

## Commission on Reapportionment Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** February 8, 2022 – 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 820 4911 2461  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Regis Obijiski  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** 1st Deputy Chair Sarah DeStefano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chair Andy Monk,  
Donna Lutz, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask, and Kathleen Waithe  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Aaron Levine (7:12); Ulster County Kristin Gumeat, Ulster County Planning Robert Leibowitz; John Quigley, UC Board of Elections; Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of Rochester; Jack Hayes, Chair, UC Conservative Party

Chairman Regis Obijiski called the meeting to order at 6:02.

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### Motion No. 1: To APPROVE the minutes of January 12, 2022 as corrected

**Motion By:** Commissioner Rask  
**Motion Seconded By:** Commissioner Waithe

**Discussion:** None.

**Voting in Favor:** Commissioners Obijiski, DeStefano, Monk, Lutz, Rask, Panza, and Waithe  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes APPROVED.

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Chair Obijiski read a letter from Supervisor James Quigley, President of the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors requesting at least 3 Public Hearings on the proposed redistricting plan.

Commissioner Monk made a presentation on gerrymandering and compactness. He and Mr. Leibowitz lead a discussion on how the mapping software scores compactness. The committee discussed issues with the census blocks and how the committee may use the mapping scores and other objective measures at their disposal to evaluate maps.

The committee discussed assigning a number to maps that are submitted and if they should redact names of the individuals who submit maps before they begin evaluating them. They asked Kristin Gumaer to research this and report back next month.

The committee discussed dates for public hearing.

The committee discussed when they will view and share maps.

Public Comment

Supervisor Michael Baden discussed density of various areas of the county and how that may impact compactness. He also described how census blocks are created.

Carol Nolan was heartened to see how well the commissioners are working together.

Chairman Obijiski asked if there was any other comments or business. Hearing none:

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion Made By:** Commissioner DeStefano

**Motion Seconded By:** Commissioner Waithe


**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 7:23 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo

**Minutes Approved:** March 9, 2022



# Gerrymandering and You

# What is Gerrymandering?

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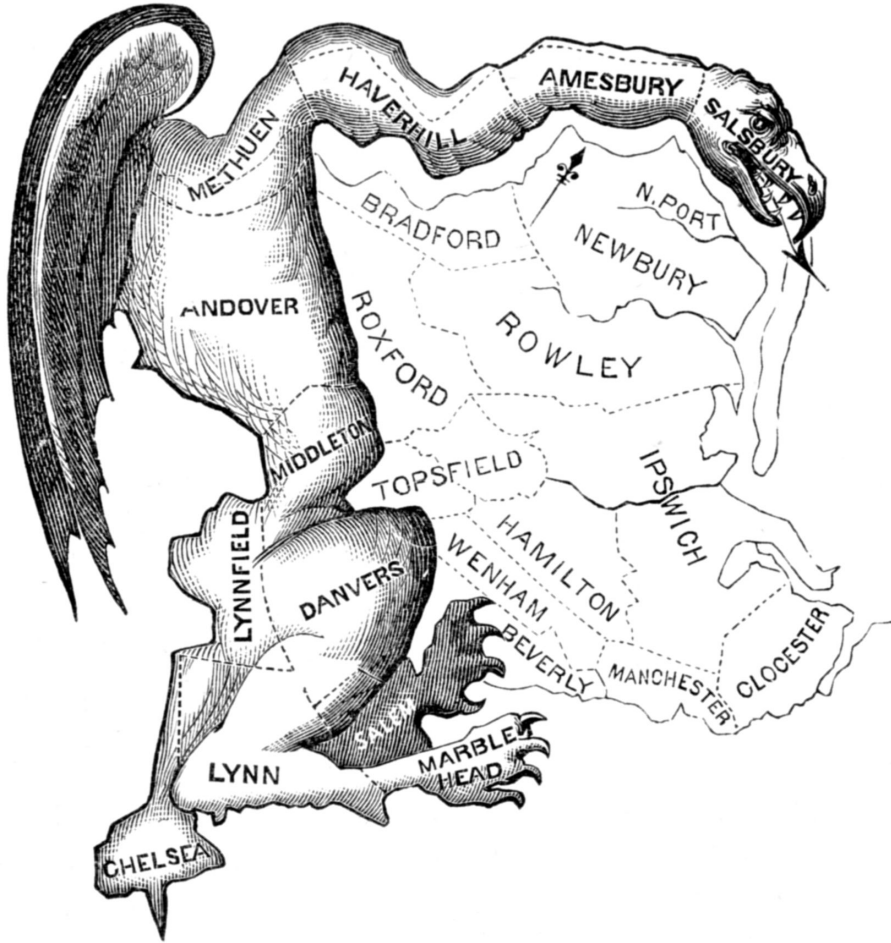
- [fact] Manipulation of boundaries of electoral districts, primarily to ensure partisan victory
  - [fact] Lets Politicians choose voters instead of voters choosing politicians
- [fact] Perpetrated by both Democrats and Republicans
  - [opinion] Wrong no matter who is doing it

# Etymology of the Gerrymander

Coined in 1812 in the Boston Weekly Messenger

Combination of the last name of then Governor Elbridge Gerry and the word “salamander”

Created in conjunction with a cartoon run in the publication making fun of the strange shape of a new voting district map



# Some Contemporary Gerrymanders

These newly drawn congressional districts are among the most contorted in the nation. In some places, their appendages are not much wider than a highway.

**Florida 14th**



**Illinois 4th**



**Illinois 7th**



**Maryland 2nd**



**Maryland 3rd**



**North Carolina 1st**



**North Carolina 12th**



**Ohio 9th**



**Pennsylvania 7th**

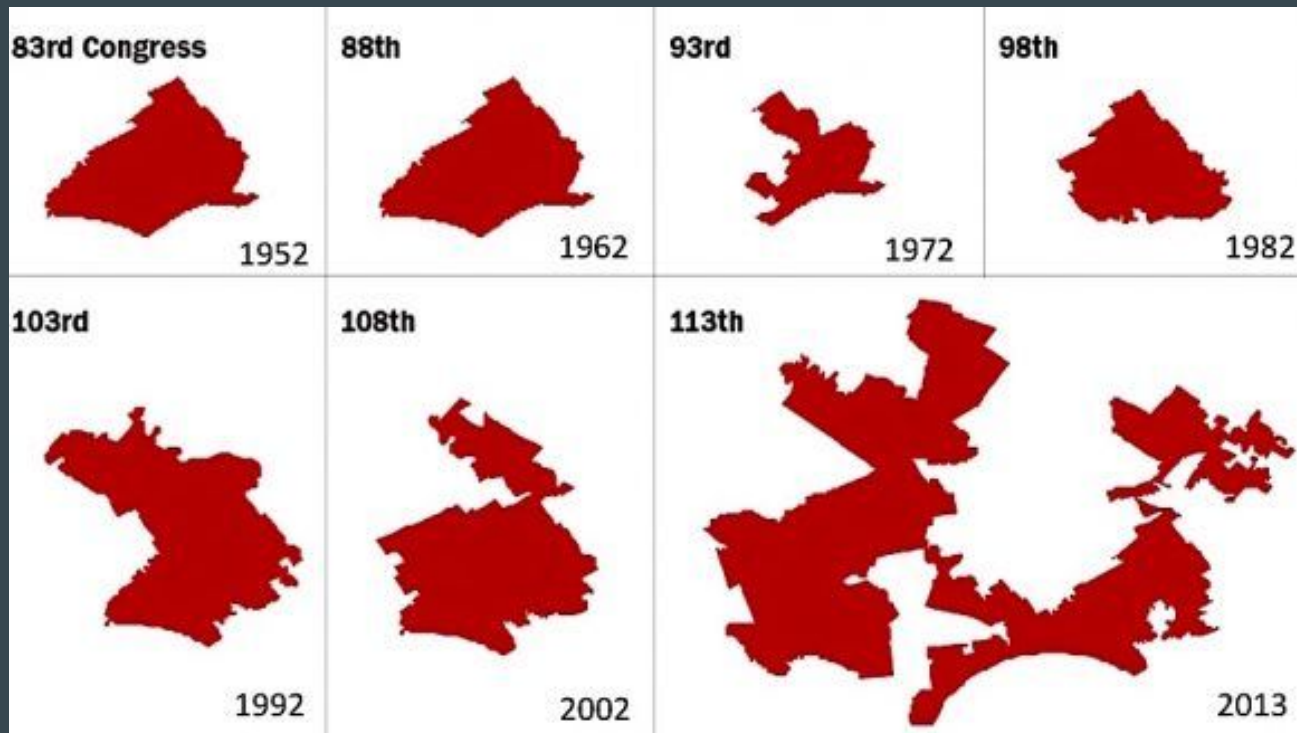


**Texas 35th**





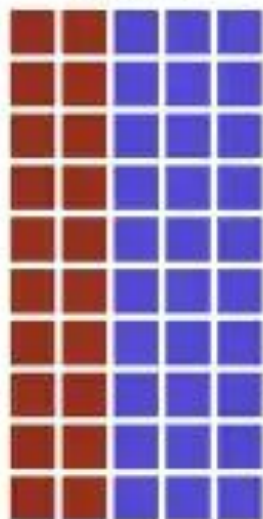
# Some Contemporary Gerrymanders



## Gerrymandering, explained

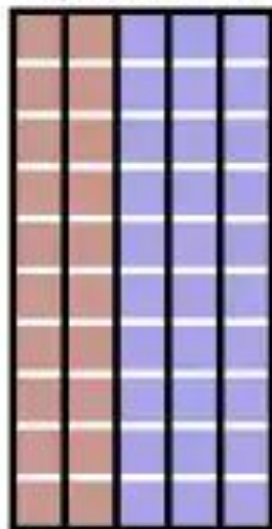
Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts

50  
people



60% blue,  
40% red

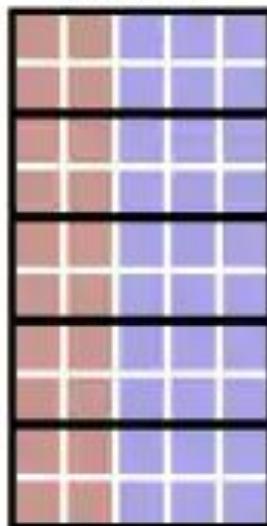
1. Perfect  
representation



3 blue districts,  
2 red districts

**BLUE WINS**

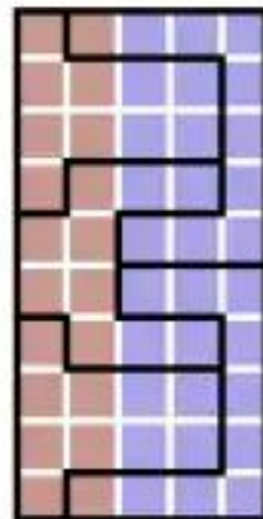
2. Compact,  
but unfair



5 blue districts,  
0 red districts

**BLUE WINS**

3. Neither compact  
nor fair

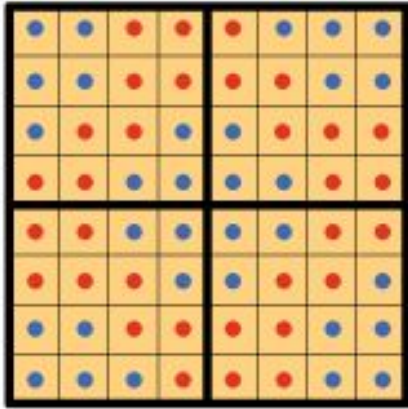


2 blue districts,  
3 red districts

**RED WINS**



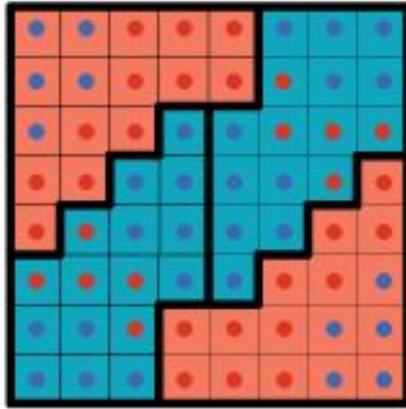
# How do they do it?



