

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Yuma, Arizona

Flagstaff, Arizona

November 10, 2021

6:03 p.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at
3 6:03 p.m., on November 10, 2021, at YUMA CITY HALL -
4 COUNCIL CHAMBERS, One City Plaza, Yuma, Arizona, with
5 a satellite location at High Country Conference Center,
6 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona.

7
8 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

9 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson (Yuma)
10 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman (Flagstaff)
11 Ms. Shereen Lerner (Flagstaff)

12 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

13 Mr. David Mehl

14 STAFF PRESENT (Yuma):

15 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
16 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
17 Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr
18 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group

19 Ms. Maria Chapple, Community Outreach
20 Coordinator - YUMA SPEAKER MODERATOR

21 STAFF PRESENT (Flagstaff):

22 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
23 - FLAGSTAFF SPEAKER MODERATOR
24
25

	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1		
2		
3	DOUGLAS NICHOLS	Yuma
4	GARY KNIGHT	Yuma
5	WILLIAM BOWLUS-ROOT	Yuma
6	DEANNE GRAYBEAL-LOVATO	Yuma
7	BRYANNE OLSEN	Yuma
8		
9	PAUL DEASY	Flagstaff
10	JIM McCARTHY	Flagstaff
11	ADAM SHIMONI	Flagstaff
12	SANDY MORIARTY	Flagstaff
13	TOM LAMKIN	Flagstaff
14	KATHY KINSELLA	Flagstaff
15	MATT RYAN	Flagstaff
16	PATRICE HORSTMAN	Flagstaff
17	LENA FOWLER	Flagstaff
18	JERONIMO VASQUEZ	Flagstaff
19	HARRY OBERG	Flagstaff
20	JAMES GREGORY	Flagstaff
21	SEAN GOLLIHER	Flagstaff
22	ABIGAIL JACKSON	Flagstaff
23	KYLE NITSCHKE	Flagstaff
24		
25	KAREN WATTS	Yuma
26	GARY SNYDER	Yuma
27	NANCY MEISTER	Yuma
28	RUSS JONES	Yuma
29	XANTHE BULLARD	Yuma
30	GILBERT HERNANDEZ	Yuma
31	KIMBERLY KAHL	Yuma
32	JAMES SCHUESSLER	Yuma
33	TERI KOENIG	Yuma
34	ROSALIE LINES	Yuma
35	JOSH PEMBLETON	Yuma
36	GILBERT HERNANDEZ	Yuma
37	ALAN GONZALEZ	Yuma
38		
39	HOLLI PLOOG	Flagstaff
40	EVAN HUNTER	Flagstaff
41	LINDA WARREN	Flagstaff
42	STEVE ZIPPERMAN	Flagstaff
43	ANDREA KADAR	Flagstaff
44	JAMES WARREN	Flagstaff
45	MICHAEL SCHROEDER	Flagstaff
46	DWIGHT KADAR	Flagstaff
47	MICHAEL SANDERS	Flagstaff

	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:</u> (Cont'd)	<u>LOCATION</u>
1		
2	HALEY CREIGHTON	Flagstaff
	PETER ASECIO	Flagstaff
3	DAVID OSBORN	Flagstaff
	NANCY BRANHAM	Flagstaff
4	VICKI FINGER	Flagstaff
	LAURA HUENNEKE	Flagstaff
5	CONNIE LEVINSON	Flagstaff
	DIETER KNECHT	Flagstaff
6	MIQUEL VASQUEZ	Flagstaff
	ANN PIPER	Flagstaff
7	LINDA GUARINO	Flagstaff
	CHARLIE SILVER	Flagstaff
8	BRUCE DONELSON	Flagstaff
	JEFF HOLLOWAY	Flagstaff
9	JEROME VOGEL	Flagstaff
	MARILYN WEISSMAN	Flagstaff
10	DEBRA BLOCK	Flagstaff
	ROB WILSON	Flagstaff
11	RANDIE HOLLOWAY	Flagstaff
	MALIK BOSSETT	Flagstaff
12	REX STERMER	Flagstaff
	NATHAN JONES	Flagstaff
13	MATT BILLINGS	Flagstaff
	HELEN FERRELL	Flagstaff
14	ALY GRAHAM	Flagstaff
	KATHLEEN PETTY	Flagstaff
15	ANN HEITLAND	Flagstaff
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P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Good evening, everyone. We want
4 to start by first introducing our Spanish interpreter
5 here in Yuma.

6 Blanca, if you will go ahead and introduce
7 yourself.

8 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Sure. Good evening. My
9 name is Blanca Dowm (phonetic), and I'll be the
10 interpreter for tonight. (In Spanish.)

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 And if we could all stand and say the Pledge of
13 Allegiance, please.

14 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Madam Chair.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Good evening. Hello,
17 Yuma. Hello, Flagstaff. We will dive right into Agenda
18 Item 1, Call to Order. I now call to order the public
19 hearing.

20 We ask that you please follow the Arizona
21 Department of Health guidelines in regards to COVID-19.
22 If you are not fully vaccinated, you should wear a mask
23 in a public space. If you would like to participate
24 from home, each of these meetings is being streamed
25 through Webex and YouTube and will be posted online at

1 our website: IRC.AZ.GOV.

2 If you would like to make a public comment, you
3 may do so by signing in with staff and filling out the
4 public comment card. We have an American Sign Language
5 interpreter joining us virtually and a transcriptionist
6 who will be transcribing every meeting. Please speak
7 slowly so we have a clear record of your input.

8 At this time, we will introduce ourselves, the
9 Commissioners.

10 My name is Erika Neuberg. I am the Chairwoman,
11 and I live in Chandler.

12 And I see Commissioner Mehl, so how about you go
13 first.

14 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Representative for Pima
15 County.

16 (Technical/audio disruption.)

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehl.

18 And then is there Commissioner Lerner?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Commissioner
21 Lerner, I believe, is expected in the Flagstaff area.
22 And if she's not there yet, we will look for her.

23 Is there anybody else connected through Webex?
24 I saw Vice Chair Watchman earlier or Commissioner York?

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On my screen, I can see both

1 Commissioner Lerner and Commissioner Watchman, both
2 sitting next to one another in Flagstaff.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And do they not hear us?
4 Are they able to come up to a microphone and introduce
5 themselves? Is their mic not working?

6 (Technical/audio disruption.)

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: While we're figuring it
8 out, we have Commissioner Lerner who represents Maricopa
9 County as well. I believe she resides in Tempe. And
10 it's Vice Chair Watchman from Apache County. And with
11 that, when they become live, we'll let them chime in.

12 So now we will move to Agenda Item 2, Public
13 Comment. Moving to agenda item, we will have Staff
14 please read the rules of the meeting.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 Citizens may only speak when recognized by the
17 chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if the
18 chair is absent or otherwise has delegated hearing
19 administration authority.

20 In compliance with Arizona's Open Meeting laws,
21 speakers should confine their statements to the issue on
22 the posted agenda which is before the Commission.
23 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments to
24 approximately two minutes.

25 Additionally, speakers are required to follow

1 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
2 Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any
3 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other
4 guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the
5 peace or disruption of a Commission public hearing may
6 be the cause of report to law enforcement.

7 This is a nonpartisan meeting. Please do not
8 distribute any political material in the meeting room.
9 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the citizens
10 present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to
11 address their comments to the Chair and to the
12 Commission and not to the audience present. Please show
13 respect for all speakers and avoid personal comments.

14 If you have already spoken at a previous meeting
15 or someone has expressed the same sentiment as you in
16 this meeting, you may say so and your comments will be
17 recorded into the record. You do not need to speak
18 again in order for your comments to be given more
19 weight.

20 Remember, the Commission must hear all sides of
21 an issue in order to make an informed decision.

22 Madam Chair, we will start with the first
23 speakers in Yuma.

24 Maria?

25 MS. CHAPPLE: Hi. My name is Maria Chapple. I

1 am a Community Outreach Coordinator for the IRC, and I
2 will call the first five speakers. And if you would be
3 ready to go after the person that was called in front
4 of -- or in front of you.

5 The first speakers will be Mayor Douglas
6 Nichols, Councilmember Gary Knight, William Bowlus-Root,
7 Deanna Graybeal-Lovato -- excuse me if I mispronounced
8 your name -- and Bryanne Olsen.

9 So, Mayor, if you would come to the podium.
10 Thank you.

11 SPEAKER DOUGLAS NICHOLS: Thank you. Good
12 evening, Chair Neuberg and Commissioners. Thank you
13 again for coming to Yuma, and welcome to our City Hall.

14 We truly appreciate your effort to make sure
15 that we're engaged in this process throughout Arizona.

16 And would have expected a larger turnout
17 tonight; however, it's kind of like a Friday night with
18 the holiday tomorrow and some other already scheduled
19 meetings. So I think you're going to get a lot more
20 written comments this time than maybe last time.

21 In our first two meetings, as well as in our
22 written comments, we were addressing the communities of
23 interest that were important to the Yuma area. And I
24 recognize the first maps were -- the grid maps that were
25 used in that process, they were not governed by,

1 necessarily, communities of interest primarily.

2 But in our anxiousness, we were told to hold
3 tight because the next maps will reflect more the
4 communities of interest that we expressed. So I feel
5 and a lot of us do feel that quite a few of those
6 communities of interest were not really captured in the
7 approved draft map.

8 For the legislative district draft map, the
9 communities of interest for agriculture and defense were
10 severed along the Yuma County and Maricopa County line.
11 These are critical communities that need to stay
12 connected. We have proposed modifications to the draft
13 maps that I will be providing -- or I have provided
14 copies tonight and will upload the shape files as soon
15 as I can to the website.

16 The modifications that we propose address
17 LDs 22, 23, and 30.

18 With our congressional districts, again, the
19 communities of rural lifestyles, communities of
20 agricultural workers and businesses, the community
21 centered on the Southwest military complex and the
22 complementary veteran populations are all divided among
23 CD-7 and CD-9. Keeping roughly the existing north/south
24 boundary between the existing CDs 3 and 4 would reunite
25 these communities.

1 Thank you very much for your opportunity to
2 address you today, and I really appreciate all your hard
3 work. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER GARY KNIGHT: Good evening, Madam Chair
5 and Commissioners. My name is Gary Knight, Yuma City
6 Council. Thank you for allowing us to speak to you
7 today.

8 At the last public hearing, we pleaded with you
9 not to split Yuma County or include the City of Yuma in
10 a congressional or legislative district with Tucson as
11 we have very little in common with that area of the
12 state; yet here we are looking at proposed maps that
13 will do exactly that.

14 Yuma is a river city where the Colorado River is
15 the lifeblood of the county which produces winter
16 vegetables for the entire nation. We have much more in
17 common with La Paz and Mohave Counties which also border
18 the Colorado River.

