THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Via WebEx
Florence, Arizona
Maricopa, Arizona
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5:12 p.m.

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Post Office Box 513
Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340
(P) 623-975-7472 (F) 623-975-7462
www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

(Original)

Penny Segundo, RPR (via WebEx)
Certified Reporter (AZ 50959)
LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at
5:12 p.m. on July 23, 2021, at Pinal County Courthouse,
135 North Pinal Street, Florence, Arizona 85132, with
satellite locations at City of Maricopa Public Library,
18160 North Maya Angelou Drive, Maricopa, Arizona 85138;
Superior Town Hall, 199 North Lobb Avenue, Superior,
Arizona 85173, and online via WebEx:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
Ms. Shereen Lerner
Mr. Douglas York

STAFF PRESENT:
Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr
Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics Corp.
Mr. Douglas Johnson, National Demographics Corp.

PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:
Mr. Christian Price, Maricopa
Mr. Albert Barnes, Maricopa
Mr. Donald Hunt, Maricopa
Mr. David Coward, Superior
Mr. James Shank, Superior
Mr. Roberto Reveles, Superior
Mr. Pete Rios, Florence

(Continue.)
Mr. Todd House, Florence  
Mr. Daniel Dully, Florence  
Ms. Arlene Stasinos, Florence  
Ms. Kathleen Leeman, Florence  
Ms. Gale Peters, Florence  
Ms. Kim Snaw, Florence  
Mr. Tony Smith, Florence  
Ms. Candace Goldapper, Florence  
Mr. Robert Goldapper, Florence  
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Florence  
Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Florence  
Mr. Steve Credler, Florence  
Mr. Steve Hechler, Florence  
Mr. Jeff Nolan, Florence  
Mr. John Dantico, Florence  
Ms. Mary Buckman, Florence  
Ms. Andrea Verella, Florence  
Mr. Anthony Ireland, Florence  
Mr. Jesse Bryant, Florence  
Mr. Nick Meyers, Florence  
Mr. Mark Crows, Florence  
Mr. Neil Carter, Florence  
Mr. John Thompson, Florence  
Mr. Gilbert Lopez, Florence  

* American Sign Language and Spanish Interpreters are present.
PROCEDING

MS. VAN HAREN: Good evening, everyone. Good evening, everyone. We're going to go ahead and get the meeting started.

But first we have a special guest who is going to say the Pledge of Allegiance for us, and this is county board of supervisor, Todd House.

MR. HOUSE: Would you all join me in the Pledge of Allegiance?

(Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

MR. HOUSE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Welcome. Is this on? Okay.

Welcome, everybody. It is so incredibly exciting to have our first public hearing here in Florence. And the commissioners, we're meeting each other for the first time. We're meeting our broader team, and we cannot be more excited to really have this energy and commitment. So thank you all for coming out to be part of our inaugural event.

And with that, we will call the meeting to order.

I'd like to welcome you to the listening tour. Please note that if you would like to make a public comment, you may do so by signing in with staff and
filling out the public comment card. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the community of interest survey. Very important; it's data. There is a QR Code on signs around the room that will direct you to the link. Please see staff if you have any questions.

We have an American Sign Language interpreter joining us virtually, and we have interpreters and headsets available for those in attendance. We also have a transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting. Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear record of your input. Will the interpreters in attendance please introduce themselves now.

MS. JONES: Tiffany Jones, American Sign Language interpreter.

MR. ORLIZ: Mi nombre es Carlos Orliz. My name is Carlos Orliz with the Spanish language interpreting.

MS. QUINN: This is Martha Quinn, Spanish interpreter.

INA: Ina with the foreign language services as an interpreter for the Spanish language.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you all for making this accessible to as many people as we possibly can.

This is my great honor to introduce my colleagues, the commission.

First, I am Chairwoman Neuberg; I'm the
independent. And I'm truly honored to be part of this process.

And I will pass it off to our Vice Chair Watchman.

VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you. And good evening, everybody. Thank you, Chairwoman.

I am Derrick Watchman, vice chairman. It's good to be here. I come to you from Window Rock, Arizona, way north of here. So it's good to be here. I'm glad to see the rain, you know, as we say. I'm actually a member of the Navajo Nation and so -- but I'm also a business advisor and consultant. And it's my pleasure to see everybody here. And I look forward to all the comments and discussion that we're going to have here this evening. So good evening, everybody.

COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you. Good evening, everybody. My name is Shereen Lerner. I am very pleased to see so many people here, and we really look forward to hearing from you. I serve as one of the Democrats on the commission. I look forward to the evening.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And Commissioner York is on his way. And Commissioner Mehl is not able to join us tonight, but he will be available and present in many of our future meetings.

With that, we will move to agenda item number 2,
which is presentation on redistricting process, which I'm going to turn it over to our mapping team and then subsequently our legal team.

Mr. Flahans: Hello, everybody. Can you hear me? My name is Mark Flahans. I'm with Timmons, part of your mapping team. We also have in the back Doug Johnson, Ivy Beller Sakansky, and Parker Bradshaw.

So today we have our presentation for you. Hold on one second for us. Hold on one second for us.

Mr. Herrera: We're going to do a little improv here. So let me go around.

All right. All right. Well -- so, actually, let me just do a brief introduction.

My name is Roy Herrera. I'm at the law firm of Ballard Spahr. I'm one of the co-lead counsels for the IRC. My distinguished other co-lead counsel, Brett Johnson, from the law firm of Snell & Wilmer is also here.

And I think the purpose of this initial presentation is to give a little bit of background on the IRC and the purpose of the listening tour, and, of course, we'll then go into actual public comments and, you know, get your feedback.

So let's just start with the first slide to talk about basically the need for redistricting.
So you guys all know that we're here to redraw --
the commission is here to redraw the maps for the
congressional districts as well as the state legislative
districts.

Now, the need for redistricting is found
originally in the U.S. Constitution. Of course, there's
state provisions, which we'll get into, which created this
very IRC, and, I think, are maybe on the next slide.

But we'll just start with the U.S. Constitution.

So the U.S. Constitution requires a
reapportionment of congressional districts, but,
ultimately, states are responsible for creating their own
maps. Some states do it differently than we do. They do
it through their state legislature.

But, of course, through a constitutional
amendment that the Arizona voters passed several decades
ago, we have created this Independent Redistricting
Commission to actually draw the lines. So it is within
their authority now to draw the congressional legislative
lines.

But the U.S. Constitutional provision is in
article 1, section 2, which, again, dictates that the
reapportionment has to go -- or has to occur every
10 years.

Also there's a 14th amendment, section 2
 provision that is relevant here which says that representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to the respective numbers. And that's often what we talk about with reapportionment. The population of the state dictates how many congressional districts we have at the federal level. We currently have nine. We have had a reapportionment this time around, and we know we will keep nine congressional districts. So that's where the current number of districts are. And, again, it's according to the state population.

So I don't know how to go to the next slide. So you have to -- okay.

So, as I referenced before, the history of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is as follows: From 1912 -- this is the state's founding -- to 2000, the Arizona legislature controlled redistricting. Again, that is similar to what many states' procedure is for actually doing the redistricting. But Prop 106, again, which is approved by Arizona voters, amended the Arizona constitution to create this independent commission.

Oh, we now have a technical issue. Am I supposed to stop? Okay. All right. I'll just tell jokes while I'm up here. How about that?

I don't -- okay. So I'll just have to announce
a little louder. Okay. Okay. Okay. I mean, I'm open to ideas, so if I need to stand in the middle and shout, I will do that.

Okay. Yeah. Well, we need to get to the good stuff here. So I'll try to be very quick, but just tell me what -- when we're -- okay. All right.


Okay. I think we're back. We're good? Yeah?

Okay. All right.

Well, I will, again, be a little louder, and, again, if I have to say it all over again outside, I'll do that.

But I'll just go back to where I was at which was talking about the history of the IRC in the state.

As I mentioned before, for the largest period of history for the state, the congressional legislative districts were drawn by the state legislature, which, again, is typical of other states.

But Arizona is unique in many ways, and one of the ways it's unique is that we passed Proposition 106 to amend the Arizona Constitution to create this very commission. Again, it was through a ballot initiative. And we have the Prop 106 ballot title that's here. This, of course, is the ballot title that appeared on the ballot
when voters voted to create the commission.

And, again -- and I'll just read a portion of it. But relating to ending the practice of gerrymandering and improving voter and candidate participation in elections by creating an independent commission of balanced appointments to oversee the mapping of fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts.

That, again, was the ballot title to what Arizona voters passed in Prop 106. I'll get into the balanced appointments piece of this in the next slide. But, again, that was from the original initiative.

And then in the constitution, as created by this initiative, there's a provision that says by February 28th of each year that ends in 1 -- so 2021 in this case -- an Independent Redistricting Commission shall be established to provide further redistricting of congressional and state legislative districts.

