

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Via WebEx

Florence, Arizona

Maricopa, Arizona

Superior, Arizona

July 23, 2021

5:12 p.m.

***Miller Certified Reporting, LLC***

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(Original)

Penny Segundo, RPR (via WebEx)

Certified Reporter (AZ 50959)

1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE  
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at  
3 5:12 p.m. on July 23, 2021, at Pinal County Courthouse,  
4 135 North Pinal Street, Florence, Arizona 85132, with  
5 satellite locations at City of Maricopa Public Library,  
6 18160 North Maya Angelou Drive, Maricopa, Arizona 85138;  
7 Superior Town Hall, 199 North Lobb Avenue, Superior,  
8 Arizona 85173, and online via WebEx:

9  
10 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

11 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson  
12 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman  
13 Ms. Shereen Lerner  
14 Mr. Douglas York

15 STAFF PRESENT:

16 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director  
17 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant  
18 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer  
19 Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr  
20 Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer  
21 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group  
22 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group  
23 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics  
24 Corp.  
25 Mr. Douglas Johnson, National Demographics Corp.

PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

21 Mr. Christian Price, Maricopa  
22 Mr. Albert Barnes, Maricopa  
23 Mr. Donald Hunt, Maricopa  
24 Mr. David Coward, Superior  
25 Mr. James Shank, Superior  
Mr. Roberto Reveles, Superior  
Mr. Pete Rios, Florence

(Continue.)

1 Mr. Todd House, Florence  
2 Mr. Daniel Dully, Florence  
3 Ms. Arlene Stasinos, Florence  
4 Ms. Kathleen Leeman, Florence  
5 Ms. Gale Peters, Florence  
6 Ms. Kim Snaw, Florence  
7 Mr. Tony Smith, Florence  
8 Ms. Candace Goldapper, Florence  
9 Mr. Robert Goldapper, Florence  
10 Mr. Matthew Nelson, Florence  
11 Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Florence  
12 Mr. Steve Credler, Florence  
13 Mr. Steve Hechler, Florence  
14 Mr. Jeff Nolan, Florence  
15 Mr. John Dantico, Florence  
16 Ms. Mary Buckman, Florence  
17 Ms. Andrea Verella, Florence  
18 Mr. Anthony Ireland, Florence  
19 Mr. Jesse Bryant, Florence  
20 Mr. Nick Meyers, Florence  
21 Mr. Mark Crows, Florence  
22 Mr. Neil Carter, Florence  
23 Mr. John Thompson, Florence  
24 Mr. Gilbert Lopez, Florence

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\* American Sign Language and Spanish Interpreters are present.

## P R O C E E D I N G

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2  
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Good evening, everyone. Good  
4 evening, everyone. We're going to go ahead and get the  
5 meeting started.

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

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

11 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

12 MR. HOUSE: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Welcome. Is this on?  
14 Okay.

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

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

23 I'd like to welcome you to the listening tour.  
24 Please note that if you would like to make a public  
25 comment, you may do so by signing in with staff and

1 filling out the public comment card. If you haven't  
2 already done so, please fill out the community of interest  
3 survey. Very important; it's data. There is a QR Code on  
4 signs around the room that will direct you to the link.  
5 Please see staff if you have any questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 First, I am Chairwoman Neuberg; I'm the

1 independent. And I'm truly honored to be part of this  
2 process.

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

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

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

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

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

25 With that, we will move to agenda item number 2,

1           which is presentation on redistricting process, which I'm  
2           going to turn it over to our mapping team and then  
3           subsequently our legal team.

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

8                   So today we have our presentation for you.

9                   Hold on one second for us. Hold on one second  
10          for us.

11                   MR. HERRERA: We're going to do a little improv  
12          here. So let me go around.

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

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

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

24                   So let's just start with the first slide to talk  
25          about basically the need for redistricting.

1           So you guys all know that we're here to redraw --  
2           the commission is here to redraw the maps for the  
3           congressional districts as well as the state legislative  
4           districts.