**1.COMPETITIVE**

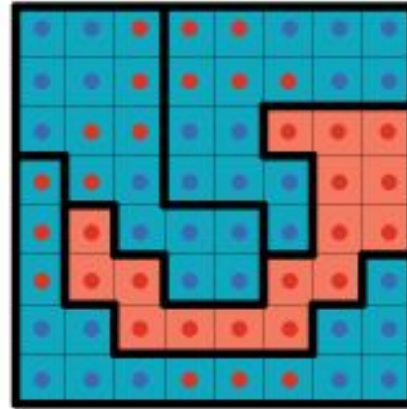
Even number of red and blue voters in each district

Election can be won on policy, not partisanship



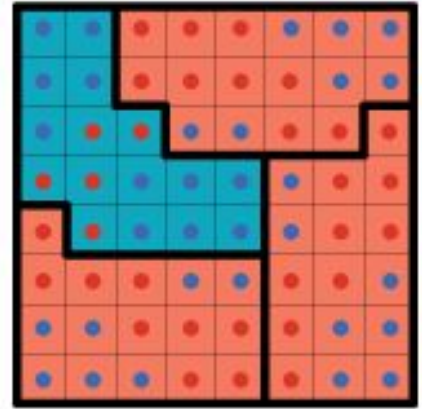
**2.SWEETHEART**

Politicians collude across the aisle to create districts that can safely be won by both parties without much effort



**3.PACKING**

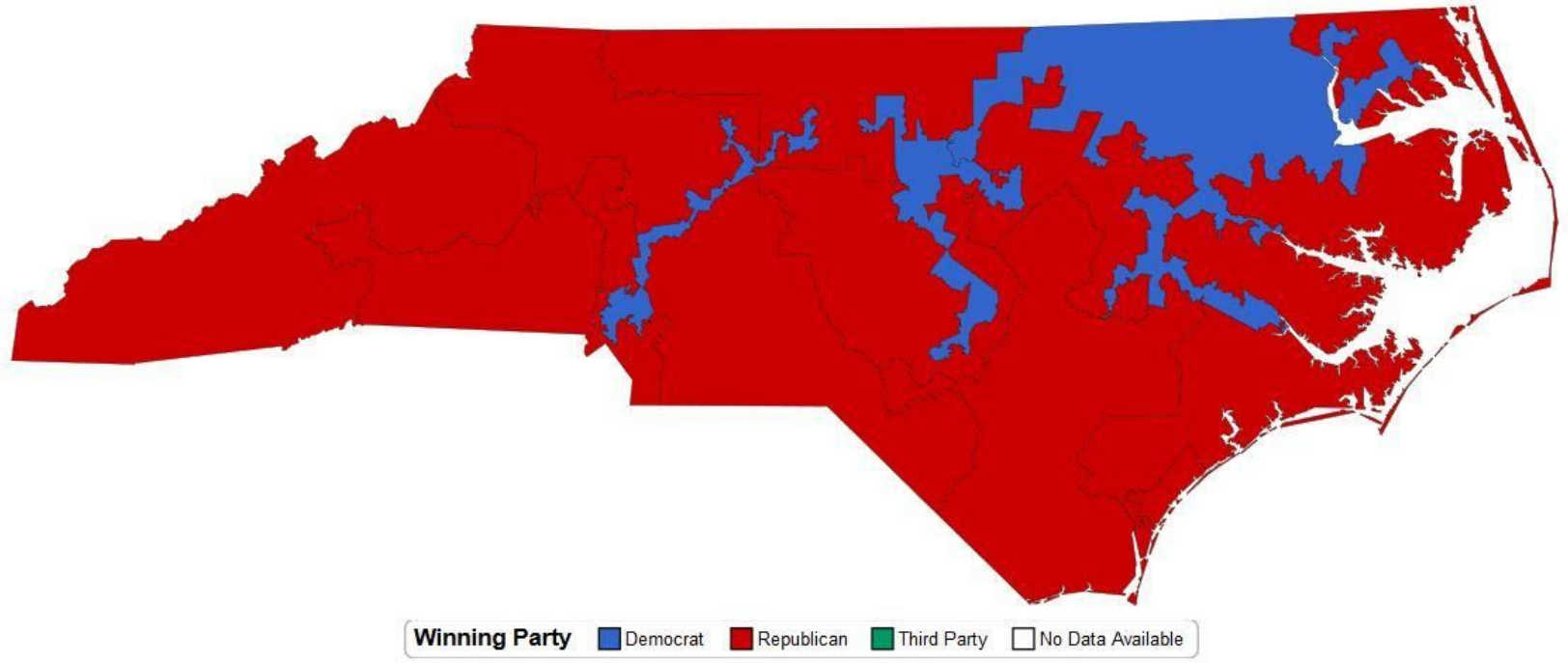
Lines are drawn to pack as many voters from one party as possible into a single district, ensuring they will win the packed district but lose all the others



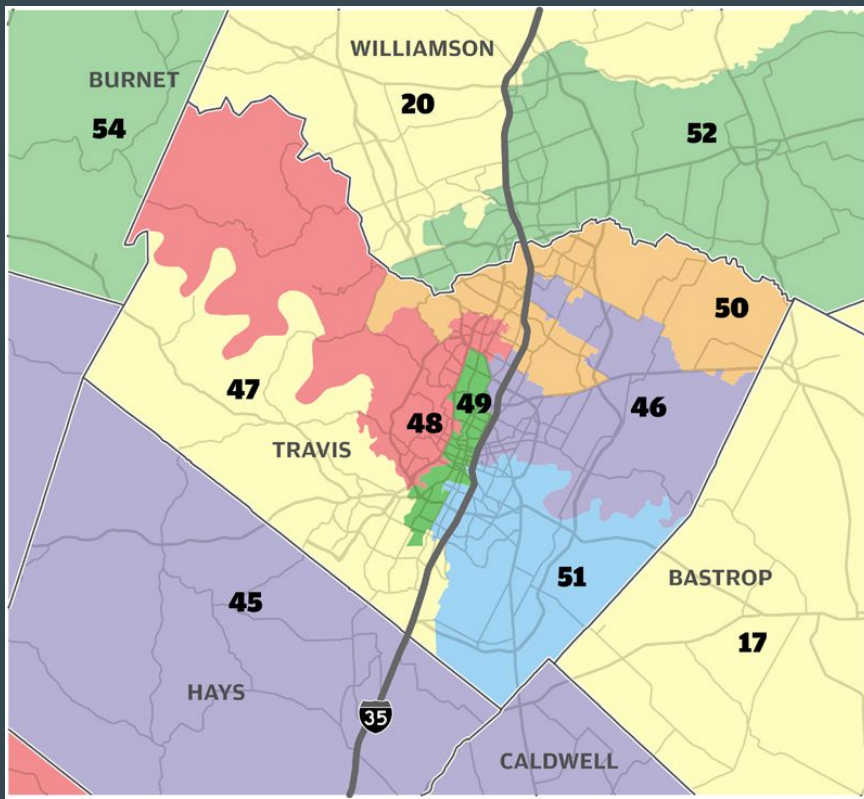
**4.CRACKING**

Lines are drawn to break up a concentrated area of voters from one party and dilute them across several districts dominated by the other party

House Elections, North Carolina, 2014

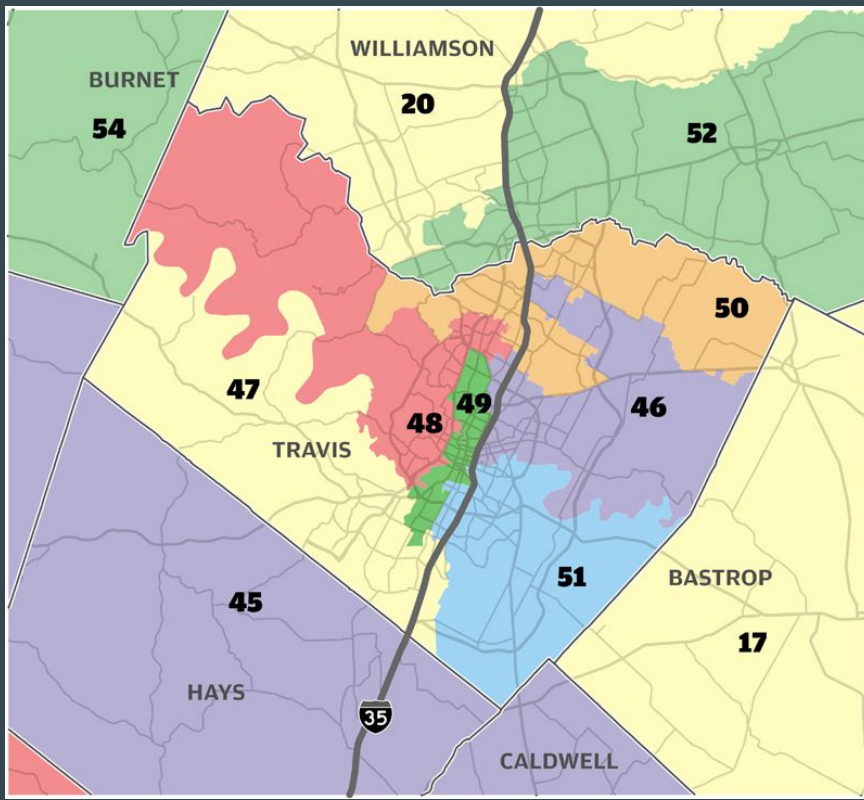


# Cracking



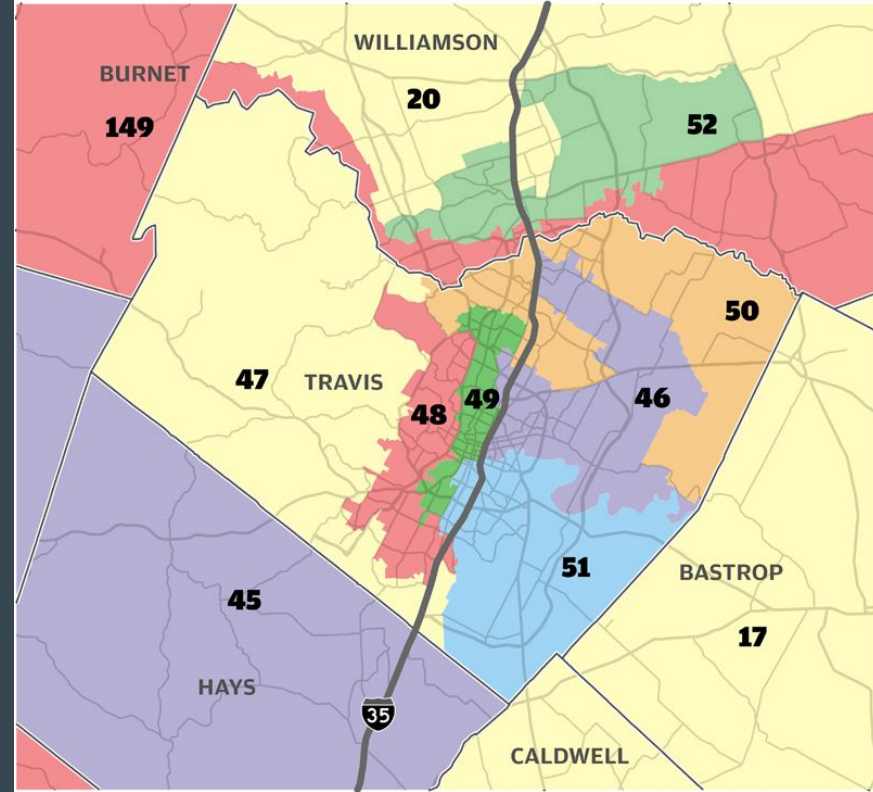
Existing districts in Austin before 2011 proposed redistricting plan