So we have followed thus far the procedures under the state constitution. And when we talk about the makeup of the commission -- we already had a little bit of this information with the commissioner's introductions. But, again, under the Arizona Constitution, there are five members of the IRC. There are no more than two of the same political party. In this case, we have two Democrats, two Republicans. No more than two
commissioners of the four original members may reside in the same county. So you may have noticed as the commissioners were appointed, they all come from different geographic areas of the state as is required by the constitution.

We are lucky enough to have four of the members here today. Well, I guess we'll have the fourth coming soon.

Chairman Neuberg is the Independent for Maricopa County. We have Vice Chair Watchman who is a Democrat from Apache County. Commissioner Lerner, a Democrat from Maricopa. Commissioner Mehl who cannot be here tonight, a Republican from Pima County. And Commissioner York, a Republican from Maricopa County who will be joining us shortly.

The constitution has further provisions related to the IRC that are particularly important and certainly important for this public tour for the public's consideration.

The constitution provides six constitutional goals for redistricting. The first is that the district shall comply with the U.S. Constitution and the United States Voting Rights Act, the VRA as it's commonly referred to.

The second is that congressional districts shall
have the equal population to the extent practicable, and
state legislative districts shall have equal population to
the extent practicable. So, again, it's an equal
population requirement.

The third is that the districts shall be
geographically compact and contiguous, again, to the
extent practicable.

The fourth is that the district boundaries shall
respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.
This is a particularly important, I think, provision for
purposes of today's meeting, and we are, of course,
seeking input on communities of interest and what you
believe communities of interest should be during this
redistricting.

Again, to the extent practicable, district lines
shall use visible geographic features, city, and town --
city, town, and county boundaries and undivided census
tracts.

And then, finally, to the extent practicable,
competitive districts should be favored. Where to do so
would create no significant detriment to the other goals.

So those are the six constitution of criteria for
redistricting that we have to consider and certainly me
and my distinguished co-counsel have to consider from the
legal perspective.
This next slide is about the projected timeline of the commission. We are in this initial stage between July and August. It's an initial listening tour. We're very happy to have this initial -- initial listening event. We will be -- of course, be continuing this over the next few weeks in different locations around the state.

In August, August 16th to be specific, census data will be released and processed by our mapping consultants.

In September, a grid map, which is a constitutional requirement, will be drawn and adopted.

Between September and October, that is when the commission will be developing possible draft maps and eventually adopt an official draft map. The adoption of a draft map is also a constitutional requirement.

Between October and November, there will be a minimum of a 30-day public comment period on the draft map. That is also a constitutional requirement.

And, finally, you know, projected in December, but, of course, to when it's over, we will revise a draft map and adopt a final plan.

Of course, I should have started with the disclaimer, these are all aspirational timelines. You never know what happens, but these are the different steps
that the commission has to undertake.

Finally, before I hand it over to Mark, I do want to emphasize that public involvement in all of this is encouraged and is an essential part of the process. The commission meetings are open to the public. Many of you probably have already seen the weekly Tuesday meetings, which are open to the public where you are able to submit public comments, you're able to watch them on the YouTube channel. We are, again, seeking initial input on communities of interest from those of you that are here.

In the question there, when it comes to what are communities of interest or what is a community of interest, is what geographic areas or neighborhoods should be considered when drawing draft maps. That is the input that we are soliciting today from all of you.

And then, finally, you know, when it comes to public involvement as far as the input on draft maps, you will be able to submit proposed draft maps and comments prior to the IRC selection of the official draft map. You will be able to submit proposed revisions and comments after IRC's selection of the official draft map. This, of course, is during that 30-day mandatory period. And then, of course, you'll be able to submit comments on the near final map.

And I think this is where I -- thank God, I turn
it over to the mapping consultant.

But, again, I appreciate your time, and thank you very much.

MR. FLAHAN: Welcome again. Again, my name is Mark Flahan.

So we've got a couple tools for you guys to be able to submit your community of interest back in to us.

The first one we'll talk about is a socioeconomic report.

So it's an interactive website that you guys can go to to look at socioeconomic data. And I'll show you what that looks like in another slide.

And then the second piece of the mapping tool is our community of interest survey. It is online. It is digital. It's available 24/7. You guys can go home and fill it out afterwards. You can fill it out before the meetings. You also probably found a paper copy sitting up at the very front that you're welcome to fill out and turn in with staff on your way out the door.

And then the last mapping tool that Roy sort of mentioned is the actual redistricting system where we will process the grid map and the draft map and then the final map.

So the socioeconomic report that I was talking about -- there's an example there on the screen -- it is a
map that you guys can go and look at demographic data. And it's broken down into over 10 different categories that you can see there on the screen. CVAP is citizen voting age population. And then we have a couple other things that are rental and renter housing, other languages at home, multifamily housing, education of a bachelor's degree or higher, income over 75,000, percent that speak Spanish at home, and percent that speak -- or, sorry, percent of families that have children at home.

This is the community of interest survey. Some of you might have seen it before because it was released before the meeting. Here it is. The community of interest survey is available in both English and Spanish for your choosing. You can see the intro here, and it also allows you to draw your own very community map. So you guys have the power in your hands to draw your map and your community of interest to give us input back for the commission.

And I'm going to turn it over to Ivy to talk to you about what is a community of interest.

MS. Sakansky: This might help.

Good evening. Can you hear me? Test.

Okay. Okay. So the question is, on this listening tour, how can we define our communities of interest? That is what the commissioners are primarily
interested in throughout this tour in Arizona. A community of interest can be defined by a geographic area, even a neighborhood, that shares similar economic or social characteristics. And hopefully you will all be telling us what your communities of interest are.

Bear with me one moment please.

So a community of interest, again, can be an area that -- where we -- or where you share social or economic interest with other residents in your neighborhood. It can be based on a park that is in your neighborhood, membership in a specific church, similar income, language spoken. But the shared characterizes or experiences, you could share celebrations or traditions. There could be a large employer in the -- that -- in that particular community of interest or neighborhood.

There can also be similar issues or impacts of governmental policies. And then, of course, there are easily identifiable boundaries, such as major roads, railroads, mountain ranges, even a floodplain. A community of interest can be defined by a historic neighborhood that has been designated by your jurisdiction. There are many, many ways to define a community of interest.

This evening, we would like very much for you to share your thoughts with the commissioners what -- and
things to consider would be what do you want the
commission to think about when drafting the maps? What
defines your specific community or communities of
interest? What unites your community? What brings it
together? And, of course, what are the geographic
boundaries of your community? We look forward to you
sharing your thoughts with the commissioners.

MS. VAN HAREN: Good evening, again, everyone.

So, just so you know, citizens may only speak
when recognized by the chair as a presiding officer of the
meeting if the chair is absent or otherwise has delegated
hearing administration authority.

In compliance with Arizona's open meeting law,
speakers should confine their statements to the issue on
the posted agenda which is before the commission.

Speakers are also requested to limit their
comments to approximately 3 minutes.

Additionally, speakers are required to follow
proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any
speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other
guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the peace
or disruption of a commission public hearing may be cause
of report to law enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

If someone has expressed the same sentiment as
you, you may not need to speak in order to have your comment recorded. As long as you have filled out your survey, your input will be received and considered by the commission. Everyone is welcome to speak should you choose to do so. Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the citizens present.

As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to address their comments to the chair and the commission and not to the audience present.

Please show respect for all speakers and avoid personal comments. Remember, the commission must hear all sides of an issue to make an informed decision.

Also, as a housekeeping note, in this location, the restrooms are out this main door to the right.

And now I'll give it back to Chairwoman Neuberg.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you, Lori.

And now for the main event. We will now begin the public comment portion.

Will staff please read the names of the first speaker and the one in the queue.

Let it begin.

MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. First up, we have Pete Rios, and then Todd House is on deck.

MR. RIOS: Good afternoon. Is this on?
Good afternoon.

Anyway, first of all, let me thank the members of the IRC for doing what you're doing. You all competed to take these positions, and I think you're going to find out, not too long from now, that this is a thankless job. But I thank you for doing it because that's part of what we need to have done.

My name is Pete Rios. I think you wanted our district address. Anyway, I live at 9620 North Malpais -- "Malpais" is Spanish for "bad country" -- in Dudleyville, which is an unincorporated area of eastern Pinal County. I reside in LD8 and CD1. CD1 is everywhere.

But, anyway, the reason that I wanted to address the IRC is to let you know that in my neck of the woods, we're primarily rural in nature. We're a mining community, copper mining. The significant makeup of the population is typically minority, Latino, Mexican American.

As far as community of interest, we're interested in other communities that are likewise. But we know that in that area, we have to spread out throughout Pinal County. And we can join with other communities in Pinal County, whether it's Eloy, Coolidge, Florence, Casa Grande, et cetera, to make a huge community of interest.

