

WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF

PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

RE: THE 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VIA ZOOM

Consisting of pages 1 to 35

June 5, 2021

Taken Before:

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17 NOTE:

18 (indiscernible) = words heard but not understood

19 (phonetic) = phonetic spelling of name

20 (as read) = not an exact quotation of
document, paraphrased or not
verified with source document

21
22 (audio disruption) = digital platform audio feed
break or garbled transmission

23

(allotted time elapsed) = Two minutes of time allowed per
24 person ran out; testifier's
audio was muted

25

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at
2 1:01 p.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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8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Good afternoon. I am Sarah
9 Augustine, Chair of the Washington State Redistricting
10 Commission. I would like to welcome everyone to this
11 public-outreach meeting, the fifth one of this 2021
12 redistricting cycle.

13 The topic of discussion today is Congressional
14 District 1 and the legislative districts included
15 within the 1st Congressional District.

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

19 Maria?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not getting any
21 sound.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Stand by just a minute.
23 The staff are working on it, I can see in the -- in our
24 site.

25

(Video playing.)

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Maria.

2 To those of you from the public who are joining us
3 today, welcome again. It is my goal as Chair to
4 facilitate a process that is as participatory, fair,
5 and equitable as possible. I will endeavor to engage
6 communities across Washington as fully as I can and to
7 hear and address your concerns and requests.

8 Throughout our tenure as commissioners, we will
9 hear public comments that are important. We will
10 listen to you. I will do my best to synthesize those
11 comments. And we will endeavor to respond to you as we
12 are able.

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

20 I want to begin by reviewing the purpose and
21 values of the commission. Together as a commission we
22 have agreed on the following:

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

1 To conduct ourselves with transparency, respect,
2 and civility, where commissioners will participate and
3 negotiate in good faith;

4 And to meet the deadline outlined by law;

5 And to produce the best the possible maps for all
6 Washingtonians.

7 You may be aware that because of the pandemic the
8 redistricting cycle promises to be a challenging one.
9 While we should have received the data from the Census
10 Bureau by April 1st of this year, we don't expect to
11 have that data until late August.

12 Nonetheless, in April the Census Bureau did
13 deliver to the President and the nation the
14 apportionment data, which told us which states would
15 gain seats in the U.S. Congress and electoral college
16 and which would not. Based on that data we know that
17 in the last decade the population of our state grew by
18 14.6 percent and added approximately 1 million
19 residents.

20 Despite that population growth, it did not change
21 the number of congressional seats we are entitled to.
22 Washington will continue to have ten representatives in
23 the U.S. House of Representatives.

24 Based on the population growth in the state, our
25 job as the redistricting commission is to distribute as

1 equally as is practical the population among ten
2 congressional districts and 49 legislative districts.

3 Based on the apportionment data provided in April,
4 Washington has a population of 7,705,281 residents as
5 of April 1, 2020. Therefore, we need to draw ten new
6 congressional districts that are compact, contiguous,
7 and convenient, and made up of approximately 770,528
8 residents. And 49 new Legislative Districts that are
9 also compact contiguous and convenient and made up of
10 approximately 157,251 residents.

11 Statute also instructs us, as practically as we
12 can, to minimize drawing district lines that cut
13 through counties, municipalities, or communities of
14 interest. And the commission is committed to applying
15 these principles while we try to create equally
16 proportional districts.

17 So while we know that the overall population of
18 the state according to the census, we don't yet know
19 the particulars of percentage growth across
20 neighborhoods, towns, cities, and counties.

21 State population estimates over the last ten years
22 do give us a relatively good idea of where our
23 7.7 million residents live and which districts will
24 need to get larger in area to add more residents and
25 which districts will need to get smaller in order to

1 shed residents. And as we add or subtract neighbors
2 from one district, it will cause the need to make
3 corresponding adjustments in the neighboring districts.

4 To show you broadly --

5 Maria, can you please put up the first map.

6 Thank you.

7 This map shows Washington state and its ten
8 congressional districts. The darker the brown colors,
9 the more the district needs to grow in size. And the
10 darker the teal colors, the more the district needs to
11 shrink in size.

12 So regarding the topic of discussion today, the
13 1st Congressional District, the map indicates that it
14 currently has more than the needed 770,000 residence to
15 make it proportional. It will need to give up some of
16 its residents.

