

WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF

PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

RE: THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VIA ZOOM

Consisting of pages 1 to 38

May 22, 2021

Taken Before:

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Registered Merit Reporter

of

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13

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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, May 22, 2021, at
2 10:04 a.m., before Sue E. Garcia, Washington State
3 Certified Court Reporter, residing at Tacoma,
4 Washington, the following proceedings were had, to wit:

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6

* * * * *

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CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Thank you.

9

And I'd like to call this meeting to order.

10

And I am going to just talk to the public for a
11 moment.

11

12

Welcome. We're glad that you're here joining us.

13

14

It's my goal as the Chair to facilitate a process
15 that is participatory, fair, and as equitable as
16 possible. I will endeavor to engage communities across
17 Washington as fully as I can and to hear and address
18 your concerns and requests.

18

19

Throughout our tenure as commissioners we will
19 hear public comments that are important. We will
20 listen to you. And I will do my best to synthesize the
21 comments, and we'll endeavor to respond as we're able.

22

23

24

25

Still, it is possible that you will bring forward
23 in your public comments ideas and requests, injustices
24 that we may not be able to address. We will certainly
25 deliberate on the issues where we do have jurisdiction.

1 Where we don't, I will do my best to refer you to those
2 who may be able to respond more effectively.

3 I want to begin with reiterating our purpose and
4 our values. Together as a commission we have agreed to
5 the following values and mission:

6 To provide an open, transparent, credible process
7 that is grounded in statute and where all voices are
8 welcome and there is access for everyone;

9 To conduct ourselves with transparency, respect,
10 and civility where commissioners will participate and
11 negotiate in good-faith;

12 And to meet the deadline outlined by law;

13 And to produce the best possible maps.

14 I now want to just go over the process of today's
15 meeting.

16 You may be aware that because of the pandemic this
17 redistricting cycle promises to be a challenging one.
18 While we should have received the data from the Census
19 Bureau that we need for redistricting by April 1st of
20 this year, we don't expect to have that data we need to
21 draw maps until the second half of August.

22 Nonetheless, based on population estimates that
23 have been ongoing over the last decade, we do know to
24 some degree that in the 7th Congressional District and
25 several of the legislative districts within it have too

1 many residents compared to other areas of the state.
2 So these districts are going to have to get smaller in
3 terms of the area that they cover.

4 The purpose of our meeting today is to listen to
5 your input about your community and how to ensure that
6 the district's fairly balanced in terms of population
7 but also respect recognized, shared community
8 interests.

9 The commission may not be able to meet every
10 interest, but as commissioners try to weigh the
11 tradeoffs inherent in this process, your opinions are
12 welcome.

13 In the 7th Congressional District this morning we
14 have 24 individuals who have signed up to testify.
15 We're going to invite individuals to come forward in
16 groups of three to testify. Each individual will have
17 two minutes to offer their comments. After three
18 people have testified we will see if the commissioners
19 have any questions for the three testifiers, and then
20 we'll move on to the next group.

21 Today our web technician, Sean Murray, will
22 facilitate public testimony so that I can attend fully
23 to what you're saying. Sean will call your name, at
24 which time your status in Zoom will change from the
25 observer to panelist. So the transition may cause your

1 screen to look different, and please don't disconnect
2 at that point. In just a few seconds you will become
3 visible to the commission.

4 When Sean calls your name you'll have two minutes
5 to speak. A countdown clock will appear on your
6 screen. At the end of your allotted time you will be
7 muted.

8 We recognize that two minutes a very brief time in
9 which to share your comments. We are interested in
10 what you have to say and urge you to send your written
11 comments to us via our email address. That is
12 comment@redistricting.wa.gov.

13 Sean, let's begin.

14 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. Good morning,
15 Chair. Good morning, fellow commissioners.

16 We had 24 individuals sign up for today's meeting.
17 And as of right now we only have six who have showed
18 up. So we will start with the top of the list with
19 Andrew Wong, Don Bennett, and Mary Porter.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Mr. Wong, if you would like
21 to begin.

