

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

In re: Public Meeting of the Legislative
Reapportionment Commission

VOLUME I - Pages 1-97

Stenographic report of hearing held
in Hearing Room No. 1, North Office
Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Monday
April 26, 2021
1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Sen. Kim Ward	Rep. Kerry Benninghoff
Sen. Jay Costa	Rep. Matthew Bradford, (Deputy Commissioner for Rep. Joanna McClinton)

Also Present:

Brent McClintock, Executive Director, Legislative Data
Processing Center
G. Carlton Logue, Esq. Deputy Counsel, Senate Majority Leader
Chad Davis, Research Analyst, Senate Republican Policy Office
C.J. Hafner, Esq., Chief Counsel, Senate Democratic Leader
Ronald N. Jumper, Esq. Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Democratic
Leader
Lora S. Schoenberg, Director, Senate Democratic Legislative
Services
Rod Corey, Esq., Chief Counsel, House Republican Caucus
James Mann, Esq., Senior Deputy Chief Counsel, House
Republican Caucus
Katherine Testa, Esq., Senior Legal Counsel, House
Republican Caucus
William R. Schaller, Director, House Republican District
Operations
Michael Schwoyer, Esq., Special Counsel, Deputy Chief of
Staff for Legislation and Policy, House Democratic Caucus
Justin Klos, Director, House Democratic Office of
Demographic Analysis

Reported by:
Ann-Marie P. Sweeney
Senate Chief Official Reporter

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Also Present:

David Brogan, Esq., Director, House Democratic Legislation
and Policy

Andrew McGinley, Esq., General Counsel, House Democratic
Government Oversight Committee

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1 SENATOR K. WARD: Hi, everyone. I'd like to call
2 the first meeting of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission
3 to order. And the first order of business is the selection of
4 Interim Chair of the Commission. Are there any motions?

5 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Yes, Madam Chair.
6 Good afternoon, everybody. I'd like to make a motion Senator
7 Kim Ward serve as our temporary Commission Chair for the
8 Legislative Reapportionment Commission. As you know, the
9 Majority Leader has shown exceptional leadership and has done
10 much to organize our efforts to get to this historic point.
11 Therefore, it is my honor to nominate Senator Kim Ward to be
12 our temporary Commission Chair.

13 SENATOR COSTA: Madam Chair, or soon-to-be Madam
14 Chair, I second the nomination of Kim Ward to serve as the
15 Interim Chair of the Reapportionment Commission.

16 SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you both.

17 Representative Benninghoff moves that I serve as
18 the Interim Chair, and Senator Costa seconds the motion.

19 Are there any other motions?

20 (There was no response.)

21 SENATOR K. WARD: Are there any questions or
22 comments?

23 (There was no response.)

24 SENATOR K. WARD: All in favor of the motion?

25 SENATOR COSTA: Aye.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Aye.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Aye.

3 SENATOR K. WARD: Aye.

4 The motion carries.

5 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: So thank you all
6 for your support in serving as the Interim Chair of the
7 Commission. None of us on this Commission will take this
8 responsibility lightly, and we will work to ensure a fair and
9 transparent process until the permanent Chair is selected for
10 the 2021 Reapportionment Commission. I am honored to
11 participate in this process that will shape our elections in
12 Pennsylvania for the next decade and look forward to working
13 with my colleagues from the House and the Senate, as well as
14 the future Chair of this Commission, to draw fair maps that
15 meet our constitutional and statutory requirements.

16 We have received applications from many qualified
17 individuals with diverse backgrounds from across our
18 Commonwealth, and we have received about four times as many
19 this year as we did 10 years ago. And I'm looking forward to
20 hearing from these individuals over the next two days. So
21 thank you very much.

22 Representative Benninghoff, do you have any
23 comments?

24 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Madam Chair, just a
25 point of order before I give any comments. Seeing that we have

1 an interim person in place of the Minority Leader, do we need
2 any kind of official documentation for that substitution, that
3 we might have something on the record?

4 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: They are getting us
5 a proxy, if we don't have it already. We have asked for it,
6 and they have agreed.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair.

9 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Are you going to
10 make comments?

11 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Again, thank you,
12 Madam Chair.

13 I would first like to thank all the Members here on
14 the Commission for agreeing to this inclusive effort in
15 selecting our next Chair for the 2021 Legislative
16 Reapportionment Commission. Over the next two days, we are
17 scheduled to hear from 39 individuals who hope to serve in that
18 position. That's substantially more than the number of
19 applicants interviewed in the last reapportionment 10 years
20 ago. It is my hope that at the conclusion of these interviews
21 we may come to a consensus on the selection of a Chair and
22 begin our work as our first effort.

23 I also want to take a moment to thank the
24 applicants in your interest in serving as the Commission Chair.
25 Your willingness to sacrifice your time and your talents to aid

1 our Commission in accomplishing this constitutional obligation
2 is to be commended.

3 Finally, we are committed to a process that is
4 fair, open, legal in satisfying our obligations under the
5 United States Constitution, the Pennsylvania Constitution, and
6 the Voting Rights Act. As we know, the Covid-19 pandemic has
7 placed some serious challenges before the Commission. The U.S.
8 Census Bureau indicated that the data will not be available
9 until sometime over the summer, six months later than that data
10 is usually available to the Commission, and the demands of
11 social distancing limit our ability to accommodate a larger
12 number of people in the public hearings. Therefore, why this
13 is being provided publicly.

14 On the bright side, the pandemic has also forced
15 government to change and adapt in the ways that we conduct our
16 business to meet these challenges. Given the advances in
17 technology, I remain confident that this Commission can and
18 will operate its constitutional obligations in a timely manner.
19 We have the opportunity to conduct this redistricting process
20 that is far more open and more transparent and is reaching
21 substantially a wider audience than could be accompanied or
22 accomplished than just having them in a room, or in the last
23 five previous Redistricting Commission exercises. I hope that
24 we will take advantage of that opportunity. I look forward to
25 working with each one of you, and most of all, hearing from

1 these applicants. Again, thank you for your service to us and
2 our State.

3 Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you,
5 Representative.

6 Senator Costa.

7 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair,
8 and I, too, echo the comments of the House Majority Leader with
9 respect to thanking all the folks who've expressed an interest,
10 both who are here today in person and those who are on Zoom,
11 and the folks we will be hearing from tomorrow.

12 As was indicated, we probably have four times the
13 number of individuals who've expressed an interest than the
14 previous term back in 2011, when I had the opportunity to serve
15 as the Democratic representative on the Reapportionment
16 Commission. At that point in time, and even before that, there
17 was very, very few meetings that took place along those lines.
18 In fact, I think in 2001 there wasn't even a conversation among
19 the Reapportionment Commission at this part of the process. So
20 I'm encouraged by what we are doing here today, and I too look
21 forward to the process by which we get to a place where we're
22 able to possibly select a person who is committed to fairness,
23 who is committed to openness, who is committed to transparency
24 through this process. That's what we're going to continue to
25 fight for and talk about, and I look forward to these

1 discussions and listening to the people who are testifying
2 before us here today. Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

4 Representative Bradford.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Thank you, Leader, and I
6 want to share again many of the words that have already been
7 spoken by the two Leaders. It's my privilege today to be here
8 as the designee for our House Democratic Leader, Representative
9 McClinton. Much like having the first Interim Chair being a
10 female as a historic first for this Commission, having a female
11 and a woman of color sit on this Commission in the person of
12 Member McClinton is also a historic first and another step in
13 making this a much more inclusive process than it has been
14 previously, and I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the two
15 Leaders for their being here today.

16 This is obviously a very different process than
17 what was 10 years ago, and that is thanks to the applicants
18 coming forward, the hard work of staff and advocates who
19 recognize that this is a process that needs to foster trust and
20 confidence. We all recognize that an open and transparent
21 process is the best way to get to that result. I want to thank
22 all the Commissioners for giving their pledge to do that. We
23 obviously will do our part as well. This is no longer an
24 obscure process that too often was political but is now a
25 really important part of our democracy that is getting the

1 attention it deserves. And I, again, am just appreciative to
2 be here on behalf of Leader McClinton.

3 Thank you, Leader.

4 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

5 So we'll get started. As you know, the purpose
6 today is to hear from individuals who are interested in having
7 the fifth position on the Reapportionment Commission, and we
8 have had a lot of applicants, as you already heard. So we're
9 going to hear from over 20 today, maybe up to 28. Each
10 applicant will have 5 minutes to speak, followed by questions
11 from the Commissioners. The light in front of me, green, I'm
12 going to put a timer on this, is our 5-minute light. So we'll
13 hit the 5 minutes. When you have about 30 seconds left, the
14 gold light will light up, and the end will be red. So if you
15 are testifying in person, please make sure your microphone is
16 on. If you are participating on Zoom, you will be unmuted when
17 it is your turn.

18 So we will begin with the in-person applicants, and
19 the first testifier is Kimberly Felan. Did I say that
20 correctly?

21 MS. FELAN: It's Felan. But that's okay. Nobody
22 gets it correct.

23 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Felan, it's pretty.

24 Turn on the microphone and just give us a little
25 bit of information about you and why you're interested.

1 MS. FELAN: First, I want to say good afternoon.
2 I'm glad to see everybody here. And I want to thank the
3 ranking Members of the Committee for giving me this opportunity
4 to speak to you today and apply for this prestigious
5 appointment. And since this is public, I just want to say
6 thank you to all the people in the background that nobody ever
7 hears about that does all the cameras and cleans the bathrooms
8 and everything and makes this huge magnanimous courthouse work.
9 So I appreciate them as well.

10 I heard about this opportunity in an email. A
11 friend of mine sent it to me thinking that I might be
12 interested. I said, might? No, definitely interested. I'm a
13 40-year PA resident and an avid voter. A super voter, I guess
14 they call them. And I'm really hoping that we can work
15 together in a fair and equitable manner and throw partisanship
16 to the side and just work for the best of the people. I really
17 believe in the one-person-one-vote concept, and I know that's
18 what everybody here believes in, but fairness means a lot to
19 me. I consider that I probably have a little bit above average
20 ethical plane that I run on. I just like to make sure that
21 communication is open and we don't hide things from other
22 people, you know. I just like to be fair, in my own personal
23 life, you know.

24 Personally, I was growing up in the '70s and '80s
25 when being a fat kid was not cool. Nowadays, there's lots of

1 overweight kids, but back then it was a reason to be mean, and
2 my whole school life was like that. So I know what it's like
3 to be marginalized or mistreated by your peers, and so growing
4 up I've just developed this hard-knock fairness thing, you
5 know. I wanted to be fair and principled and, you know, Lady
6 Justice, the whole thing.

7 My qualifications, I have a bachelor's degree in
8 information technology, and a master's degree in political
9 science. And thank you to the miracles of modern technology,
10 because I did those from home. I have experience with all
11 different kinds of documentation, presentations, PowerPoints,
12 and I'm Microsoft and Google literate, and I bring a lot of
13 transferable skills. I'm 100-percent goal-oriented, so if we
14 say this is our goal to be fair and work together and come up
15 with a consensus, that's really my goal. I'm not big on who
16 said what, and things like that.

17 I know a lot, but I'm willing to learn, and
18 actually I find this to be an extremely awesome learning
19 experience for me. And I'm willing to accept fault. I'm a big
20 debator and I will debate somebody until the cows come home.
21 But at some point you just have to just say, yeah, you're
22 right, I was wrong. You know. It might take a few minutes,
23 but I get there.

24 In my free time I work online in my social media
25 sphere on disinformation and misinformation. I encourage my

1 friends and family to look something up. Look at your
2 resources. Do you have a valid resource? Is this something
3 that comes from a trusted source, or is this a fake page? All
4 right. So I encourage folks to do that, and I encourage them
5 to share information. Just make sure that it's accurate.

6 I've been a digital volunteer and administrator and
7 manager for two local groups online on Facebook, one is called
8 Johnstown Trading Post, and since 2011 when I started it, it
9 now has 19,000 members. And it really brings a lot of presence
10 to the local community. I live in Johnstown, and our area is
11 often so depressed and everything, it's nice to give something
12 to people, to do that without paying a fee or anything.

13 I've been on many different committees. I've been
14 on Head Start Policy Council, I've been involved with the Girl
15 Scouts of Western Pennsylvania. At one time I coached soccer
16 for my son when he was growing up. He is now a grown man in
17 his 30s and he's an autistic. So inclusion and fairness was
18 always important to me for him because even though he didn't
19 have the skills, you know, he wanted to play. And I've been on
20 many committees for IEPs and 504 meetings.

21 My superpowers are powers of persuasion in debate
22 and fighting for human rights, advocacy. Time management,
23 critical thinking, and positive attitude really mean
24 everything. I think you can do anything with that.

25 Thank you.

1 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

2 Are we good? Do you have any questions? No
3 questions?

4 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you.

5 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: No questions.
6 Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Felan.

7 Our next person is Art Grim.

8 MR. GRIM: Good afternoon.

9 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Good afternoon.

10 MR. GRIM: I'm going to remove this, if that's
11 okay. It's hard to have a mask and glasses on at the same
12 time.

13 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: It is. They fog
14 up.

15 MR. GRIM: They sure do.

16 Good afternoon. I speak to you today as a
17 glass-half-full kind of person who came of age in the 1960s
18 believing full well in the American dream, not only for myself,
19 but the possibility of all Americans to achieve that dream. I
20 think it's important to recognize and acknowledge that this
21 great experiment in democracy, this Republic that we call
22 America, is in real trouble. But many Americans no longer --
23 sorry, my mic was not on. I'm used to talking without one of
24 these, so. That this Republic that we call America is in real
25 trouble. Many Americans no longer believe in the inevitability

1 of America's unlimited future. The polestar of American
2 democracy and our Judeo-Christian tradition and faith demands
3 that we be fair and just in all that we do. And many Americans
4 believe that that is no longer the case in our country, that we
5 are no longer fair and just. These negative forces are tearing
6 us apart at the macro, as well as the micro, level. And in my
7 opinion, if we are to change this trajectory, we, in positions
8 of relative power, need to acknowledge the legitimacy of the
9 anger and do our best to ameliorate it.

10 Study after study, as well as our own common sense,
11 tells us that the most sacred right in our democracy is our
12 right to vote, along with our belief that our vote will count
13 equally with others. Americans are not stupid. They know full
14 well that gerrymandering takes a direct toll on voting, as well
15 as our desire and our ability to govern ourselves.

16 Pennsylvanians want fair and trustworthy redistricting. They
17 want the process to be straightforward, open, and transparent,
18 and they want the criteria to be clear, consistent, and
19 accountable. As I'm sure you may know, these words are not
20 original to me, but in my opinion, they accurately capture the
21 importance and necessity of our citizens' understanding and
22 participating fully and believing in the efficacy of the
23 process. Honest redistricting in 2021, in my opinion, is
24 arguably the most important redistricting in the entire history
25 of our country.

1 I believe that my background and life experience
2 can be helpful in this quest. I was a Judge of the Court of
3 Common Pleas in Berks County for 30 years, and served as
4 administrative head of the Juvenile Court from 1987 to 2007,
5 and President Judge from 2004 to 2008. I was Chair of
6 Pennsylvania's Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for almost two
7 decades, and a member of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
8 Prevention Committee to the PCCD for decades as well.

9 In February of 2009, I was appointed as Special
10 Master by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to review all the
11 juvenile cases presided over in Luzerne County by Judge Mark
12 Ciavarella, who improperly committed juveniles to detention
13 facilities, denied them their constitutional right to counsel,
14 in what I think clearly was one of the most egregious
15 violations of public trust in the history of American juvenile
16 justice. As a result of my findings and my recommendations,
17 the Supreme Court entered an order expunging the record of over
18 3,000 juveniles.

19 I was adjunct professor at Alvernia University in
20 Reading, and Saint Joseph University. I served as President of
21 the Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Association, Juvenile
22 Justice Section, from 2003 to 2005, as well as on the
23 Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families. I served as Chair
24 of the Board of the United Way of Berks County, and the
25 Wyomissing Foundation Board of Trustees, among other areas of

1 community involvement. I gathered and led a broad and
2 committed group of community leaders for the Berks County
3 Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Steering Committee.
4 I served as a Yale Law School/China Law Center visiting
5 juvenile justice consultant in China in 2010. And in the wake
6 of the Penn State Jerry Sandusky tragedy, I was appointed by
7 the Governor as the judicial representative to the Statewide
8 Task Force on Child Protection.

9 In 2017, I was selected by the Civil Rights
10 Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to serve as a
11 monitor to ensure that a consent decree arrived at between the
12 DOJ and the Family Court of St. Louis, Missouri, was
13 implemented with fidelity.

14 I hope and believe that my CV indicates that
15 there's a certain amount of ability on my part to get things
16 done. My style is to work with people, and to do it in a
17 consensus, collegial, and collaborative way, and then when the
18 time is right, to make decisions and move on.

19 I would welcome any questions you may have.

20 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Any questions?

21 Representative Benninghoff.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair.

24 Thank you, Judge. Impressive career path. I'm
25 just curious, your position you served as Special Master in the

1 Luzerne juvenile justice cases, it's never easy when you have
2 to preside over one of your own, and I'm just curious at how
3 you can use that experience in the situation such as this.