17 Now next slide, please, Maria.

18 The 1st Congressional District includes parts of
19 Legislative Districts 42, 40, 10, 39, 44, and 5. Based
20 on state population estimates, we can see that the
21 42nd, the 39th, the 44th, and the 5th have more
22 than the 157,000 residents in the districts. They'll
23 have to give up some residents, while the 40th and
24 the 10th have less than the needed 157,000. They will
25 have to grow to absorb some more residents.

1 Next slide, please, Maria.

2 Here is a zoomed-in map of the southern portion of
3 the district. Here you can see that the 1st
4 Congressional District also includes parts of
5 Legislative Districts 32, 1, and 48.

6 Based on the state population estimates, we can
7 see that the 48th and the 1st have more than 157,000
8 residents in their districts, meaning they will have to
9 lose some of their residents, while the 32nd has less
10 than the needed 157,000, meaning it will have to grow
11 to absorb more residents.

12 Thank you, Maria.

13 Well, that's just a brief overview the challenges
14 that your redistricting commission faces this year. In
15 essence, commissioners have to create a new puzzle out
16 of the state. And the puzzle pieces have to contain
17 nearly exactly the same population. As we make one
18 puzzle piece smaller, its adjacent puzzle pieces will
19 need to absorb those additional areas, meaning that
20 every time a boundary is moved, it creates a cascade of
21 changes in surrounding districts.

22 So the purpose of our meeting today is to listen
23 to your input about your community and how to ensure
24 that the districts are fairly balanced in terms of
25 population but also respect shared community interests.

1 The commission may not be able to meet every
2 interest. But as commissioners try to weigh the
3 trade-offs inherent in the process, your opinions are
4 welcome and important.

5 This afternoon we have 30 individuals who have
6 signed up to testify. We're going to invite
7 individuals in groups of four to testify. Each
8 individual will have two minutes to offer their
9 comment. After four people have testified, we'll see
10 if the commissioners have any questions for the four
11 testifiers, and then we will move to the next group.

12 With that summary, Sean, let's begin. Please call
13 the first panel.

14 MR. MURRAY: Good afternoon, commissioners.

15 For our first panel we have Gerry Williams,
16 Jeffrey Almeida, Karen Crowley, and Bill Cooper.

17 We will begin with Gerry Williams.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Sean.

19 MR. MURRAY: Gerry, if you're able to turn on
20 your video and begin your testimony.

21 Gerry, are you able to turn on your video or
22 audio?

23 MS. G. WILLIAMS: I don't have any comment.
24 I'm just participating to listen, if that's okay.

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. Thank you.

1 MS. G. WILLIAMS: Okay.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much.

3 MR. MURRAY: Jeffrey Almeida, if you want to
4 begin your testimony. I see your video's on. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes, good afternoon. My
7 name is Jeff Almeida. I've been a Democratic PCO in
8 Kenmore for the better part of the last eight years.

9 The first thing I would call out is that it
10 appears that the maps you're using in the presentation
11 a few moments ago were from the 2000 redistricting and
12 not the 2010 redistricting because since 2010 Kenmore
13 has been in the 46th, not the 32nd. So that may be
14 something to reevaluate. And that kind of comes to my
15 whole point.

16 Kenmore as a community of interest is very tightly
17 coupled with Bothell in terms of school district, in
18 terms of hospital district, and in terms of economy.
19 And during the 2010 redistricting, where Kenmore had
20 been part of the 32nd along with Lake Forest Park and
21 Shoreline, Kenmore was shifted to -- Kenmore and Lake
22 Forest Park were shifted to the 46th, which is a
23 rather odd, elongated district that essentially
24 stretches from my house at the north end of Kenmore all
25 the way down to the Bryant neighborhood just north of

1 the University of Washington in Seattle. And that
2 creates very large, disparate opinions within the
3 district where the 800-pound gorilla of Seattle tends
4 to bludgeon in some ways the suburban interests north
5 of 145th Street.

6 So my first comment to this would be, please, when
7 trying to redraw legislative districts, try and keep
8 Kenmore and Bothell together.

