

**Lake County Redistricting Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**December 10, 2021**

**Members Present:** Paul Okeson, Chairman of the Lake County Redistricting Commission (“Commission”); Suzannah Wilson Overholt, Vice Chairman of the Commission; Karen Celestino-Horseman, member; Litany A. Pyle, Member.

**Members Absent:** None.

**State Legislative Advisory Members Present:** The Honorable Eddie Melton, Indiana State Senator; The Honorable Rick Niemeyer, Indiana State Senator; The Honorable Hal Slager, Indiana State Representative; The Honorable Vernon G. Smith, Indiana State Representative.

**State Legislative Advisory Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Attending:** J. Bradley King, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division of the Office of the Secretary of State (Election Division); Angela M. Nussmeyer, Co-Director of the Election Division; Matthew Kochevar, Co-General Counsel of the Election Division; Valerie Warycha, Co-General Counsel of the Election Division.

**Others Attending:** Mr. Daniel Dernulc; Mr. James Wieser.

**1. Call to Order:**

The Chair called the December 10, 2021 meeting of the Commission to order at 1:30 p.m. CST in the Lake County Commissioners Court at 2293 North Main Street, Crown Point.

**2. Transaction of Commission Business:**

The Commission proceeded to transact the business set forth in the Transcript of Proceedings for this meeting prepared by Catherine M. Stefaniak, CSR of Stewart Richardson and Associates, which is incorporated by reference into these minutes.

The following scrivener’s errors are corrected:

Page 7, line 16, replace “and co-director” with “co-directors”.

Page 8, line 2, replace “decipher” with “describe”.

Page 9, line 7, replace “shaped” with “shape”.

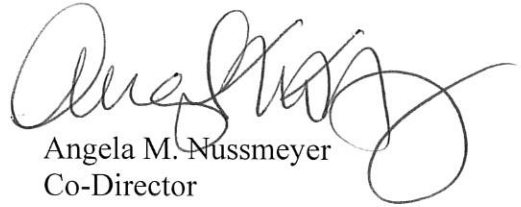
Page 8, line 19, replace “linked” with “link”.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 2:18 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

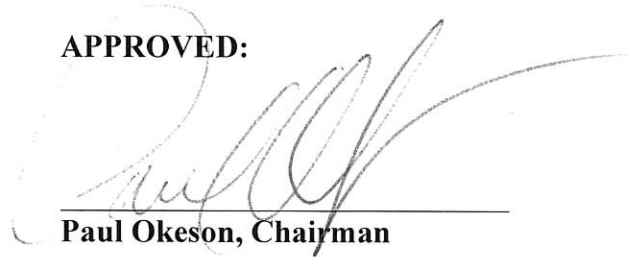


J. Bradley King  
Co-Director



Angela M. Nussmeyer  
Co-Director

**APPROVED:**



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**Paul Okeson, Chairman**

# **In the Matter Of:**

*INDIANA ELECTION COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION*

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## **Transcript of Proceedings**

*December 10, 2021*

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**LAKE COUNTY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC SESSION**

**Conducted on: December 10, 2021  
1:30 p.m.**

**Conducted at:  
LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
2293 North Main Street  
Crown Point, Indiana 46307**

**A Stenographic Record By: Catherine M. Stefaniak, CSR  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LAKE  
STATE OF INDIANA**

**STEWART RICHARDSON & ASSOCIATES  
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1           CHAIRMAN OKESON: I'm going to go ahead and  
2 call the meeting to order of the Lake County  
3 Redistricting Commission. The date is Friday,  
4 December 10, 2021 roughly at 1:30 central standard  
5 time.

6           I would like to call and recognize the  
7 following members present: Myself, Paul Okeson,  
8 Chairman; Vice Chair Suzannah Wilson Overholt;  
9 member, Karen Celestino-Horseman; and new member,  
10 Litany Pyle.

11           We also have our legislative advisory members  
12 here today. Our newest member, State Senator Rick  
13 Niemeyer. He's been designated to replace State  
14 Senator Jon Ford as an advisory member to this  
15 commission. State Senator Eddie Melton, State  
16 Representative Hal Slager and State Representative  
17 Vernon Smith. Thank you all for joining us.

18           We also have the Indiana Election Division  
19 Co-Counsel and Co-Directors Brad King and Angie  
20 Nussmeyer and Co-Counsel Matthew Kochevar and  
21 Valerie Warycha.

22           And today from Stewart Richardson, we have our  
23 court reporter Catherine Stefaniak. So if you're  
24 going to do any speaking today, please make sure  
25 that you take a moment to say your name and spell

1 it for the purposes of the court reporter to get it  
2 on the record.

3 With that, we'll move on to the agenda. Let's  
4 confirm documentation in compliance with the Open  
5 Door and recognize the co-directors. Mr. King?

6 MR. KING: Mr. Chairman and members of the  
7 commission, on behalf of myself and Co-Director  
8 Nussmeyer, we certify that legal notice of this  
9 meeting was given in accordance with Indiana's Open  
10 Door Law.