19 Yuma is the third largest metropolitan area in
20 the state. And when placed in a district with Tucson,
21 the outcome will be whatever Tucson voters vote for, and
22 we will have no voice in our own destiny. We will
23 indeed have trouble electing state and federal
24 representatives that both understand and care for the
25 needs of Yuma County, its military bases, and

1 agriculture.

2 We need to be part of Legislative District 30
3 and Congressional District 9 as you have them drawn
4 there. Or if that's -- we would actually prefer to
5 leave the legislative districts the way that they
6 currently are, LD-13 and LD-4. They worked pretty well
7 for us.

8 I know your job is not an easy one given the
9 many parameters that you have to consider in this
10 redistricting task; however, there are many lives
11 affected by your decisions and hope you will consider
12 that very carefully. Thank you for your time.

13 SPEAKER WILLIAM BOWLUS-ROOT: My name is William
14 Bowlus-Root. B-O-W-L-U-S, dash, R-O-O-T. I'm a retired
15 software engineer in Yuma 85365. I currently reside in
16 CD-4/LD-13, and would be in the proposed CD-7 and LD-23.

17 I want to address what has been going on with
18 safe districts. In my virtual town hall testimony, I
19 pointed out that Proposition 106 charges this Commission
20 to create fair and balanced districts. The voters
21 recognized that the safe districts that were drawn by
22 our legislators were inherently dysfunctional and caused
23 the problems that they were trying to fix: lack of
24 government responsiveness, poorly qualified candidates,
25 voter apathy, disenchantment, and low participation in

1 elections.

2 I know the Commission feels like it's doing a
3 good job with the hard task of creating districts.
4 Although it's true that the current draft maps are not
5 final, they raise a red flag that warns you're heading
6 in the wrong direction.

7 Of the 30 districts in the current legislative
8 draft map, there are two districts that by your
9 definition are highly competitive, four more that are
10 competitive, and the remaining 24 districts are safe
11 districts, districts that are safe for one or the other
12 parties, the kind of districts the old legislators would
13 have drawn. 24 out of 30, that's 80 percent.

14 80 percent of the districts that you have drawn are
15 dysfunctional. That's exactly the opposite of what the
16 voters said they wanted from the Commission.

17 You say, "Oh, but those safe districts are
18 balanced between the Republicans and Democrats so they
19 cancel each other out." Well, that may be true when it
20 comes to overall balance of power in the legislature,
21 but that's not the point.

22 The voters sought to stop the corrosion of
23 democracy that's inevitable with every safe district.
24 Balancing safe districts between the parties and calling
25 that competitive is a gross misunderstanding of the

1 Proposition 106 and does not justify using them. Safe
2 districts are bad apples, and two spoiled apples do not
3 make a good pie.

4 The people are dismayed to see the process
5 devolve into more partisan wrangling. The Commission
6 can certainly regain its credibility, but it will have
7 to do so by turning as many of the safe districts as
8 possible, regardless of the party they prop up, into
9 competitive districts.

10 Restore competition as our founders and Arizona
11 voters intended. That's your duty.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

13 MS. CHAPPLE: The next person was Deanna.

14 SPEAKER DEANNE GRAYBEAL-LOVATO: I am Deanna
15 Graybeal-Lovato. I am an American, and I am for life,
16 liberty, and justice for all.

17 And Yuma has been perfectly happy being part of
18 that system, but the way you have divided us, you have
19 put us out of the system, and this needs to stop. We
20 want our votes to count. And if you divide us, separate
21 us, take us out of it, we are not going to have a voice
22 in this system.

23 You need to stop. You need to think about what
24 you're doing. This is America. This is the land of the
25 free and the home of the brave. And we are brave, we

1 are proud patriots, and we plead with you to do the
2 right thing. Do justice for all. And separating us
3 into little pieces is not justice for all.

4 That's all I have to say.

5 SPEAKER BRYANNE OLSEN: Welcome to Yuma. My
6 name is Bryanne Olsen.

7 And I first want to agree with Councilman Knight
8 and our Mayor Nichols. Everything they said, I agree
9 with.

10 And I just want to add my little bit of layman's
11 language is that since 2010, I feel I've been separated
12 from my whole community being on the north side of
13 Interstate 8. All of Yuma County, agriculture, water,
14 everything that I value in this -- in our system has
15 been in a separate district, and part of that's -- so I
16 just want us to be collocated together in the same
17 district. Thank you.

18 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, Speakers.

19 We will go to Flagstaff, and we ask that
20 Commissioner Lerner and Watchman introduce themselves.
21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Welcome. Thank you for
23 being here. My name is Shereen Lerner. I'm one of the
24 Commissioners. I'm from Maricopa County. I'm really
25 glad to see such a great turnout.

1 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, and good
2 evening, everybody. My name is Derrick Watchman. I'm
3 the vice chair of the Commission.

4 (Technical/audio disruption.)

5 I represent or come from Apache County, Window
6 Rock, but it's always good to get back to Flagstaff.
7 This is my birth place, and so it's always good to get
8 home. So welcome everybody, and it's good to see
9 everybody here.

10 MS. NEUMANN: Good evening from Flagstaff. We
11 would like to introduce our Spanish interpreter.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you. My name is
13 Dr. Jesus Cormanado (phonetic), and I'll be interpreting
14 in English and in Spanish, and I will be located by the
15 door on this side. If anyone needs the headphones, I
16 will be happy to provide them over there. Thank you.

17 Oh, yeah. That's right. (In Spanish.)

18 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you. Our first speaker will
19 be the Mayor of Flagstaff, followed by Jim McCarthy,
20 followed by Adam Shimoni, followed by Sandy Moriarty,
21 and our last one, Tom Lamkin.

22 SPEAKER PAUL DEASY: Thank you. I heard -- I
23 guess they heard I was coming up first. They had to
24 turn off the lights.

25 I just want to thank the redistricting

1 commission for the opportunity to speak today on behalf
2 of the Flagstaff City Council.

3 We are very concerned with the current IRC
4 districting map, 10.0, and the council would like to
5 voice its unanimous support for the legislative map
6 submitted by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors on
7 October 27, 2021. That would be LDF-050 and LDF-051.

8 This preferred legislative map upholds the City
9 of Flagstaff's redistricting values as it keeps the
10 Greater Flagstaff community intact and places the city
11 in a district with communities that share our similar
12 values. These values include investing in forest health
13 and watershed protection as well as recognizing the
14 positive impact of ecosystems in our community.

15 South of our airport is the cutoff of
16 Flagstaff's district in our legislative -- in the
17 legislative map in the current IRC. During the Rafael
18 Fire this summer that threatened our city, it would have
19 gone through Sedona, it would have gone through Kachina
20 Village, Mountaineer, before coming to our town. The
21 existential threats that we face, face the Greater
22 Flagstaff community.

23 We also share healthcare resources under the
24 same healthcare system and water management concerns.
25 We host Grand Canyon tourists and promote ecotourism.

1 We have a strong interest in improving our greater
2 economies with investment and infrastructure, sharing
3 transportation corridors, and sharing workforce
4 development.

5 The Greater Flagstaff community shops and works
6 in Flagstaff. Residents in the Greater Flagstaff
7 community attend Coconino Community College, not Yavapai
8 Community College.

9 Our shared values include our shared interests
10 in fire prevention, water protection, commerce,
11 healthcare resources, workforce development, education
12 and ecotourism, and we are urging that we stick with or
13 go more towards the Coconino County Board of
14 Supervisors' map LDF-050 and LDF-051.

15 Moreover, District 6 and 7 -- thank you.

16 SPEAKER JIM McCARTHY: My name is Jim McCarthy.
17 I serve on the Flagstaff City Council. These comments
18 are mine and not from the city council.

19 That said, I do support the comment letter that
20 the city council adopted just last week with a unanimous
21 vote. That letter endorsed the legislative district map
22 also endorsed by the Coconino Board of Supervisors.

23 This evening, I will address the congressional
24 map. The Flagstaff City Council changes every two
25 years. I have served with three different councils. I

1 have found that the council works most effectively when
2 there's diversity on council and when the members are
3 not polarized. It seems that Congress is now polarized
4 to the point of inaction. I blame each party as much as
5 the other.

6 I fondly remember the days when Republican
7 President Reagan invited Democratic Speaker of the House
8 Tip O'Neill over for dinner. They had dinner and then
9 talked about how to get things done.

10 So how do we move towards effective cooperation
11 and away from polarization? We need districts that are
12 competitive. When districts are competitive, candidates
13 must appeal to all voters. If districts contain a
14 significant majority of a given party, the candidates
15 can ignore the minority party and focus only on the
16 majority party. This leads to extreme positions,
17 polarization.

18 So I respectfully request that our congressional
19 district lines be drawn to maximize the number of
20 competitive districts. Case in point, the current lines
21 for the Flagstaff area show a district that is not
22 competitive. I suggest that the lines be redrawn to
23 make this district competitive and to put communities of
24 interest together.

25 In many ways, parts of Yavapai County are very

1 different than Northern Arizona. I suggest that only
2 parts of Yavapai County where we have common goals be
3 included in this district. Okay.

4 SPEAKER ADAM SHIMONI: Good evening,
5 Commissioners. I welcome you all to Flagstaff, welcome
6 home, and welcome back to Northern Arizona. We really
7 appreciate you taking the time to be here with us
8 tonight and bringing your full attention and open mind
9 to this very important public hearing.

10 I want to personally -- before I get into my
11 comments, I'm Adam Shimoni. I'm one of the city council
12 members here in Flagstaff. I was a former vice mayor
13 for the past couple years, and I've been a local
14 advocate and organizer for quite some time.

15 I appreciate your service and recognize the
16 challenging work that you all are up against, and I just
17 want to say thank you. Thank you for being
18 compassionate, open-minded, and the hard work and time
19 you put into this work, into this very important job
20 that you have. Redistricting only occurs once every
21 10 years. And again, your work is so crucial and so
22 important to the well-being of our community.

23 I would like to ask, you know, why are we not
24 taking into account the County's recommended maps? Why
25 are we not taking into -- taking these recommendations

1 seriously? I don't know. You know, I don't know why
2 the Commission isn't looking into these adopted versions
3 of the map more so, and that is a big concern of mine,
4 the City Council, the County Board of Supervisors, and
5 the greater community here in Flagstaff.

6 We need competitive districts, as you've heard.
7 I'm not going to go much into detail on that.

8 And we need to keep Flagstaff whole. I think
9 that starting to divide us up as the draft map that you
10 all are considering does is a slippery slope and very
11 concerning to myself and the community, and we ask that
12 you continue to keep us whole and with like communities.

13 As the Mayor mentioned, we have a lot of
14 neighbors that will be cut off that we directly need to
15 represent and work with, especially given the concerns
16 and the situations that Flagstaff finds itself in.

