the shifting demographics and increased
9 gentrification into south King County populations, the
10 differing needs, as well, and Bellevue having differing
11 shifts based off of the tech sector.

12 So that would be my guess, but David could also
13 respond.

14 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Thank you.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

16 David, please go ahead.

17 MR. D. KULCSAR: Yeah. I also had a similar
18 feeling, too, 'cause, like, with Bellevue, Mercer
19 Island, Newcastle, places like those, they just don't
20 really match the rest of the district, I guess. It's a
21 little bit more like a working-class district.

22 I'm not saying we have to kind of like really make
23 a hard cut 'cause obviously there will be some areas
24 that will kind of like be borderline communities, I
25 guess is the way of putting it, when you're making the

1 map. But my thing would just be more like, you know,
2 any differing, like, communities in the state.

3 And there's also, like, a similar, like, you know,
4 regional thing of interest. Like, I feel like I have a
5 whole lot more in common with like the Renton area and
6 South Seattle than I do with perhaps like, you know,
7 even Mercer Island, which is just right -- I can
8 visibly see a lot closer.

9 So it's, like, maybe just including, like, parts
10 of those and maybe, like, as well as, like, places like
11 Kent. Also -- also, with, like, the West Seattle area,
12 I think, maybe be an easier, like, sort of like
13 community of interest 'cause I know Seattle's grown.
14 So I don't know how much, if it's big enough for a
15 district or not. But I also don't think Seattle maybe
16 needs --

17 (Allotted time elapsed.)

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So I'm sorry about that,
19 that you were cut off. We have just a minute for
20 response.

21 And so I will now acknowledge Aram, if you'd like
22 to respond to Commissioner Fain's question.

23 MR. A. FALSAFI: Yeah. Sure. Thanks.

24 Very good point, Commissioner. I was the one who
25 raised that.

1 But I was raising Bellevue and Mercer Island more
2 in the context of the other requirement you have, which
3 is to keep communities of interest together. And I
4 feel like, even though Bellevue is a large -- has a
5 large people-of-color contingent, a lot of those, like
6 myself, are in the tech sector. And it's -- it's a
7 very different community of interest. It's a very -- I
8 know in this country we don't like to use the word
9 "class," but I'll use it anyway. It is a -- not the
10 same working class of requirements and needs that south
11 King County has.

12 So even though it might balance out a little bit
13 in terms of lowering the people-of-color percentage if
14 you remove Bellevue, certainly not Mercer Island but
15 Bellevue, that can be made up for by pulling in, say,
16 Burien -- I don't know -- or parts of -- parts of that
17 ar- -- that -- around Burien.

18 So that was more comment around the communities of
19 interest versus actual majority-minority district.

20 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Thank you.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

22 Others on the panel who would like to respond to
23 Commissioner Fain?

24 (No audible response.)

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. So let me ask,

1 commissioners, if you have additional questions for
2 this panel.

3 (No audible response.)

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Seeing none, I
5 would like to excuse the panelists. Thank you for your
6 time being here with us. And I want to also encourage
7 you to submit additional comments in writing through
8 our -- our email address. And we would -- we just
9 will -- we'd love to see that, as well.

10 So, Sean, if you would call the next panel,
11 please.

12 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next
13 panel is going to be Tif- -- Timothy Liu, Daniel
14 Santon, Jackie Boschok, and Katherine Stultz.

15 We will begin with Timothy.

16 MR. T. LIU: Hi. Thank you. My name is Tim.
17 I go by they/them pronouns.

18 And I moved to the Seattle area -- the Puget Sound
19 area in the past ten years just 'cause of school. I
20 lived in Beacon Hill last year, but now I'm in Bellevue
21 for family reasons.

22 And I share similar concerns about keeping
23 Washington's 9th District majority POC. And this past
24 ten years, as this dist- -- as this county, as this
25 region has changed so much with gentrification in

1 south Seattle -- in Seattle and the COVID pandemic,
2 there's -- it just really re- -- just really
3 reinstated, like, the need as to why we need a
4 majority-POC district.

5 And I feel like I'm just kind of like
6 self-sabotaging myself here as a res- -- current
7 resident of Bellevue. But if it means cutting out my
8 neighborhood to keep Washington 9th majority POC,
9 please cut me out. Please cut me out because that
10 matters to me more than me saying, "Yay, I'm in a
11 majority-POC district," which I would love.

12 But I care more about the needs of majority-POC
13 communities in south Seattle, south King County, from
14 Beacon Hill to Federal Way. I care more about those
15 communities, more than my own interests. And so yeah,
16 that would be my concern.

17 But I think one concern I do have, which I -- as
18 much as I would love the district to stay majority POC,
19 I know population-wise Bellevue has 150,000 people, so
20 that's going to be a lot to cut out if you want to
21 change the size of the district, which -- I mean,
22 please cut me out if it means keeping the major- --
23 district POC, but -- majority POC.

24 But I think it's a logistical concern. Bellevue
25 is a big portion of the population of our district. So

1 that is something that I have a question about, which I
2 don't have an answer for. But yeah. Maybe sub- --
3 maybe substitute some neighbors in Bellevue for Burien,
4 White Center, neighborhoods in West Seattle. That's
5 just my best guess right now.