9 And second would be that, as a general rule, if at
10 all possible, keeping 145th Street as a hard boundary
11 at the northern edge of Seattle on the west the side of
12 Lake Washington between districts would help to
13 essentially protect the views of the suburbs relative
14 to the larger and denser and more urban city south of
15 145th Street.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

18 Sean, if you would call the second panelist.

19 MR. MURRAY: Yes.

20 Karen Crowley, I see your video's on. Please
21 begin your testimony.

22 MS. K. CROWLEY: Thank you. Good afternoon,
23 commissioners. My name is Karen Crowley. I live in
24 the City of Snohomish, the 1st Congressional District,
25 the 44th Legislative District.

1 I'm here today to ask and advocate for an idea
2 that's quite simple and maybe optimistic. As you make
3 decisions on where to draw lines, please disregard
4 party completely. I'm asking that you take seriously
5 the directive that our non- -- that our voting-district
6 maps must be drawn purposely to favor or not -- neither
7 to favor or discriminate against any political party or
8 group.

9 And the statistics in this regard are interesting.
10 In our state, according to a 2018 report in the
11 Washington State Wire, 43 percent of voters consider
12 themselves independents. I recognize that you are
13 political appointees working within a political
14 process. I urge you to approach the process from a
15 nonpartisan point of view.

16 Moreover, I ask that you give weighted
17 consideration to the requirement to encourage electoral
18 competition. Creating or sustaining safe,
19 noncompetitive districts creates invisible voters. And
20 when people become invisible for any reason, they
21 become resentful, polarization increases, distrust in
22 government grows.

23 But I'm an idealist. I believe in the democratic
24 process, as do you. So from my perspective, democracy
25 works best when we encourage and listen to a diversity

1 of voices. So let's create districts that are raucous,
2 rowdy, mixed, and stirred to the extent possible to
3 contain voters of every economic bracket, education
4 level, racial and ethnic background, districts where
5 the power lies with the voters, where the voters choose
6 their representatives, not the other way around.

7 You've many decisions to make in creating fair,
8 competitive maps. Preserving incumbents for power or
9 party should not be a deciding factors. Preserving
10 democracy should.

11 Thanks for your consideration.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much. We're
13 thankful for your time.

14 Sean, will you please call the next panelist.

15 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

16 Our last panelist will be Bill Cooper, if you want
17 to begin your testimony.

18 MR. B. COOPER: Thanks very much for having
19 me.

20 And Karen pretty much said what I was going to
21 say, other than --

22 One quick other point that I'd like to make is
23 that when redistricting has occurred we've seen
24 precincts split in many cases. That type of boundary
25 development really creates burden on precinct committee

1 officers, the legislative district chairs, and the
2 county parties. And so that would be something to
3 really consider, is don't -- if you can, don't split
4 precincts. And that saves us a lot of burden.

5 And I want to echo Karen's comments about
6 partisanship. It is very, very critical that we
7 balance the approach politically in all the
8 congressional districts, which obviously affect the LDs
9 and the precincts, as well.

10 So best of luck to you guys.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Thank you for
12 your time.

13 So I now am going to turn to the commissioners and
14 ask if you -- you have questions for panelists or
15 comments.

16 (No audible response).

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Seeing none, I
18 want to thank the panelists for choosing to be here
19 with us today and excuse the panel.

20 Sean, please call the --

21 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

22 Our next panel is going to be Nathaniel Block,
23 Anne Shelhorn, Tom Conlon, and then Preeti Shridhar.
24 I'm sorry if I butchered your last name.

25 If we can start with Nathaniel.

1 Nathaniel, can you please begin your testimony.
2 You're still muted.

3 MR. N. BLOCK: My apologies. Having some
4 technical problems. Thank you for your patience.
5 Thank you, Mad- --

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

7 MR. N. BLOCK: Thank you, Madam Chair and
8 commissioners, for letting me speak today.

9 My name is Nathaniel Block. I live in Mount
10 Vernon in the 1st Congressional District, 40
11 Legislative District, and I serve on -- as a PCO for
12 the Skagit County Democrats as their interim voice
13 chair.

14 What I'd ask, when you look at your maps today,
15 particularly for a county like Skagit, which has been
16 divided over the last ten years into three legislative
17 districts, is to try to keep it as much together as
18 possible as well as trying to keep the urban areas
19 together and the rural areas together.