4 MR. GRIM: Representative, I believe that the
5 process that I implemented there was one that helped, and it
6 was this: If you're going to ultimately make a decision that's
7 going to impact someone, it's best to get the information in a
8 way that is as complete, fair, and unbiased as it can possibly
9 be. So what I was able to do was to convene a group of
10 stakeholders in Luzerne County when I first arrived there and
11 get their opinions on what they believed had gone wrong. And
12 then after that, it was important to get to the facts and to
13 have people not only who had an opinion, but who had a factual
14 basis to bring to the table. And after I did that, we had to
15 move to the point where we were making decisions. And it's
16 never easy to make decisions, but I'll tell you, frankly, in
17 this case, whether this person shared the career path that I
18 did or not, the behavior was so egregious, so abhorrent that it
19 wasn't a problem for me to hold him accountable. It was a
20 problem for me not to stand up and really hold him accountable,
21 if you understand what I mean.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, sir. I
23 appreciate your candor.

24 Madam Chair, thank you.

25 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Okay, thank you

1 very much.

2 MR. GRIM: Thank you.

3 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Next on our list is
4 Sam Katz.

5 MR. KATZ: Madam Chair, can I share my resume, so
6 that I don't talk about myself?

7 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Sure.

8 (Document handed to Commissioners.)

9 MR. KATZ: Thank you much. My name is Sam Katz.
10 I'm from Philadelphia, and I thought it would be best to share
11 my resume rather than talk about it. What I wanted to talk
12 about, however, was the role of the Chair of the Legislative
13 Redistricting Commission. I've thought about this. I think
14 it's critical to understand the agenda of the leadership.
15 There are four Leaders representing this Commission; hard to
16 imagine being the Chair of a Commission headed with four
17 legislative Leaders, but understanding what each of you want,
18 what each of you feel the pressures to accomplish, and the
19 clarity that I hope you can provide on what is the best
20 outcome. And I would like to think that although this is a
21 process that historically doesn't lend itself to consensus,
22 oftentimes has been very partisan, and obviously, the Leader of
23 a Caucus has the obligation to represent the Caucus in this
24 process, which is a difficult thing to do and also produce
25 consensus across the parties. But that's what I'm hoping I can

1 help bring to this process.

2 I think until the cartography, if you will, is
3 better farther along, the Chair really needs to be a mediator.
4 The Chair really needs to be a process manager, a great
5 collaborator, someone who communicates, who both listens and
6 communicates back, and who tries to understand both the guiding
7 principles that each of you are bringing to this process, as
8 well as the priorities. Hopefully, we can collectively work to
9 make maps that are fair, realistic, transparent, makes sense to
10 voters and makes sense to communities. I'm going to try in
11 this process to keep my views to myself so that I have the best
12 chance of succeeding as the Chair.

13 Why me? I'm a collaborator. Everything I have
14 done, whether it's municipal finance, running for public
15 office--not one of my great successes, I would say--being a
16 campaign manager and advisor, being on a board, chairing a
17 process has always required collaboration, communication. I am
18 a strong leader. I am not someone who runs away from problems,
19 I like to run to them. I have great respect for the process.
20 That took 50 years to acquire. But I also have a great sense
21 of humor, and I want to mention that this morning I put a tie
22 on for the first time in 15 months and made my wife very happy.

23 I recognize the importance of this decision.
24 Redistricting will affect the legislative process for 10 years.
25 This is probably the most important decision that a legislature

1 makes because of its political and legislative and policy
2 impact. I am a numbers guy. I spent 25 years in municipal
3 finance, and 10 or 12 years in private finance, so I am very
4 comfortable with computers and with numbers. I am a
5 Pennsylvania guy. My first job was working for the Speaker of
6 the House of the Pennsylvania legislature. I was 19 years old.
7 Herbert Fineman was that Speaker. Leroy Irvis was the Majority
8 Leader. Matt Ryan was the Minority Leader. To walk around the
9 Capitol and see the names of those people on buildings makes
10 you feel a little bit old. I rented a room from John
11 Pittenger, who was the Secretary of Education. I lived on
12 Front Street, and three mornings a week Pitt would invite the
13 president of a State university or college for breakfast, and I
14 would make that breakfast, and I would clean it up. But I got
15 to sit at the breakfast and hear from Pennsylvania's university
16 leadership.

17 I live in Philadelphia, but I also live in Sullivan
18 County. I'm a history guy. I know the history of this State,
19 I know the history of its two major cities. For many years, I
20 was the financial advisor to the City of Pittsburgh. I ran for
21 Governor in 1994. That was a classic case study in being in
22 the wrong place at the right time. I ran against Tom Ridge,
23 and I learned a lot from him, both running against him and then
24 supporting him as Governor. I'm a problem-solver. I love big
25 challenges, and I've had a career full of them. I'm not afraid

1 of criticism. I've gotten a lot of it. I'm disciplined, a
2 straight-shooter, not a partisan, and I think I'd be a good
3 collaborator and colleague for all four of you.

4 Thank you.

5 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

6 Any questions?

7 (There was no response.)

8 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
9 much.

10 MR. KATZ: Thank you.

11 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Roy Minet. How do
12 I say your last name?

13 MR. MINET: Minet.

14 Good afternoon. Your letter inviting me to
15 participate in today's hearing asked that I explain why I am
16 interested in serving as LRC Chair. I'm very pleased to have
17 the opportunity to do that. Since an early age, I have always
18 had a strong interest in learning how things work and
19 understanding the important underlying principles. Physics is
20 the fundamental study of how the whole universe works, so I
21 knew early on that I definitely would become a physicist.
22 However, a liberal arts university wisely requires its students
23 to acquire some knowledge in other areas outside of one's
24 major. I found that there were interesting fundamental
25 principles and ideas in philosophy, too. I have always thought

1 that people should be free to do whatever they liked, so long
2 as they do not infringe upon anyone else's equal rights. The
3 important principles I learned in economics explained why
4 leaving people alone to voluntarily collaborate leads naturally
5 to a free market economy.

6 By the time I was looking for my first job, I had
7 come to the realization that I did not really want to spend all
8 my time understanding basic principles and figuring out how
9 things worked. The real fun is in gaining such knowledge, then
10 applying it to solve real-world problems. I wanted to solve
11 problems in the best possible way and be able to see the
12 benefits during my lifetime. That is why my first job was in
13 engineering instead of pure physics.

14 Since then, I have worked in a very wide variety of
15 professions. Some of them, like distributing beer to taverns,
16 might be the last thing anyone would associate with physics or
17 engineering, but I have enjoyed every job that I have held, and
18 I have learned a lot from every one of them. However, I still
19 consider myself primarily a physicist, and certainly an
20 adherent to the tenets of logic and the scientific method.

21 More recently, I have been concerned that our
22 elections are not working as well as they should. Elections
23 are democracy. Without elections that everybody can implicitly
24 trust, there is no democracy. And obviously, it is
25 particularly important that the losers of elections trust the

1 results. For elections to work well, there are two equally
2 important requirements. First, it must be as easy as possible
3 for any qualified voter to vote. But at the same time, the
4 integrity of the process, including the complete secrecy of
5 every ballot, must be guaranteed. Second, the election
6 mechanism itself must function properly so that it accurately
7 reflects the collective desires of the voters.

8 Much of my election research is focused on voting
9 methods. It has been widely known for 250 years that the
10 plurality voting method frequently does not render a result
11 that matches voters' sincere opinions. Most experts agree that
12 plurality is also a contributing factor to the increasing
13 polarization that we are experiencing. And that polarization
14 is now reaching intensity levels that threaten civility. Yet,
15 we continue to use plurality in our elections. Well, it turned
16 out that designing a really good replacement for plurality was
17 a much trickier problem than ever anticipated. However, I hope
18 that the 250-year-long stalemate may finally be staggering
19 towards a good conclusion.

20 I have also looked into many other aspects of
21 elections, including the drawing of electoral districts. There
22 are so many ways to perform that task that the real problem
23 becomes identifying and implementing a really good one. I
24 think that has actually been made more difficult than
25 necessary, partly by the use of confusing terminology. But it

1 definitely is an interesting and important and persistent
2 problem which begs a good solution, and that is precisely why I
3 am interested in working on it with the LRC.

4 I assure you that I am completely neutral, as your
5 Chair should be. I am overridingly motivated simply to help
6 the LRC draw a good map. I sincerely hope you will decide that
7 my qualifications make me the right choice for that job. And
8 I'm sorry, I'm an old white guy. I hope that doesn't place me
9 at too big a disadvantage these days.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Are there any
11 questions?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I have one quick one,
13 Madam Chair.

14 Thank you, sir. It was a very nice, balanced
15 presentation there. I'm just curious, what do you see your
16 role with the Commission Members? Do you see yourself or
17 envision yourself as an active Chairman, or one that is more in
18 a supervisory role when it comes to drafting the maps?

19 MR. MINET: Well, I think the Chair certainly has
20 to be neutral, but I think the Chair's role possibly is in
21 providing some suggestions and guidance, if the Chair has any.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair. Thank you, sir.

24 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Anyone else?

25 (There was no response.)

1 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

2 MR. MINET: Thank you.

3 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Next, Robert Paul.

4 MR. PAUL: Good afternoon, and thank you for the
5 opportunity to present my qualifications to the committee.

6 Why pick me? Ok, you've got 40 people applying for
7 this position, why pick me? And let me try to address those
8 issues as best I can.

9 First of all, I have been doing redrawing of maps
10 since 1978. As I mentioned in my application, I filed a
11 petition in Philadelphia to redraw the maps in Philadelphia
12 because the wards vary in tremendous differences in size. In
13 1980, I was certified as an expert by the court of the Eastern
14 District of Pennsylvania on behalf of the Spanish interests in
15 Philadelphia that were trying to create a Spanish district in
16 the Philadelphia area off the plan. So there are few people,
17 there are others who have more experience, more recent
18 experience, than I, but there are few people, in my opinion,
19 who can do that job as well as I can.

20 Second, I've been a lawyer 45 years. In those 45
21 years, I have done, as you saw from my resume, a lot of cases -
22 in election law, in asbestos, which is my primary interest.
23 And so I think that I'm more than qualified to do this
24 position.

25 Given the delay in the Census, the problem you have

1 in this Commission is you're going to have to really rush, and
2 that's the best way to describe it, rush to get this process
3 done. There is talk -- in the last reapportionment, the case
4 laws talk about how difficult it was to get it done in that
5 system and in that situation where you had much more time than
6 you have here. In order to accomplish the goal of not having
7 the situation of the 2022 election being fought on the basis of
8 the 2011 lines, we're going to have to move with the speed of
9 light. In order to do that, in my opinion, we have to have a
10 plan that will comply with the Constitution requirements in
11 Article II, Section 16; that will comply with the League of
12 Women Voters case; that will be easily confirmable, will
13 receive support in the public, and will be easily and quickly
14 approved by the Supreme Court.

15 To achieve these goals, the plan must be totally
16 nonpartisan, and I believe that the Chairman of this
17 Commission, based on what the Constitutional Convention did in
18 1967 in creating this position in the first place, was designed
19 to have the public have a role in this process and for the
20 public Member to stand for the position of nonpartisanship.
21 That's the position that I believe needs to be involved and
22 needs to be followed at all times. And that I think that as a
23 lawyer, I know how to work with other people. As a lawyer,
24 I've done arbitrations. I know how to play judge. Not as well
25 as the prior speaker, obviously, but I know how to do that. I

1 have no personal interest in this. Unlike some of the faculty
2 and university professors who are applying for this position,
3 it's not going to advance my career one iota to stand in this
4 position, nor being as old as I am is it going to have any
5 effect on my legal career or interests.

6 I also feel, frankly, that a public position, a
7 public Chairman who says this must be nonpartisan, the lines
8 must be nonpartisan, they must comply not only with the
9 constitutional provisions under Article II that set up this
10 Commission, but that also comply with the League of Women
11 Voters case, and I think the whole issue of gerrymandering and
12 what that means and how that has to work must be considered.

13 And finally, I think that having the public
14 Chairman say, I will not vote for a plan that is non -- that is
15 partisan, that involves gerrymandering, will provide public
16 support and will be approved more easily by the public as a
17 whole, will achieve some of the -- not achieve, but resolve
18 some of the problems of questions about the legal system and
19 about the political system that exists, and that that's why you
20 should pick me.

21 With that, I'll answer any questions that any of
22 you have.

23 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Well, thank you.

24 Does anyone have a question?

25 Senator Costa.

1 SENATOR COSTA: Very briefly. Thank you, Madam
2 Chairman.

3 Mr. Paul, thank you for your testimony here this
4 afternoon, and thank you for your willingness to serve. You
5 mentioned your capacity as a lawyer and your extensive
6 experience already in the reapportionment space in '81 and
7 subsequent. But as an attorney, would you have the ability and
8 the time to dedicate as the fifth person in this matter, as you
9 mentioned, in a compressed timeline to be able to devote to the
10 Commission and also maintain your practice? How would you
11 balance the two of those going forward?

12 MR. PAUL: You have to come first.

13 SENATOR COSTA: I'm sorry?

14 MR. PAUL: You have to come first. This Commission
15 has to come first. If I didn't think I could generate the time
16 to do that, I wouldn't apply, because I think that's a really
17 good question.

18 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you.

19 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you. Thank
20 you very much, Mr. Paul.

21 Next, we have Eric Randall.

22 MR. RANDALL: Honorable Members of the Commission,
23 good afternoon. Several years ago one Saturday morning I was
24 puttering around in the kitchen, emptying my dishwasher, fixing
25 myself some breakfast, I had the radio on and the program's

1 host was interviewing a politician talking about some issue.
2 Have you ever been in a situation where you hear a voice and
3 you think to yourself, I know that voice, but you can't quite
4 put a name or a face to it? You know that you know who this
5 person is, but that you just can't figure it out. I gave up
6 trying and just started listening. And as they talked, I found
7 myself thinking, this politician clearly knows a lot about this
8 issue. This person has done their homework, this person makes
9 a lot of sense, this politician really cares. When the
10 interview ended, the host said, we've been talking this morning
11 with so-and-so, and I was shocked because I more or less
12 despised so-and-so. I had next to no respect for them at all,
13 and if I had known it was that person, I probably wouldn't have
14 even listened, or maybe I would have listened but with my mind
15 closed. But divorced from a name and a party, when I just
16 listened to their ideas, so-and-so made so much sense. It was
17 a big lesson for me, and it changed how I approached politics
18 from that moment forward.

19 As a black man, I had already been aware that the
20 only reason I could vote at all was that countless people
21 before me had worked and marched and sacrificed, and so I owed
22 it to them to exercise my right to vote, and to do so wisely,
23 by educating myself about the issues. Now added to those
24 obligations was another one: I needed to really listen to what
25 the people who wanted my vote had to say.

1 Over the last several years, I've learned a lot
2 about our country and its history through books and podcasts
3 and the news and research, and in many cases the things I
4 learned wiped out the mostly tidy version of history I'd been
5 taught in grade school. But they also left me hungry to get
6 involved in doing something meaningful to make things better.
7 Our democracy was founded with an express ideal about everyone
8 being equal, and that equality being the basis of us choosing
9 together who our leaders will be.

10 Democracy is a curiously fragile thing. One of our
11 greatest powers as human beings is that we get to make choices,
12 and the blessing and the curse of it is that we can always
13 choose the good, and we can always choose the bad. Democracy
14 protects us from tyranny, but not from bad decisions.
15 Ultimately, there's no law or principle or custom or leader
16 that can protect a country or any group of people from
17 themselves. Our democracy has sometimes been better and
18 sometimes worse about living up to our ideals, but history
19 teaches us that we can make progress through engagement and
20 perseverance. However imperfect we are, we have the tools to
21 make progress, and a vision of what progress ought to look
22 like. The best we can do with all of that is to set up a
23 structure that makes it more likely that when the moment comes,
24 we make the right choice, the fair choice, the choice that
25 represents everyone and that vindicates our country's

1 experiment in self-government.

2 In my application letter, I told you all about my
3 professional experience and my community service work and my
4 desire to serve as a bridge between the Members of the
5 Commission, my commitment to a fair and transparent process.
6 All I can add to that today is this: Our State's Constitution
7 provides for the possibility that an ordinary citizen of
8 Pennsylvania, someone who does not hold public office, may
9 Chair the Legislative Reapportionment Commission. To me, that
10 points to the wisdom of seeking a person and a process that is
11 impartial, and I would love to have the opportunity to be that
12 person, enough so that I have come all the way to Harrisburg
13 today just to have five minutes to look you in the eye and to
14 let you see and hear what I'm all about.

15 Thank you very much for your time and your
16 consideration.

17 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you. Senator
18 Costa and I said, oh, look, a Pittsburgher.

19 SENATOR COSTA: A Pittsburgh guy, yeah.

20 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Are there any other
21 questions?

22 Yes, Representative Benninghoff.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: As a non-Pittsburgh
24 panelist, I'm an avid Pirates fan, you touched on several
25 different things and I'm just curious, what is it that most

1 inspires you to want to be on the panel itself?

