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## **VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION**

*November 16, 2021*

**SC House Judiciary Ad-Hoc Committee**

**Redistricting Hearings**

REPORTER: Kathryn Bostrom

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
HOUSE JUDICIARY AD-HOC COMMITTEE  
REDISTRICTING HEARINGS

The within hearings, before the South Carolina House  
Judiciary Committee, transcribed by Kathryn B Bostrom,  
Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of  
South Carolina; said hearings were taken in Columbia, South  
Carolina, on Tuesday, the 16th day of November, 2021.

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APPEARANCES:

House Judiciary Committee:

- Wallace "Jay" Jordan, Chair
- Justin Bamberg
- Neal Collins
- Patricia Henegan
- Beth Bernstein
- Jason Elliot
- Weston Newton

Staff Present:

- Emma Dean

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16  
17  
18  
19  
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21  
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23  
24  
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CONTENTS:

(Hearing)

PAGE

Proceedings . . . . .	4
Certification of Reporter . . . . .	11
Word Index	

EXHIBITS

There were no exhibits marked during these hearings.

Court Reporter's Legend:

- dashes [--] Intentional or purposeful]
- interruption
- [ph] Denotes phonetically written
- [sic] Written as said

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S  
2 REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN: Call the meeting to order. We  
3 are now at full strength. Thank you to the  
4 members of the committee for being here.  
5 Representative Bernstein had a very, very long  
6 walk to get here, but she made it. We're  
7 thankful -- very thankful to have her. Thank you  
8 to those here in attendance this morning. I see  
9 some familiar faces in the audience today here in  
10 the Blatt Room. Thank you to those that are  
11 participating virtually as well through our  
12 statehouse website. Of course, many of you  
13 hopefully know me by now. My name's Jay Jordan.  
14 I have the pleasure of chairing this  
15 redistricting ad hoc committee of the South  
16 Carolina House of Representatives and of course,  
17 it is, as always, my pleasure to introduce my  
18 colleagues: Representative Henegan,  
19 Representative Bernstein, Representative Newton,  
20 Representative Elliott, Representative Bamberg,  
21 as well as Representative Collins to my far left.  
22 And it has been truly my pleasure, ladies and  
23 gentlemen, to serve with y'all in this process  
24 and to introduce you all these times. Also want  
25 to say another thank you to our staff that has

1 worked so hard and tirelessly through this  
2 process. Y'all are truly appreciated and on  
3 behalf of this committee and the Judiciary  
4 Committee and the full House, thank you so much.  
5 Also thank you to my fellow members that are here  
6 today. I see some of you here with us that are  
7 taking time to be here today. Thank y'all for  
8 coming in a little bit early today. As I have  
9 said many times, this is an important part of the  
10 overall process of redistricting. The hearings  
11 that we've conducted over these past several  
12 months, I think I've called them "keystones," and  
13 I think that's a good descriptor of what we are  
14 or what we've tried to do in this process. We've  
15 taken to heart the input and the insight that has  
16 been provided to us throughout this process and I  
17 thank everyone who took time to participate in  
18 that process and give us that input and insight.  
19 This committee has traveled literally thousands  
20 of miles across the State of South Carolina to  
21 hear from our constituents. Last Monday, to sort  
22 of bring us all up to speed to where we are,  
23 November the 8th, we posted on our -- we posted  
24 our working draft plan; and then on that  
25 Wednesday, November 10th, we heard again from the

1 public through testimony and other type -- and  
2 emails and submissions and those type things and  
3 based on those, we listened and decided to  
4 reconvene here today. That allowed us again to  
5 leave the record open, so to speak, to hear  
6 additional feedback and we've heard that. As of  
7 yesterday, we received additional written  
8 submission from several important public interest  
9 groups, such as the League of Women Voters and  
10 the NAACP, and we've collected that data or that  
11 information and considered it as we further  
12 drafted and evaluated the plan. I want to be  
13 extremely clear as I hope I have been in the  
14 nearly four months that this committee has worked  
15 that this task is, of course, extremely  
16 difficult, but extremely important to our state.  
17 We did not consider any comments insignificant  
18 and we believe all of theM offered to us for the  
19 considerate -- for our consideration was of  
20 value. he reality is we are blessed to have  
21 tremendously -- to have grown tremendously in  
22 size since 2010, but the other side of that coin,  
23 the reality is we must address that the growth  
24 was not consistent across the state and we have a  
25 number of smaller counties or more rural areas

