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BEFORE THE OHIO APPORTIONMENT BOARD

- - -

In the Matter of the :
Establishment of the Ohio :
General Assembly District :
Lines in the State of :
Ohio. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Auditor David Yost, Vice Chair; Mr. Michael
Grodhaus, Governor's Designee; Ms. Halle Pelger,
Secretary of State's Designee; Mr. Troy Judy,
President Niehaus's Designee; and Senator Michael
Skindell, Leader Budish's Designee; the Ohio
Apportionment Board, at the Walsh University,
Barrette Center - Fran Corp. Conference Center, 2020
Easton Street N.W., North Canton, Ohio, called at 9
a.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2011.

- - -

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1 Wednesday Morning Session,
2 August 24, 2011.

3 - - -

4 MR. DiROSSI: We will go ahead and get
5 started and officially call our meeting to order.
6 This is our 6th regional hearing of 11 hearings of
7 the Ohio Apportionment Board and today we are here at
8 Walsh University.

9 And as people arrive who would like to
10 testify, we do have witness slips on the table over
11 to the side, and we have two staff members, both Lisa
12 and Kylie, they just indicated themselves, if you
13 want to testify, by all means fill out a witness
14 slip, and we will process that quickly.

15 The 2001 Apportionment Board which is
16 responsible for drawing the districts for the Ohio
17 Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives held its
18 initial meeting on August 4, 2011, and at that
19 meeting the Board adopted rules which required a
20 series of public hearings throughout the state to get
21 public input and comment and appointed Heather Mann
22 and myself to serve as joint secretaries of the
23 Board.

24 Now, sitting with us today we have the
25 Vice Chair of the Apportionment Board State Auditor

1 Dave Yost with us. I would ask if he would preside
2 over the meeting.

3 AUDITOR YOST: Thank you, Ray. Will the
4 secretary please call the roll. During this
5 attendance roll-call would each member please state
6 their name and which office they represent if they
7 are present as a designee.

8 MR. DiROSSI: Mike Grodhaus.

9 MR. GRODHAUS: Present representing
10 Governor Kasich.

11 MR. DiROSSI: Auditor Dave Yost.

12 AUDITOR YOST: Present.

13 MR. DiROSSI: Halle Pelger.

14 MS. PELGER: For the record my name is
15 Halle Pelger representing Secretary Jon Husted.

16 MR. DiROSSI: Senator Skindell.

17 SENATOR SKINDELL: Senator Michael
18 Skindell from the Cleveland area and I am here
19 representing Minority Leader of the House
20 Representative Armond Budish.

21 MR. DiROSSI: And Troy Judy.

22 MR. JUDY: Present representing President
23 of the Senate Tom Niehaus.

24 AUDITOR YOST: Thank you. We would first
25 like to thank Walsh University for hosting this

1 event, particularly President Jusseaume and the Board
2 of Directors as well as Jackie Manser for helping put
3 this together. Also want to thank and acknowledge
4 Lisa Griffin who works for the House and has done a
5 fabulous job coordinating all these 11 hearings.

6 I would like to remind everybody the
7 purpose of this hearing today is to gather
8 information, comments, and input regarding the
9 upcoming reconfiguration of the House and Senate
10 Districts in Ohio. The Apportionment Board or the
11 panel before you is not responsible for redrawing the
12 Congressional district lines. That will happen
13 through a bill that will be passed by the Ohio House,
14 the Ohio Senate, and the sent to the Governor for his
15 signature or veto.

16 That being said we would like to ask all
17 witnesses to limit their comments and testimony to
18 the matters before the Apportionment Board, that
19 being drawing the lines of the Ohio House and Ohio
20 Senate districts. We are here to listen today. We
21 are not here to debate you. We are not here to
22 debate each other. We are here to get input from
23 Ohioans on the apportionment process and how it
24 impacts your communities and your representation in
25 the Ohio General Assembly.

1 Today we have a limited amount of time
2 for the hearing, although it doesn't appear that we
3 will be pressed for time. We have another hearing in
4 Marietta this afternoon.

5 In Ohio, as most states, legislative
6 apportionment occurs in years ending in 1, the years
7 following the federal decennial census, and the
8 figures this year show an Ohio population of
9 11,536,504 people. That puts the ideal population
10 for each of the 99 House districts at 116,530 people
11 and each Senate district at 349,590 people.

12 Now, anyone who has researched or
13 undertaken the actual drawing of legislative
14 districts knows that this process involves a lot more
15 than somebody putting roughly the same number of
16 people in each of the districts.

17 In Ohio the General Assembly districts
18 must conform to traditional redistricting principles
19 and other requirements that are embodied in Article
20 XI of the Ohio Constitution. Article XI dictates
21 specific rules governing the construction of these
22 districts including several layers of sometimes
23 complex requirements.