2 MR. RANDALL: Honestly, I think that it's
3 overwhelming being a citizen of this country these days and
4 seeing the mess that we're in, and a desire to do something.
5 This is a tangible way to get involved, and it's not just a
6 fluff decision. It's something meaningful with serious
7 considerations. I've been doing a little bit of separate
8 research just about legislative district redrawing, and it's a
9 complex and evolving thing with computers and algorithms having
10 a larger potential role to play in trying to figure out what
11 makes a good district, what makes it fair. And so to me it's a
12 chance to say I didn't just hunker down at home or complain
13 about the political system, but I had a chance to do something
14 about it. And when I heard that this position was available, I
15 sat down in a fever, wrote the application letter, and turned
16 it in within a couple of days.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I thank you for your
18 passion, and I think that you will see that this group up here
19 also shares the desire to be fair and have a good, smooth,
20 equitable process through this. So thank you for stepping
21 forth.

22 MR. RANDALL: Thank you.

23 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Senator Costa.

24 SENATOR COSTA: Just very briefly, thank you for
25 your interest in serving, and I commend you for that. I read

1 through your letter. Sort of the same question I asked the
2 previous person, commitment of time. You are a young person.
3 I think I read you have four kids at home.

4 MR. RANDALL: How young do you think I am?

5 SENATOR COSTA: While you're a lot younger than I
6 think, you look a lot younger than when I saw your resume. But
7 the point I'm making is your commitment of time, given your
8 professional career I believe as an engineer, which I think all
9 lends itself well to this conversation in light of where we are
10 today in redistricting and reapportionment, but your
11 commitment, your ability to commit a lot of time to this
12 process, can you speak to that, very briefly?

13 MR. RANDALL: I can. The application process made
14 it clear that it was going to be more or less a full-time job,
15 and my intent, if you offer the position to me, would be to
16 obtain a personal leave of absence from work. There's a policy
17 for that, and I'd have to exercise that.

18 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you very much.

19 MR. RANDALL: Thank you.

20 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

21 Next, we have David Rolka.

22 MR. ROLKA: Thank you, Madam Chairman, Senators,
23 Representatives, Mr. McClintock, for taking the time and
24 allowing me to come and participate in this meeting with you
25 all today. I attached a summary of my resume to the April 9th

1 letter that I sent in to the Commission expressing interest in
2 this position. And I want to assure you that I've -- I got to
3 put my glasses back on. Not only am I getting deaf in my old
4 age, but I can't see as well without them either.

5 Although I'm originally from Pittsburgh, I've lived
6 in this area now for quite a long time. I moved here in 1973.
7 My parents purchased a diner that was located on Route 119,
8 south of Greensburg, in Westmoreland County, and my family
9 relocated from the South Side of Pittsburgh to Youngwood,
10 Pennsylvania--I know that that means something to at least one
11 of you--when I was about to enter high school. When my parents
12 retired, the diner was donated to the historical society, and
13 it's currently part of the historical display commemorating
14 Route 30 history, located between Latrobe and Ligonier.

15 I graduated from Greensburg Central Catholic High
16 School in '66, and I attended the University of Pittsburgh at
17 the Greensburg Campus when it was in fact only the Lynch
18 Estate. That one big building at the Lynch Estate. My wife
19 and I got married on the Lynch Estate in 1971, where I had gone
20 to school for 2 years. When I graduated -- when I moved on
21 from the university in Greensburg, I went to the main campus in
22 Pittsburgh, and at that point I worked for a grocery store then
23 called Foodland, which I don't think is there anymore in
24 Wilkinsburg, and I also worked for the United States Steel
25 Corporation in Homestead so that I could support and pay my way

1 through college. When I graduated, I was \$800 in debt.

2 I'm straying a little bit away from the statement
3 that I submitted electronically earlier today, in the interest
4 of time.

5 In 1976 -- well, when I came to Harrisburg, it was
6 because I finally found a job with the Agriculture Department,
7 at the same time my wife was accepted into law school. It was
8 the one place where we both found what we were looking for.

9 And I came to work at the Agriculture Department, and she went
10 to Dickinson Law School. When she graduated from Dickinson,
11 she also graduated from Georgetown Law School twice. She has
12 two advanced legal degrees. I only have a bachelor in economic
13 geography.

14 I worked at the Agriculture Department from 1973
15 until 1977. When I was with the Agriculture Department, my job
16 there in planning and research was to develop a mechanism for
17 the establishment of the use valuation of farmland under the
18 Clean and Green Act, and after having developed that protocol,
19 I then traveled to multiple counties around the State
20 testifying in legal proceedings on behalf of the farmers to the
21 valuation of their property for use as farmland rather than for
22 commercial or retail development and saved them a lot of money
23 in their taxes.

24 In 1976, the legislature reformed the Public
25 Utility Commission and required it to go from a part-time

1 organization to a full-time organization. On learning of that,
2 since I wanted to be a planner, I came and interviewed for a
3 position there and I was given the position with one of the
4 Commissioners who recruited me and then arranged for me to get
5 tutored in public utility regulation. I went to Philadelphia
6 every weekend, where I met with people from the Wharton School
7 of Business and people from the New Jersey Commission who came
8 there and tutored me in the fundamentals of utility ratemaking
9 and utility regulation. And the first case I worked on was the
10 Duquesne Light electric rate case, which actually went all the
11 way to the United States Supreme Court, and the position that I
12 helped to author was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

13 I was the first person to work at the Commission
14 that actually owned a PC. I bought it myself. I acquired a
15 copy of Lotus 123 and I learned how to program it and I
16 designed a system that would allow me to do what-if analysis on
17 any number of things. I also worked in the Office of Consumer
18 Advocate. This particular room was my home for almost 20
19 years. I chaired this Commission for four years. I was twice
20 confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve at the Public
21 Utility Commission. My first term as a Commissioner, I
22 inherited 33 cases that were deadlocked between the
23 Commissioners.

24 Thank you.

25 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: I'll take the first

1 question, because you didn't tell us: Why do you want to do
2 this?

3 MR. ROLKA: Why do I want to do this? I've been in
4 some form of government service ever since I graduated from
5 college, and when I saw the articles that appeared in the
6 newspaper about this Commission being formed, I looked at the
7 kinds of positions that I've had and the kinds of jobs and
8 responsibilities I've had over the last almost 50 years and I
9 said, I should be interested in that, and I should offer. I
10 have no idea whether or not this is a paid position. I don't
11 expect that it is. I expect that it's a volunteer position,
12 and I'm fully capable and willing to do that. My company is
13 mature enough that I can dedicate the time to do this. So I'm
14 more than willing to help and assist.

15 I have, obviously, a lot of background in computer
16 services and a lot of work down to the Census block where I've
17 done a lot of mapping in the past, but nothing at all ever
18 related to jurisdictional boundaries.

19 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Any other
20 questions?

21 (There was no response.)

22 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Well, thank you,
23 but I want to say that my house sits on the Lynch farm.

24 MR. ROLKA: I'm sorry?

25 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: My house, my home

1 is on the Lynch farm.

2 MR. ROLKA: Is it? It's a beautiful place.

3 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: So we have that in
4 common.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. ROLKA: Thank you.

7 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Next, we have
8 Chadwick Schnee.

9 MR. SCHNEE: Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you for
10 having me here today as part of the Commission. I'm very, very
11 pleased that this Commission is devoted to transparency,
12 inclusiveness, and openness. I came from the Pennsylvania
13 Office of Open Records, which was right across the street here
14 at one time, and I've argued cases involving governmental
15 transparency and accountability right here in this room, or at
16 least I prepared for them here in this room and argued them
17 upstairs and across the street in the Commonwealth Court.

18 You have my written materials I submitted earlier
19 today. I'm not going to rehash those or read from those. You
20 can read those at your leisure, if you so desire. The reason
21 why I'm here today is because the Supreme Court said something
22 really important in the League of Women Voters case, that
23 voters should be the one to choose their representatives, and
24 not the other way around. I am a fierce advocate for making
25 sure that every vote counts and that every voter has a say in

1 who their representatives are. I think the public is the
2 missing element from this Commission, no disrespect to any of
3 the Commissioners here today. I think the public absolutely
4 has a right to know of the inner workings of this Commission
5 and has a right to know the decisionmaking processes of this
6 Commission, and if I am selected as this Commission's Chair, my
7 goal would be to drive by that principle of transparency and
8 accountability so that the public has the ability to access
9 this Commission's work as much as possible.

10 I'm also driven by the idea of equity. Having
11 personally adjudicated or edited over 10,000 final orders
12 related to government access to records, you really need to
13 make sure that everyone has a fair shake. Whether it's
14 geographic lines, it's population or other factors potentially
15 that need to be considered, as long as they are available
16 within the law. I have no preconceptions with respect to any
17 of the districts in the way the map currently sits today. My
18 role--I've personally served as counsel for boards and
19 commissions--is to not only be an advocate but also to allow
20 communication between the various Members and the various
21 Commissioners of the committee, and I would hope to use that
22 skill set that I've had over the years as well here today. I
23 want to be here because I believe the public deserves a voice,
24 and I believe that in terms of allowing openness and
25 transparency, that's one of my goals, and I want to make sure

1 this Commission is as open and transparent as possible.

2 In terms of my background, I've been an attorney
3 since 2009. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh
4 School of Law. I understand that's a plus for this committee,
5 or at least two Members of the committee. I graduated cum
6 laude from the University of Rochester for my bachelor's
7 degree. Served in private practice, and as I said, quickly
8 became a member of the Office of Open Records, became its first
9 Assistant Chief Counsel, argued some of the most fundamental
10 cases involving government access to records before the
11 Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Argued cases involving
12 constitutional issues in front of the Pennsylvania Supreme
13 Court, the Commonwealth Court, and others. Then I became the
14 First Assistant County Solicitor for the county of Berks. I
15 saw you had Judge Grim here today. That's a wonderful thing.
16 In that capacity, I not only served as Solicitor for the Berks
17 County Planning Commission, which was hugely responsible for
18 putting maps together for county comprehensive plans, but I've
19 actually been involved in disputes with respect to various
20 mapping discrepancies for that commission as well. I had a
21 chance to offer guidance and serve as a neutral, really, in
22 election law matters in helping to represent the Berks County
23 Board of Elections as well. So I've had a chance to be
24 interacting with public officials, important public officials,
25 my bosses, and I'd welcome the chance to do so here again today

1 as part of the Commission and representing the public.

2 With that in mind, my goal is to serve as a neutral
3 referee and to serve in a nonpartisan capacity. I do serve at
4 the Law Office of Tucker Hull, located here in Annville, a
5 short drive away, convenient for me to attend whatever meetings
6 are needed here in person, and I'd be happy to serve this
7 Commission in whatever capacity I can do.

8 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

9 Does anyone have any questions?

10 SENATOR COSTA: Just a quick question. Are you
11 still with the Office of Open Records? I wasn't quite sure.

12 MR. SCHNEE: No. I served with the Pennsylvania
13 Office of Open Records for approximately 6 1/2 years, starting
14 out as an appeals officer, then as Assistant Chief Counsel. I
15 greatly enjoyed that opportunity. I worked with Terry
16 Mutchler, appointed by Governor Rendell, and of course the
17 great Erik Arneson as well -- so both Republican and Democratic
18 Governor appointees there -- and decided I wanted to broaden my
19 horizons, and that's when I joined the county of Berks and
20 became its First Assistant County Solicitor.

21 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you. I know that 10 years
22 ago Mr. Arneson was a big part of these conversations, and just
23 the whole notion that you kind of helped get the commission off
24 the ground, or the Right-to-Know Office off the ground, I
25 think, is significant. Thank you.

1 MR. SCHNEE: Thank you, sir.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Madam Chair?

3 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Representative.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6 Very briefly, I noticed in your written comments,
7 as well listening to your oral comments, you used the word
8 "equity," "equity," and "equitable" several times. I'm just
9 curious of what your definition of that is in conjunction with
10 our Commission and its role.

11 MR. SCHNEE: Thank you, Representative. I think
12 equity is fairness, quite frankly. Does it mean that every
13 decision is going to be always in one side's favor or another?
14 No. It means that every case has to be judged on its
15 individual, unique fact patterns, as long as they're in
16 conformity with the law. So I think when I define "equity," to
17 me it's fairness in conformity with the law.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you.

19 MR. SCHNEE: Thank you, Representative.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you. Thank
23 you very much.

24 Next, we have Joseph Stafford.

25 MR. STAFFORD: Thank you. I believe you have my

1 letter of interest and my remarks before you. I'm going to go
2 off-script and just say, it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.
3 That's my motto, it's always been my personal motto. I hope
4 you recognize that motto and its significance.

5 Good afternoon, Members of the Reapportionment
6 Commission and others viewing this proceeding, wherever you
7 are. The uniqueness of this opportunity is fully appreciated.
8 If appointed, it would be my objective to construct the changes
9 to legislative districts in such a way as to restore the public
10 trust and confidence in the outcome. Given the limited time
11 allowed here, I'll just proceed to offer some new information
12 not already covered in the introduction and attached resume.

13 The Commission is created to fulfill a
14 constitutional requirement to update legislative districts.
15 It's interesting to note that Pennsylvania is among 14 States
16 that create Commissions like this to accomplish redistricting,
17 why not 50? Well, the fact is, States are different. While
18 I'm not a judge or an attorney, I have a keen sense and
19 knowledge of the law. When asked for a definition of the law,
20 I always reply it's statutes, precedents, and facts. It's
21 those facts that this Commission should dwell on for the best
22 outcome to serve Pennsylvania residents.

23 I also have a keen sense of how government works.
24 In delivering the objective of updated districts, I would rely
25 on resources available, such as the Pennsylvania Department of

1 State, the Legislative Reference Bureau, among others, that
2 have the fundamental data and legal basis on which to operate.
3 I feel confident and qualified to serve in this role. However,
4 I am not here today to impress on you my knowledge and
5 credentials but to impress on you how I think.

6 What I would bring to this Commission in the role
7 of Chair. Having visited and engaged with many Members of the
8 General Assembly for quite some time, I am very comfortable
9 working around your schedules. I understand what is required
10 of you as legislators, and I can easily blend this Commission
11 task into your routines. Noted too is how geographically
12 diverse you, the legislative Members, are. My appointment
13 would add another significant geographical area, south central
14 Pennsylvania, for an expanded perspective. I also have a keen
15 sense of sportsmanship to conduct meetings and work with
16 limited staff. Dealing with and offering access to legitimate
17 media is something I will consider carefully and prepare for in
18 advance. Nothing will be off the record. And how I think also
19 carries an empathetic sense of citizenship towards the end
20 result. Not citizen status or how to become a citizen, but how
21 to be an active and recognized citizen that depends on fair and
22 equal representation, as expected.

23 I've already stated my professional objective. I
24 have personal objectives, too. I will strive for a 5 to 0 vote
25 to approve a final reapportionment as a working consensus team.

1 Secondly, I will strive for a model that other States will envy
2 when concluded. I am that Pennsylvania proud. As Legislative
3 Commission Members, you have an advantage to select a qualified
4 but relatively unknown candidate. I am and will be nonpartisan
5 in my duties as Chair and representative of this Commission.
6 Furthermore, as someone who is retired and a widower, I can
7 fully commit to this awesome responsibility.

8 I'll conclude by saying I'll be ready on day one to
9 conduct the business of legislative reapportionment.

10 I welcome your questions.

11 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
12 much.

13 Any questions?

14 (There was no response.)

15 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
16 much, sir.

17 Next, we have Judge Lawrence Stengle.

18 MR. STENGLE: Good afternoon. I'm Lawrence
19 Stengle, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to meet
20 with you briefly this afternoon. I provided a copy of a CV
21 with my letter a week or so ago, and I won't go through that in
22 any detail.

23 I'm aware that Senator Ward and Representative
24 McClinton, I believe, are the first two women to serve in
25 General Assembly leadership in the Commonwealth, and I want to

1 acknowledge that important fact, which I think is important
2 historically and important operationally. And it's further
3 proof of what we all know, and that is the world is constantly
4 changing. And this Commission is designed, it seems to me, to
5 respond to change, whether that change is in population, areas
6 of population, demographics. And I think the purpose of the
7 Commission is to insure that our representative form of
8 government is truly representative. So the work of this
9 Commission is vitally important. I don't think we can
10 understate how important it is to the operation of this
11 representative form of government that we cherish.

12 My experience has been as that person in the middle
13 of a dispute, and that person who works for a solution. I was
14 a Judge for 28 years. Before that, I was a trial attorney. I
15 started my practice in Pittsburgh with the law firm of Dickie,
16 McCamey and Chilcote--I went to Pitt Law School--and still have
17 friends in that firm and in that region. I cherished my time
18 there. I answered the call of the grandmothers to move back to
19 my hometown of Lancaster as our family started, and I was an
20 attorney there, and then Governor Bob Casey put me on the Court
21 of Common Pleas, somewhat to my surprise. I put my name in
22 thinking that someday I might be a judge, and he selected me.
23 I then ran for office as somebody who had no involvement in
24 partisan politics other than as a frequent voter. I learned
25 quickly about the partisan process and ran for a term and then

1 a retention, and then President George W. Bush put me on
2 Federal court, where I retired as the Chief Judge of the
3 Eastern District, which is the third largest Federal court in
4 the nation. And I retired in 2018. After 14 years of spending
5 much of my life on Amtrak, I decided to work a little closer to
6 home. So I'm working now as a mediator and an arbitrator doing
7 special projects, Special Master assignments.

