

WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF

PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

RE: THE 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VIA ZOOM

Consisting of pages 1 to 58

May 24, 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 Monday, May 24, 2021, at
2 7:00 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 evening. I'm Sarah
9 Augustine, the Chair of the Washington State
10 Redistricting Commission. I would like to welcome
11 everyone to the third public outreach meeting of the
12 2021 redistricting cycle.

13 The topic of discussion tonight is the
14 Congressional District 6, and the full legislative
15 districts, No. 23, No. 24, and No. 26, and parts of the
16 19th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 35th Legislative
17 Districts.

18 To kick things off we're going to play a video
19 message from the commissioners.

20 Sean?

21

(Video playing.)

22

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

24 Commissioner Paul Graves has asked me to let you
25 know that he will be joining our meeting after

1 7:30 this evening. And his intention is to catch up on
2 the video for the portions that he missed at a time
3 after this meeting.

4 I would now like to make a statement to the
5 public. For those of you joining us today from the
6 public, welcome again. It is my goal as Chair to
7 facilitate a process that is a participatory, fair, and
8 equitable as possible. I will endeavor to engage
9 communities across Washington as fully as I can and to
10 hear and address your concerns and requests.

11 Throughout our tenure as commissioners we will
12 hear public comments that are important. We will
13 listen to you. I will do my best to synthesize
14 comments. And we will endeavor to respond as we are
15 able.

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

22 I would like to now review our purpose and values.
23 Together as a commission we have agreed to the
24 following values and mission:

25 To provide an open, transparent, credible process

1 that is grounded in statute and where all voices are
2 welcome and there's access for everyone;

3 To conduct ourselves with transparency, respect,
4 and civility, where commissioners will participate and
5 negotiate in good-faith;

6 And to meet the deadline outlined by law;

7 And to produce the best possible maps for all
8 Washingtonians.

9 I would also like to review the process of today's
10 meeting. You may be aware that because of the pandemic
11 this redistricting cycle promises to be a challenging
12 one. While we should be -- while we should have
13 received the data from the Census Bureau that we need
14 for redistricting by April 1st of this year, we don't
15 expect to have that data that we need to draw maps
16 until the second half of August.

17 Nonetheless, based on population estimates that
18 have been ongoing over the last decade, we do know to
19 some degree that the 6th Congressional District and the
20 legislative districts within it have less than the
21 expected average for congressional and legislative
22 districts and that these districts are going to have to
23 get larger in terms of the area they cover.

24 So the purpose of our meeting today is to listen
25 to your input about your community and how to ensure

1 that the districts are fairly balanced in terms of
2 population but also respect recognized, shared
3 community interests.

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

8 This evening we have 50 individuals who have
9 signed up to testify. We're going to invite
10 individuals in groups of four to testify this evening.
11 Each individual will have two minutes to offer their
12 comments. After four people have testified, we will
13 see if the commissioners have any questions of those
14 who have just testified, and then we will move to the
15 next group of testifiers.

16 When it is your turn to testify, Sean Murray, the
17 commission's web technician, will call your name, at
18 which time your status in Zoom will change from
19 observer to panelist. This transition will cause your
20 screen to look a little different. Please don't
21 disconnect. In just a few seconds you will become
22 visible to the commission.

23 When Sean calls your name you will have two
24 minutes to speak. A countdown clock will appear on
25 your screen. At the end of your allotted time you will

1 be muted. We realize that two minutes is a very brief
2 time in which to share your comments. We are
3 interested in what you have to say and urge you to send
4 your written comments to us via the following email:
5 comment@redistricting.wa.gov.

6 With that summary, Sean, let's begin. Please call
7 the first panel.

8 MR. MURRAY: Of course. Good evening, Chair,
9 fellow commissioners.

10 Our first four panelists will be Alyson Rotter,
11 Daryl Daugs, Deborah McDaniels, and Chris Karnes.

12 Daryl, if you don't mind beginning your testimony.

13 MR. D. DAUGS: Thank you, commissioners. My
14 name is Daryl Daugs. I'm the chief deputy auditor for
15 Kitsap County and a certified elections administrator.
16 This certification is awarded based on a level of
17 experience administering elections, education and
18 continuing education in the field, and testing on the
19 federal and state laws pertaining to elections.

20 I'm not speaking on behalf of my employer. But I
21 am speaking from my professional education and
22 experience in the field. I intend to provide two
23 suggestions, if time allows. I will be available later
24 for the second point, which probably won't fit in.

25 My first request is that Bremerton be recognized

1 by the commission as a community of mutual interest
2 defined by the Washington Voters Rights Act that went
3 into place in 2018.

4 Communities of mutual interest include cities,
5 school districts, and concentrations of minority
6 populations, of which Bremerton fulfills all three.
7 The voting power of these communities of mutual
8 interest are significantly diminished by having
9 Bremerton trifurcated by three legislative districts.
10 These district boundaries actually split across the old
11 and illegal minority redline districts that were drawn
12 by the Bremerton Housing Authority and the City of
13 Bremerton from the '30s up through the '70s to
14 disenfranchise minority voters.

15 Illegal voter dilution occurs when the votes of a
16 racial, ethnic, or linguistic group are canceled out or
17 submerged by the votes of a different voting group,
18 usually white voters. Trifurcating Bremerton across
19 three legislative districts is in violation of the RCW
20 and the Washington State Voting Rights Act. It's not
21 my opinion that the last several decades of
22 redistricting was purposely done to disenfranchise
23 minority voters. Nonetheless, the fact remains the
24 same: Voter dilution occurs.

25 The Washington State Legislative --

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I apologize that your time
2 is up. Please stay with us so that the commissioners
3 can ask questions of your panel.

4 Sean?

5 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

6 Alyson Rotter, if you don't mind beginning your
7 testimony.

8 MS. A. ROTTER: Thank you, committee members.
9 My name is Alyson Rotter. And I am here before you as
10 a resident of the City of Bremerton.

11 The population of Bremerton is estimated at nearly
12 41,000, making it the largest as well as the most
13 racially diverse municipality in Kitsap County. Kitsap
14 County is currently divided amongst three legislative
15 districts, the 23rd, the 26th, and the 35th.

16 From a geography perspective, Bremerton is near the
17 center and is the only municipality in the county
18 divided also amongst the three legislative districts.

19 While some may argue that having three LD
20 representatives to advocate for and with makes for
21 stronger advocacy given the sheer number of legislators
22 one can communicate with, I feel strongly that it
23 actually limits and splits the voice of Bremerton
24 voters in having a strong, unified voice in any
25 particular issue of concern given that only a small

1 geographic area and overall population of a
2 legislator's constituents come from Bremerton.