11 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you very much. I  
12 believe we have approval of the October 29th, 2021  
13 minutes.

14 MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
15 commission, on behalf of myself and Co-Director  
16 Nussmeyer, we have reviewed the commission minutes  
17 from October 29th and recommend them to you for  
18 your approval.

19 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you. Is there a  
20 motion to approve the minutes?

21 MS. OVERHOLT: So moved.

22 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there a second?

23 MS. PYLE: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Having a motion and a  
25 second, any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Hearing none. All those in  
3 favor signify by saying aye.

4 THE COMMISSION: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN OKESON: The ayes have it. Adoption  
6 of the minutes and approved.

7 At this time, I would like to -- just to offer  
8 some opening remarks to our advisory members and  
9 introduce yourself if you have anything you would  
10 like to add for the record. I will start at the  
11 end. Senator?

12 MR. NIEMEYER: This is State Senator Rick  
13 Niemeyer for the 6th District, Lake County, Benton  
14 and Newton Counties, and that's all I have right  
15 now. Thank you.

16 MR. SLAGER: State Representative Hal Slager,  
17 Tri-Town area; St. John, Dyer, Schererville, parts  
18 of Griffith. And I don't have any other comments  
19 at this time.

20 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Do you have anything?

21 MS. PYLE: Nothing.

22 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Senator?

23 MR. MELTON: State Senator Eddie Melton for  
24 District 3 which includes Gary, Merrillville,  
25 Hobart, Crown Point, Lake Station and New Chicago.



1 MR. SMITH: Representative Vernon Smith, 14th  
2 House District which includes the 6th District of  
3 Gary, Indiana, all of Merrillville's precinct, two  
4 precincts in Hobart and incorporated Calumet  
5 Township. I think that's it -- oh, Schererville --  
6 not Schererville. That's my new map. That's  
7 pretty much my district.

8 I would like to just go on the record. I  
9 won't take as much time as I did at the first  
10 meeting to be -- to express my concern about how  
11 Lake County is treated by the state that we -- in  
12 the case of judges, they don't think we're either  
13 honest enough or intelligent enough to select our  
14 own judges through the electoral process. And in  
15 here, we have a process that's been ongoing where  
16 most counties are drawing in their own districts  
17 but the state is overseeing ours.

18 So I just want to go on the record and say how  
19 opposed I am to this treatment of Lake County and  
20 some other oscillating counties that have been  
21 treated differently than the rest of the counties.

22 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you, Representative.

23 At this time, I would like to recognize  
24 Co-Counsel Matthew Kochevar to administer the oath  
25 to anyone planning on providing any testimony or

1 speaking on the record. Please address  
2 Mr. Kochevar as he administers the oath.

3 MR. KOCHEVAR: All those who plan to testify  
4 before the Lake County Redistricting Commission,  
5 please rise, raise your right hand and say I do  
6 after recitation of the oath.

7 Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony  
8 you are about to give to the Lake County  
9 Redistricting Commission is the truth, the whole  
10 truth and nothing but the truth. Please say I do.

11 ALL: I do.

12 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you, Mr. Kochevar.

13 Moving on to election committee reports  
14 regarding the filing of these proposed  
15 redistricting plans. I will recognize the election  
16 and co-director to provide information regarding  
17 these six plans -- is that right -- six plans that  
18 were proposed and submitted to the Election  
19 Division by the deadline of noon, November 29th,  
20 2021 at senator commission's order 2021-1.

21 Mr. King, if you would proceed to provide  
22 information, and then I will recognize  
23 Ms. Nussmeyer to do the same.

24 MR. KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members  
25 of the commission, the six plans that were

1 referenced by the chairman are in the binders that  
2 are before you. I'm going to decipher them in the  
3 order that they were submitted or filed.

4 The first, plan number 1 was filed on  
5 November 24th at 3:24 p.m. by Mr. James Wieser  
6 regarding the proposed Lake County Commissioner  
7 Districts. Plans 2 and 3 were both submitted on  
8 November 29th at 9:41 a.m. by Mr. Christopher  
9 Harris regarding the County Commissioner Districts  
10 and County Council Districts respectively proposed  
11 for -- proposed under plan 1 and plan -- sorry --  
12 plan 2 and plan 3.

13 Plan 4 was filed on November 29th, 2021 at  
14 11:19 a.m. by Mr. Dan Dernulc and concerns the  
15 Commissioner and Council Districts referenced in  
16 that plan. Plan 5 was also filed by Mr. Dernulc at  
17 11:19 a.m. on November 29th. And this clarifies  
18 for the County Council. The previous one was for  
19 County Commissioner.

20 And then finally, plan 6 was submitted at  
21 11:56 by Mr. James Wieser on behalf of the Lake  
22 County Democratic Central Committee concerning  
23 Council Districts. And I will defer to  
24 Ms. Nussmeyer to add additional information.

25 MS. NUSSMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and

1 members of the commission. Thank you, Co-Director  
2 King.