6 So thank you so much for letting me share.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
8 your comments.

9 If -- Sean, if you'd call the next speaker,
10 please.

11 MR. MURRAY: Yes, Chair. Our next speaker
12 will be --

13 I see Daniel. You have your video on, if we can
14 begin with you.

15 MR. D. SANTON: Hi. My name is Dan Santon.
16 I'm active in my community here in SeaTac, and I've
17 owned a home here since 2006.

18 What I've noticed being in the -- amongst the
19 community is the -- and I'm not sure if this is the
20 right place to mention this. But the 33rd
21 Legislative District is very wide. It's a very
22 large -- and along the edges have some really squiggly
23 lines that sort of look like the kind of stuff that
24 they talk about in the news when they say -- when we
25 say "jerrymandering." I'm not really sure that -- what

1 the intent was, whatever it is.

2 But noticing things like Renton being split across
3 several jurisdictions, you know, Kent being split, I
4 was hoping that the --

5 I echo the concerns of trying to maintain the 9th
6 Congressional District as a majority POC. As a person
7 of color gentrified out of the 7th District, growing up
8 in Seattle and coming to south King County, that's very
9 important to me. I wonder how the 9th could be better
10 served if there was more of a contiguous --
11 contiguous -- a consideration of the contiguous nature
12 of the municipalities in south King County.

13 Things -- also being transportation efficient, I
14 know Renton seems to bring up a lot of times that they
15 don't get the same consideration for federal
16 transportation dollars. I'm not sure how that -- that
17 might have an impact. But I just want to make sure
18 that those -- that that is considered when you decide
19 to draw the maps.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Dan. We
21 appreciate your time and your words.

22 Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

23 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

24 I see Jackie is up next and has the video on, if
25 you can begin your testimony.

1 MS. J. BOSCHOK: Yes. I'm a resident of Kent
2 in the 33rd District, also, and share some of the
3 same concerns as Dan Santon. I am a long-time union
4 advocate, so I'm really concerned about workers in my
5 community, and also, diversity is very important to
6 union members.

7 So I just want to talk about the city that I live
8 in, and that's Kent. We're the fourth largest
9 municipality in the greater Seattle area, and we're the
10 sixth largest in Washington state. But I'm also proud
11 to say that Kent in the nation is the eighth most
12 ethnically diverse city in our entire country. And so
13 we rank higher than both Renton and Federal Way, which
14 are the top three in our state.

15 So when the City of Kent is split in half between
16 the 47th LD and the 33rd LD, it creates a huge
17 issue for the population of the City of Kent.

18 It also creates a huge issue for the leadership of
19 the 33rd LD. So, for instance, we have six cities
20 besides part of Kent. We have Burien, Normandy Park,
21 Des Moines, SeaTac, Renton. And we have three
22 different school boards as a result of that, Kent,
23 Federal Way, and Highline School Districts.

24 So these local races, we have, you know, maybe not
25 the most -- highest number of local municipalities to

1 deal with. But if not the highest, we're in the -- you
2 know, pretty close to the top. And it just makes it
3 really difficult for to us function effectively because
4 of the nature of all of those large local races that
5 we're involved in.

6 And so it was mentioned previously about being
7 equal as practical. And I don't really think that the
8 33rd LD is --

9 (Allotted time elapsed.)

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I'm so sorry that you --
11 your time has elapsed. Please do submit your comments
12 to us in writing. And if you hang around, perhaps the
13 commissioners will ask questions or comments for you.

14 Sean, if you could call our final speaker for this
15 panel, please.

16 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

17 The final speaker will be Katherine Stultz, if you
18 can begin your testimony.

19 MS. K. STULTZ: Great. Hello, Commission.
20 Good to see you all this morning.

21 My name is Katie Stultz. I use she/her pronouns.
22 And I am Zooming in today from Lake City in north
23 Seattle. But my roots are in Congressional District 9
24 in Kent and Federal Way.

25 I'm joining today as a representative with the

1 Redistricting Justice for Washington Coalition. We are
2 a group of organizations from across the state that
3 have been advocating for an accessible, transparent,
4 and equitable redistricting process over the last two
5 years. We thank the commission for your commitment to
6 public engagement, for these hearings, and this work.

7 Since our coalition came together we have stated
8 these guiding priorities, and that will -- that will
9 continue, specifically keeping indigenous communities
10 together as a prioritized and protected community of
11 interest, maximizing majority-people-of-color
12 districts, and keeping communities together.

13 Specifically, Congressional District 9 is the only
14 majority-minority congressional district in Washington
15 state. And we are here -- I follow the same thoughts
16 as many of the folks today testifying, that we protect
17 and preserve the 9th Congressional District.