22 MR. A. HONG: Is that Hong, or . . . ?

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes.

24 MR. MURRAY: I apologize. Yes, Hong.

25 MR. A. HONG: Okay. Thank you. Yeah. Okay.

1 Hi. My name is Andrew Hong. I am a member of the
2 Redistricting for Just- -- Redistricting Justice for
3 Washington Coalition within the Washington Community
4 Alliance. And we are a coalition of dozens of
5 community groups across Washington state from Puget
6 Sound to Spokane pushing for fair and equitable maps.
7 Our priorities are keeping communities of color
8 together, maximizing majority-people-of-color
9 legislative and congressional districts, and putting
10 community priorities over partisan interests.

11 Specifically, in the 7th Congressional District
12 our -- you know, the thing that we want to highlight is
13 keeping communities of color together. And at the
14 southern border of the 7th Congressional District there
15 are communities of color, like White Center and east
16 Burien, that are majority Latino communities.

17 And we believe in strengthening the
18 majority-people-of-color 9th Congressional District.
19 It's a top priority for our coalition. And we would
20 like to explore avenues in which communities of color
21 in east Burien and White Center are added into the 9th
22 Congressional District. We believe that those
23 communities will be better represented and have more
24 power when collectively meshed with the communities of
25 color that are the majority in the 9th Congressional

1 District.

2 And especially as the 7th Congressional District
3 (audio disruption) geographically shrinks due to
4 population growth, we believe that a really good area
5 to, you know, use -- put that, you know, lost area,
6 geographic area from the 7th, is to -- that -- is for
7 that southern part of the 7th Congressional District to
8 move into the 9th where there are a lot of communities
9 of color.

10 Yeah. Thank you. That's all I have.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

12 Sean, do you want to call the next person?

13 MR. MURRAY: Don Bennett, if you don't mind
14 starting your testimony. Thank you.

15 MR. BENNETT: I'm cutting out my picture
16 because I -- in order to help my audio.

17 I am a long-term resident of Burien and have
18 enjoyed having consistent representation at the
19 congressional level in the 7th.

20 My request of the commission is more to author- --
21 prioritize municipal boundaries. The City of Burien
22 has wandered around between the 34th --

23 MR. MURRAY: Don, are you still there?

24 MR. BENNETT: -- municipal level somewhat
25 more difficult. My understanding is the City of Kent

1 is split between five legislative districts.

2 So in your future deliberations, I would like to
3 see municipal boundaries be more highly prioritized
4 when drawing these legislative-district boundaries.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to go ahead and
6 testify. I hope this has predominately come through.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

8 You did -- you did cut out for a little while
9 there. So if you would be willing to -- to write and
10 submit over email, that would be helpful. We want to
11 make sure we get all of your testimony. And you'll
12 have -- if you please stay on, you'll have a few
13 minutes to answer questions for the commissioners when
14 the third panelist has completed her testimony.

15 Sean?

16 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. And with that, Mary
17 Porter, please begin your testimony.

18 You are still muted.

19 MS. M. PORTER: I'm Mary Porter. And I'm
20 actually in the 5th District. And I misunderstood. I
21 think I'm in the 7th District within Spokane County,
22 and that's what -- I thought we were going to
23 redistrict Spokane County. So it was very confusing to
24 me.

25 So I'm saying hello from way on the other side of

1 the state. And, you know, I apologize for the
2 confusion. So I guess I'm not going to testify for the
3 7th District Washington state from the 5th.

4 So thank you, anyway.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So, Ms. Porter, are you
6 signed up for this afternoon? Because the 5th District
7 is -- meeting is today from 1:00 to 3:00.

8 MS. M. PORTER: Okay. Maybe that's what I
9 thought. So I'll sign up for that one and see you
10 then.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So, Sean, is it possible
12 for Ms. Porter to sign up for that?

13 MR. MURRAY: If you would like an exception,
14 Chair, we can do that.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes, please.

16 MR. MURRAY: So, Ms. Porter, if you don't
17 mind signing up again, and we will make sure that you
18 get approved for that.