3 Just very quickly, our staff put together maps  
4 of the proposals that are over here to my left of  
5 the commissioner's courtroom today. Those maps are  
6 based on the best we could do using the maps  
7 provided to us and using the official county shaped  
8 file along with the 2020 census data as well. So  
9 that would give you a better indication perhaps  
10 than what might be in your binder if you wanted to  
11 see up close where those district lines may be.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN OKESON: And I believe all these  
14 plans are posted to the website. What's the name  
15 of the website? Is it the Lake County  
16 Redistricting?

17 MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
18 commission, the Indiana Election Commission has a  
19 web page that they linked to the Lake County  
20 Redistricting Commission, and each of the plans  
21 have been published on that Lake County  
22 Redistricting Commission web page.

23 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you, Brad.

24 Moving on, I will adopt some procedures for  
25 today's public hearing. I move the commission to

1 adopt the following proceedings -- or excuse me --  
2 the following procedures for receiving and  
3 considering public comment during this hearing.  
4 These are modeled after the procedures that were  
5 used by this commission in conducting its public  
6 hearing last November 18, 2011 when it received  
7 public comments as part of its last redistricting  
8 under state statute.

9 We will receive presentations and public  
10 comments regarding plans in the order in which the  
11 plans were submitted, as Mr. King just noted, and  
12 then open up the meeting for comments from any  
13 person present regarding the content of the final  
14 redistricting order being adopted at a later  
15 meeting by this same commission.

16 Each presenter and any person commenting on a  
17 specific plan will limit their remarks to five  
18 minutes with time spent responding to questions  
19 from the commission not being counted against that  
20 five-minute period of time. Please remember not to  
21 speak until recognized by myself and address any  
22 remarks to the chairman, not other persons in the  
23 room. Do not speak while others are speaking so we  
24 can make sure we get a clear record of all the  
25 comments that are being made here today. And as I

1 said earlier, please begin by identifying yourself  
2 and spelling your name out loud for the court  
3 reporter so that they can get that on the record  
4 accurately.

5 Any written comments or other exhibits  
6 received will be entered into the record at this  
7 meeting. If you are submitting material that the  
8 commission has not previously received, please  
9 provide a copy to Ms. Warycha sitting right there  
10 to be sure it's included for the purposes of the  
11 record.

12 Is there a second to those procedures?

13 MS. OVERHOLT: So moved -- or seconded.

14 Sorry.

15 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any discussion? Is  
16 everybody good with that?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Hearing none. All those in  
19 favor signify by saying aye.

20 ALL: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN OKESON: The ayes have it. The  
22 motion is adopted. With that, we'll proceed.

23 So we're going in order. County commission  
24 plan 1 filed by Mr. James Wieser. Is that a  
25 correct pronunciation? Is Mr. Wieser present?

1 MR. WIESER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
2 members of the commission. If you don't mind, the  
3 Republican chairman, Mr. Dernulc and I would like  
4 to present together if we could, and especially as  
5 it relates to the commissioners, and I will confer  
6 more to Dan than myself from our perspective. Is  
7 this the one that we talked about?

8 MR. DERNULC: Yes, yes, yes.

9 MR. WIESER: This commissioner's map has been  
10 reviewed by myself and members of the Democratic  
11 party and also in discussion with the Democratic  
12 County Commissioners, and we are in agreement with  
13 the plan as it's been presented -- or I know it's  
14 presented on behalf of me. But we've had -- we've  
15 had counsel with Dan on several occasions. We all  
16 met. And I think we join in with the Republican  
17 party in agreement with this commissioner's map as  
18 we believe it to be one that most accurately  
19 reflects the statutory and includes the statutory  
20 requirements, and especially protecting the  
21 communities of interest.

22 So Dan, I will let you speak.

23 MR. DERNULC: Thank you, chairman and members  
24 of this commission and advisory panel. Last name  
25 is spelled D-as-in-David-e-r-n-u-l-c, first name

1 Dan or Danny.

2 Chairman Wieser and I have met several times  
3 to talk about the maps. And they're actually the  
4 maps that were given specifically for the  
5 commissioner's maps, just commissioner's. We would  
6 come to an agreement. I've also talked to some of  
7 the commissioners, including Commissioner Tippy,  
8 and they're in agreement with them. And I think  
9 these are -- these are good maps.

10 If you looked at the maps, they're extremely  
11 close. And I -- I think this would be good for the  
12 commissioners and our following.

13 MS. OVERHOLT: I was -- can I ask a clarifying  
14 question?

15 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Sure.

16 MS. OVERHOLT: So I understand, because you  
17 both submitted -- I just want to make sure. We've  
18 got a -- so there's a plan 4. Are you talking  
19 about plan -- you're both talking about plan 1 that  
20 you agree?

21 MR. DERNULC: I --

22 CHAIRMAN OKESON: You're not sure what number  
23 it is?

24 MR. DERNULC: Yeah, that is correct. That is  
25 correct.



1 MR. WIESER: I'm not sure what number, quite  
2 frankly. 1 was submitted on behalf of the -- I  
3 think -- can we look at these?