17 The current map that you are considering is very
18 concerning to myself. Thank you so much.

19 SPEAKER SANDY MORIARTY: Madam Chair and Members
20 of the Commission, I'm Sandy Moriarty, the Mayor of
21 Sedona.

22 If communities of interest actually matter,
23 we're wondering why the current maps adopted split the
24 City of Sedona into two pieces and split Sedona from
25 Flagstaff as well. Sedona, Flagstaff, and the rest of

1 the Verde Valley communities work together as a region
2 regularly and depend on the partnerships we have among
3 us.

4 As city council members in all our communities,
5 we run nonpartisan, but we have much in common with each
6 other, and we have very little in common with the other
7 areas we are combined with according to your current
8 draft maps.

9 We strongly support the map submitted by
10 Coconino County which meets all of your criteria, not
11 just communities of interest but competitiveness, equal
12 population, and compactness.

13 The proposed Coconino County map for a
14 legislative district would be the only map in Northern
15 Arizona to be competitive as none of the districts
16 currently proposed by your Commission are.

17 Splitting our city of fewer than 10,000 people
18 and splitting our region makes no sense to us. When a
19 city the size of Mesa is only split in two districts,
20 how is it reasonable that a city the size of Sedona is
21 also split into two districts?

22 Flagstaff, Sedona, and the Verde Valley
23 absolutely are the model for what defines a community of
24 interest. It appears that our previous comments to the
25 Commission, which also align with the Coconino County

1 draft map, were not taken into consideration. We're
2 struggling to understand why our small city as well as
3 our region, which has been working together well for
4 many years -- we believe more than any other region in
5 the state -- is being split in many ways.

6 We share so many interests, and it only makes
7 sense that we share our legislative representatives who
8 can then advocate for us based on our commonalities in a
9 district which meets all of the criteria upon which your
10 decisions are based. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER TOM LAMKIN: Thank you and good evening.
12 Thank you to the Arizona Independent Redistricting
13 Commission. Appreciate the time and the opportunity to
14 speak. My name is Tom Lamkin with the City of Sedona
15 City Council.

16 I just wanted to cover a couple things. Our
17 Mayor spoke eloquently about the things that -- the
18 criteria that you have to follow, and I will tell you,
19 you did a great job with it. I can't imagine the
20 challenge statewide of trying to get all this done. So
21 thank you for that work.

22 Couple small suggestions. The Mayor talked
23 about equal population, compactness and contiguousness,
24 respect for communities of interest, creation of
25 competitive districts. The thing I'm going to talk

1 about a little bit is the geography and the city of
2 itself.

3 I'm a little disturbed that the city got split,
4 because I'm in Coconino County. The City of Sedona, as
5 you know, is in two counties. So now I'm not sure if
6 I'm in the City of Sedona anymore or if I'm in Coconino
7 County or Yavapai because of the split.

8 So I would ask you to maybe consider keeping us
9 all together. While it's a tough population challenge
10 to do that all equal, we're just talking a few thousand
11 people, so I'm sure you could move that around.

12 The other thing is our workforces are
13 intertwined. You look at communities of interest, we
14 are a community of communities. We are a small district
15 30 miles away at the maximum if I go to Cottonwood or
16 Clarkdale, if I go to Flagstaff. And I love all these
17 cities that we work with. We're bound by the geography
18 of Mingus Mountain and between Munds Wilderness.

19 If you look at that, we're all together. We're
20 meant to be together. We're all in a little valley. We
21 ask you to keep us together in that valley so that we
22 all have the synergy. We also have synergy of tourism
23 and those industries.

24 If I go to the district that currently I have,
25 Payson is my next nearest city to the east, which is

1 three times the distance I have to travel to try to
2 maintain relationships and build community of interest
3 with other communities. That's a 90-mile drive versus
4 27 miles, 23 miles, 20 miles, Camp Verde, et cetera.

5 I ask you to please consider making the small
6 change to support the submitted Coconino County
7 proposal. Thank you very much.

8 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Kathy
9 Kinsella, Matt Ryan, Patrice Horstman, Lena Fowler, and
10 Jeronimo Vasquez.

11 SPEAKER KATHY KINSELLA: Thank you, Chair and
12 Commissioners, for the opportunity to speak. I am Kathy
13 Kinsella, a city councillor for the City of Sedona.

14 Struggling with the microphone.

15 Sedona City Council has submitted previous
16 statements to this Commission. Each of these statements
17 has asked that the City of Sedona be kept whole and not
18 be split into different districts, yet that is exactly
19 what is on the proposed maps.

20 We are a city of less than 10,000 people.
21 Splitting us into two legislative districts would dilute
22 our community voice in the legislative process.

23 The Sedona City Council unanimously voted in
24 support of maps submitted by the Coconino County Board
25 of Supervisors that propose keeping Sedona whole in a

1 legislative district. I ask that you please consider
2 and adopt these maps, LD-0050 and LDF-0051. These maps
3 reflect the values Sedona has voiced in our previous
4 comments to the AIRC, and they meet the constitutional
5 mandates of communities of interest, equal population,
6 geographical compactness, and competitiveness.

7 So I urge that you, one, keep cities whole,
8 including the City of Sedona. We are a compact city.
9 It does not make sense to split neighbors apart from one
10 another.

11 I ask, two, that you please keep communities of
12 interest whole. Please keep the Sedona/Verde Valley
13 community whole as a community of interest with
14 Flagstaff. This would be reflective of the majority of
15 testimony that you have already heard from residents of
16 this area.

17 You have heard numerous examples of how Sedona,
18 Verde Valley, the Village of Oak Creek, and Flagstaff
19 are joined economically for commerce, tourism, jobs, and
20 housing, and by our topography and history, through our
21 educational institutions from grade school through
22 college, by our healthcare systems that work with
23 doctors and hospitals, and by transportation and transit
24 corridors.

25 I also ask that you adhere to the requirement of

1 Proposition 106 to establish competitive districts to
2 the largest extent possible. And please also allow for
3 Native American and Hispanic communities to elect
4 candidates of their choice.

5 Please consider the Coconino County Board of
6 Supervisors' maps. Thank you.

7 SPEAKER MATT RYAN: Good afternoon, Chairman
8 Neuberg and Commissioners. Thank you for this time, and
9 we really respect the job that you're doing for the sake
10 of our great state.

11 The maps that we've submitted and you've heard
12 about, LDF-050 and LDF-051, these revised maps we
13 submitted include the values which we have articulated
14 to the IRC for the past several months: meeting the
15 constitutional mandates of competitiveness, communities
16 of interests, equal population, geographic compactness,
17 and keeping cities whole.

18 Competitiveness is a significant issue and is
19 reflected in the revised map. To the importance of
20 competitiveness, allowing citizens to elect candidates
21 of their choice -- and based on our research, our data
22 shows that the legislative district we number LD-6 is
23 one of the most competitive legislative districts, if
24 not the most competitive district, in the state at a
25 deviation of minus 6.33 percent. That's 50 percent --

1 50.18 percent Republican, 49.82 percent Democrat.

2 Further, the district we number LD-7 meets the
3 goals of Native American communities to have a minority-
4 majority legislative district. The breakdown is as
5 follows: a deviation of minus 6.73 percent. Under the
6 standard BAP, the LD-7 BAP of Native Americans is
7 57.97 percent, which would allow members of Native
8 American communities to elect candidates of their
9 choice.

10 The maps we submitted on October 27 are
11 reflective of testimony received from the majority of
12 the Northern Arizona communities at those hearings.

13 On the contrary, the legislative map approved by
14 the IRC on October 29 does not reflect the comments made
15 to the IRC by these communities. First and foremost,
16 the three legislative districts of most importance to
17 Coconino County described in the 10.0 map as LD-5, 6,
18 and 7 are each very uncompetitive.

19 Very good.

20 SPEAKER PATRICE HORSTMAN: Good evening,
21 Ms. Lerner and Mr. Watchman and Members of the IRC. My
22 name is Patrice Horstman, and I serve on the Coconino
23 County Board of Supervisors for District 1.

24 Thank you for your efforts in gathering
25 information, opinion, and suggestions as you travel

1 around this great state.

2 The mission of the Independent Redistricting
3 Commission is to ensure one vote, one person, and by
4 creating districts that are equal in population to
5 ensure that communities of interest and municipalities
6 are maintained so that the unique nature and common
7 concerns of neighbors are heard, and you've heard some
8 of that here today.

9 Unfortunately, the IRC LD 8.0 map does not
10 reflect the stated goals or sentiments shared by
11 Coconino County and Northern Arizona residents, and
12 you've heard that repeatedly as well.

13 The three legislative districts of most
14 importance to Coconino County, described in the 8.0 map
15 as LD-5, 6, and 7 are very uncompetitive, deprive voters
16 in these areas of the ability to elect a candidate of
17 their choice, and this will occur for over 10 years.

18 Additionally, these maps split the City of
19 Flagstaff. They split the City of Sedona into two
20 different districts.

21 My colleagues and I on the board of supervisors
22 unanimously approved a legislative map which has
23 garnered unanimous support of the City of Flagstaff and
24 the City of Sedona. Talk about a community of interest.
25 We are here to be heard. We are encouraging you to

1 accept Coconino County's legislative map LD-5050, and
2 LD-5051. Thank you so much.

3 SPEAKER LENA FOWLER: I'm Lena Fowler, Coconino
4 County Supervisor. I'm the vice chair. Thank you so
5 much, Madam Chair and Vice Chair, that you're here with
6 us today.

7 I am speaking about the map that we submitted
8 from Coconino County, LDF-051 and LDF-050.

9 The map that was created by the IRC is very
10 troublesome. It creates a Native American majority.
11 However, the other districts are -- they won't be
12 able -- they can -- they'll be able to have a
13 representative, but the other districts are going to be
14 able to work against them. So we really -- maybe that's
15 not the right way to say it, but we need competitive
16 districts in all directions.

17 And then, you know, what I've noticed also is
18 that you have changed District 7 and 6. It's very
19 confusing to the Native American communities. I've been
20 having meetings with them and they're saying, "You're
21 switching it." I say, "No. We from Coconino County,
22 our map, look at our map. We kept District 7 as
23 District 7, 6 as 6."

24 So it's best to keep the district numbers as is
25 so that people know what they're talking about.

1 So if we can really look at the study, the
2 Coconino County Board of Supervisors' map, it is more
3 competitive. It's very good for the Native American --
4 Native Americans in our region.

5 And also we have met with Navajo Nation. We've
6 been meeting with our Navajo communities. And also when
7 you think about the community of interest, it really
8 takes that into consideration in District 7 and 6 in all
9 directions. It is more competitive and it's a more fair
10 map. So please consider the County Board of
11 Supervisors.

12 I only understand Navajo. Just kidding.
13 (Laughter) Oh, she said it in Navajo. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER JERONIMO VASQUEZ: Good evening,
15 everyone. My name is Jeronimo Vasquez. I'm Supervisor
16 for District 2, Coconino County. And I'm here to talk a
17 little bit about the concern we have with the current
18 districts as they've been written in the proposed maps.