3 The most egregious of this occurs in the 35th
4 Legislative District, where my residence is located.
5 As a Kitsap County resident and voter in the 35th, I
6 am represented by legislators that represent Mason
7 County in its entirety and a portion of Thurston
8 County.

9 Historically the legislators representing the
10 35th reside in, are employed in, and have deep
11 connections to Mason County. Not only are those
12 legislators representing a small part of Kitsap County,
13 but it's even a smaller constituent that comes from
14 Bremerton. It makes it very difficult for folks from
15 Bremerton to compel matters of importance.

16 In addition, as a parent of two school-age
17 children within the Bremerton School District and as an
18 elected member of the school board of directors, there
19 are nine different legislators that represent the areas
20 in which schools are located within our district. It
21 makes advocacy for education-related issues very
22 difficult as a board director.

23 Again, given the population and geography of the
24 current LDs, the parents and voters of the BSD have a
25 much smaller voice than other surrounding school

1 districts given their entire population being
2 represented by legislators from the one school -- one
3 legislative district.

4 With these considerations in mind, I strongly urge
5 you to map Bremerton in one legislative district.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. If you could
8 just stay present with us so the commissioners have a
9 chance to ask questions.

10 Sean?

11 MR. MURRAY: Yes. Deborah McDaniels, if you
12 don't mind starting your video and beginning your
13 testimony.

14 You're currently muted.

15 MS. D. McDANIEL: There we go.

16 MR. MURRAY: Thank you.

17 MS. D. McDANIEL: Thank you. My name is
18 Deborah McDaniel. There's no S on the end, just a
19 short correction.

20 I am speaking simply as an interested and active
21 citizen of Bremerton. And you're going to hear the
22 same song from me as you have previously.

23 I think that this is an opportunity for Washington
24 to right decades of systemic racism that occurred
25 during the redistricting first done in 1930. By

1 diluting the voice of a constituency, you have an
2 effective means of voter suppression. It's already
3 been discussed eloquently by others.

4 I think this -- the -- redistricting us to a
5 single legislative district would strengthen Kitsap
6 County's largest city by having a dedicated -- the
7 voice of a dedicated representative and resident of our
8 city who understands firsthand our needs, wants,
9 concerns, and issues.

10 It would also provide a single point of contact
11 for all citizens, whether they're on the school board
12 or just an interested citizen such as myself. There's
13 no need to figure out what district you're in to
14 contact your rep. I firmly believe that this not only
15 disenfranchises but discourages engagement of voters
16 because it's confusing as heck.

17 In my council district here, I'm split into two
18 legislative districts. I ran for council four years
19 ago, and that was tough 'cause I had to go to two
20 different sets of meetings. And it just -- it -- it
21 causes more issues than it solves.

22 So I please request that you consider district --
23 redistricting us as a single legislative district.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

1 MR. MURRAY: And our last panelist will be
2 Chris Karnes, if you don't mind starting your video and
3 beginning your testimony. Thank you.

4 MR. C. KARNES: Thank you. I do not have
5 video on this computer, so I will provide my testimony.

6 Hello, Chair Augustine and commission. My name is
7 Chris Karnes. I'm a resident of Tacoma in the
8 6th District and a planning commissioner for the City
9 of Tacoma.

10 I would encourage that this body consider an
11 alternative where Tacoma is no longer in the
12 6th District and the portion that is in the
13 6th District be redistributed to the 10th and 9th
14 Districts that encompass other nearby cities with
15 similar urban patterns, demographics, and economics as
16 Tacoma.

17 I'll submit this to the commission, that although
18 Tacoma and Bremerton are of relatively similar size and
19 urban centers of Pierce and Kitsap Counties, they do
20 not even have regular local bus service that connects
21 the two cities, no even once per day.

22 And if the largest two cities in the 6th District
23 are not connected by even a modicum of transportation
24 services, what are we to say about the connectedness of
25 Tacoma to Sequim or Neah Bay or Aberdeen? These are

1 areas that have different needs, different approaches
2 to transportation, infrastructure, and economic
3 development.

4 I serve on the planning commission in Tacoma, and
5 while I do not speak for the commission, I can speak to
6 the fact that the Puget Sound Regional Council has
7 allocated a fair amount of growth on the order of
8 100,000 residents to be added to Tacoma over the next
9 30 years.

10 As Tacoma continues to densify, the urban-rural
11 split in the 6th District will only grow more
12 pronounced over time and become more difficult for a
13 single representative to reflect in Congress.

14 The last point I would make is that the racial
15 makeup of the 6th District is disproportionately white
16 the further you move away from Tacoma. Retaining this
17 part of Tacoma in the 6th dilutes the electoral power
18 of populations of color, which is evident in who has
19 been elected in the 6th District since 1933, nothing
20 but white men, no women, no people color. Compare this
21 with Tacoma voters have elected and reelected two
22 different black women as mayor in the last 12 years.

23 So I would encourage this commission to please
24 consider allowing the City of Tacoma to have a
25 competitive chance at representation that reflects the

1 diversity of the city. And I do not believe that
2 people who live here have the chance to if we remain
3 shoehorned in a district that retains the entire
4 Olympic Peninsula.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

6 I now want to ask the commissioners, if you have
7 questions for members of the panel, if you would raise
8 your hand if you have a question or comment.

9 (No audible response.)

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Seeing none, I would like
11 to excuse the panel. Thank you for coming and
12 testifying with us tonight.

13 Sean, please call the next panel.

14 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. Our first member of
15 the next panel is going to be Susan Griggs, Sara
16 Thompson, Lori Wheat, and Deborah Turecky. I apologize
17 if I'm mispronounced that.

18 Susan, please begin your testimony.

19 MS. S. GRIGGS: Yes. Thank you very much,
20 commissioners, for agreeing to have me speak.

21 My name is Susan Griggs, and I live in Suquamish.
22 I am active in many civic and social-justice
23 organizations in Kitsap County, including the League of
24 Women Voters, and have talked to dozens of Bremerton
25 residents who have discussed the difficulties resulting

1 from the current division of Bremerton into three
2 legislative districts.

3 I am very much in support of what Daryl and Alyson
4 have said up to now.

5 I am here to advocate for this -- residents of
6 Bremerton and the importance of having the City of
7 Bremerton in one legislative district. The state
8 constitution specifies that the commission should make
9 sure that, insofar as practical, geographical and
10 political boundaries and communities that have common
11 interests are respected and their division minimized.