24 In addition, of course, the Apportionment
25 Board must conform with the Voting Rights Act and

1 jurisprudence surrounding that. And the interaction
2 between these rules is complex and actually sometimes
3 conflicting.

4 Because we are here to get input we are
5 not going to go over the details of the law in a
6 presentation form but what we do have is information
7 that's available including the Constitutional
8 provisions and demographic information regarding the
9 population.

10 At this time I would like to call on
11 Halle representing the Secretary of State's Office to
12 discuss the project they have undertaken to actually
13 help everybody get their hands on the lines and
14 discover just how complex it can be.

15 MS. PELGER: Thank you, Auditor Yost.

16 A few weeks ago Secretary of State Jon
17 Husted with the support of the Legislative Task Force
18 on Redistricting as well as the Apportionment Board
19 launched a website. It is reshapeohio.org. The goal
20 of this website is to provide an open and interactive
21 process whereby Ohioans can learn more about the
22 process, follow the hearings, get information about
23 the laws that the Auditor also mentioned, and they
24 can also try their own hand at drawing a map.

25 As the Auditor said, it's not as easy as

1 one may seem to do so, but 10 years ago the Board
2 provided software and computers in offices and
3 libraries across the state. Now, where technology is
4 you can do it from your own home at any time of day.
5 You along with being able to draw your map, once
6 you've completed a map, the site can help you to
7 submit a map and follow the guidelines set forth by
8 the Apportionment Board. Those guidelines are
9 available on the site as well as on the table over
10 here on the side of the room.

11 The goal though of this is to promote
12 openness and transparency in the process and give the
13 public as much access to it as possible. So far
14 we've had more than 350 sign up to use the website,
15 and we hope to have more, so we encourage you to sign
16 on to reshapeohio.org.

17 AUDITOR YOST: Thank you, Halle.

18 A few other housekeeping matters, we are
19 going to transcribe these proceedings. We have a
20 court reporter here today to take down the
21 proceedings so we would ask if you would please speak
22 clearly and loudly so not only the court reporter but
23 the good old guys with hearing aids up here can hear.
24 I guess that's just me. We will have these
25 proceedings transcribed and available to the members

1 of the Board for the purpose of their deliberations.

2 Finally, if you have written testimony,
3 we would love to receive that, and we will enter it
4 into the record. The hearing today will be available
5 on the Secretary of State's website at reshapeohio,
6 that's all one word, reshapeohio.org.

7 And with that we are ready to call our
8 first witness. Do we have any witnesses,
9 Mr. Secretary?

10 MR. DiROSSI: We have only two people
11 from the media that filled out slips.

12 AUDITOR YOST: This is your chance. We
13 would love to hear testimony or comments, input about
14 our reapportionment process. Is there anyone who
15 would like to step up? Mr. Braden is even holding
16 his peace.

17 Well, in the interest of democracy and
18 making sure that we have a full and ample opportunity
19 to air these issues, we will recess for about 10
20 minutes and then come back and see if anyone has
21 perhaps arrived late or reconsidered whether they
22 wish to speak out.

23 Thank you all for being here and we will
24 see you in about 10 minutes.

25 (Recess taken.)

1 AUDITOR YOST: Well, the committee will
2 come back into session, and we have received no
3 witness statements during the recess, although for
4 the record I would like to note that my good friend
5 and distinguished Senator Scott Oelslager has joined
6 us during the recess. Good morning. Thank you for
7 your interest in the hearings.

8 I guess going once, going twice. Anybody
9 going to change their mind?

10 Is there a motion to adjourn?

11 Senator Skindell would like to make a
12 statement. Please do so.

13 SENATOR SKINDELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 First, I would like to welcome all of you
15 to Walsh. I am an alumnus of Walsh, graduated in
16 1983, and extend greetings from President Jusseaume
17 here to Walsh University. It was Walsh College when
18 I went here.

19 Second, I know that Minority Leader
20 Representative Armond Budish had raised this point in
21 earlier meetings, but in light of today's low turnout
22 at this hearing, again, we would like to emphasize
23 the importance of maybe having a round of hearings
24 like this once the maps are actually released so that
25 the citizens of Ohio can have some public comment on

1 the maps once the Apportionment Board releases them
2 so they can get some input on those maps and maybe
3 make some adjustments to them at that point in time.

4 With that, Mr. Chair, I appreciate the
5 opportunity to make a comment.

6 AUDITOR YOST: Thank you.

7 Any further comments by the Board?

8 All right. Is there a motion to adjourn
9 to our next meeting at Marietta at 3 o'clock this
10 afternoon?

11 MR. GRODHAUS: Motion.

12 MS. PELGER: Second.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Without objection we
14 are adjourned.

15 (Thereupon, the hearing was adjourned at
16 9:43 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Karen Sue Gibson, Registered
Merit Reporter.

(KSG-5401A)

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