

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, LB 614, as we have all been waiting for, is the legislative redistricting plan. The committee, as we addressed legislative redistricting, put in a great deal of time and energy as well as the...my staff downstairs. The...particularly when we get to the legislative districting process, as you all know, now we're at an area where naturally we are voting on things that affect us within...specifically within the body. And I know that there is going to be a lot of emotional concern relative to the way this works out. What we did this year is we've got a 2 percent variance on either side of our targeted 32,212 which makes for relatively tight districts and what you're going to be looking at is a situation where it's a lot more difficult to come up with smooth, even straight lines than maybe what you had in the past because of those tolerances. But I do think, after a legal review of some of the court cases that are out there, the committee decided and voted to approve, under our guidelines, that 2 percent variance was something that probably the courts have recognized as being close enough tolerances for the one-person, one-vote standard. But it did create a much more difficult process that was there. As we dealt with the committee and I was open to...to literally any one...any member coming to us with a plan, a proposal and working them through and, again, I wanted to maybe publicly at this point thank my staff and...and both of the particularly computer people who worked many a long stretch of time, including two overnights last week, in order to produce and try to make themselves available for the people that are out there. When the committee got done we ended up having several plans that came in that were just portions of the state. We had plans that came in that were simply one senator's vision of what their specific district should look like. But when it all...the pieces had to come together there was only one plan out there at this point in time that actually had the tolerances within the ranges to accommodate a plan to forward to the body and that's what is the plan that you see in front of you. It's in your packet. If you will follow the additional pages, you will see the expansion or the blow-ups of both the Lancaster County, Douglas County or southeast corner. You will also see a page dealing with the Douglas-Sarpy legislative districts as well. Also, as I mentioned before, in the Senators' Lounge you will see at least very near to be what that plan would be with respect to envisioning the particular district breakouts. What we ended up