# Cracking



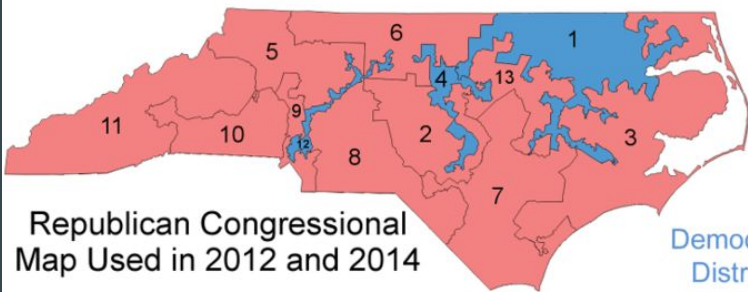
Existing districts in Austin before 2011 proposed redistricting plan

Somehow, the next version presented by Republicans was even more gerrymandered than the original proposal.



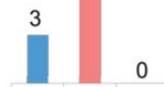
So, like, what....?

## How Gerrymandering Can Swing Elections

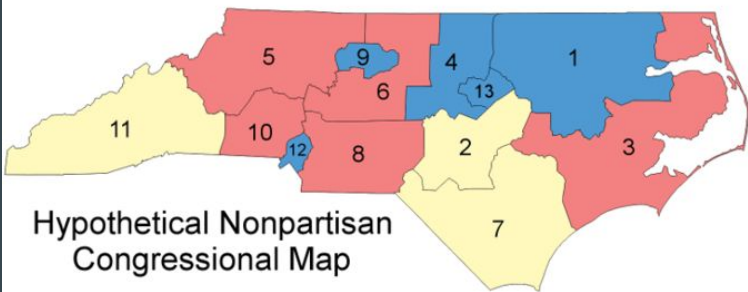
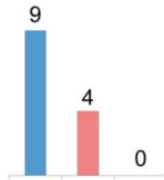
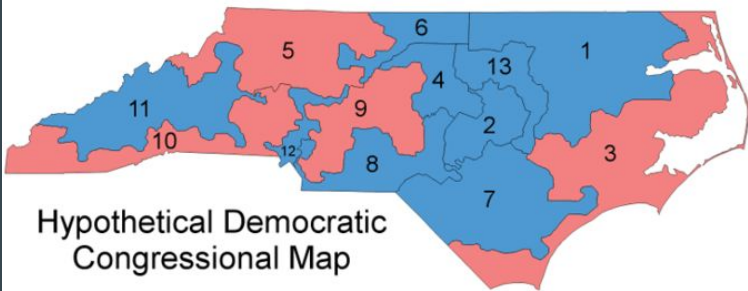


Democratic Districts

10



Republican Districts

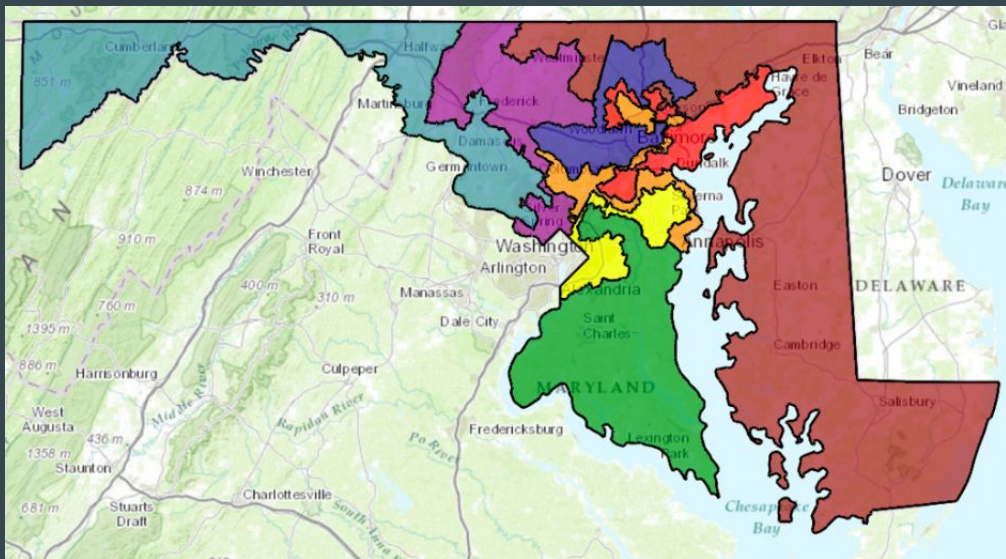


Swing Districts

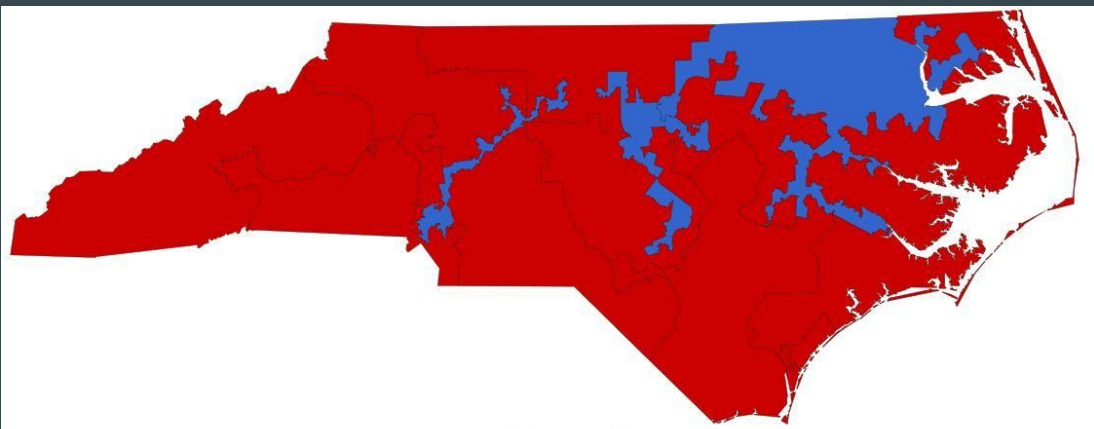
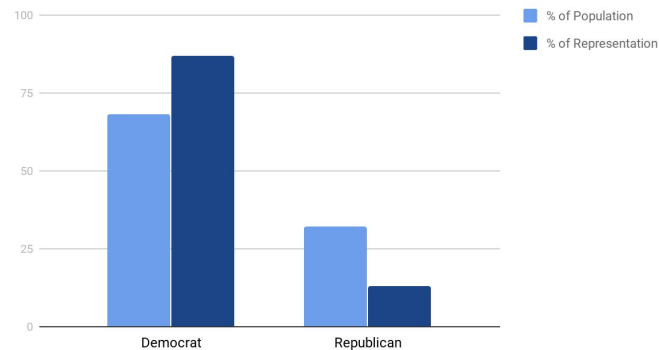




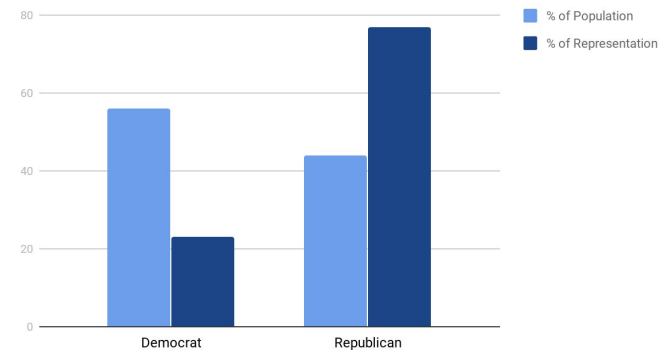
So, like, what....?



Maryland Representation



North Carolina Representation

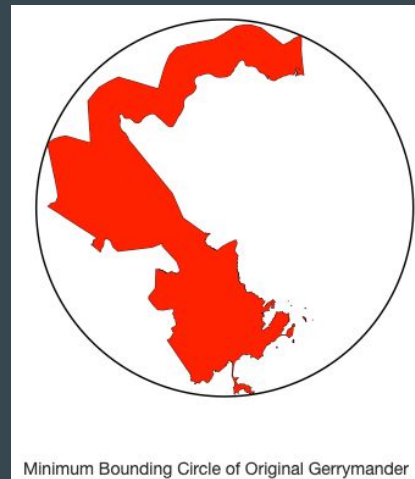
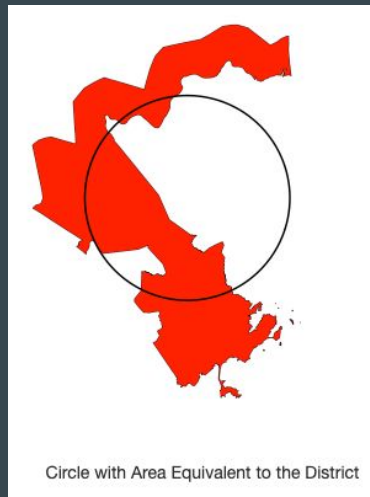


