

## Ohio Redistricting Commission 3-25-2022

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:00:01] From recess, the meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, which began on March the 24th. And we did not need to call the meeting back to order for any specific purpose. So our procedure would be to recess or to adjourn the recess, or adjourn the meeting that began yesterday and then call together to call the new meeting to order. So is there any objection to adjourning the meeting of the March 24th, 2000- 2022? Without objection, the meeting is adjourned. I now call to order the March 25, 2022 meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission and I will first ask the staff to call the roll. I know many members are here attending virtually, so as our process was yesterday, when they answer present, if they're virtual, put a V so we can keep track of how they attended. You may proceed to call the roll.

**Clerk** [00:01:12] Co-chair Speaker Cupp.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:01:13] Present.

**Clerk** [00:01:14] Co-chair Senator Sykes.

**Co-Chair Senator Vernon Sykes** [00:01:15] Present.

**Clerk** [00:01:16] Governor DeWine.

**Governor Mike DeWine** [00:01:18] Present.

**Clerk** [00:01:20] Auditor Faber.

**Auditor Keith Faber** [00:01:22] Present.

**Clerk** [00:01:23] President Huffman.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:01:25] Here.

**Clerk** [00:01:25] Secretary LaRose.

**Secretary of State Frank LaRose** [00:01:26] Here.

**Clerk** [00:01:27] And Leader Russo.

**House Minority Leader Allison Russo** [00:01:29] Here.

**Clerk** [00:01:30] Mr. Co-Chair, all members are present.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:01:32] All members are present. At this time, I would just for those who are - the members of the public who are tuned in to this, there are some commission members who are attending virtually, as we've noted. These proceedings will be recorded and broadcast by the Ohio Channel. We ask anyone in our audience here physically present today to refrain from clapping or other loud noises out of respect for the commissioners and the persons who are watching the proceedings remotely. For members who are in the room, please make sure that your microphone before you is on when talking and talk in to the microphone so all of the members of the commission can

can hear. In your folders are the minutes from the last meeting on March 24th, 2022. Do I have a motion to accept the minutes?

**Co-Chair Senator Vernon Sykes** [00:02:30] Some moved.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:02:31] Is there a second?

**House Minority Leader Allison Russo** [00:02:33] Second.

**Secretary of State Frank LaRose** [00:02:33] Second.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:02:33] It's been moved in seconded. Are there any objections or amendments to the minutes? Seeing and hearing none, the minutes are accepted as presented. At this time then we would ask if there is any update from the independent map makers to come before this meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Dr. McDonald and Dr. Johnson.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:02:59] Sure, so this is [indecipherable] here with Dr. McDonald-

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:03:02] Hi.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:03:03] In the mapping room, and we do have kind of our working maps that we've been working on to this point, and we're happy to briefly walk through with you if you would like us to at this point. We're not to the point of a draft or any kind of recommended draft. We're just working our way through the county or through the state and figuring out how the different county pieces work together. So we're happy to show you what we have if you'd like us to do so.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:03:27] All right. Please, please proceed.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:03:32] You want to go first? So this is Mike McDonald, we're going to be sharing a mic here [indecipherable] so hopefully everyone can hear me. The mic is not as close to me as it is to Dr. Johnson. If you look at the screen share of the software. So I should get an overview of where we're at. We both have drawn test maps of Franklin and the parts of Cuyahoga and of Hamilton. Right now, working on Montgomery. Effectively, also, we've done Summit, which is actually where we were, although I'll describe it when we get to what we've done with Summit so far. We've been working largely independently as we've been doing this, although of course we're sharing ideas as we go along and talking with one another. But generally, we're working in parallel and you'll see here the map that I've drawn for Franklin, it takes, because it requires an additional district, for twelve districts, this is a map goes ahead and crosses over into Union County. Both of us did this approach. But we have some differences for how we approach Franklin itself. And I just want to stress, as Dr. Johnson has already stated, our- these are works in progress. So I wouldn't call them even proposals for the commission that like which of the two approaches [indecipherable] at it. We- what we want to do is draw the entire state and then come back and start making adjustments to these districts as we go along. So we don't want to get too far down in the weeds, because we may come back and revisit some of these choices that we've already made to balance on, particularly on the partisanship issues that are facing the commission, the Constitution in the courts, so these are in progress and I don't know what might be most useful, maybe you can see my map, even though... Dr. Johnson, if you want to show your map now or-

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:06:25] [Indecipherable].

