THE STATE OF ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEOCONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING

Via GoogleMeets

September 14, 2021

8:01 a.m.

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

Reported By:
Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Reporter (AZ 50849)

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 I N D E X

2 PROCEEDING: PAGE

3 ITEM I 4
ITEM I(A) 4
4 ITEM I(B) 5
ITEM II 6
5 ITEM III 7
ITEM IV 7
6 ITEM V 9
ITEM VI 42
7 ITEM VI(A) 42
ITEM VI(B) 42
8 ITEM VI(C) 46
ITEM VI(D) 58
9 ITEM VI(E) 72
ITEM VII 103
10 ITEM VII(A) 104
ITEM VII(B) 107
11 ITEM VII(C) 110
ITEM VIII 113
12 ITEM IX 121
ITEM X 121
13 ITEM XI 122
ITEM XII 123

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT
2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 8:01 a.m. on
3 September 14, 2021, via GoogleMeets, Arizona, in the
4 presence of the following Commissioners:
5 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
6 Mr. David Mehl
Ms. Shereen Lerner
7 Mr. Douglas York
8 OTHERS PRESENT:
9 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
Ms. Lori Van Haren Deputy Director
10 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
Ms. Michelle Crank, Public Information Officer
11 Ms. Marie Chapple, Community Outreach Coordinator
Mr. Alex Pena, Community Outreach Coordinator
12
Dr. Jim Chang, Arizona Demographer
13
Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
14 Mr. Brian Kingery, Timmons Group
Mr. Doug Johnson, NDC
15 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, NDC
16 Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr
Ms. Jillian Andrews, Ballard Spahr
17 Mr. Daniel Arellano, Ballard Spahr
Mr. Eric Spencer, Snell & Wilmer
18 Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 P R O C E E D I N G
2
3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Welcome, everybody.
4 We'll dive right in.
5 Agenda Item No. I(A), call for quorum. It is
6 8:01 a.m. on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021. I call
7 this meeting of the Independent Redistricting
8 Commission to order.
9 For the record, the executive assistant,
10 Valerie Neumann, will be taking roll. When your name
11 is called please indicate you are present. If you are
12 unable to respond verbally we ask that you please type
13 your name.
14 Val.
15 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 Vice Chair Watchman.
17 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Present.
18 MS. NEUMANN: Commissioner Lerner.
19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Present.
20 MS. NEUMANN: Commissioner Mehle.
21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Present.
22 MS. NEUMANN: Commissioner York.
23 COMMISSIONER YORK: Present.
24 MS. NEUMANN: Chairperson Neuberg.
25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Present.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 MS. NEUMANN: And for the record we also have
2 in attendance executive director Brian Schmitt, deputy
3 director; Lori Van Haren; public information officer,
4 Michelle Crank, community outreach coordinators Marie
5 Chapple and Alex Pena.
6 For our legal team we have Brett Johnson and
7 Eric Spencer from Snell & Wilmer. We've got Roy
8 Herrera, Jillian Andrews, and Daniel Arellano, sorry,
9 from Ballard Spahr.
10 For our mapping consultants we've got Mark
11 Flahan, Brian Kingery from Timmons. We've got Doug
12 Johnson and Ivy Beller Sakansky from NDC Research.
13 We also have a special guest, Dr. Jim Chang,
14 the Arizona demographer.
15 We possibly will have Dr. John Walsh from
16 the -- the president of the Arizona Library
17 Association. I do not see him online yet.
18 And then Debbie Wilks is our transcriptionist
19 today.
20 And that is everyone. Thank you, Madam Chair.
21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: We have a full group.
22 Welcome, everybody, and thank you for joining us.
23 Please note for the minutes a quorum is
24 present.
25 Agenda Item I(B), call for notice. Val, was

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 the notice and agenda for the Commission meeting
2 properly posted 48 hours in advance of today's meeting?
3 MS. NEUMANN: Yes, it was, Madam Chair.
4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.
5 Agenda Item No. II, approval of minutes from
6 August 31st, 2021, two weeks ago. We have two -- a
7 general session. We did not have an executive session.
8 Do I have any discussion on the minutes from
9 August 31st?
10 If there is no discussion I'll entertain a
11 motion to approve the general session minutes from
12 August 31st, 2021.
13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Madam Chair, Vice Chair
14 Watchman moves to approve the general session minutes
15 of August 31.
16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Do I have a second?
17 COMMISSIONER YORK: Commissioner York seconds.
18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York
19 seconds.
20 Any further discussion?
21 With that we'll do a vote.
22 Vice Chair Watchman.
23 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Aye.
24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehle.
25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Aye.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.
2 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Aye.
3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York.
4 COMMISSIONER YORK: Aye.
5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Neuberg is
6 an aye.
7 And with that the minutes are approved from
8 August 31st. Thank you very much, Val and team.
9 We'll move to Agenda Item No. III, opportunity
10 for public comments. Public comment will now open for
11 a minimum of 30 minutes and remain open until the
12 adjournment of the meeting. Comments will only be
13 accepted electronically in writing on the link provided
14 in the notice and agenda for this public meeting and
15 will be limited to 3,000 characters.
16 Please note members of the Commission may not
17 discuss items that are not specifically identified on
18 the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.01(H)
19 action taken as a result of public comment will be
20 limited to directing staff to study the matter,
21 responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter
22 for further consideration and decision at a later date.
23 We move to Agenda Item No. IV, discussion on
24 public comments received prior to today's meeting. And
25 I open it up to my colleagues.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 If there is no -- you know, I think the
2 silence is that the comments were very focused on
3 material two weeks ago and so much of it has been
4 resolved through the public training that occurred
5 yesterday and et cetera. The only things that I would
6 add, there was a comment that touched upon, again, the
7 way in which -- I believe it may have been directed to
8 me personally, but the way in which we are seeing the
9 six criteria of the Constitutional, you know,
10 requirements and where competitiveness falls within
11 that criteria.
12 The one message or comment I have on that as
13 we, you know, are about to embark on robust public
14 hearings and serious debate and dialogue on this is all
15 six criteria are going to be thoroughly considered and
16 evaluated. It's -- we've received great training from
17 our counsel. The Commissioners have some degree of
18 discretion in our interpretation of the order of these
19 criteria. All of them will be considered thoroughly.
20 When you're making your case and want us to understand
21 your community and what your needs are, to the extent
22 that you can incorporate as many of the criteria as
23 possible, that only makes your case a little stronger
24 and makes it a little less ambiguous for the
25 Commissioners. So my simple direction is as you're

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

giving us feedback, the more thorough you can be addressing all six criteria I think empowers your case.

And the other comment is on the budget, and I think we'll dive in a little more deeply as, you know, things trickle in and we can identify those specific areas.

And if there is no other specific comments on public comments, I would like to thank the public, as always.

I hope the mapping team, when they dive into their data, give a huge shout out to Arizona for our general responsiveness and interest in the redistricting process. We're blowing other states away in terms of submitting community of interest reports, at least the neighboring state to the west of us, and thank you, and thank you to our team. Thank you to mapping. Thank you to the public for engaging. But hopefully we'll get into that a little more later.

Any other conversation?

Okay. Agenda Item No. V. Thank you so much, Dr. Chang, for once again joining us. We have the state demographer's presentation to help us understand our population.

DR. CHANG: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for inviting me again to speak to this important

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Commission, and thank you all, Commissioners, for your
2 attention.
3 And the request I think was to discuss racial
4 and ethnic demographics and concentration, and I think
5 everybody knows the word ethnicity, but I think before
6 I start I'll just be getting to it and get a
7 clarification. Sometimes when we talk about ethnicity
8 we are talking about I'm Chinese, you are Italian, and
9 he is Mexican, so sometimes those -- ethnicity means
10 that. But in the context of the redistricting data,
11 the Census Bureau use the word "ethnicity"
12 interchangeably with the phrase Hispanic or Latino
13 origin, so in today's presentation I'm going to use it
14 that way. So when I say "ethnicity," I'm talking about
15 Hispanic origin, so I just want to make that clear.
16 Let me fire up -- fire up my presentation and
17 I will share my screen.
18 Okay. Can everybody see my screen?
19 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes, we can see.
20 DR. CHANG: Okay, great. Now I cannot see you
21 anymore, so I'm just looking at my presentation.
22 So like you see in the title says Race and
23 Hispanic Origin, but throughout my presentation I'll be
24 using both Hispanic origin and ethnicity.
25 Also, before I get started, I'm a state

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 demographer working for the Arizona Office of Economic
2 Opportunity, but also part of the Arizona Commerce
3 Authority. Just to make sure, my agency, my employer,
4 did not tell me what to say, did not -- they did not
5 tell me what not to say, so anything that I say,
6 anything that I present here is solely my -- if there
7 is any opinion that I've expressed that will be mine,
8 not that of the Office of Economic Opportunity or the
9 Arizona Commerce Authority.
10 Okay. Since we're talking about race and
11 ethnicity let's just start with how the Census Bureau
12 measure these concepts. At the bottom that's the
13 time -- that's the time of all the censuses. They
14 started from 1790. That's the first census, all the
15 way to the most recent census for 2020. On the right
16 you see all these race groups and Hispanic origin. If
17 you see a block in this graph, that means that concept
18 was measured for that census.
19 Just starting from the most recent one, every
20 race concept is measured. But if you go all the way to
21 the left we can see that we only had -- this is Black.
22 I don't know, hopefully everybody can see my cursor.
23 Black or African American. That race has been measured
24 throughout history for all the censuses. So was White.
25 But all these other categories, you know, they were

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 measured for some censuses, but not all of them. But
2 if you look at Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander,
3 that starting 1960. And for Hispanic origin they
4 started back in 1930, but they kind of stopped it and
5 then picked it up again in 1970. And for Asian it
6 started in 1860. So these are measured differently.
7 Also, even though it's measured, it's -- the question
8 almost -- almost always change from decade to decade.
9 Let's go to the live website from the Census
10 Bureau on this so I just have a quick look. So this is
11 the same thing, but this is live. I'll just put my
12 cursor over some of the boxes, and it's going to bring
13 some additional information.
14 This is back in 1790. This is how they
15 measured Black, African American. But, you know, at
16 that time it was not called that way. If you look at
17 the top of my screen it is slaves, and it was that way
18 for a few decades. And then in 1820 it's slaves or
19 freed -- sorry, free colored persons. And if you look
20 at White here, it's free White females and males. And,
21 again, for the 1800 census it's also free White female
22 and male.
23 So this reminds me our society has come a long
24 way. Back in the beginning, you know, they cared to
25 ask a White person whether they are male or female, but

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 for a Black person, for a slave, they did not even care
2 to ask male or female. And, okay, so that's a very
3 quick overview. Reminds us of some different times.
4 Okay. Back to my presentation. Let's move on
5 to the next slide. This slide is a comparison of the
6 race and Hispanic origin questions between the 2010
7 census and the 2020 census. In both censuses to the
8 left, that's the one -- one sheet, Question 8 and
9 Question 9, that's the 2010 census. And if you look at
10 the right two questions, 8 and 9, that's 2020 census.
11 I do not want to spend all of our time reading all the
12 details, but one thing to note is for both questions --
13 for both censuses we have two questions. One is is
14 this person of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin, and
15 in 2020 this is worded the same.
16 And then you can write in. One thing to note
17 is back in 2010 you can only write in -- for all these
18 write-in options you can only write in 30 characters,
19 and if you write more they only capture 30 characters.
20 So if you look there you don't have 30 boxes here, but
21 did not have to respect these boxes. You can write
22 more than this. But when they captured and coded the
23 information they only took the first 30 characters.
24 For 2020 they allowed writing of 200 characters. And
25 you might say, well, there was no space for me to write

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 in 200 characters in each of these questions.
2 Remember, we did this online so people did have -- most
3 of the people did it online so most people did have
4 that space to write 200 characters. I mean, even here
5 you are allowed to just write as much as you want, and
6 the Census Bureau captured 200 characters.
7 Just pay attention to the text in the middle
8 here. This is the quote from the Census Bureau blog.
9 It says, "The improvements and changes from 2010 to
10 2020 enabled a more thorough and accurate depiction of
11 how people self-identify, yielding a more accurate
12 portrait of how people report their Hispanic origin and
13 race."
14 And then another paragraph, "Differences in
15 overall racial distributions are largely due to
16 improvements in the design of the two separate
17 questions for race data collection and processing, as
18 well as some demographic changes over the past
19 10 years."
20 Well, this is -- to me this says something,
21 but it's not extremely helpful. It's basically the
22 same. If you see change from 2010 to 2020, it can be
23 due to the change in the questionnaire design, and as
24 the Census Bureau says, they improved it. They become
25 more accurate. But it can also be due to real change,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 but how much you can attribute to real change, how much
2 is due to the questionnaire design, it's difficult to
3 disentangle that. And I'm sure this is going to be the
4 study of scholars for years to come, and so this is not
5 something we're trying to tackle today. We're not
6 going to have an answer, but I just want you to be
7 aware if you see changes, wow, 100 percent increase, so
8 just -- just know that in the actuality you may not
9 have had 100 percent increase. It may have been due to
10 how the questions are asked and how they are coded.
11 So with that, let's just look at some data.
12 This is out of the state and county level. We started
13 with 2010 data to get some baseline for the decade. So
14 this is 2010 race and Hispanic origin as a percent of
15 total population, so we're talking about proportions.
16 So the first column, the first data column is the total
17 population. Those are numbers. I think everybody is
18 now familiar that back in 2010 our population was
19 6.39 million, and of that just under 30 percent were
20 Hispanic or Latino. That's 29.6 percent. And then you
21 have White alone, White alone not Hispanic origin, and
22 that's 57.8 percent, and then the rest of the groups
23 are quite small. We have Black or African American at
24 3.7 percent. All of these race groups, they are not
25 Hispanic -- not Hispanic or Latino, so I just want to

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 make sure, because if you talk about the race, you
2 could be talking about Black of both Hispanic origin
3 and not of Hispanic origin, but in here specifically
4 talking about each race group, that's not Hispanic or
5 Latino. We have included the Hispanic or Latino of any
6 race in this column, in the -- in this -- back in the
7 data column. Then we have American Indian. That's 4
8 percent. And Asian alone here, note that this might be
9 different than the other categories you've seen that we
10 have combined, Asian alone and Native Hawaiian, other
11 Pacific Islanders, because each of those groups were
12 pretty small, very small, even combining them is still
13 small, and if you have a need to separate them there is
14 data for that purpose. But, you know, for today's
15 presentation they are combined.
16 And the last column is some other race alone
17 or two or more races, not Hispanic or Latino. Again,
18 this is the combination of several categories. We have
19 some other race and then two or more races. You know,
20 if for some reason you want two races, three races,
21 four races, there is a way to separate them, but for
22 today's presentation they are combined. Okay. That's
23 2010.
24 For 2020 the layout is the same. So if you
25 look at the Hispanic or Latino population for the