20 For those of us that are in the urban areas, we
21 have much more in common with our urban neighbors than
22 we do our rural neighbors. I hear the same from many
23 of our rural neighbors that are in more of the urban
24 districts, as well. They're concerned, as some of the
25 previous speakers have said, that their voices are not

1 always heard when they're in urban areas. But they
2 live in a farming community.

3 And I have heard the same from those that live in
4 places like Burlington and Sedro-Woolley, where their
5 legislative district is much more with the rural area,
6 and they are -- they think their voices are silenced,
7 as well. I ask that you consider making sure that
8 those type of areas are together so all voices can be
9 heard.

10 Additionally, Skagit County is blessed to have
11 numerous First Nations within our county. But some of
12 them have been divided, as well, over the last ten
13 years, even amongst some of their own tribes. I ask
14 that when you are considering the maps that you also
15 try to make sure that our native communities are
16 together, as well, so that their voices can be heard
17 and they do not lose the voices that have been taken
18 from them over hundreds of years, that they have -- are
19 able to have a strong voice and are able to speak as
20 one with their whole tribe and able to speak to the
21 same legislators.

22 Thank you very much for your time. And I know
23 that you are doing extremely important work. Thank
24 you.

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

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

2 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

3 Tom, I see your video's on, if you want to begin
4 your testimony. Thank you.

5 MR. T. CONLON: I'll -- I'll just be brief.
6 I didn't actually come prepared to testify. I thought
7 I was going to observe and kind of see what's going on.

8 My only comment isn't that relevant to the
9 commissioners now. But I'd like to see them replaced
10 by software. I think the calls we have had for people
11 to be -- have said be nonpartisan, be democratic, it
12 seems to me with humans appointed by political parties
13 that will never happen. And what we need to do is
14 program software with the criteria. If we want the
15 smallest, most compact districts, that can be done by a
16 program. If we want to respect certain urban and rural
17 boundaries, that can be done by program.

18 So I would echo the calls of people for you
19 commissioners to be as fair about democracy instead of
20 party as possible. But I'm very skeptical, as the
21 previous speaker was, or the first woman that spoke
22 was -- said she was skeptical. I think I'm even more
23 skeptical than her and less optimistic. But . . .

24 So eventually I'd like to get an open software
25 source project together that would just eliminate

1 commissioners. So that's my thought that I'll share.
2 But otherwise, I'm here to observe.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
4 your insights.

5 Sean, if you'll call the next speaker, please.

6 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

7 The last individual on our panel will be Preeti,
8 if you don't mind beginning your testimony.

9 MS. P. SHRIDHAR: Thank you very much. I
10 also wasn't really planning to testify. I just come
11 here to observe. But since I have the opportunity, I
12 will talk about two things.

13 One, one of the previous speakers had mentioned, I
14 think it is very important for -- as the new maps are
15 drawn, for the First Nations to be kept intact. I have
16 heard that a couple different places. And I do serve
17 on the board of the Washington Conservation Voters, and
18 that's very important, for us to respect that. So I
19 hope that is taken into consideration.

20 My other point, I work my day job with the City of
21 Renton, and I oversee our legislative and
22 intergovernmental relations role. And one of our
23 challenges has been that as a city we have, even as we
24 currently speak, the 11th, 33rd, 37th, and 41st
25 Districts, and a little bit of the 5th and 47th. And

1 this is currently the situation.

2 And what happens is, though we have a wonderful
3 rapport and relationship with all our legislators,
4 sometimes, you know, they are fragmented in the fact
5 that they have a small part of the city, you know, in
6 their responsibility, but it's a shared with other
7 jurisdictions.

8 So we're hoping that this is an opportunity in
9 terms of the new mapping to have, you know, fewer
10 legislators with greater responsibility for the city.
11 And, you know, this may not be unique for one area.
12 This may be opportunities that can be -- you know,
13 might be shared in other parts of the --

14 (Allotted time elapsed.)

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I'm sorry,
16 Ms. Shridhar, that you were cut off. You can submit
17 your full testimony via email to us.

18 And I want to ask the commissioners if you have
19 comments or questions for the panelists.

20 (No audible response.)

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Seeing none,
22 I'd like to thank the panelists for your time coming to
23 speak with us today, and you are excused.