12 The voters in Bremerton are not being adequately
13 represented by their legislators because of the current
14 division of the city into three legislative districts.
15 As has been said, Bremerton has a higher proportion of
16 low-income residents and a higher proportion of
17 residents from diverse ethnic and/or racial communities
18 than other areas in these three legislative districts.

19 The majority of residents in these legislative
20 districts live in rural or suburban neighborhoods and
21 are predominately white residents with higher income
22 than those in Bremerton.

23 A great number of residents in Bremerton do not
24 believe that their vote matters and that their elected
25 legislator cares about their opinions or issues. They

1 are often reminded of the concerns of communities in
2 Bainbridge, Gig Harbor, or Mason County when they
3 listen to their representatives, rather than of their
4 concerns. There's correspondingly lower voter turnout
5 in these communities than in other areas of the
6 legislative districts.

7 Please redraw the legislative district lines so
8 that the City of Bremerton --

9 (Allotted time elapsed.)

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

11 Sean?

12 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. Lori Wheat, if you
13 don't mind beginning your testimony.

14 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

15 MS. L. WHEAT: Thank you. Good evening,
16 commissioners.

17 My name is Lori Wheat, and I live in Bremerton,
18 Washington. I am a Bremerton City Council member,
19 although I do not speak on behalf of the council but in
20 my personal capacity this evening.

21 So when Bremerton City Council members communicate
22 or advocate with our state legislators, we have nine
23 state legislators currently who represent various parts
24 of our city. That dilutes our voice, unfortunately,
25 because we do not have the two state representatives

1 and one state senator who represent all of Bremerton,
2 as many municipalities have.

3 And I want to amplify the voices that have already
4 spoken and join those who have spoken about issues of
5 equity, in particular race equity, as well as
6 socioeconomic equity. Again, when individual voices
7 are spread thin and diluted by not being represented
8 within one unified legislative district, it's more
9 difficult to achieve legislative and policy goals.

10 So for those reasons I support moving toward a
11 more equitable state legislative district for Bremerton
12 where preferably we would have one state legislative
13 district representing all of Bremerton in a unified
14 way.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

17 Sean?

18 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

19 Sara Thompson, if you don't mind beginning your
20 testimony.

21 MS. S. THOMPSON: So I actually did not
22 call -- come to testify. I'm really wanting to watch
23 the process.

24 But I do live on the Key Peninsula. And I think
25 I've been impressed with what our legislative

1 representatives and Derek Kilmer have been able to do
2 to represent our little, small, rural neck of the woods
3 while also trying to take care of Tacoma and Bremerton.
4 So --

5 But I -- I -- I think I agree that trying to have
6 a stronger unified voice makes sense as you look at --
7 as you look at redistricting.

8 So thank you.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

10 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

11 Last member of our panel is Barbara Turecky. I
12 apologize if I'm mispronouncing your last name.

13 MS. B. TURECKY: You did it correctly. Thank
14 you.

15 I am testifying asking for Joe Fain to resign from
16 this commission. There is a credible sexual-abuse
17 accusation levied against him and -- that has not yet
18 been resolved. There was a commission made through the
19 legislature, but because he lost his seat, that did not
20 go through. And that -- so this allegation has not
21 been resigned -- resolved quite yet.

22 We do know that this is a serious allegation. And
23 it should be revisited before he makes any kind of
24 political statements within our state. So . . .

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

1 Are -- have you completed your statement?

2 MS. B. TURECKY: I have. Thank you.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Great thanks.

4 So I think that's our fourth panelist. Is that
5 right, Sean?

6 MR. MURRAY: That's right. Yes, Chair, that
7 is. That was the last person on the panel.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So I want to ask the
9 commissioners at this time if they have questions for
10 the panelists.

11 Yes, Commissioner Walkinshaw.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: I appreciate all
13 the testimony. A lot of testimony around unifying
14 Bremerton.

15 Maybe it's a question to -- if one of the
16 testif- -- panelists would like to speak to this.

17 Have there been ways that you feel like having
18 Bainbridge divided -- or I'm sorry -- Bremerton divided
19 has negatively impacted your representation? I'd just
20 be curious to hear a bit more, if you wanted to give a
21 little bit more time for that.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. Who would like to
23 respond? If you want to raise your hand, I will call
24 on you.

25 Susan, since you went first, do you want to take a

1 stab at it?

2 MS. S. GRIGGS: I have not been -- had poor
3 representation, and that's because I'm a white person,
4 I'm an active individual, and the legislators have been
5 listening to me.

6 But I don't live in Bremerton. But those people
7 that I do know who live in Bremerton have talked about
8 the fact that they feel like they have been. But I
9 don't have any stories, which I wish I did for you.
10 I'm going to encourage other people to testify that
11 could not come tonight, but don't have those people
12 here.

13 But I did want to let you know that the League of
14 Women Voters is drawing up maps -- a map of Washington
15 that would also include how to get Bremerton in one
16 district. And so I'm talking to individuals to try to
17 figure out where the best place to put those district
18 lines are.

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

20 I'm going to extend the same question to Lori next
21 since I think you were next, Lori.

22 MS. L. WHEAT: Thank you.

23 So I would echo what Susan just said and also
24 Deborah McDaniel, who spoke earlier and is a resident
25 of Bremerton. She spoke about how as a candidate for

1 city council there are various -- we have three
2 different legislative-district groups who candidates
3 often seek out endorsements from. And that can be a
4 complicated process and a confusing process for people
5 who want to run for local elections but also for -- the
6 majority of people probably aren't running for local
7 elections.

8 And I would just say that it's not a particular
9 issue. It's all of the issues that are divided among
10 nine legislators instead of three. And so there's no
11 particular point -- there's no particular state senator
12 or two state representatives who we can go to to know
13 that their specific focus is on the entirety of
14 Bremerton. And so if there's an issue that affects
15 Bremerton, they may only represent one small portion of
16 Bremerton, and they don't represent the whole of
17 Bremerton. And so that makes it difficult to get that
18 holistic representation for the entire city.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

21 So I think we're about out of time for this panel.
22 But I will ask if either of the other panelists wanted
23 to respond to Commissioner Walkinshaw's question.

24 (No audible response.)

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing no response,

1 thank you very much for your time, folks on the panel.

2 If you -- Sean, if you could excuse the panel and
3 call the next, please.

4 Welcome --

5 MR. MURRAY: Absol --

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: -- Commissioner Graves.

7 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Thank you. And again,
8 sorry -- very sorry to everybody for being a little bit
9 late.

10 MR. MURRAY: And so our next panel will be
11 Deborah Pedersen, Alison McCaffree, Julie Johnson, and
12 Alistair James.