# Compactness

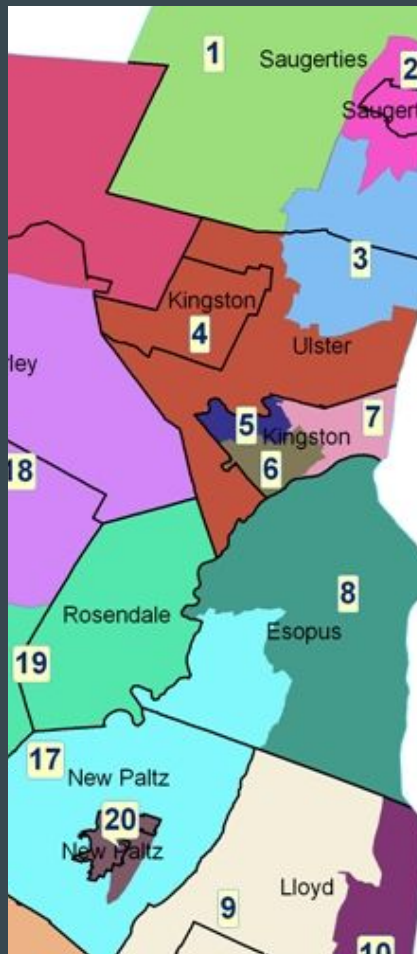
- Compactness is a measurable way to detect geographic gerrymandering
- Magnitude measures compactness in two principal ways:
  - Schwartzberg:

The Schwartzberg score compares the ratio of the perimeter of the district to the circumference of a circle whose area is equal to the area of the district. A district's Schwartzberg score falls within the range of  $[0,1]$  and a score closer to 1 indicates a more compact district.
  - Reock Score

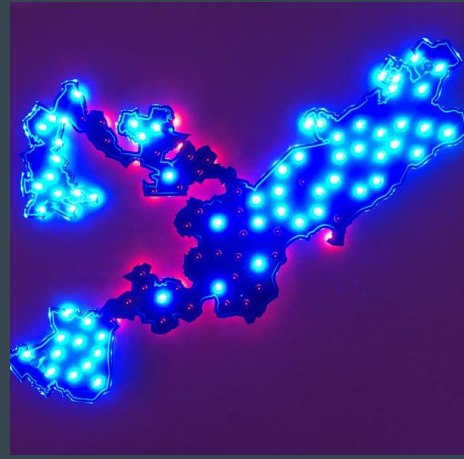
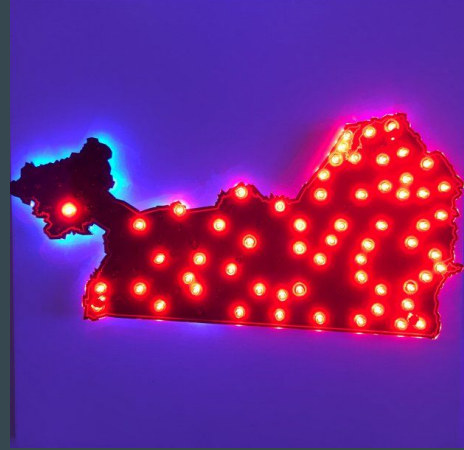
The Reock Score is the ratio of the area of the district to the area of a minimum bounding circle that encloses the district's geometry. A district's Reock score falls within the range of  $[0,1]$  and a score closer to 1 indicates a more compact district.



- Municipality Splits:
  - The number of municipality splits is the count of the number of municipalities that are split into at least 2 districts.
  - The minimum number of municipality splits is calculated as the count of the number of municipalities that have populations larger than the ideal population size of a district.  
(These municipalities are too large to fit into one district and therefore must be split)
  - The maximum number of municipality splits is the total number of municipalities in a given county.



Why do you know all of this?









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**PRESENT:** 1st Deputy Chair Sarah DeStefano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chair Andy Monk,  
Donna Lutz, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask, and Kathleen Waithe  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Aaron Levine (7:12); Ulster County Kristin Gumeau, Ulster County Planning Robert Leibowitz; John Quigley, UC Board of Elections; Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of Rochester; Jack Hayes, Chair, UC Conservative Party

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### **Regis Obijiski**

Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the Commission on reapportionment, it's 602. And it's February 9 2022. And I'm calling the commissioner reapportionment to order and for the benefits of benefit of everybody on Zoom and on the phone, Fawn would you call the roll for the commissioners and I'll ask the commissioners to say present and, and raise their hand.

### **Fawn Tantillo**

Yes, sir. Regis Obijiski.

### **Regis Obijiski**

Present.

### **Fawn Tantillo**

Sara dDeStefano, our first vice chair.

### **Sarah DeStefano**

Present.

### **Fawn Tantillo**

Andy Monk, our second vice chair.

### **Andy Monk**

Present

### **Fawn Tantillo**

Donna Lutz

### **Donna Lutz**

Present.

**Fawn Tantillo**  
Kenneth Panza.

**Kenneth Panza**  
Present.

**Fawn Tantillo**  
Travis Rask.

**Travis Rask**  
Here,

**Fawn Tantillo**  
Kathleen Waithe.

**Kathleen Waithe**  
Present.

**Regis Obijiski**  
Okay, great. Commissioners are all here so we can we can begin but before we do so can we introduce the members of the county staff who have been so terrific helping the commissioners and in with our work, so don't just start with yourself, please.

**Fawn Tantillo**  
Oh, I'm Fawn Tantillo. I'm one of the clerks of the legislature. And then we have Rob

**Robert Leibowitz**  
Principal planner, Ulster County Planning.

**Fawn Tantillo**  
And, of course, Kristen.

**Carol Nolan**  
Kristen Gumaer, first assistant county attorney. County Attorney's Office

**Regis Obijiski**  
Great great and, and guests on Zoom or on the on the phone, would you like to acknowledge yourself and state your name and where you live.

**Jack Hayes**  
Jack Hayes, Town Gardner, Conservative P of Ulster County.

**Jack Hayes**

Welcome Jack

**Carol Nolan**

Carroll Nolan, New Paltz.

**Regis Obijiski**

Welcome, Carol, you're not you're not actually sitting out in that rock that?

**Carol Nolan**

No, but I'm about to be again.

**Regis Obijiski**

Why are we envious? Okay, anyone else?

**Mike Baden**

Mike Baden, Town of Rochester Supervisor.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, Mike. Thank you. Next, anyone else? Okay, well, welcome to welcome to everyone. And all commissioners were emailed the agenda for tonight. And it's also posted on the website. There's a there's a little variation, but we'll go over that. So I'll ask the commissioners first.

**Regis Obijiski**

Is there anything about the agenda that anyone has questions or would like, clarification on? If so speak up. Okay.

**Regis Obijiski**

Anyone from the, from the county staff that have questions or comments about the agenda items? Go ahead.

**Regis Obijiski**

Those of you who were on Zoom or on the telephone, if you have questions about the agenda or comments about the agenda, you may speak now please. All right. Okay.

**Regis Obijiski**

Looks like the agenda is is is fine and what it is and we'll proceed accordingly. So regarding the minutes for January 12 2021. Last for a motion from the commissioners to accept please.

**Fawn Tantillo**

We have with the correction of the typo.

**Regis Obijiski**

with the correction Yes.

**Fawn Tantillo**

I need to Commissioner Panza, yes.

**Regis Obijiski**

Ken was left off the off the the the January 12. Not, no, certainly he was he was he was there in the minutes but it was just in the in the opening. So motion to accept please.

**Travis Rask**

I'll make a motion.

**Regis Obijiski**

Thank you. Travis. Second?

**Kathleen Waithe**

Second.

**Regis Obijiski**

All in favor, aye.

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Regis Obijiski**

Thank you Donna for that. Okay. Let's see. Before we get started with that with Andy, which is our future performance for tonight. I'd like to just go to new business real quickly, we received correspondence from Supervisor James Quigley who's the president of the Ulster County Association of the town of town supervisors and mayors. And Fawn, do you have that? That correspondence there? If If not, I'll read it. But if you have it, would you mind?

**Fawn Tantillo**

I don't have it. I apologize.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. Get it right away. Okay. So very, it's a very brief message and he copies in all of the town supervisors and mayors. So says "Chairman Obijiski, the Ulster County Association of town supervisors and, and mayor's a short urges the commission to hold a minimum of three public hearings on the proposed reapportionment district planning, as was done in 2011. It is important these to be held in two areas of the county, Northern and Southern, to give the residents of Ulster County the best ability to make comments on the topic. We ask every effort be made to hold these in person. In addition to the online public hearing currently scheduled, we thank you, and the commission members for their volunteer dedication to this important task and hope you will consider our requests. Thank you, James Quigley". So we're not going to comment on that now. But there'll be there'll be an opportunity later when we get into the old business, which really has to do with what we're talking about in the time of the hearings and meeting those meeting those schedules, but I wanted that to be so registered as as new business.

**Regis Obijiski**

Now, we we've asked it well, now actually, Andy Monk had volunteered to do a presentation on gerrymandering, because at our last meeting, one of the things we discussed was, what is what exactly is gerrymandering? How do you how do you know when you see it? And are there any ways of discerning gerrymandering in in a map? And if so, what, what would that what would that look like? And Andy volunteered for this? And he and and Kathy Waithe and I also met with, with, with Rob Liebowitz, I think 26th of January regarding doing some information gathering. Thank you for that that term once again. Sarah, that was your term. I know that. So it wasn't it was just information gathering on what it would be like to have a scoring rubric. And Rob had some ideas. So Rob, Rob also said he would like to co present with with Andy. So, Andy, would you please help us get us rolling on this?

**Andy Monk**

Or I'd be happy to and Rob, I have entered some slides with the compactness measurements into the presentation so you can jump in.

**Robert Liebowitz**

Okay, great. Yeah, I didn't have a lot of sleep. My wife didn't have any time to do any.

**Andy Monk**

Yeah. Gonna do this No. Okay, can Can everyone see the screen? Yes. Okay. So, um, when that question came up in our last meeting about what even is gerrymandering, we know it's something that we are not supposed to do. But it did seem like there were some unresolved questions about what that actually is. And so because this is what I did my thesis work on in grad school, I thought I'd offer to give a brief presentation about what that even means and what it is specifically that we're trying to avoid doing.

**Andy Monk**

So what is gerrymandering? Because this is an official presentation, I actually modified it to put what are facts and what is my opinion at the bottom. So you'll see that there. Gerrymandering is defined as the manipulation of boundaries of electoral districts, primarily to ensure a partisan victory, although there are a few other reasons why it might be done. It does let politicians choose their voters that they want voting for them rather than letting the voters choose the politicians. So it kind of does an end run around the electoral process. It is perpetrated by both Democrats and Republicans. And in my opinion, it's wrong no matter who is doing it. So it doesn't really matter. Who is The thing.

**Andy Monk**

So, where does this word come from? Gerrymander is a weird word. It was coined in 1812 in the Boston weekly messenger. And it's a combination of the last name of Governor Elbridge Gerry, who was the governor of Massachusetts at that time, and the word Salamander. And it was created in conjunction with a cartoon that was run in the publication, making fun of the strange shape of a proposed new voting district maps. You can see the original gerrymander here in this image.

**Andy Monk**

Here are some contemporary examples of gerrymandered districts. In preparing this presentation, I actually specifically avoided updating it to reflect districts that are currently under discussion because it is a topic in the news a lot. I wanted to stay more general about what gerrymandering is, and not get into the weeds of like, what's



currently being discussed. So here are some examples of what that can look like. And I think looking at these districts, you can see that there's no geographical feature that would necessitate these districts being shaped like this, you can see the snaky crazy outlines of the shapes. And when you see a district like this, you can pretty much assume that it was done because of gerrymandering.