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 state, it's I think we said just under 30 percent. Now
2 it's just over 30 percent. There is an increase of one
3 percentage point from 29.6 percent to 20 -- to
4 30.7 percent.
5 Okay. We'll take a look at comparison later,
6 but if you want to have a quick glance of the data for
7 all these counties, we can see Apache County, Hispanic
8 or Latino, that's 5.8 percent. That's pretty low
9 compared to the state. That's not surprising. And if
10 you look at American Indian or Alaska native, that's
11 70 percent. Apache County, because that's where the
12 Navajo Nation is, has a very high concentration of
13 American Indians.
14 And if you look at some other county, Yuma
15 County, so that's 63 percent -- 63.8 percent Hispanic
16 or Latino. And Santa Cruz, 83 percent. That's the
17 highest -- that's the county with the highest
18 percentage of Latino or Hispanics.
19 Okay. Now, this slide presents the 2010 to
20 2020 percent change in population by race and Hispanic
21 origin. For the entire state the total population
22 changed 11.9 percent. That -- you know, we know this
23 for a while now. And Hispanic population increased
24 15.7 percent. White alone or not Hispanic population
25 increased 3.3 percent. So out of the state level all

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 of these groups saw increase, but the level of growth
2 varied by a significant degree, and the highest
3 increase is some other race or two or more races.
4 That's the one I was telling you, you know, don't be
5 wowed too quickly. This 142 percent, most of that is
6 probably due to the changes they made to the
7 questionnaire design. Some of that might -- you know,
8 probably is real increase, but at this point it's
9 almost impossible to separate them out.
10 Okay. You can see for all these counties
11 there is some really large growth. For like Greenlee
12 County this changed 334 percent. For Greenlee County
13 this might be -- it might have more of a real growth
14 because the population grew a lot and the
15 characteristics of the population also changed quite a
16 lot.
17 So okay. If there is anything that jumps at
18 you -- there is some kind of surprises. We have five
19 counties that lost population: Apache, Cochise, Gila,
20 La Paz -- that's a very significant loss, almost
21 20 percent -- and also in Navajo County.
22 Okay. I want to show you this one, this also
23 measures change, but it's using -- it uses a different
24 metric. The title says, "2010 to 2020 Percentage Point
25 Change in Race and Hispanic Origin as a Percent of

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Total Population." That's a mouthful, but let's look
2 at one example. At the state level we're looking at
3 the 2010 population Hispanic population was
4 29.6 percent, and in 2020 the Hispanic population was
5 30.7 percent of the total population. If you take
6 those two percentages you'll find the difference. The
7 difference is 1 point -- well, you'll say it was 1.1,
8 right, but because of rounding it's actually closer to
9 1.0, so that's the percentage point change from 2010 to
10 2020. So this is how we interpret all these other
11 numbers on this -- on this table. So the White alone,
12 non-Hispanic population, their proportion of the
13 population actually decreased by 4.4 percentage point.
14 So for African American, that increase is 0.7
15 percentage point. American Indian, it's also a
16 decrease of, you know, of 0.3 percentage point. Asian
17 and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, that's
18 an increase of 0.8 percent.
19 So these numbers, they all look small, but if
20 you compare to the previous slides -- so even some
21 looks like even significant changes, like the Hispanic
22 population 15.7 percent, that's census over census
23 change. When you look at the percentage point change,
24 it's -- you know, it looks small, so just to give you a
25 couple of different perspectives to look at this data.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 And, finally, we just take a look at the
2 numbers. This is 2020 population by race and Hispanic
3 origin. Not going to say much here. Just, you know,
4 if there is area you are really particularly interested
5 just have a quick look. In Apache County there are 335
6 Asian or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, so
7 it's a small population. And if you look at Santa
8 Cruz, we have a population of 47,000, and about 39,000,
9 almost 40,000, is Hispanic.
10 Okay. So those are the tables. I wanted to
11 let you know that our office has published similar
12 information for the following geographies: We have
13 incorporated places. That's cities and towns like
14 Phoenix, Tucson, Chandler, Snowflake, you know, these
15 places. And also census-designated places is not
16 incorporated, but locally they're recognized as
17 population centers, so we have data for all these
18 places. We also have this for Native American
19 reservations, the tribes. And we also have this for
20 school districts.
21 And in addition to this table, we also have
22 compiled the 2020 block level data that includes even
23 more variables, so the data can be easily aggregated to
24 the block group level, to the census tract level, and
25 to the county level.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Let me just show you really quickly where they
2 are. This is our website that publishes the 2010
3 census data. The website is not fancy. We just have
4 some downloadable tables. And this is the state and
5 county. You open it up. These are the numbers that we
6 just looked at. So this is a simple table, and we have
7 the same thing for, again, incorporated places and
8 these others. So if you want to further study this,
9 feel free to download any or all of these tables.
10 And then we have these data sets. I said we
11 included a lot more variables. Let me just show you
12 quickly. This is just download the Apache County
13 blocks, and all these other counties are structured the
14 same. So these are the variables that we included, the
15 summary level, county. Let's skip the geographies
16 here. These are the population variables. We included
17 total population, population of one race and White,
18 Black, and all of these. And then the second block is
19 the total population by Hispanic origin. So you have
20 total population, and then you have the Hispanic or
21 not Hispanic or Latino, and next you have not Hispanic,
22 and after that you have population of one race, and
23 below that it's different races. You'll see the
24 hierarchy. You know, first total, and then Hispanic,
25 and then non-Hispanic. Under non-Hispanic you have

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 population of one race and population of two or more
2 races here. And then below population of one race you
3 have White, Black, American Indian, Asian, Native
4 American, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander,
5 and some other race. So just when you use this table
6 pay attention to the hierarchy.
7 This is the actual data table. Again, this is
8 at the block level. I said you can aggregate them.
9 Let's just -- let me just show you. You can do this in
10 less than one minute. You get all these other levels.
11 Let's see. Just we want to track data that say we want
12 total population. We want Hispanic population. We
13 want White, Black, Native American, Asian, Pacific
14 Islander, other, and four more. So now you get your
15 census tract level data for all these different race
16 groups. I'm doing this because I remember what these
17 variables stand for, but, you know, you can refer to
18 this easily and find out what these are.
19 So now you have -- excuse me. Now you have
20 this at the census level, at the census tract level.
21 And if you want block group, just add block group to
22 it, and you'll have all this data for the block group.
23 So feel free to download these data sets and play --
24 play with it.
25 Okay. Let's get out of this. Back to the

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 presentation.
2 I want to talk about the concept of racial and
3 ethnic diversity. The Census Bureau has been using
4 separate, different measures to measure this. What is
5 the diversity index? The diversity index is
6 interpreted as the probability that two people chosen
7 at random will be from different race and ethnic group,
8 and this is the formula they use. The diversity index
9 is equal to one minus the sum of all these different
10 race group proportion. That's the proportion. This is
11 the Hispanic. Like in Arizona, Hispanic is, what,
12 30.7 percent, so this H will be 0.307 squared plus
13 White. White is around, what, 50, 54. That would be
14 0.54 squared, and so on and so forth. This is AIAN,
15 American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian. This is
16 Native Hawaii or Pacific Islander. This is some other
17 race and then multirace. So this gives you a number,
18 and they interpret it as this.
19 Another way of measuring racial and ethnic
20 diversity is the prevalence -- like using prevalence
21 rankings, the percentage of the population that falls
22 into the largest racial and ethnic group, second
23 largest group, the third largest group. And then there
24 is something else called a diffusion score, the percent
25 of the population that is not in the first, second or

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 third largest racial ethnic groups combined.
2 Let's go back and take a real quick look.
3 Back in this one, you know, I'm going to show you in my
4 demo the tool. Okay. So I am going to open this tool
5 the Census Bureau made. This is the diversity index
6 for the United States and all the states. The United
7 States has a diversity index of 61.1 percent. You
8 know, it's basically -- the more technical number would
9 be 0.611, but, you know, in order to understand it a
10 little bit easier they use a percentage -- they use a
11 percent. It's the same thing.
12 So that number is the result of all these
13 percentages plugged into that formula that I showed you
14 previously. And if you look at Arizona right here,
15 Arizona is 6 point -- 61.5 percent. That's slightly
16 larger, slightly higher than the United States. We
17 rank 13 out of 51. I think 51 includes DC. So the
18 diversity index is -- is, you know, pretty high in
19 Arizona. That's 2010.
20 If we have a quick look of -- I'm sorry. That
21 was 2020, and I'm just clicking on 2010. So back in
22 2010 Arizona was 57.4, and we rank actually 12 out of
23 51, including DC, but it not increase as fast as most
24 other states, so our ranking actually slipped slightly.
25 Okay. Then -- oh, okay. Let's look at --

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 actually look at the counties, and I'll change this
2 into 2020. I'll request Arizona counties. So this
3 shows the diversity index of each of the counties. The
4 highest is Coconino County. If you look at this, I
5 think one reason is it has, you know, pretty high
6 presence of White population. The -- I'm sorry. It's
7 the Black -- I'm sorry. It's the American Indian or
8 Alaska Native and Hispanic or Latino, and the next is
9 Navajo. If you look at the details, Navajo, you have
10 White and American Indian and Hispanic or Latino, also.
11 So this is -- the ranking in Santa Cruz is actually the
12 least diverse. If you remember, more than 80 percent,
13 about 83 percent or 86 percent, I don't remember
14 exactly, is Hispanic. So that county is the least
15 diverse. Okay. So that's the diversity index.
16 Now let's look at the racial and ethnic
17 diversity. So we wanted to see what's the largest
18 group for each geography. Here we start with the
19 United States and all the states. You can see on the
20 top this is the legend, you know, for each color
21 represents racial ethnic group, so White is this orange
22 color and Black is this light blue color, so on and so
23 forth. The last one, Hispanic or Latino, is this green
24 color. So for most of the United States you can see
25 that the White and Hispanic population is the largest

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 ethnic or racial group, and that is also true for
2 Arizona right here. 53.4 percent for the United
3 States. It's almost 58 percent. Here this is the
4 second largest racial or ethnic group. Now we're
5 getting more diverse. We're seeing different racial
6 and ethnic groups represented in this -- in this one.
7 And for Arizona, obviously, it's Hispanic. And for
8 Alabama that's Black. And for the United States, it's
9 also Hispanic. The third largest racial group for
10 Arizona, it's Black or African American.
11 And let's just quickly switch to 2010. So in
12 2010 back in -- for Arizona White is the largest group,
13 and Hispanic was the second largest group, but for the
14 third group it was African American -- or, I'm sorry,
15 it's American Indian, so that has changed to Black or
16 African American.
17 And now let's look at the counties. Okay.
18 Yeah, we can look at the counties. For our 15
19 counties, 11 of them have White as the largest racial
20 group, and Apache County, Navajo County, Santa Cruz and
21 Yuma counties different -- they are either Native
22 American or Hispanic. So this is the concept of
23 prevalence ranking.
24 And then you have the race ethnicity
25 prevalence maps. It's the same concept, but it's

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 mapped in here, and let me zoom in. I don't think you
2 can select a state here, but we can zoom in. If we can
3 zoom in to Arizona, this is the largest racial or
4 ethnic group. Again, we see mostly White, but Apache
5 and Navajo, that's Native American or American Indian
6 here. And Yuma and Santa Cruz, that's Hispanic.
7 That's the largest group.
8 In here you can select to see which is the
9 second largest group for all the -- for our counties.
10 So you can see most -- mostly it's Hispanic or Latino,
11 right. But for Navajo and Apache, that's White, and
12 for Yuma and the Santa Cruz that's also White, and for
13 Coconino that's American Indian. Okay. And the third
14 largest group -- give it a second, yeah. And so mostly
15 two or more races, and we also have Hispanic or Latino
16 in the northern counties.
17 Okay. So that's the measure of racial
18 diversity, and if you want the data you can download
19 the data tables from here, and you can select Arizona
20 and select any county you want and look at these
21 details.
22 Okay. Let's move on back to the presentation.
23 So with those maps we were able to drill down to the
24 county level, but I'm sure you are interested more in
25 the smaller geographies, so this tool provided by

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 ArcGIS by Esri allows you to do just that. I'm going
2 to get into this live map. This is not a Census Bureau
3 tool, so it's third party. But when you go there, it
4 takes you directly to the DC area, so let's zoom out of
5 there and get to Arizona.
6 In here there are several maps. What we are
7 interested in today is the predominant race and
8 ethnicity map. Again, there is a different provider,
9 and they are using different legends, so if you just
10 remembered what color means what, well, that doesn't
11 apply anymore. These are different color schemes.
12 Take a moment to orient yourself and take a look at the
13 legend to the left and what color means what.
14 Now we are in Arizona. So this map shows
15 which race or ethnicity is the predominant category in
16 each county, and it also shows the level of the degree
17 of predominance. Like in both Apache County and Navajo
18 County, the predominant race is American Indian. You
19 can see on the left the green color is American Indian.
20 But how green, how deep the color also indicates the
21 strength of predominance. In Apache County it's
22 more -- you know, the predominance of American Indian
23 is higher than in Navajo, in Navajo County. And you
24 can see for most of the other counties the predominant
25 race is White. We can see Yavapai County is more White

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 than, say, Maricopa County.
2 So this is how we interpret these maps. And
3 in Nogales -- I'm sorry. This is Santa Cruz County is
4 more Hispanic than Yuma county.
5 So we said the reason we come here is that we
6 can zoom in to below the county level, so let's look at
7 Navajo County. So this is Native American
8 predominance, but if you get in closer, oh, we can see
9 this is the middle of the county. So we're looking at
10 Winslow, Holbrook, Snowflake, Show Low, Pinetop,
11 Lakeside. So in this area, in these areas, the
12 predominant race is actually White, right, as opposed
13 to the north end of the county and the south end of the
14 county, which is very green, dominated by American
15 Indian. Okay. That's one case.
16 Let's zoom out and take a look at some other
17 areas. Let's zoom into the Phoenix metro area. So if
18 you look at Maricopa County and Pinal County, both of
19 them have White as the predominant race, and Pinal is
20 slightly more White than Maricopa. But if you zoom in,
21 we see the diversity in here, so this -- so this kind
22 of grayish blue color is Hispanic. And we can see the
23 Hispanics are concentrated in West Valley here. I
24 think this is I-17, so this is 19th Avenue, and here is
25 west of 19th Avenue, and south of this -- I think this

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 is Northern Avenue, so west of 19th Avenue and south of
2 Northern Avenue and also in South Phoenix and around
3 Sky Harbor Airport. So that's the area that has heavy
4 Hispanic concentration. And if you move east a little
5 bit, we can see we also have some concentration around
6 downtown Mesa and downtown Chandler. But if you get
7 closer, the rest of it is mostly White.
8 But if you get closer, you can see, wow, at
9 this point you start to see a different color, and this
10 is Asian, non-Hispanic Asian. Because Asian is such a
11 small population in Arizona, if you look at even the
12 census tract level you don't see a tract that's -- that
13 has Asian as predominant race. You zoom in -- I
14 believe this is census -- this is the block group.
15 Let's see. Yeah, this is the block group. So when you
16 get to the block group level you can start to see some
17 smaller race groups that -- that might be the
18 predominant group.
19 So now we're zooming into the block level.
20 Let's see. I believe this is block -- yeah, that's a
21 block. So we have several blocks of block groups
22 that's predominantly Asian in this Chandler area. But,
23 again, you probably have heard the block level data is
24 really, really noisy because of differential privacy.
25 So, similarly, if you look at the Tucson area