13 Alison, I see you first, if you want to begin your
14 testimony.

15 MS. A. McCAFFREE: Hi. Thank you.

16 I am testifying tonight as a resident of the 28th
17 District and the 6th Congressional District. And I
18 just had a few pointers. With all my volunteer work
19 with the League of Women Voters, I have looked at the
20 maps very -- in a lot of detail. And I just had a few
21 points that I wanted to make tonight, and I'll send you
22 more detail in written testimony.

23 The first is really to make the legislative
24 districts of Tacoma more representative of the
25 diversity of the people who live here.

1 I live in a neighborhood right near Optimist Park,
2 which is near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in the west end
3 of Tacoma. And I -- in my everyday life I spend much
4 more time in the north end of Tacoma, which is more the
5 27th District, and then some down Bridgeport into
6 University Place.

7 And I would recommend that we extend the 27th
8 District down into those areas. This would leave the
9 28th and the 29th with higher percentages of people
10 of color, and people elected in those districts could
11 better represent those folks.

12 The second point I'd like to make is to keep the
13 Puyallup reservation and the Nisqually reservation each
14 in one legislative district. It's important that all
15 of us, but people who are non-Native, see this as a
16 priority, as I do. So please in all of your
17 considerations keep First American reservations
18 together.

19 The third is about the congressional district. If
20 you do keep Tacoma in the 6th District, then make sure
21 you get a large chunk of Tacoma. We know it will have
22 to expand 'cause of the number of people. So make sure
23 that a lot of Tacoma is in the 6th District, which
24 means west end, north end, Hilltop, the basin near the
25 port, all of those.

1 So thank you for your time tonight. And I look
2 forward to hearing more testimony from everyone else.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

4 Sean?

5 MR. MURRAY: Thank you, Chair.

6 Next we have Alistair James. Alistair, if you
7 don't mind beginning your testimony.

8 (No audible response.)

9 MR. MURRAY: Alistair, are you there?

10 (No audible response.)

11 MR. MURRAY: Okay. In the mean time, Julie
12 Johnson, if you don't mind beginning your testimony.

13 MS. J. JOHNSON: Can you hear me?

14 MR. MURRAY: I can. Thank you so much.

15 MS. J. JOHNSON: Do I get four minutes?

16 No. I'm just kidding.

17 Hi. My name is Julie Johnson. I'm the vice-chair
18 of the 24th Legislative District, and I'm also chair
19 of the Native American office of the Washington State
20 Democrats.

21 In 2018 the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest
22 Indians, which represents 58 tribes, we held a hearing
23 on voting rights. In 2019 the Washington state passed
24 the Native Voting Rights Act. In 2020 we passed a
25 resolution by the tribes, Affiliated Tribes of

1 Northwest Indians, that we wanted a native person
2 appointed to the commission, to the redistricting
3 commission.

4 We're concerned as a Native American caucus that
5 we want this body to comply with the Voting Rights Act.
6 We can't have what happened in Ferry County this last
7 year -- or not last year but the year before -- where
8 they didn't pick up the ballot boxes for nearly two
9 weeks.

10 You know, we need to make sure that our
11 communities, our native communities, are together, that
12 as regulations say, as the law says, that have common
13 interests are respected. We want our rights to be
14 respected. We do not -- we do not want our
15 reservations split up. We don't want Colville split
16 up, Yakima split up, the Lummi reservation split up.
17 We need to look at those and really comply with the
18 regulations.

19 I thank you for the work that you are doing.

20 I do want to say for the 6th District, which I
21 live in -- I live in Neah Bay, Washington. Someone
22 made a comment about Derek Kilmer, Congressman Kilmer.
23 I think he's been doing a great job, and I appreciate
24 his work representing us. I appreciate all the people
25 that have been elected.

1 But we need to keep our native communities
2 together. This is not right.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

4 Sean?

5 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

6 Deborah Pedersen, you may begin your testimony.

7 MS. D. PEDERSEN: My name is Deborah
8 Pedersen, and I'm a concerned citizen living in
9 Jefferson County in LD 24, CD 6.

10 We in west sound have our own identity and common
11 concerns that are different from those communities on
12 the east side of the Salish Sea.

13 LD 24 and CD 6 are already sprawling and difficult
14 to get around, being on a peninsula with mostly
15 two-lane highways that have to circumnavigate a
16 mountain range and a national park. It is important
17 for constituents to be able to see candidates and their
18 elected representatives and vice versa. And the 24th
19 and the 6th already make that difficult.

20 I hope for as much compactness as possible in the
21 new map. Please don't make our districts unnecessarily
22 huge by adding huge swaths of sparsely populated rural
23 areas to the south. I hope that by adding some denser
24 population in the small cities in Grays Harbor to LD 24
25 and pour more of the Tacoma area, perhaps Fircrest and

1 University Place, into CD 6, the correct population can
2 be achieved without causing our districts to be even
3 more difficult to get around.

4 In terms of contiguity, I urge you not to add
5 areas that add -- that would require ferry travel to
6 get from one part of the district to the other. The
7 fact that the Hood Canal Bridge impedes travel when it
8 closes is one difficulty we can't eliminate. But let's
9 not add the difficulty of waiting in line for ferries
10 and dealing with canceled sailings.

11 We on the Olympic Peninsula would like to be
12 grouped with other people on the peninsula, not Whidbey
13 Island, Anacortes, the San Juan Islands, Pacific
14 County, or even Seattle, as proposed in some of the
15 maps that have been drawn using Dave's Redistricting.

16 Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you and for
17 your service to the people of Washington. Thank you.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

19 Sean?

20 MR. MURRAY: The last member of our panel is
21 going to be Alistair James. Alistair, I know you're
22 calling in via phone. I believe it is either *6 or *9,
23 you should be able to unmute yourself, if you want to
24 attempt to do that now.

25 (No audible response.)

1 MR. MURRAY: Okay. Alistair, we'll -- we
2 will move on to the next panel.

3 Or actually we'll go to questions from the
4 commissioners, and we will get back to you.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. All right. I want
6 to ask the commissioners if you have questions of this
7 panel at this time.

8 (No audible response.)

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would
10 like to thank the members of the panel for spending
11 this time with us. And I'd like to excuse this panel.

12 And, Sean, please call the next.

13 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next
14 panel is going to be Elizabeth Doll, Irene Bowling,
15 Lauren Lucid, and Leslie Daus.

16 Elizabeth, you can begin your testimony whenever
17 you are ready.

18 MS. E. DOLL: Thank you for taking the time
19 to hear from locals tonight at a time that's convenient
20 for those of us that can't take time off work to
21 testify.