8 And my commitment, I don't really know too much
9 about maps and I don't have any preconceived notion of where
10 this should go, but my commitment would be to transparency and
11 fairness, as I acted and worked very hard to achieve in 28
12 years on the bench. So I would be happy to go through this CV,
13 but I don't think I need to take your time to do that. It's
14 there in front of you.

15 I've been really so blessed to have an opportunity
16 to work in public service for so long. When a former colleague
17 of mine on the Eastern District called me and said, you really
18 should apply for this, I thought it made sense because it is
19 another opportunity to do public service in another arena, and
20 I think very valuable public service. So I thank you for your
21 time, and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

22 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: I think it's pretty
23 impressive that you were appointed by a Democrat and a
24 Republican.

25 MR. STENGLE: I agree with that, actually. I'm

1 proud of that.

2 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: It's pretty good.

3 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you very much. Your resume
4 is impeccable.

5 MR. STENGLE: Thank you.

6 SENATOR COSTA: In the history of this
7 Reapportionment Commission, the fifth person a lot of times has
8 been someone from the judiciary.

9 MR. STENGLE: Right.

10 SENATOR COSTA: But I have to tell you, the thing
11 that stands out to me most is, as a Dickie McCamey principle
12 right now, your association with Dickie McCamey. So thank you.

13 MR. STENGLE: Well, it's a wonderful firm. When I
14 joined, I think there were 35 attorneys. Rich Klaber was the
15 hiring partner, and I worked with a number of fabulous people.
16 Whenever I talk to groups of law students, I tell them the most
17 important thing is to associate yourself with somebody who does
18 this right. Because you learn what you learn in law school,
19 but you learn mostly, I think, by watching people like Dave
20 Fawcett, and--

21 SENATOR COSTA: Yes, Mr. Fawcett.

22 MR. STENGLE: --Dave Armstrong, and Jim Miller, and
23 all those folks.

24 SENATOR COSTA: Yeah.

25 MR. STENGLE: And I felt -- I didn't go into it

1 knowing that, but coming out of Dickie McCamey, I really felt
2 like I got such good direction and guidance and example.

3 SENATOR COSTA: And the individuals you named were
4 legendary in the legal profession in Pittsburgh.

5 MR. STENGLE: Yeah.

6 SENATOR COSTA: But the firm continues to offer
7 that type of service, and I'm blessed to be a part of it. But
8 thank you for mentioning that.

9 MR. STENGLE: Yes. Thank you.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Anybody else?

11 (There was no response.)

12 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you so much.

13 Next, we have Rick Thorne.

14 MR. THORNE: Andy Warhol said everyone gets 15
15 minutes of fame. I'm honored to have one-third of that time
16 with you. My name is Rick Thorne, and I'm very interested in
17 serving as Chair of this Commission. I have an electrical
18 engineering degree from Brown University, and an MBA from
19 Carnegie Mellon University. In my career, I have started three
20 businesses, taught for three years at Carnegie Mellon
21 University, and had several other jobs along the way. I've
22 lived in Pennsylvania for 47 years, been married for almost 30
23 years, our children were born and raised in the house that we
24 have owned for the last 27 years, actually only about a quarter
25 of a mile from your house right now, up the hill.

1 Why me? I'm apolitical. Since the age of 18, I
2 have consistently voted for candidates of both major parties,
3 and some minor parties as well along the way. I try hard to
4 research candidates and to vote for the best candidate, whether
5 or not that candidate has a realistic ability to win or not. I
6 have never run for political office, nor have I participated in
7 a political campaign. I have consistently voted in both the
8 primary and general elections.

9 I have extensive--and I mean extensive--experience
10 in large spatial data sets. Our current business is based upon
11 that. We work with Fortune 500 firms to handle 1 billion
12 record spatial data sets. This 45,000 square mile problem with
13 424,000 Census blocks and 12.8 million voters to be created
14 into 50 Senate districts and 203 congressional districts is a
15 small problem, in our mind. You may think it's a large one, it
16 is not. It has a lot of challenges, it has a lot of parts to
17 fit together; it's not a big problem. I have also extensive
18 knowledge in statistics, optimization models, linear
19 programming, and big data. More to the point, it would be
20 very, very hard for someone to try to pull wool over my eyes
21 based upon some mathematical gibberish. I can see it and I
22 will critique it.

23 I do not tweet, post, I don't have a Facebook
24 account I use, I have no urge to blog. I do not read the
25 opinion pages of newspapers. It takes a long, and I mean a

1 very long, time for any news source to become trusted in any
2 manner, and I typically get information from several trusted
3 sources before I believe it. I have no hidden agenda for this
4 position. I want the resultant district maps to be fair and
5 created with rules that are clear, public, and consistently
6 applied. Whether any particular district favors one political
7 party or another is generally unimportant. For a variety of
8 reasons, both social and economic, people with the same
9 political leaning are often spatial neighbors. That's the rule
10 in the State, it's the rule in most States. It is somewhat
11 immaterial for how the maps get drawn. I have led countless
12 meetings in my life, from very informal to absolute 100-percent
13 Robert's Rules of Order. I keep meetings moving forward, and I
14 do not tolerate extensive digressions. I'm happy to talk to
15 people; I'm even happier to listen.

16 Redistricting is a multi-variable problem with many
17 spatial and nonspatial constraints. There are too many goals
18 and too many constraints to make everyone happy. The best you
19 can do is hope that everyone is equally unhappy within an
20 otherwise fair and equitable process that generated the maps.
21 In the ideal world, the two parties here, represented by these
22 Commission Members, would work together to propose one
23 redistricting map. In that case, the vote of the Chair is
24 moot. Whether or not that person votes for the four of you is
25 immaterial: 4 to 1, 5 to 0 wins. If the two parties, however,

1 cannot be convinced to work together, I will help the parties
2 create a set of guidelines for creating the districts. The
3 guidelines need to be consistently applied throughout the
4 State. They cannot be done in this manner in this little
5 corner and this manner in this little corner. They may be done
6 differently based upon whether or not it's a metropolitan area
7 or a rural area.

8 This Commission has less than two months after
9 receiving the 2020 Census information to complete the updated
10 district maps in time for the 2022 Census. This Commission
11 will need a Chairperson that can help keep the process moving
12 forward and completed on time. I know I can be that person.

13 Any questions?

14 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Any questions?

15 SENATOR COSTA: Are you a Hempfield graduate?

16 MR. THORNE: No, I am not. One of my daughters was
17 a Hempfield graduate. I graduated from Ligonier, though. Does
18 that count?

19 SENATOR COSTA: My wife is a Hempfield graduate.

20 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: You're my neighbor.
21 I sound like Mr. Rogers.

22 Thank you very much.

23 Next, we have Michael Waxenberg, and this will be
24 our last in-person interview today. Thank you.

25 MR. WAXENBERG: I hope this mic is on. It seems to

1 be. Thank you.

2 Leader Ward, Leader Benninghoff, Leader Costa,
3 Representative Bradford, thank you very much for the
4 opportunity to address you today. It's an honor to be part of
5 this august group. You have quite a lot to choose from, quite
6 a number of skill sets. I hope in the next four minutes or so
7 to make the choice somewhat easier, for better or worse. I'll
8 start with a brief autobiography, then I'll move on to my
9 vision for the role of the Chair and the work of the
10 Commission, then take any questions you may have, and maybe
11 have a quick wrap-up word, if time permits.

12 My name is Michael Waxenberg. I reside in Pike
13 County, where I've been a homeowner since 1989. My lovely wife
14 of 25 years, the former Maren Swenson, is here with me today.
15 Our three grown daughters are watching the livestream between
16 classes, and probably are cringing because I promised I
17 wouldn't mention them.

18 On the professional front, the focus of my work is
19 technology risk in the financial markets, with a special focus
20 on cyber resilience. My 35-year career in that field has
21 fostered a wide variety of skills. You have my resume, you
22 have the summary. I'll just call out a couple of things: team
23 leadership, project management, regulatory compliance, data
24 governance, litigation support, meeting facilitation, and
25 perhaps most importantly, mediation of stakeholder conflict,

1 because I think we may have a bit of that along the way.

2 In the arena of reapportionment, I've done enough
3 mapping to understand the tradeoffs. I do speak the language.
4 I'm not an expert, but I can get into the weeds, if the
5 situation requires it. Lastly, I have a working knowledge of
6 parliamentary order. I don't envision brandishing Robert's
7 Rules over your heads, but I probably will keep the book with
8 me, just in case.

9 That's enough about me, let's talk about the job.
10 The first duty of the Chair, as I see it, is to keep the work
11 of the Commission on track from start to finish. My first
12 task, if you'll honor me with this position, will be to work
13 with your staffs and with the staff of the data processing
14 office, to develop a roadmap for the Commission's work that
15 gets us to done on time and in full agreement. Our first task
16 together, I believe, will be to agree on rules of engagement,
17 including the parameters that we will apply in assessing maps
18 and the other components of a plan. Before the first line is
19 drawn, we must agree what a good plan, a good reapportionment
20 plan for Pennsylvania would look like, and also the values and
21 achievements that that plan would embody, what it would
22 actually lead to.

23 Your role as the Commissioners is paramount. Your
24 past work on legislation in this space will provide the
25 foundation upon which we build. I know that there have been

1 frustrations in crafting and debating bills before the
2 legislature in this area. However, working together we have
3 the opportunity to draw on the aspects of that legislation that
4 has gained broad support and draw lessons from the elements
5 that have run into resistance. We also, because those bills
6 have not become law, we have the opportunity to test their
7 elements, see what their impact would be without necessarily
8 being bound by them.

9 Again, you are the experts on these matters. I
10 believe the job of the Chair is to mediate good faith
11 disagreements, not to tip the balance or even ideally to break
12 ties. My goal as Chair will be to build consensus and to
13 deliver a reapportionment plan with unanimous, unanimous
14 Commission support. I come to this task with an open mind, a
15 respectful ear for all, and a sincere hope that all parties
16 arrive at our table with good intentions.

17 A word, finally, about the context for this work.
18 The work of the Commission this year will differ from previous
19 cycles in several important ways. There has been some talk
20 today about the delay in Census data and about the problems
21 that that poses. It does pose problems, but I also see some
22 potential benefits. We have the opportunity together to
23 conduct a dialogue about the rules by which Pennsylvanians draw
24 their legislative districts and the values that those rules
25 reflect. A transparent and inclusive dialogue. And another

1 difference is that we will conduct this dialogue with the world
2 watching. The controversies of the last 10 years have cast a
3 spotlight on Pennsylvania. I do not fear that spotlight. Yes,
4 we will operate under scrutiny, intense scrutiny, while we do
5 our work, and perhaps for years afterward. I look forward to
6 working with you to create an example for Pennsylvania, for
7 America, and for all those who look to her as a beacon, and I
8 thank you for your time.

9 I'll take any questions you have.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

11 Does anyone have any questions?

12 SENATOR COSTA: Just, you referenced mapping,
13 experience in mapping. Can you elaborate a little more on
14 that?

15 MR. WAXENBERG: Yeah. I actually worked with my
16 daughters to submit a couple of maps in the Draw the Lines
17 Pennsylvania contest. So it's fairly light experience, but I
18 do know the tools and I understand what the tradeoffs are along
19 the way.

20 SENATOR COSTA: And tell your daughters it's a
21 lovely picture you forwarded.

22 MR. WAXENBERG: Thank you very much.

23 SENATOR COSTA: Thank you.

24 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
25 much. We're just going to take about a 10-minute break before

1 we start the Zoom interviews. So 2:40.

2 (Whereupon, the proceedings were recessed at 2:30
3 p.m., and reconvened at 2:40 p.m.)

4 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: All right, we are
5 going to go back to our applicants. I just -- I doubt if you
6 can see this. If you're on Zoom, I doubt that you can see our
7 timer, so I don't want to be rude, but I may say you have 30
8 seconds when you have 30 seconds. Please don't think I'm being
9 rude. Just trying to stay on schedule.

10 Okay, so our first applicant is Tom Balya. My
11 friend. Where are you?

12 MR. BALYA: I'm right here, Senator.

13 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: There you are.

14 MR. BALYA: Okay. Well, first of all, I don't
15 think you'll need to time me, but I want to thank you for the
16 opportunity to present my qualifications to be the fifth Member
17 of your very important committee. I'm a constituent of Senator
18 Ward's, and have known Senator Costa for years, as his district
19 represents part of neighboring Allegheny County. It is a
20 privilege to introduce myself today to Representative
21 Benninghoff and Representative McClinton's designee,
22 Representative Bradford.

23 I served 16 years as a Westmoreland County
24 Commissioner, the last 12 as Chairman. Senator Ward was
25 briefly a colleague before her election to the Pennsylvania

1 Senate. In my time in office, I also chaired the county's
2 Election Board in the years that I wasn't a candidate, so I
3 have experience in and recognize the importance and
4 complexities of the elective process. I've also served as
5 Chairman and Executive Committee member of the Southwestern
6 Pennsylvania Commission, western Pennsylvania's metropolitan
7 planning organization. If you spoke to the members of the
8 commission from when I served, and from either party, they
9 would attest to my professional work conducted in a bipartisan
10 manner.

11 Since retirement from public office, I have been an
12 adjunct professor at Seton Hill University, where I've taught
13 State and local government, and Pennsylvania history and
14 geography. So I've not only participated in conducting
15 elections, I've taught about them as part of the Commonwealth's
16 history. And while we all are aware that this process is
17 hardly perfect, Pennsylvania has come a long way from the
18 1960s, when legislative districts were finally compelled to be
19 uniform in population.

20 I'm interested in serving because I'm an unabashed
21 proponent of good government and recognize the importance and
22 role of each branch of government. For the legislative branch,
23 it begins with the process that defines the boundaries of who
24 you and your colleagues will represent. I recognize the
25 partisan nature of your jobs and your role to advocate for

1 district boundaries that enhance your party's strength in each
2 house. I would also see my role on this committee as the
3 balance between your roles as representatives of each Caucus
4 and the interests of Pennsylvania citizens as a whole,
5 irrespective of party affiliation. And the citizenry deserves
6 the most competent, effective legislative branch of government
7 that can be elected.

8 Based on Pennsylvania's size and population
9 distribution, we all know already that there will be Republican
10 districts and Democrat districts. However, there are instances
11 across Pennsylvania where districts will not lean too far one
12 way or another. It is those districts that I believe that will
13 enhance the effectiveness of your legislative bodies. We all
14 recognize the hyperpartisan times that we are all living in,
15 and I don't think anyone believes that it is producing the most
16 responsive, effective legislative branch that is possible.
17 Balanced districts should produce elected representatives that
18 understand they aren't beholden to one party back in their
19 districts, and they should be more willing to work, quote,
20 "across the aisle" to find solutions to the public policy
21 challenges Pennsylvanians face. I believe that I offer a
22 unique experience. I clearly understand partisan politics, but
23 have worked in a bipartisan manner as an elected official
24 myself, and I also recognize the importance of the
25 reapportionment process in its role in creating a legislative

1 branch that serves the citizens of Pennsylvania as effectively
2 as possible.

3 I want to thank you for your time and
4 consideration, and I'm willing to answer any questions.

5 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

6 Does anybody have any questions?

7 SENATOR COSTA: Commissioner, I just want to say
8 thank you for your willingness to serve, and as you
9 demonstrated in your remarks, your experience working
10 particularly in a county where it required cooperation, and
11 bipartisan cooperation, to build a consensus, so I applaud you
12 for your efforts and thank you for your testimony today.

13 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: And I will also say
14 that it is true that you were a good government official. You
15 are.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
17 Chair.

18 Sir, I'm just curious, you said you served as a
19 county commissioner, so therefore there might have been times
20 that you had to break a tie. Our goal would be great if we
21 could get to a 5-0 decision, but in a chance that we may have a
22 2-2 gridlock, how do you envision yourself as being a
23 facilitator trying to bring some consensus and get us to a
24 point where we could get a plan voted through?

25 MR. BALYA: Well, I believe that my role would be

1 to try to bring both sides together, and I understand the
2 nature of who you're representing. I think, as I mentioned in
3 my comments, I see myself representing Pennsylvanians
4 irrespective of what party they're in, and I think they're
5 better served with a legislature that works in a bipartisan
6 manner.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, sir.

8 Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
10 much. Thank you, Tom.