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:06:25] Or you want to just go throughout the entire state. Either way, this approach, I think, would work fine for us. So if you want us to stop or give each county our county we've looked at so far, we can do that or I can just proceed, so I'll just leave it up to these departments.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:06:45] Just a technical technical question. From OGT- it's kind of hard to hear, is that because the sound in this particular room is a problem?

**OGT Executive Director Dan Shellenbarger** [00:06:58] It's the microphone. Right now, can you-?

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:07:00] Come a little closer?

**OGT Executive Director Dan Shellenbarger** [00:07:01] Yeah.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:07:02] The issue is that if you had two mics on at once, then we're going to get a lot of feedback, so we're trying to share one mic here. But I will talk more directly towards the mic. I hope you can hear me better now.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:07:24] Yeah I think for me [indecipherable] That we do some additional mics or something, so. All right, thanks.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:07:36] So the question at least I have for you, I can go through all the, and I show you what I've done or we could stop here and have Dr. Johnson show you what he did for Franklin, and then we could move from each part of the state that we've worked on so far. Your preference on which approach you wish us to take.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:08:08] Question there about obviously maybe show Dr. Johnson what he did and then but a bigger question is moving on without, I guess the Commissions sort of OK to this area? So because the Supreme Court does required the commission to draw the map with the assistance of independent mapmakers, whether we should stop at each sort of juncture required under the Constitution and get that resolved, or whether we should hear the presentations and take those under consideration. And then, you know, hear the next one. My assumption and be open to members of the commission is that nothing is final until everything is final. But anybody else aside. Secretary LaRose?

**Secretary of State Frank LaRose** [00:09:14] Yeah, Speaker, just like our mapmaker said, I think this is very much a work in progress as they're going and so allowing them to continue that progress, understanding that there will be tweaks ongoing, is probably the most productive way to do this.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:09:33] Leader Russo.

**House Minority Leader Allison Russo** [00:09:34] Thank you, Mr Co-Chair, I agree with that. I think I have a larger process question for the map makers. And then we'd love to hear from Dr. Johnson as well. When do you envision getting through the state and, you know, combining some of your ideas together? When do you see that process playing out and the timing piece of that?

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:10:02] I guess I would say it's hard to say, just because this is our first time through the state, so we we don't know the complexity of what we're getting into as we go down the line. We would love to have a couple of kind of full working drafts with us having a good sense of strategic questions we need guidance on by tomorrow afternoon, but that is a very ballpark estimate. We just don't know how long it's going to take to get through the rest of the state.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:10:39] What I can say, though, is we spent most of yesterday working on Franklin and here we are. At the end of the day, we're finished with Franklin. And so far today we've done Cuyahoga, Hamilton, and we're working on - and Summit - and now we're working on Montgomery. So things have certainly sped up and we're more than a third of the way through on the districts. So it's- we've gotten- your consultants have told us that we've gotten through the roughest part of the state in terms of how difficult it is to draw districts that are going to conform with townships and cities and other acting governmental entities. So my anticipation is, much like Dr. Johnson's said, the pace is definitely picking up here after we got through the initial most difficult counties. And I hope that by tomorrow afternoon at the latest, that we'll have something that's a statewide map. No guarantees, but that's where we hope we would be.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:12:06] All right, the first question before Dr. Johnson presents what he sketched out, I guess we'd call this a sketch.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:12:16] Since we- so you want to move over to his Franklin, or do you want us, do you want to see the other parts that I've done so far?