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 in Pima, so the Hispanic population is concentrated
2 along the I-10 corridor and also south and west of it.
3 And this red is non-Hispanic, two or more races. Don't
4 get too excited about this. If you click it has a
5 grand total population of one, so, and this is total
6 population one, but if you look at all these
7 subcategories, everybody is zero. I don't know what's
8 going on here. I look at my data, it's actually one or
9 two or more races. They're trying to protect
10 somebody's privacy here. That one could be two, could
11 be ten, could be zero, because -- because of the
12 differential privacy protection.
13 Okay. I think that's my -- let me get back to
14 my presentation.
15 That's it. That's my presentation. Thank you
16 very much.
17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Wow. That was -- well,
18 I had a ton of fun, and I hope my colleagues and the
19 public did as well, diving into understanding our
20 population. I really enjoyed that. I thought it was
21 so relevant and informative.
22 And I open it up to my colleagues for
23 questions.
24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you for the
25 presentation. I found it really interesting, and I

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 love the comparison from ten years ago. That was
2 really helpful to see that.
3 You had mentioned the diversity index, and you
4 went through the diversity and the prevalence. How
5 different is the diffusion score from any of that?
6 Because you didn't really go into that.
7 DR. CHANG: The diffusion score is basically
8 if you look at the largest -- the largest three groups
9 and take that out, the rest of it is -- is the
10 diffusion score. Diffusion score -- you know, in
11 Arizona I think the diffusion score is around 10, 11
12 different counties have different numbers. It's -- you
13 know, it's just another way of looking at it. You
14 know, are we in a place where the largest three groups
15 is everybody? We don't have many -- we don't have, you
16 know, the smaller groups, or do we have -- or are we a
17 place where in addition to the largest three group we
18 also have some very small groups, but collectively they
19 make up a significant population? So that's what it is
20 measuring.
21 Yeah, you have -- you have that website, and
22 when you go there you can -- you can take a look. It's
23 just simply you take the largest three groups and take
24 that out, and the rest of it combined, that's the
25 diffusion score. It's a percentage of the population.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And what we're seeing is
2 not a huge difference between the different indices
3 anyway, right, so, you know, when you compare the
4 diversity and prevalence, they weren't drastically
5 different, so I would assume the same thing with the
6 diffusion score. It's not going to give us a huge
7 difference in the way we look at things.
8 DR. CHANG: Yeah, I don't know how you
9 would -- you would be able to use this in your work,
10 but I thought I would just introduce these concepts.
11 And I should have said at the beginning I'm not an
12 expert in this at all, and I don't know how this will
13 be applied. I just come here as an outsider in this
14 redistricting business just trying to give you some
15 perspective. And you may find some things completely
16 irrelevant, some other things might be useful, so
17 that's -- that's how I'm approaching this.
18 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.
19 DR. CHANG: Thanks.
20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Other questions?
21 I have a couple, and if it's veering outside
22 of your scope of expertise, you know, just please, you
23 know, be honest. I'm curious about understanding the
24 changes. What's driving those changes? Is it
25 migration or different, you know, minority groups, you

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 know, coming into Arizona, leaving Arizona? Are there
2 different birth rates? You know, helping us understand
3 why there is that shift.
4 And second to that, and this may be going even
5 further, you gave great illustrations of where these
6 different communities are. Are there reasons why
7 they're there? Are there economic drivers or factors
8 that are contributing to groups congregating in these
9 areas that would be helpful for us to understand?
10 And in your response, please clarify what's
11 outside your scope so that we know how to then turn to
12 the types of experts that would answer the questions
13 most appropriately.
14 DR. CHANG: Okay. The first one I can try to
15 answer. The second one probably not much, but let me
16 try.
17 So the changes, I can use a few examples. We
18 all know that the -- let me refer back to my slide. I
19 may not necessarily show them, but I want to take a
20 look at them.
21 So for all the major race groups in Arizona,
22 they grew between 2010 and 2020, but they grew at
23 different rates, and I think it's not a surprise that
24 Hispanics grew faster than the White, non-Hispanic
25 population. But some of you -- I'm not sure some of

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 you, but some, the community that I know, the experts
2 that I know, may have expected faster growth of the
3 Hispanic population. And after all, you see the
4 proportion used to be 29.6 and now it's 30.7. It's
5 only one percentage point, even though it's a
6 15 percent growth from 2010 to 2020.
7 One reason -- I think I kind of mentioned this
8 in my previous presentation. One reason the Hispanic
9 population might not be growing as fast as some might
10 have expected is the birth rate really came down. It
11 used to be 15 years ago the Hispanic birth rate was
12 over three, and the non-Hispanic population birth rate,
13 we're talking about a total fertility rate, was around
14 two, so that was the difference of one, and currently
15 they are both under two. The difference is like 0.2,
16 not even quite 0.2. So that differential really almost
17 disappeared, so that contributed to -- to the
18 not-so-drastic dramatic growth of the Hispanic
19 population.
20 Another thing is Arizona's growth is really
21 driven these days by migration than birth, and
22 migration -- and domestic migration is the largest part
23 as opposed to international migration. And, remember,
24 our state is more Hispanic than the nation as a whole,
25 and when we receive migration from outside of the state

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 the Hispanic population of migrants is not as high as
2 our -- in our state. So there may be -- you know, this
3 kind of migration has the effect of diluting the
4 Hispanic growth, so the growth -- the people we -- we
5 get from outside of state does not have as high of the
6 Hispanic concentration, so that explains why Hispanic
7 grow, but not as fast as some might have expected.
8 And Native American population also grows, but
9 at a much slower rate. One of the reasons is also
10 their birth rate has dropped dramatically as well. I
11 don't have the numbers in my head, but, you know, used
12 to have a large differential, but the differential is
13 now much smaller, so that's another reason.
14 But for the other -- some other race and two
15 or more races, that I have to say a lot of that is
16 probably due to the change in questionnaire design, and
17 some -- there is some real growth, but it's just
18 difficult to separate those out. The growth in Asian
19 and Black populations, Asian is continually -- is
20 continuously driven by international migration.
21 And for Black population, we have a small
22 population to begin with, and if you think about it our
23 Black population is only about four percent.
24 Previously it was less than four percent, and now it's
25 just slightly more than four percent, and for the

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 nation that percent is much higher. When our
2 population growth is driven by migration, it's easier
3 to drive that number up more fast. And so that's my
4 explanation for the -- why, you know, the differential
5 changes between the races.
6 Why people gather, you know, I'm really not an
7 expert, and I'll defer to other experts.
8 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. That was
9 very informative.
10 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I have another question
11 that may -- again, may or may not be something you can
12 address. You gave us good information, kind of just a
13 brief look at how -- where populations are located now
14 looking at that map -- at the maps that you showed.
15 How have populations shifted over time in terms of
16 where they're living? So, for example, if we look at
17 the Asian population, I know that there is a -- there
18 is some clusters around Arizona State University,
19 University of Arizona, you know, around the
20 universities. There is some in Mesa. As an example,
21 how would those have shifted from other locations?
22 Have we seen certain populations cluster more or change
23 their locations?
24 The Hispanic population, you gave us a few
25 locations where we see high numbers. How did that

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 change from 10 years ago or 20 years ago? I don't know
2 if that's something you can address, but --
3 DR. CHANG: Yeah, I've not really studied this
4 in any depth. You know, I'm not a geographer. That's
5 not an excuse; it's just not really my focus. I'm sure
6 this question would be a fascinating question for some
7 geographers who really are focused on questions like
8 this. You know, this studies population, but their
9 focus is more of the geographic distribution and the
10 change over time. I think some geographers would love
11 this kind of -- these kind of questions. I can give
12 you some -- to me some common sense answers, but not
13 scholarly, so --
14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: That's fine. Thank you.
15 That's okay. Thank you.
16 DR. CHANG: I do know -- since you talk about
17 the migration, this may not directly answer your
18 question, but it may be relevant. You see this is a
19 nationwide change of migration from rural areas to
20 major metropolitan areas, and you see that in Arizona.
21 You know, the growth that I -- I think the growth being
22 Maricopa County accounted for about 80 percent of the
23 growth of the state. And, you know, this is not
24 exception. This is nationwide.
25 For 2010 to 2020, more than half of the

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 counties in the nation lost a population, and most of
2 those are smaller, rural counties. And we see this in
3 our state. We have five counties that actually lost a
4 population, and Maricopa just gets bigger and bigger.
5 You know, we see Maricopa grow more than 15 percent.
6 It's the largest county. It also grow at the
7 largest -- at the highest rate. Usually it's easier
8 for smaller counties to achieve higher rate of growth,
9 right, but here we have Maricopa that grow at the
10 highest rate. So that's something that we're seeing
11 nationwide, not specific to any race or ethnicity, just
12 population in general, urban versus rural. Whether we
13 like it or not, that's happening.
14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Any other questions?
15 Dr. Chang, you've, you know, elicited a lot of
16 thought and a lot of deeper questioning, which is
17 fabulous.
18 If there is no other follow-up questions of
19 Dr. Chang, thank you so much for your presentation. I
20 believe it will be online in our newsroom. It's always
21 a great resource to be able to go back and revisit the
22 information. And we appreciate, you know, your
23 contributions.
24 DR. CHANG: Welcome. My pleasure. And just
25 to note, I made some very slight changes since I

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 provided the slide to you yesterday so I will send this
2 again. Please just, you know, from now on use this
3 one. Nothing -- nothing substantive, but just some
4 typo and stuff.
5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay.
6 DR. CHANG: Thank you very much. I'll sign
7 off.
8 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thanks very much.
9 DR. CHANG: Bye-bye.
10 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Before we move to the
11 next agenda item, I'm going to use our discretion to
12 jump to a future item, which is addressing future
13 agenda item requests, Agenda Item No. VIII.
14 You know, this presentation was compelling,
15 and I think it raised a lot of thought in our minds.
16 One follow-up question that I have relates to the
17 Latino community. You know, we're about to be
18 embarking on, you know, serious decision-making as it
19 relates to the mapping, and it's essential that we
20 understand the majority minority districts that we have
21 in our state. You know, the Latino community is over
22 30 percent of our population, and not only are they
23 concentrated in these particular areas, but the
24 evidence shows that their voting behavior is unique
25 such that it warrants these, you know, particular

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 majority minority districts.
2 It was unfair, you know, to ask Dr. Chang,
3 even though we did anyway, you know, to dive deeper
4 into some of the historical patterns of migration,
5 their economic interests, their political, you know,
6 needs, and so I would like to ask us collectively if
7 there is consensus to maybe seek additional information
8 to dive deeper into this population, to maybe ask our
9 counsel to, you know, look into some academics or
10 experts that might be able to dive deeper into the
11 questions that Dr. Chang, you know, is not prepared to
12 answer. I don't know if there are thoughts of this.
13 We can defer it when we bring up this issue on Agenda
14 Number VIII, but it was so relevant to this particular
15 topic I felt the need to bring it up.
16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Chairwoman Neuberg, I
17 completely support you with that. I would like to hear
18 more in depth on that. And I'm not sure if -- Counsel
19 gave a great presentation on the American Indian
20 population. I don't know if they would want to do that
21 or bring in academics, but I would really support
22 hearing more. That was part of my question of how have
23 things shifted over time as well, so I'm very
24 interested in what you're talking about.
25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. How about just

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 for the sake of integrity of the agenda and maybe a
2 little bit of my neuroses of keeping order let's
3 revisit this when we come back to Agenda Item VIII, and
4 we can think about ideas and throw it out to our staff.
5 Comments, anything else on Agenda Item No. V,
6 this fantastic state demographer's presentation?
7 Okay. With that we will move to Agenda Item
8 No. VI, update from mapping consultants, Timmons and
9 NDC. Please take it away, Mark and Doug.
10 MR. FLAHAN: Good morning. Good to see you on
11 another day back to back. We got a lot of updates
12 today.
13 First I want to formally introduce a member of
14 my team that's joining us today. Brian Kingery is here
15 with us. He's the senior consultant here with Timmons,
16 and he will be helping present some of the stuff that
17 we're going to present today. You probably did see him
18 at the training yesterday. He was the one that
19 conducted your training session, so I just want to
20 formally welcome him to everybody else that's here on
21 staff and on the call.
22 For -- for the mapping software public
23 training, we did have our training yesterday. I think
24 that went really well. The slide deck I believe is now
25 on IRC's website. It is also on the hub, too, so if

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 they went to get there they are more than welcome to.
2 And, Brian, I believe you put the YouTube link
3 on the hub, too, so we can get to it pretty easily.
4 MR. KINGERY: Correct.
5 MR. FLAHAN: There was a question that came up
6 about technical support for the redistricting system so
7 I just want to revisit that a tiny bit here. When I
8 think about technical support I'm thinking technical
9 support of the actual system, the system is not
10 working, the application is down, the server is down,
11 those kind of things, maybe a password reset. We
12 definitely are going to provide technical support for
13 that. That's not a problem.
14 But user -- user -- end user support or
15 training, we don't -- we don't anticipate providing
16 one-on-one workshops with the public for end user
17 support, so I just wanted to throw that out there. Our
18 goal is to continue to add training, though, in videos
19 going forward.
20 Do we have any questions from the public -- or
21 from the training?
22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So, Mark, I appreciated
23 the training yesterday.
24 Thank you, Brian, for that.
25 You had said that you probably would have

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 those short clips up this week, as you've been
2 mentioning, so that people don't have to watch a whole
3 long thing.
4 MR. FLAHAN: I believe -- don't quote me
5 exactly on this number, but I believe we already have
6 four that are ready to go, and we're actually
7 generating them as we speak right now. I have another
8 staff member doing that. So that's the goal is that
9 redistricting system page on the hub will be
10 continually being updated.
11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.
12 COMMISSIONER MEHL: What was the participation
13 from the public yesterday? Did we see very many
14 people?
15 MR. FLAHAN: I think from our side we looked
16 at the YouTube, and I think there was maybe 60 at one
17 point. But I'll be honest, I wasn't watching the
18 YouTube the whole time. I was here joining you guys
19 through GoogleMeets.
20 MR. KINGERY: I can say we did see about 20
21 accounts created on the system yesterday.
22 MR. FLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions on the
23 training?
24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Mark, I don't have
25 questions on the training. I had questions on

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 submissions and all, but I don't know where that --
2 that's probably in your best practices so I'm going to
3 hold off and hear what you have to say there. My
4 questions may get answered right then.
5 MR. FLAHAN: Okay. If not we'll definitely
6 come back. Not a problem.
7 Some of the general updates, Doug, you want to
8 give just the general where we are at in the process of
9 the polarized voting report?
10 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. Just a quick update. We
11 do not have the polarized voting report to present to
12 you today. We have made good progress on it. We're
13 still going through the data, getting the data
14 formatted and cleaned up and figure out exactly which
15 races give us useful data, so we're -- we know it's a
16 priority item and trying to get through that quickly.
17 I -- I doubt we'll have it by next week, but hopefully
18 not too long after next Tuesday.
19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Doug Johnson, what
20 about -- the polarized and competitive were due today.
21 What about the competitive? Is that one also getting
22 ready?
23 MR. FLAHAN: Yes. The competitiveness and
24 demographic data for the grid map is almost ready and
25 we hope to publish it this week.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Mm-hmm.
2 MR. FLAHAN: So the next thing we've got on
3 our agenda is the community of interest report
4 discussion. I'm sure everybody has seen the community
5 of interest report, but let me bring it up here on the
6 screen, and we can go over it, answer any questions
7 that you guys might have. Let me bring it up here.
8 Let me share my screen with you guys. Can you see the
9 screen yet?
10 MR. KINGERY: Not yet.
11 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: No.
12 MR. FLAHAN: Can you see it now?
13 MR. KINGERY: Yeah, it's loading.
14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes.
15 MR. FLAHAN: Okay. Community of interest of
16 report. So this is all the data that people turned in
17 electronically or they filled out a paper survey at the
18 in-person listening tour sessions. We got 910 digital
19 submissions, and we got over 200 paper-based
20 submissions. I believe the ending number we got was
21 about 1,160 something total submissions, which public
22 outreach and participation was awesome. We got a lot
23 of -- a lot of interest.
24 And, you know, just comparing the amount of
25 data that we got, if we compared California's data set,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

which is an entirely larger state than us, they only had, at the time that I pulled the data when we closed, over 1,600 community of interest submittals, and we were in the 1,100s. And you just think about the difference of size between Arizona and California -- and their community of interest application was actually open for a lot more days than we are. The public participation has been really great, so I just wanted to throw that out there to the Commission that Arizona is active. They are participating with us. So I think that was really good.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And, Mark and Doug, I also just want to give a shout out to your team for the turnaround time in processing this date. I don't know how many other teams, you know, around the nation are processing, you know, as much data as we are in as compressed of a time, so I just want to give a shout out for -- you know, you must have been working, you know, around the clock, 24/7, so thank you.