1 that lost population. Our constitution provides  
2 that 124 House of Representatives are to be  
3 apportioned among the inhabitants of this state  
4 and based on the 2020 census -- US census, each  
5 district should ideally be 41,278 in population.  
6 The fundamental goal of this committee and the  
7 House has been to develop a plan that assures  
8 South Carolina Legislative Districts provide for  
9 equal voting rights: one person, one vote. This  
10 is our constitutional mandate and our guiding  
11 principle of law as we work to redraw the  
12 district lines to account for changes in South  
13 Carolina's population, and with this population  
14 mandate in mind, we also considered the important  
15 social, cultural, historical context to our  
16 communities. We do believe the working plan  
17 realizes the fundamental constitutional goal of  
18 equality in voting, and likewise accords with the  
19 guidelines and criteria adopted by this committee  
20 on August 3rd of 2021, in that our working plan  
21 complies with the United States Constitution, the  
22 South Carolina Constitution, and Federal and  
23 State law, is contiguous, compact, and properly  
24 considers communities of entrance -- interest and  
25 incumbency. The ad hoc committee's working draft

1 plan was released on November 8th. We heard  
2 public testimony on November 10th, received  
3 written testimony from our members, our  
4 constituents, public interest groups, as I  
5 already said. We have reviewed those submissions  
6 and taken them into consideration. I can tell  
7 you it is my understanding that there are several  
8 amendments to be presented to the full judiciary  
9 committee; however, the judiciary committee needs  
10 a starting place which we believe the ad hoc  
11 committee's working plan provides. And just for  
12 the record, as for the prior proceedings to date,  
13 this hearing is being recorded, it will be  
14 transcribed, and made available to the public.  
15 We are not taking public testimony at this  
16 hearing, but we have convened to consider the  
17 working plan and determine as a committee what  
18 our recommendation will be to the House Judiciary  
19 Committee later today. Thank you again for your  
20 interest in this important process throughout  
21 this process. So all that to sum up: We have a  
22 plan that we've heard a tremendous amount of  
23 input -- that has received a tremendous amount of  
24 work. As I've also said, there are amendments  
25 that will be considered later today by full

1           judiciary, that of course, all of us will get to  
2           participate in that process. I think some of  
3           those amendments are going to be very good  
4           amendments, necessary amendments, but again, as I  
5           said, we need a starting point for the next phase  
6           of this for the full judiciary to be able to take  
7           the ball from us and run with it. So any  
8           questions, concerns, or do I hear a motion? All  
9           right, so --

10   UNKNOWN REPRESENTATIVE: Mr. Chairman, move approval  
11           of the working plan.

12   MR. JORDAN: All right. So we have a motion to amend  
13           4493 with the working draft that we adopted last  
14           week. That's -- all right. Second by  
15           Representative Henegan. All right. I believe we  
16           need a roll call. So therefore roll call is  
17           required and ordered.

18   MS. DEAN: Thank you. Chairman Jordan.

19   CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Aye.

20   MS. DEAN: Representative Bamberg.

21   REPRESENTATIVE BAMBERG: Aye.

22   MS. DEAN: Representative Bernstein.

23   REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Aye.

24   MS. DEAN: Representative Collins.

25   REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS: Aye.

1 MS. DEAN: Representative Elliott.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ELLIOTT: Aye.

3 MS. DEAN: Representative Henegan.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HENEGAN: Aye.

5 MS. DEAN: Representative Newton.

6 REPRESENTATIVE NEWTON: Aye.

7 MS. DEAN: Receive as a favorable as amended report.

8 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: All right. Ladies and gentlemen,  
9 that will take care of the business at hand for  
10 now. We'll, of course, meet back up in about an  
11 hour and twenty minutes in this room I believe.  
12 Is that right, Ms. Dean? All right. In this  
13 room. And then we will participate with full  
14 judiciary as we consider the plan we've sent to  
15 them. Seeing no further business, I believe we  
16 are adjourned.