### **Andy Monk**

A personal favorite of mine is Pennsylvania seven, because I think it looks like Donald Duck kicking goofy in the posterior region. And in this slide, you can also see the evolution of how this district started out in 1952, as like a pretty compact run of the mill, nothing to see here, folks type of district, and then over the course of successive gerrymandering became this kind of monstrosity that it is today. So you can see that this is a problem that is sort of being exacerbated because the techniques are becoming more sophisticated, that are used to create these district shapes.

### **Andy Monk**

So here's how gerrymandering works. Let's say that you have 50 people living in a district, 60% of them are blue, and 40% are red, forget the meanings of blue and red for this presentation, just assume that they're different parties, regardless of who they are. So in one example, you could do perfect representation, you could create two red districts and three blue districts, which perfectly represents the quantity, the weight of different types of voters in that district. But what that perfect representation misses is that if the folks up, can you guys see my mouse on the screen, you can't, okay, great. If the folks at the top of this district live, let's say on a mountain, and the folks at the bottom live near the river, these folks might have really different concerns based on their geography than these folks up at the top, even if they're a member of the same political party. Having them represented by one person might actually not be that effective, because they might have different geographical concerns. So that's not necessarily great, but it is certainly fair.

### **Andy Monk**

You could do compact districts that are unfair. So there is a way if blue happens to have control of the redistricting process, you could actually create five districts where blue wins, completely taking away representation from the red folks. And, but but maybe potentially preserving, you know, mountain at the top versus River at the bottom. So that's another way.

### **Andy Monk**

And then, of course, you could do neither compact nor fair. Here at the end is a way of dividing this into five districts where Red actually gains control, even though they are in the minority in this district. And so that's sort of these are examples of how different gerrymanders are done.

### **Andy Monk**

To create gerrymandered districts, there are a couple of different techniques that are used to effect this kind of partisan guarantee. The first example is competitive districts, which is actually the best for democracy because these districts will be won based on the issues not based on partisanship.

### **Andy Monk**

Another kind of sort of lesser used gerrymandering tactic are the creation of sweetheart districts. This used to happen in California a lot and in other places. But the examples that I mostly know where they're, where the the

elected officials created districts across the aisle in cooperation with each other that could be easily won by the incumbents based on partisanship.

### **Andy Monk**

Another method of gerrymandering is called packing. And that's where you draw the line around a certain voting bloc, to really pack all of those voters into one district, which would then create three safely one districts for the other party. Essentially, you're removing voters out of multiple districts and putting them into one district so that they can only win that one district.

### **Andy Monk**

And finally, cracking is a method in which a voting bloc is broken up into other districts to essentially remove their potential to form a majority, by putting them in smaller numbers and various other districts and scattering them around. So that those are the sort of primary methods I feel like I'm talking really fast. Are there any questions so far? Okay, cool.

### **Andy Monk**

Um, here's an example of packing. In North Carolina, the voting districts looked as follows. These two are actually two different districts, you can maybe faintly see the dividing line here. And what the Republicans who were in power at the time of redistricting did was essentially take the majority of the Democratic voters in that state and pack them into three very safely blue districts while maintaining very easily red districts in the rest of the state. An example of cracking is these districts in Austin, Texas, it's usually fairly safe to assume that densely populated areas like cities are, you know, leaning democratic, and the Republicans who are in charge of the redistricting process for Texas, went ahead and broke up that block of Democratic voters, combining them with districts that were more suburban. So they were sort of unable to form a majority. This plan was actually sent back and they were told they had to redo it. And they came up with this plan, which is actually even more gerrymandered, but was somehow determined not to be against the law. So that did end up going into effect.

### **Andy Monk**

So going back to North Carolina, which was one of the states that I focused on in my thesis, you can see the actual Republican congressional map used in 2012 and 2014. Here with these packed districts, Democrats won three districts out of 13, with Republicans winning 10. Hypothetically, if the Democrats had been in charge of this redistricting process, they also could have gerrymandered the state producing about nine democratic districts with only four Republican districts, which would have been equally unfair. And I think what's so great about the work that we're doing is that a nonpartisan district and commission could have created a pretty evenly divided state, where districts were, you know, fairly certain five democratic districts, fairly certain five Republicans and then three swing districts, which as I said, is actually great for democracy, because those districts are one on the issues and not on partisanship.

### **Andy Monk**

So what that can end up looking like, and at that, at the top is Maryland, and at the bottom is still North Carolina. The Democrats were actually in charge of the redistricting process in Maryland. And they did gerrymander the state a little bit. Here on these graphs, you can see the percentage of the population of Democrats and Republicans, and then the percentage of representation that was won by both of those groups in terms of the number of districts. So you can see that the Democrats are already in the majority in Maryland, but they took that majority, and they

sort of augmented it through gerrymandering, winning a little bit more representation than their percentage of like registered voters would actually, you know, lead you to believe. And in North Carolina, interestingly, the Republicans are actually in the minority, and took that gerrymandering process and made it so that they had a big majority over the Democrats, even though they're not necessarily in the majority in terms of registered voters.

**Andy Monk**

So here's where we get to compactness. compactness is a measurable way of knowing whether or not a district is likely to have been gerrymandered. These two red splotches are actually the original gerrymander that I showed you in the very beginning of the presentation. And Maptitude measures the compactness of districts in two principal ways. And, Rob, if you want to take over for this, I think you probably know a little bit more about that than I do.

**Robert Leibowitz**

A little. I mean, you have this so Andy was showing the Schwartzberg model and Redock score which are two measures of compactness. So, as you can see on the thing one closer to one for the Schwartzberg means it's perfectly compact and closer to zero for Redock or would be perfectly compact for that one. And the aptitude software of the desktop version has a number of these kinds of calculations. I believe the Schwartzberg and Redock are both used in Supreme Court cases as well. And so there's a number so basically, you can take all the maps, create a report, and list all the different measures compactness, doing it is basically what I can add. And just, I'll just add on to the fact with our software, we purposely do not have, and for anybody who's first attending this reversal, we purposely do not have any voter registration data at all in the software. So there's no way to even see how it flows.

**Andy Monk**

So perfect. So when we are making our districts we can run this through and get the compactness score, which isn't like 100%, certain indication of gerrymandering, there could be a geographical feature, it could be a reservoir, but it's a great way to kind of keep an eye on ourselves.

**Robert Leibowitz**

Yeah, that's a good way to rank them just for compactness. So you can see which is if you're just looking at the quality of the districts in terms of sheer numbers, you can, you can rank them.

**Andy Monk**

Exactly. And if you guys have been reading along Schwartzberg compares the ratio of the perimeter. So this circle is the same area as this district. And so the ratio is compared to measure compactness. And Redock it is the ratio of the area of the bounding circle to the district's geometry. So those are two different ways that there are also other measurements of this. But I think these are the two primary ones.

**Regis Obijiski**

May I ask a question? Rob the you said the desktop has Schwartzberg and, and Redock. I mean, I can only get Redock. Is that because it's it's I don't I'm not working on a desktop.

**Robert Leibowitz**

No, no, no, the full version. The Sorry, you guys are using the web version.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. Oh, I see. I see what you're saying. Right. Okay. But there really are just two ways of looking at the same thing though. Right?

**Robert Leibowitz**

Right.

**Regis Obijiski**

Right. Right. And so, let's take let's take Redock and I guess the same way, Schwartzberg, that the one to one ratio really is the best. So 1.0 is like, the perfect score. And then the The worst is zero 0.01 Maybe, right?

**Robert Leibowitz**

Right.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. All right. And so a good score. A good score would be like .75, maybe?

**Robert Leibowitz**

Point 50.5. That would be better. And that's why it's all that's why the whole process really is, you know, deliberative process. There's no, no magic way to do it. There's just like, you can rank them you have quantitative data that will give you an answer and say, based on these various calculations, this is the most compact one.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, so, so our software, Maptitude, will, will, will tell us well, it will give us a score, the maximum of the minimum and the mean. And then we were to if we were to compare maps, mean to mean score, we'd be able to rank is that correct?

**Robert Leibowitz**

That is correct. There's other features in there too. And we can talk about because once you get past the ranking of looking at all the compactness measures, we had talked about at our there's a there's a factor where they look at for like congressional, they look at counties, and they look at so they say so for at that level, they look at the number of times the counties split. So for our purposes, we can look at counties, so divisions and the city, Kingston's, how many times that split and are ways of looking at that way as a second step to compare and contrast the different plans.

**Andy Monk**

Yeah, and I made this slide about that too, because that's the compactness score doesn't tell us if we you know, split. Maybe Kingston has a district that's a perfect circle. It's it's scored number one on compactness. But, you know, randomly has part of Rosendale maybe a little bit of Esopus and so, that district, compact though it may be, you know, isn't respecting certain geographical boundaries and keeping communities intact. So that is a secondary thing that will be looking at for sure and considering. So, any other questions? I think I'm getting close to the end.

**Kenneth Panza**

I have a question. Doesn't gerrymandering require a certain certain emphasis by the developers of the districts to actually gerrymander? It does,

**Andy Monk**

It does, yeah.

**Kenneth Panza**

And information about the the voter populations, we've been scrupulous about not talking to, you know, the county legislators, I mean, this there has to be an intention. Otherwise, we're just talking about a, you know, a geometry problem.

**Robert Leibowitz**

You can do it accidentally, you don't have to do it intentional. If you choose. If you choose to

**Kenneth Panza**

Accidentally? Accidental.

**Robert Leibowitz**

You can do can if you've split it a certain way and do it a different way. And you don't if you don't choose the most compact one.

**Kenneth Panza**

I think that's a question for Andy. Can you have accidental gerrymandering, without any intention of the people developing the districts to gerrymander?

**Andy Monk**

I think you can create districts that, you know, have the effect of gerrymandering, without the intention of doing it. I think that this commission is uniquely set up or maybe not uniquely set up, but very well set up for sure to avoid that in all different kinds of ways. I just think understanding like what the process is, will help us to know what it is that we're not supposed to be doing. That I agree with you, Ken, that we're... for us to gerrymander these districts would actually be very difficult, based on the way that the commission is working. So and I'm really glad about that.

**Kenneth Panza**

Well, that's not necessarily true for the submissions we're going to get from the public.

**Andy Monk**

True.

**Kenneth Panza**

Some of these may be specifically designed to to gerrymander

**Andy Monk**

You're right, and so now, you know, we'll know what to look out for when we when we get those. Any other questions?

**Kenneth Panza**

Do use these quotients on the on the existing district to see how they come out?

**Andy Monk**

Oh, yeah, we could do that. Great.

**Andy Monk**

Oh, this is a little slide about why I know all this information. This is a picture of my thesis show in grad school. I made pieces that were all of the districts of North Carolina and Maryland, with these LED lights, and this is a picture of a different person named Andy painted on the side of a dumpster. So thank you for your time tonight.

**Regis Obijiski**

Andy, that's that that's really great. That's pretty funny. I have a question. Again, this, this has to do with perhaps scoring, doing something objective. And so if we look at compactness, the Maptitude does that scoring for us? Contiguity is in a sense, figured into the plan the plan integrity. So that's, that's in a sense, done. But But compactness, you could you could, you could have a plan that's submittable, but really has a low score and, and compactness, right. So it have a point. Point one, and, and it was still passed the integrity test. Right.

**Kenneth Panza**

Okay. So the fact that was a low score is meaningless. I mean, at the lowest score is not an indication that was gerrymandered.