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

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

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

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

21          But the U.S. Constitutional provision is in  
22          article 1, section 2, which, again, dictates that the  
23          reapportionment has to go -- or has to occur every  
24          10 years.

25          Also there's a 14th amendment, section 2



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

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

13 So, as I referenced before, the history of the  
14 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is as  
15 follows: From 1912 -- this is the state's founding -- to  
16 2000, the Arizona legislature controlled redistricting.  
17 Again, that is similar to what many states' procedure is  
18 for actually doing the redistricting. But Prop 106,  
19 again, which is approved by Arizona voters, amended the  
20 Arizona constitution to create this independent  
21 commission.

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

25 I don't -- okay. So I'll just have to annunciate

1 a little louder. Okay. Okay. Okay. I mean, I'm open to  
2 ideas, so if I need to stand in the middle and shout, I  
3 will do that.

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

7 Yeah, yeah. A Republican and Democrat walk into  
8 a bar. Yeah, sorry. Yeah. Yeah.

9 Okay. I think we're back. We're good? Yeah?  
10 Okay. All right.

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

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

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

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

1 when voters voted to create the commission.

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

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

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

18 So we have followed thus far the procedures under  
19 the state constitution. And when we talk about the makeup  
20 of the commission -- we already had a little bit of this  
21 information with the commissioner's introductions. But,  
22 again, under the Arizona Constitution, there are five  
23 members of the IRC. There are no more than two of the  
24 same political party. In this case, we have two  
25 Democrats, two Republicans. No more than two

1 commissioners of the four original members may reside in  
2 the same county. So you may have noticed as the  
3 commissioners were appointed, they all come from different  
4 geographic areas of the state as is required by the  
5 constitution.

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

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

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

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

25 The second is that congressional districts shall

1 have the equal population to the extent practicable, and  
2 state legislative districts shall have equal population to  
3 the extent practicable. So, again, it's an equal  
4 population requirement.

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

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

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

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

22 So those are the six constitution of criteria for  
23 redistricting that we have to consider and certainly me  
24 and my distinguished co-counsel have to consider from the  
25 legal perspective.

1           This next slide is about the projected timeline  
2 of the commission. We are in this initial stage between  
3 July and August. It's an initial listening tour. We're  
4 very happy to have this initial -- initial listening  
5 event. We will be -- of course, be continuing this over  
6 the next few weeks in different locations around the  
7 state.

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

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

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

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

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

23           Of course, I should have started with the  
24 disclaimer, these are all aspirational timelines. You  
25 never know what happens, but these are the different steps

1           that the commission has to undertake.

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

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

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

25                     And I think this is where I -- thank God, I turn

1           it over to the mapping consultant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24                    So the socioeconomic report that I was talking  
25           about -- there's an example there on the screen -- it is a



1 map that you guys can go and look at demographic data.  
2 And it's broken down into over 10 different categories  
3 that you can see there on the screen. CVAP is citizen  
4 voting age population. And then we have a couple other  
5 things that are rental and renter housing, other languages  
6 at home, multifamily housing, education of a bachelor's  
7 degree or higher, income over 75,000, percent that speak  
8 Spanish at home, and percent that speak -- or, sorry,  
9 percent of families that have children at home.

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

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

21 MS. Sakansky: This might help.

22 Good evening. Can you hear me? Test.

23 Okay. Okay. So the question is, on this  
24 listening tour, how can we define our communities of  
25 interest? That is what the commissioners are primarily

1 interested in throughout this tour in Arizona. A  
2 community of interest can be defined by a geographic area,  
3 even a neighborhood, that shares similar economic or  
4 social characteristics. And hopefully you will all be  
5 telling us what your communities of interest are.

6 Bear with me one moment please.

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

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

24 This evening, we would like very much for you to  
25 share your thoughts with the commissioners what -- and

1 things to consider would be what do you want the  
2 commission to think about when drafting the maps? What  
3 defines your specific community or communities of  
4 interest? What unites your community? What brings it  
5 together? And, of course, what are the geographic  
6 boundaries of your community? We look forward to you  
7 sharing your thoughts with the commissioners.