What you're gonna find, though, is many people in
my neck of the woods do believe in community of interest and trying to retain that. What they're most concerned with is that we retain LD8 as a competitive district. It's a competitive district now. Now beginning to lean a little bit more to the other side to the guys that wear the black hats. And I kid with my -- my colleagues.

But, nevertheless, one of the things that I would propose, because we are so isolated in the eastern end of the county -- and we can get along with Pinal, but we can also work very well with what is referred to as the Copper Corridor which runs Pinal into Gila County which includes Globe-Miami. And they're currently in LD8 and work well together with these parts of Pinal County.

The other thing that I wanted to indicate was that although we're primarily Latino minority, we would like to see more people of color. That would give minorities an opportunity to be elected from that district. And we work very well with white folk as well, especially if they're blue-collar working families because we've done it for generations.

One of the things that I would propose is to reach out further north in Gila County to the San Carlos Indian community and make San Carlos part of LD8. Why do I do that -- okay. And that's what I would ask for.

And let me wrap it up real quick.
The other one that I would say is SaddleBrooke. Remember the word "SaddleBrooke Ranch." They are on the border of Pinal County, and there's another area called SaddleBrooke. They are sister communities. They're owned by the same developer, Robson Communities. And at the end of the day, I think that Robson Ranch should be in DL11, not LD8. And that would help retain LD8 as a competitive district.

And I have more to say, but time is short.

Thank you very much for listening.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Todd House and then Daniel Dully [phonetic].

MR. HOUSE: Hi. I want to thank you for coming down this evening. It's a rainy, wet night, and I hope you all have safe travels home because you've got some long distances to travel.

Thank you for coming to Florence, the county seat of Pinal County. We appreciate you coming here to hear our voices.

I myself, I live in the Apache Junction area at the base of Superstition Mountain, the second most photographed mountain range in the United States, one of the most pristine areas in Pinal County, in my opinion. Of course, we have other past supervisors that think theirs is great too, but I represent mine.
And what I'd like to say is the district has a very wide variety. We have high income, low income. We have retired and we have working class citizen in the area.

One of the biggest problems -- I'm in CD4, Congressional District 4, and I'd like to stay in CD4. I'll just make that appointment straight out. I like my congressmen. I'd love to stay in CD4. So I hope that district will stay in.

Where our issue is is LD16 is -- the Legislative District 16 is split between Pinal County and Maricopa County. And the problem over the years has been that the district goes the way of Maricopa County. And I don't believe that that's in the best intentions of my -- my area.

I -- there is area to the east which is in LD8 that if we lump together, we can still get the population and the same classification of people in the region that you were looking for. And I believe that if we made LD16 all in Pinal County or all in Maricopa County -- the idea that it's split between two counties is very difficult. There's two different ideologies between Maricopa County and Pinal County. So it sets up a little bit of a rift between the two counties, and I would just like to see if there was some way to make it on one side or the other.
And there's -- Queen Valley is also just to the east, if we could all include into.

But it's a very diverse area, it has good representation currently. But I think that that one dividing line with Maricopa County and Pinal County presents a problem for the people that I used to represent as the county supervisor, but now I'm just a retired guy up here talking.

But thank you for coming and safe travels home.

MS. VAN HAREN: So we have Daniel Dully, and then we're going to throw it out to Superior for the speakers there.

MR. DULLY: Good evening, Chairwoman and Commissioners. Thank you for the work that you've done and what you're going to do.

My name is Daniel Dully, and I live in Pinal County just east of San Tan Valley.

I am currently retired and spend most of my time in San Tan Valley and the Queen Creek communities.

I'm here today to speak and emphasize the importance of preserving communities of interest when drawing new legislative and congressional maps.

One of the key elements for redistricting is competitiveness. I fully support this principle; however, in previous redistricting, I believe we sacrificed the
best interest of many communities in order to meet the criteria of competitiveness.

One example could be the city of Casa Grande. District lines were previously drawn, split the city into two separate districts. This is contrary to the preserved communities of interest and the compactness principle. This resulted in a diluted representation of its citizens.

Another key element is based on equal population to the extent practicable. Most people understand that equal population numbers contain statistical deviations between the districts and certain standards are applied to minimize these deviations, I imagine, according to law.

The previous redistricting showed a significant deviation in some districts of 12 percent. This is not a reasonable deviation of the population between districts. If the deviations are greater than or equal to what is allowed by law, then the standards and the processes should be evaluated and the lines redrawn.

I also submit to you a continuous improvement plan should also be submitted before and after each redistricting trial or draft map and the final map. It should include statistical data demonstrating how the process can increase accuracy and reduce large population deviations between districts.

Previous commissions were too focused on
competitiveness at the detriment of the community of — of
the preservation of that community.

The compactness is also another element.

This can be avoided if the constitution and state
law are followed closely and with the people of Arizona at
the forefront.

Thank you so much for your time.

MS. CRANK: Hi. My name is Michele Crank, and
I'm part of the Independent Redistricting Commission, and
I serve as the public information officer.

We are coming to you live from Superior, Arizona.

And the first speaker is David Coward, D-a-v-i-d,
C-o-w-a-r-d.

David.

MR. COWARD: Thank you.

Again, my name is David Coward. I'm a resident
of the Gold Canyon community.

Gold Canyon is primarily made up of subdivisions
north of Highway 60 and with the Superstition Mountains to
the north.

We all share the same ZIP code, 85118. It is
currently divided into two legislative districts, like
Mr. Todd House mentioned, LD16 and 8.

LD16 contains Apache Junction, a portion of Gold
Canyon, east Mesa, and parts of San Tan Valley.
LD8 includes a small part of the Gila County and the towns along the Copper Corridor: Florence, Coolidge, and Casa Grande.

Gold Canyon shares nothing in common with east Mesa which is primarily urban and has no historical and cultural ties with the mining and agricultural interest of the communities represented in LD8.

Also, the dividing line between the two LDs cuts in half the Peralta Trails subdivisions along Peralta Trail Road.

The primary need for Gold Canyon is transportation. We share Highway 60 with communities from Apache Junction to Globe-Miami. The highway is the only way in and out of our community. With the lack of services, retail, and entertainment in Gold Canyon, we need Highway 60 to access those venues.

With our legislative representation split, we have a minority interest in both districts, our community is -- and our community is an afterthought.

LD8's focus is on Interstate 10 in the commercial corridor through Casa Grande.

LD16, where the majority of interest is in Mesa, has mass transportation and highway infrastructure in place. So attention to that issue to the east is not considered.
Gold Canyon is a retirement community with a large contingent of seasonal residents which approximately double as the population in the winter months, increasing the traffic in that area. There are no major employment centers. So those who work have to commute using Highway 60 into the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Our community's targeted for growth, however. In fact, a major amendment to the County's comprehensive plan is projected -- projecting a major employment project within a 12,000-acre parcel. This expansion will create many issues that require attention outside the control of our community. We need representation at the state and county level that has the attention to our community.

We respectfully ask that you consider keeping our community in tact as a community of interest along Highway 60 which is the ribbon that connects Gold Canyon to sister communities to the east and west.

Thank you for your time and for your public service.

MS. CRANK: The next speaker that we have is James --

MR. SHANK: Shank.

MS. CRANK: -- Shank.

MR. SHANK: Hi. Good evening, citizens.

I'm a resident of Superior, Arizona, at 85173. I
am the treasurer of Rebuild Superior, the vice president of Legends of Superior Trails. I am a small business owner and a consultant in local development, but I speak for myself.

So, like Pete Rios, I speak for the Copper Corridor. We're rural, mostly historic mining towns with depressed economies to a greater or lesser degree. Many of our residents are at or below the poverty line, and most of our towns are still involved in the extractive industries, though we're working towards economic diversification. We want to be sustainable and improve the wellbeing and quality of life for all of our residents.

Large multinational extractive corporations are major employers and influencers in our area. Our community generates a significant amount of tax revenue for the state of Arizona, but most of that does not stay in the area.

We have some of the most beautiful area in the state. And we're working on outdoor recreation both for residents and visitors.

We're extremely proud of our history, our multiethnic culture, our festivals, our celebrations, and we're -- we're -- we're proud that a large portion of our population is bilingual, Spanish and English.
We want to be grouped together with Copper Corridor communities. We find that some of the communities of western Pinal County such as San Tan are really part of the -- the Metropolitan Phoenix area and have nothing in common with us, and we have diverging interests.

We need high-speed fiber-optic cable. We want to be able to attract young professionals, families that can live and grow in a rural area.

We're fighting the issues of affordable housing and at the same time in some of our towns gentrification as prices go up. And in Superior and Globe, we are seeing some examples now where families that have been here for generations can't afford to rent or buy a house.

So these are all issues that we'd like to work on.