4 MS. NUSSMEYER: (Moving maps).

5 THE REPORTER: I can't hear.

6 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Sure. Go ahead now.

7 MS. NUSSMEYER: It's this area where there's a  
8 little disagreement at least in the way that it was  
9 described in the narratives. So this is plan 1,  
10 and that is plan 4 (indicating).

11 MR. DERNULC: Yeah, yeah.

12 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And plan 4 is  
13 Mr. Dernulc's, and plan --

14 MR. DERNULC. Yes. Thank you.

15 (A discussion was held off the record.)

16 MR. DERNULC: This is the one (indicating).

17 MS. OVERHOLT: 4. Okay. Well, I think they  
18 just said -- so it looks like what's just been  
19 indicated -- let the record reflect -- sorry --  
20 that it's plan 4. What we're referring to is plan  
21 4. And it's the one that you two are discussing  
22 and agree on?

23 MR. DERNULC: Yes. There's an incidental  
24 incremental change, but I mean, not with it. We're  
25 okay with the plan -- plan 4, your plan,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 MS. OVERHOLT: All right. So does that mean  
3 we shouldn't -- we don't need to discuss  
4 commissioner plan 1?

5 MR. WIESER: That's correct. From our  
6 perspective, there's no need to discuss it.

7 MS. OVERHOLT: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. WIESER: You're welcome.

9 CHAIRMAN OKESON: So plan 1 was submitted. Is  
10 plan 1 being considered by either of you?

11 MR. WIESER: No.

12 MR. DERNULC: No.

13 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Would you like to  
14 withdraw plan 1?

15 MR. WIESER: I would. I will like to withdraw  
16 it.

17 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Is there any public comment?  
18 Does anyone care about plan 1?

19 MS. OVERHOLT: No.

20 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Does anyone care? Just  
21 kidding. Okay. So for the record, you both,  
22 Mr. Dernulc and Mr. Wieser, are agreeing to plan 4.

23 MR. DERNULC: 4.

24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Okay.

25 MR. DERNULC: Yeah.

1           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  And we have two other plans  
2 that have been -- three other plans that have been  
3 submitted.  What does that do with plan 6?

4           (A discussion was held off the record.)

5           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  All right.  Is Mr. Harris  
6 here, Christopher Harris for plans 2 and 3?

7           MR. KING:  Mr. Chairman?

8           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Yes.

9           MR. KING:  If I may state, I received a  
10 communication from Mr. Harris a couple of days ago  
11 indicating that he had a funeral that might require  
12 him to be absent from this meeting.

13           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Okay.  And Mr. Dernulc, plan  
14 5, would you like to comment on plan 5?

15           MR. DERNULC:  Mr. Wieser, I don't -- no, I  
16 don't think so.

17           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Okay.

18           MR. DERNULC:  No.

19           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Mr. Wieser, that means plan  
20 6 -- would you like to comment on or contemplate  
21 plan 6?

22           MR. DERNULC:  Sorry.

23           MR. KOICHEVAR:  If I may for the audience here,  
24 plan number 5 is in reference to a county council  
25 plan.  Number 5 was submitted by Mr. Dernulc here.

1 MR. DERNULC: I was getting confused. I  
2 thought it was still commission maps that we were  
3 talking about. I would like to -- I would like to  
4 comment on the map that I presented.

5 CHAIRMAN OKESON: On plan 5?

6 MR. DERNULC: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Please.

8 MR. DERNULC: Members of the council,  
9 D-e-r-n-u-l-c, first name is Danny.

10 So the deviation should be 10 percent. And  
11 what we've done is we've been able to get the total  
12 range of the deviation from the highest to the  
13 lowest as it relates to our Council Districts by --  
14 to 3.9 percent. We're well within the range of the  
15 10 percent.

16 Some of the items that we've kept in  
17 consideration, we kept all incumbents in their  
18 current districts. The districts were drawn  
19 focusing on keeping the townships and communities  
20 together in a single district. And again, as I  
21 mentioned, deviations were -- that were from -- due  
22 to the incumbent addresses in population and  
23 equality.

24 One thing that we did take -- again, you'll --  
25 I had looked at this as not rocket science. As we

1 were looking at it, there was a change in  
2 population that shifted a little more south. And  
3 it was a little bit of a challenge, but we were  
4 able to, again, keep all the Council Districts with  
5 their incumbents. Me being on the council, there  
6 is an interest a bit for that, you know. I'm just  
7 saying that as a little levity into this  
8 conversation.

9 But again, it's something that, again, our --  
10 our incumbents, if they would like to run, they  
11 could.

12 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Any comment on plan 5 from  
13 the public, any general comments?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. OVERHOLT: So this is just -- and I'm  
16 going to give credit where credit is due. Staff  
17 identified this issue. I have not looked at that.  
18 But I just wanted to clarify that plan 5 has the  
19 Gary precinct 2-21, which apparently -- apparently,  
20 there isn't one. It looks like it's probably a  
21 typo, and it should be Gary 2-11. I don't know if  
22 you have any reason to --

23 MR. DERNULC: No. That was just an example.

24 MS. OVERHOLT: I just thought I would clarify  
25 that.

1 MR. DERNULC: I did not know that until just  
2 now.

3 MS. OVERHOLT: Okay. And actually, that  
4 was -- with plan 4 that we discussed a minute ago,  
5 it's the same issue. It's just a reference, but a  
6 typographical error. Okay.