MR. FLAHAN: No, you're very welcome.

So the community of interest report is a story map. It is publicly available. So what we really wanted to do is -- you probably have seen this map before, right? This was the 910 digital submittals that we had. And this big spiderweb map, we wanted to

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 try to get it to digest a little easier so you can
2 understand what does all this blue data mean because
3 right now it probably doesn't mean that much looking at
4 it at this scale.
5 So what we wanted to do here is we wanted to
6 boil it down a little bit, and what we did was we
7 wanted to create communities that could be used during
8 the redistricting process, and we wanted to look at
9 overlap counts. So where one person put a polygon in
10 that says, This is my community of interest, and
11 another person put a very similar polygon in, and where
12 are the overlaps, and we were counting those overlaps.
13 And in the end it turned out to be about 182 groups
14 that were covered.
15 And as you can see here, we have an example on
16 the Catalina Foothills, and you can see that the heat
17 map -- so the red means that there is more overlap, all
18 the way out to sort of the white border -- there is
19 five different classes here -- to the least amount of
20 people having an overlap.
21 Does everybody understand by overlap what I'm
22 talking about? Okay.
23 So then what we wanted to do is to look at
24 this more on a state level, so we came down here and we
25 built this one, which is the community of interest

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 overlap class count, so this is all the data sitting
2 statewide, and the user can come here to the widget
3 here, and they can select what they want to see. So if
4 they only want to see the highest, they can click on
5 the highest overlap count, and we can see where it
6 draws sitting here on the map. And if we want to see,
7 well, where is the next highest category, we can start
8 to see where the next highest category is, all the way
9 down to the lowest.
10 So if people just wanted to see, you know,
11 where is my lowest category, so you can see that there
12 is still a big spiderweb of entries that we have here
13 in the state. So we thought it would be good to allow
14 people to sort of drill down into the data and see just
15 maybe where the highest -- highest counts were or maybe
16 even down to the medium. So we're putting that data
17 into the public's hands, into your guys's hands, to
18 make analysis.
19 The last piece that we wanted to put in here
20 was looking at where all these communities of interest
21 fit, because sometimes those overlapped polygons can
22 look a little too much data, so how do we actually
23 amalgamate it down even more? So we basically built
24 these dots that take all of the data that we have for
25 the community of interest and sort of say aggregate it

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 together by location, so the bigger dots mean that
2 there is more submittals in that area. So you can see
3 this one big dot up here in the Flagstaff area says it
4 actually has eight features. The big dot here in
5 Phoenix actually means that it has 32 features.
6 And then as the user wants to come in here and
7 zoom in, you can see these dots are very responsive,
8 and they start to drill down to smaller scales as you
9 zoom in. And when you zoom in all the way you can see
10 that we have the community of interest names here. And
11 why is this important? Because you can actually drill
12 down to each of these communities of interest to look
13 at the polygons that are associated here with the
14 community of interest.
15 So say I wanted to zoom in here, and there is
16 Kyrene School District here. So how could I use this?
17 I could come over here and click on Kyrene School
18 District. If I wanted just the PDF of the Kyrene
19 School District of what people submitted, I can click
20 on it, and here is their community of interest PDF. So
21 here is the exact data that is on a web map with the
22 same data that you could go print, if you wanted,
23 today. And each community of interest of has this
24 attached to it as PDF.
25 The second thing that you can do if you want

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 to use just a digital form, you can come in here and
2 turn on the community of interest overlap count layer,
3 and you can come in here and select any community of
4 interest that you want. You can either scroll down or
5 you can type in the search bar.
6 In this instance we will use Kyrene. So we
7 have Kyrene School District here. And we can turn this
8 on, and you can see once I turn on this overlap count
9 here is the data that we got for the community of
10 interest of Kyrene School District.
11 And if you want to start to compare and see
12 overlaps, I can come over here and say, well, I see
13 something that says south Tempe here. Let me scroll
14 down to south Tempe. And now I can start to see, you
15 know, where the overlaps are. So south Tempe is this
16 light yellow overlap here.
17 If I wanted to turn that off, I can turn that
18 off and say, well, let's see what this other big one
19 is. We have -- we have Chandler, and we have south
20 Tempe/Chandler. So if we go here and look at Chandler,
21 so there is Chandler's border. And then I think we saw
22 Tempe.
23 So you can start to see how all this data gets
24 put together and how they overlap each other. It's a
25 lot of data, and how can we easily display it for, you

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 know, public consumption and for everyone to easily
2 understand it? And at the very end what we did -- and
3 like I say, the instructions here are on the left side
4 of the screen, so if you want to go back the
5 instructions are here. It tells you step-by-step
6 instructions on how to do that. If you want to just
7 download all of the community PDFs, you just come here,
8 click the PDF. It's going to take a second to load.
9 Switch tabs. We're just waiting for the PDF to load.
10 And here is an entire series of all the PDFs that are
11 in the system, if a user just wanted to print them that
12 way and consume them. So we have that available.
13 And then if we jump back to the community
14 interest of report at the very bottom, we have
15 paper-based forms.
16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Mark, just a quick
17 question on the paper based. Are those also embedded
18 now into the digital? Did you -- you included them, so
19 the data we're looking at has what people submitted on
20 paper and digitally. Right?
21 MR. FLAHAN: Well, the paper-based forms
22 have -- the paper-based forms have -- have been put in
23 there, but we have not converted them to digital, and
24 the reason we did not take their geographic area and
25 put them into digital, because then there would be some

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 type of subjectivity of us trying to interpret exactly
2 what they said. So we definitely put it in the --
3 their exact words written there in the Excel, but we
4 did not digitize their dataset, but we wanted to make
5 sure that you had access to what was submitted paper
6 based.
7 MR. KINGERY: So we have a downloadable Excel
8 spreadsheet that has all those paper-based submissions,
9 so you can see from the ones that were legible what was
10 submitted. And then if you take a good look through
11 there you'll see some submissions that, you know, the
12 subjectivity could be taken out, and you know exactly,
13 you know, what intersection to what intersection a
14 person is talking about or physical geographic element,
15 like the intersection of this highway and this road and
16 this stream, whereas other people just said the county
17 to this county, or it was a little bit not as clear for
18 us to be able to digitize onto a map.
19 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And thank you so much
20 for providing the qualitative data, you know, those
21 written reports that are not necessarily put into the
22 mapping, because the Commissioners are reading it all,
23 and I want to assure, you know, the public that even if
24 you can't tackle being able to submit a map, your words
25 are reaching us, and we're reading them.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 And in terms of -- of technologically
2 friendly, I hope everybody has gone on the community of
3 interest site. I'm as challenged as everybody, and I
4 found it incredibly user friendly and the data so rich.
5 I mean, just such a wealth of information that I hope
6 everybody dives deep to learn about, you know, who we
7 all are. I thought you all did a great job.
8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: It's -- I'll agree. I'm
9 enjoying kind of researching and learning about it.
10 But I did have a question, because I think
11 it's great -- it's a great tool. And I guess this is
12 maybe for Doug Johnson. I'm not sure. But at one
13 point early on we talked about what if we get loads of
14 information that's basically duplicative and how do we
15 distinguish between that when we're looking at things
16 like community of interest? What if 20 people all
17 submit essentially the same map and now it looks like
18 that, and two people submit something else, but it's
19 more of a -- you know, it's an effort to try to
20 influence things one way or the other? And you said
21 numbers wouldn't be the only thing we would be looking
22 at. So maybe could you speak to how -- how do we as
23 Commissioners judge whether we're just having a big
24 campaign to put one particular thing in versus
25 distinguishing the community of interest over all?

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Does that make sense?
2 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. I think to some degree
3 you summarized it well, where it's the insight and
4 value of the idea, not the quantity of people
5 submitting the idea that matters. Ultimately it's the
6 Commission's judgment and decision, right, which items
7 you'll give weight to and which you won't give as much
8 weight to. But I think that is the key takeaway for
9 the public is to know it's not a matter of whether you
10 get five friends or 500, you know, political action
11 committee members to show up. It's the quality of the
12 idea and how well it meets the criteria laid out in
13 Prop 106, ultimately.
14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So I've been thinking
15 about that as I was looking at some of those clusters
16 that Mark just showed us where we would see those
17 high -- you know, high density areas we got a lot of
18 submissions. So I guess from our perspective we then
19 just need to look and see. If we get a lot of
20 duplicates we need to understand that those are just
21 duplicates versus people saying here is my idea versus
22 the next person, here is my idea. There might be
23 slight differences, but they might overlap a lot. So
24 that would be helpful for us to be able to distinguish.
25 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. And keep in mind a lot of

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 this you can verify with data, right, so now that the
2 community -- now we have a whole bunch of people from
3 different groups that have brought up Kyrene School --
4 School District as a community of interest of note, we
5 can go get the official map of the Kyrene School
6 District to overlay and nail down on, you know, what
7 are the official boundaries compared to where different
8 people drew the map. So it's -- it's a combination of
9 the public's input, and where available, confirmation
10 with quote, unquote, official data.
11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I think to me that's one
12 of the challenges we're just going to have to really be
13 careful about, campaigns about particular areas, and
14 recognizing that versus getting lots of good
15 information from lots of people, which is what we're
16 hoping for.
17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner, I'm
18 confident that the Commissioners are digesting the
19 information we're receiving, you know, with thought,
20 and so I feel confident that we're going to be able to
21 discern quality, quantity, and all of that, obviously,
22 with the partnership and help of staff, if there are
23 quantitative, you know, measures to help us digest
24 that, but I think we're all learning, and I think we
25 can catch that.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I agree. I just -- I
2 guess I wanted to just raise the -- make it aware,
3 raise the awareness of that.
4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Any other further
5 conversation about the community of interest report? I
6 have one question and then I'm going to suggest that
7 maybe we take a break. It's a logical break point
8 before we dive into grid maps and finish the meeting.
9 My last question has to do with how is mapping
10 going to be collecting additional data moving forward
11 in the public hearing? So in the previous public
12 hearings the data collection was focused on a community
13 of interest report. Now we're embarking on additional
14 hearings. How are you going to be collecting that data
15 and sharing back that collection of data with us?
16 MR. FLAHAN: Doug, you want to take that one?
17 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. I think that actually
18 plays very well into the next step of this, which is
19 the discussion of the redistricting hub and the grid,
20 so I think that's where all that data will be showing
21 up.
22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Then let's -- unless
23 there is any other questions, comments on material that
24 we've addressed to this point, I'm going to suggest we
25 take a, you know, seven- to ten-minute break. Is that

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

good with the team? Okay. We'll see everybody sharply at I'm going to say 9:38 to 9:39 so we dive right in at 9:40, if possible. Okay. Thank you.

(Brief recess taken.)

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Welcome back, everybody. I see everybody's cameras kind of coming on live. We'll wait another minute, and if you're there please let us know you're available. We'll give another minute for Commissioner York. I don't know if you're there through audio or camera.

COMMISSIONER YORK: I'm here.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Awesome. I believe we have our entire team reconvened, and so we will turn it back over to mapping.

MR. FLAHAN: Thanks. So the next topic that we have is to show to you guys the grid maps, and Brian Kingery will go over the grid maps with you guys.

MR. KINGERY: Can you hear me now?

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes.

MR. KINGERY: Let me share my screen, and we'll get started.

In yesterday's public training session I talked about the redistricting hub and how -- one second.

Yesterday during the public training section I

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 spoke about the redistricting hub where all the GIS and
2 mapping content will be featured for this project. So
3 now I'm going to show you -- walk you through the
4 website, essentially, and then we'll get to the grid
5 map.
6 So here is the home page. Some of this
7 content is not live yet, such as the grid map that I'm
8 going to show, but some of the other applications, like
9 the community of interest story map that we just
10 reviewed, is located here on the maps and apps. So
11 here is a dashboard that just shows another way to view
12 all the submissions. Here is access to that story map.
13 And then we also have a couple of other applications
14 that look at the state of Arizona, different
15 demographic variables. These are based off of 2019
16 variables, so if you're interested to see how -- the
17 change between 2019 and the newly released 2020
18 variables you can do so.
19 Next up is the redistricting system. Since
20 yesterday I've updated at the bottom of the page a link
21 to the recorded YouTube live training session, as well
22 as access to the training slides. And as Mark said
23 earlier, we're actively creating videos and other
24 documentation that we'll post to this page shortly.
25 Without further adieu, we will get to the grid

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 map. So what is the grid map? The grid map is
2 essentially meant to serve as a starting point in the
3 redistricting system, and it's only based on a few
4 constraints -- a few rules, rather, shown on the bullet
5 point within the list. So I'm going to go through
6 those bullet points, and then we'll jump right into a
7 version of the grid map that, you know, follows all
8 these criteria.
9 So first the grid map needs to originate at
10 the township median. That median has been identified
11 as the corner of Grand Avenue, 19th Avenue, and
12 McDowell in Phoenix. When this page goes live you'll
13 be able to interact with all this content, download
14 zipped shapefiles so you can work with those dissolved
15 districts outside of the redistricting system and port
16 them in, create plans that way.
17 I have a quick view link which you can easily
18 open in Google Maps. Below here I have an embedded
19 interactive map where you can search for your addressee
20 in relation to where you are located or where an
21 address of interest is located to the township median.
22 The next is at that township median the state
23 is going to be divided to quadrants, so we're
24 essentially creating a grid for the grid map quadrants
25 1 through 4, which leads into the next -- the next

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

rule.

The next rule states that starting in Grid 1 you need to move in a clockwise manner throughout the state, so that's what this graphic here represents. So this red cross-hairs is the township median. Starting in the blue Grid 1, you need to move into a clockwise manner before going into Grid 2, Grid 3, and then Grid 4.