But as Pete Rios said, we see a unification of these small rural-by-choice towns.

And as the other folks have said, we very much appreciate your work on redistricting.

Thank you.

MS. CRANK: Next is Roberto Reveles.

MR. REVELES: Gracias and bienvenidos to the commissioners.

My name is Roberto Reveles, a native Arizonan,
born 20 miles east of where we are sitting here in Superior. Retired, now living 30 miles west of here in Gold Canyon.

We have commonality along this US 60 starting at the western end with Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Superior, Miami, Globe, and San Carlos. We are united not only by the artificial highway, but we're also united by a common mixture of culturally diverse communities including indigenous people, Mexican minors, Eastern European minors, and newly retirees from other states.

Unified also by a natural geographic, scenic, beautiful outdoors that unites us economically also with outdoor recreation of all kinds. Sharing common rivers, streams, lakes, mountains, and united by other geographic features, which is the minerals that provide an economic base for our communities. The extraction of minerals, the admiration of the geography is all unifying.

Unfortunately, we are divided by two legislative -- state legislative districts, divided by two different congressional districts. The commonality that I've just described would argue for a common representation both at the federal level and at the state level.

So I urge the mapmakers to take into consideration the beautiful experience of growing up,
working, and retiring in a community that brings together
the ancient cultures, the immigrant cultures, and the
newly retired cultures.

So please take those features of commonality into
consideration in your mapmaking.

Muchisima gracias and thank you for being here.

MS. CRANK: That is all of our speakers from
Superior.

MS. NEUMANN: Hello. My name is Valerie Neumann.
I'm the executive assistant for the Independent
Redistricting Commission.

We have a special guest with us today here in
Maricopa. We've got Mayor Christian Price.

MAYOR PRICE: Thank you very much.

My name is Christian Price. I'm the mayor of the
city of Maricopa squarely in Pinal County. That, of
course, throws everybody for a loop. Everyone thinks
we're in Maricopa County, but not the case.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting
Commission. We appreciate what you're doing. We fully
understand this is a thankless job, as Supervisor Rios has
said. And so we recognize the difficulties.

We thank you for coming to Pinal County also and
recognize that as you continue to do this, I do give you
massive credit for being able to remember all of these
details as we go back and redraw maps and lines.

So I just want to very briefly talk a little bit about the history.

The city of Maricopa was founded in 2003. And so we have seen a few of these redistrictings happen, but we were 1,200 people then, and now we're pushing 60-, 65,000 people. We anticipate we will add somewhere in the neighborhood of 10- to 15,000 people per year over this next decade. So that will put us squarely upwards of a 100,000 plus people.

And I want to point out that that wasn't the case in 2010 necessarily, even though we were fast growing. And so the lines in the maps were drawn very differently when we looked at LD11, and it actually splits Casa Grande and it encompasses about 100, 120 miles to our southeast, a community called SaddleBrooke.

And while there are commonalities between SaddleBrooke and us, there are also very big differences. And some of those differences are SaddleBrooke is unincorporated. And so as an unincorporated area, that has its pros and cons, but it also leads to very different scenarios. So from a legislative standpoint, that can really create challenges amongst the city of Maricopa's residents and the way that we act as a city versus an unincorporated area in -- at a location such as
SaddleBrooke.

You know, as we talk about redrawing lines, we actually encourage the commission to look at one of the fastest growing counties in the state, and that is Pinal County. And as I just mentioned our population and our growth, we would hope that you would look for a more Pinal County centric way of both doing the LDs as well as the congressional district. We are in CD1. CD1 occupies almost one-third of the state. And I understand that -- you know, those challenges. But, again, we'd love to see a more Pinal County centric district in the CDs.

As it pertains to LDs, the legislative districts, we would also like to see that perhaps the lines are drawn differently. Perhaps Maricopa in western Pinal County is encompassed fully with Casa Grande as well as maybe some of the other surrounding areas such as Eloy and Coolidge, Arizona City, Thunderbird Farms, perhaps Marana, perhaps Oro Valley. But as it encompasses SaddleBrooke, it seems like SaddleBrooke would be more encompassing with San Tan on the eastern side of the state or at least the eastern side of Pinal County.

So, again, we thank you for your time and we thank you for listening to the city of Maricopa's concerns. But, again, we're looking for a more Pinal County centric area and representation especially as we're
dealing with urbanizing cities such as Casa Grande and the
city of Maricopa. Those two cities alone will be
somewhere in the neighborhood of 130- to 150,000 by the
end of this year.

Thank you.

MS. NEUMANN: Next we have Albert Barnes.

MR. BARNES: My name is Albert Barnes. I live in
beautiful downtown Maricopa, the city of Maricopa.

The Mayor has touched on some of the questions
that I had. But I really want to take a look at Maricopa
County, especially the size of it and the largest city in
the state, Phoenix, and the power that they have during
election. I'm not gonna go into what's going on downtown
right now. We all know that.

So goes Maricopa and Phoenix, so goes the state.
And I think that needs to be taken a look at and give more
of an opportunity to rural communities to have more of a
voice in the vote and not be overrun by the population
that is in that particular county and city.

Thank you very much for listening to me.

MS. NEUMANN: And our last speaker this evening
is Donald Hunt.

MR. HUNT: Good evening.

My name is Donald Hunt, Senior. And I have lived
in San Tan Valley since 2012. Earlier, I lived up in
northeastern Arizona and taught school. I'm a retired
school teacher and currently a Realtor having done
business on all the way across the northern part of Pinal
County.

And I've experienced a rapid demographic change,
shift that has changed the nature of the county in general
from snowbird retiree more to family and job seekers. We
are looking at a growth going forward in the next 10 years
that will dramatically change the area we cover.

Now it's more families and it's much more diverse
than it was. And our maps need to reflect the voting
power that communities of color and cultural power of the
community -- of cultural practices and the diversity from
east to west in Pinal County.

Both sides of the county have grown greatly in
the northern part of the county. I believe the census
will -- will really show a major shift in that population.
The maps need to reflect the purple nature of Arizona; not
competitive and not a stronghold for either party.

And much more, our county kind of represents a
third independence. So we have a real neutral position,
and that needs to continue to be reflected in how we set
the mapping.

We appreciate your important work on track to
keep a fair, equitable, and competitive maps in the future
and how we set the districting at all levels of our governmental activities.

MS. NEUMANN: That is all our bar speakers in Maricopa.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Before we move back into this room, for the sake of education and clarification, I have a question: I'd like a better definition of this Copper Corridor. Whether or not it's specific to Highway 60, are there other communities of interest involved? I don't know if Supervisor Rios is still here who can maybe come back up and maybe speak to that very briefly. But I think that would help maybe give us a context as we're sifting through the other comments.

MR. RIOS: Maybe I can finish my original presentation. No, I'm kidding.

In direct response of Madam Chairman to your question, Copper Corridor are old mining camps that have existed for generations.

The Copper Corridor starts in Superior, Arizona, goes through Miami, Arizona, in Gila County, Globe. And that's not -- that is US 60. In Superior, US 60 also forks southwest and goes to a community of Kearny, Arizona. That's where Ray Mines Division used to be. Then it became Kennecott Copper Corporation.
Now the mine, the big open pit there, is run by Grupo Mexico/Asarco, which is Arizona Refining Company. And then you proceed to Hayden-Winkelman, copper mining towns, part of the Copper Corridor. Then Dudleyville, part of the Copper Corridor. Mammoth, part of the Copper Corridor. San Manuel that had their own mine there underground that went kaput maybe 15 years ago. And then Oracle is still considered part of the Copper Corridor because that community was a result of people living there that worked at the mine -- underground mine in San Manuel.

So all of that in Pinal County and then up through Gila County, Globe-Miami is considered the Copper Corridor.

Does that help?

Any other questions, any other members?

Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Arlene Stasinos [phonetic] and Kathleen Leanne [phonetic] after that.

If you are in one of the other rooms, if I call your name, if you can start making your way over here, please.

MS. STASINOS: Good evening.

Members of the Commission of Arizona Redistricting, my name is Arlene Stasinos, a retired California public elementary teacher after 35 years of
service.

My husband and I live in Pinal County. And I am here to give you information about my community of interest.

My current home is in the Encanterra community located between Combs Road and Gantzel Road at the east end of Queen Creek and San Tan Valley.

Encanterra community underwent the process of being annexed to the town of Queen Creek November 2019. Due to the timing of our home escrow closure, we were unable to officially cast our vote. A significant owner votes resulted in the official annexation from unincorporated San Tan Valley to Queen Creek.

My husband and I moved to Arizona from California as full-time residents. We followed the policies to ensure our residency in Arizona, vehicle registrations, and even took measures to sign affidavits to release ourselves as being registered voters in Placer County, California. When we moved to Encanterra community and completed our Arizona voter registration, my husband and I discovered that this particular community was divided into two legislative districts, LD8 and LD16.