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

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

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

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

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

25 If someone has expressed the same sentiment as

1           you, you may not need to speak in order to have your  
2           comment recorded. As long as you have filled out your  
3           survey, your input will be received and considered by the  
4           commission. Everyone is welcome to speak should you  
5           choose to do so. Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by  
6           the citizens present.

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

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

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

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

16                      Thank you.

17                      CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you, Lori.

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

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

22                      Let it begin.

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

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

1           Good afternoon.

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

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

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

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

25          What you're gonna find, though, is many people in

1 my neck of the woods do believe in community of interest  
2 and trying to retain that. What they're most concerned  
3 with is that we retain LD8 as a competitive district.  
4 It's a competitive district now. Now beginning to lean a  
5 little bit more to the other side to the guys that wear  
6 the black hats. And I kid with my -- my colleagues.

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

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

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

25 And let me wrap it up real quick.

1           The other one that I would say is SaddleBrooke.  
2           Remember the word "SaddleBrooke Ranch." They are on the  
3           border of Pinal County, and there's another area called  
4           SaddleBrooke. They are sister communities. They're owned  
5           by the same developer, Robson Communities. And at the end  
6           of the day, I think that Robson Ranch should be in DL11,  
7           not LD8. And that would help retain LD8 as a competitive  
8           district.

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

10          Thank you very much for listening.

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

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

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

20          I myself, I live in the Apache Junction area at  
21          the base of Superstition Mountain, the second most  
22          photographed mountain range in the United States, one of  
23          the most pristine areas in Pinal County, in my opinion.  
24          Of course, we have other past supervisors that think  
25          theirs is great too, but I represent mine.

1           And what I'd like to say is the district has a  
2           very wide variety. We have high income, low income. We  
3           have retired and we have working class citizen in the  
4           area.

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

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

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



1 And there's -- Queen Valley is also just to the east, if  
2 we could all include into.

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

9 But thank you for coming and safe travels home.

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

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

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

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

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

23 One of the key elements for redistricting is  
24 competitiveness. I fully support this principle; however,  
25 in previous redistricting, I believe we sacrificed the

1 best interest of many communities in order to meet the  
2 criteria of competitiveness.

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

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

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

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

25 Previous commissions were too focused on

1           competitiveness at the detriment of the community of -- of  
2           the preservation of that community.

3                     The compactness is also another element.

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

7                     Thank you so much for your time.

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

11                    We are coming to you live from Superior, Arizona.

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

14                    David.

15                    MR. COWARD: Thank you.

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

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

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

24                    LD16 contains Apache Junction, a portion of Gold  
25          Canyon, east Mesa, and parts of San Tan Valley.

1           LD8 includes a small part of the Gila County and  
2           the towns along the Copper Corridor: Florence, Coolidge,  
3           and Casa Grande.

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

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

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

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

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

22          LD16, where the majority of interest is in Mesa,  
23          has mass transportation and highway infrastructure in  
24          place. So attention to that issue to the east is not  
25          considered.

1           Gold Canyon is a retirement community with a  
2           large contingent of seasonal residents which approximately  
3           double as the population in the winter months, increasing  
4           the traffic in that area. There are no major employment  
5           centers. So those who work have to commute using  
6           Highway 60 into the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

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

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

18          Thank you for your time and for your public  
19          service.

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

22          MR. SHANK: Shank.

23          MS. CRANK: -- Shank.

24          MR. SHANK: Hi. Good evening, citizens.

25          I'm a resident of Superior, Arizona, at 85173. I

1 am the treasurer of Rebuild Superior, the vice president  
2 of Legends of Superior Trails. I am a small business  
3 owner and a consultant in local development, but I speak  
4 for myself.

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

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

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

22 We're extremely proud of our history, our  
23 multiethnic culture, our festivals, our celebrations, and  
24 we're -- we're -- we're proud that a large portion of our  
25 population is bilingual, Spanish and English.

1           We want to be grouped together with Copper  
2           Corridor communities. We find that some of the  
3           communities of western Pinal County such as San Tan are  
4           really part of the -- the Metropolitan Phoenix area and  
5           have nothing in common with us, and we have diverging  
6           interests.