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:12:28] Let's move over to Franklin, because that's the order in which the Constitution requires the drawing, I believe. So, Dr. Johnson.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:12:40] So for Franklin, we both started with the same combination of counties. Again, this is a - sketch is a good term for it - this is just our first pass and it doesn't mean we've decided to use Union or that we're on the same page or that we made any consensus on that, it's just the first approach we took. So, you see- and obviously anything, if we switch that, then the whole map is internally is going to shift around as well. But, let's see here, show the township lines, so we can put the townships and the cities on there, it does get a little cluttered as we show more detail. But you can see District 12, is the northwestern part of the county and then Union County. We really have one district in each corner. And then, very primarily kind of I think it's safe to say District 11 kind of drives the difference between the two maps. In this case, it's a upper Arlington arching around the prairie. Dr. McDonald's is a more compact version. And again, this isn't that either of us are advocating one approach or another. We're just each testing out different ways, and then we'll compare how those work out and start discussing between us which preference or alternate recommendations you may have. But you all know that this, these maps pretty well, you can probably see a lot of details at a glance that there, that are your concerns, but I'm happy to walk through the numbers, if you- we're happy to watch the numbers on both these maps or to just kind of quickly introduce each region, if you'd like. And if you do, we talked a little bit before this meeting, if you do have strategic direction, I mean, as as the leader said, this is your draft map. So if you do have strategic direction about 'use Union' or 'use Madison' or whatever you want. If you're ready to give that direction, that kind of strategic guidance could help limit our options. But as Dr. McDonald said at the small detail level, as the map shifts around, the little details are all going to change as we go along. So-.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:15:15] Mr. Co-Chair? Oops, sorry. Mr. Co-Chair?

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:15:18] Senator Huffman.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:15:20] Thank you. Yeah. Just since that issue was raised, I know in maps, I know in Map Three and perhaps a Map Two, but Map Three, and I believe in one of the maps submitted by the Democrat members of the commission, that Franklin was in fact paired with Madison and Pickaway County in some way. And we found eventually, now I guess I can't speak for the Democratic map makers, but they maybe they found the same thing we did. And if I have that wrong, I'm sure they'll correct me if that if that in fact did not happen. But we found that that pairing with a Madison-Pickaway pairing, I think it's some of Madison, and of course, that's not as, about 20,000 people less than Union, and part of Pickaway allowed a lot more versatility in terms of combining count-making sure that counties weren't cut and other versatility throughout the state. So I think it's fine that both of you kind of came upon, arrived at Union because in fact, the first map that the commission passed in September also had the Union pairing. And I think maybe the second map, but the third map did not. And I think some of the, we adopted some of the concepts, we being Republicans who ultimately voted for the third map, adopted some of the concepts from the Democratic map in order to achieve some of the goals that the Supreme Court had established in its second opinion. So, you know, obviously there could be a call one way or the other, but I would suggest that you look at that and it may help you further down the road. So I don't know that at this point it's appropriate for the commission to vote to say do this instead of that, at that point, it doesn't sound like we're at that point where choices have to be made. So I would just ask you to suggest that. And then the second thing and maybe we're not done showing Franklin County, but I would be remiss if I did not say that I don't see any Senate districts on either your maps.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:17:45] Yes. No you're very right about that. That is one of the challenges that's down the road for us, is figuring out the pairings of House districts into Senate districts. So it is something we are aware has to be done. And as we go into different counties, you know, there's the challenge of internally, of counties or county combinations where the Senate districts are entirely internally contained versus others like Hamilton, where we have two Senate districts and the third piece. So we're aware of that down the road, but we have not done that at all yet.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:18:21] OK. Yeah, because I mean, I'll just say this, I'm sure you're aware of it, but many members of the public, that it's not a matter of just pick three house districts and put him in there because you may fall below or above population, constitutional population requirements in all of the other constitutional requirement 2 through 5 and 7. Not to mention the additional Supreme Court requirements regarding proportionality and things like that. So. But I think we all know that those are just some some kind of pretty heavy lifts as we move forward here. So those are all the things I have to say about Franklin County right now.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:19:16] Auditor Faber, I think, couldn't quite tell.