19 We feel here at Coconino County that those maps
20 are not competitive. They are splitting communities of
21 interest. They're splitting communities -- whole
22 communities in terms of Sedona and Flagstaff, and we
23 would like to see districts that are more competitive
24 that do not dilute the vote of the different
25 constituents and want to create districts that are

1 competitive so that everybody's voice matters.

2 I would like also to put in a plug for the
3 Southern Arizona Latino Coalition and their
4 redistricting efforts, because those efforts also
5 collaborate with our efforts up here to ensure that the
6 Voting Rights Acts are used to ensure the vote counts
7 for each person and that minority votes are not diluted.

8 These current maps, as proposed, dilute various
9 communities and their voice. And we would like to
10 ensure that the maps LD-050 and LDF-51 are the maps that
11 are used.

12 Again, thank you for your time. Thank you for
13 coming and listening. And we hope that this is enough
14 to show you that these maps are not in the best
15 interests of Northern Arizona. Thank you.

16 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers, before we
17 go back to Yuma, are Harry Oberg, James Gregory, Sean
18 Golliher, Abigail Jackson, and Kyle Nitschke.

19 SPEAKER HARRY OBERG: Good evening, Madam Chair
20 and Commissioners. My name is Harry Oberg, and I'm a
21 supervisor in Yavapai County.

22 I thoroughly concur with the current map which
23 shows Yavapai County as its own legislative district,
24 LD-5. I find this appropriate since our county's
25 legislative population is very near the required target

1 of 238,600 per district, and it is probably at or
2 exceeds that number right now with our growth since the
3 recent census. Also, this supports our longstanding
4 communities of interest, which include our western rural
5 heritage, culture, and lifestyle.

6 I hear that the Town of Sedona does not want to
7 be split between two legislative districts. I agree.
8 So the only change I propose is to have a very small
9 portion of the Town of Sedona and Coconino County be
10 included in Yavapai County's LD-5.

11 This makes infinitely more sense than the
12 currently proposed maps by the Coconino County Board of
13 Supervisors and others which proposes to remove the
14 Verde Valley, which is approximately one third of my
15 county's residents, and realign them with LD-7 based on
16 the numbering of your current map.

17 I find this effort highly unusual and disturbing
18 that elected officials of another county wish to
19 complicate the policymaking and governing of our county
20 and our relationship with our county citizens. We would
21 never as a board of supervisors meddle or violate
22 Coconino County or any other county's sovereignty in
23 dealing with their constituents.

24 So in closing, I feel that keeping Yavapai as
25 its own LD and including the entire Town of Sedona in

1 LD-5 is fair and consistent with the constitutional
2 principles that established the Independent
3 Redistricting Commission.

4 Further, it is the intent of Yavapai County
5 Board of Supervisors to be inclusive in all of our
6 decisions and matters of policy and remove a perceived
7 schism that has developed over time because of a
8 mountain dividing our county.

9 Removing the Verde Valley from the currently
10 proposed LD-5 would greatly complicate our board's
11 governing efforts. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER JAMES GREGORY: My name is James
13 Gregory. I'm also a Yavapai County Board of Supervisor
14 for District 2, which is the eastern portion of Yavapai
15 County that butts up against Coconino County.

16 I represent the communities of Camp Verde,
17 Cornville, Beaver Creek, White Horse Ranch, Cherry
18 Creek, and all those that are proposed by the proposal
19 by Coconino County.

20 I strongly recommend that we keep Yavapai County
21 as a whole in the proposed legislative district. It is
22 vital for county residents to have consistent
23 representation across a county instead of dividing the
24 communities with fractured representation. Any
25 divisions of our communities and our county would cause

1 further divisiveness between the Verde Valley and the
2 Prescott area that I represent.

3 Taxpayers should not be aligned with another
4 county that will not provide services for their needs.
5 We have countywide projects which include roads,
6 multi-agency enforcement, land designation, and other
7 county needs and authorities, and not to mention Yavapai
8 College that represents both sides of the mountain.

9 Splitting the County's efforts on these issues
10 at the legislative level will dilute quick response and
11 reasonable solutions to problems requiring the need of a
12 state response. We need to keep the Verde Valley
13 together with the rest of Yavapai County. The Verde
14 watershed begins in Chino Valley, which is on the
15 Prescott side of Yavapai County.

16 I strongly disagree with the Coconino County
17 Board of Supervisors' proposal to split the county in
18 half. This proposal is being pushed for a partisan
19 group in the -- by Flagstaff and the Sedona area, and it
20 does not reflect the rest of the Verde Valley or the
21 county as a whole.

22 This -- thank you.

23 SPEAKER SEAN GOLLIHER: Good evening, ladies and
24 gentlemen. My name is Sean Golliher. I'm a resident
25 here in Flagstaff.

1 I just want to make a quick statement that I do
2 agree with the Verde Valley, which includes Cottonwood,
3 Cornville, Clarkdale, Camp Verde, Sedona, Flagstaff
4 should all be put together in a future nonnative LD-7,
5 while also the rural-suburban periphery of Flagstaff
6 should also remain in a future nonnative LD-7, while the
7 deeply urban Flagstaff area, which includes the campus
8 of NAU, go to the native district to achieve population
9 number equality.

10 Population number equality is essential because,
11 in 2010, redistricting made Republican districts
12 overpopulated and Democratic districts underpopulated,
13 which was disproportional and unfair.

14 That's all I need to say. Thank you and have a
15 good day.

16 SPEAKER ABIGAIL JACKSON: Hi. My name is
17 Abigail Jackson. I'm a graduate of NAU and a resident
18 of Flagstaff, Arizona.

19 As a young person, voting and fair
20 representation are very important to myself and my
21 future. The current proposed maps, which are
22 uncompetitive, discourage participation among my peers,
23 among which there's already concern that our votes do
24 not matter.

25 That's why I support redrawing the current

1 proposed maps to create districts that are more
2 competitive and fair so that all our votes will count.

3 Thank you.

4 SPEAKER KYLE NITSCHKE: Hey all. Thank you so
5 much for the opportunity and for having us here today.
6 I'm really happy to be able to share my opinion, and I'm
7 really just stoked to be here tonight. My name is Kyle
8 Nitschke, and I'm the Northern Regional Organizing
9 Director for Arizona Students Association.

10 Over the last five years, I've helped thousands
11 of students register to vote on campus, and one of the
12 biggest concerns that I hear from young people is that
13 their vote doesn't matter. With the current draft maps
14 proposed by the AZ IRC, I'm worried that we're making
15 that sentiment come true.

16 The current legislative district for our NAU
17 students is overwhelmingly filled with Democrats and
18 very uncompetitive, and the current draft congressional
19 map is overwhelmingly filled with Republicans and also
20 very uncompetitive.

21 The currently drawn districts will diminish the
22 voice of students at NAU and lead to more extreme
23 partisan legislators. When we have competitive
24 districts, we have higher voter turnout and more young
25 people engaged in our local community. I just please

1 ask that you redraw the maps to address these concerns
2 and don't drown out the student voice.

3 I also wanted to support Supervisor Fowler's
4 comments on the numberings for legislative districts,
5 and would add in that I would love to see our
6 congressional districts stay as Congressional District 1
7 for Northeast Arizona.

8 And thank you so much for your time.

9 MS. NEUMANN: And now back to Yuma.

10 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you.

11 The next five speakers for Yuma will be
12 Councilmember Karen Watts, and then Gary Snyder, then
13 Nancy Meister, followed by Russ Jones, and then Xanthe
14 Bullard.

15 SPEAKER KAREN WATTS: Good evening. I get to be
16 on this side. It's different for me.

17 My name is Karen Watts, and I'm an elected
18 official and a city council member.

19 I'm here to speak on behalf of my constituents
20 in the City of Yuma. I have a unique position and
21 challenge as a nurse practitioner serving the Yuma area
22 for over 25 years, and as an elected, nonpartisan
23 official since November 2017. As a nurse practitioner,
24 I've served many families in the Foothills, City of
25 Yuma, and South County. Since 2007, I've been in

1 private practice serving patients of all ages and
2 economic status.

3 I am concerned about the addition -- the
4 proposed addition of the Foothills to the City of Yuma
5 and South County.

6 As a nurse practitioner, I've spent a great deal
7 of my professional career helping the low income and
8 underserved communities in the Greater Yuma area. I
9 have served as a forensic -- I'm the medical coordinator
10 for the forensic medical services for victims of
11 domestic violence and sexual assault.

12 I work closely with all law enforcement agencies
13 in Yuma County. I have extensive experience as well
14 with substance abuse patients and currently provide
15 services for Crossroads detox rehabilitation that serves
16 homeless and low income.

17 I'm just kind of giving you a background of my
18 community.

19 I do home visits in the Foothill areas for the
20 elderly and disabled.

21 This has given me the opportunity to interact
22 with a diverse population and understand the variety of
23 issues that are important to our citizens. Yuma is over
24 60 percent Hispanic and has a large Spanish-speaking
25 population. Yuma Foothills area has a median age of

1 60.4 years, while Yuma has a median age of 31.8. I do
2 not want to see representation of this diverse
3 population be diluted or taken away as their voices must
4 continue to be heard.

5 The proposed legislative and congressional
6 districts will additionally dilute the Latino vote of
7 South County by adding the Foothills population that was
8 previously in a separate district. The Foothills has a
9 large retired population that has different needs for
10 federal programs, education, medical, and recreation
11 compared to the younger families of South County and the
12 City of Yuma.

13 These areas deserve representation that is in
14 alignment with their demographics and specific needs.
15 The purpose of the census and redistricting is for
16 Arizonans to have a fair share of representation that
17 most importantly includes giving a voice to communities
18 that have traditionally been marginalized.

19 I hope the IRC will view how important it is to
20 have the two legislative districts representing the
21 uniqueness of Yuma County as we have -- thank you.

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Was her time over?

23 MALE VOICE: Do you need to check that timer?
24 You're good. Okay.

25 SPEAKER GARY SNYDER: Buenas Tardes. (In

1 Spanish.) San Luis, Arizona.

2 I got your attention. We're talking about
3 minority. I'm one of the minorities, but I don't see
4 myself as a minority.

5 (Audience interruption - Microphone not on.)

6 SPEAKER GARY SNYDER: Check, check, check.

7 All right. I started in Spanish because,
8 obviously, we're mentioning minority voice. Yeah, we
9 could be 60 percent of the population, but that doesn't
10 matter. That's segregating us. We're all a United
11 States citizen. We're all here in the United States.
12 Our voice matters.

13 And when we're talking about our legislation map
14 and congressional map, we go off of what we currently
15 have is two different sides. Right now, our
16 Congressional No. 3, we haven't seen our congressman in
17 more than 15 years. He doesn't even show up to our
18 area. So you have him out of Tucson, which we've asked
19 you previously, and a lot of us residents, that we not
20 be added to Tucson.

21 I understand that it's because it's Latino
22 based, but our Latino base is much different than
23 Tucson's needs. We're not a community of interest. I
24 understand you're trying to say they're the border, but
25 we are actually at the border. Nogales is the border,

1 but Tucson is not the border.