Living near a multitude of new owners who moved approximately the same time frame as us sought to be voters for the Arizona primary elections and discovered
two legislative districts which sparked confusion. The boundary was the second clubhouse that was built there.

When Encanterra by Shea Homes is completed, there is a projections of 2,400 homes within the gates of this development.

Encanterra is a combination of an age-targeted population in addition to an age-restricted population of 55 and older group. The demographics comprise of many military veterans and those who retired from the police force.

Based on my personal experience from participation of various Encanterra activities, I can attest we have a large proportion of concerned citizens who recently moved to Arizona and were incredulous how the community was divided.

We need a common voice which hopefully will resonate from our elected officials. And many new owners who travel for any shopping or whatever usually end up in either Queen Creek or the unincorporated San Tan Valley and also attend services -- medical services across the road are in Mesa, church attendance and entertainment. This holds the same for unincorporated San Tan Valley, which is shortly in equal distance for many of us.

We embrace Encanterra community with grateful hearts and want to be recognized as one community. Our
country's already experiencing divisiveness.

Therefore, we request that the redistricting commission consider Encanterra community as one district, whether it's LD16 or LD8.

Furthermore, this request aligns with a second important consideration: District 8 which encompasses north to sound boundary and that we continue to, you know, avoid the split of Pinal County and, anyways, representing the north Pinal County effectively.

So in this, we -- I thank you very much for your time and effort, and we know that this is going to be a new venture for all of us.

Thank you all very much.

MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Next up we have Kathleen, and I think I'm saying the last name wrong.

Yes. Yes. Leeman [phonetic].

And after Kathleen, we will have Gale Peters.

MS. LEEMAN: Thank you, Commissioners, for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Kathleen Leeman. I live here in Florence in the Sun City Anthem at Merrill Ranch retirement community. This community of Florence -- I've been here a little over a year. I really find it a charming town. I'm very impressed with the government and state workers that are taking care of our prisoners here.
We have this large retirement community, and we have people that work in agriculture, tourism, and we have some small business in our town.

In my community, I'm shopping for groceries, I'm using the library here, I go to Bible study here downtown Florence. But we're rural, so we have to drive a lot of places to go do our entertainment, do things like that.

I'm in Congressional District 4. And this was very surprising to me when I was doing my research. It starts in Yuma, which is over 200 miles away from Florence, to Kingman, over 250 miles from Florence, to Mesquite by the Nevada border, which is over 290 miles from Florence. It also goes from Florence to Hunter Creek, which is 130 miles away.

To me, this current configuration does not meet the definition of compact as is one of the tenants of the constitution. All of these communities are unique and diverse, but they might not necessarily represent me or my community.

My LD is District 8. It's the same issue; it's not really meeting the definition of compact. It runs from Globe all the way south to Oracle Junction, west to Casa Grande, and further west to the city of Maricopa. That's a long way away from one city for one representative.
It's my hope and expectation that the commission will follow the Arizona constitution when drawing the district lines this time. It's especially important to me and the citizens of Arizona for this commission to comply with the constitution, be respectful of communities of interest, and to not divide cities.

Thank you very much.

MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Next we have Gale Peters and then Kim Shaw [phonetic] is up.

MS. PETERS: My name is Gale Peters.

My husband and I moved here from Minnesota for obvious reasons. We love Arizona. We love living here.

And thank you for your efforts to better and more fairly redistrict our communities. We want the best for our beautiful adopted community and our valley.

Our home is Legislative District 16. We live at Encanterra which will consist of 2,400 homes that build out, expected in just a couple years. Part of our community is 55 plus, but not all of it. And many of our residents are retired, but many are working. And that area of our community seems to be growing where people are working and -- and moving in with a younger group. A significant portion of our community is retired -- excuse me, winter visitors.

Our community votes, and we're politically active
as a group. We contribute to various community efforts and initiatives such as veterans projects, backpacks and contributions to school, volunteer activities, and a massive Toys for Tots program.

Law enforcement is very important to us, and we appreciate the redirectional and proactive citizen efforts conducted by Sheriff Lamb.

And I'm gonna switch here because my printer ran out of ink right at the wrong time.

I believe that I have been included in the correct legislative district that includes Banner Ironwood Hospital, Gateway Airport, as well as San Tan Valley and Queen Creek. I make it a point to shop locally as much as I can in San Tan Valley or Gilbert. I attend church nearby in Pecos, and I go to go San Tan Flat weekly.

Pinal County is growing, and given the explosion of new developments that we're seeing, that's going to continue. Since the last redistricting effort in 2010, Pinal County's population has increased by over 30 percent.

We can understand the desire of people to live here in the great state of Arizona given our own decision to move here, but rapid expansion of housing developments concerns all of us. Impact on our water, impact on our traffic congestion and area of schools. We need
representation that understands these issues. The Arizona
constitution rules should be paramount in redistricting to
make wise decisions for the future of this beautiful
country.

Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Kim -- it might
be Snaw [phonetic], and then Tony Smith is next.

MS. SNAW: Hi, and thank you for all the work
you're doing and will be doing. I'm going to keep my talk
very short because some of my people here have already
said the same thing. So save time.

I live also in San Tan Valley in Encanterra
community, as some of the other people who have spoken.
And I would just like to, you know, reiterate that I think
it's important that Encanterra be considered as a whole.
Like a couple of other people have said in that it was
split between District 16 and District 8.

And so, you know, just in general, I think when
you hear of things like that where small communities like
mine have been split, that just really doesn't seem to
make sense. Let alone the bigger picture of -- I know our
districting has gone all the way from Tucson area up
through Globe and including us. And that's a really wide
range of interests and differences in the way that it is.
Whereas I think it would be better to go from our
community more east, and I know someone else has said that as well.

So other than that, I think everybody's kind of said the same thing as I have here. So to save time, thank you again for all you're doing.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Tony Smith, and then after Tony, we have Candace Goldapper [phonetic].

MR. SMITH: Thank you for being here, Commissioners. Madam Commissioner-- or Madam Chairman and Commissioners, thank you very much.

I am also the president of Pinal partnership. I live in the city of Maricopa.

What I want to share with you today is the representation that Pinal County has received in the last redistricting. We have currently three congressional districts and six legislative districts. Now, those -- you might say, Well, that's good representation, but many of those districts not only are part of Pinal, but they may be part of other counties. For example, one of the legislative districts includes seven counties and another one, three and four.

So basically some of the emphasis and the representation that is happening through the last redistricting process somewhat dilutes the voice of Pinal County.
One of the things that I took of interest at your June 22nd meeting is these charts that were the demographic presentation that was shared at your June 22nd meeting. On the chart, it's had the projected change in 2020 to 2030 listing a number of cities, 15 cities, 6 of which were Pinal County communities. Leading the top of the chart was Coolidge at a projected change in 2020 to 2030 of over 150 percent followed by Eloy and then Florence at 51 percent, the city of Maricopa at 35 percent, Queen Creek 37, Casa Grande down to 30. But Pinal County has been a growth county, and our communities are growing at a very fast pace.

The other chart that I took of interest is when you compared the various counties. Pinal County is the county at the top regarding the population projection for 2020 through 2030.

So the -- what I'm trying to say is that the Pinal County is going to be gaining quite a bit of population. We're bringing manufacturing, electric car manufacture, et cetera. The jobs and the population growth is going to be in Pinal County.

Please do not separate our communities of interest like has been done in the past. We would like to have a more reduced number of legislators and congressional district that really represents the heart of
Pinal County.

Now, when it comes to community of interest, the suggestion that was made by Mayor Price, I thought, was a very good one. When you look at urbanized communities in western Pinal County, a legislative district that would combine Casa Grande and the city of Maricopa would be well represented because they're similar interests.

Thank you very much.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Candace Goldapper followed by Robert Goldapper.

MS. GOLDAPPER: Hi, everybody.

My name is Candace Goldapper, and I live in the Del Webb community at Merrill Ranch. A lot was said about that that I would only be repeating.

But I do want to emphasize that we are rural, and we do have -- it's growing, constantly growing. I believe we're going to have more than Encanterra when they're finished. And it's -- it's unbelievable. We have a section for 55-plus, and we have for families. And there's a school. They even have their own school in the family section. And to get around, we need a car. We don't have any other transportation.

But more importantly talking about Florence -- and that's really what I want to basically talk about. Florence is a community with unique areas. One is our
area, and then if you look at this historic area for
downtown Florence, which is also the seat of Pinal
County -- basically what I want to talk about is that
we're separated into two districts -- congressional
districts.

If you live north of Florence-Kelvin Highway, you
are in Congressional District 4; but if you live on the
south side, you are in Congressional District 1. How can
dividing a town in half be justified in any way you look
at it? It doesn't make any sense. And it's same county,
same interest, yet you're dividing it. It also makes it
very confusing.