And then the next is -- with the exception of Maricopa County, once a county has started to be assigned to a district, whether that's one of the 30 legislative districts or one of the nine congressional districts, once a county has started to be assigned to that district the entire county must be assigned before moving to the next.

The next is each of the nine congressional and 30 legislative districts for this balanced, equal representation grid map, it needs to have only a difference of plus or minus one person. So a key point to take into account from the training yesterday, in the redistricting system we're allowing plans to be submitted with ten percent deviation, so plus or minus five percent, but for this grid map we really wanted to focus on only looking at that sole variable of total population and then creating districts as a starting

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 point that only has a plus or minus of only -- of a
2 single person.
3 And looking at, you know, the total population
4 of the 2020 census, there is 7.15 million people across
5 the state of Arizona, so dividing that by nine, that
6 means that three of the congressional districts will
7 have one additional person, so that's 794,612, where
8 the remaining six will have 611. And then out of the
9 30 legislative, 12 legislative districts will have
10 238,384, with 18 having 383, one less.
11 And then the last and final rule is that each
12 district is required to be compact and contiguous. So
13 compactness is the shape of the district. I wanted to
14 keep it -- if you think if you drop an egg on the floor
15 and it splatters or if you shoot a paintball at the
16 wall and how it hits, it's more in a circular splatter
17 type of appearance. You don't have essentially a
18 district that's a thin long line or wrapping around a
19 certain community, not including them, so that's
20 compactness.
21 The next one is contiguous, essentially
22 meaning that all of the census blocks that are in a
23 district, they need to be connected. You can't have
24 District 1 -- a census block assigned to District 1 in
25 the northeast part of the state and then the rest of

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 District 1 in the southwest portion of the state. They
2 all have to touch.
3 And then that note that is added there below
4 the compactness line, the grid maps that I'm going to
5 show here in a second, there are labels of 1 through 9
6 and 1 through 30, respective to district -- or
7 congressional and legislative. Those district numbers
8 are not meant to say this is District 4. This is --
9 those numbers, the 1 through 9 and 1 through 30, are
10 simply meant to say the district that's labeled with 1,
11 that's where we started. Then we move to 2 and then 3
12 and then 4. That is just the order of how we assigned
13 those districts.
14 So with that -- that rule there about the city
15 of Prescott needs to be located in Legislative District
16 1, once the plan -- the final plan is made it will
17 follow that -- that note.
18 All right. So without further adieu, here are
19 some static maps, and then below are graphs that I'll
20 show, and also there are interactive maps which
21 provide, you know, being able to interact, zoom in and
22 get a lot greater detail than a static map provides.
23 So here are the statewide view and the 1 to
24 500,000 scale view zoomed into the township median in
25 Maricopa County for the congressional maps. You can

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 see from my cursor here that District Number 1 is here,
2 and then moving north in a clockwise manner here is
3 District 2. And then starting back at the origin of
4 the township median in Grid 2, it goes to District 3,
5 4, 5, and 6. Then starting again at the township
6 median, 7, and then again going into Grid 4, 8, and 9.
7 So you can see clearly the pattern that we followed in
8 making these.
9 And I can't stress -- stress enough that when
10 our team put these maps together we only looked at
11 census tract to census block and only looked at total
12 population. We did not look at any other variables,
13 any other physical geographic elements, like where a
14 mountain range was or a river or anything like that.
15 We simply looked at the latest 2020 data for total
16 population and then the tighter boundaries that
17 represent the geographies from the tract to the block
18 level.
19 And so this next set of maps, it's the same
20 view. It's just shown with county boundaries turned
21 on. So the colors did not change between the first set
22 of maps that I showed and this set. It's -- it's only
23 showing the difference is the county. So looking at
24 this for District Number 5 represented in orange, you
25 can see that a portion of District 5 is in Maricopa

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 County, and then it takes up all of Pinal and then
2 moves into Pima, whereas you can see District 6 down
3 here it consists of three counties. So you can tell
4 the same pattern that we tried to follow.
5 I will say that when -- throughout this
6 process we started at the census tract level to get us
7 close, and then once we were in a certain range we
8 switched over to blocks so that we could really
9 fine-tune to get the math to add up correctly so that
10 every district had equal representation in terms of
11 total population.
12 So here is a graph of the grid map for
13 congressional districts, Districts 1 through 9, with
14 the color -- the symbology of the polygons carried
15 over, and you can see from this graph District 1,
16 District 5, and District 6 have that 612, have that one
17 plus one population count.
18 And then everything that I just showed, it's
19 the same pattern for the legislative here, so here is
20 the statewide and the township median 1 to 500 scale.
21 So you can't, you know, get a lot of detail in Maricopa
22 County at the statewide scale, so that's why there are
23 zoomed in map expanse as well as the interactive map
24 that is available to the Commission to look at.
25 So here is the township median, so 1, 2, 3, 4,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

and then moving into this county is 5, 6, 7. You can see the pattern that we followed.

Here is that same view of those maps, just with the county boundaries turned on. So you can see that Yavapai County -- pretty much Yavapai is in 5, and then you have Coconino and Navajo in 6. You have down here in Pima County in the Tucson area District 17, 18, and I believe 20, you know, right there over -- over Tucson.

And then here is the population breakdown. So the top graph are the districts that have 238,338 -- or 383. And then the lower graph are the districts that have that additional population count. So as you can see just from what I've shown so far, every district that has been made in this grid is balanced and meeting the criteria of that plus or minus one person.

Here we have the maps published and interactive. Nothing that I'm showing right now is currently available for the public to explore. Currently in this -- in this presentation it's really just viewing my screen only, but if the Commission wants these to be made public all I need is five minutes and they can be made public.

So on the left, these -- these two maps are designed to stay in synch. On the left are

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 congressional. On the right are legislative. You can
2 zoom in, search for an address. Here I'm zooming into
3 the township median. And you can see, you know, like
4 these deviations. That's where we had to go and grab
5 census blocks from another district or another grid
6 altogether to bring over to make all the math work. So
7 here on the left are congressional and on the right are
8 legislative.
9 Also, just a more flexible way to view it if
10 you don't want to see the side-by-side comparison is we
11 have a grid map present where you can turn on and off
12 both the legislative and congressional boundaries.
13 And then also loaded here, the same source
14 that Dr. Chang used with the Esri data in showing the
15 atlas of Census 2020. This is the same data that's in
16 there. So you can zoom into that township median and,
17 you know, turn on the tracts and be able to see, you
18 know, symbolized by size of population within that
19 tract. And we have that loaded into this map all the
20 way from the state level all the way down to the census
21 block level.
22 So you do have a little bit more flexibility.
23 You can zoom really close into the census block, that
24 street level, and see where everything has been
25 allocated, the counts of the population for each census

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 block, and, you know, follow along with the methodology
2 that we used.
3 And with that I guess open it back up to Mark
4 and the Commission, any questions, comments.
5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, as we approach
6 this conversation I want to orient, you know, what
7 we're looking at, and so our mission as a Commission is
8 to adopt a grid map that basically sets things to zero,
9 starts from scratch, and reflects congressional and
10 legislative districts of equal population that we asked
11 our mapping team to provide to us. And so as we, you
12 know, dive into this topic, please feel free to ask
13 process questions, et cetera, but let's refrain from
14 commenting on the substance of the lines since that is
15 what we will be doing in subsequent weeks.
16 And so with that I open it up to my
17 colleagues. Are there questions? And there may well
18 not be questions.
19 In my mind there are no questions. I only
20 have a very simple question: Do these grid maps
21 reflect what we asked our mapping team to provide? Did
22 they set, you know, the benchmark clean? Did they
23 create equal populations to meet the Constitutional
24 criteria to start as a starting point for our work?
25 And if there are no substantive comments or

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 questions on that, I'll entertain a motion, because we
2 should approve these maps as a starting point.
3 Comments? Questions? And then I'll entertain
4 a motion to approve these grid maps.
5 COMMISSIONER LERNER: This is Commissioner
6 Lerner. I would move to approve the grid maps.
7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And Commissioner Mehle
8 seconds.
9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Any further
10 conversation?
11 COMMISSIONER YORK: I would just say nice
12 work.
13 MR. KINGERY: Thank you. Definitely a team
14 effort.
15 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: I echo that, too.
16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. We'll do a vote.
17 Vice Chair Watchman.
18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Aye.
19 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehle.
20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Aye.
21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.
22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Aye.
23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York.
24 COMMISSIONER YORK: Aye.
25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Neuberg is

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 an aye.
2 And with that we have adopted our grid maps as
3 a starting point, and we look forward to moving forward
4 in the process. Thank you so much for your due
5 diligence in providing this -- this great template.
6 MR. KINGERY: Thank you.
7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Is this going to be
8 live, then? Can we ask for that to be made live at
9 this time now that it's been approved?
10 MR. KINGERY: Correct. I need about five
11 minutes, and when you go to the hub site and click grid
12 maps, you'll get to this page I'm showing right here,
13 and you'll have access to interact, explore, download,
14 and so on.
15 And then I will say, Mark, do you want to
16 address the redistricting system when the approved grid
17 maps will be loaded in?
18 MR. FLAHAN: Yeah. So we're going to turn
19 around in 24 hours is our plan to get them put in and
20 the templates available for the public.
21 MR. KINGERY: So you'll remember in the
22 training yesterday I used demo grid maps with four
23 districts just to show the functionality of the system.
24 Once these adopted -- newly adopted grid maps are
25 entered into the system those demo grid maps of the

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

four districts will be removed so that when a user goes into the redistricting system it's live. They will be able to submit -- work on and then submit nine district plans and 30 district plans based off of these adopted grids.

COMMISSIONER MEHL: This is Commissioner Mehle. Will there be -- will there be a link on our main website that takes us to this hub?

MR. KINGERY: I believe that's the case already, and if not I would highly recommend on the map section of the IRC website adding a link to this hub site.

MR. SCHMITT: There is currently a link in our mapping section, so the public can go to irc.az.gov/maps and the link is right there.

COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. So exciting, and I just want to remind the public when you see these lines, these are arbitrary starting point lines, and so as you submit your feedback understand that there is no meaning behind any of these lines outside of equal population.

Okay. Anything else on grid maps? If not we welcome you to move into E, the best practices after grid maps, which we will be starting in an hour.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 MR. FLAHAN: Yes, yes. Thank you. So best
2 practices after grid map I'm going to turn over to
3 Doug. I believe he has a presentation for you.
4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you.
5 And just to reassure everyone, this is a
6 fairly short presentation compared to a lot of the ones
7 I've given before. So let me get to my screen. Let me
8 make it presentation mode. I'll share that. Here we
9 go. Okay. There we go.
10 So I just want to kind of frame what I'm going
11 to be talking about. The idea is to give a little
12 discussion about a typical -- I want to emphasize
13 typical, not required; this is all up to the
14 Commission's discretion -- a typical process for what
15 we're calling decision meetings, in particular,
16 focusing on the Commission's role in those meetings,
17 which is, of course, front and center in those decision
18 meetings. And just, I mean, meetings for discussion at
19 this point is we've had the listening tour. The
20 Commission is now planning on doing another series of
21 really listening meetings to get public input. What
22 I'm focusing on for this is when the Commission comes
23 together to actually make decisions on what changes to
24 make to the grid map after hearing from (audio
25 distortion) those public sessions. So let me next go

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 to the next slide.
2 Big picture, this is very big picture, the
3 Commission and Commissioners individually really have
4 the key responsibility of adopting three maps. Very
5 happy to say number one is now complete. The
6 Commission has adopted its grid map.
7 Now, set forth in Prop 106 we have two more
8 steps. The first is adoption of a draft map, and then
9 after additional input time adopting a final map.
10 Those are your formal responsibilities. Of course as
11 part of that responsibility -- or as the Commission or
12 as part of that process is the Commissioner's
13 responsibility to listen to public input, and at one
14 point Prop 106 actually spells out a chance for the
15 legislature to weigh in and share input, and based on
16 that input, based on data, and based on your judgment
17 to adjust the grid, the original grids maps, based on
18 those criteria that are spelled out in Prop 106. So
19 very big picture is that's your responsibility, and
20 that's what we're all focusing on as we try to look
21 ahead on how to achieve these goals and fulfill these
22 responsibilities.
23 Of course, there are two maps that the
24 Commission ultimately approves. One is a legislative
25 map, and one is a congressional map. Trying to discuss

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 them simultaneously doesn't really work. Even when
2 there is a common issue, for example, a neighborhood
3 being split the same way in both maps and that
4 community wants to be put back together, even if that
5 specific issue raised applies to both maps, how you
6 would achieve that -- and the term you'll hear a lot is
7 "rippling" -- ripples differently through each map. So
8 if you move the population of a legislative map that
9 has, you know, impacts on all the surrounding districts
10 and has different impacts in moving that same
11 population the congressional map has.
12 So you really can't -- even when there is the
13 same concern in both maps you really can't make
14 decisions on how to address that concern simultaneously
15 in both maps, which is what has led past commissions
16 and, you know, local commissions we've worked with as
17 well that have similar issues to split the
18 considerations and have separate public input times and
19 separate Commission deliberation and direction and
20 ultimately decision times on the legislative map
21 separate from the congressional map.
22 And you can do those, you know, separate days
23 if you're having multiday meetings. You can divide the
24 days morning and afternoon. There is flexibility on
25 that. I think it may end up being a mix of those. As

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

there are tons of issues raised at the beginning of your decision-making meeting you meet all day, reach a map, and then maybe when you narrow it down to just two or three final decisions you can have a morning and afternoon or some deviation like that, but the key thing is having legislative time and congressional time separately.

This also works out to allow time for your mapping team where there are larger challenges that can't be addressed in the spur of the moment by just checking on the map right then, where there are larger challenges where the mapping team have to go away and work on how to -- how to implement what the Commission has asked for, that gives time for them to go away while the Commission focuses on the other map, so that helps as well.