22 I currently live on the north end of the county,
23 of Kitsap County. But I grew up on the south end, so I
24 am intimately familiar with both the 26th and the
25 23rd Legislative Districts.

1 The 23rd Legislative District is what I'd like
2 to speak about. It currently encompasses east but not
3 west Bremerton and part of Silverdale, Poulsbo,
4 Bainbridge Island, Kingston, and Hansville.

5 I agree with the other speakers that Bremerton
6 should be unified into a single legislative district.
7 I would further like to note that I believe uniting
8 west Bremerton with east Bremerton into the 23rd
9 Legislative District makes community sense because
10 there's only one Bremerton School District and east
11 Bremerton and west Bremerton are the same people within
12 the same community. West Bremerton residents shop in
13 east Bremerton, and east Bremerton high-schoolers
14 attend school in west Bremerton.

15 It further makes sense to move west Bremerton into
16 a district that extends farther north because residents
17 are more connected to the retail hub of Silverdale than
18 Port Orchard. Silverdale is where most of the shopping
19 for Bremertonians takes place when they want to go to
20 Costco, for example.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

22 Is that -- are -- does that conclude your
23 testimony?

24 MS. E. DOLL: That will conclude my testimony
25 for tonight.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. Thank you. If you
2 would hang around, and perhaps there will be questions
3 from the panel.

4 Sean?

5 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much, Chair.

6 Luellen Lucid, if you don't mind beginning your
7 testimony.

8 You are still muted.

9 MS. L. LUCID: Hi.

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

11 Welcome.

12 Luellen, the timer is running.

13 MS. L. LUCID: Okay. My name is Luellen
14 Lucid. I live in Gig Harbor. I'm the --

15 I'm not muted.

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: No. We can hear you.

17 MS. L. LUCID: Okay. My name is Luellen
18 Lucid. I live in Gig Harbor. And I am the past
19 Democratic chair for LD 26. And I'm also currently on
20 the LD 26 executive board.

21 I would like to build on some --

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: We can hear you.

23 MS. L. LUCID: Okay. Can I continue?

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Please continue.

25 MS. L. LUCID: Okay. I'd like to build --

1 It's replaying my statement.

2 MR. MURRAY: I -- you might want to try and
3 turn down your audio on your computer. That might
4 help.

5 MS. L. LUCID: Okay. Can I continue in?

6 MR. MURRAY: Please.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Please.

8 MS. L. LUCID: Okay. Okay. Sorry.

9 I would like to build -- build -- I would like to
10 build on -- on the testimony that has been presented by
11 others concerning the City of Bremerton and the desire
12 to have that city --

13 Not sure how to do that. Hold on.

14 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Luellen, I believe
15 your -- you have the TVW broadcast playing, which is on
16 a maybe 20- or 30-second delay. And that might be
17 causing the confusion. So --

18 MS. L. LUCID: What do I do?

19 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Just close -- just close
20 your Internet browser and just stay in Zoom, I think
21 is -- if that's how you've connected into this meeting.
22 I did the same thing in a previous meeting.

23 MS. L. LUCID: Yeah. I don't -- I don't know
24 what to do about this, though.

25 MR. MURRAY: I'm going to mute you real

1 quick, and hopefully you're able to close out that
2 browser.

3 MS. L. LUCID: Close my browser?

4 MR. MURRAY: Yes, please. And we'll try to
5 come back to you.

6 Leslie Daus, I'm going to have you go ahead and
7 start. Begin your testimony.

8 MS. L. DAUGS: Thank you. Good evening,
9 Chair Augustine and commissioners.

10 I am writing to you as a resident and as an
11 elected city councilwoman for the City of Bremerton
12 located in Kitsap County. And I am not speaking on
13 behalf of the City.

14 Bremerton currently is represented in the 23rd
15 Legislative District, the 26th Legislative District,
16 and the 35th. Bremerton is the largest city within
17 Kitsap County. Bremerton has by far the largest
18 minority and low-income families on the Kitsap
19 Peninsula, which consist of African Americans, Pacific
20 Islanders, Hispanics, Filipinos, Kurdish, Native
21 Americans, Guatemalan communities, and much more.

22 For many decades Bremerton has not been well
23 represented by those in office. Many of those elected
24 from the 23rd lived in the Bainbridge Island area,
25 while our representation from the 26th live in

1 Gig Harbor, and our representations from the 35th
2 live in -- within Shelton.

3 I love our neighbors in Gig Harbor and Bainbridge
4 Island and Shelton, but I do not feel that I, as a
5 child of immigrant parents -- a child of immigrants and
6 a member of the APII community, feel adequately
7 represented with Bremerton having to split up into
8 three districts which are predominately white as well
9 as medium-income, much wealthier than in Bremerton.

10 The legislative-district lines are still affected
11 by the old redline boundaries that weaken minority
12 representation.

13 Advocating for our city is a challenge as one
14 would have to speak to nine legislators, who do not
15 know the uniqueness of Bremerton or sometimes forget
16 that Bremerton is part of their district which they
17 represent. I have received mailers from those elected
18 recognizing every city they represent on their mailer,
19 but Bremerton was only represented by the address
20 label, which is to my house.

21 I am advocating for Bremerton to be represented by
22 one district. Let's break the old redline boundaries
23 and give Bremerton residents fair representation.

24 Thank you.

25 Leslie Daus.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

2 Sean?

3 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

4 Irene Bowling, please begin your testimony.

5 MS. I. BOWLING: Hi. My name's Irene
6 Bowling. I live in Bremerton. And I was a person that
7 ran for office, for state senate, against Senator Tim
8 Sheldon twice. And I door-belled over 20,000 doors in
9 the 35th Legislative District within those two
10 campaigns. And I know that many times when I talk to
11 people they were even unsure about where the district
12 lines were.

13 And the 35th District goes all the way from
14 Rochester all the way up across the Hood Canal, that
15 strip of land before the mountains, all the way up to
16 on the further area here in the north on Newberry Hill
17 Road close to Silverdale.

18 The 35th district in particular -- this is why I
19 came to the meeting here tonight, because I think that
20 everything that everyone has said previously here this
21 evening is absolutely right on. I think Bremerton is
22 not represented justly. It is the largest community
23 here in the district. Mainly the 35th is rural.

24 To have correct representation you have to have
25 people that are actually from those areas, I think.

1 And we have such a diverse population, spanning from
2 Newberry Hill Road all the way south to Rochester. I
3 do not think this is a just and right way of
4 representing that people can actually -- when they have
5 issues, it's too diverse and too complicated. And the
6 lines are extremely, in my view, arbitrary. I think it
7 causes a lot of confusion.