Our Legislative District 8 doesn't adhere to
being geographically compact either. Centered around
Florence, it extends from Globe to Pima and as far west as
Maricopa. Those people living in Florence have nothing in
common with those living in some of the other areas.

I feel that the voters would be better served
with an east to west boundary from Maricopa perhaps to San
Tan or Queen Creek rather than a north to south. And I
hope that you can rectify that problem.

And I thank you for your time.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Robert Goldapper,
and then after that, we have Matt Nelson.

MR. GOLDAPPER: Good evening.
My name is Robert Goldapper. I reside at Anthem at Merrill Ranch which is a 55-plus community located in Florence.

I'm here to discuss the unfair and illogical division of my town.

The community of Florence is growing due to expanded housing developments. It's also the county seat for Pinal County. Most of the county offices are located right here in Florence. However, despite this, Florence's representation is carved into two different congressional districts. Living on the north side of Florence-Kelvin Highway places you in District 4, as my wife said. But if you happen to reside on the south side, you are now in District 1.

This is most definitely in disregard of the principles of boundaries being geographically compact and contiguous. What is worse, it's far from respectful of communities of interest. What do the people living in Florence have in common with the Navajo Nation living in Yavapai County?

The way LD8 is drawn is another problem that needs to be addressed. It's unwieldy and comprised of contrasting communities of interest. The people in Florence tend to shop in San Tan and Queen Creek. We don't have much in common with Globe or Pima, yet we have
them lumped together with those areas, highly illogical at best.

I ask that the district lines be redrawn logically. Please keep Florence intact so that our representative will be able to focus on the needs and interests of our growing population.

Thank you for your time.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Matt Nelson, and Nancy Hawkins will be up after that.

And I just want to remind everybody to try and speak as close into the mic as possible because we're broadcasting to the other satellite sites and the web, and that way they can hear you.

MR. NELSON: Thank you.

My name is Matthew Nelson, N-e-l-s-o-n. I live in Oracle, Arizona, Legislative District 8 and 1.

I think it's wonderful that you're doing this.

Thank you very much.

For the last census, our community, Robson 55-plus property called SaddleBrooke Ranch, had less than 50 homes. We now have 1,200 homes and represent nearly 2,000 residents. We will be growing to 8,000 residents by the next census. SaddleBrooke Ranch is 2 miles north of Highways 79 and 77. We are 6 miles from SaddleBrooke.
district as other 55-and-over communities. SaddleBrooke Ranch is one, SaddleBrooke is another, Oro Valley, and Sun City Oro Valley. All the shopping that people do at SaddleBrooke Ranch and our commerce and our hospitals and our medical appointments and dental professionals and banks are both in Oro Valley and Catalina, and those are the areas that we support financially.

We are much more aligned with SaddleBrooke and communities nearby, but not in LD8. Our current district is Florence. Florence is 45 miles away. We just drove down there -- down here on a rural road and very few from SaddleBrooke Ranch even come here. And we go to -- for the services, we go to Oro Valley and Marana.

We are currently represented by the same legislators as those in Florence, San Tan Valley, San Manuel, Winkelman, and other rural communities that do not share the same interests in these that we do, especially as a 55-plus community.

Our representatives should reflect our political, social, and economic needs. I'm asking that SaddleBrooke Ranch be included in the same legislative district as SaddleBrooke.

Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

Next we have Nancy Hawkins, and then after that
we have Steve Credler [phonetic].

MS. HAWKINS: Thank you very much, Commissioners, for taking the time to hold these meetings. I know it's time consuming for you, but it's very, very nice for you to hear our concerns.

My name is Nancy Hawkins. I have lived in Casa Grande for the last 29 years, and I live literally next door to Eloy. I am an owner and broker of a real estate company, and that office is less than 6 miles away in Arizona City. I reside in LD8, but I live most of my time in LD11 in Arizona City.

In real estate, we work the central Pinal area including Maricopa, and we are all closely tied together as far as business and in different interests, but we are -- and we are in the same LDs. Maricopa is in LD11, which is connected to LD -- to Casa Grande. And LD, as already been explained, has been split into two different LDs. So we are Cas- -- LD8 and LD11.

Also, having been a member of a school board, the Pinal County School District is all tightly close -- tied together. I feel that it is important for these towns to retain their status in Pinal County and to stay connected with Casa Grande as we are already connected in so many different ways. It also doesn't make sense, as was previously stated, that Casa Grande be split into two
different LDs as we are one city, one community.

I ask you to please follow the constitution and connect the communities of interest. The community should be compact and contiguous and to accurately represent the communities of interest, not to be more than 100 miles apart as they are currently. The same guidelines should be used also when determining our congressional districts, because how Casa Grande can be compared in the same CD as Williams and Flagstaff is -- I don't know how it could be. There's nothing in common. We obviously do not have the same issues or interests as those areas.

Once again, I want to thank you very much for holding these meetings and taking your time to hear us.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Steve Credler and then Steve Hatson [phonetic] after that.

Mr. Credler is first. Yes. Yes.

MR. CREDLER: Good evening, Commission.

My name is Steve Credler. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you tonight.


One of the things that I'd like to bring to your attention -- some of the items have already been brought
up such as the -- the defining lines in LD16. I live in LD16 and I live in Congressional District 4. I'm not gonna touch on Congressional District 4. That's kind of -- that's been touched on rather eloquently for the evening, I think.

So I want to kind of focus more on LD16. LD16 is divided between Maricopa and Pinal County, and that has caused a lot of confusion over the years. I've assisted on several political campaigns, and when I'm out canvassing and talking to people, you can tell there is a distinct difference in the needs and interests of the two respective counties.

One of the other interesting points that has just occurred within the last several years is that the town of Queen Creek is now also encompassing both Maricopa and Pinal County. So you have that being a town now. It's annexed into Pinal County. That just presents another issue to look at, but it's something that will, of course, affect the voters in the community.

So, again, because of the fact that so many of the items that I was gonna bring up tonight have already been touched on, I will just kind of end with this: Obviously, Arizona constitution article 4, part 2, section 14 is the section that provides the guidelines as far as the redistricting. Understandably, not everything
of those -- those six -- those six points can be followed to the letter.

But to the -- the language "to the extent practicable," that infers that the direction is to be followed as closely as possible, and from my perspective during the last redistricting, not all of those items were focused on. So I would appreciate you correcting some of those mistakes in the past and using all those points as your guidelines.

Thank you very much for listening.

MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Now Steve Hechler [phonetic], and then after that is Jeff Nolan.

MR. HECHLER: Hi. I'm Steve Hechler.

I've lived in Arizona over 50 years, and a year and a half ago, I moved to Mesa -- from Mesa to Gold Canyon. That's my primary community of interest. I do most my shopping in Apache Junction, which is my next community of interest. I don't have kids in school, but a part of the Apache Junction school district -- and that's a big tax impact on us too.

Since Gold Canyon is unincorporated, Pinal County government plays a large role in our community, and the sheriff's department remains the source of law enforcement. I think the census shows that over half the county's population is in unincorporated areas. Thus,
they too may be turned into a county government.

   It's my understanding that the revised population
of Pinal County will be slightly more than the population
required for two legislative districts. While it may be
difficult to get two districts totally within a county, it
should not be difficult to get at least one district
totally within the county.

   LD16 currently broken into Pinal County which
represents the community of interest defined above that
accounts for a little over a third of the district.
Maricopa portion accounts for a little under two-thirds,
primarily Mesa, includes parts of the state's third
largest city and its largest school district. Their
issues are not our issues.

   My -- I live -- my subdivision, Peralta Road,
goes right through my subdivision. Half my subdivision is
in LD16. A thousand feet away is LD8. That doesn't make
any sense. My congressional district, you've heard this
before, headquartered in Prescott, 141 miles away, goes
Yuma, over 200 miles away, up to Arizona Strip, over
400 miles away, leapfrogging Maricopa County as if there's
a contest to see how convoluted one could make it.

   A creative solution may be an abomination
definitely. Let's not make this mistake again.

   Thank you.
MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Jeff Nolan and then John Denico [phonetic].

MR. NOLAN: Hey, everybody. I'm Jeff -- I'm Jeff Nolan. Doesn't really matter where I live, doesn't matter what district I'm in.

You know, Dr. King told us to concentrate on content of character. And when I saw the list of who's what color on the map and when I hear all these arguments about how we gerrymand [sic], to me, I guess -- in the constitution, it talks about communities of interest. That's like a license to gerrymand.

In my family, we've got white, black, we've got Asian, we've got Native American, and we've got Latino. And so, for me -- and you could tell I'm nervous. I apologize if I sound nervous -- this whole concept of let's gerrymand to get my subdivision in this one and my subdivision in that one -- the Arizona constitution says "equal."