**Regis Obijiski**

No, no, no, I know that what that's that's what I'm saying. So, you know, Ken, Sorry, Ken. Rob, we were talking about looking for objective, some objective measures, and we were looking looking at continuity as being among them. And so what Ken is saying is that it's irrelevant it Do you think it's irrelevant?

**Robert Leibowitz**

Well, no, it's it's measures of compactness are... Something's more compact. I mean, the district's more equal, so it's not relevant immunes one district one vote the cool that's the closer you get to a more compact the technically the better it is,

**Kenneth Panza**

And measure compactness measures, compactness, it doesn't measure gerrymandering.

**Robert Leibowitz**

Right. I'm not saying anything about gerrymandering. I'm saying, looking at compactness.

**Kenneth Panza**

Yeah, well, that's what this presentation is about is gerrymandering.



**Andy Monk**

I think the, I think compactness if you see a district that is, you know, a very low score on compactness, and you see that pattern repeated in a plan. I think it's just an indication that those boundaries have been manipulated for some purpose. And you're right, Ken, that it doesn't necessarily indicate gerrymandering. But I think that would be the first red flag for us to take a closer look, because of the districts are more compact, they're likely to be more, you know, integral to communities or geographic geography or whatever. And if they're less compact, and they're like stringy all over the place, it does. It does bear further consideration to see why those manipulations were made. Although you're right, that it doesn't necessarily mean gerrymandering, right.

**Kenneth Panza**

One step further, say like, we do identify districts, which still these measures, how do we then determine if there really was gerrymandering?

**Robert Leibowitz**

I don't think it really matters. I mean, what you do is you choose the plan that's most compact. And if something is wacko, and it has kind of stringy, you know, it's not compact. So why would you choose that one as a front runner plan anyway?

**Kenneth Panza**

Well, I mean, a lot of the towns aren't very compact. I mean, they're spread out. Right? Now. They're long thin towns. You know, that's not necessarily a criteria we've established on compactness. But if you know if compactness is a measure of gerrymandering, what do we do next to determine if there is gerrymandering. So we have the voter records?

**Sarah DeStefano**

I think compactness is a measure in and of itself, that is something that we are empowered to think about. Under the charter is something that we are being charged to do to think about compactness. Now, I do somewhat agree with Ken's point that now that I'm, I'm mapping myself, the census hasn't done us any favors with some of these census blocks. And they don't look very compact a lot of the times, you know, I you try and grab something. I think it was the town of Gardiner I was working on, and it runs straight down in a straight line, straight right through the town. I don't know who came up with that idea. But it doesn't make much sense. Like I wouldn't have drawn that.

**Sarah DeStefano**

So I do think that part of this is this the software, I don't know, maybe the software takes that into consideration. But I do think that's something to keep in mind that this is a number that should help us. And it is it shouldn't be a number that throws out maps or keeps maps in. We shouldn't be using our own judgment to be determining if these things make sense. And it's it's talking about our judgment, and what went into thinking about these things that it was brought up last time making sure that this isn't challenged. That... keep putting that on the record is what's gonna make these things not unchallenged, not, you know, a compactness score. But it is is a tool that's important for us.

**Regis Obijiski**

So what, Sarah, what you're saying is that compactness does help us make a better individual judgment. Are you saying that?

**Sarah DeStefano**

it's not only does it give us a better individual judgment, but I do believe it's in the charter is something we're supposed to use.

**Regis Obijiski**

It is. It's not only that, it's it's it's in? It's in case law?

**Sarah DeStefano**

Right. So I mean, I have no, I have no issue with considering compactness, other than sometimes in the realities of the Census Blocks, I think it's something we need to keep in mind, that I don't know that they do us any favors with drawing lines. Some of the lines that I click on, look pretty wonky. And there's that's just the nature of the data that has been sourced us, unfortunately.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah, exactly. I'd like I'd like to bring up bring up another point. And, and that that has to do with equal population, which is sort of like the granddaddy of expectations. That's, that's really our starting point. Our starting point isn't, you know, a pretty geography it really has to do with, you know, how well are we equalizing the population. We have this, we have this tolerance of plus or minus 5%. On the on the 7815, the 7815. If, if there were an average on a given map of, let's say, 4.3. Okay, so he take the deviation, the percentage deviations, and come to an average, you get you add up all of the all of the deviations, and you add them as integers, not not arithmetically. So the plus and minus doesn't count. So, A plus A plus five and a minus five is 10. Okay, arithmetically it's zero, right? But if you look at them as integers, it's it's 10. I mean, that's because it's deviations right? Whether the deviation is above or the deviation, the deviation is, is below. So if the if you were to add up the deviation as integers, right, not not as arithmetic numbers, right, plus or minus, but just as integers and divide that number by by, by 23, to get an average. And the average is, as I said, I know 4.4, 4.3. And someone else's map, it comes out to 3.2. And another comes out to 2.6. Are we saying that the the deviation, a lower number of deviations, so it's acceptable to have a plus or minus five? It's acceptable? So you have planned integrity? But is it better? You got you got acceptable? Good might be not not five, but, you know, three, three point something four point something, and better? Could be 2.8. So could we rank order equal population? Based on based on based on that? So it would it? Would it be better to have a constellation of districts that were roughly you know, one point something two point something plus or minus doesn't matter? But it's only off by a little bit rather than close to five?

**Sarah DeStefano**

I think. Yeah, in a perfect world, that sounds really great. But if you're starting to map, we, we have to keep communities together. First and foremost. I mean, I think we're trying not to cut up towns too much. That's very difficult in and of itself, particularly given the prison populations being taken out. If we make this a numbers game, it is going to look crazy, you're going to be cutting across town lines numerous times, you're going to have weird lines because of weird census blocks. This I mean, I've been deep diving into my own mapping in the last, I don't know, week and a half. And it would be it's, it sounds great. I'm all for it in a numbers game, but it's just not. It's just not realistic, on the way that, the places that people live in Ulster County.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah, well, at No, I, I get what I get what you're saying. Because, you know, I, I've done a couple of maps, and boy, you can really get nuts and trying to come down with, you know, down to, let's say, below 2.5. You know, plus, plus plus or minus. And, you know, when you're trying to maintain as much as possible, the integrity of a municipality, the definition of that of that municipality, it's harder. It's really, it's really hard to do. So I get what you're saying. So I have been looking for ways to come up with maybe some objective measures, and like, the one I was, I was just saying, but you can so easily get off track. And you can have in one town, three districts. You know, and is that good that you have? You have three county legislators, you know, representing different pieces of, of this particular particular time, does that make? Does that make any make any sense? So I'm having a hard time coming up with, you know, objective measures, I was just bringing that up as a as an example of something that was that I was mulling over. Anybody else have any thoughts on that? I mean, I get your point very much, Sarah. Anybody else really knows

**Kenneth Panza**

A lot of considerations about keeping the towns together, some towns have more affinity to each other than others do. So I mean, a couple of representatives, or, you know, a couple of districts in one town, I mean, like Rosendale, and Marbletown have been like that. But, you know, they they're a pretty common, common group. But other towns, you know, it'd be a total. You know, they just don't talk to each other. So, work out, but those are types of judgments that the, you know, the experience of the the commissioner has to apply to the maps, you can't do this numerically. I mean, once you get the populations in place, which is hard enough, I think you're done with the numbers. I mean,

**Robert Leibowitz**

I always said, compactness is the starting point. Numbers are it's just a starting point, because there's so many things to consider. So most important thing I think, is the most iterations of maps, the commission members, the commission itself, and whatever we get from the public we can have that you can have a deliberative process and so which which does the best job of a being compact but also of maintain those boundaries and the other factors and some more land uses things of that nature. That's that's the deliberative process. And that's where the science it's not so much. That's where the art takes over.

**Kenneth Panza**

Yeah, I think it's easier for kept the prison populations. But once they took those prison relations out, it really messed up the southern end of the districts.

**Andy Monk**

Yeah, I think all these measurements are useful tools for us to consider. And we'll have to figure out how we weight them as we look at actual maps, you know, like compactness is, is a consideration. It's a useful tool for evaluation. Deviation, certainly also useful tool for evaluation. But as Sarah said, sometimes you're going to, you know, maybe the plan that deviates, the least is going to cut out a portion of a town and put it somewhere else. And so then we have to consider wholeness of the towns. And I think we just have to figure out like, how are we going to juggle all of these tools that are our disposal, it's like a good problem to have, because we've got a lot of tools at our disposal.

**Kenneth Panza**

Gardiners is a mess.

**Sarah DeStefano**

Yeah, I just just from the census block drawings alone, I don't know what they were doing. You can't get, you can't stay close to town lines. It just cuts right through. I just think that if we're all jumping, if we're all working on making our own maps and getting acquainted with where population centers are, where we don't need to matrix, because we're going to, we're going to it's like a know it when you see it. We're going to see the problems that come up in maps, without needing some numerical situation that I think will actually just complicate matters, because we'll have created, we'll have created a system that now we're we've, like boxed ourselves, boxed ourselves into, when, you know populations, they just people just live where they want to live. And there's nothing, you know, we can move, we can ask people to move, but ultimately, like they that's where they live. And there's nothing we can do about that, sadly,

**Robert Leibowitz**

The matrix, as I was talking about was more of just something that hand...And it wasn't really, you know, it's you have to come back with some measures in there, you have numbered districts, and you have the variants, and it's more of like a resource tool, not necessarily it's a good starting point kind of thing. You know, everything goes deliberative, by the way I noticed. The just just to remember by the Census Blocks are made of visible features, such as road streams, railroad tracks, and by non visible boundaries, such as property lines, Cities, Township school district, county limits and short line of sight extensions of roads. So that's what those lines are just wanted to put that out there.

**Sarah DeStefano**

I believe that for the most part, but some I don't know where that came from. I like I'd like to have a conversation with the lind drawer, I don't know.

**Regis Obijiski**

Well, I'd like to, I'd like to continue this conversation. I want to be respectful. Andy has has a pension his schedule. And I want to thank thank Andy for his great presentation. And also, Rob's part in part in this in this presentation. It's been been very helpful. I want to continue with with this discussion. But Andy, I know that you might have to get going. So

**Andy Monk**

They surprised me by coming earlier this afternoon. So I'm actually okay.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. Stick around, because we got some heavy duty questions for you, young man. No, no. Oh, well, alright. I think I think we, we know where, where, where some of this is at. But I do believe that. There were a couple of things we were talking about on the 26. Rob, And was there anything else that you wanted? You wanted to add in terms of objective measures? I mean, we have the compactness. It does it for us. We have the plan integrity, and you know, the magnitude does it for us. Is there anything else that you could think of?

**Robert Leibowitz**

not this time, I mean, like I said, I haven't been able to empower a computer in a week, so. But if I can let you know what I can do for next, if you want, I can send out, I can take one of the districts and run all the reports possible on I can show what is out there, then show some examples and provide explanations of what all those different objects are.

**Regis Obijiski**

Well, one of one of the ways in which Rob had suggested that we start is when a map is submitted that Rob given an assignment of a number and level an anonymous, and so we all have names attached to that everybody okay with that?