18 We do have a couple key ways we'd like to see this
19 happen, and we'll follow up specifically with maps as
20 well as key feedback from all of the legislative
21 districts. But a couple of ways we'd like to see that
22 is really empowering and consolidating the
23 people-of-color populations of south Seattle and south
24 King County as the base of Congressional District 9,
25 adding the Muckleshoot community to the Congressional

1 District 9, and making sure the Muckleshoot tribal
2 community is not divided.

3 And then specifically lifting up -- as someone who
4 grew up in south King County and still considers
5 Federal Way and Kent my home, I know that the
6 interests, concerns, and communities of south King
7 County are different than the interests of Mercer
8 Island and Bellevue communities, and encourage the
9 commission to listen to these recommendations of
10 specifically looking at adding communities in Auburn
11 and White Center and east Burien to CD 9.

12 Specifically, I also stand in solidarity with
13 survivors and share concerns that Commissioner Fain's
14 presence on the commission is limiting the ability for
15 survivors of sexual assault to join us in this process
16 and focus on giving community feedback.

17 Thank you all for your time.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you for your
19 testimony. And --

20 Oh, at this time I'd like to ask the commissioners
21 if you have questions or comments for the members of
22 this panel.

23 (No audible response.)

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would
25 like to excuse the panel. Thank you very much for

1 taking the time to be with us. Please do submit your
2 comments in writing if you wish.

3 And, Sean, if you'd please call the next panel.

4 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair. The next
5 panel will be Andrew Hong, Anne Kroeker, Justin
6 Englund, and Kate Kruller.

7 We will begin with Andrew.

8 MR. A. HONG: Hi, all. My name is Andrew
9 Hong. I am a lifelong resident of south Seattle in the
10 37th LD and 9th CD.

11 And I am echoing everything that's been said here
12 today. We must have a majority-people-of-color
13 congressional district in the 9th. And we also must
14 empower people of color that already exist in the 9th
15 by increasing and maximizing the POC population here.

16 So addressing Commissioner Fain, your question, I
17 do think we need to be redistricting out Mercer Island
18 and Bellevue, which are, you know, whiter and also just
19 wealthier communities that have different interests
20 than the rest of the 9th. And specific areas I think
21 that we could be adding in that will actually increase
22 POC population are White Center, definitely parts of
23 Burien, and then also looking towards like POC
24 migration patterns. Auburn is getting increasingly
25 diverse. And I think, you know, over the next ten

1 years adding Auburn will increase the diversity of the
2 9th District.

3 And on LD level, we want to be increasing the
4 number of majority-people-of-color citizen-of-voting-
5 age population districts. Going to discern "citizen of
6 voting age" as, you know, people who are a citizen of
7 voting age 'cause those are the folks that are actually
8 going to be electing representatives. Specifically,
9 you know, the 11th Legislative District is an area
10 that we can make that -- increase the POC population
11 there to make it a majority-POC CVAP.

12 And final things we just kind of want to emphasize
13 that the commission might easily kind of overlook is
14 the Chinatown International District in Seattle looks
15 like it's a part of downtown Seattle. It's a very
16 different community. It's a majority Asian, majority
17 low income. That could stay in the 9th and the 37th
18 District.

19 And then, also, you know, keeping in, you know,
20 touch with migration patterns of people of color over
21 the next ten years. We're drawing districts for the
22 whole decade, not just 2021. So when drawing these
23 lines, we should be keeping in mind those trends.

24 Yeah.

25 Yeah. Thank you.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much for
2 your comments.

3 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

4 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

5 Our next speaker is Anne. I see your video's on,
6 if you can begin your testimony.

7 MS. A. KROEKER: Yes. Thank you.

8 My name is Anne Kroeker, and I live near
9 Des Moines, the Redondo Beach part of Des Moines. I
10 call it the dogleg part because we have the same
11 confusing issue with -- that Jackie said for Kent,
12 where the -- we're in 30th and 33rd as part of our
13 city, and 30th is actually mainly Federal Way. And
14 it becomes confusing, like we're not really part --
15 following city, the Federal Way issues, but we kind of
16 have to to be part of that district, to be -- to be
17 engaged.

18 And every time this does happen, it's -- it really
19 is -- I add the fourth one to compact, contiguous,
20 convenient: I add confusing. And when you have voters
21 who are confused, they are less likely to vote. And
22 even when they're engaged voters, they have a difficult
23 time.

24 And when the 9th District currently has a bit of
25 Pierce County -- and I saw a problem with that when

1 there was a caucus time and the -- they had to be
2 separated out 'cause their governance was somehow
3 different than the King County people. So that was
4 weird, too, and I just had never understood that this
5 could happen. But I've seen it happen, and everyone
6 has talked about it here.

7 I also just want -- so cross county and cross city
8 lines, difficult.

9 The other -- the other part that I just wanted to
10 respond to is we lived in Bellevue for 35 years and now
11 live in south King. And the difference is like night
12 and day. Every time we go back to Bellevue, which is
13 once a week for something that we need to do, I feel
14 like I'm stepping into different worlds.

15 And they -- and not to say that that -- there's
16 anything wrong with that, but it isn't recognized. And
17 I do feel that south King is much more representative
18 of the place I would like to live in general, where
19 everybody seems to be more represented. And so they
20 should be more represented.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. And we
23 appreciate your comments this morning.