7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I have a question.

8 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Sure.

9 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: I have a question for  
10 either our director or attorney. Refresh my  
11 memory, is incumbency a factor taken into account  
12 when drawing these?

13 MR. KOICHEVAR: Commissioners and members of  
14 the commission, according to 36-2-3-4 which  
15 establishes the legal requirements for how the  
16 redistricting of a county council is supposed to be  
17 undertaken, including all of its standards, there  
18 is no legal standard for consideration of  
19 incumbency. The law doesn't actually speak to any  
20 of that at all. It is silent on that matter.

21 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Do you concur with that,  
22 Valerie?

23 MS. WARYCHA: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you. Anything else on  
25 plan 5? Any other questions for Mr. Dernulc?

1 MR. MELTON: Just to clarify the question. So  
2 I kind of got a little confused as well from the  
3 first round.

4 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes.

5 MR. MELTON: So the commissioners -- now,  
6 there's an agreement between two bodies. And now  
7 we're shifting into the Council Districts? Right?

8 MR. DERNULC: That's correct.

9 MR. MELTON: And for point of clarity of  
10 process, we're just going to hear discussion, and  
11 then the staff will then figure out the alignment?

12 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah. Good question. We  
13 won't vote on any of this today.

14 MR. MELTON: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN OKESON: There will be nothing final.  
16 It's just a matter of getting these plans on the  
17 record and finding out where there's consensus  
18 or --

19 MR. MELTON: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN OKESON: -- on those proposed plans.  
21 Yes. Good point. Thank you, sir. Anyone else?

22 MS. OVERHOLT: We were chatting about this a  
23 little bit -- oh, never mind. Sorry. No, I don't  
24 have any other questions. Sorry.

25 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Anyone else?

1 MR. DERNULC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
2 members of the commission.

3 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Oh, wait. I have  
4 another question.

5 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Sure. It's past the  
6 deadline.

7 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. When I look at  
8 plan 5 and plan 6, I mean -- well, wait a minute.

9 CHAIRMAN OKESON: We haven't gotten to plan 6  
10 yet.

11 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Oh, okay. All right.  
12 So plan 5 and plan 6 here. Is this -- I'm looking  
13 at these. These are the two plans before us,  
14 correct?

15 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes. And Mr. Wieser  
16 submitted plan 6, I believe. And we have not  
17 gotten to that one.

18 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Right. What is this  
19 plan?

20 MR. KOICHEVAR: Yes. Commissioner, this is  
21 plan number 3 that was submitted by Mr. Harris. As  
22 indicated, he is not present today.

23 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Okay. So it does --  
24 okay. So I'm looking at the discrepancies here,  
25 and you're maintaining that the reason --



1 CHAIRMAN OKESON: The discrepancies between?

2 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: The two maps.

3 CHAIRMAN OKESON: 5 and 6?

4 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: 5 and 6. So 6 -- or  
5 5, Mr. Dernulc. So map 5 is -- you kept the -- you  
6 kept it down to 3.5 percent, you said?

7 MR. DERNULC: 3.9.

8 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: 3.9 percent.

9 MR. DERNULC: Yeah.

10 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Does that account for  
11 the differences? I mean, if you had to compare the  
12 two maps --

13 MR. DERNULC: And I apologize, ma'am. As it  
14 relates to the map number 6, I don't -- I'll let  
15 Chairman Wieser speak on that one.

16 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Oh, you haven't  
17 looked at the plans to compare them?

18 MR. DERNULC: No, not really. I have not. I  
19 mean -- but our deviation -- just so you know, the  
20 highest would be -- I mean, the highest deviation  
21 on the high end was District 5, which was at 2  
22 percent, and the lowest was at -- and that was plus  
23 2 percent. And the lowest was at negative 1.9,  
24 which is District 4.

25 MS. NUSSMEYER: I have two copies of the maps.

1           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Valerie -- Co-Director  
2 Nussmeyer, that's an overlay of plan 5 and plan 6  
3 which has not been presented by Mr. Wieser yet.

4           MS. NUSSMEYER:  (Tendering).

5           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  So Mr. Wieser, I would  
6 invite you -- Chairman Wieser, I would invite you  
7 to introduce plan 6.

8           MR. WIESER:  Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
9 members of the commission.  Maybe I should -- my  
10 name is often misspelled.  My last name is spelled  
11 W-i-e-s-e-r.  Thank you.