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

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

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

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

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

21          Thank you.

22          MS. CRANK: Next is Roberto Reveles.

23          MR. REVELES: Gracias and bienvenidos to the  
24          commissioners.

25          My name is Roberto Reveles, a native Arizonan,

1           born 20 miles east of where we are sitting here in  
2           Superior. Retired, now living 30 miles west of here in  
3           Gold Canyon.

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

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

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

24                      So I urge the mapmakers to take into  
25          consideration the beautiful experience of growing up,



1 working, and retiring in a community that brings together  
2 the ancient cultures, the immigrant cultures, and the  
3 newly retired cultures.

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

6 Muchisima gracias and thank you for being here.

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

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

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

14 MAYOR PRICE: Thank you very much.

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

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

23 We thank you for coming to Pinal County also and  
24 recognize that as you continue to do this, I do give you  
25 massive credit for being able to remember all of these

1 details as we go back and redraw maps and lines.

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

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

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

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

1 SaddleBrooke.

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

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

22 So, again, we thank you for your time and we  
23 thank you for listening to the city of Maricopa's  
24 concerns. But, again, we're looking for a more Pinal  
25 County centric area and representation especially as we're

1 dealing with urbanizing cities such as Casa Grande and the  
2 city of Maricopa. Those two cities alone will be  
3 somewhere in the neighborhood of 130- to 150,000 by the  
4 end of this year.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. NEUMANN: Next we have Albert Barnes.

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

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

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

20 Thank you very much for listening to me.

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

23 MR. HUNT: Good evening.

24 My name is Donald Hunt, Senior. And I have lived  
25 in San Tan Valley since 2012. Earlier, I lived up in

1           northeastern Arizona and taught school. I'm a retired  
2           school teacher and currently a Realtor having done  
3           business on all the way across the northern part of Pinal  
4           County.

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

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

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

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

24                      We appreciate your important work on track to  
25           keep a fair, equitable, and competitive maps in the future

1 and how we set the districting at all levels of our  
2 governmental activities.

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

5 Thank you.

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

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

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

20 The Copper Corridor starts in Superior, Arizona,  
21 goes through Miami, Arizona, in Gila County, Globe. And  
22 that's not -- that is US 60. In Superior, US 60 also  
23 forks southwest and goes to a community of Kearny,  
24 Arizona. That's where Ray Mines Division used to be.  
25 Then it became Kennecott Copper Corporation.

1           Now the mine, the big open pit there, is run by  
2           Grupo Mexico/Asarco, which is Arizona Refining Company.  
3           And then you proceed to Hayden-Winkelman, copper mining  
4           towns, part of the Copper Corridor. Then Dudleyville,  
5           part of the Copper Corridor. Mammoth, part of the Copper  
6           Corridor. San Manuel that had their own mine there  
7           underground that went kaput maybe 15 years ago. And then  
8           Oracle is still considered part of the Copper Corridor  
9           because that community was a result of people living there  
10          that worked at the mine -- underground mine in San Manuel.

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

14          Does that help?

15          Any other questions, any other members?

16          Thank you.

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

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

22          MS. STASINOS: Good evening.

23          Members of the Commission of Arizona  
24          Redistricting, my name is Arlene Stasinis, a retired  
25          California public elementary teacher after 35 years of

1 service.

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

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

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

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

23 Living near a multitude of new owners who moved  
24 approximately the same time frame as us sought to be  
25 voters for the Arizona primary elections and discovered



1 two legislative districts which sparked confusion. The  
2 boundary was the second clubhouse that was built there.

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

6 Encanterra is a combination of an age-targeted  
7 population in addition to an age-restricted population of  
8 55 and older group. The demographics comprise of many  
9 military veterans and those who retired from the police  
10 force.

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

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

24 We embrace Encanterra community with grateful  
25 hearts and want to be recognized as one community. Our

1 country's already experiencing divisiveness.