**Robert Leibowitz**

Thank you for jogging my memory. Yeah, I mean, once we're having some issues with the final plans met, but anybody who shares a plan, I can grab that date, I can rename it. So that's map one, map two, map three, map four and then and then, you know, shuffle them up and shown to the commission, so nobody knows who's mad. That is, nobody has a horse in the race. So they're just everything for people. Okay,

**Sarah DeStefano**

I guess my only concern with that is not that I need to know exactly who the individual is. But I do wonder if it will be helpful to know who like just an identifier that the person is an elected official in Ulster County? If not, with the name itself, because if we mix up all the things, then we're we're losing some we're losing some of that. That can... I I don't want to say like, is a presumption that there's like it's gerrymandered. But just that we're we're approaching it with more sensitivity that this is someone who, like has a political interest in the county. So maybe there's a way of putting a number in an asterisk, if they're

**Robert Leibowitz**

I can tell you right now that not a single number, other than when there's one person who was a, has a, holds a political office has shared a map.

**Sarah DeStefano**

Okay. Well, that's fair. That would be my only caveat. That would be my only comment on a number. And I don't need to, I don't need to know who it is. I guess you just said it, who it is. But I'm all but also, I think that would help me with reviewing it. From a judgment standpoint.

**Kenneth Panza**

Well, actually, there's a big problem with that, because then you lose all the explanation that goes behind the map. I mean, if someone submits a map, I think they ought to have a chance to explain. You know, why they did it that way.

**Robert Leibowitz**

If they want to, I mean, I mean, each map, I would think that each map stands on its own merits, pretty much I mean, we're the Commission's until they can look at the map, see what you're going to be digging in on your own, you have dug in on your own, you can see, you know, where things relate. So you can should be able to judge each map on its own merits. But I mean, we could we could we could do any way you want to do it. I mean, the

public is a lot of the common so they want to share their own map and talk about it publicly. And they can do that, too.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah, you know, I did. I took Mike's Mike Baden suggestion from last week. And he says, Why don't you read the comments from 2011. And most of them were in April of 2011. So that was around, I guess, perhaps hearing time because a number of maps are out there being floated. And I have to say that hands down, keeping the integrity of municipal boundaries was number one. So whether it's keep the villages, leave them alone, keep the town's leave them alone. There was a lot of grousing in Woodstock, Ken, you might appreciate this. If you haven't, you haven't read that. The difference between Zena and Woodstock? Yes. We, you know, they're inseparable. Oh, no, they're not. You know, so there was there was a lot of that sort of thing or marble town, marble town and SUNY Ulster, you know, they said version X has SUNY Ulster carved out of carved out of it, now that's ridiculous. Carve that out of Marbletown. It's right there. This is right, right in the center, right in the center of Marbletown. And so people were upset about about that. Most people were upset about change. But, but, but municipal integrity. Huge deal. I have to say, if we're going to hear anything at public hearing said it might be a repeat of, repeat of that. I don't know for sure. But I had I had a chuckle when I, when I when I read it.

**Kenneth Panza**

Oh, wow. The comments from 2011 had to do with legislators who is going to who are going to lose their job. I mean, one of the big issues in the Woodstock -West Hurley debate was that you're going from two legislators to one and one wasn't going to survive. So we had a lot of comments about the and I think that was true throughout the, you know, you have the legislators much more heavily involved. And they were you know, it was a, you know, a zero sum game. Certainly half of them weren't going to survive the reapportionment process. So I you know, we just don't face that this time.

**Regis Obijiski**

Right. Right.

**Kenneth Panza**

And there may be a change the district boundaries, maybe a legislator gets switched out or in but that's the purely accidental on the the closer we keep to the existing districts, the less likely that's going to happen.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. True enough, true enough. But the comments that I have heard really had to do with , "can't you leave us alone", eventually, out alone. The answer is no, we can't.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, I'd like I'd like to move on to finish up some old business. And this was regarding scheduling public hearings, and I'd like to throw in the mix. The letter that that was read on behalf of the Supervisors of Towns and Mayor's of cities and villages, city and villages. The suggestion the suggestion was three meetings not to we were talking about to the last time I had, I read the transcript and then I also listened, I found it easier to listen to the transcript that that Fawn had posted. It was it was so much more much more much more clear. And I think what we what we said was, we're looking at, this was the last time and we haven't concluded but we said we



wanted to have a hearing on the 17th. We started off with the 16th. There was a difficulty by it by a , by a commissioner with regard to being able to to make that make that date. I want it to give time to the commissioners to really understand their calendar in relationship to these dates 16, 17, 18 that particular week, and I think even 19 Whatever, whatever the Thursday is of that week 16 was was was a Monday are those calendar dates pretty good for four commissioners still.

**Travis Rask**

So I was the commissioner that that was not available on the sixth the 16th. I have, I've cleared my calendar of that week at this point. So when you call me yesterday, Regis I realized the importance, so I didn't clear my calendar for that week, so I can choose whatever day works for everyone.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, okay. How about how about other commissioners? Did you have a chance to look at your calendar and figure out if that week beginning the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th. Those Those four days? Are those month those...

**Kenneth Panza**

What month is this you're talking about?

**Regis Obijiski**

May.

**Andy Monk**

I'm available that entire week. So anytime that works for the Commission works for me.

**Sarah DeStefano**

I will second that. Yeah, I think at this point, we're far enough out that the Commission gets priority on dates. But maybe soon, I'm assuming sooner rather than later. We're going to be picking dates anyway. So it's, but it would help to get it on the calendar

**Regis Obijiski**

calendar. Yes, yes, it would. Yes, it would. Others may hear from other commissioners, please. Sorry.

**Kathleen Waithe**

Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

**Regis Obijiski**

Get Kathy. Go ahead. You're you're there. So far.

**Kathleen Waithe**

I think that that sounds good. I only hesitate just a little because I might have an assignment. But I'm not certain yet when it actually starts when it actually begins. I know it's supposed to begin in May. So I just need to find out. But for now. Yes, that's fine.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah, there's certain things we have control over certain things we don't but we're just really trying to see what we have control over. So so right now it's okay.

**Kathleen Waithe**

The meeting is in these meetings or in person is that? Are we

**Regis Obijiski**

We're gonna, we're gonna we're going to determine that, you know, we first said that our first meeting would be online. And I tend to agree with that. I think more people tend to participate online. That's just my thought. I don't know, if everybody else feels the same way. I think it tends to draw more people. But we did say the first meeting online. A second meeting in person if possible, if not online. Correct. My my, my understanding of that anybody?

**Kathleen Waithe**

Okay,

**Regis Obijiski**

I could go either way with him with that. So are our so those are the 16, 17, 18 and 19. That'll take us to Thursday of that week. Are we are we good so far in this , Fawn? Is that? Is that? Right?

**Fawn Tantillo**

Yes. I just want you to be aware the 17th is the legislative session and, and the legislature, the clerk has offered to have a public hearing at the session if you want. And the only other caveat I may throw out there is that with the executive orders coming and going. Like it may require all of you commissioners to be in person together someplace, or we may not be able to get together it depending on where we are, but we'll make it work when we get closer whatever you want to do.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, but we can we can we can set we can set the dates. So 17 is is good from one perspective that you talked about. Right. But as we said, we're not giving priority to the legislation where we're giving priority to a public hearing at which the legislature would participate. That would be particularly convenient. The 17th You said

**Fawn Tantillo**

yes, I mean, it's probably Have their evening session? They would they would if, if you set it that night, they would postpone their start. But you may not. The last time we had to have a public hearing with them more or less, because they ultimately approved the plan,

**Regis Obijiski**

Right

**Fawn Tantillo**

But they don't approve the plan this time.

**Regis Obijiski**

Right, right. Yeah.

**Fawn Tantillo**

I mean, you may deliberately want to have one that does not involve them.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay.

**Fawn Tantillo**

That's up to you.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. So, one is a zoom general, and they're all going to be general, they're all going to be open open to the public and legislators can participate or not participate, as well. So what would that first one be? Would that be the 16th? Or 17th? What does everybody think? Anybody

**Sarah DeStefano**

What day is the legislative meeting? I feel strongly that we shouldn't be having it at the legislative meeting. That's all. We can have it a different night. So they can come and join the public if they'd like. And they're this not a conflict. But having at the legislative meeting feels strongly un-independent if you asked me, I mean,

**Regis Obijiski**

we could choose the 16th and 18th.

**Sarah DeStefano**

That because it's, it's on the 17th, right, that the meeting

**Fawn Tantillo**

is on the 17th. Right? And there's no reason you can't have a public hearing, you know, some somewhere else, but you could do it in chambers, probably, you know, those nights, or we'll gonna do it in person, we may have to decide where you want to, if you're going to do them around the county.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, so whether it's online, excuse me, zoom or in person, let's let's lock in the days you want to say, the 16th and the 18th. What would it What's your pleasure, I don't care myself. Choose somebody,

**Sarah DeStefano**

Perhaps this should be. I don't know how we go about doing this. From our vantage point, maybe some help from from Fawn, perhaps it should be driven by if we're doing them geographically in person, what's available in different parts of the county on certain nights. And then we can, like if there's some Hall and Wallkill and it's only available on the 16th, but not the 18th, then that sort of determines where we're headed. Alright, how much of a problem that is, one.

**Fawn Tantillo**

We do public hearings, in many of the town halls around the county, we usually in before zoom. Before the pandemic, when we could meet in person we usually held several to one in the different town hall. So I once you pick the dates, I can I can give you an assortment of where they could be held.

Where were they held? And sorry, Fawn. Um, do you know where they were held? All those years? 10 years ago, where?

**Fawn Tantillo**

I don't remember for sure. I could look it up. But I know we do. I've been to so many budget hearings and other kinds of hearings in the towns but you certainly want a town that has plenty of parking and yeah. And right now, most of the towns have, you know, have a pretty decent facility and they've been very generous about sharing their space. Esopus has a beautiful town hall. Saugerties, New Paltz. New. Paltz can be a bit of a challenge right now, but I'm sure they would make it work. They in their community center. Ellenville. Or, I'm sure we could find a place on, you know, both ends of the county, if you Woodstock, even up in Olive, you know, get further out for folks, whatever you think would be the best.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay, so about the 16th in the 18th. But we have 16, 17, 18and we have those for four days Monday through Thursday. So that sounds good. Everyone's 16th and 18th. Right now, and we're looking at two meetings, not three, right? Am I right about that. Okay. All right. Okay, so let's, let's, let's do that. And then fun. If you could, you could check. You know, what would be equitable, you know, north and south.

**Donna Lutz**

To two public meetings, and a zoom or... I got confused

**Regis Obijiski**

Two meetings all together?

**Donna Lutz**

Okay.

**Regis Obijiski**

We're not we're not we're not certain about about zoom or in person. We may be, we may be told.

**Donna Lutz**

Thank you. Yeah.

**Kenneth Panza**

Okay, well, what's the agenda at these public meetings, how do they work?