24 And I will ask Sean to please call the next panel.

25 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

1 Our next panel's going to be Charles Ivory, Alan
2 Chapman, Joan Yim, and Rena Connell.

3 We will begin with Charles.

4 If you're able to turn on your video and begin
5 your testimony, please.

6 MR. C. IVORY: And unmute. We good?

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome. Uh-huh.

8 MR. MURRAY: Perfect. Thank you.

9 MR. C. IVORY: Thank you. Thank you for the
10 opportunity that you've made this a public opportunity
11 for conversation.

12 My wife and I relocated to Mount Vernon,
13 Washington, just seven months ago, so we're very new to
14 the state coming from New Jersey. So we traveled a
15 long distance to get here.

16 We're very interested in the questions you're
17 reviewing right now about redistricting. And very much
18 we echo the comments made earlier by Karen.

19 I would add that we are very concerned that our
20 state not become consumed in some of the hateful
21 jerrymandering we see occurring around our country and
22 urge the panel to be very independent in their
23 thinking.

24 I don't know the extent to which you can balance
25 the -- the peoples who are represented in a particular

1 congressional district. I think that's very difficult.
2 What I wouldn't want to see are the strange shapes and
3 disgraceful reorganizing of districts to be unbalanced
4 in the way they represent one group/party or another.

5 So thank you again very much for opening this
6 process. I wish you well. We'll be watching and
7 hoping for the very best in terms of the academic
8 process on this. Thank you.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
10 your comments.

11 And, Sean, if you'd call the next panelist,
12 please.

13 MR. MURRAY: Alan Chapman, I see your video's
14 on, if you can unmute and begin your testimony, please.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. A. CHAPMAN: Yes. Good day. I am a
17 resident of rural Whatcom County.

18 And I guess my primary interest is to keep the
19 rural interests aligned in the best way possible and
20 make it as apolitical as possible.

21 That is all I have to say. I'll follow the
22 process through its full extent.

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We sure
24 appreciate you taking the time to speak us with today.

25 Sean, will you please call the next panelist.

1 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

2 Joan Yim, if you can start your testimony, that
3 would be great. Thank you so much.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

5 MS. J. YIM: My name is Joan Yim. And I live
6 in unincorporated Snohomish County in a little slice of
7 land between Bothell and Mill Creek. And I sometimes
8 feel like I'm kind of in a no man's land.

9 And what I would urge the commission to do is to
10 look at these kind of urban or suburban areas that are
11 unincorporated and link them up to the nearest
12 community that they're comfortable with. I mean, not
13 comfortable with, but just are kind of just like
14 physically attached to. I guess I'm saying -- I'm not
15 sure I'm saying that exactly clearly enough.

16 But the other -- I think this relates to the real
17 point I want to make, which is these natural
18 definitions of boundaries. Well, in CD 1 you've stuck
19 pretty much to the county boundaries as your boundaries
20 for the district. There are areas where I would like
21 to see those cities that are currently divided, like
22 Everett, be perhaps joined together. Heard that from a
23 number of my friends.

24 So I just want to pass those two things on, about
25 looking out for the unincorporated areas and for the

1 boundaries that might divide communities.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much. We
4 sure appreciate your input.

5 And, Sean, if you would call the next panelist,
6 please.

7 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

8 Our last panelist is going to be Rena Connell, if
9 you can turn on your video and begin your testimony.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

12 MS. R. CONNELL: I'm Rena Connell, a resident
13 of the 1st Legislative District at Echo Lake, a
14 semirural community on a kind of land island northeast
15 of Woodinville in southeast Snohomish County. All
16 residents use Echo Lake Road as our only road bridge in
17 and out for our entire community of more than 3500
18 people.

19 In the past two years we've created a community
20 group whose mission is to build a rural community that
21 is safe, strong, resilient, and inclusive through
22 neighborhood connections and community services. Our
23 board, of which I am a part, is working to develop
24 community unity.

25 Precinct lines as currently drawn have created one

1 more barrier to our mission. Past districting
2 decisions split our six precincts between two
3 legislative districts. Five precincts are in LD 1.
4 One precinct, Richland, is stuck in LD 39, and their
5 current senator lives in Sedro-Woolley, one and a half
6 hours away.

7 We need your help to politically unify our
8 community so we can advocate together for disaster
9 preparedness should a devastating earthquake destroy
10 our only road.