24 Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

25 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

1 Our next speaker is Justin. I see your video's
2 on, if you would begin your testimony.

3 MR. J. ENGLUND: Hi. Hello. Thank you.

4 My name is Justin Englund, and I'm a lifelong
5 resident of Kent, Washington.

6 Our communities in south King County, like
7 Des Moines, Federal Way, and Kent, make up roughly
8 30 percent of the county's population. But despite
9 that, none of our four representatives in Congress
10 actually live in one of our communities.

11 Our representatives in King County are from West
12 Seattle, Medina, Bellevue, and Sammamish. These are
13 communities that do not have the same fundamental
14 economic interests as us here in south King County.
15 South King County is a more diverse, lower income,
16 lower resourced community than where our congressional
17 representatives are from.

18 The current boundary between the 8th and 9th
19 Congressional District is inappropriate because it
20 disenfranchises voters here in south King County. The
21 new 9th Congressional District should encompass all of
22 the communities of Kent, Auburn, and the Muckleshoot
23 Reservation, just for a few examples. With our current
24 boundaries, some of the most low income, some of the
25 most diverse communities are split in half.

1 Where I live in Kent we're split between the 8th
2 and 9th Congressional District. So if we have a
3 problem that we need to go to an elected official for,
4 who do we turn to? Do we turn to someone that has to
5 compete with the interests of Bellevue and Mercer
6 Island, or do we have to turn to someone who has to
7 also balance the needs of people who live in
8 communities like Ellensburg and Wenatchee?

9 It just doesn't make sense when our highest-need
10 communities aren't put into a single voting block. So
11 that's why I would urge the Redistricting Commission to
12 adopt a model where we have a majority-POC district
13 here in south King County, where we have a district
14 that actually represents the needs.

15 If we continue to protect incumbents with our new
16 congressional-district maps, south King County may go
17 another ten years without adequate or meaningful
18 representation.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We sure
21 appreciate your time and your comments.

22 Sean, if you'll call the next testifier, please.

23 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

24 Our last testifier is Kate Kruller, if you are
25 able to turn on your video and begin your testimony.

1 MS. K. KRULLER: This is Kate Kruller. I'm
2 honored to have an opportunity to speak with you today.
3 I come from the 11th District. I've lived in the City
4 of Tukwila for 30 years. And I just want to weigh in
5 on a couple of things.

6 The last time we redistricted, the redistricting
7 process was weaponized to actually go around my
8 senator's house and put her up into the 37th, which
9 caused her to resign as a senator. And she was the
10 first person-of-color senator to ever be in office in
11 the legislature -- the legislature. So that's one
12 comment: Be mindful of what some of these lines are
13 doing to our electeds.

14 And second, I would like you not to bifurcate the
15 City of Tukwila in any way, shape, or form. We're a
16 small city of 20,000 people and one of the most diverse
17 school districts in the nation. And we don't need to
18 have somebody try to divide us systemically through
19 this process.

20 Otherwise, I've seen some drawings that were kind
21 of pushing Seattle up into Seattle and pushing this
22 district out into White Center. I think we'd rather
23 stay more consolidated with Renton and the Kent areas
24 as is possible.

25 I don't have a long speech. Just do what's

1 practical and help these towns who have, you know,
2 really diverse and, frankly, harmed communities to
3 stick together politically.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Kate. We
6 appreciate your time and your comments.

7 I would now like to ask members of the commission
8 if you have questions or comments for this panel.

9 Okay. I think Commissioner Walkinshaw has raised
10 your hand. Please go ahead.

11 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Thank you,
12 Commissioner Augustine.

13 I just thank you all for the thoughtful testimony.
14 These are really great points. So just thank you,
15 Kate. Thank you -- thank you, Justin. And nice to see
16 you. And thank you for joining us for testimony.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Walkinshaw.

19 Other questions or comments from the commissioners
20 at this point?

21 (No audible response.)

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would
23 like to excuse the panel. Thank you for being here.
24 Please consider submitting your comments in writing if
25 you wish.

1 And, Sean, if you would please call the next
2 panel.

3 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next
4 panel will begin with Nirae Petty, Fiona Murray, Mark
5 Brewsala, and Jacquelyn Romero.

6 If we can begin with Nirae.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

8 MS. N. PETTY: Hi. My name is Nirae Petty.
9 I go by she/her pronouns. And I'm a Kent resident in
10 the 47th District. I'm testifying today as a
11 representative of the Urban League of Metropolitan
12 Seattle as part of the Redistricting Justice for
13 Washington Coalition.

14 I was born and raised in Seattle. And as a young
15 Seattlite, I took pride in living in a city that
16 embraces diversity, until my family and other POC
17 families were starting to experience housing
18 instability and eventually were displaced into the
19 south King County area. Meanwhile, our wealthy and/or
20 white counterparts remain in Seattle.

21 And I often question how gentrification was even
22 allowed to happen in a city like Seattle that promotes
23 equality until I realized the lack of BIPOC
24 representation in our districts. And communities of
25 color have been separated into different districts and

1 surrounded by wealthy white communities with entirely
2 different interests, draining BIPOC communities'
3 political power.