So I say we divide this thing up equally, and if you land in this one or you land in that one, so what? In my subdivision where I have 249 homes, there's one of everybody in there. We wave to each other. We grab each other when the -- the others' dog runs out. I mean, nobody cares. So, to me, this concept of requesting gerrymandering is irritating.
Anyway, that's all I had.

Thank you so much.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have John Denico and then Mary Buckman [phonetic].

MR. DANTICO: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is John Dantico [phonetic]. I live in unincorporated Pinal County in the San Tan Valley.

And my emphasis and my comments tonight are directly related to competitiveness. This district is important, but competitiveness is important. And given the global threats that the U.S. faces -- economically, military, technologically, from near-peer nuclear adversaries, namely China -- the U.S. must transcend petty political rivalries to get the best qualified persons to run from both parties who will be able to win on the basis of having the best ideas and strategies regardless of political affiliations.

Therefore, I urge you to create very competitive districts that incentivize candidates from parties to represent the interest of all the people and not just a small partisan segment of the population. And I remind the commission of Abraham Lincoln's quote of Jesus Christ, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

We need the best candidates, and a competitive environment will ensure that.
Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Mary Buckman and then Andrea Verella [phonetic].

MS. BUCKMAN: Hello. I'm Mary Buckman. I live in Pinal County, and I'm in Coolidge about 20 miles away. And I appreciate this opportunity to talk to the commission about the thoughts on redistricting. I live in LD8 and CD4, and that has been covered quite sufficiently.

So my community of Coolidge is rural and made up of agriculture. Also, many people work in the correctional facilities here in this county. And more recently, there's huge increase in manufacturing and housing developments. There's developments just popping up everywhere.

So we are changing, and we need to have this representation that attends to our growth but also will still attend to our core values and concerns.

And I've really come to appreciate the heart of Pinal County which champions the same spirit of the original creators and the original settlers here, the creators of Casa Grande. And they were connected to the land, they were caring for the family, and committed to the community.

So in this redistricting, I ask you to reflect us and our values by forming more compact districts.
Thank you very much.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next up, we have Andrea Verella and then James Ireland.

MS. VERELLA: Hello. And good evening, Commission, and thank you all for being here. I really appreciate all of your efforts and all the work you're doing for our state.

My name is Andrea Verella, and I live in Casa Grande, Arizona, which is currently split between Legislative Districts 8 and 11 and is in Congressional District 1. You might know us as a small rural town lying in between the I-8 and the I-10.

I am here today to advocate for the city of Casa Grande to be contained into one district instead of being split into two and essentially unsplit the community.

My city shares many common characteristics. First, the city is geographically situated in a rural area. This does not group well with some of the more developed areas we are currently districted with but does group well with other towns with rural interests. Casa Grande is a small town with a small-town feel. In Casa Grande, you can find locally owned businesses that are characteristic of the entrepreneurial spirit of our city.

But being a rural community, manufacturing and agriculture are major industries for the city, and these
industries are bringing growth to the whole community. Furthermore, people from across the city are employed in these industries.

    Another common thread that unites my community is that the community services are accessed by the entire community, not just certain groups in certain areas. Furthermore, these services are located across the city and span both districts. These services include but are not limited to the parks and rec department, the police department, the fire department, and others.

    There is also only one elementary school district for the entire city. I do not feel that schools in my community should be split between LD districts when one board represents them. Their state representation should also be reflective of the school district as a whole.

    Demographically, the highest concentration of the population is white with almost half the population being Latin mix. This and other minority communities are spread out through the city. They are not concentrated within the boundaries of one specific District, 8 or 11. So why should their interest be split? These minority groups share language, culture, traditions, and more and also should be represented as one.

    By cracking the Casa Grande community as it is now, it has essentially diminished the power of certain
communities within the city to advocate for themselves and their shared interests, which makes representation less responsive to the actual community and its interests.

Thank you so much again for being here, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Anthony Ireland and Jesse Bryant [phonetic].

MR. IRELAND: Good evening, Commissioners.

My name is Tony Ireland, and I live in Apache Junction.

And I agree with quite a few of the comments that have made earlier. One of the main ones being the -- the idea of combining SaddleBrooke Ranch with San Tan; it's a good combination.

And I -- I'm not gonna take 3 minutes. I don't need that much time. But I -- I would just say that the -- the parameters of the redistricting prospect -- the process are enumerated in the state constitution of the state of Arizona, and I would just urge you guys to stick closely to that. When you stray, you have something akin to district -- Congressional District Number 1, which, in my mind, is a monstrosity. It runs from Four Corners all the way down to almost Tucson. We have more people in the state now. I think we can do a lot better in drawing our districts. So keep that in mind.
So thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Jesse Bryant, and then after that, we have Nick Meyers.

MR. BRYANT: Hello.

Thank you for being here this evening. My name is Jesse Bryant. I am from Globe, Arizona. And I am actually very glad to be joining the chorus of voices of speaking about our communities of interest.

I want to share with you that after the 2007 census, the people of our region asked for a rural district, and they were given one we call the five eastern counties. And that is -- that is Graham, Greenlee, Gila, Navajo, and Apache south of the reservation.

In the 2010 census, we hoped to retain that rural status by the addition of the Copper Corridor, Hayden-Winkelman Kearny, as well as the Verde Valley which is the Camp Verde area. And as you can see, you know the results that we ended up with. Poor Gila County is in -- 60,000 people. The county is three different legislative districts and two different congressional districts.

And we'd like very strongly for you to consider, again, restoring our rural voice through a legislature of five eastern counties plus the Copper Corridor, as you've had described here, and, if necessary, the Verde Valley as well.
And so that -- once again, our rural issues -- we're farmers, miners, ranchers, and so forth. We have recreation and tourism issues. We have water issues. We have a very, very distinct rural culture. Race is not really an issue. And I also would caution you that what -- how -- how people would vote in a presidential election is not necessarily reflective of how they're going to vote in the legislative or lower elections. The rural people, we typically put rural issues ahead of everything else in our local races. Please bear that in mind.

During the last -- after the last census, we actually had a quite a popular uprising and we had fifteen of our cities and towns adopt unanimously resolutions to support keeping our rural district together. That's everything from Camp Verde to Holbrook to Safford and Duncan in Greenlee County, down the corridor, Superior, Hayden-Winkelman as well. It was -- it was united voices across race and gender lines and everything else. We would love for our neighbors, the Apaches, to be once again restored with us, not just the San Carlos but also the White Mountain Apaches.

Please bear this in mind that you have the opportunity to restore our rural voice, the five eastern counties plus our corridors.
MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Nick Meyers, and then after that, we have Mark Crows.

MR. MEYERS: Good evening, Commission.

And I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to Chairman -- or Chairwoman Neuberg for making all this happen. I know that was kind of a battle. So thank you for taking our input as constituents here.

I'm gonna echo a lot of what was said through the rest of the commentary tonight. So I won't repeat that. I also want to specifically point out what Neil Carter is going to say shortly after me because he lives in a similar situation that I do. I'm gonna say a little less about what I want and more about what probably shouldn't happen in the -- as you're keeping this stuff in mind.

I live in San Tan Valley. I live in -- well, it's interesting that Mr. -- I believe it's Herrera over here -- mentioned the -- the proposition text when he was introducing this. And he said that one of the statements on the proposition that got the IRC implemented in our constitution was it had the point of ending gerrymandering.

Well, I live in a section of San Tan Valley that -- for about 9 years now -- so right after the last redistricting -- that I have been affectionately calling the gerrymandering portion of LD12. And why do I say
that? Well, to get to my neighborhood, we have a couple of ingresses and egresses. The one on the far west side is what defines LD12. It is possible for me to stay in LD12 when I'm going into my neighborhood, but it is impossible for me to stay in LD12 while I'm exiting my neighborhood because three sides of me are LD8. It took the mountain range, San Tan Mountains, they -- they divided that or used that as the dividing line to get to my neighborhood. So they literally created a corridor of LD12 that goes around the mountain range instead of using the range as the dividing line.

So I think that's kind of the definition of not being a community of interest when I can't even leave my neighborhood without going into the other LD. It's also, you know, including unincorporated parts of LD8 or San Tan Valley into an incorporated part of Maricopa County. The southern edge of LD12 is largely a straight line with a little bit of a hernia that comes out to include my neighborhood. So it's almost like that was literally set up as a gerrymandering portion.

Now, I don't -- I don't envy your jobs at all. I realize you have to keep the data, you know, in line with all six of those rules or eight of those rules making them compact, making them geographically contiguous, all of that good stuff.
So I know it's a difficult decision. But I think it's pretty obvious when you literally can't leave your neighborhood without going into another LD.

The other thing is whenever I do my shopping or whenever I do my eating out, any of those things, I go into LD8. I don't head up to LD12, which is a great big square; I go into San Tan Valley.

All right. It's time. I think I've said my point.

