

CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

**Greenville Redistricting Public Hearing
Summary of Testimony**

Greenville County Council Chambers, County Square
March 31, 2011 6:30-8:30 p.m. scheduled

The public hearing began at 6:35 p.m. The Redistricting Subcommittee members present were: Senator L. Martin, Senator Ford, Senator Malloy, and Senator Shoopman. Senators McConnell, Hutto, and Cleary were absent. The Senate Redistricting staff persons present were: Charlie Terreni, Debbie Hammond, Katherine Wells, and Laurie Traywick. Approximately 170-200 people were in attendance.

Senator Martin introduced members of the subcommittee and explained the redistricting process. He explained that the purpose of these hearings was to hear from the public, so the subcommittee could use this information in determining the criteria for redistricting. He also explained that written comments as well as oral comments are acceptable. Senator Shoopman welcomed the members of the subcommittee to Greenville and thanked everyone for coming to the public hearing.

1. Michael Meder was signed up to speak, but declined to do so.
2. Stephen Edwards spoke about Congressional Districts. He feels that having one congressman for every 660,000 people is not true representation. He believes that people in Great Britain, Canada, and Japan have better representation than we have in the U.S, because they all average one representative per 125,000 people. He wants the subcommittee to lobby the federal government to change the number back to a much smaller number, so each congressman truly represents his constituents. He thinks perhaps an Article 5 convention can be called. Mr. Edwards feels that the present system erodes rights, and he believes there will be another revolution over representation one day if the problem is not resolved.
3. Douglas L Wavle spoke next. He represents the Taylors Fire and Sewer district and is also vice-chair of the Greenville County Special Purpose District Association. The Taylors Fire and Sewer district includes urban and rural areas and is represented by Sens. Fair and Shoopman. He spoke about the Senate and Congressional Districts. He wants to keep Greenville County in one Congressional District and knows that Greenville and Spartanburg cannot be together in one Congressional District. Because political parties are usually organized on a county-wide basis, he believes that splitting counties among too many districts makes it difficult for a political party to adequately push its candidate of choice. Mr. Wavle mentioned that, although the members of the Taylors Fire and Sewer district like being spread throughout the county, not all districts are like that. He says that some districts like to have only one contact to talk with about state government. He also gave some background information about this special purpose district and explained the confusion some people have about fees and who gets to keep the fee revenue. Mr. Wavle does not want to have the Presidential Electoral College abolished and he wants the electoral college to still be composed of the number of Congressional Districts and U.S. Senators in a state. He does not want Presidents elected by a simple majority of the voters.
4. Dan Richardson believes we can solve all of the future Senate redistricting issues by returning to the system where each county is represented by one Senator. Each state is represented by two U.S. Senators regardless of size, so why shouldn't the states be allowed to have a comparable system. He also

CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

believes that the Supreme Court wrongly decided Reynolds v. Sims, and should have stayed out of state political issues. He wants to return to a “republic” form of government as required by the U.S. Constitution, and not a democracy. He wants the Senate to nullify the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on apportionment. He believes the courts were wrong to address the reapportionment issues in the 1960s and that they should have abstained. He also thinks that the 17th Amendment allowing popular election of U.S. Senators, instead of appointment by a state legislature, should be repealed. He believes that, since his senator has to represent three counties, it is not fair or adequate representation. He believes political gerrymandering was involved in 2001 when SD 4 was changed, as was SD 9 and SD 10, which now covers Abbeville and Greenwood. He concluded by asking the subcommittee to nullify what the U.S. Supreme Court did, and return to one Senator per county.

5. Everet Headley, a Travelers Rest resident spoke next. With regard to the Congressional Districts, he wants the subcommittee to split Greenville and Spartanburg counties, but put each county whole into another congressional district, so that Spartanburg County is an anchor for a congressional district. He is opposed to splitting counties. He understands that there is a domino effect around the state about this. However, he believes that the large influence that Greenville and Spartanburg have had around the state, especially in the economic area makes it important that their influence not be diminished. As for State Senate redistricting, right now he is in SD 5, but he is close to the border with SD 6. He wants the subcommittee to know about the community that has formed between Travelers Rest and Furman University, and wants the subcommittee to keep these communities together, if they can.

6. Scott Crosby, a resident of Mauldin, wants to keep Greenville County together. He told the subcommittee that he had heard rumors that the southern part of Greenville County would be split off into the 3rd Congressional District, but he thinks that Mauldin and that area identifies more with the city of Greenville than the parts of the 3rd Congressional District. He agrees with the earlier speaker about having Greenville County as the anchor for one congressional district and Spartanburg County as the anchor for a different congressional district.