17 (There being nothing further, the  
18 hearing is concluded)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, KATHRYN BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT LARGE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I TRANSCRIBED THESE HEARINGS HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021, THAT THE FOREGOING 10 PAGES CONSTITUTE A TRUE AND CORRECT, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PRE-RECORDED HEARING.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER ATTORNEY NOR COUNSEL FOR, NOR RELATED TO OR EMPLOYED BY ANY OF THE PARTIES CONNECTED WITH THIS ACTION, NOR AM I FINANCIALLY INTERESTED IN SAID CAUSE.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL OF SAID TRANSCRIPT WAS THEREAFTER SEALED BY ME AND DELIVERED TO EMMA DEAN, 512 BLATT BUILDING, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, WHO WILL RETAIN THIS SEALED ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING SAME WITH THE COURT PRIOR TO TRIAL OR ANY HEARING WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A FINAL ORDER ON ANY ISSUE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE SET MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 11TH DAY OF JANUARY 2021.



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KATHRYN B. BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUGUST 28, 2022

<hr/> <b>1</b> <hr/>	<b>additional</b> 6:6,7	10:10	6:13	<b>constitution</b> 7:1,21,22
<b>10th</b> 5:25 8:2	<b>address</b> 6:23	<b>ball</b> 9:7	<b>coin</b> 6:22	<b>constitutional</b> 7:10,17
<b>124</b> 7:2	<b>adjourned</b> 10:16	<b>Bamberg</b> 4:20 9:20,21	<b>colleagues</b> 4:18	<b>context</b> 7:15
<hr/> <b>2</b> <hr/>	<b>adopted</b> 7:19 9:13	<b>based</b> 6:3 7:4	<b>collected</b> 6:10	<b>contiguous</b> 7:23
<b>2010</b> 6:22	<b>allowed</b> 6:4	<b>behalf</b> 5:3	<b>Collins</b> 4:21 9:24,25	<b>convened</b> 8:16
<b>2020</b> 7:4	<b>amend</b> 9:12	<b>Bernstein</b> 4:5,19 9:22,23	<b>comments</b> 6:17	<b>counties</b> 6:25
<b>2021</b> 7:20	<b>amended</b> 10:7	<b>bit</b> 5:8	<b>committee</b> 4:4,15 5:3,4,19 6:14 7:6,19 8:9, 17,19	<b>criteria</b> 7:19
<hr/> <b>3</b> <hr/>	<b>amendments</b> 8:8,24 9:3,4	<b>Blatt</b> 4:10	<b>committee's</b> 7:25 8:11	<b>cultural</b> 7:15
<b>3rd</b> 7:20	<b>amount</b> 8:22,23	<b>blessed</b> 6:20	<b>communities</b> 7:16,24	<hr/> <b>D</b> <hr/>
<hr/> <b>4</b> <hr/>	<b>apportioned</b> 7:3	<b>bring</b> 5:22	<b>compact</b> 7:23	<b>data</b> 6:10
<b>41,278</b> 7:5	<b>appreciated</b> 5:2	<b>business</b> 10:9,15	<b>complies</b> 7:21	<b>date</b> 8:12
<b>4493</b> 9:13	<b>approval</b> 9:10	<hr/> <b>C</b> <hr/>	<b>concerns</b> 9:8	<b>Dean</b> 9:18,20,22,24 10:1,3,5,7,12
<hr/> <b>8</b> <hr/>	<b>areas</b> 6:25	<b>call</b> 4:2 9:16	<b>concluded</b> 10:18	<b>decided</b> 6:3
<b>8th</b> 5:23 8:1	<b>assures</b> 7:7	<b>called</b> 5:12	<b>conducted</b> 5:11	<b>descriptor</b> 5:13
<hr/> <b>A</b> <hr/>	<b>attendance</b> 4:8	<b>care</b> 10:9	<b>considerate</b> 6:19	<b>determine</b> 8:17
<b>accords</b> 7:18	<b>audience</b> 4:9	<b>Carolina</b> 4:16 5:20 7:8,22	<b>consideration</b> 6:19 8:6	<b>develop</b> 7:7
<b>account</b> 7:12	<b>August</b> 7:20	<b>Carolina's</b> 7:13	<b>considered</b> 6:11 7:14 8:25	<b>difficult</b> 6:16
<b>ad</b> 4:15 7:25 8:10	<b>Aye</b> 9:19,21,23,25 10:2,4,6	<b>census</b> 7:4	<b>considers</b> 7:24	<b>district</b> 7:5,12
	<hr/> <b>B</b> <hr/>	<b>chairing</b> 4:14	<b>consistent</b> 6:24	<b>Districts</b> 7:8
	<b>back</b>	<b>Chairman</b> 9:10,18,19 10:8	<b>constituents</b> 5:21 8:4	<b>draft</b>
		<b>clear</b>		