2 When we talk about here, we talk about Yuma
3 County: agriculture, military, family, medical. You
4 know, we're at the border. We deal with the border. So
5 our family and our agriculture has more to deal with,
6 you know, than -- (technical/audio disruption.)

7 Wow. Okay.

8 -- Buckeye, Goodyear, especially the new area of
9 Verrado. We've mentioned that's what we wanted as a
10 whole.

11 We notice that you're going more towards Tucson,
12 as we didn't ask for, because that Latino base, to hit
13 your quota, is not a competitive area. Our Latino base
14 is here in Yuma County. We're all together, and we
15 consider ourselves Yuma County.

16 We would like to work together, we would like to
17 stay as is and take our -- take away Tucson and go more
18 towards our areas as much of interest as Luke Air Force
19 base and stuff like that. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER NANCY MEISTER: Good evening, Chairwoman
21 and other Commissioners. Thank you for your public
22 service. You have given much time and effort to this
23 process that will affect the elections of Arizona for
24 the next 10 years.

25 My name is Nancy Meister. I have lived in Yuma

1 for over 40 years. Our son was born here and attended
2 District 1's grammar schools and Kofa High School.

3 As he was growing up, I was the soccer mom
4 cheering on the sides. I was part of the parent
5 association at schools, and I'm a community leader in a
6 variety of nonprofits and other organizations in Yuma,
7 including 4-H.

8 I live in what is now in your Legislative
9 District No. 23, which is a majority-minority district,
10 and believe it would protect the voting rights of the
11 population better if the area known as the Foothills
12 would be removed. Those precincts in the Foothills are
13 80 to 90 percent white; and, therefore, would dilute the
14 ability of the Hispanic population to elect state
15 legislators that would best represent them.

16 I believe that the map submitted by the Latino
17 Coalition could be used to adjust LD-23 to make sure
18 that the district complies with the VRA.

19 Thank you again for your service. I appreciate
20 that you're here in Yuma tonight. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER RUSS JONES: Make sure I don't have a
22 mic problem.

23 My name is Russ Jones. Thank you for being here
24 in Yuma a day before Veterans Day. We have all kinds of
25 parades all over the county, so you're welcome to stay

1 and enjoy them tomorrow.

2 I'm currently chairman of the Yuma County
3 Republican Senatorial Committee. I also was the former
4 legislator that represented District 23 until, a little
5 over 10 years ago, your predecessor commission divided
6 up Yuma County, and I was essentially districted out.

7 Now, why is that a concern to me? Looking at
8 your current maps and studying where everyone lives, out
9 of our six members in the state legislature representing
10 the area, only one of them will be left to run for
11 office, and that one person is going to run in a new
12 district for them that they're not normally running in.

13 And what does that do to Yuma interests that we
14 have in common? Well, obviously, we've mentioned ag.
15 Wellton-Mohawk, Gila Valley, Yuma Valley, Yuma Mesa. We
16 have water districts. We have irrigation districts that
17 share taxing district areas that the lines cut through.

18 We have -- we have -- it's been mentioned the
19 military, not only -- MCAS Yuma works closely also with
20 YPG and what they do out there. With what may be coming
21 up for the next BRAC, they keep talking about, well,
22 it's important that we be able to have a unified voice
23 and representation in Congress and in the state
24 legislature to protect the bases that are in Yuma
25 County.

1 Education. Arizona Western College. La Paz
2 used to be part of Yuma County, and we had one junior
3 college district. Now that's split and that's a
4 separate taxing district.

5 And it was mentioned about healthcare. Very,
6 very important. We have -- in Yuma County, we have a
7 single hospital district, another taxing district that
8 we share in common with interested healthcare. And then
9 the last being education.

10 So I would propose that you consider the maps
11 that Mayor Nichols has presented. I support those. And
12 I support the entire delegation that has been serving
13 Yuma County very well for the last number of years.

14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER XANTHE BULLARD: Good evening, Chair
16 Neuberg, Commissioners. My name is Xanthe, X-A-N-T-H-E.
17 Bullard. I'm a resident of Precinct 24 in Yuma County,
18 which is part of what is known as the Fortuna Foothills
19 area.

20 I moved down here from Michigan to provide care
21 for my father, who is a disabled veteran, six years ago.
22 Were he not bedbound, he could tell you himself what his
23 community is like.

24 He moved out to the Foothills in '97 as an RV
25 salesman because that is where a large portion of people

1 who continuously are in the market for RVs live.

2 The average age of people in my precinct and
3 those that make up the Foothills is double my own age
4 and is mostly a community of white retirees or nearly
5 retirees.

6 I come before you today first to thank you for
7 listening to Yumans when we expressed how important it
8 was for us to have two separate legislative and
9 congressional districts as we have varied legislative
10 issues that cannot be adequately addressed by one set of
11 legislators or congressperson.

12 The draft maps show that you agreed with our
13 community enough to create two separate districts in
14 this county. I am here now to ask you again to listen
15 to us by removing the Fortuna Foothills precincts of 22,
16 23, 24, and 25 from the proposed LD-23 and CD-7 maps.

17 I ask this for the very reasons that we needed
18 two districts to begin with. These four precincts are
19 very white and more rural than the rest of the draft
20 maps. They more closely resemble the community of
21 Parker or Quartzsite with predominantly mobile home
22 lots, roughly half of which are occupied by RVs.

23 These precincts have their own Facebook page,
24 their own community events, their own shopping and
25 dining areas, preferring not to go into town whenever

1 possible, and a lot of them even leave for cooler
2 climates in the summer months.

3 Including these districts only dilutes the
4 Hispanic population of the entire district and its
5 voting power. This will end up preventing these
6 majority-minority districts and the VRA districts from
7 choosing their own representation.

8 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you very much.

9 SPEAKER XANTHE BULLARD: Thank you.

10 MS. CHAPPLE: We will finish up the remaining
11 speakers from Yuma, and there are six of you, so I will
12 call you up in order.

13 The first person would be Kimberly Kahl, James
14 Schuessler, Teri Koenig, Rosalie Lines. I hope I
15 pronounced that correctly. I'm going to think Josh
16 Pendleton, and then Gilbert Hernandez.

17 SPEAKER KIMBERLY KAHL: Good evening, Madam
18 Chairwoman and Commissioners. My name is Kimberly Kahl.
19 And while I am not here in an official capacity with the
20 Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, I am the executive
21 director of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce.
22 Because of that, I would be remiss in mentioning the
23 economic drivers that we have of Yuma County. Those are
24 agriculture, military, and tourism.

25 Looking at the maps as they are currently drawn,

1 it divides us. It seriously divides us and will
2 actually prevent my office and local citizens from
3 getting the representation that we need and that we
4 deserve.

5 I originally come from the Phoenix area. And
6 moving to Yuma in the last year, I have seen how -- how
7 we are somewhat ignored. We have great representation
8 in Phoenix. But we are not getting the voices that we
9 could have, and this current map actually makes it
10 worse.

11 And so I encourage you to put us all back
12 together so we can get one unified voice and get the
13 representation that Yuma County deserves. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER JAMES SCHUESSLER: Good evening, and
15 welcome to Yuma County and to our friends up in
16 Flagstaff.

17 I came to advocate for fair maps, and I think
18 it's pretty clear from the feedback that you're getting
19 that these maps don't quite meet the measure on that.

20 Fair maps, which the technology certainly allows
21 you to do, allows for a balance of Republicans,
22 Democrats, and Independents so that the less -- the best
23 idea wins with candidates rather than the best Tweet.
24 And for heaven's sakes, an elected official here in
25 Arizona in the last week tweeted "Big Bird is a

1 Communist."

2 Now, we can't guarantee that elected officials
3 with emotional intelligence are guaranteed to be
4 elected, but when people are really thinking about their
5 vote and there's balance between each of these
6 districts, we're more likely to get people with
7 emotional intelligence.

8 I lived in Wisconsin back in 2011, and they went
9 through a significant gerrymander, computer-generated,
10 and it has turned the state upside down. In fact, one
11 of the elections, recently, 45 percent of the votes
12 resulted in 64 percent of the seats. And when that
13 happens, you just lose that balance and you end up with
14 a lot of dysfunction. And it feels like Arizona has the
15 potential to move further into that area of dysfunction.

16 Why is that important? Well, workforce is
17 important. We've got a lot of growing companies here in
18 the state of Arizona and those state -- those companies
19 depend upon a good quality workforce.

20 And I can tell you Wisconsin, having worked in
21 economic development there the last eight years before I
22 moved here, Wisconsin has been bleeding people. And so
23 don't let that happen in a place where we've got a lot
24 of industry growing.

25 Thank you. Thank you for coming to Yuma.

1 SPEAKER TERI KOENIG: Good evening, Chair
2 Neuberg and Commissioners. Thank you for being here.

3 My name is Teri Koenig, and I moved to Yuma
4 County in 1983 to be a special education teacher. After
5 I finished that career, I now work as a home visitor for
6 a nonprofit agency. I go all over the county. I go to
7 San Luis to work. We can go to Wellton. Our home
8 visitation program serves all of Yuma County.

9 And I would really like to go back to everyone
10 in Yuma being in the same district. The Yuma County
11 split was baffling. I have more in common with other
12 Yuma County residents than I do with Buckeye or
13 Prescott. I support small businesses in Somerton, San
14 Luis, Wellton, and Tacna.

15 Safe districts that are not competitive
16 discourage voting. They discourage viable candidates
17 too. I do live in the Foothills, and I'm tired of
18 living in a district in which my vote really doesn't
19 matter.

20 So I would encourage you to consider having us
21 all together again. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER ROSALIE LINES: I'm Rosalie Lines. And
23 I support the Mayor as well as Gary Knight.

24 Really appreciate all the work and effort you
25 guys are going to. It is so hard to please everyone,

1 and you end up pleasing no one on all the points. You
2 have a very huge job to finesse, and my hats off to you
3 and the efforts that you have made so far.

4 But as you can hear, we do not have the common
5 interests that Tucson has, and we would like to stick
6 with the river district issues and also more balanced in
7 the Republicans, the Democrats, and Independents having
8 a very open forum so that public debate on the issues
9 can be competitive, can be enlightening, and have a lot
10 more participation in voting where there isn't the
11 dysfunction and the despair that anyone's voice is wiped
12 out, and have a lively election and campaigning
13 regarding propositions and the issues that matter.

14 That's all I wanted to say. I really hope you
15 take into account the maps that have been submitted by
16 the Mayor and Gary Knight and the different suggestions
17 that you have heard tonight. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER JOSH PEMBLETON: I would like to thank
19 everyone for being here tonight. Thank you for your
20 time that you have put into this redistricting process.
21 My name is a Joshua Pembleton. I'm a Yuma resident.