4 And to avoid political issues such as
5 gentrification, it is essential for our communities of
6 color to have a strong voice in our government by
7 gaining equitable representation through majority-POC
8 districts.

9 So today I ask the commission to concentrate on
10 consolidating -- consolidating the BIPOC populations of
11 south Seattle and south King County as the base of the
12 9th Congressional District and by removing majority
13 white and wealthy suburbs of the east side, such as
14 Bellevue and Mercer Island.

15 By maintaining predominantly BIPOC communities in
16 the 9th CD, you can assure BIPOC communities can elect
17 representatives that prioritize their interests and
18 will have equitable representation in Olympia.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We sure
21 appreciate you being here this morning.

22 Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

23 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

24 Our next speaker is going to be Fiona Murray, if
25 you can turn on your video and begin your testimony.

1 MS. F. MURRAY: Good morning. My name is
2 Fiona. I was raised on the east side of Seattle and
3 have lived in northeast Bellevue for the majority of my
4 life.

5 Though I'm proud to call the 9th District my home,
6 when I think about areas with political, demographic,
7 class, and geographic similarities to where I live, I
8 think of places like Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah,
9 Sammamish.

10 I believe that the majority of the constituency
11 within the current boundaries of the 9th Congressional
12 District are more closely aligned with areas and cities
13 like Auburn, Burien, south Seattle, Kent, and the
14 Muckleshoot Reservation. Redrawing the map including
15 some of these areas in the 9th District in the place of
16 Bellevue would better consolidate the state's only
17 majority-people-of-color district.

18 Furthermore, the interests of constituents like me
19 from Bellevue would be better served by putting us in a
20 congressional district with other east-side cities and
21 areas as presently the east side is split between three
22 different congressional districts, the 1st, 8th, and
23 9th. Bellevue should be added to either the 1st or the
24 8th Congressional District so that the east side is
25 split between two congressional districts instead of

1 three, as it is now.

2 I also do not support splitting the City of
3 Bellevue between two different congressional districts.
4 A map incorporating these ideas would better serve and
5 politically empower all people residing in the current
6 boundaries of the 9th Congressional District.

7 Thank you all for your time and your hard work in
8 redrawing our districts.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Fiona. We
10 appreciate you being here this morning.

11 Sean, if you would call the next testifier,
12 please.

13 MR. MURRAY: Yes, Chair.

14 Our next testifier is going to be Mark Brewsala,
15 if you can turn on your video and begin your testimony,
16 please.

17 MR. M. BREWSALA: Hello. Yes. Good morning.
18 My name is Mark Brewsala.

19 Thank you, commissioners, for having this
20 outreach. I think this is a really cool opportunity
21 that I only recently learned about to -- to share my
22 feedback. It was actually reading The Stranger that I
23 learned about the 7th District's outreach
24 (indiscernible) I mean. But I found out about it at
25 the last minute, and I registered, but didn't Zoom link

1 until the meeting was mostly over. So I sort of lurked
2 in that meeting.

3 And basically my comments are targeted for both
4 the 7th and the 9th Districts. I'm a resident of
5 Seattle, and I've lived here for 12 years now. I live
6 on Beacon Hill. And I ride my bicycle downtown to work
7 (indiscernible). And that's on another -- that's just
8 across the line east of the 7th District.

9 So in learning that, I was actually quite
10 surprised to learn that I live in a district that
11 includes Bellevue, Kent, Des Moines, Tukwila, Federal
12 Way, even a piece of Tacoma, and just a little bit of
13 Seattle, even though I -- you know, I associate and
14 live in Seattle and think of Seattle as my home.

15 And then the 7th has the rest of Seattle but then
16 also some other cities, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace,
17 Vashon Island. I was surprised about this.

18 So I just think it's kind of an oddity that
19 Seattle is split directly in half along Madison Street.
20 I think most people not aware of the issues would be
21 surprised to learn that, depending on which side of
22 Madison Street you happen to be on, you're in a
23 completely different congressional district.

24 I was struck by Commissioner Augustine's comments
25 about keeping districts compact, not splitting county

1 or municipality lines. And I also noted that the
2 population of Seattle, the latest estimate, is about
3 the size of a congressional district. So I think it
4 would make a lot of sense to fork out a new district,
5 the 7th, the 9th, whatever you want to call it, that is
6 just the City of Seattle. Then you don't cross the
7 county boundaries, you don't cross municipality
8 boundaries, and then all of the conversation -- the
9 lovely conversation we'd be having about south King and
10 Bellevue, that can be completely different --

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Sorry about that, Mark.
12 You seem to have muted yourself somewhere along the
13 line there. So we -- I encourage you to -- about the
14 last ten seconds or so. So if could you submit your
15 comments in writing, we'd appreciate that.

16 MR. M. BREWSALA: I just thank you for your
17 time.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: You bet. And thank you.

19 Sean, if you would call the next testifier,
20 please, I think the last on this panel.

21 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

22 Our last testifier is going to be Jacquelyn. I
23 see your video's on, if you can begin your testimony.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome, Jacquelyn.