**Auditor Keith Faber** [00:19:19] Yes!

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:19:19] All right.

**Auditor Keith Faber** [00:19:20] Yeah, just two general observations. One I can't tell from this map, or either of your maps, as to whether you made a conscious effort to try and keep the city of Columbus, which is sprawling, as intact as you could in as few districts as possible. And I know one of the intent of the Constitution is that we avoid unnecessary splits to cities, counties and townships where possible. And I know you're going to have to split Columbus probably a few times. But in both of these hub and wheel designs, it looks like you guys are just going in and out of Columbus with other communities. And I can't tell because the Columbus boundaries are what they are that you minimized the splits. I mean, most of Columbus needs to be in a few districts as possible, at least in my view of the way this should be done. But that brings me to my second point. When you're drawing these districts, in my opinion, you really need to focus not just on the concept of 6B, which is this representational mystery ratio, but you also need to remember 6A and 6C, with regard to compactness in particular, that districts are drawn as compact as possible. And if you continue to comply with that and 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, you'll end up solving a lot of problems. But those are my two comments. And and I would just argue that there are certainly going to be some issues as they try and look at this with the city of Columbus, when you guys get to drawing districts together.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:21:00] All right, other questions? Leader Russo.

**House Minority Leader Allison Russo** [00:21:06] Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair. So a couple of things I just want to point out. While Senate President Huffman is correct that there was originally a Democratic map that included Madison and Pickaway County with that 12th district in the second version, we too realized that the pairing with Union County, it seemed to work better. So there's been a little bit of reversal in both the Democratic and Republican maps in terms of what that looks like. The other thing I will just point out about Columbus, as a reminder to my colleagues who aren't in Columbus, that Columbus is noncontiguous in, in many cases. It's big, it's sprawling and in every single version of the maps both Republican and Democrat, every district that has been drawn for Franklin County includes portions of Columbus. Because the nature of the boundaries, it is so sprawling it is not contiguous and frankly, there is no way to draw Franklin County and the districts in Franklin County without having each one of them touch Columbus in some way

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:22:16] Further questions or comments from members of the commission? If not, I'll turn it back to the map drawers. And I think you said you had some other preliminary sketches.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:22:32] Can I just say one thing?

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:22:33] Okay, yeah.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:22:33] Yeah, okay, I just want to say that the reasoning for us behind the choice of Union with Franklin was population balance. It was the county that had the most population that we could join with Franklin to, so that, unfortunately otherwise have to systematically, you have to systematically underpopulate all of the districts in Franklin. So we wanted the least amount of under population to do. I do think, I do find the Madison and Pickaway approach interesting. And if we have time and other constraints, we will take a look at it. I can say it also, it would work. Obviously you created some maps that way. And it would achieve, I think, a better population balance because area than the one we currently have, but we'll have to take a look at it.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:23:43] Do you want to go to the next section?

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:23:45] Sure. Cuyahoga. And so here we decided, Dr. Johnson and I decided to take different approaches. Entirely, not entirely, but significantly different approaches. So my approach was to combine Lake with Cuyahoga. His approach is to take Summit and combine it with Cuyahoga. And you're seeing on my screen Summit districts as well down below here. All I've done is since his, since Dr. Johnson's already drawn Summit, I took his districts and the portion, there's still a portion of that needs to continued to be drawn in Summit, on my map. But that's why there's, it looks like I've done both Lake, Cuyahoga and Summit, but my intent was really to look at Lake, a solution for Lake and Cuyahoga. The solution I came up with, I think it's, it will help us down the road on the balancing that we need to do. It's tricky to get a district that's a, a district for Lake, that will be a Democratic leaning district. This is this district 14 and around here. It is right and it's a fifty point five percent. So it is a, you know, it's competitive. It's the most competitive district I've drawn so far. But we're making, the approach that we did for Lake was to explore that option to see if there was a way to get a democratic district there for the partisan fairness, balance, that's in the proportionality, that's in the Constitution. So that was my approach primarily. There's some differences that we have, but not too many as it turns out, because it on the western part of the county, we took very similar approaches. It's just whether, as Dr. Johnson was coming up into Summit, he had a different configuration on the eastern side of Cuyahoga versus what I was doing on, from coming in from Lake County. I think that kind of describes what we were doing. And you could talk about what the solution resulted in when you just did the Summit, and-

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:26:58] Sure.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:26:58] Cuyahoga. [indecipherable].