12           Let me -- I'll try to hone in on the  
13 differences more so than discrepancy.  And I  
14 apologize.  It's just differences that we had.  
15 First of all, I just -- I did want to let everyone  
16 know that although I'm the chairman of the party  
17 and chairman of the central committee, I am also  
18 here on behalf of the county council.  We've worked  
19 with -- I've worked with the members of the county  
20 council, specifically with the president of the  
21 county council Ted Bilski and had the authority to  
22 make that representation, so I wanted to make that  
23 clear --

24           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Thank you.

25           MR. DERNULC:  The Democratic county council

1 members.

2 MR. WIESER: Yeah. Dan said it was fine, too.

3 I'll try to, if I can, hone in on what I think  
4 the difference is. The difference in the plans --  
5 if you take a careful look at the plan and you look  
6 at the districts that comprise what a lot of us  
7 refer to as the northern part of the county  
8 probably from say Ridge Road or maybe even U.S. 30  
9 and Ridge Road north are pretty consistent with a  
10 couple of very, very minor deviations. They're  
11 virtually identical.

12 And although we did not -- I didn't think of  
13 it, nor did we think it to be a statutory criteria  
14 or rules criteria, we didn't take into account  
15 incumbency. We didn't address that issue directly.  
16 But where the -- the differences occur essentially  
17 in two areas, and that is in the 4th Council  
18 District where Dan is currently the councilman.  
19 And that district and in the 6th District where --  
20 over on the east -- one is on the far west side of  
21 the county, mid county and a little bit south. The  
22 other is on the far east side of the county, middle  
23 of the county and a little bit south.

24 And in looking at the numbers and the  
25 population and trying to take everything into

1 consideration -- and we did. I think our deviation  
2 is almost identical in terms of -- in terms of the  
3 numbers. I think our largest district and smallest  
4 district, there's a difference of I think about  
5 roughly, approximately 2,000 voters. But the rest  
6 are all really close, and they're all close to the  
7 median of 71,243 voters.

8 But when we look at District 4, the reason --  
9 there were a couple of reasons why our map differs  
10 in respect to the map that Dan has submitted. And  
11 so you know, our map -- we prepared our map after I  
12 had I think probably at least two initial meetings  
13 with Dan over what they were going to propose as it  
14 relates to the county council.

15 And in looking at that, we wanted, one, to as  
16 best we could follow a certain guideline, and so we  
17 chose on the south side of the 4th County Council  
18 District to follow the senate district line of the  
19 newly created senate district, and we tried to be  
20 consistent with that. And that's what caused a  
21 little bit of difference between their map and  
22 ours, maybe to the extent -- and I don't remember,  
23 Dan. 5 or 6 precincts or something like that.

24 And then on the east side, there was a  
25 proposal and a thought, at least, in Dan's plan to

1 incorporate Winfield Township into the -- into the  
2 6th District. And it was our opinion that that --  
3 that wasn't a -- we didn't feel that that fit with  
4 the concept of bringing a community of interest  
5 together.

6 Winfield Township, although admittedly is  
7 growing, significantly growing, it's been part of  
8 the 7th District as long as I can remember.

9 Unfortunately, I was a county councilman many years  
10 ago, but as long as I can remember. But we felt it  
11 was more appropriate that the 6th District would  
12 extend over a little bit more to the west and pick  
13 up more of Crown Point where the current incumbent  
14 and current district already had some precincts,  
15 and it fit -- it was our opinion and belief that it  
16 fit better and made more sense in terms of meeting  
17 the statutory requirements, and particularly in  
18 terms of a community of interest. And that was the  
19 reason we did that.

20 I might add, finally, that -- and that's where  
21 I see the differences. And you may have picked  
22 some others out. I certainly will try to address  
23 that. Dan and I have spoken. It's our goal to sit  
24 down in the next several days and see if those  
25 differences can be either --

1 MR. DERNULC: Resolved.

2 MR. WIESER: Resolved, yeah. Thank you. See?  
3 That's why he --

4 MR. DERNULC: It's why I'm here. Sorry,  
5 Mr. President.

6 MR. WIESER: That's why he's here. To be  
7 resolved. And we hope to accomplish that. It's  
8 just that, you know, Dan gets much more time of  
9 vacation than I do, so we haven't been able to get  
10 together this past week.

11 MR. DERNULC: Three days.

12 MR. WIESER: But we're going to try to --  
13 we're really going to try to work on that. And we  
14 even had a very preliminary discussion here before  
15 the meeting started and had at least an idea of  
16 what we think our frame of that would be. So  
17 that's where our plan differs.

18 And one final thing I would like to point out,  
19 in District 4, we use -- we tried to use some  
20 figures in putting together our plan that reflected  
21 voters. And so as best we could, we took the  
22 governors' races and we took the congressional  
23 race, and we used that to try and determine the  
24 population or the numbers of democrat voters and  
25 the numbers of republican voters in a given

1 district that we were trying to create and trying  
2 to draw the boundaries to. And the reason we felt  
3 so strongly about District 4 is when we got done  
4 with our numbers, the current District 4 would  
5 reflect a difference of 47 percent and 48 percent.  
6 It's about as close as we can come. And we thought  
7 that really fairly reflected the viewpoint that  
8 this was a competitive district and a district that  
9 met all the statutory criteria. So that was the  
10 reason for which we had that change made there.