19 MS. M. PORTER: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Ms. Porter, if you attempt
21 to sign up and it doesn't work out, just send us an
22 email, and we'll make sure you're in there.

23 MS. M. PORTER: Thank you.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Please do come at 1:00.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. M. PORTER: Thank you.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. So that's --
3 concludes our first panel. And I want to ask the
4 panelists now -- or the commissioners -- excuse me.

5 Commissioners, do you have questions for Mr. Hong
6 or Mr. Bennett?

7 Commissioner Fain.

8 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 I do have a question for Mr. Hong. Very familiar
10 with the part of town he's talking about.

11 What would you envision the southern boundary of
12 the 9th Congressional District being, and how much of
13 that kind of Puget Sound coastal area do you think
14 would be appropriate to bring in if you were to swing
15 the 9th Congressional District over further west?

16 MR. A. HONG: Yeah. I -- I believe that -- I
17 mean, I think, of course, we need to be looking at,
18 like, how much the 7th is going to shrink. And that
19 will tell, like, a lot of where the coalition would and
20 where I would personally, like, want to cut into.

21 However, I think the priority for us will be, you
22 know, not so much geography, like, you know, like
23 specific land, but like what communities and the
24 demographics of the communities we're looking at where
25 to cut in.

1 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. Next we have
2 Melissa Taylor, Rachel Berkson -- I apologize if I
3 mispronounce that -- and then Stephen Wilhelm.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Commissioner --
5 Or, Ms. Taylor, please, if you'd be willing to begin.
6 Ms. Taylor?

7 MS. M. TAYLOR: Thank you. Melissa Taylor.
8 I live in North Seattle.

9 I was recently selected to serve on a jury, and
10 that prompted me to think about what evidentiary
11 standard should be used to determine whether someone
12 continues in an office of public trust, such as the one
13 that you all are in.

14 The standard in civil cases is preponderance of
15 evidence, also known as more likely than not. It seems
16 to me that the burden of proof should be even lower
17 when determining when someone should be given
18 additional privileges versus the civil scenario where
19 privileges are taken away.

20 In 2018 I read and watched all of the coverage of
21 the allegation of rape made against Commissioner Fain.
22 I have recently revisited it all to affirm my previous
23 assessment of the likelihood that Commissioner Fain
24 did, in fact, rape Candace Faber.

25 Here are the factors that I find most relevant.

1 There is a photo of the two of you from that evening,
2 including the black dress that her mother confirms
3 repairing the next morning. There are the
4 conversations she had with her mother, her father, and
5 her friend, sometimes naming her rapist, sometimes not.
6 There are the letters and blogs that she wrote, again
7 not naming her rapist and then later naming you,
8 Commissioner Fain. There are the messages and emails
9 that the two of you exchanged. There's Kathy Lambert's
10 statement that young women should not --

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Excuse me, Ms. Taylor. I'm
12 going to interrupt you there. And I -- because this is
13 a redistricting-commission meeting, I wonder if you
14 can -- if you can direct your comments about
15 redistricting.

16 So what I mean is, if you have a comment about the
17 commissioner and action you'd like the commission to
18 take, I wonder if you can do that --

19 MS. M. TAYLOR: (Audio disruption).

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. So go ahead, and
21 then you can submit the rest in writing. Thank you.

22 You had more?

23 MS. M. TAYLOR: I'm sorry. I -- I was
24 prepared for a different conversation.

25 Basically, Commissioner Fain's supporters believe

1 that he had sex with Candace Faber. The question is
2 whether there was consent. And I don't think that he
3 was --

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: No. This is --

5 MS. M. TAYLOR: -- in a state --

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: This is conversation about
7 redistricting today.

8 MS. M. TAYLOR: But this -- he could be
9 blackmailed because of that. Our district lines --

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. So --

11 MS. M. TAYLOR: -- (audio disruption)
12 impacted --

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So if you could just make
14 your comments about redistricting, that's what would be
15 great. So if you want to say this is how it relates to
16 redistricting, that would be fabulous.