25 MS. J. JIMENEZ ROMERO: Hello. My name is

1 Jacquelyn Jimenez Romero. I'm a resident of south
2 Seattle. I've lived here my entire life. And I'm also
3 a Latina, who's heavily involved in my community
4 through organizing and activism. So I would like to
5 say that I know my community pretty well.

6 I would just like to emphasize the importance of
7 keeping communities of color and indigenous communities
8 together and also increasing the number of majority-POC
9 voting-age population in districts.

10 I would just like to give some feedback on the 9th
11 Congressional District and the 37th Legislative
12 District. I personally think that Bellevue and Mercer
13 Island should be removed because there is, like, a
14 disparity within the wealth and income within that area
15 compared to the rest of, like, south King County.
16 Instead, I think that Muckleshoot Reservation, Auburn,
17 White Center, and east Burien should be added because
18 there is an increasing amount of POC to that area and
19 also it includes an indigenous reservation.

20 And then, finally, I think that south Seattle
21 should stick together in the 37th Legislative District.
22 And Beacon Hill should also be all in the 37th
23 Legislative District because it kind of cuts off a
24 little bit into the 11th Legislative District. But I
25 think that all of Beacon Hill should stay in the

1 37th.

2 And so that's all my feedback. Thank you so much
3 for your time.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Jacquelyn. We
5 appreciate your comments this morning.

6 So I would -- I now want to ask the commissioners
7 if you have questions or comments for this panel.

8 (No audible response.)

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Seeing none, I
10 would like to excuse the panel. Thank you so much for
11 choosing to be here with us this morning. We recognize
12 it takes time and preparation. We're thankful for you
13 being with us and joining us.

14 Sean, if could you call the next panel, please.

15 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. We're going
16 to begin the next panel with Paul Maffeo, Dustin
17 Lambro, Tanya Morris, and Sasha Slayton.

18 So if we can begin with Paul, if you can turn your
19 video and start your testimony.

20 (No audible response.)

21 MR. MURRAY: Dustin, I see you have your
22 video on. We'll begin with you. And then we'll
23 call -- come back to Paul.

24 MR. D. LAMBRO: Great. Thank you.

25 Can you hear me?

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Welcome. We're glad
2 you're here.

3 MR. D. LAMBRO: Thank you. Good morning,
4 commissioners.

5 My name is Dustin Lambro. I live in the 33rd
6 Legislative District. And I am a resident of Renton,
7 the town which my family's lived since the 1890s. I am
8 here in my personal capacity. But for identification
9 purposes, I'm a PCO, political director, at
10 Teamsters 117 and president of the King County Labor
11 Council.

12 As I mentioned, I'm in the 33rd. My sister and
13 brother-in-law, who reside in Renton, are in the
14 11th. My folks are in Renton, but they live in the
15 5th LD. And my grandma's in Renton and lives in the
16 41st. I understand that some cities are larger than
17 a single legislative district, but that's not the case
18 for the City of Renton. According to the Census
19 Bureau, there were a little more than 100,000 --
20 101,000 people in Renton in 2019, and yet the city's
21 split by -- between four legislative districts.

22 I strongly encourage you to think about how to
23 keep people who live in the same city in as few LDs as
24 possible. Renton came in No. 20 nationwide for
25 cultural diversity, with close to 30 percent of the

1 city's residents foreign born. About a third of Renton
2 residents speak a language other than English at home.
3 And according to census data, a -- Renton ranked as the
4 16th most ethnically diverse city in the entire U.S.

5 Thank you all for your work on the commission and
6 for taking the time to consider the opinions of
7 citizens. And have a great weekend.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We sure
9 appreciate your comments.

10 Sean, if you would call the next testifier,
11 please.

12 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

13 We have -- next we have Sasha Slayton. We have
14 two of them in the meeting, so I will begin with the
15 Sasha Slayton that is -- your name is lowercased, if
16 you can begin your testimony, please.

17 Sasha, if you're able turn on your video or audio.

18 And if not, we will move on to Tanya Morris, if
19 you can begin your testimony.

20 MS. S. SLAYTON: Am I on?

21 MR. MURRAY: Yes, we can hear you.

22 MS. S. SLAYTON: Thank you.

23 I'm sorry. The computers overwhelm me.

24 I want to reflect the statements that several
25 people have made about the diversity of the 9th -- of

1 the Kent area where I live. I would like to be, as a
2 white woman, a minority in my ledges- --

3 (Extraneous noise.)

4 MS. S. SLAYTON: I'm sorry?

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Please go on. I'm sorry.
6 Someone was unmuted. Please continue, ma'am.

7 MS. S. SLAYTON: All right.

8 And I feel the voices of many of my neighbors are
9 not heard.

10 I am so proud of King County. When you go to get
11 information about voter registration, you may get your
12 information in so many languages, and that is a
13 powerful statement.

14 So I would like the district to be a nice
15 rectangle and not have -- or a nice geometric figure
16 and not have so many quirks on it and include all of
17 the Muckleshoot so that voice is unified.