**Travis Rask**

Good question.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Generally you have, you're going to have a map. You're going to submit it. You're going to put it out for public comment. People will show up at night. When the historically when we do public comment, we receive comments from the public. And we don't get into debates with the public. So you would just sort of sit there and hear what people had to say about your proposed maps. And we would set that up, we would line up speakers, you'd set up an amount of time they can speak. And if it's via zoom, I can manage that. If it's in person, and you still want to let people zoom in, we probably could set that up with the the way we do the legislative session. And I could do.. advantage of doing it at the legislative session is it could be live streamed. But I understand why you don't want to do it that way. I could also see if there's a way we can get money for a live stream of your public hearings, because I think this is important.

**Sarah DeStefano**

We should be able to set it up with a hybrid zoom, shouldn't we? I don't think that that should I mean, I imagine that doesn't cost any more money than us doing things like this?

**Fawn Tantillo**

No. absolutely not the only thing you might have to you if if the executive orders are over, and we're back with the open meetings law as it was for COVID, which I assume it will be, you would all have to be in a public place. That could be, you know, in the library of the legislature, but it would be someplace where we will probably allow the public to come in also, but let them come in by zoom. And I don't see any, we've discussed that there would not be a problem with that. So it could certainly be a hybrid meeting that way. If and if and if we still have an executive order, it would you know, and we can't meet in person, it would be like this, if we have the option to do either one. Well, you know, we'll have to see how that. I don't think that I think they will I think it will be one or the other but either have open meetings law as it existed before. For will have it like it is now

**Robert Leibowitz**

If I may I can offer we have the planet department for plan boards, we have a webinar account, we have a little bit more advanced count. With zoom, we can stream live the YouTube that we need to . Or Facebook, whichever one you want.

**Travis Rask**

Thank you. Thank you, Rob.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah. Rob, that'd be great. Rob in your experience. So you know, do you think you get a better participation on Zoom these days than you would in person? Just your opinion,

**Robert Leibowitz**

Our board means absolutely. We get we're we have a 25 person board, we're getting regularly 18 to 21 people, whereas in the past, we had taught times where you had trouble making quorum, which is 13. Right. So it's much better now. Yeah, actually.

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah. That's certainly is my taken. That's, that's helpful. Thank you. All right.



**Kenneth Panza**

Well, one map or multiple maps,

**Fawn Tantillo**

You're going to have to have a fight, you're going to have to have one draft map that you put out to the public by that week. If you want to, if you want to expose multiple maps and do something else earlier than that, you certainly can. But by that by two weeks before that by April 28, you need to have a final draft map to go to this public hearing. One.

**Kenneth Panza**

Okay. Now, what do we do with these comments? Do we have to come back and change the map?

**Fawn Tantillo**

You...after those comments? You can come back and change the map if you think it needs to be tweaked. And then you have and then you have to turn it in? I think it was it's June, but I can't remember. Date. But you can come back after those public hearings and tweak it.

**Regis Obijiski**

June 20. I think

**Fawn Tantillo**

I think you're right. But I have to...

**Kenneth Panza**

So who does the tweaking?

**Fawn Tantillo**

You.

**Regis Obijiski**

You, Ken. (laughter) You make it...

**Fawn Tantillo**

All of you. The seven of you do.

**Regis Obijiski**

"You" plural? Right?

**Fawn Tantillo**

That's right.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. All right. All right. We're on our way. I think that's that would really conclude conclude the the agenda. Does anyone have anything that they want to want to bring up that we haven't talked about that we should either now or another time.

**Kenneth Panza**

So when do we look at the maps to decide which ones we're going to take?

**Regis Obijiski**

Yeah, good. Good point. I mean, it's...how about how about March 1? Yeah. When would they be available? Rob, you know, once said, you know, once the 28th What do you think?

**Robert Leibowitz**

So there's the date you want them they'll be available? I mean, I can I can I what my process is, is there on our ISS server right now? Right? So I asked my counterpart over At IS to forward them over on the one drive and I can load them into software and I can run reports and I can share and create PDFs, whatever you need. So you know, I just need a couple of days heads up really? Right? If you

**Fawn Tantillo**

If you want to schedule multiple meetings, you know, and after you get them in March, like if you want to start meeting twice a month or something, we certainly can facilitate that.

**Regis Obijiski**

Our next meeting is March 9. And so if, if we were to if we were to receive them, I mean, we could start to peruse them. And by March 9, I think we will have to come up with a plan and how do we do this in an organized fashion? So

**Sarah DeStefano**

As a point of organization, if just because, excuse me, just because I'm getting close to completing something myself, if if we share the plan, it doesn't get put into that pile of people and then reshare to us as a public thing? Or should we be pulling these out? How do we want to be sharing our own maps with each other, I guess, is my point of organization. I know that Ken's been sending them around, but I think he is the only ones I've seen center on and I don't know that I see a place where I can access anyone else's but my own.

**Robert Leibowitz**

Right, let me share my screen real quick. I can show you hang on, let me just do something here. Browser window. So right now the final submit Plan button that we're having a little bit of an issue with that. So once that works, the CalPERS, a little mystified by a two. So we're working on that, but you can still press the "Share Plan" button. Let me hang on a sec. Here. And hopefully, this works. Let's see some weird mode right now. Whoo, that's not it.

**Robert Leibowitz**

Bear with me one second. Again.

**Kenneth Panza**

So when we get the the maps which have been submitted, that we have to use map it to the to evaluate them, or do they come as PDF files or some other way?

**Robert Leibowitz**

You see my computer program right now? Yeah. Okay. So we can we're logged in. So this so the best way to see the shared plans is you create a new plan. And then you have the initial which are both the starting points, and you go to share? Oh, I see. And this is everybody who shared everyone so far. Now. Well, I can see them all that way. And I can certainly get all the info in a format that can go and come into the main program. And what I can do in main program is I can go one by one through with them. Or I can generate PDFs MacBook, I can generate something that's called a MacBook. And I'll have image of each individual district and I'll show the stats of it. And you can get that on each one. That's cool, intensive, but there's a lot of different reports I can create. So that'd be the way to do that. But when you're. So let's just just create a map real quick.

**Robert Leibowitz**

Why my session has expired. Try it. Again. My session is expired. That's very strange. Mr.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Rob, are all of those maps submitted?

**Robert Leibowitz**

No, they're not submitted or shared, because the Submit Plan button is having a little bit of an issue right now. So then we shared a CalPERS news it happened and they're a little mystified by it. They are that are struggling to go through. We sent him up our logs. And where do we I showed him exactly what happened. So if I just close that, so this is a play. So when you you can share your plan. And then everybody who has access to the caliper can see that plan once you share it. And then I can also take that information and bring it into the main program and create reports based on. The Submit Plan button, which is what this button see we're having a little bit of an issue with it, but that would actually submit it to a different location. And we'd call it a final plan. It would also double checks. If this map map didn't meet the thresholds of the integrity, then it would kick it back to me. So

**Sarah DeStefano**

So I guess, I guess the answer to my question As I can submit and share, right, I want to share it with my my fellow Commissioners,

**Robert Leibowitz**

right? And that's the way I would suggest if you want to share that, that's if you really want to dissect somebody else's plan, the only way to really do it is to do it that way. Everyone looking at PDFs isn't right, that's good.

**Sarah DeStefano**

But just a matter of anonymizing them then so that we can go into maptitude. And look at them without knowing who submitted them is that I'm assuming that's a possibility on the back end, sharing

**Robert Leibowitz**

On the back end, what I could do is when I copy them over, I can rename them all. And then bring them out if that's what y'all want to do. If you don't want to anonymous, you don't have to have llamas. I mean, it's, it's, like

I say, for channeling my inner Dennis Doyle it's a deliberative process, where you're going to look at each map and say and acknowledge that, hey, this one does a better job with this one. It doesn't do a better job of being compact. This one chops Woodstock into six parts. So you're gonna look at it. So that's the point I have a commission. Okay, stop sharing.

### **Regis Obijiski**

Alright, Thanks, Rob. Anybody else have any comments? Anybody from the Commission or the county? Okay, from the from those on Zoom or telephone, if you wish to make a public comment or have a question about what we're doing or comment about what we're doing. Please speak up now. Anybody have their hand up? Mike? Oh, sorry. Mike, why don't you go first and then. Okay. Whoever you like to go first? Go ahead, Mike. You're on.

### **Mike Baden**

Okay. First, Andy, thank you for that presentation. That was really, really interesting from somebody who finds this process pretty fascinating. So I appreciate that. In your discussion about the compactness, just bear in mind, and I'm sure you already have all thought of this, is the density of various areas of the county is very different. Obviously, the density of the City of Kingston is different than the density of Denning. So Well, I think Rob made a good point about the compactness is you kind of know it when you see it. But it's, it may not be a perfect circle in just because you're dealing with a variable.

### **Mike Baden**

And Sarah, to answer your question about how the Census Blocks are formed. As of as a former census crewchief, it literally is, as you drive the roads, when you get to a left, you take the next left, and you they take you at each successive left until you create a square or a circle or a rectangle, or whatever that shape may be. And in some areas in some of the back areas of the county, that's a really large area. And in the City of Kingston, it's it's a city blocks. So there's sort of no rhyme or reason. And also, they they cut them off at Town boundary lines, which are, you know, there's no reference to what that really means. So, it is frustrating. And, you know, I think I'm on my seventh version of a map now and every time I find yet another way to do something, so appreciate all you guys are doing.

### **Mike Baden**

And also the question that you had before the public hearings last time, we're in New Paltz in the town of Olive, and that's and then there was a final meeting at the legislative session, not a session, excuse me at the legislative chambers. It was an all day Saturday, where the legislator, excuse me, the commissioners took the comments, and basically drew their final version of the map. So that's at least that's what I remember of the history. So thank you again, for all you're doing.

### **Regis Obijiski**

Thank you, Mike.

### **Sarah DeStefano**

Chair, a point about the census lines, I still feel like someone drove around very strangely, in the town of Gardner in particular, I don't know if anyone else is having... I see some laughing so I think exactly which lines I'm talking about. They're quite strange.

**Robert Leibowitz**

Maybe mountains.

**Sarah DeStefano**

In Gardiner, I mean, in Gardiner?

**Robert Leibowitz**

Yeah. Mountains.

**Sarah DeStefano**

I mean, maybe but it's like a straight line down the whole town from the border to the middle of the town, and I don't, it's very difficult to map around. So.

**Regis Obijiski**

Hey, Carol, your next.

**Carol Nolan**

Thanks. Um, I just wanted to say I am really heartened to see how well All of you seem to be working together. I besides following this, I was was following the state process. And they seem to be working together until they weren't. And I'm hoping and expecting you will have a much different result.

**Regis Obijiski**

Oh, we thank you for that prayer, Carol. We intend to we intend to work together and do it. Well. Yeah. We're not giving up.

**Carol Nolan**

And I'm also glad that you are understanding that even though one person one vote and compactness are easy to measure, that that's not the only thing you need to take into account. Good for you.

**Regis Obijiski**

Thank you so much. Any other guest wishes to say something or ask a question? No. Okay. All right. Then I'm going to request a motion to adjourn, please. Motion please.

**Sarah DeStefano**

So moved.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. Thank you very much. And second,

**Kathleen Waithe**

Second.

**Regis Obijiski**

Okay. All right. Thank you very much. All right. Well, we'll see you have a good rest of your evening and we'll see you all on March 9, and get after your right get after your maps.

**Andy Monk**

Thank you, everybody.

**Regis Obijiski**