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:27:13] So you can see that the impacts obviously are different if you're coming in from Lake versus coming in from Summit. In this case, 23 is the district that's crossing the two, between the two counties. It gets creative when we're trying to meet the different provisions and keep the different townships and cities together while still trying to meet the partisan balance requirements. And I think we end up in very similar numbers perspectives here, in one or two districts we may vary by a few percent, but in the big picture, we're pretty darn close in both maps. And each one, I think you have a similar results from a partisan perspective, but perhaps different pairings in terms of how many districts are on the on the water or in each region. And a lot of that also is driven by of course, whether you're coming in from Lake, which has a direct impact you can't avoid, versus whether you're coming in from Summit. And the other piece, this is part of the reason we talk about these as sketches- you know, once we get a whole district map and look at how the numbers played out in compliance with the court's orders and the Constitution, as you're probably very familiar with, when the south end of Summit, if 33 and 34 are drawn north, the south we end up with two Democratic districts. If they're drawn horizontally, with 33 on top of 34, you end up with one Democratic district and one Republican district. So these kinds of things are the types of things we have in our mind the easily switched once we get a picture of where each map comes out statewide in that, when we try to come up with a map that best meets all the criteria as a whole map. It is, this process, even getting to this point has been an interesting look at this is, things that in in district by district really we're drawing heavily for partisanship within the other restrictions of the, of the Constitution, because we're aiming for overall map partisan balance. It leads to some creative solutions district by district as we try to make the districts fit into that overall map [indecipherable]. So, so again, these, each of these and again, we're not advocating one approach or another, we're simply each have kind of

these sketches in progress or what happens you come in from Lake versus what we come in, when we come in from Summit. And one of the things that your staff have been, those listening to livestream have been hearing, as we asked the staff a lot about are, are what are the brick walls and that and kind of mathematical inevitabilities that are down the line and what has happened in past maps. And we, for example, in Summit, I believe all of the past maps that have Summit also go into Geauga? Geauga. I will get that straight by Monday. Going, also going into Geauga. But that is not driven by Summit and by these two counties. It's driven by what goes on in the other Northeast counties. So we are anticipating that we will run into the same mathematical challenge all the previous maps ran into and need to take these in there yet. We just haven't reached that point in the map yet.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:30:52] And yep, Senator Huffman?

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:30:53] Yeah. To the extent that the various map makers have suggested, and I assume, by the way, that all four of the map makers, plus the representatives from the offices of all seven commissioners, are giving you helpful terms, hints and suggestions and enhancements. And well, if you do that, this is going to happen. All of that is going on, right, from everybody?

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:31:20] Yes, we've been, they, and the two of us, have been careful not to get direction or or suggestions, but we want to learn from lessons learned. Yeah, that's our emphasis on what brick walls or are we driving towards and what mathematical?