The main thing is decision meetings as having three steps. The initial step here is going to be a big report where you get a summary of the public comments that have come in during the listening meeting that led up to this decision meeting. So just as you saw the community of input report being a summary of all the input that came in during the initial community of interest listening tour, similarly you'll get a lot of input, and those will be summarized in some form at

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 the start of the decision meeting and may just be a,
2 Here is the website where all the materials have been
3 posted. Here is a list of what -- the maps that have
4 been posted, something like that. There will be some
5 kind of report to you from staff and consultants on
6 what's been heard so far. That would include in
7 particular -- you'll get all the input, but that will
8 include particular maps.
9 Now that we have our grid, our two grids in
10 this case, now I think you'll start to get a lot of
11 maps from the public of district maps, either
12 legislative or congressional plans statewide.
13 Typically there will then be a public comment period,
14 either the way you've been doing them virtually or
15 in-person option, where folks could comment on what's
16 been heard so far and ask that you take certain things
17 into consideration. And that's all kind of to kick off
18 the start of this decision meeting process.
19 And then we get into the Commission asking
20 questions -- we expect there to be tons of questions --
21 and ultimately giving directions to the mapping team
22 for changes you want to see. Some of those things, if
23 they're small or easy changes, we can do live right
24 there. You know, what happens if you move this city
25 block. Boom, we can show you. That's pretty easy and

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 simple, especially if they're so small that they don't
2 have a population ripple through all the surrounding
3 districts.
4 Others are bigger challenges, you know. The
5 grid does not even try to keep cities together. It
6 does not even try to keep tribal reservations together.
7 So, you know, trying to put all those together are
8 obviously bigger issues that we unlikely could answer
9 live in a meeting. And just a reminder as we talked
10 about before, the idea is that each adjustment to the
11 grid we want to have a clear record on how that ties
12 into the constitution criteria and which criteria we're
13 trying to meet in making that change.
14 So that's kind of the first -- really the
15 first day would be mainly getting all -- a summary of
16 all this input that's coming in, and then the initial
17 review and perhaps initial request for map changes from
18 the Commission. Then there will be kind of a
19 back-and-forth middle process where your mapping team
20 would come back and present the results of trying to
21 implement the Commission's directions from the initial
22 meeting or from the previous meeting the day before.
23 It is likely that residents will continue to submit
24 maps and other public comments as you go through your
25 decision meeting process.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 And think of this as what we call an interim
2 process. It's not we get input of the public comments,
3 we give one set of directions, and, boom, we have a
4 map. This is a much more complicated process of asking
5 to see what happens if we do a change, deciding whether
6 those ripples are -- are small enough that they -- that
7 it's worth it to make the change to achieve that
8 Constitutional criteria, or whether there was some
9 unforeseen impact of making that change, and, no, we
10 don't want to implement that change into the map.
11 So I expect that there will be -- you know,
12 again, this is a typical process. We're completely
13 open to Commission direction and decisions on this, and
14 certainly there could be lots of good ideas on how to
15 manage these meetings beyond what I'm presenting today.
16 But we expect there to be kind of the running just the
17 grid with the very specifically implemented changes
18 that the Commission has approved so far, and then these
19 kind of tests. Can we put this together? Can we put
20 that together? And the Commission would evaluate the
21 results of that test and whether or not to implement
22 that and incorporate that into the running official
23 map.
24 We do expect multiple rounds of, okay, we made
25 this change. For example, I'm just randomly picking,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 you know, maybe we put Casa Grande together, but the
2 ripple of that led to Saddlebrooke not being with
3 Tucson, and perhaps Saddlebrooke wants to be with
4 Tucson. I'm just randomly making things up. So as we
5 go through those you'll go through different steps.
6 Maybe there is another change that could then put
7 Saddlebrooke back with Tucson if Saddlebrooke wants to
8 be with Tucson. So you can go through this process of
9 steps and hopefully improving the map each step of the
10 way.
11 Then at the end of the decision-making time we
12 would end up -- essentially, time will run out. We
13 need to get to the next public input phase. And so as
14 the Commission evaluates the last set of requests,
15 decide which of those to implement based on both your
16 own judgment and public comment. There will then be
17 adoption of that map.
18 I do want to emphasize, though, that nothing
19 is final until the whole map is final at the very end,
20 so both from the Commission's point of view -- you
21 know, you can always revisit earlier decisions. If --
22 if some change seems to work great and then a day or
23 two later there is some ripple from something else that
24 runs into it, well, we can reconsider that first
25 decision. This is important for the public to realize,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

too, that if the public asks for a change and that change is -- is endorsed by the Commission and implemented into the map, the public still needs to keep track of what's happening as this process goes forward. And the Commission still needs to remember those earlier requests as there is pressure from our requested changes that might impact that original change, so this is a very dynamic process as you go through this.

Then in the final step, when we're in the decision-making process for the final maps, when we're in a near final map, both of the previous commissions, and the elections clearly would like us to do this, have provided the maps to county elections officials for, say, a 24-hour review, a quick review, where they're just looking for what are called sliver creasings. Sometimes a line the Commission is looking at in the legislative map or the congressional map is just off, just barely off by one census block or something like that, from the counties map, which may have justice of the peace lines and school board lines and city council lines incorporated in it. So this is a chance for the county election folks to come back and say can we get rid of this silver creasing.

Historically in the two commissions almost all

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 of them had no people in them so it was a really easy
2 fix to save a ton of elections administrative work each
3 election cycle. Sometimes they do have a couple of
4 people in it. For legislative maps you'll have some
5 flexibility on the population side. For the
6 congressional maps moving any people at the very end is
7 a bit of a hassle because of that need for near perfect
8 population equality.
9 This does bring up a larger question. I want
10 to take a step back earlier in the process. As you're
11 working with congressional maps it is -- as Brian from
12 Timmons Group can now confirm and as you have seen
13 somewhat, it is an amazingly time-consuming process to
14 take a district from the one percent negation to a zero
15 percent negation. So as you're working with your
16 congressional map and going through this very dynamic
17 interim process it may be worth not worrying about
18 getting it down to perfect balance every single
19 revision as long as you're really close. You know, if
20 you're within one percent, say, you know we can get it
21 there. And then only worry about spending those hours
22 and hours that it takes to do that in the final map to
23 get it to perfect balance. That allows you to spend
24 those hours looking at other options and looking at the
25 ways the map may be improved rather than spending it

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 trying to get it from 1,000 people off to one person
2 off to zero people off. So something to think about as
3 you go through the process is often we won't worry
4 about perfect balance until you get to that final map,
5 and then we'll come back with the changes that get it
6 to perfect balance.
7 So that's kind of the decision meeting
8 process. Three steps to it: The initial, which is a
9 lot of reports to you on what -- and you reporting as
10 well -- on what you've heard at the public input
11 sessions, and then going through this dynamic interim
12 process.
13 A couple of big picture thoughts to keep in
14 mind. Given the fantastic interest that the Arizona
15 residents have already shown in this process we're
16 likely to get, and we're hoping to get, tons of public
17 comments on maps. It's -- just from a time perspective
18 it's likely to be impossible to respond to and discuss
19 every public comment. We run into this even with
20 cities, like working with cities and counties on
21 redistricting. What we say is don't bother -- I guess
22 don't feel the need to go through and reject every
23 comment that you don't agree with. Focus on the
24 positive. Focus your comments on what did each
25 Commissioner hear that you -- that appealed to you,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 that you thought made sense, and that you would like to
2 see at least tested and perhaps adopted into the
3 changes to the grid map.
4 And then whenever possible, as you're giving
5 direction and talking about changes you would like to
6 see, keep in mind the ripples. If you're moving
7 population from District 1 to District 2 to put
8 together cityettes keep in mind you've taken people out
9 of District 1 and somewhere District 1 has to get that
10 population back. So how does that circle around work?
11 Sometimes there is -- you just trade two side-by-side
12 areas between two districts. That's really easy.
13 Other times you got to ripple all the way around some
14 other communities of interest and concern. You might
15 get -- let's say you might have seven districts passing
16 1,000 people all the way around in order to put a
17 community together.
18 So as you're giving direction, it's definitely
19 helpful to us as your mapping team that you think about
20 those ripples and how you would like to see them. You
21 can, however, say, Show us what happens if we put this
22 community together, and we will take it into
23 consideration, well, we've heard the earlier directions
24 you've given, and of course the criteria, and try to
25 tie all those together into what we hope to present to

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 you as the best map possible.
2 Finally, I do want to emphasize that there are
3 really two -- two phases to this. As I mentioned
4 earlier, when you're voting as a Commission you can
5 kind of give a more informal direction, discussion of
6 maps you would like to see. As I mentioned, a lot of
7 those things can be answered live without any vote or
8 anything, just how many people are here? Boom. We
9 need to do that number.
10 At the end of the decision meeting, obviously
11 you're going to vote. As you just did for the grid,
12 you're going to vote on a draft map and ultimately vote
13 on a final map. But keep in mind as you're moving
14 through this process the difference between agreeing to
15 look at something versus agreeing to actually
16 incorporate that into your ongoing official map with
17 the justification of how that adjustment to the grid
18 makes sense to the Constitutional criteria approach.
19 So those are two things, and it's often useful as
20 Commissioners to think about the difference between
21 those informal dynamic discussions and then actually
22 voting to incorporate a change in your official map.
23 So last thoughts, you know, the grid map, as
24 we've stated again and again, now it's adopted, as
25 we're saying, the grid map is intentionally designed to

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

be massively revised. That's how the Constitution sets it up. Let's just do this grid, and then here is a bunch of things we'll consider as we draw possibly the whole map.

To a lesser degree but still true to a degree, the draft map is only a draft. It does -- you know, that's why there is listening time and that's why there is additional meetings after the draft map is adopted. One key thought that comes out of that is you have your schedule. Generally speaking, it's better to adopt that draft map on schedule and move on to getting that public input than to wrestle with trying -- losing days of potential public input time as you wrestle with trying to get a more perfect draft map. If you look back at the draft map that the last two Commissions adopted, obviously they both faced significant changes as they went through and became the final map.

And as I stated earlier, only the final map is final. Every decision prior to that can be revisited, so keep that in mind. And the public should definitely keep that in mind as they, you know, stay vigilant to make sure that the changes that we want to their community continue through as the map goes on.

So that's my presentation, and happy to answer any questions that you have. I hope that that was

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 useful.
2 And, again, as a final thought, this is just
3 kind of what we've seen in our experience working both
4 with the first Commission, reviewing the last
5 Commission's work, and then in working with lots of
6 local commissions as well.
7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you, Doug. That
8 was very helpful to go through the process. I
9 appreciate hearing that.
10 I have a couple of questions about public
11 involvement and public input. Is this an okay time to
12 ask those?
13 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes, please.
14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. So as we know,
15 we're all doing the training on how to use the program,
16 and it is a bit complicated as we're all learning as
17 part of it. So I think I asked this question yesterday
18 at the training, but I want to ask it today because
19 we're all together.
20 And you had answered yesterday about if I am
21 looking -- and I just want to -- we just brought up
22 Kyrene School District or the Chandler, Tempe area,
23 right. So if I am just focused on that area, I don't
24 want to do a whole statewide map. I don't have the
25 bandwidth or the expertise, perhaps, to do that. How

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 can I as a member of the public provide my input for
2 just my area now that we have this grid map? How can I
3 provide that to the Commission?
4 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. So Mark or Brian, add to
5 this if I misspeak. I wouldn't take a slight at all.
6 But I think the key thing is you'll have to start from
7 a grid, from a grid template, or later on from the
8 draft map template. It's fine to not feel like you
9 have to redraw the whole map. If as you said the
10 concern is just one community, the resident can simply
11 redraw the districts around that community. And you'll
12 still have the population so they'll have to deal with
13 the ripples to the surrounding districts as well and
14 how to -- you know, as you achieve the goals for your
15 community what impact does that have on the neighboring
16 communities? Consider that. But it's perfectly fine
17 to, say, modify two districts or four or five and to
18 leave the other 25 or 28 legislative districts
19 untouched from the grid and simply, you know, send in a
20 note saying this is my -- I was focused on achieving
21 this goal.
22 And it's always handy to submit public comment
23 as well because the idea that any one person is going
24 to submit the perfect map and we'll all have an
25 alleluia moment and we adopt Map X is very unusual,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

very unlikely. In all likelihood, as I talk about, there will be tons of changes and tons of input and the final map will be an amalgam of lots of different maps. So it's always good for people to call out what are their key focus and key interests in a map they're submitting, even if they have taken the time to draw a statewide map.

The city parallel I use a lot is people will spend 12 hours or 20 hours getting their neighborhood perfect, in the perfect council district, and then they'll just population balance the rest of the city. And, you know, they live on the east side. They got a perfect district on the east side, and on the west side their districts are probably in a mess. If they include a note saying, I'm only concerned about this east side district, then someone on the west side doesn't get upset. I'll start with your east side, since I know you care about the east side, and I'll fix the west side, as opposed to showing up and saying, This map is trash, you know. I live on the west side, and it doesn't make any sense. So it's always good to include a note about what was the goal, what was the focus, and what were the key goals you wanted to achieve in this map, so that you as Commissioners know what pieces are really their priority and what pieces

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 you can pick from someone else's map.
2 And it is challenging. This is a complicated
3 process. So I believe you do have to population
4 balance both the district you want to draw and the
5 neighboring districts. Brian Kingery or Mark, chime in
6 if you want.
7 MR. KINGERY: You do, but there is leeway.
8 There is that 10 percent target deviation. So if a
9 citizen goes into the system and starts to, you know,
10 indicate their community of interest only, they will
11 have that leeway of five percent over or under the
12 target population, or the target total balance
13 population, whereas the grid it's really at zero point
14 zero zero, only one person difference. So if they are
15 only interested in their community they're not going to
16 have to touch any of the districts like far away, like
17 across the state. They'll submit a plan. The can add
18 a comment saying, you know, what exactly has been
19 changed. That allowable deviation of a total of
20 10 percent will make it a little bit easier to
21 integrity check and then submit.
22 CHAIRPERSON LERNER: So just to follow up,
23 because I want to make sure I'm understanding as part
24 of it, but so if -- again, if I'm doing let's say
25 Chandler and then I have to do the surrounding

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 districts, will it keep rippling out? Will I have to
2 keep doing surrounding, or I can just do the one I'm
3 focused on and then know that it's going to impact
4 those bordering, but how far -- how many times do you
5 have to do that border?
6 MR. KINGERY: This is a little bit different
7 than the community of interest public input survey that
8 we started out talking about today whereas -- where a
9 user could just draw their polygon of the community
10 that they had in mind. That's a very simplistic way of
11 being able to be provide input. This is a bit more
12 detailed, and only state plans are able to be submitted
13 that pass those integrity checks. So if you're only
14 wanting to provide local input then you would just need
15 to make sure those ripples are balanced.
16 MR. JOHNSON: And one thought on that, it's a
17 good example to tie into what I was saying earlier is
18 let's say you're trying to draw Chandler together, and
19 there is a district next to you that has part of
20 Chandler and part of Gilbert. So you pull that other
21 district, Chandler population, put Chandler together.
22 Now you can take the remaining Gilbert district and,
23 you know, just population balance it, and it can be a
24 hideous mess, you know. Maybe you had to give up some,
25 you know, tribal territory or some Tempe territory so

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 you're going to make this Gilbert thing that just wraps
2 over. That's where you would include a note saying
3 this is the Chandler seat I want. The Gilbert seat is
4 a mess because I was simply population balancing to
5 pass the integrity test and so ignore that as a
6 proposal.
7 But that's so you can -- so in that way you
8 would limit that ripple so it is just the seat that
9 you're changing and the seats that you're pulling
10 population from, and then that would leave you with the
11 28 and you wouldn't have to mess with them. So don't
12 feel like you have to get the ripple perfect. You just
13 have to get the ripple to the point where it will pass
14 the integrity test.
15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Doug, as part of your
16 process you've referred to the fact that the Commission
17 will direct you to make change 1, change 2, change 187.
18 Are those all little votes that we do? I mean, how do
19 we direct you without voting, or do we actually vote
20 and say, Go work on this community of interest or go
21 move this line from here to there? Just as a
22 procedural thing how does that go about?
23 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's up to you whether you
24 just do it through kind of a consensus approach or a
25 formal vote. Obviously, adopting your draft map and

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 your final map would be by a formal vote, but
2 especially early on in those decision meetings you may
3 just want to hear the list of, These are ten things I
4 think you could do. You can go find a way to achieve
5 all ten of them. So it can be -- as you're just kind
6 of testing the waters early on it will probably be less
7 formal, and then you get closer and closer to what's
8 starting to look like an official draft map -- there
9 will be tough choices without a doubt. At that point
10 you may have to start taking formal votes to say do we
11 want to go this way or that way.
12 Keep in mind it's very likely that you may say
13 let's put -- you know, is there some way to put
14 Chandler together, and we may come back with two maps.
15 Here is one way to do it; here is another way to do it.
16 So you may be getting multiple maps back as you get
17 those requests, so, and you may give us two
18 instructions so we can actually -- we find we can come
19 back to you with one map. So it will be a fairly kind
20 of informal dynamic process, and it's up to you whether
21 you want to do it through consensus or through a formal
22 vote.
23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Doug, when you say you
24 come back with us with, you know, options, is that
25 realtime, or what kind of time element are you talking

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

about?