8 I give kudos to Derek Kilmer to be able to drive,
9 even just navigate through this district, the
10 6th District. But I would urge this commission to
11 reconsider in particular Bremerton but also the 35th
12 District and LD.

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

14 I want to ask the commissioners at this point if
15 you have questions for the members of the panel.

16 MR. MURRAY: Chair, really quickly I would
17 like to try and go back to Luellen Lucid, see if we can
18 get that before we --

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Perfect.

20 MR. MURRAY: Thank you.

21 MS. L. LUCID: Thank you so much. I think
22 this is okay now.

23 As I had said earlier, I live in Gig Harbor. And
24 I'm the democratic chair -- have been the Democrat
25 chair of LD 26. So I'm speaking from the standpoint of

1 LD 26. And I totally agree that Bremerton should be
2 more unified within a district.

3 And I would like to make the case that it should
4 be the LD 26 that it would become part of. In fact,
5 our state senator from LD 26 lives in Bremerton and
6 does know that community quite well. And I think that
7 we could have a better representation for Bremerton and
8 for LD 26 if the City of Bremerton as a whole were
9 incorporated into LD 26.

10 So that is what I would like to contribute.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I'm so glad you
12 were able to share your comments with us.

13 So at this point I'd like to ask the commissioners
14 if you have additional comments or questions for the
15 panel.

16 (No audible response.)

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would
18 like to thank the members of the panel and can excuse
19 this panel. Thank you for being here us with.

20 And, Sean, please call the next panel.

21 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much, Chair. Our
22 next panel is going to be Chris Ferguson, Donna
23 Barna-Gilby, Bryan Flint, and Kiaha Long.

24 Chris, if you don't mind starting your testimony.

25 MR. C. FERGUSON: Thank you very much, Sean

1 and commissioners and the Chair. I appreciate the
2 opportunity to testify before you this evening.

3 I find myself agreeing with a lot of the previous
4 commenters on the inequity of having Bremerton split
5 between three districts.

6 And insofar as it was mentioned before that the
7 population of the districts is such that some of these
8 districts must grow, that's true of the 23rd, as
9 well. There's only one direction the 23rd can
10 rationally grow, and that's south, which would seem to
11 indicate the smart move is to put Bremerton into the
12 23rd. And I think that that fits a lot of our equity
13 goals in this group, as well.

14 Now, I grew up in central Kitsap County. I
15 currently reside on Bainbridge Island. And I went to
16 school for seventh through twelfth grade in University
17 Place, which required me to commute from Silverdale 40
18 minutes -- 40 miles a day each way.

19 And the 6th Congressional District is a very, very
20 diverse place. It's a very green place. It's a very
21 open place. We have a lot of people here with a lot of
22 different backgrounds. But the one thing is the
23 district is not is urban.

24 I don't think it makes a lot of sense to have the
25 people of Tacoma, at least part of Tacoma, included

1 with the rest of the people from Sequim and Port
2 Angeles and Port Townsend and Grays Harbor and even
3 Bainbridge Island and Bremerton.

4 If it can be done without getting in the way of
5 the commission's mandates, to equitably distribute
6 population, I would -- I would argue that Tacoma needs
7 to be in its own district, or at least split up, as was
8 mentioned previously, between the 10th and the 9th.
9 That seems to make a lot of sense to me.

10 So yes. I appreciate the opportunity to talk to
11 you guys this evening. And I hope you all have a great
12 night.

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Please hang
14 around for additional questions from the commission.

15 Sean?

16 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

17 Donna, I see you. Looks like you're ready for
18 testimony. So you can begin whenever you're ready.

19 MS. D. BRANCH-GILBY: I am. Thank you.

20 Thank you, commissioners and Chairwoman Augustine.

21 My name is Donna Branch, like in a tree,
22 B-r-a-n-c-h, hyphen, Gilby. I live on my family farm
23 in Kitsap County right on the boundaries with Pierce
24 County. I am in the 35th Legislative District.

25 And I appreciate the work you're all doing get us

1 some good maps. So thank you very much.

2 I'm testifying because I live in the 35th
3 District. And when an LD is drawn like this one, which
4 is long and narrow, it makes it very difficult for
5 residents that are -- to have similar interests or even
6 to get together. It's 91 miles from the top of the
7 35th to the bottom down to Rochester. And from
8 where -- a previous testifier, Irene Bowling, spoke --
9 and I think she lives in Chico Way at Newberry Hill --
10 it goes all the way over across Hood Canal. So it's a
11 very sprawling district.

12 I urge you to find way to shape boundaries as
13 compactly as possible given the requirement of -- that
14 you have to have near equal population numbers and
15 retaining the goal of communities of economic and
16 cultural interest.

17 There's a lot of rural area here. Tacoma does not
18 belong in the 35th at all. And, in fact, the more
19 rural you can keep us, the better.

20 My second concern is keeping Native American
21 reservation boundaries intact. Please don't split
22 them. We have two reservations in the 35th, and we
23 work well with those tribes. And we'd like to see them
24 all together.

25 So thank you very much.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

2 Sean?

3 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much.

4 Bryan Flint, if you don't mind beginning your
5 testimony. Thank you.

6 MR. B. FLINT: Yes. Thank you,
7 commissioners.

8 I just want to say I appreciate the commitment
9 that you've made to this process and the threat of Zoom
10 fatigue that you have taken on.

11 In this hyper-partisan time you are setting the
12 ground rules to make sure that all voters are
13 represented over the next ten years. So I just
14 encourage you to be as -- fidelity to the constitution
15 in the process and encourage you to do that.

16 I would like to echo the comments about keeping
17 communities together, to overcoming the legacy of
18 redlining. I am a resident of Tacoma. I have actually
19 worked on campaigns throughout the 6th District in my
20 career, and I understand the Bremerton issues.

21 But also in Tacoma, the east side and the south
22 end of Tacoma, which are minority communities, are
23 split between three congressional districts and three
24 legislative districts, and so is the Puyallup tribe.
25 So I encourage, as you look at the map, to think about

1 how to include those communities as whole communities.
2 The east side and the south end have spent the last
3 decades creating more enfranchisement and more agency
4 for themselves and are part of Tacoma and should be
5 represented as such.

6 So there's plenty of time to get into the details,
7 and especially as it moves on it will become more
8 political. Just encourage you to look at overcoming
9 those historical inequities and create communities of
10 like-minded voters that can be represented fully.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

13 MR. MURRAY: And our last testifier on this
14 list, Chair, is Kiaha Long.

15 If you don't mind beginning -- turning on your
16 video and beginning your testimony.

17 MR. K. LONG: I'm actually having problems
18 with my phone. So I'm -- can I just give an oral,
19 please?

20 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. Please begin.