18 Thank you for this opportunity. It's very
19 important.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Sasha. We sure
21 appreciate your comments. Thank you for being here
22 with us.

23 Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

24 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

25 Our next speaker is going to be Tanya Morris, if

1 you can unmute yourself and begin your testimony.

2 MS. T. MORRIS: Hello. Hi. Can you guys --
3 hi. My name is --

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

5 MS. T. MORRIS: Can you see me?

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: No. But go ahead. We can
7 hear you. Go ahead.

8 MS. T. MORRIS: Okay. You know, I'm just
9 learning how to do this. Okay.

10 Hi. My name is Tanya Morris. And I'm born and
11 raised in Seattle. And I grew up in the Central
12 District -- Central District with my grandmother.

13 And I would just like to add that, you know, the
14 Central District was our, you know, suburban
15 African-American, you know, area and is very diverse
16 now. And being that it's diverse, you know, the
17 population will (audio disruption) for our -- our
18 community, you know, as far as with the programs that
19 we did have, as far as like the Boys & Girls Club, the
20 CAYA, you know, the Garfield, you know -- you know,
21 things like that.

22 And it's like, being that it's more diverse now
23 and that, you know, it -- more whites have come into
24 the Central District, which was our African-American
25 suburban area, that is -- we're being, you know, not

1 funded like we should. And most of the kids around
2 here is just -- and so most of us in here is low income
3 and that we're not being, you know, fully funded like
4 we used to in the Central District for recreational for
5 the kids, you know, and the crime, you know.

6 And when kids and teenagers don't have much to do,
7 it con- -- it leads them into the wrong direction
8 because, you know, we're low income. And it's like,
9 you know -- you know, the parents don't -- we don't
10 have much money. So, you know, as -- it's like we're
11 un- -- underserved.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

13 MS. T. MORRIS: And so -- and then, also,
14 too -- and I was -- I mean, I think that we should at
15 the congressional -- I'm thinking of a global citizen
16 advisory board committee.

17 (Allotted time elapsed.)

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So I apologize, Tanya.
19 I -- your time has elapsed.

20 And I had want to ask if one of the staff would be
21 willing to reach out to Tanya and help her to submit
22 her comments on -- by email, if that's the appropriate
23 way, or maybe to help her come to another -- another
24 session so that she can complete her testimony. I
25 would appreciate that. Thank you.

1 Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

2 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

3 Our final testifier for this panel will be Paul
4 Maffeo. Maff- -- I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing your
5 last name -- if you can unmute and begin your
6 testimony, please.

7 MR. P. MAFFEO: Okay. That's Maffeo. But
8 people make mistakes.

9 Can you hear me okay?

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: We can. Welcome. We're
11 glad you're here.

12 MR. P. MAFFEO: Thank you.

13 I'm lifelong 80 -- almost 81-year-old resident of
14 the Puget Sound area, born in Queen Anne Hill, raised
15 in Renton, and lived on the east side, or Bellevue
16 primarily, for the last 50 years.

17 Somehow I think there is a little bit of a
18 misconnect. I think Bellevue and Redmond probably
19 should be in the 8th District. It makes a lot of sense
20 to me. I realize there's a lot of, you know,
21 population problems and things like that.

22 But actually it's kind of interesting. I took a
23 trip to Kent and Renton and Auburn in the last couple
24 of weeks. And it really is an entirely different
25 scenario and getting more so.

1 So that would be my recommendation. Thank you.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Paul. We
3 appreciate you taking the time to connect us with this
4 morning.

5 And so, Sean, just checking with you. I think
6 that's the -- completes this panel. Is that right?

7 MR. MURRAY: Yes, Chair, that does completely
8 this panel. We have one other individual after this.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. So I want to ask
10 the commissioners if you have questions or comments for
11 the members of this panel.

12 (No audible response.)

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I am going to break with
14 tradition and ask a question of my own of Tanya.

15 Tanya, are you still here?

16 MS. T. MORRIS: Yes, I am. Yes, I am. I'm
17 still here. Can you hear me?

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes, I can hear you.

19 So, Tanya, in your --

20 MS. T. MORRIS: Okay.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: In your testimony you were
22 talking about the gentrification of your community in
23 the Central District and the impact it's had on
24 funding.

25 MS. T. MORRIS: Yes.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Is that right?

2 MS. T. MORRIS: Yes. Yes. Yes.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay.

4 MS. T. MORRIS: So -- 'cause crime and, you
5 know, the -- the kids have (audio disruption) more to
6 do, you know. And it's like, when they -- it's just
7 like -- it's, you know -- you know, African-American,
8 you know, it's like --

9 (Extraneous noise.)

10 MS. T. MORRIS: It's just been, you know,
11 like the -- just the programs that we used to have for
12 our -- our teenagers and our little kids so they won't
13 steer to the left and go with, you know, being
14 followers into the wrong direction.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yep. So, Tanya, let me
16 just ask you:

17 Do you have ideas about how we could help --

18 MS. T. MORRIS: Yes. Yes.

19 (Unreportable crosstalk.)

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Please.