11 Next up, we have Jonathan Cervas.

12 MR. CERVAS: Thank you. I appreciate the
13 opportunity to speak to you guys today. I'm sorry that it's
14 not in person. I'm here in Pittsburgh. You received my CV. I
15 am currently a postdoctoral fellow at Carnegie Mellon
16 University. I have a Ph.D. in political science, and I am
17 currently teaching a class, Representation and Redistricting.
18 It turns out I have a lot of knowledge about this process. I'm
19 patiently awaiting the first Census results, which are coming
20 to us in 15 minutes directly from the U.S. Census, to figure
21 out exactly what apportionment is going to be for the
22 congressional districts, and it looks like Pennsylvania is
23 almost definitely going to lose a seat. But let me just tell
24 you a little bit about my background. I won't spend the whole
25 five minutes. I would appreciate any questions you have.

1 I earned my Ph.D. at the University of California,
2 Irvine studying with Bernard Grofman, a well-known expert in
3 the field of legislative redistricting. I have served as
4 assistant to the Special Master in three Federal court cases
5 involving racial gerrymanders. The first was The Navajo Nation
6 v. San Juan County. The second was Bethune-Hill v. Virginia
7 Board of Education, where I redrew 25 percent of the Virginia
8 State legislative districts. And the third was Wright v.
9 Sumter County, Georgia. In those three cases, I helped to
10 remedy the constitutional violations where maps were drawn with
11 racial bias, either violating the First Amendment, 14th
12 Amendment, or the Voting Rights Act. And in my class, I'm
13 currently teaching the students about the redistricting
14 process, and their final assignment is to redraw Pennsylvania's
15 congressional districts.

16 In any case, I have a deep background and knowledge
17 in both theory and empirics. I think that background would be
18 particularly beneficial for the committee, given the fact that
19 we have a shortened schedule for drawing these maps, and the
20 expertise that I can bring to help speed that process up. I'm
21 an independent voter. I don't affiliate with any political
22 parties. I bring that into the classroom as well. You can
23 happily speak to any of my students and they'll attest to the
24 fact that I tend to be independent, and I urge others to have
25 independent thoughts, and I think that that sort of philosophy

1 would be very valuable to the committee, especially given the
2 circumstances of the work that needs to be done.

3 And so you have my CV. You have my letter. So I
4 will go ahead and stop in the interest of time and open myself
5 up to any questions you may have.

6 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Anyone?

7 (There was no response.)

8 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: We have no
9 questions. Thank you very much.

10 Next, we have Nathaniel Dick.

11 MR. DICK: Thank you for this time. So a little
12 bit about me. I was born and raised in Lancaster County and
13 have lived here my whole life. I plan on going to university
14 in Delaware. I am going to be going to the University of
15 Delaware with a minor in political science and a major in
16 history education. For the past two years, and what mainly got
17 me interested in redistricting and Legislative Reapportionment,
18 is I spent the last two years of my life doing in-depth
19 research for an international program where I studied in-depth
20 gerrymandering in the northeastern States, with a major study
21 and case focus on Pennsylvania, and during this time I read
22 multiple Federal court cases, including the Carr v. Baker and
23 multiple other major Supreme Court cases from the '60s up until
24 present day, and so I have an in-depth knowledge into these
25 court cases, as well as the Pennsylvania Constitution, as to

1 the redistricting process. During this time I also did
2 in-depth research into redlining, and specifically redlining in
3 Lancaster County, and as well as in Philadelphia and eastern
4 PA. One of my main goals and what I would mainly bring towards
5 this committee is the belief of keeping communities intact, as
6 well as having a competitive district and majority-minority
7 districts. I believe that it would be our job to help keep our
8 communities intact and make sure that we don't have another
9 2011 map issue again like we did this past redistricting.

10 I would push strongly for advocating for minority
11 groups as well as voters that typically wouldn't have their
12 voices heard. I think one issue that a majority of the U.S.
13 finds itself in is that we find some voters being suppressed in
14 certain districts, and I think my nonpartisan view on this
15 would come forward and help fix this. As well as I think that
16 we would be able to work together as well as a bipartisan
17 committee and fix these programs.

18 So as well as this, I have also done an in-depth
19 study with one of my teachers who is a geography teacher who
20 has an in-depth look into the political regions in
21 Pennsylvania, as well as the geopolitical regions and how
22 certain rural areas tend to vote certain ways and as well why
23 that is, and why it is important that those communities with
24 those political interests are important to stay together.

25 Yeah, so, the other experience I have with

1 redistricting is I redrew the maps myself in the past research
2 that I have done where I redrew both our State Representative
3 or State legislative maps, as well as our State Senate, and
4 then as well as our Federal congressional districts. So I know
5 the challenges that are presented with these redistricting and
6 how challenging it can be to keep certain districts
7 competitive, keep the communities intact, as well as keeping
8 minority votes held of the standard. Thank you.

9 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
10 much. Good for you. You're going to really be going places
11 for getting involved and for being so knowledgeable about this
12 issue at your young, mature age.

13 MR. DICK: Thank you.

14 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Does anybody have
15 any questions?

16 Representative Benninghoff.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, Madam
18 Chair.

19 Real quick question. Since you went through the
20 exercise of drafting the maps, what did you find one of the
21 most complicated challenges for you doing so?

22 MR. DICK: One of the most complicated challenges I
23 think was keeping competitive districts. I think especially in
24 a State like ours that is so diverse politically, it is really
25 challenging to get districts where it won't swing one way so a

1 political party won't have an advantage significantly over the
2 other party. So I saw specifically in like Philly regions and
3 as well as Lancaster County, it was really challenging to make
4 sure that we had districts that were competitive. Yeah.

5 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Anybody else?

6 (There was no response.)

7 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
8 much. Thank you.

9 MR. DICK: Thank you.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Next, we have
11 Elizabeth Forrest. Is Elizabeth here?

12 MS. FORREST: Thank you. I'm sorry, I did not
13 unmute myself.

14 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Ok. There you go.
15 Hi.

16 MS. FORREST: Good afternoon, Commissioners, and
17 thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Commission's
18 Chair position, as well as the opportunity to be heard in this
19 hearing. My name is Elizabeth Forrest. I'm a semi-retired
20 small business owner specializing in information technology and
21 process engineering. I've lived in rural Pike County for
22 almost 30 years and am the current president of the county's
23 League of Women Voters, as well as a former State League board
24 member, which should speak to my ability to work in nonpartisan
25 situations, as redistricting should absolutely be. Pike, like

1 too many other places in Pennsylvania, has had little to no
2 public input for two decades on how and why district lines are
3 drawn. One result was Pike County's placement in the 10th
4 Congressional District, which sprawled across a quarter of
5 Pennsylvania, all the way to the Huntingdon County line,
6 placing the center of that district somewhere around
7 Williamsport, which is further from my home than Times Square.
8 It took the court case of 2018 to alleviate that, but
9 neighboring counties over the decades have had much the same
10 experience.

11 After the 2001 redistrict, our neighbor to the
12 south, Monroe County, ended up with six State Senators and four
13 legislative districts. Out of those 10 legislators, only 2
14 actually lived in Monroe County and were well-known to county
15 residents. The 189th District was one of those, and it started
16 out in 1990s contained solely in Monroe County, but then in
17 2001 was elongated and gouged to span starting at U.S. 6 in
18 northern Pike, stretching south to the Northampton County
19 border. Almost 60 miles in length and approximately 2 miles
20 wide at its narrowest point. The district bifurcated both Pike
21 and Monroe Counties and the townships of Dingman, Stroud, and
22 Chestnuthill, to say nothing of what it did to school
23 districts. For example, why is the borough of East Stroudsburg
24 the only part of the East Stroudsburg Area School District not
25 represented in the 189th District? The 2012 maps removed the

1 split of Dingman and Chestnuthill, but then Barrett Township
2 was placed in the district, and it cannot be reached by car
3 from the current incumbent's office or home without driving
4 through another district to get there. In fact, the only thing
5 connecting Barrett to the 189 is where it touches unoccupied
6 State game lands in Lehman Township in Pike. Situations like
7 this are far from unique in the Commonwealth.

8 Pike is also part of the 20th Senatorial District,
9 which is shaped like a vise that wraps around and excludes
10 urban Scranton, which it's done since the 1990s. The
11 demographic and party makeup of the district, along with its
12 geographic shape, have all but guaranteed a lack of any serious
13 opposition for its incumbents through multiple election cycles
14 and seems to deter prospective candidates from east of
15 Scranton, regardless of party. Lack of serious opposition also
16 eliminates any serious public debate of opposing views on
17 issues ranging from the protection of water quality in the
18 Delaware River Basin, to gun safety, to economic development.

19 Finally, no political party is right or wrong 100
20 percent of the time. My only purpose in seeking this job is to
21 end up with an election map full of competitive legislative and
22 Senate districts which can nurture candidate competition as
23 well as issue debate. In 2020, a Presidential election year
24 with unprecedented turnout, 68 of 203 House seats were
25 uncontested, as were 6 out of 25 Senate seats that were up for

1 election. This is simply unacceptable.

2 Voters deserve better than they have been given for
3 the last 20 years. As has been noted, this will be the first
4 time in PA's history that women have ever served on this
5 committee, and I must say, I'm surprised that only three women
6 have been asked to be heard today. So imagine a majority of
7 women in charge of drawing all these important lines. I don't
8 think we could do worse. It should certainly be worth
9 consideration.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

11 Are there any questions?

12 SENATOR COSTA: Just very briefly. The folks who
13 are asked to testify are folks who asked to testify and be
14 considered for the position. There was no decision made by any
15 of us to decide who would testify or not. It was based upon
16 folks who applied. So all those folks who applied were given
17 the opportunity to, and right now it's only been three women.
18 So I don't want you to think that the Commission made a
19 decision with respect to that.

20 MS. FORREST: That's good. Thank you,
21 Commissioner.

22 SENATOR COSTA: The second thing is, you brought up
23 Senator Dave Argall's legislation, and I think that's an
24 important point for us to recognize as well. So thank you for
25 stating that in your comments.

1 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
2 much. Thank you.

3 Our next person up is Arlin Green.

4 MR. GREEN: Yes, hi. Members of the Pennsylvania
5 Legislative Reapportionment Commission, my name is Arlin Green.
6 While I am blessed to have been afforded the opportunity to
7 attend Harvard College, Harvard Business School, and Boston
8 University School of Law, it is my post-graduation
9 accomplishments on which I will focus. My resume will set out
10 all my professional stops along a lengthy, varied, interesting,
11 and successful career, but I would like to zero in on two
12 aspects of my life I think are extraordinarily relevant to the
13 decision ahead of you and will serve to truly set me apart from
14 the other candidates.

15 For the last six years, I have been a professional
16 mediator handling residential real estate disputes. Over the
17 past seven months, I've also been conducting two to three
18 mediations per week on a pro bono basis between tenants and
19 landlords under Philadelphia's Eviction Diversion Program.
20 Being a mediator has allowed me to make use of many of the
21 skills I have accumulated in my lifetime - business, law, and
22 most of all, listening and empathy. By definition, a mediator
23 is not imbued with the power to make a decision but can only
24 work to get both sides to come to a mutually agreeable
25 understanding. As I tell all of my mediation clients, if I do

1 my job right, nobody will be happy. That's because each side
2 comes into the room completely convinced of the righteousness
3 of their position. Consequently, any compromise is painful,
4 but if I am successful at getting them to walk away with a
5 settlement, both sides will leave without having to spend
6 another minute thinking about or paying for more contentious
7 confrontations. And I have been extremely successful in this
8 field, so I am confident that my ability to get people coming
9 from different mindsets to come to a mutually agreeable
10 understanding will prove to be invaluable as the Chair of the
11 LRC.

12 What I believe the Pennsylvania Constitution
13 demands of the person assuming the Chairmanship of this
14 Commission is equanimity, defined in the dictionary as mental
15 calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a
16 difficult situation. The second aspect of my life that most
17 directly informs my ability to fill the role for which you are
18 interviewing me today has to do with the fact that my beautiful
19 wife, Paula, and I have joyfully and successfully raised six
20 children together. As I have often described, our family
21 evolved out of merger, acquisition, and development. Paula had
22 twin girls, I had one girl the same age as hers, and two sons
23 just a couple of years younger. Five kids within a very tight
24 age range. And then we had another daughter together a few
25 years later. Almost 25 years ago now, after I had been

1 separated from my ex-wife for a few months, Paula and I met and
2 embarked together on perilous journey to blend our families,
3 made all the more difficult to navigate by the vagaries of a
4 complicated divorce which lasted the better part of a decade.
5 We brought all of these individuals with different genetic
6 histories into one whole family, one whose members all support
7 and root for each other. This family has not just survived
8 difficult situations, we have thrived. There are no his kids,
9 there are no her kids, only our kids. No Democrats no
10 Republicans, only Americans. I only share these personal
11 details with you in order to ask you to imagine the vast amount
12 of equanimity required of us in order to have raised the six
13 wonderful, bright, achievement-oriented, well-adjusted
14 children, now adults, who form our beautifully cohesive family.

15 Allow me to demonstrate my technical expertise. In
16 many ways I think it's not overstating the case that the
17 Chairmanship of the Pennsylvania LRC is a role for which I have
18 been preparing my entire life. I've always been interested in
19 our political system, but like so many others, I've grown
20 progressively concerned about the way the system has evolved.
21 In particular, it hurts to witness partisanship creep into the
22 beautiful scheme for democracy crafted by our country's
23 Founding Fathers and by the authors of our own Commonwealth's
24 Constitution. Pennsylvania Constitution's Article II, Section
25 16, requires that unless absolutely necessary, no county, city,

1 incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided
2 in forming either a senatorial or representative district.
3 That is not an equivocal statement, and yet in the past I think
4 we would all agree that somehow partisanship has managed to
5 wedge its way into this process that is meant to be partisan
6 blind. I believe that I have the education, experience,
7 personal integrity, and north-pointing moral compass necessary
8 to lead this Commission to a fair and equitable, truly
9 nonpartisan result when drawing the new lines for our State
10 Senatorial and Representative districts. It has become a
11 hackneyed phrase, but that doesn't take away from its veracity
12 that our democracy demands that we provide an electoral system
13 that allows the citizens to choose their representatives rather
14 than having the representatives choose their citizens. I would
15 strive tirelessly to meet those demands.

16 In summary, I will provide the unfettered
17 equanimity required to serve the Commonwealth at this time in
18 this position. I truly appreciate your time and consideration,
19 and welcome any questions.

20 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Are there any
21 questions?

22 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Real quick, Madam
23 Chair.

24 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Go ahead.

25 MR. GREEN: I'm sorry, I cannot hear.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Excuse me, my
2 apologizes. First of all, thank you very much for your
3 comments. You did a nice job. You've got a beautiful family
4 there. My question is simply, seeing the compressed time
5 period we're going to be working under, depending on when the
6 data comes in from the Federal government, do you feel that you
7 have the time, with all your other interests, to be able to put
8 into this Chair position?

9 MR. GREEN: Yes, thanks for the question.
10 Absolutely. I have always had time over my career for working
11 on nonprofit organizations. The last two years I've chaired
12 City Year of Philadelphia, but I have a vice chair to whom I
13 can easily hand things off to to help with that. And beyond
14 that, my professional commitments are at my own discretion,
15 basically, at this point in my career.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Thank you, sir.
17 Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you. Thank
19 you, sir.

20 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

21 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Our next person up
22 is Lawrence Husick.

23 MR. HUSICK: Madam Chairperson, committee Members,
24 thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon.
25 I'll try to keep my remarks very brief. You have my

1 qualifications before you. I appear before you to reflect the
2 comments that have been made previously as to the compressed
3 nature of the workload that the Commission will experience once
4 the Census Bureau releases the necessary information. I want
5 to implore you to run an open process and solicit the
6 involvement, participation, and indeed contributions of time
7 and mental energy of the citizens of our Commonwealth. I have
8 been working for the past 5 years with Fair Districts
9 Pennsylvania, and have participated with Draw the Lines PA. We
10 have demonstrated that ordinary citizens are capable of
11 creatively and profitably drawing our lines in fair, open, and
12 equitable ways. And I want you to make sure that in running
13 this Commission, you take advantage of the skills and
14 experience that we have built within this Commonwealth.

15 Because of some recent health challenges, I'm going
16 to withdraw my application to be Chair of the Commission, and I
17 thank you for the time in addressing you.

18 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
19 much, and good luck with your health. Thank you, sir.

20 Next up, we have John Kennedy.

21 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Senator. I appreciate the
22 opportunity to speak here today, and I also want to thank the
23 current Members of the LRC for their commitment to transparency
24 this year. First, I'll say a few things about myself. I'm a
25 proud son of Pennsylvania. I attended Kutztown University,

1 where I received my bachelor's and master's degrees, and Temple
2 University, where I received my Ph.D. I've been fortunate
3 since 1987 to teach at -- to be a professor at West Chester
4 University, where I have attained the rank of full professor.

5 Since graduate school, my research agenda has
6 focused primarily on the State of Pennsylvania, and in
7 particular, Pennsylvania politics and Pennsylvania elections.
8 I have authored several books, including *The Contemporary*
9 *Pennsylvania Legislature; Pennsylvania Government and Politics;*
10 *and Pennsylvania Elections*, which is now I'm under contract for
11 the third edition. I'm also involved in a number of
12 associations relative to Pennsylvania politics. I'm a charter
13 member of the Pennsylvania Policy Forum, and I'm currently on
14 the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Political Science
15 Association.