17 MS. M. TAYLOR: Okay. So these lines will
18 determine our political future for the next ten years.
19 They will determine how laws are made at the
20 legislative-district level, at the state level, at the
21 congressional level.

22 When somebody has been credibly accused of rape,
23 any coverup then becomes an additional crime, and it
24 lengthens the statute of limitations. And because of
25 that, that makes Commissioner Fain more susceptible to

1 potential blackmail and influence on our boundaries
2 that I do not find appropriate and I am deeply
3 concerned about.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I appreciate
5 those comments. Thank you.

6 Sean, if you'd like to call our next person on our
7 panel.

8 MR. MURRAY: Looks like Commissioner
9 Walkinshaw has a question.

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Oh, can we -- Commissioner
11 Walkinshaw, would it be okay with you if we wait
12 until -- our process today is we're going to have three
13 panelists and then questions. Is that okay?

14 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: That's okay.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Great. Thank you.
16 Next panelist.

17 MR. MURRAY: Stephen Wilhelm, if you don't
18 mind beginning your testimony.

19 MR. S. WILHELM: Good morning. And thank
20 you, Commissioners, for doing this difficult and
21 important work to redraw our legislative boundaries.

22 My name is Stephen Wilhelm, and I live in Edmonds,
23 Snohomish County, near the border with King County.
24 That places me in the 32nd Legislative District along
25 with Lynnwood and Montlake Terrace in Snohomish County

1 and Shoreline and Seattle in King County. Most of
2 Edmonds is contained within the 21st Legislative
3 District and is entirely in Snohomish County.

4 My request is that you modify the 21st and
5 32nd Legislative Districts so that they do not divide
6 Edmonds, Shoreline, and Seattle and do not divide
7 Snohomish and King Counties. This modification would
8 have the added benefit of not dividing Edmonds and
9 Shoreline School District between legislative
10 districts.

11 I believe it's possible to create new districts
12 and maintain local boundaries better and have fewer
13 county and municipal divisions in the existing map. I
14 recommend you examine a draft legislative map that was
15 developed by the Washington League of Women Voters, and
16 that's attached to my written testimony. In their map
17 the 21st and 32nd Legislative Districts are more
18 compact and contained entirely within Snohomish County,
19 and the 21st Legislative District contains the entire
20 City of Edmonds.

21 I feel that my voice would be heard much more
22 clearly if I were to cast my vote in the district with
23 my fellow Edmonds and Snohomish County residents and
24 not have to compete against the slightly more urban
25 interests of Shoreline, Seattle, and King County.

1 Thank you for hearing my testimony and for
2 carefully considering this request.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
4 your testimony today. Please stay on, and the
5 commissioners will have an opportunity to ask you
6 questions should they need to do that.

7 I think our next person is Ms. Berkson. Is
8 Ms. Berkson here?

9 MR. MURRAY: I am prompting them to turn on
10 their video. I have not got a response yet. So,
11 Rachel Berkson, if you don't mind turning on your video
12 and unmuting to begin testimony.

13 And while we're waiting for that, Chair --
14 Oh, here we go.

15 MS. R. BERKSON: Sorry. I'm actually not --
16 I work for Congresswoman Jayapal. I'm not here to
17 testify. I'm here to listen and observe. So thank you
18 so much, and I'll (audio disruption).

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

20 All right. Terrific.

21 So our two panelists, if you want to turn your
22 videos on again, and you can unmute. And I'm going to
23 ask the commissioners now if you have questions for our
24 panelists.

25 Commissioner Walkinshaw, I know you had a

1 question.

2 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: I did. Just for
3 the record, I did think that Melissa Taylor's testimony
4 was relevant to the record. And I would like to ask,
5 if she would like to complete her testimony, that she
6 be allowed to.

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Go ahead.

8 MS. M. TAYLOR: Thank you. Again, with --
9 this is not how I expected this morning to go.

10 So I think -- where was I?

11 Kathy Lambert. So in her support of Commissioner
12 Fain, Kathy Lambert said that women should not go to
13 hotel rooms with men who are drunk. I don't know
14 whether Commissioner Fain had a conversation with Kathy
15 indicating that he did, in fact, go to a hotel room
16 with Candace Faber or if that is an assumption that
17 Kathy made.