MR. JOHNSON: That's a good question, and it depends on the scale of the change. So, you know, can we move 1,000 people from the Chandler seat to the Gilbert seat and flip 1,000 back the other way, that we can probably tell you live. It depends on the scale of the change as to whether it's something quick we can look at. I'm always a little nervous and a little cautious about doing something live in a meeting because it's really easy when you're clicking to miss a block, and you hate to say, oh, that worked, and move on to two or three more changes. Oh, wait. We missed a block that had a ten-story apartment building and 2,000 people in it. So we always want to run those checks later on, and those checks can be slow. But to the best of our ability we can give you input live, and obviously it's faster to get to a decision if we're able to draw a change for you right there live.

But some of them will be big scale changes, you know. Can we go from, you know, three border districts, legislative or congressional districts, to two, or vice versa. That's a big change involving lots and lots of ripples and lots and lots of local community decisions that we know we probably have to go away and come back to do with a map.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Where possible -- I know
2 it won't be always possible, either, because we're
3 going to be doing things a lot on the fly. But where
4 possible if we can get it in advance of the meeting so
5 we can actually take a look at the data that goes with
6 the maps to look at continuity and compactness, you
7 know, those numbers that you've shown us how to do,
8 competitiveness, it would be great, when we can, to get
9 those -- if we can get them a day in advance to give us
10 some time to review.
11 MR. JOHNSON: Definitely. Well, and I believe
12 the plan is that the maps as they come in and as we can
13 process them will be appearing on the hub, so it's
14 not -- the community of interest maps we kind of have
15 to gather all the input and run this giant process to
16 do the beautiful report that Mark presented earlier.
17 In this case the maps will just be coming in and
18 getting processed and posted to the hub. There is no
19 analysis or summary that we have to do. So maps will
20 actually be appearing live in the public, and the
21 Commissioners will see those as they're submitted. Not
22 live as they're submitted, it's not that fast, but in a
23 reasonable amount of time. We won't hold them all
24 until your decision.
25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I just have another

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 follow-up question on the complexity. So we've seen in
2 the notes people have said, Go to Dave's redistricting.
3 I put up a great map there that works. This is what
4 you should use. You know, this was before we all had
5 our census data and so on. But we've seen quite a
6 number of those. So people who have been playing
7 around with this can they upload their shapefiles or
8 their files from one place to another? Can they move
9 those, since we have seen a number of comments about
10 that?
11 MR. JOHNSON: Brian, do you want to --
12 MR. KINGERY: So throughout the editing
13 process or the creation process of the plan you are
14 able to export your plan at that moment in time as a
15 shapefile or a fixed text file. I believe the other
16 one is HTML and a jpeg. And then you can do what you
17 want with that exported data. If you find yourself
18 working on five or six different versions of a plan,
19 you can export each, and then on your website you can
20 post those files and say, Use these or check these out.
21 You could then go and publish them even further. So
22 thinking of this as -- in an ArcGIS online mentality,
23 you can publish those exported shapefiles as feature
24 services and then be able to create your own
25 interactive maps to allow people to explore, very much

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

in the same manner along -- along the lines of everything that I've demoed. That grid map, all of that is on the ArcGIS platform, so you're able to get the word out that way.

When input is provided specific to the plan that you've published, you can then make those changes and then reimport them back into the system to continue the process of successful submission.

COMMISSIONER LERNER: So people are able to do that? They're able to upload their materials?

MR. JOHNSON: The key thing, though, is that they do need to bring -- to submit them to the Commission they do need to bring them back into the redistricting, import them back in and put them in. They can use other tools. If they're giving you a public statement, they can, you know, use those other tools to the degree they want. But to get into the process the map does need to be brought into the redistricting system.

I should note, though, if someone does not have access to the system, if they lack a computer, that type of thing, they can submit their map to you as a public comment, and the Commission can then -- if that map is appealing and you want to see it you can then give direction and say, Hey, can we get this drawn

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

in? We won't -- we won't draw in every public comment. As Brian and Mark talked about earlier there is some subjectivity in anything we're trying to digitize from paper, and we do expect to get so many, but -- it will be overwhelming, but all of those paper submissions also become fully part of your record and are available to the Commissioners to then ask for them to be incorporated in as possible changes to the grid.

COMMISSIONER LERNER: So, I'm sorry, I have another question. One of the things you did which I thought was on the communities of interest is you included something about whether people were submitting on behalf of an organization, and so we might have groups doing that. We might have tribes that submit and say, Here is what we would like to see. Is there a way to add that in there again, something that reflects that, so that if we have, you know, a city council from a community that submits something that would like to be identified, this is the city of Show Low and this is what we would like, is there a way to add something in there?

MR. KINGERY: As part of the metadata of the plan in the submission process, you do have additional fields where when you create the plan it's literally just name and description, but you do also have

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 additional fields when you're actually submitting it to
2 say what organization you're with, any credits that you
3 would want to provide, and a couple of other additional
4 fields.
5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a very practical
6 question, and it's really on behest of the
7 Commissioners. As we're, you know, looking forward to
8 this very monumental point of making decisions, what
9 recommendations do you have in terms of specific
10 preparedness? As conscientious deciders, you know,
11 we're looking at community of interest reports. There
12 is robust data. We're looking at training with mapping
13 and now squaring the ability to maneuver, you know,
14 technologically different districts. But with your
15 experience and with just a matter of weeks, what's
16 your -- what is your guidance here? What should our
17 eyes be focused on? Any particular advice?
18 MR. JOHNSON: It's a big question. There --
19 there are lots of materials out there. You likely have
20 seen some of them. MALDEF, and I forget which group,
21 one of the Asian American advocacy groups, and the
22 NAACP have a joint publication. It's mainly grass
23 roots people. It's how to get involved and influence
24 redistricting processes. It's a fairly easy read.
25 Like I said, it's grass roots proposed, but it's

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 something we distribute widely. The Brennan Center of
2 New York has a similar kind of little more complicated,
3 denser read guide for residents to get involved in
4 redistricting. And both of those -- I know Brennan
5 Center, and I think the MALDEF also has a section on
6 how to get heard by commissions, so it's also useful
7 for Commissioners to think about how to pay attention
8 to the residents and pick out the key points they're
9 making.
10 The National Conference of State Legislatures
11 also has a bunch of materials that might be of
12 interest. Those are more aimed at legislators, so some
13 of that will not be relevant to you, including sections
14 on how far they can go to protect the incumbents that
15 would not at all apply to you, but some of it. They
16 also have useful like looks at compactness and those
17 kinds of questions and what's a community of interest
18 and what are the legal standards.
19 And then obviously your legal team has done
20 both -- they did a very extensive public presentation
21 on the criteria. They're also available.
22 But ultimately it's know the criteria of Prop
23 106 and listen to what you hear from the residents.
24 We're seeing good signs. The community of interest
25 phase is a very good sign that the residents are

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 showing up, and hopefully that will just continue to
2 expand into additional parts as we get into that.
3 One key thing is once there are maps, actual
4 maps, you know, that tends to fire people up.
5 Redistricting is this kind of, well, that doesn't
6 affect me. Am I safe in my neighborhood today? Is my
7 kid, you know, fed at lunch today? It's a hard theory.
8 But once they see maps, here is a map that divides my
9 city, here is a map that divides my neighborhood, that
10 tends to fire even more people up, so hopefully we'll
11 see more and more input as this process goes on.
12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I heard a premium on
13 listening. Thank you.
14 Other questions?
15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Well, I just have a
16 follow-up question on -- I'm looking at having gone
17 through training a couple of times already and still
18 wanting to do some more, so I'm thinking complexity as
19 part of my questions, really, because we want the
20 input, like you say.
21 A couple of things. Will there be a way for
22 somebody -- if they're not going to want to learn and
23 dig deep into the system and try to figure that out, is
24 there a way to have a form online similar to
25 communities of interest kind of idea but not the same?

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 I know that it's going to be complicated, and I'm not
2 sure if this is possible, but where people could submit
3 what they would like to see as their district without
4 having to learn the system? I know that may not be
5 possible, but I'm asking because I think there are
6 going to be a lot of folks who the system will be
7 challenging and complex and may be intimidated by it,
8 but we still would like to get some feedback.
9 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I think the community will
10 continue to have the same ability to submit a text
11 comment online or to send in a letter, if they already
12 have. So certainly somebody can just write, I'm part
13 of -- to use an example we've been using all day, I
14 want the Kyrene area to be kept together. Writing it
15 in is great.
16 They can also look at the hub site and look at
17 the maps. There is no log in required for the hub site
18 so everything will be available for people to look at
19 it and do all that. The only thing you have to log in
20 is to draw a map. So people can look at the hub site,
21 look at maps. They can submit it and say, I like this
22 one. I don't like that one because of this reason.
23 So, yes, there is definitely no requirement
24 that you draw a map. People can simply comment on what
25 are their goals, and then the Commission has that in

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 mind as you look at which maps before you achieve that
2 goal, or they can look at maps that other people have
3 submitted and say, I like this one because of this. I
4 don't like that one because of this. Those are
5 certainly equally valid as any actually drawn map.
6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And Commissioner Lerner,
7 I would argue that that data is so meaningful because
8 this Commission, we look at data that's beyond just the
9 technological summary that we're provided. You know,
10 our generation, we digest the narrative. And so if the
11 community is concerned, you know, we are reading and
12 absorbing the qualitative narrative that you're
13 providing us, so that is still incredibly important,
14 valid data.
15 Other questions of our mapping team? They've
16 been very busy with a lot of substantive projects and
17 serving us well. It's very exciting with the community
18 of interest report, the grid maps. I think we're in
19 a -- in a great, strong starting point.
20 MR. FLAHAN: I will leave you with one final
21 comment for the mapping report, and I don't want to
22 steal Brian's thunder here, but he did make the grid
23 map page public so it is available out there for
24 anybody to see right now.
25 MR. KINGERY: And also download and be on

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 their way with.
2 MR. FLAHAN: And we will be adding some PDF
3 maps up there, too, if somebody wanted to download
4 something on paper.
5 MR. KINGERY: So we have just simple
6 screenshots right now, but we'll have some high res map
7 books available, so poster size as well as -- that are
8 statewide as well as district specific where you zoom
9 in and you're able to see all the districts, the
10 district lines at that level as well.
11 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Doug, I want to thank you
12 for this best practices presentation. It is really
13 helpful, so thank you very much.
14 MR. JOHNSON: Great. Thank you. Glad to hear
15 it.
16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yeah, ditto, and thank
17 you for all of the above. We look forward to the
18 public's comments on the grid maps. Please remember
19 it's an arbitrary starting point.
20 If there is no further conversation, we will
21 thank our mapping team, and we'll move on to Agenda
22 Item No. VII, which is executive director's report and
23 discussion thereof, and I will turn it over to Director
24 Schmitt.
25 MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Madam Chair. First

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 up today we have an update from our outreach team so
2 I'm going to hand it over to Marie and Alex for that.
3 MS. CHAPPLE CAMACHO: Good morning, Madam
4 Chair and members of the Commission. In our efforts to
5 involve the public in the redistricting process we
6 reached out to the Arizona Library Association and the
7 Arizona Library Archives and public records department.
8 We had hoped to have Dr. John Walsh, the president of
9 the Arizona Library Association, on today, but it
10 appears he was unable to join us. But between these
11 two organizations they have public library system
12 memberships that reach small and large communities in
13 Arizona, so their reach is statewide. I believe there
14 are about 235 individual libraries in the state, so
15 they all have different levels of service. As I
16 understand, some of them are just like one-person
17 operation, and others, like Phoenix, have 17 branch
18 libraries. So with their differing levels of resource
19 and staff we hope at the very least they would become
20 knowledgeable of the process and be able to point their
21 client to our website so they can access the
22 information.
23 And speaking of accessing the information, a
24 number of these libraries have free Wi-Fi available to
25 the public, and a number of them also do have public

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 computers for them to use. So it's worth a call for
2 the public to -- or visit to their library to find out
3 what's available to them so they can participate in the
4 process.
5 We did obtain -- obtain a link to a map of
6 free Wi-Fi in the state so we'll be publishing that on
7 our website, and it does have a Spanish page to it for
8 people who are more proficient in that language.
9 And I do also want to remind everybody that I
10 went to the Arizona League of Cities and Towns on
11 September 2nd to their expo, and there I met dozens of
12 local mayors, town managers, council members, and
13 staffers, and I handed them my card, and I just
14 reminded them of the redistricting process and hoped
15 that they would contact us if they have any questions,
16 and it was just another opportunity to get the local
17 governments involved.
18 MR. PENA: Thank you, Marie.
19 In addition to what Marie said -- and good
20 morning, Commissioners. I'm very excited, and I just
21 want to thank the mapping team for putting all of the
22 material and resources together on the mapping hub.
23 I'm working right now to simplify that content so we
24 can push it out to our partners in the communities of
25 interest that we have been working with so that they

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 can have that material in an easy way to access it and
2 submit public comment and maps for the Commission. So
3 thank you, Marie.
4 MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Marie and Alex. Are
5 there any questions for that outreach team before we
6 move on to the budget update?
7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I think it's great.
8 It's really nice to see that moving. Just curious
9 about where we are with the social media aspect of it
10 in terms of some of the things that I think you were
11 going to be working on.
12 MR. PENA: Yeah, so we have been active on the
13 social media platforms that we have live right now.
14 Even right now as I'm watching Twitter it's great to
15 see all of the -- the interaction with the outside
16 groups, so we are getting up to speed there. And then
17 this week we will be pushing out a social media tool
18 kit that will incorporate how to utilize the mapping
19 software and also how to maneuver and go through the
20 mapping hub that the mapping team put together for us,
21 so that was a huge piece of the meat that we've been
22 waiting for, but because it is public now we can go
23 ahead and push it out.
24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Can I just follow up
25 with that? Can you, Alex, maybe just explain where

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 you're using social media, how you're using that?
2 MR. PENA: Yeah, so we are utilizing the
3 platforms Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube right now. We
4 do have an Instagram platform, but that is still coming
5 up to speed. And then with those platforms we are
6 pushing out the content with the communities of
7 interest support and all the material that the mapping
8 team is pushing out, and, also, we are driving them to
9 our website for -- to submit public comment.
10 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.
11 MR. PENA: You're welcome.
12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, one of the
13 things that I find most attractive about social media
14 is driving the excitement about our public hearings,
15 because at the end of the day the substance of the
16 material that we're using to form or shape our, you
17 know, decision-making is what we're hearing from the
18 public, and so everything and anything that you're
19 doing to drive interest into attending and providing
20 testimony at those public hearings I think is a
21 premium.
22 MR. SCHMITT: If there is nothing else I'll
23 move on to the budget.
24 Thank you, Marie and Alex.
25 Let me just share one of my tabs really

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 quickly. So we've spoke before about the budget and
2 how we were allocated $7.9 million during the last
3 legislative session. Those funds are non-lapsing. I'm
4 repeating myself again, but the Commission does not
5 know what challenges we're going to face, but we put
6 together somewhat of a framework for the public and
7 also to submit to the state.
8 So here you see we have six full-time
9 positions. Personal services are about 850,000.
10 Employee-related expenses are about 375,000. With the
11 professional and outside services, that's where we have
12 set a lot of the funding aside in case we do need it in
13 the future. Those include legal fees, court reporter
14 fees, expert witnesses, mapping consultant fees, and
15 just accounting services. For travel we have $500,000
16 set aside for in state and $100,000 set aside out of
17 state. I know the out of state might not necessarily
18 make sense, but if there is litigation in the future
19 and we have to travel we set funds aside for that. And
20 then other operating expenses are things like
21 interpreters, meeting supplies, costs of doing business
22 with ADOA and the AG. And then equipment is just our
23 laptops, phones, and then other IT infrastructure we
24 may need moving forward.
25 And all of this, the budget submission, can be

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

found online at irc.az.gov/budget. And moving forward I think we'll have a better sense of what we'll face or what resources we may need in the early part of the year, so if there is a funding issue address it with the legislature at that point.