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:31:38] Fair enough. I mean, I think that was the intent of the, that these folks have been working on this for six months, so they will have some things. So. One of the things that I learned was that there's sort of this outer ring and inner ring of counties in northeast Ohio. I shouldn't say ring, it's sort of a semi circle. And they, these are counties, and maybe you can start with Lorain to Medina to start, to Mahoning County, is sort of the outer semicircle and then Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, Trumbull, in Lake. And those counties all have some sort of constitutional protection. In terms of, I don't remember exactly the language, but it's something like if a county is big enough to be, contain a single district, it must be used to complete a complete Senate district. And the conundrum in this part of the state is that we have all of these heavily populated states with protection. And then we've got a lake and then we've got Pennsylvania. And that is the mathematical problem that needs to be solved. And I will say this, in 2011, I think, or certainly 2001, maybe both years. The map that was drawn was unconstitutional. Yet there was no mathematical way to solve the constitutionality problem, and so when there was a lawsuit about that, the court said, "Yep, you can't, it's unconstitutional." But the math doesn't work, and so the map, the unconstitutional map, stood. And that's just the complexity of the Ohio Constitution when it deals with these different things. So I would, I appreciate that you're, you know, you're the commission's mapmakers, but this is a tough nut to crack. And kind of the way that the Democratic map did it, and in the Republican map did it, we're probably doing some things that didn't look very good and maybe weren't the first glance that anybody would do, at least this is your first glance. So I would, I would suggest that you ask these four map makers and, about that problem, that mathematical problem that exists up there.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:34:17] We have had that discussion already. They are warning us of the pitfalls that are coming for us.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:34:25] And one of the challenges we run into, when you talk about the complexities of the constitution, that, at a minimum that is describing it, is that normally, we both have said we would normally work on a region and address all the issues of the region. But under the requirements of constitution, we're jumping around as we are in this presentation of this county, and that county and only, we've only done Summit and Lake purely because they connect to the prioritized county on the list. So we know these things are coming. Certainly. We just haven't had the opportunity yet to look at those surrounding counties.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:35:06] Comments from members of the commission. Chair recognizes Auditor Faber.

**Auditor Keith Faber** [00:35:14] Yeah, I think that's, based on this, yeah I'm still on. I'd again emphasize my prior context. You needed to not just look at the partisan index, you need to look at compactness. And it appears here that you guys are drawing, this map less so, the other map more so, more districts into, across areas to try and basically gerrymander to create more Democrat seats. And that's again, I think something that is in violation of the Constitution. So I'll just, I'll just leave it at that. But I saw Montgomery Burns back in the previous map, and I had a problem with that last time. I still have a problem with Montgomery Burns up in Lake County this time, and I don't think that's compact. And I think there are plenty of other ways to get where you need to be. And one of the other things that I would just give you for for reference, particularly in Cuyahoga County, there are, the city of Cleveland, and then there's the inner ring suburbs and the outer ring suburbs, all within Cuyahoga County. To the extent that you can keep those together, you will find communities of interest that I think the people of Cuyahoga County will appreciate. And having heard from mayors of those many, many communities in that area, they are going to tell you that they have much more in common with the other outer ring or inner ring suburbs that are near and like them, than they do with the city of Cleveland, in many cases. And so just be careful of that when you're doing your pairings and your spoke and hubs. But overall, I do, I know this is a tough approach, and this is the reason this has not been an easy process for anybody. And you guys are figuring out first hand why maybe we're where we're at.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:37:07] Questions or comments from members of the commission? Co-chair Sykes.

**Co-Chair Senator Vernon Sykes** [00:37:11] Just a follow up to the last statements made. It is the requirement of the Constitution to attempt to meet the proportionality goals and objectives. So I don't believe and I don't agree that trying to meet that objective is, you know, unnecessary gerrymandering, to just create Democratic districts, it's trying to comply with the requirement of the Constitution to attempt to, in fact, meet proportionality requirements.