18 But I find it deeply disturbing that both Kathy,
19 who is also an elected official, and Commissioner Fain
20 both think that it's appropriate to say that women who
21 go to the hotel rooms with men who are drunk deserve to
22 be raped. I find that up appalling.

23 The additional details that I have watched in
24 terms of the interviews with Candace Faber and reading
25 through her own writing, some of it before she came

1 forward and some of it after, convinced me that it is
2 more likely than not that it meets a reasonable-
3 evidence standard from a civil standard.

4 And there was an investigation opened in 2018 that
5 Commissioner Fain and his colleagues blocked so that we
6 as public could not get access to the full set of
7 information. And I find that all deeply disturbing.

8 I am concerned about Commissioner Fain's ongoing
9 participation in this decision-making process. And I
10 think he should resign.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

12 Additional questions from other commissioners?
13 Commissioner Fain.

14 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Yeah. I'm just going to
15 go ahead and address this one time. There's been
16 several very libelous statements that you've made that
17 are proveably false, and I am absolutely not going to
18 be leaving this commission. I appreciate that you have
19 deep concern for this issue. You have been completely
20 misled on the matter. And I just want to make it very
21 clear I am not going to be leaving this commission. I
22 am very excited about the work ahead of us.

23 And I would caution folks that are coming before
24 the commission to make false statements that are
25 proveably false that they open themselves up to some

1 jeopardy. So please be careful and make sure that your
2 comments are --

3 MS. M. TAYLOR: Could you please help me --

4 COMMISSIONER FAIN: -- supported by the
5 facts.

6 MS. M. TAYLOR: Could you please help me
7 understand which allegations --

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. I would like
9 to --

10 MS. M. TAYLOR: -- are false?

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I would like to -- I am
12 going to intervene here because this is -- we are not
13 having a hearing now about this. This is an
14 opportunity for people from the 7th District to talk
15 about redistricting.

16 And so I've heard you, Ms. Taylor, and your -- and
17 your concerns.

18 And what I want to do is make sure that everyone
19 who has signed up to testify today has an opportunity
20 to do that.

21 So I'm going to ask Commissioner Simms and
22 Commissioner Graves if you have additional questions
23 for the panel.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: I do have a question
25 for Mr. Wilhelm. I just want to make sure I heard you

1 correctly. It sounded like your suggestion is that
2 Edmonds is a somewhat different, a little less urban
3 community than Shoreline and the rest of Seattle and so
4 should be by itself, or at least have a stronger impact
5 on its Legislative and Congressional District.

6 Is that fair to say?

7 MR. S. WILHELM: I think I would agree with
8 that, sir. My feeling is that Snohomish County is very
9 slightly more rural than King County and Edmonds is
10 very slightly -- very slightly more rural than Seattle.
11 And so for that reason, to kind of maintain those
12 communities of interest, I think it would be beneficial
13 to put all of Edmonds in one district, in Snohomish
14 County, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Thank you.

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. All right.

17 With that, I would like --

18 Thank you very much, Ms. Taylor and Mr. Stevens,
19 for being willing to testify today.

20 And I want to ask Sean to --

21 Oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Simms, did you have
22 another question?

23 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: Not so much a question
24 but, I think, a statement.

25 I really appreciate the courage that it takes for

1 folks to come before this commission and offer their
2 testimony, the time that they spend preparing their
3 testimony and participating in this process.

4 And I think if we are going to censor or filter
5 what testimony we're willing to accept as a commission,
6 then we should probably consider guidelines and make
7 sure that the folks who are coming before this
8 commission know, you know, how to best prepare for
9 their presentation today.

10 So I just want to express my gratitude and
11 appreciation for all the folks coming before the
12 commission and offering their testimony. And I think
13 it's worth a conversation as a commission in terms of
14 how we want to move forward so that, when folks come
15 before us, we don't interrupt their testimony but we
16 provide them the space that they need to engage in this
17 process.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
19 Simms.