5:24 7:25 9:13 <b>drafted</b> 6:12		<b>hoc</b> 4:15 7:25 8:10	<b>judiciary</b> 5:3 8:8,9,18 9:1, 6 10:14	<b>meet</b> 10:10
<hr/> <b>E</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>G</b> <hr/>	<b>hope</b> 6:13	<hr/> <b>K</b> <hr/>	<b>meeting</b> 4:2
<b>early</b> 5:8	<b>gentlemen</b> 4:23 10:8	<b>hour</b> 10:11	<b>keystones</b> 5:12	<b>members</b> 4:4 5:5 8:3
<b>Elliott</b> 4:20 10:1,2	<b>give</b> 5:18	<b>House</b> 4:16 5:4 7:2,7 8:18	<hr/> <b>L</b> <hr/>	<b>miles</b> 5:20
<b>emails</b> 6:2	<b>goal</b> 7:6,17	<hr/> <b>I</b> <hr/>	<b>ladies</b> 4:22 10:8	<b>mind</b> 7:14
<b>entrance</b> 7:24	<b>good</b> 5:13 9:3	<b>ideally</b> 7:5	<b>law</b> 7:11,23	<b>minutes</b> 10:11
<b>equal</b> 7:9	<b>groups</b> 6:9 8:4	<b>important</b> 5:9 6:8,16 7:14 8:20	<b>League</b> 6:9	<b>Monday</b> 5:21
<b>equality</b> 7:18	<b>grown</b> 6:21	<b>incumbency</b> 7:25	<b>leave</b> 6:5	<b>months</b> 5:12 6:14
<b>evaluated</b> 6:12	<b>growth</b> 6:23	<b>information</b> 6:11	<b>left</b> 4:21	<b>morning</b> 4:8
<b>extremely</b> 6:13,15,16	<b>guidelines</b> 7:19	<b>inhabitants</b> 7:3	<b>Legislative</b> 7:8	<b>motion</b> 9:8,12
<hr/> <b>F</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>H</b> <hr/>	<b>input</b> 5:15,18 8:23	<b>likewise</b> 7:18	<b>move</b> 9:10
<b>faces</b> 4:9	<b>hand</b> 10:9	<b>insight</b> 5:15,18	<b>lines</b> 7:12	<hr/> <b>N</b> <hr/>
<b>familiar</b> 4:9	<b>hard</b> 5:1	<b>insignificant</b> 6:17	<b>listened</b> 6:3	<b>NAACP</b> 6:10
<b>favorable</b> 10:7	<b>hear</b> 5:21 6:5 9:8	<b>interest</b> 6:8 7:24 8:4,20	<b>literally</b> 5:19	<b>name's</b> 4:13
<b>Federal</b> 7:22	<b>heard</b> 5:25 6:6 8:1,22	<b>introduce</b> 4:17,24	<b>long</b> 4:5	<b>Newton</b> 4:19 10:5,6
<b>feedback</b> 6:6	<b>hearing</b> 8:13,16 10:18	<hr/> <b>J</b> <hr/>	<b>lost</b> 7:1	<b>November</b> 5:23,25 8:1,2
<b>fellow</b> 5:5	<b>hearings</b> 5:10	<b>Jay</b> 4:13	<hr/> <b>M</b> <hr/>	<b>number</b> 6:25
<b>full</b> 4:3 5:4 8:8,25 9:6 10:13	<b>heart</b> 5:15	<b>Jordan</b> 4:2,13 9:12,18, 19 10:8	<b>made</b> 4:6 8:14	<hr/> <b>O</b> <hr/>
<b>fundamental</b> 7:6,17	<b>Henegan</b> 4:18 9:15 10:3,4		<b>mandate</b> 7:10,14	<b>offered</b> 6:18
	<b>historical</b> 7:15			<b>open</b> 6:5