21 MR. K. LONG: I just want to reiterate what
22 other people have said in my district of Bremerton. I
23 think we need to be unified. As a Pacific Islander, I
24 think my issues and the issues of my community and the
25 Asian community sometimes are not seen.

1 And I do think people like Leslie Daus is someone
2 that represents us. I know she basically said what she
3 said. But want to reiterate how I believe that we need
4 a stronger voice. People in our district are sometimes
5 not heard or seen.

6 And I just think it's important in the narrative
7 of Bremerton that the Asian community, Pacific
8 Islander, especially Polynesia, who I represent -- I
9 think this is so important for our community with
10 everything happening.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

13 I would like to ask the commissioners at this time
14 if you have questions or comments for this panel.

15 (No audible response.)

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Seeing none, I would like
17 to thank the panelists, excuse this panel. Thanks very
18 much.

19 Sean, if you would please call the next panel.

20 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next
21 panel is going to be Paul Murray, Carolyn Burger, Val
22 Torrens, and Arne Nelson.

23 Paul, if you don't mind beginning your testimony.

24 MR. P. MURRAY: Yeah. My name is Paul
25 Murray. I live on Fox Island.

1 And I'll say I came on to this more for the
2 process. I didn't have specific testimony.

3 But I would agree, after having -- living in the
4 Bremerton area, wholeheartedly. When I lived there,
5 there was extensive confusion over the area. So having
6 it combined into one would be very worthwhile.

7 And in looking at the map, I would also agree -- I
8 forget who the speaker was. But the 26th District
9 seems to be, for the legislative district, a good fit,
10 just so that we have the whole peninsula, if you will,
11 coming down.

12 Fox Island itself is not extremely diverse. And
13 it feels like it's kind of an odd fit in no matter what
14 district we're in. So I don't have any specific
15 recommendations.

16 I will also just point out that in the Port
17 Orchard area with the new ferry going directly to
18 Seattle, you can probably expect an influx of
19 population in that area. So that just might be
20 something to consider as you're looking at the
21 population maps.

22 That's all I have.

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

25 Sean?

1 MR. MURRAY: Thank you, Chair.

2 Carolyn Burger, if you don't mind turning on your
3 video and beginning your testimony.

4 MS. C. BURGER: Hi. My name is Carolyn
5 Burger. I live in the 23rd Legislative District on
6 Bainbridge Island.

7 And I wanted to echo some of what you've already
8 heard this evening. I felt compelled to testify today
9 after speaking with people in Kitsap County, and
10 specifically in Bremerton. I am concerned that the
11 voices of the citizens of Bremerton are being diluted
12 because it is divided into three districts. I've heard
13 repeatedly from folks living in Bremerton that they're
14 not happy with the current division of their city.

15 You also heard about lower voter turnout and lower
16 engagement, political engagement, in Bremerton. And
17 part of that is because of the complexity of having six
18 different legislators and trying figure out where you
19 belong. And it certainly doesn't help with creating
20 community.

21 And also as mentioned before, it is more racially
22 diverse than any other area, and it has the highest
23 number of non-English speakers.

24 Carving Bremerton into three pieces has
25 marginalized the voices of its citizens and does not

1 help with the stated goal of minimizing the splitting
2 of political boundaries.

3 In creating legislative maps going forward,
4 please, do all you can, please, please, to ensure that
5 Bremerton is one and at the most two legislative
6 districts. Ideally one.

7 I am grateful that Washington has a bipartisan
8 commission for redistricting. And I appreciate all the
9 work that you do and especially your efforts to be
10 transparent in the process.

11 Thank you.

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

14 Sean?

15 MR. MURRAY: Thank you, Chair.

16 Val Torrens, if you don't mind turning on your
17 video and beginning your testimony. Thank you.

18 MS. V. TORRENS: Hi. Good evening. And I'm
19 Val Torrens. And I am the current chair of the 23rd
20 District. And I feel blessed the fact that my district
21 is all in one area. I don't have to travel outside of
22 places. So I totally empathize with these people.

23 I have been around long enough to have been in the
24 first commissioner district where we had to be
25 shoehorned in over to the other side of the pond. And

1 it's not fun. It's not easy. And it is difficult.

2 I teach political science at Olympic College, and
3 the folks who live in the Bremerton area are constantly
4 like, "I don't know what district I live in. I don't
5 know."

6 And it would be -- it is. We need to keep the
7 communities together, whatever communities there are,
8 Native American, other ethnic groups. We need to make
9 sure those folks get good representation.

10 And I really feel for you guys. You have a very
11 tough job to do. But to the extent that you can do --
12 honor these things, this would be great.

13 Bremerton should only have to deal with one
14 senator and two representatives.

15 And the only other thing I would like to emphasize
16 for me personally -- and --

17 Oh, that's the other thing. This is my personal
18 opinion, not the LD. Haven't gotten to that point yet.
19 At some point I'm sure we'll come back with an LD
20 statement.

21 But the tribes, we are fortunate to have two
22 tribes in the north Kitsap area. We get along great
23 with them. But that doesn't mean everybody has that
24 same issue. So, you know, tribes in other parts of the
25 state have been cut -- cut in half and diluted, and we

1 shouldn't be doing that. They don't deserve that.
2 They were here before we were. And they deserve to be
3 respected.

4 So I would encourage the commission to actually
5 reach out and meet with the various tribes.

6 If there's a time frame for this, I don't know
7 where it is in my screen. So you're -- fact that
8 Sean's here, I guess I'm going to be (unintelligible
9 sound) in about two seconds.

10 So thank you for your time and --

11 (Allotted time elapsed.)

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. You called the
13 time right on.

14 Sean?

15 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much, Chair.

16 Arne Nelson, if you don't mind unmuting and
17 beginning your testimony.

18 MR. A. NELSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
19 Thank you, Sean.

20 My name is Arne Nelson. I'm a resident -- I use
21 he/him pronouns. I'm a resident of the 23rd
22 Legislative District out of Poulsbo on the traditional
23 lands of the Coast Salish and Suquamish people.

24 And when we talk about the division of Bremerton,
25 I know that division personally because my

1 grandmother -- my grandparents who lived on Ohio Avenue
2 for over 50 -- for almost 50 years, if you went across
3 the street, you were in a wholly different legislative
4 district.

5 As someone who organized in the 35th and
6 26th Legislative Districts, it wasn't just -- we talk
7 about dividing communities. It's going across the
8 street. And so it's the kids you play with, it's the
9 people you have dinner with, it's the people you go to
10 church with that are divided.