20 Are there additional questions or comments for our
21 panel?

22 (No audible response.)

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Thank you.

24 Sean, will you please call the next panel.

25 MR. MURRAY: That is everyone we have in the

1 meeting currently, Chair.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Why don't we take a
3 short break and see if additional folks are going to
4 come to the meeting. Why don't we take -- let's take a
5 five-minute break. Thank you.

6 (Brief pause in proceedings.)

7

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. So I would like
9 to begin again as soon as I see all of the
10 commissioners are back.

11 Terrific. So I would like to begin by making a
12 general comment.

13 First, I want to apologize for any background
14 noise that you may hear. There is some construction
15 that is unfortunately happening in my -- in the
16 building today. And I'm at the place where I have the
17 most stable Internet, which is my office, and this is
18 happening. My landlord is hoping for this to happen
19 this weekend since the assumption was no one would be
20 in the building. So I apologize for any bumps and
21 noise that you may hear.

22 The statement I would like to make is simply this:
23 This forum is an opportunity for people to engage in a
24 conversation around redistricting. And I have the
25 broadest possible sense of what that is. And like all

1 of the commissioners, I am open to hearing all
2 testimony related to redistricting.

3 I don't intend for there to be any censorship.
4 What I do want to make sure, though, is that each
5 person that testifies is relating those comments
6 directly to redistricting.

7 So when I interrupted the panelist that went in
8 the last panel, my intention was to make sure that she
9 would include in her comments the way that this relates
10 to redistricting. It was not intending to shut her
11 down or silence her. The opposite, to make it relevant
12 so that our commission can maintain credibility and so
13 that she can maintain credibility. That's my
14 intention.

15 So I recognize when a person is testifying and
16 they're interrupted, they've prepared comments, it's
17 stressful in the first place. I understand that. And
18 I want to make it clear that, as the Chair, it's not my
19 intention to silence a person or to make a person even
20 more flustered than they're potentially already.
21 Rather, to make sure that comment is relevant to what
22 we're doing here.

23 So what I was trying to do was ask that person who
24 was testifying -- I'm sorry. I don't remember the name
25 at the moment -- to -- and I don't want to say the

1 wrong name -- was to just make her comments relevant
2 for the -- for the legitimacy of our commission.

3 I would like to offer the opportunity for the
4 other commissioners to comment on what I've just said.

5 I take --

6 Excuse the noise.

7 I take very seriously, Commissioner Simms, your
8 guidance to provide some -- some -- some guidance
9 around what we hope would be included in the testimony,
10 and I'd be happy to do that. In fact, I think we
11 started that way, and I can do that again. We can
12 circulate that and post it. And, again, the goal is to
13 make it as open as possible. We have made a commitment
14 to be open and transparent. And that is my commitment,
15 as well.

16 All right. If there aren't additional comments or
17 questions from the commissioners, I would like to
18 invite our -- or ask you, Sean, do we -- are any of our
19 panelists available at this point?

20 MR. MURRAY: We have Andrew Hong, Don
21 Bennett, Melissa Taylor, and Steven Wilhelm still in
22 the meeting as attendee. And Andrew Hong has his hand
23 raised.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Great.

25 So before we bring Andrew Hong back, I also want

1 to let the public know and the commissioners that I
2 don't have a way to know who's in the -- who's with us.
3 Sean is helping me with that.

4 And so it's not -- also not my intention to
5 truncate a meeting or cut people off from time. The
6 list I have says we have 24 panelists, so that's what
7 I'm going off of. And so I don't know until Sean tells
8 me how many people in the room. So I want you to
9 understand that, also.

10 So I think it's -- since we have plenty of time,
11 it's completely fine with me at this point to invite
12 Mr. Hong back to the space.

13 Welcome, Mr. Hong.

14 MR. A. HONG: Hello, Commissioner. Thank
15 you.

16 Two things: One -- one of my colleagues, Katie
17 Stultz, tried to register for testimony, but I think
18 she missed the noon cutoff yesterday.