Thank you guys very much. And I'll let Neil finish that for me.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Mark Crows and then Neil Carter.

MR. CROWS: Good evening.

Mark Crows. I'm from SaddleBrooke Ranch, which you've heard about. And our mailing address is Oracle and our school district is the Oracle School District. So we're tied to Oracle also. We're also -- by nature of the community, we're tied to SaddleBrooke, which is in Pima Valley -- or, no, it's at the southern end of Pinal valley -- Pinal County.

But as noted before, the predominance of all of the things that we use are in Catalina and in Oro Valley. So that's really our -- our focus. That's our world there. We have nothing in common with San Tan Valley or
Maricopa way over at the other end. We're about the same
distance from both by driving, not by the crow flying.

So if that can be taken into consideration with
respect to the legislative districts when you're looking
at it. The other thing is our section -- or Pinal --
Pima -- no, Pinal County is the toe of the boot of
Congressional District 1. We just stick out. It has
nothing in common with all the rest of the district. So
that should be taken a look at. You know, focus it more
down towards the areas where we have interest and not
towards the areas that are very, extremely rural and not
associated with the stuff that we do.

Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Neil Carter, and
then after that, we have John Thompson.

MR. CARTER: Hi. My name is Neil Carter. And I
really want to sincerely thank the commissioners because I
know it's a thankless job and it involves a lot of travel,
and thank you.

Nick Meyers alluded to a problem that I have. I
live in San Tan Valley. It's the fastest growing
community in the country: 120,000 residents. And we're --
we have no voice because we've been split between three
districts. There is one precinct in LD12, the only Pinal
County precinct, and it runs along Gary Road. I own four
acres in there, and about a mile from there, I live in my suburban house in LD8. And I'm just going to come out and say it: LD8 is crazy. I think that there was litigation even after the last census on LD8. As you've already heard from others that it split Casa Grande in two, it split Gold Canyon along Peralta Road, it split SaddleBrooke Ranch from SaddleBrooke, it has split Encanterra literally in the middle of the street. I think we should keep San Tan Valley together.

I would implore the commissioners, please keep San Tan Valley together. It is divided by county commissioners. It is not incorporated and has no voice of any kind at this moment because it's split between 16, north of Schnepf and part of Encanterra, LD8, which is the rest of it, and part of it in LD12 as Nick Meyers alluded to.

So that would be my request for the commissioners.

I really appreciate your time.

Thank you very much.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Gilbert -- I'm sorry -- John Thompson and then Gilbert Lopez.

MAYOR THOMPSON: Hi. My name is John Thompson. I live in Coolidge, Arizona. I happen to be the mayor in Coolidge.
I wanted to -- it's pretty interesting. I don't envy you guys, but thank you for being here. I appreciate you coming down on a Friday night and listening to everybody's concerns. Mine will be a little different.

Coolidge was founded in 1925 and incorporated in 1945. So we've been around for quite a while. We currently have, according to the U.S. census estimate, which will change, I hope, 13,500 residents. Of those residents, we have a pretty decent makeup. I think 72 percent are considered white, but that contains -- the Hispanics are in with that. So it's about an even split there.

So I guess my point is we're in LD8 and CD1, and we're happy where we're at. And so we don't -- we don't want to change. I hear everybody else that's been up here tonight wants to change, and we're just -- we're fine where we're at. We'd like to stay there. And there's a lot of reasons why.

When you talk about LD8, we have a lot of miners that work in the Copper Corridor area, especially in Superior or Miami that live in Coolidge. We're predominately a farming community still even though we're getting Nikola and a lot of hydrogen and electric vehicle companies are looking at us. Nikola is already there and will start producing trucks in August. We have a lot of
things going on down there, and we are satisfied with 
where we're at. So we're asking you to leave us there.

The one thing I would ask you is, you know, the 
mayor of Maricopa who's a good friend of mine, Christian 
Price, tonight mentioned that -- you know, that they group 
a bunch of us together. And I know Neil that just spoke 
on behalf of San Tan. I don't disagree with what he said.

What I would say is we're a midrange, midsized 
town for Pinal County. Like I say, 13,500 is our 
population. We'll do 1,000 single-family home permits 
this year at 3.75 average per household. So that's still 
not gonna catch us up to the Casa Grandes and the 
Maricopas and the San Tan Valleys.

So when you take a town like ours or Eloy or 
Florence for that matter and you throw us in with a San 
Tan or a Casa Grande or a Maricopa, we're done. There'll 
never be another -- there will never be a county 
supervisor from our community, our votes virtually won't 
count. If you split us -- we're very fortunate. We're in 
one district in our situation. I think Eloy's in a couple 
of them. I know Casa Grande's in a couple of them. You 
know, Florence is in different ones. If you split already 
a small contingency of votes, you're gonna just, you know, 
take -- dilute their power -- their voting power as a 
community even further.
And so I'm asking that you leave us whole. Don't split us. But if you throw us in with a big community -- I mean, there's ways you can -- we like LD8 in with the mountains. If you have to, go out and put Arizona City in with us.

We're gonna grow; Eloy's gonna grow; Florence is gonna go. When you look at the populations, keep in mind that Eloy and Florence are going to count all of their citizens which includes the guys who don't go anywhere and don't vote. So -- but ours, for the most part, can move around. We don't have a -- our jail is not certified, so we don't have anybody on lockdown.

So, anyway, I'll leave it at that.

Thank you very much for your time.

Be safe going home.

MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Gilbert Lopez, and after that, we have Carol Bailey.

MR. LOPEZ: Hello, Commissioners, and welcome. Thank you for being here and listening to all of us.

My name is Gilbert Lopez. I'm here to speak about Coolidge, Arizona, also, its community of interest.

I graduated from Coolidge High School in 1979 as a Coolidge Bear -- proud, you know. And I was also in the Future Farmers of America. So we're a farming community.

And, also, I was on the city council for 18 years and the
vice mayor of those for 8 years. So I got on the council
to help get jobs for young people, and now I'm able to do
that as the city's economic development director. So
we're working to do that right now.

I'm -- just boundary-wise, Coolidge is bound to
the north by the Gila River Indian community, and to --
Florence to the east, you know, around our airport, Eloy
to the south and has a road, and then Casa Grande to the
west past Central Arizona Signal Peak Campus. Coolidge is
in LD88, Congressional District 1.

And our message, just as the Mayor said, is that
we want to stay as is in the same LD8, where we're at, and
the congressional district. It works for us the way it's
going.

Our roots are in agriculture. It's still viable
and -- but we're much more than that. We're home to the
Casa Grande National Monument, and it's in Coolidge, not
in Casa Grande. So that's -- people get confused.

But we're also evolving into a smart city with a
new energy-sufficient Nikola plant. You know, they make
hydrogen, electric-powered semis, and they're building
over a million-square-feet facility, and they'll be
rolling out trucks by the end of the summer. They'll
be -- the first ones will be all electric, and later we'll
have the hydrogen trucks that are coming.
We also have over 2,000 acres of solar that's already in place, and we have room for more. It's in IPAZ, which is bound by Highway 87 and also the future north/south freeway that's coming through from the east valley down to the Eloy area.

Coolidge also is home to the Central Arizona Regional Transit which is the CART system that we provide, and it's federally funded and locally funded. The city puts a lot of money into it. It serves central Casa Grande, Eloy, and Florence.

And the mayor already talked about the population growth. It's -- it's -- we're growing at a tremendous rate. We will -- we believe we will hit 1,000 permits this year, and it'll take us up quite a bit to about 33,800 people in the next census or closer to probably 38-.

And just a little bit -- I grew up on Kennedy, which is an older part of town. Now we live in Heartland, just to give you about -- little bit about the community. It's a mix of Coolidge people that moved into the area for the newer houses and also people looking for work. They come and say, "We want to work at Nikola. So that's why we moved here." And then we also have some retirees. And it's great.

We have a lot of community chat comments. They
love Coolidge the way it is and they like the fact that
we're growing, but they don't want to be big like the city
of Chandler or places like that. So they like the
small-town feel.

So, again, we'd like to say -- we'd like to stay
how it is. We don't want to get split up, absolutely not.

And thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Thank you.

MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is actually Judy
Smith. Carol Bailey had to leave. And then after Judy is
Peggy Baycos [phonetic], and that will be our final
speaker. So there's Judy Smith and Peggy Baycos.

Is Judy Smith or Peggy Baycos still present?

Okay. And we will give this back to the
chairman.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I want to thank, again, our
staff, the public, my commissioners. I thought this was a
beautiful display of democracy.

Thank you for everybody joining us.

With this, we will adjourn our meeting. And we
look forward to seeing you at our many upcoming public
meetings.

Goodnight.

(The proceedings concluded at 7:07 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARIZONA )
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COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Penny Segundo, Certified Reporter No. 50959; that the foregoing 77 pages are a full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

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