11 And I would be happy, to the extent I can, to  
12 try to answer any questions anyone may have.

13 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes.

15 MR. SMITH: I know you mentioned Winfield, but  
16 you didn't explain why District 7, it goes up into  
17 St. John Township. Why the difference here?  
18 (Indicating).

19 MR. WIESER: Well, in 4th -- in the 4th  
20 District, it's always been -- or it has been  
21 St. John Township.

22 MR. DERNULC: It has.

23 MR. WIESER: What we did -- the difference  
24 between -- I think the basic difference between our  
25 presentation and Dan's is that we pretty much cut

1 it off at the township line. We kept that portion  
2 of the township of St. John in that 4th District.  
3 But the balance of it -- even though the town is  
4 St. John is in -- part of it is Hanover Township,  
5 so we drew the line there. That's how that  
6 happened, Vernon.

7 MR. SMITH: Okay.

8 MR. DERNULC: Members of the council, if it's  
9 okay.

10 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes.

11 MR. DERNULC: Again, you have my word that Jim  
12 and I will work over the next week and try to have  
13 a -- I can't promise anything, but we'll try to get  
14 that. And then you can decide on how you want to  
15 proceed. We are trying to work together. I think  
16 we've done quite well.

17 MR. WIESER: Absolutely.

18 CHAIRMAN OKESON: For the record, I would say  
19 that's pretty apparent based on both of your  
20 comments and demeanor today, which -- it's not for  
21 me to say, but I applaud that. That's refreshing  
22 to see.

23 MR. DERNULC: Thank you.

24 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: Also, I think it's  
25 great that you're working together, and I strongly



1 encourage it. Otherwise, we have to.

2 MR. DERNULC: That's correct.

3 MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN: And I don't think  
4 either one of you would be happy with that.

5 MR. WIESER: Right.

6 MR. DERNULC: Yeah.

7 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes.

8 MR. NIEMEYER: You talked about Winfield being  
9 historically in the 7th District. Okay. So was  
10 Center Township. As far as I ever know, Center  
11 Township has been part of that district, also. So  
12 drawing that distinction that -- you know, that  
13 that other area has been part of that, so is other  
14 areas in that 7th District. Center Township is one  
15 of them.

16 I know Crown Point was divided because of the  
17 Ross Township line being in 93rd Avenue and being  
18 down -- but I wanted to make that comment. When  
19 you say Winfield was historic, so are some other  
20 areas you have in that 7th District, going to the  
21 4th District have been in the 7th District, also.

22 MR. WIESER: Would it be appropriate to  
23 respond to Senator?

24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah.

25 MR. WIESER: Senator, you're correct. I don't

1 disagree with that. You're correct. But in our  
2 opinion, the reason Crown Point made more sense to  
3 us is because that portion of Crown Point on the  
4 north end from 93rd to 97th is Ross Township,  
5 admittedly. But it's been part of the 6th  
6 District. So to put several more precincts in  
7 Crown Point in that district, for us, made more --  
8 we believe made more sense than to take the  
9 Winfield portion. That's the only reason we did  
10 that.

11 But you're correct. I can't argue your point.

12 MR. NIEMEYER: I guess my other question, Jim,  
13 would be that the Town of Merrillville butts up to  
14 Winfield, I believe, the jurisdiction. 101st is  
15 Town of Merrillville, which it's in that  
16 district -- Council District now. And so is Hobart  
17 Township. So you have that whole corridor that  
18 butts up to the Porter County line being in  
19 Councilman Bilski's district now, which is the 6th.

20 And so saying it makes common sense to put  
21 Winfield into the 7th and putting -- there's  
22 argument both ways on that, I believe, and so I  
23 just wanted that -- my point to be made that  
24 there's argument both ways. Because Winfield  
25 really -- points of interest, really ties in really

1 well with the district. We have Ross Township,  
2 which is Town of Merrillville. I get. I believe  
3 Merrillville comes clear up to 101st Avenue, which  
4 is Winfield. Well, Winfield starts at the township  
5 and that's Town of Winfield the rest of the way.  
6 So that's my comment.

7 Because you're kind of dividing the 7th  
8 District up and going the middle and take that  
9 Center Township area instead of coming down, which  
10 would make more sense to me coming down to  
11 Winfield. So that's just my comment. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Thank you, Senator. Anyone  
13 else? Questions or comments on plan 6?

14 MR. DERNULC: Mr. President?

15 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes.

16 MR. DERNULC: This is, again, just advisory  
17 right now. We will take action on the 17th?

18 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah, I believe that's when.

19 MR. KING: Correct.

20 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Correct.

21 MR. DERNULC: At 1:30 eastern?

22 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yes. It will be in  
23 Indianapolis.

24 MR. DERNULC: Yeah. Not here. We love you  
25 guys up here.

1           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  We're splitting the  
2 difference.

3           MR. DERNULC:  Understood.

4           CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Would anybody in the public  
5 like to comment on plan 6?  Any other comments or  
6 questions?