**Auditor Keith Faber** [00:37:44] We're going to have a difference of agreement. I don't disagree that you have to attempt. I think the Constitution and the court opinions are very clear. You can't ignore 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, and 6A and 6C, to merely comply with 6B. And I think that that is the issue that has come up in previous maps, from my perspective, and I will just say we're going to have an issue there. And I think that's what the Constitution requires.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:38:15] OK, further questions or comments from members of the commission? All right. If not, referred back to the map drawers and you have some other areas, you want to show us your initial, initial individual sketches.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:38:31] Yes. I'll take the reigns again and we'll do this now with jumping around. As Dr. Johnson said, I would much prefer to be working in area regions rather than jumping around, but this is what we have to do. And so now we're down in Hamilton. And, you know, here we have seven districts which are, it's possible to draw them all within Hamilton County. And the population balances come out fairly easy. So this is actually, surprisingly, all in all, this is a fairly easy, relatively easy county to draw. In just in terms of the compactness, as you're looking at my map, you would say, well, why isn't this compact? As everyone is well aware who's been involved in this process, we've got these, we've got to piece together jigsaw puzzle pieces of these townships and cities, and they don't fit together very well, always. They are non compact often. And so we're often trying to comply with the constitutions of drawing districts out of puzzle pieces that don't really fit together very well in a compact manner. I attempted to do that here as, I, in fact, that's, I mean I am trying to draw in a compact manner when I can. And, you know, I have my solution here. You'll see Dr. Johnson's solution a few minutes too, but I think generally we both get a district in the southeast portion of the county that's very similar, but we do have departures, once we get out of the southeast corner and I- the overall numbers, I think for me, our, looking down at these districts, starting at District 25 and District 31. But generally, I don't have any of, the most quote unquote competitive districts that I have is this, there's a fifty four point zero percent district on that Democrats performance. So I don't think any of the districts I've drawn are going to trigger any of the issues that the court was raising. And I think I've done this in a good way. But again, at the end of this process, we're going to come back and revisit and Dr. Johnson will show you this map as well. It's different in some ways. So I don't think that, this is not a final, this is not a proposal. This is just where I'm at at the moment. And I'll let Dr. Johnson show, you how he approached the drawing of Hamilton.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:42:01] This is, as Dr. McDonald was saying, simpler because the House districts are self-contained, of course, the Senate, yes, will cross out of the county, but you can see the difference. As you mentioned, our southeastern districts are fairly similar in shape. Where the big difference comes in is in the, in the West. Well, I guess the big difference as partisan locations is in the west. We also have different, we ended up with different maps in the Northeast, just through the choices of which communities went with which other communities in a given district. But this is another example, similar to what I mentioned in Summit, where you can have two kind of horizontal districts, 24 and 25 in this map, where one is a safe Republican and the other is a Democrat, but leaning Democratic district. And then you get a District 30, that's Cincinnati. It's also possible you saw on Dr. McDonald's map, to have 30 taking a part of what in this map is 24, and you get, you put Harrison with Cleves and that eastern end, I'm sorry, western end, of the county and then you get one safe, you all, you still get one safe Republican seat, but the Democratic seat becomes, moves out of that 52 percent range and becomes a safer Democratic seat. So this is one of those situations where once we have the overall map dynamics and can look at how the different maps have worked out as the state, we can come back and and easily switch these around as we feel appropriate and necessary given the statewide makeup of the map at that point.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:43:44] I would add to that, you know, we're drawing largely in Democratic areas at the moment, so we haven't really gotten into Republican areas yet, so we're talking about leaning Democratic districts, and given what the court has indicated

about symmetry, we we want to see what we can end up with in the Republican areas of the state so that we know, you know, overall balance. But also we don't want to have, like if we adopted my map and there were bunch of Republican leaning districts, I think that would be a violation and the court would not agree with that. So at some point, we're going to have to come back here and take a look at the symmetry issues and see how well we can address the symmetry issues that the court was raising.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:44:40] Commission have any questions or comments regarding Hamilton County sketches. All right. Is, I think you had said you had one more area that you've preliminarily drawn?