7. Jim Lee spoke about the need for transparency in the redistricting process and wants the subcommittee to be mindful of that as they continue through the process. He wants the subcommittee to pass a plan that meets the requirement of the Justice Department and complies with the law. He also wants the subcommittee to remember that “we, the people are the ultimate stakeholders.”

8. Henry Parr spoke about keeping Greenville County together in one Congressional District. He wants the subcommittee to remember that 10% of the people in SC live in Greenville County, and their problems can be handled better if they are together under one Congressional District. He thinks combining Greenville with a smaller county such as Oconee or Laurens would work, if Greenville has to be separated from Spartanburg.

9. Rev. J.M. Flemming asks the subcommittee to come back to Greenville before they vote on a redistricting plan, so there can be adequate public input. He wants the Senate to provide fairness, transparency to all of its citizens, make all maps and redistricting plans available on the website in a timely manner and to keep SD 7.

10. Curtis Askew wants greater clarification of what is meant by a “community of interest” and he wants the decision on what is considered a community of interest to be determined before plans are drawn

CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

and not afterwards. He also wants information to be public about who has originated a redistricting plan and who has submitted it. He also wants the subcommittee to post on the website all of the databases that are used in drawing a redistricting plan. Mr. Askew is also concerned that the total variance for a redistricting plan has not yet been set. Senator Martin asked him to speak with Charlie Terreni after the meeting, so that Mr. Terreni could explain to him why a variance number has not yet been set and will not be set until the final criteria are approved.

11. William Allen questioned why the federal government has to approve any redistricting plan since that is not in the Constitution. He thinks that the fact that Section 5 does not apply to all states is not fair. He also wants to keep Greenville County whole within one Congressional District. If the subcommittee has to remove some of the population from the 4th Congressional District, he suggests removing some of Spartanburg County, but keep Trey Gowdy in the 4th Congressional District, and keep as much of Spartanburg and Greenville counties together as possible.

12. Rev. Ennis M. Fant appeared on behalf of the African-American Pastors Leadership Conference. He stated that some of the comments he has heard from earlier speakers were the reason why SC was under preclearance, and preclearance makes sure that everybody has the opportunity to have representation in government. He wants the subcommittee to continue to recognize county lines as much as possible and continue to include communities of interest as one of the criteria. With regard to Congressional Districts, he agrees with other speakers that Greenville and Spartanburg counties may have to be split, but keep each whole and combine them with other counties. He does not want the counties split into smaller pieces. He was under the impression that the total variance had been set, and so he does not understand how plans can be developed without knowing how much shifting has to be done.

13. Perry Simpson is now a resident of SD 10, but he used to be in SD 9, without changing his address. He thinks a solution to this is to go back to one Senator per county.

14. Theo Mitchell spoke next. He wants the subcommittee to remember the importance of communities of interest. He also does not want the vote diluted in SD 7. He wants the subcommittee to consider minority populations in their redistricting plans, including the Hispanic population. He wants the subcommittee to exhibit statesmanship when drawing the redistricting plans. He also does not want the state to use money it can ill afford by trying to return to the one Senator per county representation in the SC Senate.

15. Vardrey Fleming, president of the West Greenville Community Association, spoke about the difficulty of revitalizing a community and how it is important that redistricting not separate people.

16. Doris Fleming, vice-president of Sterling Community Neighborhood Association, spoke about the need to keep communities with common interests together. She wants to keep House Districts #23 and #25 nesting within SD 7.

17. Dorothy Russell spoke because she wants her remarks recorded. She is the president of the Sterling Community Neighborhood Association and she wants to keep Sterling Community Neighborhood Association together. She gave the boundaries of the communities to the subcommittee and says that she wants to be allowed to vote for her current house and senate legislators. She also suggests to the subcommittee that if they want to change precincts, there is a REC center at the Sterling

CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

Community center that could be used as a voting place. She wants House Districts #23 and # 25 to remain in SD 7 and in Congressional District #4.

18. Clarence Echols, president of the Greenville County NAACP, is a resident of SD 8. He wants the subcommittee to consider redrawing districts that are sensitive to the needs of minorities in the Upstate and not dilute the little voting power they now have. He is also concerned about the growing Hispanic population that needs representation. He opposed returning to a one senator per county system, pointing out that when we had such a system we did not have any minority senators.

19. Andrea Crockett, a member of the Sterling Land Trust Board, spoke on the need to keep House Districts #23 and #25, SD 7, and Congressional District 4 together because they are one voice.

20. Steve Mauriello wants the subcommittee to keep Greenville County in one Congressional District and thinks that combining Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee counties makes the most sense. He questions how many of the Latino population from the census is here legally.

21. Brit Adams, a resident of the 3rd Congressional District, disagrees with Mr. Mauriello because he wants Oconee Nuclear Facility to stay in the 3rd Congressional District. He wants the subcommittee to keep the 3rd Congressional District as it is.