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

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

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

13 Thank you all very much.

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

16 Yes. Yes. Leeman [phonetic].

17 And after Kathleen, we will have Gale Peters.

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

20 My name is Kathleen Leeman. I live here in  
21 Florence in the Sun City Anthem at Merrill Ranch  
22 retirement community. This community of Florence -- I've  
23 been here a little over a year. I really find it a  
24 charming town. I'm very impressed with the government and  
25 state workers that are taking care of our prisoners here.

1 We have this large retirement community, and we have  
2 people that work in agriculture, tourism, and we have some  
3 small business in our town.

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

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

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

20 My LD is District 8. It's the same issue; it's  
21 not really meeting the definition of compact. It runs  
22 from Globe all the way south to Oracle Junction, west to  
23 Casa Grande, and further west to the city of Maricopa.  
24 That's a long way away from one city for one  
25 representative.

1           It's my hope and expectation that the commission  
2 will follow the Arizona constitution when drawing the  
3 district lines this time. It's especially important to me  
4 and the citizens of Arizona for this commission to comply  
5 with the constitution, be respectful of communities of  
6 interest, and to not divide cities.

7           Thank you very much.

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

10          MS. PETERS: My name is Gale Peters.

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

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

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

25          Our community votes, and we're politically active

1 as a group. We contribute to various community efforts  
2 and initiatives such as veterans projects, backpacks and  
3 contributions to school, volunteer activities, and a  
4 massive Toys for Tots program.

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

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

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

16 Pinal County is growing, and given the explosion  
17 of new developments that we're seeing, that's going to  
18 continue. Since the last redistricting effort in 2010,  
19 Pinal County's population has increased by over  
20 30 percent.

21 We can understand the desire of people to live  
22 here in the great state of Arizona given our own decision  
23 to move here, but rapid expansion of housing developments  
24 concerns all of us. Impact on our water, impact on our  
25 traffic congestion and area of schools. We need

1 representation that understands these issues. The Arizona  
2 constitution rules should be paramount in redistricting to  
3 make wise decisions for the future of this beautiful  
4 country.

5 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

1 community more east, and I know someone else has said that  
2 as well.

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

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

8 MR. SMITH: Thank you for being here,  
9 Commissioners. Madam Commission- -- or Madam Chairman and  
10 Commissioners, thank you very much.

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

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

22 So basically some of the emphasis and the  
23 representation that is happening through the last  
24 redistricting process somewhat dilutes the voice of Pinal  
25 County.

1           One of the things that I took of interest at your  
2           June 22nd meeting is these charts that were the  
3           demographic presentation that was shared at your June 22nd  
4           meeting. On the chart, it's had the projected change in  
5           2020 to 2030 listing a number of cities, 15 cities, 6 of  
6           which were Pinal County communities. Leading the top of  
7           the chart was Coolidge at a projected change in 2020 to  
8           2030 of over 150 percent followed by Eloy and then  
9           Florence at 51 percent, the city of Maricopa at  
10          35 percent, Queen Creek 37, Casa Grande down to 30. But  
11          Pinal County has been a growth county, and our communities  
12          are growing at a very fast pace.

13           The other chart that I took of interest is when  
14          you compared the various counties. Pinal County is the  
15          county at the top regarding the population projection for  
16          2020 through 2030.

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

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



1 Pinal County.

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

8 Thank you very much.

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

11 MS. GOLDAPPER: Hi, everybody.

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

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

23 But more importantly talking about Florence --  
24 and that's really what I want to basically talk about.  
25 Florence is a community with unique areas. One is our

1 area, and then if you look at this historic area for  
2 downtown Florence, which is also the seat of Pinal  
3 County -- basically what I want to talk about is that  
4 we're separated into two districts -- congressional  
5 districts.

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

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

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

22 And I thank you for your time.

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

25 MR. GOLDAPPER: Good evening.

1           My name is Robert Goldapper. I reside at Anthem  
2 at Merrill Ranch which is a 55-plus community located in  
3 Florence.