16 Throughout my tenure as a professional, as an
17 instructor, I've worked with members of both parties. I have
18 been the director of the West Chester University Legislative
19 Fellows Program for the last 20 years. The program is
20 essentially a team-taught program between myself and the
21 legislature. I've worked with Democrats and taught the course
22 with Democrats and Republicans, including several current
23 Members of the General Assembly. I've also served as advisor
24 to the College Republicans and the College Democrats throughout
25 my time at West Chester. Again, my focus has been on

1 Pennsylvania throughout my career. I think that's been
2 well-documented, and I was honored to be invited in 2005 by
3 then Speaker of the House Perzel and Lieutenant Governor Baker
4 Knoll to be one of the speakers at the Centennial Commission
5 100th Anniversary of the General Assembly -- of the building;
6 excuse me, I shouldn't say the General Assembly itself.

7 Now, essential to what we are here for today, in
8 2017, I served as an expert witness in the case League of Women
9 Voters v. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. My focus during
10 that particular trial was to emphasize how the 2011 maps had
11 cracked, packed, and negatively impacted communities of
12 interest throughout the State. As a native of Lehigh Valley, I
13 saw firsthand how, you know, how the community, how the Lehigh
14 Valley was carved up in that map. As a current resident of
15 Montgomery County, I saw how that was divided into four
16 different congressional districts.

17 Now, my role as Chair, if selected, is this, and
18 I'll be brief here. I'm not a cartographer. I'm not signing
19 up to -- my responsibility would not be to draw the maps. Both
20 sides and both Caucuses have experts who are much, much smarter
21 than I am as far as drawing maps, but I would use my
22 background, my knowledge of communities of Pennsylvania to try
23 to mediate disputes in a fair and honest fashion. Again, my
24 number one concern would be towards the citizens of
25 Pennsylvania to insure that Pennsylvania's communities,

1 Pennsylvania's interests of all its citizens are protected.

2 I appreciate your consideration for this position,
3 and welcome any questions that you might have. Thank you.

4 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

5 Does anyone have a question?

6 (There was no response.)

7 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Okay, thank you
8 very much, sir.

9 MR. HUSICK: Thank you.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Next on our list is
11 Jill Linta.

12 MS. LINTA: Hi. Can you hear me? Can everyone
13 hear me?

14 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Yes, we can hear
15 you.

16 MS. LINTA: Ok good, good, good. Ok. My name is
17 Jill Linta. I am from Middletown, Pennsylvania; was born and
18 raised here, went to Penn State University, got a degree in
19 psychology with a minor in business. Oh, I'm looking at the
20 light. I can't see you all. Anyway. So what I'm -- I'm
21 coming from a completely different angle than most of these
22 highly credentialed applicants. I'm coming as a community
23 advocate, someone that has been doing work on the ground for at
24 least a decade. I've actually done environmental work for 20
25 years, but the reason that I think that I would be a good

1 applicant is because I'm a regular person who -- can someone
2 put the camera on a person? I feel really weird talking to the
3 lights. Okay, hi, thank you. Okay.

4 So I'm a community advocate, let me just go with
5 that. I believe in justice with all my heart. When I see
6 injustice, I feel the need to stand up and do something about
7 it. I could start with my volunteer work. I am a legal
8 secretary by trade, but my real heart is in my volunteer work.
9 I have been with the Sierra Club for 20 years. I've served on
10 the executive committee. I served as chair for a year, I
11 stepped down in order to get more involved with actually more
12 voting rights and fighting voter suppression. In the year
13 2000, after I saw the fiasco that happened with Bush v. Gore, I
14 decided to become a volunteer poll watcher. So every four
15 years I go in to the polls, I sit there -- I've actually seen
16 and stopped voter suppression of minorities, so I felt very
17 good to be there, but also very disheartened that something
18 like that would actually happen in our area.

19 Then I became a volunteer for social justice and
20 First Amendment rights. I have been working with the National
21 Lawyers Guild for several years protecting First Amendment
22 rights to protest, which I strongly believe in. And also I was
23 just elected a co-chair of that. And also, I'm sorry, I'm very
24 nervous, I apologize. But the most important thing is in 2018
25 it turned out that no one was going to be running in my

1 district for the House of Representatives as a Democrat, and
2 that just drove me absolutely crazy. I knew nothing about
3 politics. I vote, but that's about it. And I just threw my
4 hat in the ring, because people deserve a choice. People need
5 to be heard. And the more I canvassed, the more I spoke to
6 people, I realized they don't feel like they have a voice. I
7 mean, Republicans and Democrats, a lot of people I knocked on
8 their doors, I was told I'm the first person that's ever
9 knocked on their door, I'm the first person that's ever talked
10 to them and cared what they thought. I did a lot of follow-up
11 work with them, even though I wasn't their Representative,
12 because, I don't know, it just felt so wonderful. But the most
13 important thing that bothered me was in the African-American
14 community there was absolutely no hope of being heard. They do
15 not believe that the system works. It's totally rigged, what's
16 the point? I said, you know, I don't know, but I'm here, you
17 know.

18 And of course everyone told me I had absolutely no
19 chance of winning. But I didn't care, because the more I spoke
20 to people, the more I realized that there's a lot of
21 disheartened people out there and, you know, they need to be
22 heard, and whether I win or not, like these people are being
23 heard and I'd say to them, you run for office. You matter.
24 Write a letter to the editor. You know, I'm not special
25 either, you know what I mean? I'm not a rich person, I'm not

1 connected. I'm not a good 'ol boy. So I'm here for you, you
2 matter.

3 Anyway, the whole point is after that I realized,
4 okay, I have to do more. I didn't win my race, but I did get a
5 lot of trust, and that's what I want to emphasize today is that
6 people trusted me. I actually got in trouble with the
7 Democratic Party because I said I wasn't running for them, I
8 was running for everyone. So I am not partisan. I believe
9 everyone should have a voice, and I am perfectly willing to be
10 honest and just and nonpartisan.

11 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
12 much. You sound like one busy woman.

13 MS. LINTA: Yes.

14 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: One busy woman out
15 working in your community.

16 MS. LINTA: I care too much.

17 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Are there any
18 questions?

19 (There was no response.)

20 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Okay, thank you
21 very, very much.

22 MS. LINTA: You're welcome.

23 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Our next person is
24 Anthony Mazzoni.

25 MR. MAZZONI: Good afternoon. Very nice. I thank

1 you very much for this opportunity to apply for the position of
2 the Chair of the LRC. I'm not going to go and lecture you
3 about fair and equitable elections or voting districts. I
4 think we all know and we all believe that fair and open
5 districting is very important to us. I will talk a little bit
6 about my qualifications.

7 I went to the University of Pittsburgh and got a
8 degree in chemistry and ended up working in Cleveland, Ohio,
9 for a chemical company for four years while I got my master's
10 in business administration. I came back in 1981 and worked for
11 Calgon Carbon Corporation in the original marketing group, and
12 then did some stints in sales as a tech rep, and then managing
13 the Marketing Services Group. Later, became Director of
14 Product Management and Marketing Services, Global Director of
15 Marketing worldwide, and became a team champion for a new
16 process that we had to deliver worldwide sulphur dioxide
17 removal, and we got our first installation in 14 months.

18 In 2001, I joined a small company also located in
19 the Pittsburgh area that manufactured systems to clean
20 municipal drinking water and industrial contaminants from air.
21 I came in as the Vice President of Business Development and
22 co-owner of the corporation. Over the 14 years, sales grew
23 like 5X, and in 2014, we sold the company to a private equity
24 group. As part of the sale, I was to run the company for the
25 next six months as the general manager. I then, after my six-

1 month stint, retired. I now have some time on my -- a lot of
2 time on my hands now that I'm retired. I golf, I fish, spend
3 time with my wife and my three children and six grandchildren.
4 And currently, I'm on the board, the Board Chairman for the
5 Dragon's Den in Homestead, Pennsylvania, which is a 501(c)
6 corporation. It challenges young kids to embrace life with
7 courage and passion on their journey to become successful
8 adults. I was also a member of the Rosslyn Farms Council for
9 16 years. I was a board member for the Joint Chemical Group in
10 charge of the Pittsburgh Chemical Day and ran that organization
11 for a year.

12 I believe that a fair process is the most important
13 aspect of the LRC and its Chair. But running a small company
14 also requires a fair and open process. From my years of
15 experience in directing individual activities, to working as a
16 board chair for nonprofit organizations, I think gives me the
17 experience to be able to move right into an LRC Chair position.
18 I'm not here to pad my resume. It's not important in this time
19 in my life. I do have time, I know the technical aspects of
20 spreadsheets and everything else, since I've been running a
21 small company, and that's why I'm applying. I really believe
22 this could be a nice opportunity for me to make a big
23 contribution to the State.

24 With that, any questions?

25 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Anyone have a

1 question?

2 SENATOR COSTA: Just a quick comment, again.

3 Thank you very much for submitting your
4 information. I'm familiar with Dragon's Den in Homestead, and
5 I want to thank you and everyone involved for establishing the
6 facility. It's remarkable, and I'm hopeful that you're able to
7 reach the kids in a manner which you talked about. So thank
8 you for that.

9 MR. MAZZONI: Thank you.

10 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you very
11 much.

12 Our next applicant is Ryan McGregor.

13 MR. MCGREGOR: Good afternoon. My name is Ryan
14 McGregor. I'm a born-and-bred and raised in Allegheny County,
15 graduate of Slippery Rock University, but now I currently live
16 in the beautiful lakeside town of North East, Pennsylvania,
17 located in Erie County. I'd first like to thank all the
18 Commissioners for the time today. I'm asking for your fullest
19 and fairest consideration for the role of the Chair of the
20 Legislative Reapportionment Commission. Some people have
21 become deeply cynical and distrusting of the redistricting
22 process. In response, a number of citizen action groups have
23 been created to advocate for a more open and transparent
24 process. In my opinion, the Chair of the LRC should be an
25 arbiter between the citizens of Pennsylvania and the other four

1 Members of the LRC and should have a full understanding of the
2 perspective of both sides.

3 I think to be effective in this position, the Chair
4 of the LRC should be able to demonstrate three core
5 competencies. First, being the ability to listen. Previously,
6 I had a role working in a southwest Pennsylvania office of a
7 United States Congressman. In that role, I heard extensively
8 from and found solutions for elected officials, business
9 leaders, and citizens in communities whose municipalities were
10 fractured by having multiple legislative districts.
11 Communities that had representation from two or even three
12 Members of Congress found that they were not being represented
13 well at all. I myself grew up in a township which at times was
14 represented by either one or two Congressmen, State Senators,
15 and State Representatives, so I know firsthand exactly how
16 frustrating that can be. If given the opportunity, I would
17 like to first begin the redistricting process by engaging in a
18 listening tour, enabling all citizens from each of
19 Pennsylvania's 67 counties to make their voices heard. I know
20 that through feedback like that, we as Commissioners could
21 receive from that would be immense value towards delivering a
22 well-regarded final plan.

23 Second, subject matter knowledge. As we're all
24 aware, the disruptions of the past year have created a
25 cascading effect upon the redistricting process. Because the

1 decennial Census will be delivered later, there will be fewer
2 months to complete the reapportionment. Because of the
3 shortened timeframe for this committee to deliver results, I
4 believe strongly that having extensive knowledge of each aspect
5 of this process is more important than ever. My current role
6 is working in business intelligence and data analysis, which
7 enables me to be quite effective in accurately and effectively
8 parsing large sets of data and finding actual insights. My
9 experience extends also to using things like KML and shapefiles
10 for mapping, as well as JS and other location-based data.
11 Coupled with the information experience and working for
12 Congress, I know the finer points of the legislative process,
13 the district lines and how they're crafted, and also how to use
14 the tools in which to create maps for best representation.

15 Finally, resilience. I'm of the belief that the
16 focus of the Commission should be to promote transparency,
17 objectivity, and reason in all decisions regarding legislative
18 districts so that ideally they're as compact as practicably
19 possible and keep municipal communities whole. All decisions
20 made should inspire confidence from voters that their districts
21 were not drawn with nakedly partisan goals. I have no personal
22 interest in drawing these new districts towards any political
23 goal. My goal is to create 50 State Senate districts, 200
24 State House districts, and a yet-to-be determined number of
25 congressional districts that equitably represent their

1 communities. In the next few months, there are going to be a
2 lot of interested parties who will seek special considerations
3 for a number of different interests. I would categorically
4 reject any attempts by those interested parties, be they
5 elected officials, lobbyists, political parties, to make any
6 kind of untoward influence on any decision made by the LRC. At
7 the end of the day, the voters of Pennsylvania should determine
8 partisan outcomes, not mapmakers.

9 In summary, I believe that this committee has a
10 fantastic opportunity to set a nationwide standard for how best
11 to reapportionment the legislative districts. I, of course,
12 felt that because of my extensive firsthand experience working
13 with Pennsylvanians who have been affected by reapportionment,
14 my commitment to objectivity and transparency, along with my
15 strong analytical skills, would make me an excellent fit for
16 the role. It also doesn't hurt that I'm from Erie County, so I
17 would probably be representing an area that I don't believe is
18 covered right now by the LRC.

19 In any case, I'd like to thank everyone for their
20 time. It's a fantastic opportunity to speak with all you and
21 to hear from everyone, and certainly if you have any questions,
22 I'm very happy to hear from you. Other than that, thank you so
23 much.

24 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

25 Are there any questions?

1 (There was no response.)

2 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: No questions, thank
3 you very much.

4 So next on the list we have someone who's not
5 logged in, but for the record, I want to read in the name of
6 Mark Prince, if you've gotten on. No? Are you Mark Prince?
7 No. Okay.

8 So next is Armin Samii.

9 MR. SAMII: Hi there. I'm not Mark Prince, I'm
10 Armin Samii. My legal name is Kevin, should that become
11 important, but I go by Armin. So thank you, Senator Ward,
12 Representative Benninghoff, Senator Costa, and Representative
13 Bradford. I am a self-employed software engineer in
14 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Up until July 2020, I was working at
15 a self-driving car firm where I managed three teams and over a
16 dozen employees. I left that lucrative position to focus on
17 improving our democracy, so now I focus the majority of my time
18 volunteering my software engineering skills working on
19 nonpartisan reforms in Pennsylvania. In particular, I focus on
20 writing software programs and websites that make rank choice
21 voting possible. Rank choice voting is a small change to our
22 voting system which allows voters to have backup choices. If
23 your favorite candidate has no chance of winning, your vote
24 will count for your backup choices. It's a nonpartisan reform,
25 it doesn't help any one party - Democrats, Republicans, or a

1 third party - but rather insures that whoever wins the election
2 has the support of a majority of their constituents. It allows
3 voters to vote with their heart, not strategically, and not for
4 the lesser of two evils. In sum, it increases the fairness of
5 the election process.

6 Electoral reforms won't fix the problems we have in
7 our democracy, but they are necessary steps towards healing our
8 partisan divide and reducing polarization. I bring this up to
9 show that I am dedicated to the cause of nonpartisan fair
10 reforms in Pennsylvania. I am familiar with Pennsylvania
11 districts that have been heavily criticized in how partisan
12 lines have silenced the voice of many. In David Daley's book
13 on gerrymandering, whose name I can't say here, involves a rat,
14 I'm sure you're all familiar with it, he quotes an election
15 official who says, "Part of the spoils of winning an election
16 is that someone's got to draw the lines." The sentiment there
17 being whoever's in power, whoever's got the majority, they get
18 the benefit of drawing the lines for their own benefit, and I
19 don't agree with that sentiment. I'm sure nobody here who's
20 spoken today agrees with that. Just because you've won the
21 election and the voters chose you doesn't mean that you now get
22 to choose your voters next time around. And the result of
23 these poorly-drawn districting lines has impacts for
24 generations to come. They should always be drawn fairly,
25 regardless of which party is in power.

1 I wanted to talk about some additional
2 qualifications. I have a bachelor's degree in computer science
3 from UC Santa Cruz, where I took a double course load and
4 received a four-year degree in just two years. From there I
5 went on to attend UC Berkley for a Ph.D. in visual computing.
6 I decided to leave early with a master's to accept my dream job
7 at Adobe, working for the Photoshop team, and just a couple of
8 months ago I was featured in *Wired* magazine for building an app
9 called UberCheats. UberCheats is an app that helps drivers get
10 paid fairly. What happened was I discovered a bug in Uber's
11 algorithm that occasionally underpays drivers. And in the
12 interest of fairness of the drivers, I built an app that
13 detects this bug and lets drivers know so that they can contact
14 Uber and get paid fairly. I share this story to show my
15 dedication to fairness big and small. The amount that Uber is
16 taking from drivers in these cases is on the order of \$2 maybe
17 per day, so it's a very small change, but in aggregate, that
18 adds up, and it's an injustice and it's unfair, and I'm
19 dedicated to the cause of fairness.