22 First off, I would like to throw politics aside.
23 This isn't about Democrat or Republican or Independents.
24 This is about being American. And right now, America is
25 staring at the state of Arizona because of possibilities

1 of the last election. And so everyone is concerned with
2 this redistricting process on how we're going to move
3 forward, but let's be very clear about this. We all --
4 everyone in this room and in this district, the current
5 district and the current process, puts their pants on
6 the same way: one leg at a time. And that's it. We're
7 all Americans. It's that easy.

8 If you look at the current district, there
9 wasn't a lot of gerrymandering going on when this
10 process first started. As the process moved along, and
11 then as of a few days ago, quite a bit of change
12 happened in the current district that goes from Yuma to
13 Tucson.

14 As stated with most people that have spoke
15 tonight, Yuma and Tucson have very different interests.
16 Yuma's concerned with the agricultural industry. We can
17 start throwing percentages out. Yuma does 90 percent of
18 all leafy vegetables for North America. Yuma County
19 does 90 percent for three months out of the year for all
20 produce. That's significant.

21 But how does Yuma -- how are they able to
22 accomplish that? They're able to accomplish that
23 because of water rights. If we split the district, when
24 the water comes down from the north, that doesn't help
25 Yuma. We should be looking at producing for not just

1 Yuma but for the rest of America and, actually, Canada.
2 If we're splitting the district, that's not helping.

3 In reference to the rest of what Yuma wants,
4 they want things like border security. Tucson is not
5 looking for that in that direction. I ask you to please
6 not put us in the same district as we move forward in
7 this process. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER GILBERT HERNANDEZ: Buenas tardes.
9 Me llamo Gilbert Daniel Hernandez. (In Spanish.) I
10 speak Español. Not fluent, but I can speak it.

11 I was born in Yuma in 1950. 71 years old. I
12 seen a lot of changes. And what I seen tonight and what
13 I heard tonight was disgusting for me on this thing.
14 Racism was brought up in a powerful way by a young lady,
15 and this is what I have to say.

16 We are not hyphenated Americans. We are
17 Americans. We are Americans first, foremost. What we
18 heard tonight from that young lady was really disgusting
19 on this redistricting.

20 By the way, I'm a Latino and I live in the
21 Foothills, and there is a lot of Latinos in the
22 Foothills if we want to hyphenate Americans. I'm
23 bringing that up to ensure that we have Latinos,
24 Hispanic-Americans, or whatever you want to call us. It
25 was very disgusting to hear that young lady speak what

1 she said.

2 I personally like to keep it the way we are. I
3 agree with the Mayor and how he wants to in his maps.

4 We have something in common. Let's keep us
5 strong. Let's keep Yuma strong. I always say this when
6 I speak about being strong. A baseball glove is only as
7 good as the weakest thread on the glove; correct?

8 If you split us up, we're going to become weak.
9 We don't want that. We want a strong community. Let's
10 keep it that way.

11 Obviously, we've heard a lot of the things going
12 on, Flagstaff and Yuma, and it's obvious that we're not
13 happy with the redistricting that you guys are talking
14 about.

15 Thank you for your time. I appreciate it. God
16 bless America.

17 MS. CHAPPLE: And we do have one more speaker
18 from Yuma. Alan Gonzalez.

19 SPEAKER ALAN GONZALEZ: Hello. Hi. My name is
20 Alan Ayesi Gonzalez. I can also speak Spanish: ¿Cómo
21 estás? I can also speak French: Comment allez-vous?
22 I don't think that really matters with the issues that
23 we're worried about.

24 Yes, racism was brought up. As Xanthe was
25 walking down with Gary Snyder and the previous gentleman

1 yelled out "White power," that's the kind of scary
2 racism that we want to shield ourselves from.

3 I have lived in Buckeye and Goodyear, and they
4 have a lot to share with the Foothills. That was a very
5 accurate structuring of the maps. And in Tucson, with
6 the medical industries and the aerospace focus that they
7 have right now and the city here in Yuma, that's
8 excellent. Why would we want to separate ourselves from
9 progress? Why would we want to separate ourselves from
10 development?

11 Race shouldn't be the issue that's brought up
12 here. That's kind of disgusting that it's brought up.
13 I am probably the youngest person that's come up to
14 speak. It was mentioned that the median age in the city
15 is 31. That's actually still older than me, but here I
16 am. Because, yes, there is a big difference in the
17 Foothills. I saw the same area, buildings, houses in
18 the Foothills that I saw in Buckeye and Goodyear when I
19 lived there in 2018.

20 When I moved here in 2016 originally, I did get
21 to see a lot of Arizona. I did get to explore Tucson.
22 We share a lot in common. It would be a mistake to
23 stripe ourselves -- or strike ourselves from development
24 and progress.

25 That's all I have to say for now.

1 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, Yuma speakers. That
2 concludes the people who have submitted a speaker card,
3 so we will go back to Flagstaff.

4 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Yuma.

5 Our next five speakers are Holli Ploog, Evan
6 Hunter, Linda Warren, Steve Zipperman, and Andrea Kadar.

7 SPEAKER HOLLI PLOOG: Thank you, Commissioner
8 Neuberg -- Chairwoman Neuberg and Commissioners. Nice
9 to see you again. My name is Holli Ploog, and I'm a
10 member of the Sedona City Council.

11 And my colleagues have spoken to you tonight
12 about our desire and support -- our unanimous support of
13 the Coconino County Board of Supervisor maps, so what I
14 would like to talk about a little bit is about
15 competitiveness, which is something that the Commission
16 has talked about repeatedly during its meetings thus
17 far.

18 And competitiveness -- fair and competitive maps
19 is what the voters entrusted upon you, and I think it's
20 a sacred trust. And it's a hard job, so I'm
21 sympathetic.

22 But it's not about balancing the state so that
23 there's 14 safe districts for the Republicans and 14
24 safe districts for the Democrats, as an example, and two
25 districts that could go either way. That's not good for

1 democracy.

2 Competitiveness is about the ability for either
3 party to win an election in a district. And right now,
4 the maps that were drawn for Northern Arizona do not
5 provide that at all. So District 5 and District 7,
6 there's up to 30 points difference between one party
7 versus another party.

8 So basically what would be happening is that an
9 election would occur in a primary, and that's not a good
10 outcome. It means that people would not have the
11 ability to be heard for the next 10 years. That's a
12 really difficult situation. Candidates are not going to
13 run when they know they're going to lose and the best
14 candidates don't necessarily run on the other side, and
15 legislators don't feel like they have to listen to their
16 constituents.

17 Thank you very much.

18 SPEAKER EVAN HUNTER: My name is Evan Hunter,
19 and I'm a student here at Northern Arizona University.

20 I'm going to keep it relatively short but
21 reiterate an important point that's been made today. My
22 concern is that the Commission needs to be -- or needs
23 to maintain Arizona's competitive nature when finalizing
24 these maps. It's unfair when districts lean
25 predominantly towards one political party, as I truly

1 believe that every party should be able to make inroads
2 with their agenda through fair and equal districts.

3 Thank you.

4 SPEAKER LINDA WARREN: Good evening,
5 Commissioners. My name is Linda Warren. I live in
6 Cottonwood. And when we moved here 11 years ago, we met
7 Sedona Westerners, did a lot of hiking, and I have a lot
8 of friends there.

9 So in conversations and long associations with
10 them, they reveal that they come to Cottonwood to shop
11 at Home Depot and Walmart, and they come to Cottonwood
12 for better restaurants that are less costly than Sedona.
13 And we all hike the Red Rocks of Sedona, and they hike
14 the Mingus Mountains over in Cottonwood.

15 Out of necessity, Verde Valley residents will go
16 to Prescott, Phoenix, or Flag for specialized medical
17 care, but these relationships do not constitute
18 community. I haven't heard from them in 10 years any
19 feeling of community with Flag.

20 So with a town as small as Sedona, why break it
21 up at all? And Sedona should be included in the Yavapai
22 County districting, not Coconino. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER STEVE ZIPPERMAN: Thank you for this
24 opportunity to address the Commission. My name is Steve
25 Zipperman. I'm a concerned citizen and resident of

1 Yavapai County.

2 Our communities of interest include Prescott,
3 Sedona, Wickenburg, and the Verde Valley. These
4 communities are all rural, people have the same
5 lifestyles, and they work and live together.

6 It's important that you adhere to all six of the
7 criteria laid out in the Arizona Constitution. People
8 choose where to live in our state based on their
9 individual interests.

10 We approve of the current draft map showing the
11 boundaries of the Legislative District 5 with two
12 exceptions. One, Sedona should not be split and all of
13 Sedona should be contained within District 5 and
14 included with Prescott, not Flagstaff; two, Wickenburg
15 should also not be split and all of it should be
16 included within the area of Yavapai County shown as
17 District 5 in the current maps.

18 Residents of these two communities shop in
19 Prescott, use the facilities within Yavapai County, and
20 they enjoy a rural lifestyle just like the residents of
21 Yavapai County.

22 This Commission should not be swayed by the
23 Coconino County Board of Supervisors. The Verde Valley
24 has more in common with Prescott than it does with
25 Flagstaff. Beware. The term "competitiveness" is being

1 used as a tool to gerrymander the district.

2 The median age in Sedona is 61, the median age
3 in Prescott is 58, while the median age in Flagstaff is
4 25. That's an example of why this is part of the same
5 community. It's easier for residents of Sedona and
6 Verde Valley to travel to Prescott and Prescott Valley
7 than to travel to Flagstaff, especially in the summer
8 when the tourists clog the roads. In winter, getting to
9 Flagstaff is nearly impossible due to weather-related
10 issues. Hiking - Granite Dells in Prescott and Sedona.
11 Kayaking - Verde Valley and Prescott Lakes.

12 Students at the three Verde high school
13 campuses -- thank you very much.

14 SPEAKER ANDREA KADAR: Good evening. My name is
15 Andrea Kadar, and I live in Yavapai County, specifically
16 in the Village of Oak Creek.

17 And I thank you Commissioners for your hard work
18 to redraw Arizona's legislative and congressional lines.
19 It's a difficult task to balance the numerous criteria
20 as set forth in our Constitution, and we appreciate you
21 for your hard work and zeal.

22 I'm going to make three points that I wish to
23 cover, and I'm going to do it quickly.

24 First, with all due respect, neither the
25 Flagstaff mayor, nor the Coconino County Board of

1 Supervisors speak for us in the Verde Valley.

2 Second, the Sedona mayor and the city council,
3 with all due respect, do not speak for all of the Verde
4 Valley residents.

5 And third and most importantly, you folks on the
6 Commission are hearing from a small fraction of Sedona
7 residents on these new line suggestions. Sedona and the
8 Verde Valley align closely as a community of interest
9 with Prescott. Prescott is the Yavapai County seat.
10 Flagstaff, obviously, is not.

11 A Yavapai college location is located in West
12 Sedona. A Yavapai County Sheriff's office is located in
13 the Village of Oak Creek. A Yavapai County jail and
14 court are located in Camp Verde.