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

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

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

21           The way LD8 is drawn is another problem that  
22 needs to be addressed. It's unwieldy and comprised of  
23 contrasting communities of interest. The people in  
24 Florence tend to shop in San Tan and Queen Creek. We  
25 don't have much in common with Globe or Pima, yet we have

1           them lumped together with those areas, highly illogical at  
2           best.

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

7                       Thank you for your time.

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

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

14                      MR. NELSON: Thank you.

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

17                      I think it's wonderful that you're doing this.  
18           Thank you very much.

19                      For the last census, our community, Robson  
20           55-plus property called SaddleBrooke Ranch, had less than  
21           50 homes. We now have 1,200 homes and represent nearly  
22           2,000 residents. We will be growing to 8,000 residents by  
23           the next census. SaddleBrooke Ranch is 2 miles north of  
24           Highways 79 and 77. We are 6 miles from SaddleBrooke.

25                      Currently, we're not in the same legislative

1 district as other 55-and-over communities. SaddleBrooke  
2 Ranch is one, SaddleBrooke is another, Oro Valley, and Sun  
3 City Oro Valley. All the shopping that people do at  
4 SaddleBrooke Ranch and our commerce and our hospitals and  
5 our medical appointments and dental professionals and  
6 banks are both in Oro Valley and Catalina, and those are  
7 the areas that we support financially.

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

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

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

23 Thank you.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 Next we have Nancy Hawkins, and then after that

1 we have Steve Credler [phonetic].

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

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

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

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

1 different LDs as we are one city, one community.

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

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

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

16 Mr. Credler is first. Yes. Yes.

17 MR. CREDLER: Good evening, Commission.

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

20 I live in the city of Apache Junction. I'm a  
21 retired police officer, police sergeant. I retired from  
22 the city of Apache Junction in 2010. I still reside in  
23 the city.

24 One of the things that I'd like to bring to your  
25 attention -- some of the items have already been brought

1 up such as the -- the defining lines in LD16. I live in  
2 LD16 and I live in Congressional District 4. I'm not  
3 gonna touch on Congressional District 4. That's kind  
4 of -- that's been touched on rather eloquently for the  
5 evening, I think.

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

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

20 So, again, because of the fact that so many of  
21 the items that I was gonna bring up tonight have already  
22 been touched on, I will just kind of end with this:  
23 Obviously, Arizona constitution article 4, part 2,  
24 section 14 is the section that provides the guidelines as  
25 far as the redistricting. Understandably, not everything



1 of those -- those six -- those six points can be followed  
2 to the letter.

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

10 Thank you very much for listening.

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

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

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

21 Since Gold Canyon is unincorporated, Pinal County  
22 government plays a large role in our community, and the  
23 sheriff's department remains the source of law  
24 enforcement. I think the census shows that over half the  
25 county's population is in unincorporated areas. Thus,

1           they too may be turned into a county government.

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

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

15                    My -- I live -- my subdivision, Peralta Road,  
16          goes right through my subdivision. Half my subdivision is  
17          in LD16. A thousand feet away is LD8. That doesn't make  
18          any sense. My congressional district, you've heard this  
19          before, headquartered in Prescott, 141 miles away, goes  
20          Yuma, over 200 miles away, up to Arizona Strip, over  
21          400 miles away, leapfrogging Maricopa County as if there's  
22          a contest to see how convoluted one could make it.

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

25                    Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

1                   Anyway, that's all I had.

2                   Thank you so much.

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

5                   MR. DANTICO: Good evening, Commissioners.

6                   My name is John Dantico [phonetic]. I live in  
7 unincorporated Pinal County in the San Tan Valley.

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

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

24                   We need the best candidates, and a competitive  
25 environment will ensure that.

1 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you very much.

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

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

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

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

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

24 But being a rural community, manufacturing and  
25 agriculture are major industries for the city, and these

1 industries are bringing growth to the whole community.  
2 Furthermore, people from across the city are employed in  
3 these industries.

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

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

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

24 By cracking the Casa Grande community as it is  
25 now, it has essentially diminished the power of certain

1 communities within the city to advocate for themselves and  
2 their shared interests, which makes representation less  
3 responsive to the actual community and its interests.

