Previously I submitted data on the timeline (see 10/5 handouts). It summarized information sought during the last meeting. How many days were allowed for each task. The number of meetings by type. Etc.

It also included a potential timeline for finishing by 8/15. That timeline is already endangered. Commission is discussing solutions which would hurt the process. Rushing critical contracts. Reducing public hearings.

Instead delay the target completion date. This is the appropriate step for the following reasons.

* Supreme Court:

The California court said the Commission could work until 12/15 regardless of when Census data is released. If data came early it should, "make every effort to expedite." Every effort does not mean extending the deadline by no more than the exact number of days data is delayed.

* Election Calendar: The 2022 primary was moved from March to June. Pushing the deadline to 11/15 would give registrars, candidates, lawyers, and courts the same number of days after adopting maps they would have had pre-COVID.

* Last Commission: Received Census data a month early on 3/8. The earliest this Commission will get data is 4/1. Pushing the deadline 1 month to 9/15 would allow at least as much time for drawing maps as 2011.

* Voter Intent:

Proposition 11 set an original deadline of 9/15. It was pushed up to 8/15 by Proposition 20. Voters approved Proposition 20 to end Congressional gerrymandering, not shorten the Commission's time.

* COVID Impacts:

If Census data is released on time, COVID will still delay process. Evaluating data quality will take more time. Remote meetings inherently take longer. Adding needed time to the calendar does not mean failing to make "every effort to expedite."

Establish deadline of later of X date or Y months after data released. The worst scenario would be establishing/changing deadline after public education begins. It would create a lack of confidence in the process. Better to address this critical need now.

A few extra months is a worthwhile investment in the next ten years.