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:44:57] I haven't finished Montgomery, so we're not, I'm not quite there yet.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:45:03] You know, I don't think either one of us have our, we started sketching in Montgomery, but I don't think either one of us have a population balance yet. So we can show you, if you want to see a very much work in progress state, we can show that or we can say that the next meeting of the new progress.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:45:23] Maybe we should, if it's, if you're not complete, if it's not, I guess even, OK, even at the population balance, maybe we should just wait until you do that.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:45:40] Co-Chairs I can share that that we're doing the same approach that we took up in the Northeast. One of us is approaching it as drawing Montgomery with Green and one of us is approaching it is drawing Montgomery with the counties to the west and north. So we will come up with two very different maps to present to you and share our thoughts with you on. Once we get them drawn.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:46:04] All right. I guess I would have because these are a bit complex, and at some point, I think it would be helpful to the commission, maybe to have a, you know, a print of the area and or each one, if there's two different ones. And maybe some of the stats on it so that when you give us your presentation and your explanation, we have actually had a chance to maybe digest that a little bit. So we would, if we have questions, that would prompt them at that time, I think would be helpful. I don't know how complicated or time consuming that would be, but that would, I think, seem to take things.

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:46:54] I have a suggestion on that, if we were to do that. I don't want us to be working on producing reports like that. That's not an effective use of our time. We're going to have a third computer soon. We could have one of your staff members produce those reports. We could put the maps onto that computer and that staff could work on those reports for you and put the maps together. What do you think about that?

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:47:23] And I might take another step, which actually we did a little bit when we verified the data, which is we can, in just 30 seconds or minute, we can export each plan, do it block equivalency file and just give it to your staff. And then they can, they can run all the reports and printouts that you're used to seeing throughout this process, just using the maps that we have at that point. That may be the easiest way to do it. I know you're IT folks have brought a printer over so we can see how, just to give you a quick statewide map, if you wanted to see that when we get to that point. It's probably

easier for us to just hand off the map at any point you want it. You don't have to wait the next meeting, any time you want to see that the information, we're happy to do that.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:48:09] That sounds that sounds like a workable plan, so.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:48:12] Mr. Co-Chair, I just had a question also, if I could.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:48:16] President Huffman.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:48:18] Thanks. I think you just said the third computer, which I assume the third computer is the commission's computer, where the map drawing will actually take place versus the kind of conceptual things. But that computer is not on the premises yet?

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:48:38] Our understanding is that it still needs a graphics card.

**Dr. Douglas Johnson** [00:48:43] I think that, I was just about to say what I think you're about to ask, which is I think they're hoping to have it today. It might be tomorrow morning, but it's not holding us up at this point.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:48:55] Well, right. And that kind of does lead to my next question. So hopefully we'll have the commission's computer, computer number three, there in the room. Great, done. But is the concept here that when you're ready with whatever you're ready, at tomorrow's commission meeting, which I think is at four o'clock, you're going to come to us and say, "well, what do you think of this? What do you think of that?" The commission is going to give its input in whatever form and then after that you would go back to computer number three and start putting the plan together. Is that is that how this is working?

**Dr. Michael McDonald** [00:49:33] I think so, I think hopefully tomorrow we're going to have close to something that's going to be two draft maps that are going to have some differences to them and we will have some understanding of what the implications of those differences are to the goals that we're trying to achieve. And I think that's when your input will be valuable.

**Senate President Matt Huffman** [00:49:56] Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:50:00] Further comments or questions. All right. All right, well, thank you for the presentation and is anything else to come before the commission this afternoon?

**Co-Chair Senator Vernon Sykes** [00:50:14] Just one comment, one question- we had planned, we had some discussions earlier on in this process, not knowing how long this was going to take, that we possibly, it was a possibility of us having a public hearing. And I know we're, you know, not far enough along to do that, but at some stage we still would like consideration be given to have a public hearing on this. Of course not tomorrow, but is could be possible, maybe on Sunday to do that and just keep that in mind and let the map draws know that so that we could possibly prepare for it appropriately or at least attempt to do that.

**Co-Chair Speaker Bob Cupp** [00:51:00] All right. So I'll- everyone keep that in mind as a possibility and a timing on that, so we'll have to see how things progress, I think, so. Anything else? If not, I think we will, I would request that we do like we have done, that this meeting recess until tomorrow at four o'clock. But if there is a need to reconvene before that time at an appropriate, timely notice, the commission could reconvene and address issues that that may come up, in the meantime. So without objection, then the commission meeting will be in recess.