20 I know I've got fewer years on me than some of the
21 brilliant folks who spoke before me. I'm really in awe in a
22 lot of the qualifications I've heard, but despite my youth, I
23 hope I can complement the skills of the other four Members on
24 the Commission by bringing a technical, logic-based perspective
25 with my computer science background, and I'm personally

1 invested because I believe that the result of these maps will
2 set Pennsylvania on a path towards fair maps for generations to
3 come, and who knows, maybe this could have five, six, seven
4 decades of impact to helping my vote count more equitably.
5 We'll see how healthy I can live my life.

6 I recognize that good districts don't always look
7 regular. Great district lines sometimes might look like Donald
8 Duck kicking Goofy, but lines like that should be the
9 exception, not the rule. Sometimes a community really exists
10 in some of these funny shapes, and there's nothing nefarious
11 about irregular lines, but I think we have to balance the
12 cohesion of the district and the appearance of impartiality.

13 Finally, I want to note how easy it is to cheat and
14 to draw unfair lines. Indeed, over 10 years ago I wrote my own
15 gerrymandering algorithm where you could give me any State with
16 any sort of makeup you wanted and I would tell you how to make
17 either party get the most votes possible. Cheating is easy.
18 Being unfair is easy. So a balanced committee is crucial, a
19 fair committee is crucial to ensure that our State government
20 reflects the values of the people of our Commonwealth.

21 Thank you. That's all I have. I would be happy to
22 take any questions.

23 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

24 Are there any questions?

25 (There was no response.)

1 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: No questions, thank
2 you very much.

3 Next, Mike Walsh.

4 MR. WALSH: Hello. Thanks for giving me the chance
5 to speak today. I live in Gulph Mills, which is a suburb of
6 Philadelphia in Montgomery County near King of Prussia, and I
7 have lived in Pennsylvania most of my life, and I am not an
8 elected official. I am also in the process of retiring, so I
9 would have time during the next year or so to dedicate to the
10 Legislative Reapportionment Commission. I have a little bit of
11 redistricting experience in that I competed in the Draw the
12 Lines redistricting contest last year, and two of the maps that
13 I submitted won prizes in the adult category, and that contest,
14 by the way, used the 2010 Census data. I've worked most of my
15 career as a technical writer writing software manuals for
16 corporations. However, early in my career I worked for the
17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I wrote documentation about
18 some government mapping systems. Of course, it's not direct
19 experience with redistricting, but some of those government
20 mapping systems are forerunners of the mapping applications we
21 use today, and I'm sure will be used for redistricting. I also
22 worked as a journalist for some years, mostly in the '90s, and
23 I published a book and many articles.

24 I have volunteered with the Committee of Seventy
25 during a couple of elections, and that is a nonpartisan

1 elections watchdog group in Philadelphia. I was also a judge
2 of elections at a ward in Conshohocken between 2005 and 2009,
3 and both of those tasks required nonpartisanship on my part,
4 and I would look at the position on the LRC in the same way. I
5 would consider it my duty to act in a nonpartisan manner and to
6 work for district maps that were nonpartisan. And by
7 nonpartisan, I would mean maps that did not intentionally give
8 one party or the other an advantage. And, in my opinion,
9 Pennsylvania House and Senate districts should represent the
10 residents of a community or area regardless of the political
11 affiliation of those residents. And in the Pennsylvania
12 redistricting maps that I drew for the contest, I prioritized
13 population equivalents and compactness and I did not look at
14 political affiliation while drawing the district lines, so some
15 districts will clearly have more Republicans, some districts
16 may have more Democrats, that's just the way it goes, and some
17 of those things change over time, too.

18 I would also not support the splitting of small
19 towns or communities by district boundaries, unless there is no
20 other solution, although I found that in my mapping experience
21 there was usually another solution that could be found. And as
22 I'm sure you know, that is actually in the State Constitution.
23 I'm referring to Article II, Section 16. I believe that
24 nonpartisanship is the only fair way to redistrict the State,
25 and I believe that it is what most Pennsylvanians want, along

1 with openness and transparency.

2 It would be an honor to serve the people of
3 Pennsylvania with you on the Legislative Reapportionment
4 Commission, and I would like to contribute to fair nonpartisan
5 districts. Thank you for your time and consideration.

6 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: Thank you.

7 Are there any questions for Mr. Walsh?

8 (There was no response.)

9 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: No questions, sir.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WALSH: Thank you.

12 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: So our next
13 applicant was Kyle Rosato. Is Kyle Rosato on? No, Kyle Rosato
14 is not on.

15 And Micah Sims is next.

16 (There was no response.)

17 INTERIM CHAIR SENATOR K. WARD: So our last two
18 applicants weren't on, so this will conclude the meeting today.
19 We'll reconvene at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 3:36
21 p.m.)

1 I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are
2 contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me during
3 the hearing of the within cause, and that this is a true and
4 correct transcript of same.

5
6
7
8 

9
10 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
11 Chief Official Reporter
12 Senate of Pennsylvania
13
14

15 THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY
16 REPRODUCTION OF THE SAME BY ANY MEANS UNLESS UNDER THE DIRECT
17 CONTROL AND/OR SUPERVISION OF THE CERTIFYING REPORTER.
18
19

20 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
21 Chief Official Reporter
22 Senate of Pennsylvania
23 Room 644, Main Capitol Building
24 Harrisburg, PA 17120
25 (717) 787-4205

EXHIBITS

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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

April 26, 2021

Matthew Bradford
Chairman
Democratic House Appropriation Committee
Room 512 E Main Capitol
PO Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Bradford,

Pursuant to the provisions in Article II § 17 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I hereby appoint you as my deputy to serve with me on the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joanna E. McClinton".

Joanna McClinton
191ST Legislative District
Democratic Leader

JM:cs

cc: Honorable Kim Ward, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jay Costa, Democratic Senate Leader
Honorable Kerry Benninghoff, House Majority Leader

Legislative Reapportionment Commission Hearing Remarks

Roy A. Minet – 04/26/2021

Your letter inviting me to participate in today's hearing asked that I explain why I am interested in serving as LRC chair. I am happy to have that opportunity.

Since an early age, I have always had a strong interest in learning how things work and understanding the important underlying principles. Physics is the fundamental study of how the whole universe works, and so I knew early on that I definitely would become a physicist.

However, a liberal arts university wisely requires its students to acquire some knowledge in other areas outside of one's major. I found that there were interesting fundamental principles and ideas in philosophy too. I have always thought that people should be free to do whatever they like, so long as they do not infringe upon other people's equal rights. The important principles I learned in economics explained why leaving people alone to voluntarily cooperate leads naturally to a free market economy.

By the time I was looking for my first job, I had come to the realization that I did not want to spend *all* my time just understanding basic principles and figuring out how things work. The real fun is in gaining such knowledge, then *applying it to solve real-world problems*. I wanted to solve problems in the best possible way and be able to see the benefits during my lifetime. That is why my first job was in engineering instead of pure physics.

Since then, I have worked in a wide variety of professions. Some of them, like distributing beer to taverns, might be the last thing anyone would associate with physics or engineering. I have enjoyed every job I have held, and I have learned a lot from every one of them. However, I still consider myself primarily a physicist and certainly an adherent to the tenets of logic and the scientific method.

More recently, I have been concerned that our elections are not working as well as they should. Elections *are* democracy. Without elections *that everybody can implicitly trust*, there is no democracy. (Obviously, it is particularly critical that the losers of elections completely trust the results.) For elections to work well, there are two equally important requirements. First, it must be as easy as possible for any qualified voter to vote, while at the same time, the integrity of the process, including the complete secrecy of every ballot, must be guaranteed. Second, the election mechanism itself must function properly so that it accurately reflects the collective desires of voters.

Much of my election research has focused on voting methods. It has been widely known for nearly 250 years that the Plurality voting method frequently does *not* render a result that matches

voters' sincere opinions. Most experts agree that Plurality also is a contributing factor to the increasing polarization we are experiencing. And that polarization is now reaching intensity levels that threaten civility. Yet we continue to use Plurality in our elections. Designing a really good replacement for Plurality has turned out to be a much trickier problem than anticipated. However, I hope that the 250-year-long stalemate may finally be staggering toward a good conclusion.

I have also looked into many other aspects of elections, including the drawing of electoral districts. There are so many ways to perform that task that the real problem becomes identifying and implementing a really good approach. I think that has actually been made more difficult than necessary, partly by the use of confusing terminology. But it definitely is an interesting and important problem which begs a good solution; and that is precisely why I am interested in working on it with the LRC.

I assure you that I am completely neutral, as your chair should be. I am overridingly motivated simply to help the LRC draw a very good map. I sincerely hope you will decide that my qualifications make me the right choice for the job.

Summary Chronological Resume of Roy A. Minet

623 Skyler Drive, Mount Joy, PA 17552, 717-928-6188, roy.minet@comcast.net

All-America Chorus (sang baritone)

- Eleven-country European concert tour

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

- Majored in Physics
- Technical Director of WPRB campus radio station (most powerful FM station in New Jersey)
- Glee Club
- Foot Notes (founding member of eight-man, close-harmony group)

RCA Corporation (formerly Radio Corporation of America)

- TV Camera Tube Engineering, Lancaster, PA
 - US Patent 3,558,953 – Beam Landing Error Control Apparatus for Magnetically-Focused Cathode Ray Tubes
 - RCA Technical paper, “Analysis and Design of Alignment Coils for Magnetically-Focused Electron-Optical Systems”
 - Wrote software to calculate three-dimensional electron trajectories in a vacuum as controlled by electrostatic and magnetic fields
- Government Sales – Administrator of Laboratory Liaison (Chicago, then Washington)
 - Responsible for government and university laboratories in 19 mid-west states
 - Covered key government laboratories in Washington, DC, and northern Virginia
- TV Camera Tube Marketing, Lancaster, PA – Manager of Marketing with world-wide responsibility for Image Orthicon, Vidicon and Image Isocon product lines
- Conversion Tube Marketing, Lancaster, PA, Manager of Marketing, world-wide responsibility for above camera tubes plus image intensifiers and the CCD (Charge-Coupled Device – the first all-solid-state image sensors)
- Solid State Division, Somerville, NJ – Manager of Strategic Planning
 - Managed a department responsible for developing and operating a division-wide Objectives/Strategies/Tactics strategic planning system)
 - Made three presentations to the RCA Board of Directors recommending RCA’s entry into the personal computer business (five years later, IBM introduced the first PC)

Northwestern University, Graduate School of Management, Evanston, OH

- Completed intensive, month-long Institute for Management program for executives (attendance was sponsored by RCA Solid State Division)

Armstrong Distributors, Inc., Lancaster, PA

- Owned and operated this master beer distributor for 12 years
- Designed and developed comprehensive real-time software to run the Business

Intelligent Computer Systems, Inc., Lancaster, PA

- Founded, owned and operated ICS for 22 years
- Designed two generations of pioneering real-time, online, completely integrated software for distribution businesses (included fully-featured Order Entry, Purchasing, Inventory Control, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Payroll and General Ledger)
- Installed turnkey computer systems all over US for large and small distribution companies (large customers included Snapple Beverage which was later acquired by Dr. Pepper)
- ICS was eventually sold to a division of the 3M Corporation

United States Navy

- Electronics Instructor, Lancaster, PA, Naval Reserve Unit

Retirement! Landisville, PA and Mount Joy, PA

- Wrote/published more than 30 op-ed columns on a wide array of topics
- Libertarian Party
 - Served on Board of Directors for Pennsylvania Party
 - Chaired Marketing Committee for Pennsylvania Party
 - Chaired Media Relations Committee for Pennsylvania Party
 - Served on the Platform Committee three times for Pennsylvania Party
 - Represent State party in the PA Ballot Access Coalition and testified for PBAC at a Senate State Government Committee hearing
 - Served on the Platform Committee twice for the Libertarian National Committee
- Ran for Pennsylvania Auditor General
- Taught 11th and 12th grade economics as a volunteer with the Junior Achievement program
- Researched election mechanisms/issues and wrote academic papers
 - "A Comprehensive, Conclusive Analysis of Ordinal Voting Methods"
 - "Election Simulation Sheds New Light on Voting Methods"
 - "Follow-on Election Simulation Leads to Definitive Proposal"
- Designed and coded open source "Election Manager" software to comprehensively and securely manage entire elections anywhere on Earth

April 26, 2021

Re: Statement of David W. Rolka before the Legislative Reapportionment Commission

Good afternoon and thank you legislative members of the LRC –

Representative Kerry Benninghoff, [House Majority Leader, R- Center /Mifflin counties]
Senator Jay Costa, [Democratic Leader, D- Allegheny County]
Representative Joanna McClinton, [House Democratic Leader, D-Delaware/Phila counties]
Senator Kim Ward. [Senate Majority leader, R- Westmoreland County]

Thank you also Mr. McClintock for acknowledging my interest and the detailed instructions regarding today's public meeting of the LRC, to hear testimony from applicants regarding the position of Chair of the Commission.

I attached a summary resume to my April 9, 2021 letter, expressing interest in the position which identified various government positions that I held since 1977. I would be glad to answer questions regarding any of my current or prior employment.

Although originally from Pittsburgh, my parents purchased a diner located on route 119, south of Greensburg, in Westmoreland County, and we relocated to Youngwood, as I was about to enter high school. When my parents retired, the diner was donated to the historical society, and it is currently part of an historical display commemorating route 30 history located between Latrobe and Ligonier. I graduated from Greensburg Central Catholic High School in 1966 and attended the University of Pittsburgh Greensburg campus for two years, it was just the Lynch estate at that time, although it is a substantially larger campus now. I transferred to the main campus and became an evening student and worked full time in the Wilkesburg Foodland, and the USS Homestead works, to support myself until graduation. In 1971, my wife Kathleen McGrath and I were married at the Lynch estate. We have three adult children.

Following graduation from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973, I worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, where my first assignment was the development of a system for the use valuation, rather than the market valuation of farmland pursuant to the Clean & Green Farmland preservation act. In that role I developed a valuation mechanism and appeared in several county proceedings regarding the valuation of farmland for real estate tax purposes.

In 1976 the legislature reformed the Public Utility Commission, converting it from a part time agency to a full time Commission, and directing the establishment of multiple Offices and Bureaus, particularly an Office of Planning and Research, that was of interest to me. I was hired onto the staff of Commissioner Michael Johnson in 1977, who arranged for me to be tutored in

public utility regulation by sending me to the Philadelphia Office Building on weekends, where I met with attorneys and professors who coached me on the fundamentals of utility regulation. I was fortunate to share office space with the staff hired to establish several of the new offices and bureaus, particularly those charged with the development of staff who would be responsible for planning and research, as well as drafting opinions that were defensible on appeal. I was the first Commission staff person to purchase a PC and I taught myself Lotus 123, a spreadsheet program, which I successfully used to analyze rate cases and assist in the calculation of public utility rates and rate design.

In 1984, I was offered a position by David Barash as director of operations in the Office of Consumer Advocate, Office of Attorney General Leroy Zimmerman. In 1989, after two nominations to a vacancy on the PUC had failed, Governor Casey nominated me to the position. I was unanimously confirmed to a five-year term, and my son who at the time was only three took up residence inside the speaker's podium during my swearing in ceremony to the amusement of everyone. There were more than thirty pending deadlocked significant cases including some regarding rates and safety matters, that I was able to resolve. Some were resolved by creating a majority and others by crafting an agreeable new solution. I was renominated, and again unanimously confirmed to another five-year term in 1994. When that term expired in 1999, Governor Ridge rather than immediately replace me, asked that I stay on to finish a complex collection of telecommunications proceedings that I was leading ex parte, with the agreement of the incumbent and competitive telecommunications industry. We finished that proceeding at the end of September 1999, and I left the PUC. In December 1999, I began a consulting practice that is today Rolka Loube associates. Many of my accomplishments as a Commissioner and my role with the company are identified in my introductory letter of interest.

As you can see, all my post collegiate career has been in some aspect of government service. My career has a detail and fact-based orientation. I am a lifelong citizen of Pennsylvania, and I have not held a state, federal or local public office since 1999. I acquired a good knowledge of the geographic areas of the state during my tenure as a Public Utility Commissioner. I was selected to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and chaired two Federal State Joint Boards responsible for defining the boundaries between state and federal regulatory jurisdiction on behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Nearly all my roles have required analysis, consensus building, transparency and many have required managing issues among office holders and public interests. The company that I founded has a great record of unbiased accomplishment for states and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Audits and statistical measures of our work have not yielded any adverse findings, and our error rate regarding the timeliness, accuracy, as well as consistency with contract requirements and rules since 2011 is virtually zero. The FCC is by far our largest client, where I have served as trustee of a \$1.6 billion program that provides service pursuant to the ADA to deaf, hard of hearing and blind users of telecommunication services. For the Universal Service Administration Company, my responsibility included the implementation of a program that targeted high-cost support to areas based on the cost of service, at the census block level, nationwide, including mapping the areas designated for financial support.

Although I have no experience with legislative redistricting, I propose that my experience and career of service, approaching 50 years, demonstrate that I can be a valuable neutral member of the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to offer my services.

LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

North Office Bldg., Hearing Room 1,

April 25, 2021, 1:00 PM

TESTIMONY OF J. CHADWICK SCHNEE, ESQ.