22. Ester Wagner spoke on the need to keep Greenville County together in one Congressional District. She also told the subcommittee that she worked for the census, and she believes it to be very flawed.

23. Lottie Gibson said that her area of concentration had already been voiced.

24. Maxim Williams, director of the mission division for Bon-Secours/St. Francis Health System, works with the Sterling Community Neighborhood Association. He wants the Sterling Community to remain intact in any redistricting plans, because it is an historic community to African-Americans throughout the nation, and in the past 3 years a master plan for economic development, income streams, and opportunities has been developed. Future infrastructure plans and use of a community association land trust are all dependent on keeping this community intact. He gave the boundaries of the community to the subcommittee and also gave the website where a map of the community can be found.

25. Rep. Chandra Dillard, House District #23, spoke about the need to keep House District #23 whole and contained within SD 7. She wants the subcommittee to consider communities of interest, not just by their street boundaries, but also by the county and municipal, economic and community development departments. She also wants the subcommittee to set the variance at a higher level than in previous redistricting plans.

26. Mark Powell, a resident of Pelzer, wants the subcommittee to take off the blinders when drawing Senate and Congressional Districts, keep humans and special interests out of it, and draw lines simply by the numbers. He feels his SD 4 is one of the stupid-looking areas. He feels that SD4 is representative of a poorer side of Anderson County, and because it is a poorer area, it does not get the voice in government that more wealthy districts have. He wants the subcommittee to keep it simple.

CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

27. Darrin Goss, from SD 12 in Spartanburg County, lives between two communities because he works in Greenville County and lives in Spartanburg County. He sees underrepresented areas in his work with the United Way. He wants transparency in the redistricting process and he wants the subcommittee not to just try to make data and maps available, but commit to making those plans public and accessible to those who cannot afford them. He also wants communities of interest to be defined and he urges the subcommittee to keep the community economic development neighborhoods together. He feels that race does play a role in the idea of representation, and so communities historically defined by race should also be given consideration. He also wants another hearing in Greenville after maps are drawn so that there is public input on those.

Senator Martin reminded everyone of the House Redistricting Public Hearing that is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on April 13th in the Greenville County Council Chambers.

28. David Aguilar was called but did not come forward.

29. Leola Robinson Simpson asked that the subcommittee not forget about school redistricting and not split minority communities as has been done in the past, especially when minority communities of interest were moved from House District # 25 to House District #26.

Senator Martin asked if anyone else in the audience wished to speak who had not signed up.

30. Bear Cheezum asked to speak at this public hearing, because, although a resident of the 6th Congressional District, as a Clemson student, he is not able to attend the hearings in Conway or Florence. He wants the subcommittee to base congressional redistricting on population, county lines, as well as the shared economic and cultural times between areas.

31. David Aguilar spoke next. He wants to keep Greenville County in one Congressional District, because it is socially and economically a single community. Although he questioned the validity of the census data with regard to Latino populations, he wants the subcommittee to consider drawing a Latino plurality House District seat in Greenville County. He also wants transparency in the redistricting process and wants the subcommittee to publish the maps and redistricting plans every step of the way, including the information and rationale behind every change.

32. Ron Romine next spoke. He told the subcommittee that he is a yellow dog democrat and reminds the subcommittee that the DOJ is controlled by Democrats this time. He thinks that the new Congressional District should ensure more than one Democrat in the Congress from SC, especially since the Democratic vote in SC is usually around 36% for presidential elections.

33. Roan Garcia-Quintana, who lives in Mauldin, wants the subcommittee not to protect incumbents by letting them remove populations from their districts because they do not vote for the incumbent. He also does not want to separate people based on ethnicity. Instead, he wants the subcommittee to do the right thing and not just protect incumbents.

34. Nathan Earle spoke about the need to keep districts compact and not so strung out. He wants the subcommittee to not engage in racial gerrymandering. He reminded the subcommittee about the North Carolina case where one of the districts was so spread out that the residents were not adequately represented. He does not want bizarre shapes. He wants the subcommittee to not focus on not upsetting

CONFIDENTIAL-ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT

DOJ, but instead to obtain true fairness. “The more compact a district is, the closer the people are that are in it, and you have an authentic community.”

35. Dan Harvell, from Anderson County, agrees with much that has been said. As a citizen taxpayer, he wants the subcommittee to draw lines, not because of political voting history or because of gerrymandering, but because it makes sense. He does not want incumbents protected. He wants the process to be as scientific as possible.

36. Lottie Gibson, a member of Greenville County Council, thanked the subcommittee for coming and reminded everyone about the House Judiciary Public Hearing and asked people to attend that one as well.

Since no one else wished to speak, Senator Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

L:\S-JUD\REDISTRICTING\HEARINGS-MEETINGS\PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARIES\Greenville Public Hearing Summary.doc