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

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

8 MR. IRELAND: Good evening, Commissioners.

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

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

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



1                   So thank you.

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

4                   MR. BRYANT: Hello.

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

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

14                   In the 2010 census, we hoped to retain that rural  
15 status by the addition of the Copper Corridor,  
16 Hayden-Winkelman Kearny, as well as the Verde Valley which  
17 is the Camp Verde area. And as you can see, you know the  
18 results that we ended up with. Poor Gila County is in --  
19 60,000 people. The county is three different legislative  
20 districts and two different congressional districts.

21                   And we'd like very strongly for you to consider,  
22 again, restoring our rural voice through a legislature of  
23 five eastern counties plus the Copper Corridor, as you've  
24 had described here, and, if necessary, the Verde Valley as  
25 well.

1                   And so that -- once again, our rural issues --  
2                   we're farmers, miners, ranchers, and so forth. We have  
3                   recreation and tourism issues. We have water issues. We  
4                   have a very, very distinct rural culture. Race is not  
5                   really an issue. And I also would caution you that  
6                   what -- how -- how people would vote in a presidential  
7                   election is not necessarily reflective of how they're  
8                   going to vote in the legislative or lower elections. The  
9                   rural people, we typically put rural issues ahead of  
10                  everything else in our local races. Please bear that in  
11                  mind.

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

23                  Please bear this in mind that you have the  
24                  opportunity to restore our rural voice, the five eastern  
25                  counties plus our corridors.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Next we have Nick Meyers, and  
2 then after that, we have Mark Crows.

3 MR. MEYERS: Good evening, Commission.

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

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

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

22 Well, I live in a section of San Tan Valley  
23 that -- for about 9 years now -- so right after the last  
24 redistricting -- that I have been affectionately calling  
25 the gerrymandering portion of LD12. And why do I say

1           that? Well, to get to my neighborhood, we have a couple  
2           of ingresses and egresses. The one on the far west side  
3           is what defines LD12. It is possible for me to stay in  
4           LD12 when I'm going into my neighborhood, but it is  
5           impossible for me to stay in LD12 while I'm exiting my  
6           neighborhood because three sides of me are LD8. It took  
7           the mountain range, San Tan Mountains, they -- they  
8           divided that or used that as the dividing line to get to  
9           my neighborhood. So they literally created a corridor of  
10          LD12 that goes around the mountain range instead of using  
11          the range as the dividing line.

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

21                 Now, I don't -- I don't envy your jobs at all. I  
22          realize you have to keep the data, you know, in line with  
23          all six of those rules or eight of those rules making them  
24          compact, making them geographically contiguous, all of  
25          that good stuff.

1                   So I know it's a difficult decision. But I think  
2                   it's pretty obvious when you literally can't leave your  
3                   neighborhood without going into another LD.

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

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

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

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

14                  MR. CROWS: Good evening.

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

22                  But as noted before, the predominance of all of  
23                  the things that we use are in Catalina and in Oro Valley.  
24                  So that's really our -- our focus. That's our world  
25                  there. We have nothing in common with San Tan Valley or

1 Maricopa way over at the other end. We're about the same  
2 distance from both by driving, not by the crow flying.

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

13 Thank you.

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

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

20 Nick Meyers alluded to a problem that I have. I  
21 live in San Tan Valley. It's the fastest growing  
22 community in the country: 120,000 residents. And we're --  
23 we have no voice because we've been split between three  
24 districts. There is one precinct in LD12, the only Pinal  
25 County precinct, and it runs along Gary Road. I own four

1           acres in there, and about a mile from there, I live in my  
2           suburban house in LD8. And I'm just going to come out and  
3           say it: LD8 is crazy. I think that there was litigation  
4           even after the last census on LD8. As you've already  
5           heard from others that it split Casa Grande in two, it  
6           split Gold Canyon along Peralta Road, it split  
7           SaddleBrooke Ranch from SaddleBrooke, it has split  
8           Encanterra literally in the middle of the street. I think  
9           we should keep San Tan Valley together.