15 The vast majority of the Verde Valley's property
16 taxes are paid to Yavapai County; therefore, Sedona and
17 the Verde Valley residents have a voice with elected
18 officials. We truly must be included in the final
19 Legislative District 5 and Congressional District 2
20 maps. Therefore, I respectfully suggest that you ladies
21 and gentlemen adopt the proposed Arizona draft 10.0 maps
22 for Legislative District 5 and CD-2 without any changes.

23 And again, I sincerely thank you, Commissioners,
24 for the steadfast resolve to balance the six criteria as
25 set forth in the Arizona Constitution. Thank you again.

1 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are James
2 Warren, Michael Schroeder, Dwight Kadar, Michael
3 Sanders, and Haley Creighton.

4 SPEAKER JAMES WARREN: Good evening. Thank you
5 for your hard work.

6 What I will outline is our commitment to the
7 Verde Valley community and my inclusion of Sedona in
8 that. While politicians may argue for different lines,
9 the societal lines include Sedona in the Verde Valley.

10 My wife and I purchased our home in Cottonwood
11 11 years ago. Being new and not knowing -- not having
12 any friends, we immediately joined the Sedona Westerners
13 and started hiking. We knew we would want to hike the
14 red rocks, we had hiked the Grand Canyon, and we
15 considered ourselves in pretty good shape and avid
16 hikers at that time.

17 Having come from New Jersey, though, we were
18 well aware of the limitations imposed by roundabouts and
19 high traffic density. So we really weren't interested
20 in moving to Sedona, but we found ourselves very much in
21 that community. Not only were we involved in the
22 Westerners, but we also were very involved with the
23 Sinfonietta, which is a musical orchestra that plays in
24 Sedona. We were -- I was on the -- participated in the
25 management of the Sedona Westerners when I was trail

1 boss at one point, which is a top position. My wife was
2 active on the board of the Sinfonietta. We participated
3 financially, quite substantially, with the support of
4 that organization.

5 I also found myself in the Sedona Car Club. We
6 joined the Elks. We also -- I also am in a car club in
7 Prescott, and we have an informal club in Cottonwood.
8 So we've found ourselves very much in the organizations
9 in Sedona, Prescott, and Cottonwood.

10 Thank you very much.

11 SPEAKER MICHAEL SCHROEDER: Good evening. My
12 name is Michael Schroeder, and I live in Sedona, Yavapai
13 County.

14 I would like to take the opportunity to express
15 my appreciation to the Commission for its work to redraw
16 Arizona's legislative and congressional district lines.
17 I know it's a difficult task to balance the criteria set
18 forth in the Arizona Constitution.

19 As the Commission is aware, there are six
20 criteria that guide the drawing of districts. For the
21 audience in attendance, I want to quickly review them.

22 Number one, equal population;

23 Number two, compact and contiguous;

24 Number three, compliant with U.S. Constitution
25 and the Voting Rights Act;

1 Number four, respect for communities of
2 interest;

3 Five, incorporation of visible geographic
4 features, including, city, town, and county boundaries,
5 as well as undivided census tracts;

6 And six, creation of competitive districts where
7 there is no significant detriment to those goals.

8 In listening to Saturday's public hearing, in
9 reference to Legislative Districts 5, 6, and 7 and CD-2,
10 there was a constant drumbeat by speakers of the
11 creation of competitive districts with little mention of
12 the other five criteria. The speakers failed to mention
13 the core of criteria six, and I quote, where there is no
14 significant detriment to the other goals.

15 Let me be perfectly clear. The city mayors,
16 county supervisors, and others living in Coconino County
17 making this statement do not speak for all of the Verde
18 Valley residents. Our tax dollars do not flow to
19 Coconino County. And as a majority property taxpayer
20 myself, I want a say with my representatives where my
21 taxes are going.

22 So I respectfully request that the Commission
23 adopt the Arizona draft as already stated. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER DWIGHT KADAR: Good evening, and thank
25 you for this public hearing. My name is Dwight Kadar,

1 and I am not an elected official from Sedona, from
2 Flagstaff, or from Coconino County. I am a resident of
3 the Verde Valley.

4 I would like to express my sincere appreciation
5 to Chair Neuberg and the Commission for your tireless
6 work. This is a difficult task, and we appreciate all
7 your efforts.

8 I've studied the proposed maps of the AZ draft
9 10.0 for Districts 5, 6, 7 and compared them to the
10 current maps in District 1, 6, and 5 which have been in
11 effect since 2012.

12 It is clear to me and many of the people that we
13 have spoken to that, with respect to these rural
14 districts, Madam Chair and you fellow Commissioners have
15 adhered to all six districts as described in the Arizona
16 Constitution. This is especially true with respect to
17 equal population, communities of interest, and
18 incorporating county boundaries.

19 I live in the unincorporated municipality of the
20 Village of Oak Creek in the Verde Valley. As such, I am
21 a Yavapai County taxpayer, and I consider the services I
22 receive and pay for. The vast majority of the Verde
23 Valley and Sedona is geographically in Yavapai County.
24 Our residents pay property taxes to support that county.

25 We want to be represented by people who have

1 like interests.

2 Our school district taxes, fire taxes, and other
3 taxes support the Yavapai Community College, the Yavapai
4 County Jail, the court system, and all others. We have
5 our own Yavapai County Sheriff's Office located in the
6 Village of Oak Creek, and our county supervisor resides
7 there as well. Residents of Yavapai County get little,
8 if any, service from Coconino County.

9 At this point, with all the public comment the
10 Commission has received and considered, please adopt the
11 maps without change. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER MICHAEL SANDERS: Hello, my name is
13 Michael Sanders, and I'm a 40-plus year resident of
14 Yavapai County. 35 of those years have been involved
15 with government and economic and ecological issues.

16 And I want to propose that we keep Yavapai
17 County as its own LD and include North Sedona and the
18 rest of Wickenburg. That's the simplest solution and
19 that makes -- that serves the most people and it
20 accomplishes the requirements of the Constitution.

21 Now, I'm holding up a Verde map. I know you
22 can't see it, but if you look at a small 45-mile radius,
23 that includes Sedona, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Paulden,
24 Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley, and everything
25 else that's in there. That is an economic development

1 system. That is an economic development area and
2 ecological area.

3 I'll just say this. Flagstaff is its own
4 ecology. It's up off the Rim. So you can take a
5 wilderness map, you can take any map, and you will see
6 that that is, in fact, true.

7 I'm just not pulling this stuff out of the air.
8 I come from experience. I'm a former mayor of Chino
9 Valley. Been on the Industrial Commission of Arizona
10 twice. I'm a past member of the Governor's Strategic
11 Plan for Economic Development, Arizona Economic
12 Development Council, Arizona Groundwater Users Advisory
13 Council. I'm an Arizona delegate to the White House
14 Conference of Small Business, and Arizona delegate to
15 multiple congressional small business summits.

16 So anyway, the simplest solution is almost --
17 often the best. Pull North Sedona into LD for Yavapai
18 County. Pull Wickenburg -- (audio disruption).
19 Represent most of the people. That's where you serve
20 the people the best.

21 And a big thumbs up for the Commission, and
22 thanks for your service to Arizona. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER HALEY CREIGHTON: Hello. Good evening.
24 Thank you so much for being here. My name is Haley
25 Creighton. I am a student at Northern Arizona

1 University, and I am here to urge you to create fair and
2 competitive districts for Arizona voters.

3 I have lived in Arizona my entire live, and I
4 want my vote and the votes of all Arizonans to matter.
5 Creating competitive districts means that all of our
6 voices count, regardless of party affiliation.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. NEUMANN: We will now take a 10-minute break
9 to relieve our transcriptionist, and we will resume
10 promptly at 7:46.

11 (A recess was taken from 7:36 p.m. to
12 7:46 p.m.)

13 MS. NEUMANN: Okay, folks. Let's get started
14 again.

15 Our next five speakers, we've got Peter Asencio,
16 David Osborn, Nancy Branham, Vicki Finger, and Steve
17 Peru.

18 SPEAKER PETER ASECNCIO: Good evening. My name
19 is Pete Asencio. I live in Yavapai County in the Verde
20 Valley, more or less in Rimrock.

21 I would like to first take this opportunity to
22 express my appreciation to the Commission for its work
23 in redrawing the Arizona legislative and congressional
24 district lines. It's a very difficult task to balance
25 and numerous criteria to set forth in our Constitution.

1 There are three points that I would like to be
2 helpful maybe to the Commission. First of all is that
3 neither Flagstaff mayor or the mayor from Sedona
4 represents the people from the Verde Valley.

5 I've lived in the Verde Valley for 13 years now,
6 and I'm very involved in my community, and I do a lot of
7 work there and I know a lot of people there. We do our
8 shopping in Camp Verde and in Cottonwood and in
9 Prescott.

10 I don't ever go to Flagstaff other than to come
11 here for this, and I had to use a map to figure out how
12 to get here.

13 So the draft map that the Commission made, it's
14 10.0, that is what I would like to see happen, for it to
15 stay that way.

16 And other than that, that's about all I have to
17 say. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER DAVID OSBORN: Good evening. My name is
19 David Osborn. I live in Rimrock which is in Verde
20 Valley.

21 I would like to share that I am satisfied with
22 the current CD maps the way that they -- for Northern
23 Arizona the way that they're drafted.

24 I am satisfied with the current LD maps for
25 Northern Arizona with two exceptions. I would like to

1 see the City of Sedona incorporated into LD-5, along
2 with Wickenburg into LD-5. Thank you.

3 SPEAKER NANCY BRANHAM: Thank you for being here
4 tonight. My name is Nancy Branham. I live in
5 Flagstaff. I've been here over 30 years, and I'm an
6 involved citizen of the community.

7 I will comment briefly on the legislative map
8 and the congressional district draft map. When you
9 heard our comments in July, it was clear that we want
10 Flagstaff to be kept whole. We still want and need
11 that. That includes the communities of Kachina,
12 Mountaineer, Bellemont, Westwood, Forest Highlands,
13 Flag Ranch, and Munds Park, which on the draft map are
14 now included with Williams in a district that wraps
15 south around Flagstaff and extends 200 miles and a
16 three-hour travel time. The communities that I have
17 mentioned are absolutely part of Flagstaff and not a
18 part of where you now have them on the draft map.

19 You will hear plenty of folks from Sedona
20 tonight that their community needs to be together rather
21 than being split at the county line. But once you keep
22 Sedona together, you must also include Cornville, Camp
23 Verde, Clarkdale, and Cottonwood as part of our
24 community of interest.

25 Based on the overwhelming testimony that you

1 have received from these folks, they identify much more
2 closely with Flagstaff than Prescott. I'm seriously
3 concerned that the Commission ignored the
4 constitutionally mandated criteria of compactness and
5 communities of interests.