21 MS. T. MORRIS: I was saying about the global
22 citizen advisory committee. And it's broken down
23 into -- it's broken down into like regions and
24 communities to have rep -- reps in districts and
25 neighbors. You know? If we could break it down

1 (No audible response.)

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Nope. Okay.

3 Then I would like to excuse this panel.

4 And, Sean, if could you call the next.

5 Thank you, members of this panel, for being with
6 us.

7 MR. MURRAY: So our final testifier -- they
8 will be a solo panel -- is Satwinder Kaur, if you can
9 turn on your video and begin your testimony.

10 MS. S. KAUR: I'm not able to turn on my
11 video at the moment.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: That's okay. We can hear
13 you.

14 MS. S. KAUR: Okay. Thank you.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. We can --

16 MS. S. KAUR: Okay. Hi. Thank you,
17 commissioners, for this opportunity and all the work
18 you're doing.

19 My name is Satwinder Kaur. I -- I reside in Kent,
20 and I grew up in 9th Congressional District. I agree
21 with what's been mostly said.

22 I represent Kent as an elected official, but
23 following opinions of mine, not of my colleagues on
24 Kent City Council.

25 As it's been pointed out, Kent is a very diverse

1 city in our com- -- in our state. And so please be
2 mindful in keeping interest of our communities
3 together. Please try keep Kent in a minimal number of
4 LDs and, if possible, one congressional district.

5 And I'm also part of Sikh faith, and our com- --
6 Sikh community resides mostly in 9th Congressional
7 District. They largely reside in Auburn, Kent, and
8 Renton. And I hope you will keep my community's
9 interest in mind and also try to maintain people of
10 color together in 9th Congressional District.

11 Also, I want to point out, please do provide more
12 opportunities for communities to provide feedback when
13 maps are first available, more specifically our
14 ethnically diverse communities in the district. Some
15 of them require translation. Or actually reach out to
16 them at their places of gathering or their places of
17 faith.

18 So I hope the commission will do their -- you
19 know, I'm sure you're already thinking about it -- but
20 you'll do a job of getting in touch with these
21 communities so they can provide their feedback, as
22 well.

23 Thank you. And have a great weekend.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
25 your time.

1 So thank you very much. And I just want to make
2 sure everyone has a very safe next few days because
3 it's going to be a hot one. Thanks.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
5 Fain.

6 Next is Commissioner Graves. Go ahead.

7 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Thank you very much,
8 Madam Chair.

9 Thanks to everybody who showed up today on a
10 weekend to talk about your communities. It really
11 means a great deal to us. I know it's frustrating for
12 you as it is for us that we don't have the actual data
13 yet so we don't have maps to comment on. But I can
14 assure you that we -- listening diligently. We'll take
15 these into account.

16 And I'll just say, stay safe out there.

17 And, also, if you just have anybody close to you
18 who might be older or has compromised health and might
19 be living alone, please just make sure to check on them
20 'cause it's going to be an absolute scorcher for the
21 next couple of days.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Graves.

24 Commissioner Simms.

25 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: Yes. Thank you.

1 I'll echo the thanks from my fellow commissioners.
2 I know how much energy and effort folks put into
3 preparing their comments. Want to make sure that folks
4 know that the detailed information and the anecdotal
5 information and the personal information that you all
6 know about your district is really helpful context for
7 us and information that we can use when we get the
8 final census data. And it provides us with much-needed
9 data that we will be reviewing. So just thank everyone
10 for taking the time to testify today.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Simms.

13 Commissioner Walkinshaw, I see that you're
14 unmuted. Would you like to make some final remarks, as
15 well?

16 Thank you. Please do.

17 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Thank you,
18 Commissioner Augustine.

19 And just to echo my colleagues who said thank you
20 all for coming out for the thoughtfulness. I think
21 this discussion raised a lot of important issues that
22 we'll be talking a lot more about. So thank you.

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Well, thanks to
24 the members of the commission for being here and for
25 spending this time with us and for representing the

1 community with diligence and commitment as do you.

2 I'd like to thank the folks who have joined us
3 today. Thank you for your time and your commitment to
4 your own communities. Thank you for being part of this
5 important democratic process.

6 I want to thank our staff for making all of this
7 possible today.

8 And I also want to acknowledge and thank those who
9 are providing interpretation services for us today,
10 both in Spanish and American Sign Language. Thank you
11 for being us with and helping us to keep our
12 commitments to our community.

13 I would now like to adjourn this meeting. Thank
14 you.

15 Have a great weekend.

16 (Proceedings concluded at 11:12 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SUE E. GARCIA, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, residing at Tacoma, authorized to administer oaths and affirmations pursuant to RCW 5.28.010, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the 26th of June, 2021, and thereafter transcribed by me by means of computer-aided transcription, that the transcript is a full, true, and complete transcript of said proceedings, consisting of pages 1 through 64;

That as a CCR in this state, I am bound by the Rules of Conduct as Codified in WAC 308-14-130; that court reporting arrangements and fees in this case are offered to all parties on equal terms;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any party to this action or relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and I am not financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;

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Sue E. Garcia

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