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

17                    So that would be my request for the  
18           commissioners.

19                    I really appreciate your time.

20                    Thank you very much.

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

23                    MAYOR THOMPSON: Hi. My name is John Thompson.  
24           I live in Coolidge, Arizona. I happen to be the mayor in  
25           Coolidge.

1           I wanted to -- it's pretty interesting. I don't  
2           envy you guys, but thank you for being here. I appreciate  
3           you coming down on a Friday night and listening to  
4           everybody's concerns. Mine will be a little different.

5           Coolidge was founded in 1925 and incorporated in  
6           1945. So we've been around for quite a while. We  
7           currently have, according to the U.S. census estimate,  
8           which will change, I hope, 13,500 residents. Of those  
9           residents, we have a pretty decent makeup. I think  
10          72 percent are considered white, but that contains -- the  
11          Hispanics are in with that. So it's about an even split  
12          there.

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

19          When you talk about LD8, we have a lot of miners  
20          that work in the Copper Corridor area, especially in  
21          Superior or Miami that live in Coolidge. We're  
22          predominately a farming community still even though we're  
23          getting Nikola and a lot of hydrogen and electric vehicle  
24          companies are looking at us. Nikola is already there and  
25          will start producing trucks in August. We have a lot of



1 things going on down there, and we are satisfied with  
2 where we're at. So we're asking you to leave us there.

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

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

14 So when you take a town like ours or Eloy or  
15 Florence for that matter and you throw us in with a San  
16 Tan or a Casa Grande or a Maricopa, we're done. There'll  
17 never be another -- there will never be a county  
18 supervisor from our community, our votes virtually won't  
19 count. If you split us -- we're very fortunate. We're in  
20 one district in our situation. I think Eloy's in a couple  
21 of them. I know Casa Grande's in a couple of them. You  
22 know, Florence is in different ones. If you split already  
23 a small contingency of votes, you're gonna just, you know,  
24 take -- dilute their power -- their voting power as a  
25 community even further.

1           And so I'm asking that you leave us whole. Don't  
2           split us. But if you throw us in with a big community --  
3           I mean, there's ways you can -- we like LD8 in with the  
4           mountains. If you have to, go out and put Arizona City in  
5           with us.

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

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

14          Thank you very much for your time.

15          Be safe going home.

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

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

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

22          I graduated from Coolidge High School in 1979 as  
23          a Coolidge Bear -- proud, you know. And I was also in the  
24          Future Farmers of America. So we're a farming community.  
25          And, also, I was on the city council for 18 years and the

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

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

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

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

19 But we're also evolving into a smart city with a  
20 new energy-sufficient Nikola plant. You know, they make  
21 hydrogen, electric-powered semis, and they're building  
22 over a million-square-foot facility, and they'll be  
23 rolling out trucks by the end of the summer. They'll  
24 be -- the first ones will be all electric, and later we'll  
25 have the hydrogen trucks that are coming.

1                   We also have over 2,000 acres of solar that's  
2 already in place, and we have room for more. It's in  
3 IPAZ, which is bound by Highway 87 and also the future  
4 north/south freeway that's coming through from the east  
5 valley down to the Eloy area.

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

11                   And the mayor already talked about the population  
12 growth. It's -- it's -- we're growing at a tremendous  
13 rate. We will -- we believe we will hit 1,000 permits  
14 this year, and it'll take us up quite a bit to about  
15 33,800 people in the next census or closer to probably  
16 38-.

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

25                   We have a lot of community chat comments. They

1 love Coolidge the way it is and they like the fact that  
2 we're growing, but they don't want to be big like the city  
3 of Chandler or places like that. So they like the  
4 small-town feel.

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

7 And thank you for the opportunity to speak.  
8 Thank you.

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

13 Is Judy Smith or Peggy Baycos still present?

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

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

19 Thank you for everybody joining us.

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

23 Goodnight.

24 (The proceedings concluded at 7:07 p.m.)  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA )  
 ) ss.  
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.

I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this 6th day of August, 2021.

Penny Segundo  
Penny Segundo, RPR  
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50959)

\* \* \*

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 6th day of August, 2021.

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