But that is where we are at with the budget, and if anyone has any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

All right. I guess -- Vice Chair.

VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Brian, what about the newsletters? I saw that going out, so can you talk a little bit about that?

MR. SCHMITT: Yes.

Michelle, would you like to tell them a little bit about the newsletters we're sending out weekly?

MS. CRANK: Yes. Thank you, Vice Chair Watchman.

The weekly newsletters go out every Friday, usually in between 1:00 to 3:00, and the newsletter has various components of it, and the newsletter is sent out to probably a little over 550 individuals, and we get the names and the emails from individuals who sign up for our newsletter off of our website, and then also I take information from our community outreach specialist, the two of them, and I incorporate those

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

email addresses as well, too.

So in addition to the newsletter, press releases go out to also community outreach contact and media, all of Arizona media print and broadcast. So I do appreciate the Commissioners taking the time to put their little "In the Spotlight," and we felt that that would be special, you know, for our readership so they can get to know our Commissioners a little bit more outside of the professional realm. And your professional resumes are also listed within the newsletter as well, so thank you.

MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Michelle.

Next up --

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And, by the way -- excuse me, Director Schmitt -- because we have so many weeks ahead of us, "In the Spotlight," stay tuned for all of our staff members, so if you're curious about their backgrounds and their motivations, please read our newsletter.

With that, Director Schmitt, please.

MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Next up we have an update on our upcoming public hearing schedule so I will turn it over to our deputy director, Lori.

MS. VAN HAREN: Hi, good morning,

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Commissioners. Here I'm presenting the final location
2 for the upcoming schedules regarding the grid map
3 meetings. Okay. We've selected the final meeting
4 locations for the upcoming meetings regarding the grid
5 maps. We are posting those. We are sending those out
6 in press releases. We're contacting the local areas,
7 any of the groups that have been interested in these
8 meetings. I've been posting on social media. We have
9 a whole communication plan.
10 All of the locations were selected to
11 accommodate the most amount of people possible while
12 maintaining the ability to socially distance. There
13 are several COVID restrictions in several of the venues
14 that we would have wanted to schedule, and so we --
15 because of the amazing attendance that we had at the
16 last meeting -- or last listening tour we really wanted
17 for this next group of upcoming meetings, which are
18 five meetings in Maricopa County and then several
19 satellites locations, we wanted these meetings to
20 accommodate the largest number of people possible. We
21 really want public involvement, and at the Commission's
22 direction we understand that there will be future
23 upcoming in-person public meetings, and we are looking
24 forward to scheduling those meetings and having them in
25 various locations throughout the state as well.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Are there any questions?
2 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Well, I can't see the
3 entire schedule. You have October 7th. Oh, okay. All
4 right. Thank you.
5 MS. VAN HAREN: And we will be posting, like I
6 said, on all our social media sites, on our websites,
7 and sending out press releases.
8 All right. Thank you so much.
9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. I think it's
10 an excellent overview of, you know, the areas that we
11 need to hear from, in addition to the broad satellites,
12 and also understanding that this is kind of the sweet
13 spot, meaning that after the draft maps we have a whole
14 additional tour coming, and so when people are looking
15 through the specific locations, times, dates, of these
16 hearings please understand that this is, you know, one
17 step along the way and there will be additional
18 hearings coming.
19 Thank you, staff. It's no simple task to
20 coordinate that level of detail with staff, locations,
21 all of the logistics. A lot of complications.
22 MR. SCHMITT: Thank you, Madam Chair, and that
23 is all the updates that we have for you today.
24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Any other questions from
25 our staff?

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 Okay. With that we'll move to Agenda Item No.
2 VIII, discussion of future agenda item requests. There
3 was one item that we identified earlier in the meeting
4 today having to do with requesting a deeper dive into
5 the majority minority districts of the Latino
6 community, understanding the historic political
7 history. Anything else or any other further comment on
8 that item?
9 COMMISSIONER YORK: This is Commissioner York.
10 Commissioner Neuberg, I think that's a great idea. I
11 support that.
12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.
13 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And this is Commissioner
14 Mehle. We've had a number of really good
15 presentations, and I just want to remind us all once we
16 hit mid-October we're done with these kinds of
17 presentations, so anything anybody wants to try to get
18 in we need to try to get in before mid-October because
19 from then on it's just pedal to the metal on all of the
20 detail of drafting.
21 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I agree with the
22 recommendation on this presentation. I'm wondering
23 whether -- and I'm putting Roy maybe on the spot here,
24 but I don't even know, but this can be part of the
25 overall discussion, we can have something that ties

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 into the Voting Rights Act with all of that as well.
2 That presentation was real helpful on tribal
3 communities in the Voting Rights Act, so whatever we do
4 with the Latino community maybe we can have something
5 that ties that as part of it as well.
6 MR. HERRERA: Yes, Commissioner Lerner. I'm
7 happy to, as the legal team is happy to, present kind
8 of a similar presentation with how the Latino community
9 has sort of been treated under the Voting Rights Act
10 and maybe some sort of historical analysis of that.
11 The claims, for example, the Latino communities have
12 made under the Voting Rights Act and how courts have
13 decided those cases.
14 I think from a more political perspective --
15 we have two different ways right there. There is the
16 sort of legal VRA angle to this, but then also from a
17 political history perspective I do think that we could
18 suggest some academic to present on that issue that can
19 give you, you know, the kind of information you're
20 looking for.
21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: This is Commissioner
22 Mehle.
23 Roy, as part of that I know with the
24 population changes we may face some real challenges on
25 these minority majority districts, so if you can

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 clarify what do we need to hit to make those valid
2 districts, what are the real requirements, because I
3 guess it's not necessarily a full majority of voting,
4 but it's more complicated than that, so if you can --
5 and that's going to be one of our first challenges is
6 really to make sure we're in conformance with that. So
7 if you can help clarify that once again, I think you've
8 already gone through some of it, but that would be
9 helpful.
10 MR. HERRERA: I can certainly do that,
11 Commissioner Mehle, provide that over to you again,
12 and, of course, we have some updates now that we have
13 real numbers so I can talk about that.
14 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Madam Chair, this is
15 Commissioner Watchman. Maybe -- maybe related, but
16 we're talking about the five Cs, the economic drivers,
17 and that has a lot to do with, you know, the migration
18 and movement of people. I don't know if we got to --
19 one thing that was missing was copper, you know, part
20 of the five Cs. We didn't talk about that.
21 And then the tribal side, the gaming side I
22 don't know if, Brian, we're going to, you know, speak
23 to that, but, you know, obviously because of
24 demographic changes it looks like a lot of rural folks
25 are relocating to urban settings, and I think that's

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

because of the change in the mining industry and maybe tribal gaming, so I'm not sure if we're going to touch back on that. To me that's good information for the public to understand. That lends itself to, you know, what the Arizona demographer presented today, so hopefully it's on the agenda.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, as we think through additional expert, you know, presenters to come to us, I would like to just remind us of the importance of establishing objective criteria through which to, you know, entertain invitations, thinking about what are the top economic industries of Arizona, which is separate from the ethnic minorities, and whatever invitations that we offer, you know, speak to a specific objective threshold of why we need to learn about this in order to redistrict. And -- and I say that just so that after the fact, you know, we feel good about providing an equal playing field for all industries, minority groups, communities of interest out there, and it's something that I think requires some thought and deliberation on, and we'll do due diligence as, you know, requests or these ideas come forward.

VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I guess to add to that one area that's notable I

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 think is just the significant charms of the industry
2 that we have here in this state, and so that's a big
3 driver for many of our rural locations, and so I would
4 be curious about that, too, because we're talking about
5 demographics, where people live, why are we seeing such
6 a big change in demographics from 2010 to 2020, and so
7 I'm very curious on that. You know, the stuff on the
8 agriculture was nice, and so we had a great report on
9 that, but, you know, we missed some marks which I think
10 are relevant to my community and where I would like to
11 see, so --
12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And along -- and along
13 those lines, that's actually what I'm getting at, and
14 where is it that we establish that objective mark.
15 There is so many economic industries in Arizona. There
16 is the service industry within the hospitality. We
17 have tourism. We have manufacturing --
18 manufacturingism. We have high tech. We have
19 aerospace and defense. We have a renewable energy. We
20 have vineyards. How is it -- you know, I think maybe
21 we opened up a can of worms when we looked into the
22 five Cs. I know for me personally I looked at it
23 through the lens of what was economically uniting us
24 and helping understand the historical context through
25 which communities ended up, you know, migrating where

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 they did, but I just want us to be cautious about, you
2 know, what we're opening ourselves up to. What
3 economic industries and where do we draw the line? And
4 what minority group economic interests and where do we
5 draw the line?
6 My only request or comment on this is is that
7 if we're going to open this up further that we have an
8 objective empirical basis through which we will
9 evaluate the decisions, and we could -- we could put
10 this on the agenda for next week because it's not --
11 it's not a simple answer.
12 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: I agree with that, and I
13 guess for -- in my opinion sometimes our population,
14 especially, you know, in Phoenix and Tucson, are --
15 have limited awareness of our rural Arizona, and so --
16 so I think bringing to bear economic information, the
17 drivers will help us and the public as to, you know,
18 who and what we have here in the state and so --
19 because we're all united. And, you know, I'm not
20 trying to bash, you know, the comment of the state
21 of -- the state of Maricopa. I want to get past that.
22 I want to say the state of Arizona. Arizona is
23 comprised of Maricopa, Pima County, but also the great
24 counties including my area, Apache, Navajo, Coconino
25 County, and so those counties like Yuma, and you got

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 the counties in Kingman. Understanding that for the
2 public to understand so at least we have, you know,
3 more information on what's in our state. So that --
4 that's what I would think would be beneficial, you
5 know, for us in our policies that we're going to be
6 looking at, so further information, because we talked
7 about some of the information that has more relevance,
8 at least in northern Arizona for the 5Cs, so I'm just
9 looking at trying to balance what's being presented. I
10 know that there is a long list of activity, but, you
11 know, the top five would be very, very important,
12 especially for our public so they understand the
13 economic drivers, the demographic drivers, and all the
14 people that reside in the state.
15 So thank you for the consideration, though,
16 Madam Chair.
17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: My sense is that maybe
18 we need to add this as an agenda item just for us to do
19 our due diligence to make sure that we're being
20 equitable and thoughtful with groups that we're
21 inviting to come in to speak to us, you know, or not.
22 I think there is sensitivities around this, and if, you
23 know, my fellow Commissioners feel that this is
24 something that they would like to, you know, dive into
25 a little more we can certainly agendize this.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Well, it's a tough
2 topic, Madam Chair. So, you know, again, I reiterate a
3 couple more presentations on the economic drivers in
4 the rural part of the state I think is very, very
5 important. That would bring to bear, at least help in
6 my opinion, guide some of the changes that we would
7 present.
8 And then, of course, you know, one of the five
9 Cs was copper. Mining is really, you know, changing,
10 and so we have communities near Tucson that's, you
11 know, the mining industry is probably gone. And then
12 around, you know, Morenci, Globe, and Miami, you know,
13 those communities are now experiencing big changes.
14 I was reading today that maybe the Rio Tinto
15 mine may not move forward, so if that doesn't happen,
16 you know, there is going to be some dramatic shifts,
17 and so all of that leads to migration changes and where
18 our people live here in this state, and so, you know,
19 just adding some more color to that I think would be
20 useful, at least for me, because I don't have the
21 opportunity to delve into this information. So what's
22 being presented has been very, very informational, very
23 useful, and it's certainly enlightening me on how to
24 move forward when we get to making decisions on how we
25 draft the maps and the final maps. All that

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 information brings to bear on how I will make my
2 decision, along with my colleagues, including you, so
3 thank you.
4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: So I'm hearing a desire
5 to do a deeper dive into some of the economic drivers,
6 and just relating back to what we already spoke to I'm
7 hearing a desire to dive deeper into the unique
8 historical political interests of the Latino community.
9 Anything else as it relates to future agenda
10 items?
11 Okay. Thank you, everybody, for that valuable
12 feedback.
13 With that we'll move to Agenda Item No. IX,
14 announcements. Do we have any other announcements
15 besides what's going into our next Agenda Item No. X,
16 which is our next meeting date?
17 So our next meeting date will be next Tuesday,
18 8:00 a.m., for our regular business meeting on the
19 21st, and then we are also slated to have our public
20 hearing in Mesa at 4:00 p.m. Please, everybody, look
21 on the website for updated information about our public
22 hearing schedule.
23 Any other announcements from our staff or
24 other Commissioners?
25 Okay. 9/10, our next meeting date.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

Number XI, closing of public comments. Please note members of the Commission may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

With that we move to Agenda Item No. XII, adjournment. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER MEHL: Commissioner Mehle. I move we adjourn.

VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Vice Chair Watchman seconds.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: So Commissioner Mehle moves to adjourn. Vice Chair Watchman seconds.

Any further discussion? We'll do a vote.

Vice Chair Watchman.

VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehle.

COMMISSIONER MEHL: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.

COMMISSIONER LERNER: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York.

COMMISSIONER YORK: Aye.

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Neuberg is
2 an aye.
3 With that we will adjourn, and I look forward
4 to seeing our public and the team next Tuesday at
5 8:00 a.m.
6 Have a great week, everybody, and thank you.
7 (Meeting concluded at 11:20 a.m.)
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 **C E R T I F I C A T E**

2

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon
4 the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand
5 record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 123
6 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript
7 of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my
8 skill and ability.
9 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 28th day of
10 September, 2021.
11
12 Deborah L. Wilks
13 Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
14 Certificate No. 50849
15
* * *
16
17 I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting,
18 LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in
19 ACJA 7-201 and 7-206.
20 Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 28th
21 day of September, 2021.
22
23 MCR
24 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058
25

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.