11 And when we talk about that division, it's
12 different from when my family came here five
13 generations ago and there wasn't a Manette Bridge.
14 There wasn't a bridge between east and west Bremerton,
15 and you had to take a ferry, or you had to drive around
16 primitive roads through Silverdale.

17 But we have bridges now. We are a bigger and we
18 are a larger community. And we deserve better than to
19 be divided between three legislative districts.

20 My grandmother didn't get to live to see that
21 better representation. She had to deal with a divided
22 legislative district. She had to deal with having nine
23 different representatives and not having a city that
24 could have a clear and precise delegation to advocate
25 for it. We deserve better than that. Bremerton

1 deserves better than that.

2 And when we talk about the 6th Congressional
3 District, we deserve to expand. We know we have to
4 expand. But we deserve to do so with folks who know
5 who we are. We deserve to know that the folks in
6 Tacoma will have as much as in common with the folks in
7 Neah Bay.

8 We deserve that representation, just in the same
9 way that we deserve to have a commission that is made
10 up of people who are there and dedicated to their jobs
11 and don't have any unresolved baggage. As a survivor
12 of sexual assault, I'm very disconcerted to know that
13 Joe Fain sits on this committee -- sits on this
14 commission, knowing that there's that unresolved
15 allegation. I know I deserve better as a Washingtonian
16 to have -- than to have one of my commissioners with
17 that unresolved and heinous baggage onboard.

18 And again, the 23rd in Kitsap, Kitsap's almost at
19 300,000 population. If the ideal districts are
20 supposed to be at about 157,000 people, then Kitsap
21 could be cleanly -- almost cleanly divided into two
22 full districts with no -- minimal overlap in order to
23 ensure adequate --

24 (Allotted time elapsed.)

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

1 At this time I would like to ask the commissioners
2 if you have a different -- additional comments or
3 questions for members of the panel.

4 (No audible response.)

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would
6 like to thank the members of this panel. Thank you for
7 your time and sharing us with this evening. And I'd
8 like to excuse this panel.

9 And, Sean, if you would please call the next.

10 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next two
11 panelists, because we're getting to that point in the
12 night -- we only have two left -- are Stephen Brown and
13 Hallette Salazar.

14 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

15 MR. MURRAY: Stephen Brown, if you don't mind
16 turning on your video and beginning your testimony.

17 MR. S. BROWN: Okay. You caught me at
18 dinner.

19 So my name's Stephen Brown. I'm a resident of
20 Elma, Washington, in the 24th District. I'm a life
21 resident of Elma except for college. I'm a graduate of
22 Elma High School, Stanford University, and the
23 University of Washington School of Law. I'm in -- I'm
24 an active lawyer. I was an elected official -- elected
25 nonpartisan official for 34 years in Grays Harbor

1 County.

2 Grays Harbor County was divided into three
3 legislative districts at the first redistricting
4 commission. It's now into two. It's still, in my
5 view, ridiculous what happened to our county.

6 I don't know if any of our county commissioners
7 are in the same legislative district that I'm in, you
8 know, having Aberdeen in a separate district and
9 Montesano, which is 10 miles away. Aberdeen's 20 miles
10 away. The largest city in my district is Port Angeles,
11 which -- from Elma to Port Angeles, it's 124 miles.
12 Takes two and a half hours to get there.

13 So if you want to see jerrymandering, look at the
14 map and look how they carved out Aberdeen and Montesano
15 to fit into the 19th. It makes no sense. Didn't
16 make sense the first time when they did it to us.

17 So we -- you know, we're -- we're a rural county
18 about 80,000 residents. We've been divided into thirds
19 from the beginning. All of our representatives have
20 been basically from out of the area. Anyone from my
21 area, the people that lived in our county were never in
22 my district until just a few years ago. We had one.

23 So I'm here just to put in a good word for us.

24 It's also three hours and 37 minutes from Elma to
25 Neah Bay, for what that's worth, 171 miles. I don't

1 know how we're -- why we're in the same district.

2 Makes to sense.

3 Divide up Lewis County. Divide up Mason County.

4 Divide up some other counties.

5 Grays Harbor County's been divided since its
6 beginning. It needs to change.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

9 Sean?

10 MR. MURRAY: Thank you so much, Chair.

11 And, Hallette Salazar, I hope I'm pronouncing that
12 correctly. Please begin your testimony.

13 MS. HALLETTE SALAZAR: Thank you very much.

14 Thank you for -- the panel for all your hard work. I'm
15 sure this is difficult.

16 This, however, should not be a difficult
17 consideration. Every single person that has weighed in
18 tonight has agreed that Bremerton should be an intact
19 community all its own and also that the tribes should
20 not suffer from being separated.

21 I did not know -- I know it probably is ignorance.
22 I did not know about redlining until very recently. It
23 is a terrible miscarriage of justice. It is within
24 your power as a commission to right this terrible
25 wrong.

1 I think that if we live in a representative
2 government, a democracy, and the people have spoken and
3 people have all agreed that this right -- this wrong
4 should be righted and that the City of Bremerton should
5 not be -- it shouldn't be penalized because of some
6 very racist political agenda that happened a long time
7 ago. Please, it's in your power. Please right this
8 wrong. It needs to be done.

9 And that's all I got to say.

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much.

11 So commission -- I'm now I'm looking to see if the
12 commissioners have additional questions or comments for
13 this panel.

14 (No audible response.)

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Seeing none, I
16 would like to thank the panelists. Thank you for
17 coming and spending time us with this evening.

18 And, Sean, please excuse the panel.

19 MR. MURRAY: And that is our last panel,
20 Chair. We have no more individuals who have showed up
21 halfway through. We were able to work everybody in.
22 So we've gone through everybody.

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

24 So what I would like to do at this time is just
25 thank the four voting commissioners for your time and

1 dedication and for serving in this role. Thank you for
2 all that you have committed to being part of this
3 process.

4 I would also like to thank the folks who are here
5 providing interpretation services for us tonight, both
6 Spanish-language interpretation and American Sign
7 Language. I would like to thank the court reporter,
8 who's here working on our behalf; the members of the
9 Washington State Redistricting Commission staff who
10 have helped to prepare us; and also the caucus staff,
11 who have helped to prepare for these meetings, as well.

12 And with that, I would like to call this meeting
13 to a close.

14 Thank you, everyone.

15 (Proceedings concluded at 8:08 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 24th of May, 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 58;

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 5, 2021.

Sue E. Garcia



SUE E. GARCIA, CCR, RMR
WA Lic. No. 2781

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