THE LAW OFFICE OF TUCKER R. HULL, LLC

108 W. MAIN STREET, ANNVILLE, PA 17003

Dear Members of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission:

Thank you for considering me to serve as the Chair of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission. You undoubtedly have a host of extremely talented and qualified individuals seeking this position, and I am deeply humbled and honored to be counted among them.

The seriousness and importance of the task before this Commission cannot be overstated, and I hope the materials previously provided, along with my testimony today, demonstrate that I possess the necessary mix of temperament, judgment, knowledge and fortitude needed to lead this Committee. If selected as Chair of this Committee, I would be guided by the principles of transparency, equity and legality.

With respect to transparency, I literally wrote “the book” on governmental accountability in *The Right-to-Know Law: A Practice Guide*, a 400+ page legal treatise concerning transparency issues. I have also previously served as the Assistant Chief Counsel and an Appeals Officers for Executive Directors appointed by governors of both political parties: Terry Mutchler, Esq., appointed by Governor Rendell; and Erik Arneson, appointed by Governor Corbett. This Committee’s work is vitally important to the citizens of this Commonwealth, and the public has an absolute right to know as much about this Committee’s decision-making processes as possible. If selected, I would fight toward that goal every step along the way.

In my practice as an attorney, I believe that a good compromise leaves both parties, in some measure, dissatisfied. In serving as the Chair of this Committee, I would fully plan on applying an even-handed approach regarding all disputes, and, as the potential tie-breaking vote, I can guarantee that no one is going to be happy with decisions made all of the time. Nevertheless, with me, you will have a champion of neutral and equitable decisions founded upon the facts of each particular circumstance.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Rochester. I have practiced in both the public sector and in private practice since I first became an attorney in 2009, and, having researched, argued or briefed numerous cases before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the Commonwealth Court, courts of common pleas and arbitrators, I know the absolute necessity of ensuring that all decisions are firmly grounded in the law. Having personally written or edited over 10,000 decisions concerning governmental transparency, I am committed to ensuring this Committee's decisions are supported by both the facts of each circumstance and the applicable law.

In short, this Committee will have a proven champion for transparency, an advocate for equity and a fighter for legality if I am fortunate enough to be selected for this position.

I thank this Committee for its attention today and for its thoughtful consideration of having me serve as its Chair.

J. Chadwick Schnee, Esq.
The Law Office of Tucker R. Hull, LLC
108 W. Main Street
Anville, PA 17003
717-685-7947
chadwick@tucker-hull-law.com

Legislative Reapportionment Commission Hearing
April 26, 2021

LETTER OF INTEREST

This is a letter of interest for appointment as Chair of the Reapportionment Commission. A separate resume is included.

If appointed, It would be my objective to construct the changes to legislative districts in such a way as to restore public trust and confidence in the outcome.

All general requirements listed to serve this commission are met.

I have been a resident of the Commonwealth since 1973. My work history includes being employed by a major corporation, starting and managing a small business and creating a not-for-profit advocacy organization. Consistent with that work experience I have strived to be a good citizen.

Now retired and a widower, I can commit to the time necessary to fully perform the function of working with General Assembly members and staff for the purpose of delivering an acceptable update to the legislative district boundaries.

Travel and work experience across Pennsylvania has been a joy and a pleasure to explore and learn what the various regions are like geographically and culturally. These would be important factors in delivering acceptable changes to legislative districts. I am very familiar with the network of roadways and the mix of ownership by the Commonwealth and municipalities. Past work experience allowed me to work closely with staff and executives at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and municipal planning organizations.

In various roles and capacities, I have spent significant time in the Harrisburg capitol complex. The legislative process is well understood. I've walked the halls, attended meetings and hearings, and submitted bill drafts introduced by legislators that ultimately passed into law. I am also knowledgeable in the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutory scheme and the role of the Legislative Reference Bureau to ensure this commission works effectively within the law.

I am and always tried to present myself as non-partisan. Reflecting on my pursuit to being a good citizen, I stay informed by legitimate news outlets. I mostly read print media and eschew internet sources. I watch network television and listen to National Public Radio. My service to the community has been highlighted often through Opinions and Letters to the Editor with the goal of educating the public on various non-partisan topics.

It's my belief that this commission would benefit from appointing a relatively unknown, but qualified, individual who understands the process required and has no past or future agenda.

It is not clear to me if this application would begin a process of interviews of top candidates. I am available in-person or by other electronic means.

Respectfully,

Joe Stafford

Testimony
Legislative Reapportionment Commission Hearing
April 26, 2021

Joseph M. Stafford
York County, York Township resident

Good afternoon Members of the Reapportionment Commission and others viewing this proceeding — wherever you are. The uniqueness of this opportunity is fully appreciated.

You should have my introductory letter of interest for this appointment. In it, I stated:

“If appointed, it would be my objective to construct the changes to legislative districts in such a way as to restore public trust and confidence in the outcome.”

Given the limited time allowed here, I'll just proceed to offer new information not already covered in that introduction and attached resume.

This Commission is created to fulfill a Constitution requirement to update legislative districts. It's interesting to note that Pennsylvania is among 14 states that create commissions like this to accomplish redistricting. Why not 50? The fact is, states are different.

While not a judge or attorney, I have a keen sense and knowledge of the Law. When asked for a definition of the Law, I always reply, it's Statutes, Precedents, and Facts. It's those facts that this commission should dwell on for the best outcome to serve Pennsylvania residents.

I also have a keen sense of how government works. In delivering the objective of updated districts, I would rely on resources available, such as, the Pennsylvania Department of State and the Legislative Reference Bureau, among others that have the fundamental data and legal basis on which to operate.

I feel confident and qualified to serve in this role; however, I am not here today to impress on you my knowledge and credentials, but to impress on you how I think. Here's what I would bring to this Commission in the role of chair.

Having visited and engaged with many members of this General Assembly for quite some time, I am very comfortable working around your schedules. I understand what is required of you as legislators and can easily blend this commission task into your routines. Noted too, is how geographically diverse you, the legislative members are. My appointment would add another significant geographical area, south central Pennsylvania, for an expanded perspective.

I also have a keen sense of “boardsmanship” to conduct meetings and work with limited staff. Dealing with and offering access to legitimate media is something I will consider carefully and prepare for in advance. Nothing will be off-the-record.

And, how I think also carries an empathetic sense of “citizenship” towards the end result — not citizen status or how to become one, but how to be an active and recognized citizen that depends on and has expectations of fair and equal representation.

I’ve already stated my professional objective. I have personal objectives, too:

- I will strive for a 5-0 vote to approve a final reapportionment as a working consensus team.
- Secondly, I will strive for a model that other states will envy when concluded.

I am that “Pennsylvania Proud!”

As legislative commission members, you have an advantage to select a qualified, but relatively unknown candidate. I am and will be non-partisan in my duties as chair and representative of this commission. Furthermore, as someone who is retired and a widower, I can fully commit to this awesome responsibility.

I’ll conclude by saying I will be ready on Day One to conduct the business of legislative reapportionment. I welcome your questions now to allow me to expand on anything else written or spoken here.

Thank You.

April 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission:

My name is Rick Thorne, and I am interested in serving as chair of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC).

I have an electrical engineering degree from Brown University and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon. In my career I have started three businesses, taught for three years at CMU, and have had several other jobs along the way.

I have lived in Pennsylvania for 47 years and have been married for almost 30 years. Our children were born and raised in the house we have owned for the last 27 years.

Why me?

- I am apolitical. Since the age of 18 I have voted for candidates from both major parties (and some minor parties). I try hard to research candidates and vote for the best candidate, whether that candidate has a realistic chance of 'winning' or not. I have never run for political office, nor have I participated in any political campaign. I have consistently voted in both the primary and general elections.
- I have extensive real world spatial data processing experience; my current business is based upon this knowledge. We work with Fortune 500 firms with 1-billion record spatial datasets. This 46,000-square mile redistricting problem with 424,000 census blocks and 12.8 million residents to create 50 Pennsylvania Senate districts and 203 Pennsylvania House districts is 'small' compared to some of datasets we help our clients use and improve.
- I also have extensive knowledge of and experience in statistics, optimization models, linear programming, and 'big data'. More to the point, I will not let anybody awe me with some mathematical gibberish or technical mumbo-jumbo.
- I do not tweet, post, or read social media. I have no urge to blog. I do not read opinion pages of newspapers. It takes a long time for a news source to earn my trust; and I typically need to get new information from several different trusted sources before I will accept the information as 'accurate' or 'true'.
- I have no 'hidden' agenda to apply for this position. I want the resultant districts to be 'fair' and created with rules that are 'clear', 'public', and 'consistently applied'. Whether any particular district favors one political party or another is generally 'unimportant' – for a variety of reasons (economic, social, and others) people with the same political 'leaning' are often spatial neighbors.
- I have led countless meetings in my corporate life, from informal to full "Robert's Rules of Order." I keep meetings moving 'forward' and do not tolerate extended digressions.
- I am happy to talk to people; I am even happier to listen.

Redistricting is a multi-variable population segmentation problem with many spatial and non-spatial constraints and goals. There are too many goals and too many constraints to make everyone 'happy'. The best you can hope for is that everyone is 'equally unhappy' with an otherwise fair and consistent process that generated the district maps.

In the ideal world, the two parties represented by these commission members would work together to propose a single redistricting map that they are both 'equally unhappy' with. In that situation the vote of the commission chair is moot – the four votes from you will still guarantee passage of your map.

If these two parties cannot be convinced to work together, then I will help the parties create a set of guidelines for creating the districts. The guidelines need to be consistently applied throughout the state – a party cannot draw a district that follows 'this set of guidelines' in one part of the state but 'that set of guidelines' in a similar type of area in another part of the state. Different population densities may require different guidelines, but (again) the guidelines should be consistently applied through all parts of the state that have that population density.

If the parties cannot work together and I believe that the resultant commission vote will be '2-2' with the LRC commission chair to cast the deciding vote, then I will clearly communicate to the other commission members before the final vote how I will make the decision as to which redistricting plan I will vote for.

Through no fault of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the detailed US 2020 Census Information has been significantly delayed and will not be available until September 1st, 2021.

Thus this commission will have less than two months after receiving the 2020 census information to complete the updated district maps in time for the 2022 primary. This effort will require significant coordination and effort to complete in the available time. This commission will need a chairperson that can keep this process on track to be completed on time. I know that I can be that person.

Thank you for your time.

Education

MBA, GSIA (Tepper) at Carnegie Mellon University, 1984

Electrical Engineer/Computer Science, Brown University, 1980

Experience

Landbase Systems Corporation, 1998-current

Cofounder, CFO, CTO, Software Developer. Assist companies to help them manage and improve their spatial data. Designed and wrote spatial map editing and alignment tools. Designed and wrote complete web-based GIS mapping system that works on top of Google Maps. Helped create and manage large GIS datasets (500,000+ square miles, or over 10X the size of PA). Designed and wrote web-based storm water analysis, simulation, and design optimization tool for communities. Developed complete infrastructure mapping and analysis system for a Fortune 200 company. Developing car-mounted lidar, inertial sensor, and GPS-based approach to collect street, sidewalk, and yard information to improve stormwater management.

Precision Therapeutics, 1995-1997

Cofounder, CFO, CTO. Wrote initial business plan and raised initial capital, installed lab and helped achieve its CLIA certification.

GSIA (Tepper), Carnegie Mellon University, 1992-1995

Adjunct Associate Professor: Taught required computer-simulated business competition course at business school; The course had over 250 students and 250 outside advisors.

NeuralWare, 1991-1992

Manager Operations and Finance of an early neural network company. Discovered and then helped avert impending bankruptcy of company; then totally restructured all internal operations to have same employees become 4X more efficient. Planned and performed expansion move of company. Reduced entire 'operations and financial management' effort to less than 2 work hours per day; spent rest of each workday helping both the software developers and the company's tele sales efforts.

Iconnex Corporation, 1986-1990

Cofounder, CTO. Designed and wrote prototype system; helped write business plan, raise initial capital, and find staff. Was 'last employee' as firm ceased operations in 1990.

American Robotics (American CIMFlex), 1984-1986

Technical Marketing, Vision Products. Performed both marketing and technical sales support for robotic vision products.

Summagraphics Corporation, 1980-1982

Software Engineer. Corporate representative to SIGGRAPH Graphics Standards Committee.



Michael Waxenberg

Candidate for LRC Chair

Biography – Personal

- Born 1962 in New York City
- Pennsylvania homeowner since 1989
- Pike County resident
- Married 25 years ago in Hawley, PA
- Proud parent of three daughters

Biography – Professional

- 35-year career in financial technology
- Regulator specializing in IT risk, including cyber resilience
- Former Chief Information Officer
- Relevant skills include:
 - Team leadership
 - Project management
 - Data protection and governance
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Litigation support
 - Meeting facilitation
 - Stakeholder mediation

Vision for the LRC

- Apply sound project management methodology to LRC business.
- Agree principles, goals and rules of engagement first.
- Use the time afforded by census delays constructively.
- Build consensus by respecting all viewpoints.
- Assume positive intent.
- Inclusively engage voters, experts, and other stakeholders.
- Conduct business as transparently as possible.
- Draw lessons from Commissioners' legislative experience.
- Maintain open, two-way communication with Commission staff.
- **Deliver a Reapportionment Plan with unanimous Commission support.**

Remarks Before the PA Legislative Reapportionment Commission
Arlin S. Green
April 26, 2021

Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission:

My name is Arlin Green.

While I have been blessed to have been afforded the opportunity to attend Harvard College, Harvard Business School and Boston University School of Law, it is my post-graduation accomplishments on which I will focus. My resume will set out all of my professional stops along a lengthy, varied, interesting and successful career. But I would like to zero in on two aspects of my life I think are extraordinarily relevant to the decision ahead of you, and will serve to truly set me apart from the other candidates.

For the last six years, I have been a professional Mediator, handling residential real estate disputes. Over the past 7 months, I have also been conducting 2 to 3 mediations per week on a *pro bono* basis between tenants and landlords under Philadelphia's Eviction Diversion Program. Being a Mediator has allowed me to make great use of many of the skills I have accumulated in my lifetime – business, law and most of all, listening and empathy. By definition, a Mediator is not imbued with the power to make a decision, but can only work to get both sides to come to a mutually agreeable understanding.

As I tell all of my mediation clients, if I do my job right, nobody will be happy. That's because each side comes into the room completely convinced of the righteousness of their position. Consequently, any compromise is painful, but if I am successful at getting them to walk away with a settlement, both sides will leave without having to spend another minute thinking about (or paying for) more contentious confrontations. And I have been extremely successful in this field, so I am confident that my ability to get people coming from different mindsets to come to a mutually agreeable understanding will prove to be invaluable as the Chair of the LRC.

What I believe the Pennsylvania Constitution demands of the person assuming the Chairmanship of this Commission is *equanimity*, defined in the dictionary as "mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation."

The second aspect of my life that most directly informs my ability to fill the role for which you are interviewing me today has to do with the fact that my beautiful wife, Paula, and I have joyfully and successfully raised *six* children together. As I have often described, our family evolved out of merger, acquisition and development. Paula had twin girls, I had one girl the same age as hers, and two sons just a couple of years younger – five kids within a very tight age range. And then we had another daughter together a few years later.

Almost 25 years ago, after I had been separated from my ex-wife for a few months, Paula and I met, and embarked together on a perilous journey to blend our families, made all the more difficult to navigate by the vagaries of a complicated divorce which lasted the better part of a decade. We brought all of these individuals with different genetic histories into one whole family – one whose members all support and root for each other. This family has not just survived difficult situations, but has thrived. There are no “his kids”, there are no “her kids”. Only “our kids.” No Democrats, no Republicans, only Americans. I only share these personal details with you in order to ask you to imagine the vast amount of equanimity required of us in order to have raised the six wonderful, bright, achievement-oriented, well-adjusted children (now adults) who form our beautifully cohesive family.

In many ways, I think it is not overstating the case that the Chairmanship of the Pennsylvania LRC is a role for which I have been preparing my entire life. I have always been interested in our political system, but like so many others, I have grown progressively concerned about the way the system has evolved. In particular, it hurts to witness partisanship creep into the beautiful scheme for democracy crafted by our country’s Founding Fathers and by the authors of our own Commonwealth’s Constitution. The Pennsylvania Constitution’s Article 2, Section 16 requires that, “Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district.”

That is **NOT** an equivocal statement, and yet, in the past, I think we would all agree that somehow partisanship has managed to wedge its way into this process that is meant to be partisan-blind. I believe that I have the education, experience, personal integrity and north-pointing moral compass necessary to lead this Commission to a fair and equitable, truly non-partisan, result when drawing the new lines for our state senatorial and representative districts. It has become a hackneyed phrase, but that doesn't take away from its veracity: "Our democracy demands that we provide an electoral system that allows the citizens to choose their representatives, rather than having the representatives choose their citizens." I would strive tirelessly to meet those demands.

In summary, I will provide the unfettered equanimity required to serve the Commonwealth at this time, in this position.

I truly appreciate your time and consideration.