11 My specific request is for the commission to unify
12 Echo Lake community, including Richland precinct, into
13 the 1st keeping, boundaries contiguous. Unified we
14 could more easily politically work for the common
15 benefit of our residents.

16 Our last thought from our semirural island, not
17 all islands are surrounded by water.

18 We sincerely thank you for the hard work you do to
19 be fair and just. Thank you.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much for
21 your testimony.

22 I would now like to offer our commissioners the
23 opportunity to ask questions or make comments.

24 (No audible response.)

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing no requests

1 for the opportunity to ask a question or to comment, I
2 would like to thank the panel for your time. Thank you
3 for being with us today. And excuse this panel. Thank
4 you.

5 And, Sean, if you would call the next panel,
6 please.

7 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

8 Our next panel and last panel that we have for
9 this meeting is Christine Kohnert, Angela Birney, Gary
10 Jensen, and Kathleen Strong.

11 Christine, if you can start your testimony.

12 MS. C. KOHNERT: Okay.

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

14 MS. C. KOHNERT: So, hi. So I'm Christine
15 Kohnert in Mount Vernon, Washington. So I'm in the
16 10th Legislative District and Congressional District 1.

17 And one of my concerns is that the City of Mount
18 Vernon is divided and in different legislative
19 districts. And --

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I'm sorry to interrupt you.
21 Can you say the city name one more time? I apologize.
22 I couldn't quite hear it.

23 MS. C. KOHNERT: I'm sorry. Okay. So the
24 City -- City of Mount Vernon --

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Sorry.

1 MS. C. KOHNERT: -- is divided into different
2 legislative districts. The 10th comes in as a wedge
3 right into the middle of our city, almost triangular in
4 shape. And so we are not unified.

5 And the other concern I have is communities of
6 interest. There's a large Latinx community in Skagit
7 County and a lot of residents concentrated around Mount
8 Vernon, Burlington, and Sedro-Woolley. (Audio
9 disruption) voice (audio disruption) that way. So I
10 would ask that be a concern, as well.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We really
12 appreciate you taking the time to be here.

13 You cut out a little bit. So I wonder if you'd be
14 willing to just write us a paragraph and send it to our
15 comment to make sure that we can fully capture your
16 comments.

17 MS. C. KOHNERT: Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I appreciate
19 that.

20 MS. C. KOHNERT: Sorry about that.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Hey, no problem. We
22 appreciate you being here. And I think what our staff
23 will probably be able to get most it. But just in
24 case, we would love to have your written comments, as
25 well. Thank you.

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

2 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

3 Angela Birney is going to be next, if you can turn
4 on your video and begin your testimony. Thank you so
5 much.

6 MS. A. BIRNEY: Thank you so much. I hope
7 you can hear me all right.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes.

9 MS. A. BIRNEY: My name is Angela Birney. I
10 am the mayor of the City of Redmond. And I just first
11 of all wanted to thank you all for the work that you're
12 doing.

13 We are in the 1st Legislative District and are
14 extremely happy that we only have one congressional
15 district to manage to be in as well as in the 48th
16 and 45th LDs for the state. And that also has been
17 working for us just fine.

18 The only thing I would ask of you, in looking at
19 the maps that you presented, you were completely
20 missing the 45th LD in your map. So if it's possible
21 for to us get updated maps with the appropriate
22 jurisdiction so we can kind of see the way that you're
23 thinking that you might adjust things since I noticed
24 that you have different levels of color denoting which
25 LDs needed to grow or shrink. So that's my only ask.

1 But once again, thank you for all the work that
2 you're doing, and I really appreciate that it's a
3 challenge that you're facing, as well. Thank you.

4 Thanks very much for your input.

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

6 MR. MURRAY: Our next speaker will be Gary
7 Jensen, if you can turn on your video and begin your
8 testimony, please.

9 Well, I see Kathleen Strong's video is on, so we
10 will jump over to Kathleen real quick. And we'll try
11 to get Gary's video and audio on.

12 Kathleen, if you want to begin your testimony.

13 MS. K. STRONG: Hi. My name is Kathleen
14 Strong. And I reside in unincorporated Snohomish
15 County just south of Everett. I am in the 44th
16 Legislative District.

