

hopefully they will come forward again. Where we are at really is a crossroads or a crisis of dealing with a court decision where I am of the belief that the Supreme Court decided that Madison County, by virtue of its population being within the targeted frame, and they identified that county line as a parameter and a district and reinstated what was once District 21, and now under LB 7 would be classified as District 19, that they reinstated that. And, granted, I have not ever argued once that they put a date on that judgment. What they did is they declared that as of point of rendering of their judgment that District 18 and 40 were unconstitutional in that they have population and geography within Madison County and, therefore, they must be removed. I think that that date was as of the date of the decision, not at some point in time when the Legislature views it within our convenience to reestablish that district. I think that date, if you will, was the date of rendering of their judgment. So to me, in the way that I think about this issue, that was the date and they didn't have to state the date. I don't think there is any court case that anyone of us have ever been involved in that the date that they rendered the decision was the date that it became operative to the extent that that was the determination. It is now incumbent upon us to try to accommodate that decision, whether we like that decision or not, and in my case, I don't like that decision. I think it was a wrong decision, but by the same token, it is now established by our Supreme Court. We are now at a crossroads in terms of probably doing, in some opinion, attempt to do the least damaging thing that we can do to meet the demands of the judgment without disrupting the whole process any more than possible. What that means is really a very difficult situation for, like I say, two candidates, maybe more so for the other four candidates, if I can remember right, that was in the race. Had that district been reconfigured into another district, some of those four other candidates may have come through that district instead of the two that did because of a different population base and support groups and so forth. And so by changing that, that fits into that particular category. I think we have been through the discussion. Again, I think a majority of this body felt that, by virtue of your votes, that Madison County, under court order, ought to be an odd-numbered district, ought to have election this fall, and there is only way to do that, and that is with the elimination of another odd-numbered district in that corner of the state. And as we follow that basic theory, I think that is what we are down to. We have tried to reconfigure the lines in such a way