<b>order</b> 4:2	8:12	<b>redistricting</b> 4:15 5:10	7:15	6:2
<b>ordered</b> 9:17	<b>proceedings</b> 8:12	<b>redraw</b> 7:11	<b>sort</b> 5:21	<b>thousands</b> 5:19
<hr/>	<b>process</b> 4:23 5:2,10,14, 16,18 8:20,21	<b>released</b> 8:1	<b>South</b> 4:15 5:20 7:8, 12,22	<b>time</b> 5:7,17
<b>P</b> <hr/>	9:2	<b>report</b> 10:7	<b>speak</b> 6:5	<b>times</b> 4:24 5:9
<b>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S</b> 4:1	<b>properly</b> 7:23	<b>Representative</b> 4:2,5,18,19,20, 21 9:10,15,20, 21,22,23,24,25	<b>speed</b> 5:22	<b>tirelessly</b> 5:1
<b>part</b> 5:9	<b>provide</b> 7:8	<b>Representatives</b> 4:16 7:2	<b>staff</b> 4:25	<b>today</b> 4:9 5:6,7,8 6:4 8:19,25
<b>participate</b> 5:17 9:2 10:13	<b>provided</b> 5:16	<b>required</b> 9:17	<b>starting</b> 8:10 9:5	<b>transcribed</b> 8:14
<b>participating</b> 4:11	<b>public</b> 6:1,8 8:2,4,14, 15	<b>reviewed</b> 8:5	<b>state</b> 5:20 6:16,24 7:3,23	<b>traveled</b> 5:19
<b>past</b> 5:11	<hr/>	<b>rights</b> 7:9	<b>statehouse</b> 4:12	<b>tremendous</b> 8:22,23
<b>person</b> 7:9	<b>Q</b> <hr/>	<b>roll</b> 9:16	<b>States</b> 7:21	<b>tremendously</b> 6:21
<b>phase</b> 9:5	<b>questions</b> 9:8	<b>room</b> 4:10 10:11,13	<b>strength</b> 4:3	<b>twenty</b> 10:11
<b>place</b> 8:10	<hr/>	<b>run</b> 9:7	<b>submission</b> 6:8	<b>type</b> 6:1,2
<b>plan</b> 5:24 6:12 7:7, 16,20 8:1,11,17, 22 9:11 10:14	<b>R</b> <hr/>	<b>rural</b> 6:25	<b>submissions</b> 6:2 8:5	<hr/>
<b>pleasure</b> 4:14,17,22	<b>reality</b> 6:20,23	<hr/>	<b>sum</b> 8:21	<b>U</b> <hr/>
<b>point</b> 9:5	<b>realizes</b> 7:17	<b>S</b> <hr/>	<hr/>	<b>understanding</b> 8:7
<b>population</b> 7:1,5,13	<b>Receive</b> 10:7	<b>serve</b> 4:23	<b>T</b> <hr/>	<b>United</b> 7:21
<b>posted</b> 5:23	<b>received</b> 6:7 8:2,23	<b>side</b> 6:22	<b>taking</b> 5:7 8:15	<b>UNKNOWN</b> 9:10
<b>presented</b> 8:8	<b>recommenda n</b> 8:18	<b>size</b> 6:22	<b>task</b> 6:15	<hr/>
<b>principle</b> 7:11	<b>reconvene</b> 6:4	<b>smaller</b> 6:25	<b>testimony</b> 6:1 8:2,3,15	<b>V</b> <hr/>
<b>prior</b>	<b>record</b> 6:5 8:12	<b>social</b>	<b>thankful</b> 4:7	<b>virtually</b> 4:11
	<b>recorded</b> 8:13		<b>things</b>	<b>vote</b> 7:9
				<b>Voters</b> 6:9

**voting**

7:9,18

---

**W**

---

**walk**

4:6

**website**

4:12

**Wednesday**

5:25

**week**

9:14

**Women**

6:9

**work**

7:11 8:24

**worked**

5:1 6:14

**working**

5:24 7:16,20,25

8:11,17 9:11,13

**written**

6:7 8:3

---

**Y**

---

**y'all**

4:23 5:2,7

**yesterday**

6:7