7           (No response.)

8           MR. WIESER:  Thank you very much.

9           MR. DERNULC:  Thank you, Mr. President and  
10 members of the commission.

11          CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Is there anyone who would  
12 like to make any comments for the record generally  
13 at this point from the public?

14          (No response.)

15          CHAIRMAN OKESON:  Going once.  Going twice.  
16 Okay.  We'll wrap up.

17          I will afford any other comments or closing  
18 remarks from our panel.  I will start at the other  
19 end.

20          MR. SMITH:  Nothing.

21          MR. MELTON:  Nothing.

22          MS. CELESTINO-HORSEMAN:  (Nodding).

23          MS. OVERHOLT:  Well, I guess I would just say  
24 that I think it's great when the parties are  
25 working this out.  And to kind of -- going back on

1 what Representative Smith was saying, you know, I  
2 lived in Marion County for -- I hate to admit how  
3 long it's been now, but it's actually been 21  
4 years. I didn't think I lived in the state that  
5 long. But Marion County is often treated  
6 differently, too, so I understand. And I'm -- so I  
7 would like the folks who actually live here and  
8 have a dog in this fight, as they say -- or I don't  
9 want to call it a fight. Those who have a vested  
10 interest in the discussion to be the ones who  
11 handle this out, so I think it's great that we're  
12 hopefully headed in that direction.

13 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Yeah, I would echo those  
14 comments. I would say in a two-party system, it's,  
15 even increasingly in today's world, not often we  
16 see collaboration and an effort to reach consensus  
17 that is -- at least by the time you arrive at this  
18 meeting, you've come across pretty well. So thank  
19 you for that.

20 MR. DERNULC: I appreciate that.

21 CHAIRMAN OKESON: That helps in a lot of ways.  
22 We appreciate your efforts.

23 MR. DERNULC: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Anyone?

25 MS. PYLE: (Nodding).

1 MR. SLAGER: (Nodding).

2 MR. NIEMEYER: The shift in population right  
3 in the center of the county basically where the  
4 shift happened. I think they worked very well  
5 trying to put something together with that shift  
6 and how it had to be addressed. I think we're  
7 close to -- you know, the Commissioner Districts  
8 are there. The Council District maybe have to be  
9 looked at a little bit with that compromise.

10 But I appreciate the two people -- county  
11 chairmen meeting and the two parties coming  
12 together, not just the chairman, but the parties  
13 themselves. Because I know Jim has had meetings  
14 with his party and Dan has, too. And they worked  
15 really hard the last two or three weeks after that  
16 initial meeting they had down state to try to put  
17 something together. And they probably had help,  
18 too, which is really good. So that's it.

19 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Nice to see civil  
20 competition. With that, I will bring the hearing  
21 portion of the agenda to a close.

22 And as Mr. Dernulc noted and for the record,  
23 our next meeting on this matter will be held  
24 December 17, 2021 at 1:30 eastern time down at the  
25 Statehouse. Right now, it's set for Statehouse

1 room 404. And we will adopt orders to establish  
2 any kind of Council and Commissioner Districts.  
3 Presumably it will be tighter consensus.

4 MS. WARYCHA: Sorry to interrupt. It's  
5 actually going to be in room 233.

6 CHAIRMAN OKESON: 233.

7 MR. DERNULC: If it's okay, would you be  
8 willing to send out an email? Mr. Dernulc. I know  
9 you have my email. Just to make sure. I don't  
10 want you to be in room 233, and I'm in room 404.

11 MS. WARYCHA: Valerie Warycha, W-a-r-y-c-h-a.

12 It's posted on our website. We post it. If  
13 you go to in.gov/sos and look at election  
14 commission, all of our notices are posted there  
15 with the time and the location.

16 MR. DERNULC: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN OKESON: With that, the Lake County  
18 Redistricting Commission has finished its business  
19 for today, and I will entertain a motion to  
20 adjourn.

21 MS. OVERHOLT: So moved.

22 CHAIRMAN OKESON: Second?

23 MS. PYLE: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN OKESON: All those in favor.

25 ALL: Aye.

1           CHAIRMAN OKESON:   So moved.   Thank you very  
2 much.

3           (The Lake County Redistricting Commission  
4 Public Session was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF INDIANA

2 COUNTY OF LAKE

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4 I, Catherine M. Stefaniak, CSR, a Notary  
5 Public in and for said county and state, do hereby  
6 certify that the foregoing public session was taken at  
7 the time and place heretofore mentioned between 1:30  
8 p.m. and 2:18 p.m.;

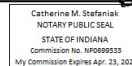
9 That said public session was taken down in  
10 stenograph notes and afterwards reduced to typewriting  
11 under my direction; and that the typewritten  
12 transcript is a true record of the public session;

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
14 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 30th day of  
15 December, 2021.

16

17

*Catherine M. Stefaniak*



18

19

20 My Commission Expires:  
21 April 23rd, 2025

22

23 Job No. 167126

24

25

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