19 Would it be possible for me to get a link to send
20 her to do testimony? Is that okay?

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Sean, is that possible?

22 MR. MURRAY: Her name is Katie Stultz?

23 MR. A. HONG: Yes.

24 MR. MURRAY: Yes. That should be possible.
25 Let me double-check that I can find her real quick.

1 MR. A. HONG: Great. Thank you.

2 Yeah, and let me know. I can text it to her. Or
3 let me know what way it will get to her or what way is
4 best to get to her.

5 MR. MURRAY: She should just have received a
6 link in her email.

7 MR. A. HONG: Great. Thank you.

8 And then, number two, I -- I want to echo
9 everything that Ms. Taylor said. And I think that that
10 conversation is relevant to redistricting as an outside
11 force that could influence the commissioner. So I do
12 think it is relevant. I agree with that (audio
13 disruption).

14 Thank you. That's all I have.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. Thanks.

16 Comments? Questions for Mr. Hong?

17 All right. Thank you. Sean, are there additional
18 people who have come in to testify?

19 MR. MURRAY: No, Chair. It is just Mr. Hong
20 along with the other three who have testified.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Well, why don't
22 we wait. I --

23 Oh, go ahead, Commissioner Walkinshaw.

24 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Thank you,
25 Commissioner.

1 Ali O'Neil, who works with me, just texted me to
2 inform me that there were a couple of e-mails that came
3 into all of our in-boxes of additional people who
4 wanted to testify. I -- I think she shared with me
5 that there were two people. I'm not sure if we would
6 like to let them in to testify, if there's time
7 permitting.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: We have -- we have time.
9 So I'm open to that.

10 Sean, do you -- are you able to see those emails?

11 MR. MURRAY: Yes, I am looking through them
12 now.

13 Would you like me to accept all of those who
14 requested after they had signed up past the cutoff?

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Sure.

16 MR. A. HONG: Hi, this is Andrew Hong again.
17 I just want to let you all know that Katie says she's
18 in the meeting now.

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. Thank you.

20 MR. MURRAY: And I do see Katie. Would you
21 like me to promote her, Chair?

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Please. Thank you.

23 MS. K. STULTZ: Hello, everyone. Thank you
24 so much for having me this morning. This is my first
25 time Zoom testifying. So this is very exciting.

1 It's a whole new world.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So, Katie, I'm so sorry to
3 interrupt you. I seem to be doing that a lot today. I
4 can't see your name, so I wonder if you could tell me
5 your first and last name, introduce yourself so I'll
6 know how to refer to you.

7 MS. K. STULTZ: Yes. Hi everyone. My name
8 is Katie Stultz. I live in Congressional District 7.
9 And I use she/her pronouns.

10 I'll go ahead and get started. Is that correct?
11 Okay.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Thank you.

13 MS. K. STULTZ: Hi, everyone. My name is
14 Katie Stultz. I'm a constituent here in Congressional
15 District 7. Also a lifelong Washingtonian. I grew up
16 in south King County, but I now live in District 7 in
17 North Seattle.

18 I'm joining today as a representative with the
19 Redistricting Justice for Washington Coalition. We are
20 a group of organizations from across the state that
21 have been advocating for an accessible, transparent,
22 and equitable redistricting process over the last two
23 years.

24 We are grateful for the commission's commitment to
25 public engagement.

1 We are also grateful for the commitment to lifting
2 up diverse leadership in this year's commission for the
3 first time in commission history, specifically with the
4 appointment of Commissioner April Simms and
5 Commissioner Brady Piñero Walkinshaw. As a coalition
6 that centers Black, Indigenous, and people-of-color
7 voices in communities, we are grateful to see that
8 representation reflected on the commission this year.

9 Since our coalition came together in 2019 we have
10 had three guiding priorities, specifically keeping
11 indigenous nations together as a prioritized and
12 protected community of interest in this year's process,
13 maximizing majority people-of-color districts, and
14 keeping communities together when possible.