17 And I am just hoping that the -- that the
18 commission will continue to look at the way counties
19 are split by districts. Taking into account the
20 previous testimony of how the 39th is split between
21 three counties, it just has a few -- a few -- very
22 little bit into King County. And it is into such a
23 large part of the map. And, you know, there's just --
24 it's hard for our -- you know, the representatives to
25 really know their constituents when they're split into

1 such a large area.

2 And I just hope that we not look at party lines of
3 Democrat, Republican, or other, but that we really look
4 at what's best for the constituents in these areas,
5 like what will best represent the people of these areas
6 and how we can think as a community within a county,
7 within cities, within our root communities.

8 I enjoy being in the 44th because we're all in
9 Snohomish County. We all have at least that. We may
10 be split between different cities and different
11 communities, but we have our county in common. We have
12 a county --

13 (Allotted time elapsed.)

14 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Sorry that your
15 clock ran down there. Of course we'd love to see your
16 written comments if you'd like to email those to us.

17 And, Sean, I wonder if Gary Jensen is available.

18 MR. MURRAY: I have prompted Gary several
19 times. I'm getting no response from video or audio,
20 Chair.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. So with that
22 what I want to do is ask the commissioners: Do you
23 have questions or comments for the panelists?

24 (No audible response.)

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Seeing none, I

1 would like to thank the panelists. Thank you for being
2 here. We appreciate you taking the time to share your
3 thoughts us with today. Like to excuse the panel.

4 And I would also like to offer our commissioners
5 an opportunity to make concluding remarks if you wish.

6 So I'll look for your hand.

7 Okay. Go ahead, Commissioner Graves.

8 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Sure. Well, thank you,
9 everybody, very much for coming out and taking part of
10 your Saturday to come meet with us and tell us what you
11 think about your legislative and congressional
12 districts. I think we're all really appreciative of
13 it. We're taking notes on everything you said. And
14 I'm confident that with a lot of good public input we
15 can end up with maps that fairly represent Washington
16 state. So thanks so much for taking the time to
17 contribute.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

19 Commissioner Simms.

20 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: I just want to echo what
21 Commissioner Graves said. Deep appreciation for the
22 community for showing up today, taking their time,
23 putting their energy into providing their thoughtful
24 testimony. And we look forward to incorporating that
25 feedback into our work moving forward. So thank you

1 very much.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

3 Commissioner Fain.

4 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 I also want to thank the panelists everyone for
6 showing up today. It's those unique little
7 geographies, like the unincorporated island and some of
8 those areas that are only accessible by one road and
9 things like that -- you know, that commissioners who
10 aren't from that area may not have any idea that those
11 situations exist. And so that's why this public
12 outreach is so important. And that's why your
13 participation today is so great.

14 And appreciate everyone coming out. And, Mayor
15 Birney, good to see you. Thanks everyone for taking
16 the time.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Walkinshaw.

19 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Thank you,
20 Commissioner Augustine.

21 Just echoing the gratitude of my colleagues. This
22 is really useful. And there was a lot of great
23 specifics that I think will be extremely helpful. Just
24 would encourage others that you know who have interest
25 in this to submit their written comments, to reach out,

1 to participate in future public meetings. So thank you
2 all for your time.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

4 And I would like to extend my thanks to all the
5 people who are working together to accomplish the work
6 of the commission, and especially to those who helped
7 bring this public meeting to you today.

8 So I'd like to thank those who have provided
9 American Sign Language and Spanish language
10 interpretation; our court reporter, who is compiling
11 the record; the Washington State Redistricting
12 Commission staff, who have put so much time and effort
13 into making sure that this runs smoothly; also the
14 commission caucus staff, and many more.

15 Thank you members of the public for spending part
16 of your Saturday -- or your Saturday with us.

17 And I want to thank -- genuinely thank the
18 commissioners for your time and for your leadership. I
19 recognize that the public sees you just a little --
20 little -- a tiny fraction of the time that you actually
21 commit to doing this work. Thank you for doing this
22 important work on behalf of the residents of
23 Washington. We appreciate you.

24 This meeting is now adjourned. And have a great
25 Saturday.

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(Proceedings concluded at 1:43 p.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 5th 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 35;

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;

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this June 18, 2021.

Sue E. Garcia

SUE E. GARCIA, CCR, RPR
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