15 In Congressional District 7 we've specifically
16 heard interest from communities of color for moving
17 parts of east Burien and White Center that are majority
18 communities of color into Congressional District 9,
19 which is currently a majority-minority district.

20 We plan to have scenario maps to show these
21 options as a follow-up to testimony today if you have
22 more detailed questions that we can follow up with, as
23 well as also specifically getting in connection with
24 some of those specific folks in that community.

25 I also wanted to lift up the importance of --

1 Oh, I think that's all my time. So I just want to
2 say thank you today for the time with all of you.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Ms. Stultz. And
4 so because you're the only person on the panel, I think
5 it's -- I want to ask the commissioners if they have
6 additional questions for you. And it's -- it's okay
7 for you to unmute at this point since you're the only
8 person on the panel.

9 MS. K. STULTZ: (Indiscernible).

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Commissioners, questions or
11 comments for Ms. Stultz?

12 MS. K. STULTZ: I left you all speechless.

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Commissioner Walkinshaw,
14 did you have something you wanted to ask or comment
15 about?

16 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Thank you for your
17 testimony. I don't have any questions.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Ms. Stultz, thank you for
19 taking the time to be with us today. Especially thank
20 you for being willing to comment on the fly. We
21 appreciate that. Thank you.

22 MS. K. STULTZ: Thank you all.

23 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Sean, do we have additional
24 people ready to speak?

25 MR. MURRAY: Everyone who is currently in the

1 meeting has already testified, Chair.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. So I want to ask
3 the --

4 So let me just make sure that I understand.

5 So we got some emails there were additional people
6 who wanted to testify. Have you sent links to those
7 people?

8 MR. MURRAY: I have, Chair.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. So now what I'm
10 going to suggest we do ask --

11 And I apologize to everyone present. This is our
12 first meeting. We're learning together how this works
13 and working out the kinks.

14 So why don't we take another break. And I wonder
15 if we could just take a ten-minute break because I want
16 to give folks an opportunity to come. And so they were
17 just sent a link. They're not going to instantly be
18 able to hop on here.

19 So why don't we just take a break. Why don't we
20 come back at 11:00, and we'll see who we have. And
21 then we can make a decision together how to move
22 forward from there.

23 Commissioner Simms, did you have something you
24 wanted to add?

25 (No audible response.)

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Great. Thank you.
2 So I'll see you all at 11:00 .

3 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: Sounds good.

4 (Brief pause in proceedings.)

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: The 7th Congressional
6 District is a very populated district. For those
7 people joining us from the 7th today, I want to make it
8 clear that this is not the last meeting we're going to
9 have in the 7th District that the redistricting
10 commission will have. There will be other
11 opportunities.

12 All right. So we're all back. And, Sean, are
13 there additional people ready to testify?

14 MR. MURRAY: There are not, Chair.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. So I want to ask the
16 commission, then. This -- this meeting is due to end
17 at noon. And it's 11:00 o'clock. And we do not have
18 additional people to testify.

19 Are you willing to end the meeting now and we will
20 work on providing additional meetings in the 7th as
21 soon as we end the second period of our public -- or
22 public-testimony meetings? Would you like to --

23 Are you open to that? Let me just begin there,
24 Commissioners.

25 Commissioner Simms.

1 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: I'm open to that.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great.

3 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: That's fine with me.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Commissioner Fain?

5 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Yeah. We've got plenty
6 of time to come back and have meetings with this
7 district or with smaller parts of this district. So
8 that seems reasonable.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great. Thanks.

10 Commissioner Walkinshaw?

11 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Agree.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Commissioner Fain?

13 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Might have been Graves.
14 My turn. And I do agree.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I'm sorry, Commissioner
16 Graves. I apologize.

17 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: No problem. I agree.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So I do want to say to
19 members of the public, we recognize that one meeting is
20 not enough. We will schedule additional meetings. And
21 we appreciate those people who were willing to come
22 together today, and we look forward to meeting with
23 many more of you in the future. With that I would like
24 to call this meeting to a close.

25 Thank you.

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(Proceedings concluded at 11:05 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the 22nd 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 38;

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 2, 2021.





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

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