6 Please adopt the map from the Coconino County
7 Board of Supervisors regarding LD-7, which has also been
8 unanimously endorsed by the Flagstaff and Sedona City
9 Councils.

10 As for the congressional district map, I will
11 simply say that your map has turned what has
12 historically been a very competitive district into a
13 strong Republican district with no good reason. This
14 configuration will reduce competitiveness and will limit
15 the voice of our Native American communities. The
16 Navajo Nation has submitted map CDF-010 proposed
17 revision to CD-2, which I strongly support.

18 Thank you for your efforts. And I will make
19 further comments online.

20 SPEAKER VICKI FINGER: Hello. My name is Vicki
21 Finger. I have worked, lived, played, shopped,
22 volunteered, and received my healthcare in Flagstaff for
23 over 25 years. My comments I know will echo those of
24 many others from Flagstaff and Sedona, and this, I
25 believe, is indicative of their importance.

1 Flagstaff serves as a hub for many things.
2 That, you have heard from before. In the draft map, all
3 the folks that are connected to that hub are cut off.
4 Our healthcare system services are divided from their
5 patients. Many of our students and their parents are
6 divided from their schools. Our businesses are cut off
7 from their many customers, and our workforce is cut off
8 from its place of employment. Part of us are in the
9 proposed Legislative District 6; part of us are in
10 Legislative District 7.

11 If the draft map is adopted, none of our needs
12 in these areas will be taken seriously by our
13 legislative candidates because these seats will not be
14 competitive. And competitive is important, and you have
15 heard the many reasons why.

16 In fact, all three of the Northern Arizona
17 legislative districts are not competitive. It does not
18 have to be this way to meet the other important
19 requirements. You have been furnished alternative
20 redistricting maps by Coconino County Board of
21 Supervisors and the Navajo Nation. I ask that you
22 consider these seriously and adopt portions of them.

23 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Laura
24 Huenneke, Connie Levinson, Dieter Knecht, Ann Piper, and
25 Miguel Vasquez.

1 SPEAKER LAURA HUENNEKE: Good evening. My name
2 is Laura Huenneke. I've lived just outside of Flagstaff
3 for more than 18 years.

4 I represent many fellow Northern Arizona
5 residents, moderate, often independent in politics,
6 committed to principles of good, representative
7 government.

8 Like others here, I want to speak to the many
9 reasons why the maps proposed by the Coconino County
10 Board of Supervisors are superior to your draft
11 legislative district map in the northern region of the
12 state.

13 While Yavapai is one of a very few counties kept
14 whole in your plan, your proposed districts LD-5, 6,
15 and 7 ignore and fragment many natural and governmental
16 boundaries and multiple communities of interest.

17 The districts proposed by Coconino Board of
18 Supervisors do a better job of satisfying the six
19 Constitutional criteria. They keep multiple local
20 entities intact. Flagstaff with its suburbs. Sedona.
21 They respect natural geographic boundaries, the Verde
22 Valley separate from the Prescott AMA west of Mingus
23 Mountain. They respect compactness and contiguity by
24 linking communities along I-17 and Oak Creek.

25 Map LDF-50 links communities of interest, people

1 served by Northern Arizona healthcare, all the way to
2 businesses dependent on environmental tourism, river
3 activities and agriculture, federal lands. It also
4 protects the Yavapai Apache Nation by keeping it in a
5 single district, not cracking it as your current draft
6 map does.

7 Map LDF-51 also links communities of interest
8 around environment and economic drivers while protecting
9 Native American voters and their electoral choice.

10 Finally, the Board of Supervisors' submission
11 results in a highly competitive district for Flagstaff,
12 Sedona, and Verde Valley region. I ask you to modify
13 your map to incorporate those suggestions.

14 Thank you for your service.

15 SPEAKER CONNIE LEVINSON: My name is Connie
16 Levinson. I'm a 20-year resident of Sedona.

17 I am here to implore you to utilize the Coconino
18 County Board of Supervisors' map. What has been
19 presented thus far does not reflect our community of
20 interest. To us, it seems very clear that the Verde
21 Valley goes with Flagstaff because that's where we go.
22 I don't know any Sedonan who goes to Prescott to
23 recreate.

24 This is not a slam against Prescott or Yavapai
25 County. Other counties are being split. We will still

1 pay our taxes. We will still shop in Cottonwood. But
2 most of the time, we will come up here for medical care.
3 Look at the universe created by Northern Arizona
4 Healthcare. It does not extend to Prescott.

5 Veterans will go to the veterans hospital
6 because it's cheaper and safer and easier for them, but
7 the rest of us have to travel for medical care. Our
8 options are very limited.

9 We really ask that you consider our community of
10 interest and the fact that if the current maps become
11 permanent for the next 10 years, my vote will not count.
12 The balance is unequal, I think unfair, and I think that
13 needs to be straightened out.

14 And we do need to respect our Yavapai Apache
15 Nation neighbors. They are already split
16 geographically. They should not be split in this
17 manner.

18 So please, when you go back and you have heard
19 all of us and we've talked, please consider how it is we
20 live here, where we go, where we travel, and where
21 services are provided. The Quad Cities, Prescott, that
22 is not our universe. Wickenburg is not our universe.
23 Payson is a three-hour drive. So is Wickenburg. These
24 are not in our community. Our community is the Verde
25 Valley and Flagstaff.

1 So please listen. We would really appreciate
2 it. I would hate to lose my vote. Thank you.

3 SPEAKER DIETER KNECHT: Thank you very much for
4 listening to us. I really appreciate your hard work
5 that you have to put up with. I am Dieter Knecht in
6 Yavapai County and Sedona. I'm also a member of the
7 Westerners and supporter of the Sinfonietta. But I
8 respectfully disagree with some of my other fellow
9 Yavapai residents.

10 I mainly use Flagstaff for health, business, and
11 arts and entertainment. I feel very contiguous with
12 these areas.

13 And mainly, the arguments you have heard for
14 Yavapai County are great for the county. I belong to --
15 I'm in Yavapai County. I pay taxes. But we're talking
16 about maps, districts, to make competitive districts for
17 the state of Arizona.

18 Yavapai County is not competitive. My vote is
19 lost there. And it would be that way for the next
20 10 years if you keep it that way.

21 I urge you to really focus on that, just the way
22 you heard from the students of Arizona and others. That
23 if we are in a district where we essentially don't have
24 a vote, then we lose our interests.

25 Somebody mentioned the fact of gerrymandering.

1 Well, gerrymandering -- competitive districts is not
2 gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is where you essentially
3 have one district controlled by one side or the other.

4 So please keep us -- Sedona together and keep us
5 in the same -- thank you.

6 SPEAKER MIQUEL VASQUEZ: Honorable members of
7 the Committee, of the IRC, I wanted to say buenas
8 noches. (In Spanish.)

9 My name is Miguel Vasquez. I'm a retired
10 professor here at NAU, and a 32-year member -- or
11 resident of Flagstaff. I'm also a founding member of
12 the Coconino County Hispanic Advisory Council.

13 Professors have a reputation for being a little
14 bit longwinded. I won't be tonight. I'm glad I've got
15 the two-minute limit.

16 I'm concerned that the approved map -- sorry.
17 I've not used one of these in a classroom.

18 I'm concerned that the approved map ignores the
19 six basic principles -- the six basic criteria that
20 we're mandated to follow.

21 The other day, my granddaughter Samantha --
22 she's a high school student -- she asked me, "Poppa,
23 what does gerrymandering mean?"

24 And the map that I've seen approved so far, as
25 far as I can see, is a blatant example of

1 gerrymandering. Whenever you've got noncompetitive
2 districts, that's gerrymandering whether by intent or
3 no.

4 Instead, I would like to provide a -- I would
5 like to promote the Coconino County Board of
6 Supervisors' map. It recognizes the diverse communities
7 that we have here in Northern Arizona. And if we're
8 real here, we realize that Native Americans and
9 Hispanics and other people of color have been
10 historically marginalized in this state, and I see this
11 as one opportunity to begin to correct that historical
12 error.

13 We have a chance now to do things correctly.
14 Let's do it. Your final decision strengthens or weakens
15 our democracy in Arizona and the U.S. Please do the
16 right thing.

17 SPEAKER ANN PIPER: Thank you for coming to our
18 fair city. My name is Ann Piper. My husband and I are
19 NAU graduates and, unfortunately, had to leave this fair
20 city to be able to make a living when we were young, but
21 have had the good fortune to return to Flagstaff for our
22 retirement years.

23 We've lived in Kachina Village, which is located
24 approximately seven miles south of Flagstaff along the
25 I-17 corridor, for about five years. And although a few

1 miles out of town, we consider ourselves residents of
2 Flagstaff.

3 We purchase all of our goods and services in
4 Flagstaff. We receive all our healthcare in town,
5 subscribe to the local newspaper, volunteer our time,
6 attend local theater, and pay property taxes that
7 support Flagstaff public schools, the Flagstaff library,
8 Coconino Community College, and public health services.

9 We are very concerned that the proposed
10 redistricting map for LD-7 removes our community and our
11 neighboring community of Mountainaire from the local
12 representation as well as policy and political
13 influence. We are not connected financially,
14 culturally, geographically, or politically with the far
15 reaches of Apache, Gila, or Pinal County.

16 Please do not separate our town from the town
17 that we are proud citizens of. We respectfully ask that
18 you adopt the redistricting map drawn up and recommended
19 by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors which allows
20 us to remain part of the city that we love. Thank you.

21 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Emma
22 Burns, Dominique Gibala, Charlie Silver, Linda Guarino,
23 and Sydney Shevat.

24 SPEAKER LINDA GUARINO: My name is Linda
25 Guarino, and I live in Doney Park, which is part of the

1 Greater Flagstaff area.

2 We were previously in CD-1, which was a highly
3 competitive district, and are now in the proposed CD-2
4 which leans heavily Republican. This is unfair to all
5 Democrats and moderate independents because there's no
6 reason for us to vote in a district that would have gone
7 to Republican in the last nine elections. It also takes
8 away my right to representation in Congress because a
9 Republican who is sure to win would have no reason to
10 listen to concerns from the other party.

11 A proposed revision submitted by the Navajo
12 Nation is competitive while honoring the other five
13 criteria for independent redistricting, and I urge you
14 to adopt this map.

15 I have the same concern with the proposed
16 legislative map because Northern Arizona is split into
17 two highly noncompetitive districts, LD-6 with a
18 42 percent vote spread, and 7 with a 30 percent vote
19 spread, which makes it two of the most highly
20 uncompetitive districts in the whole state.

21 Each district should be competitive so that
22 every voter can have an equal chance to elect
23 legislators who will listen to all of their constituents
24 and not just to their base.

25 Politics in Arizona is already too partisan, and

1 safe districts like these will make the situation worse
2 by allowing extremists on both sides. Please consider
3 the alternative maps for LD-6 and 7 submitted by the
4 Coconino County Board of Supervisors. These maps make
5 each district highly competitive while honoring the
6 other five criteria for independent redistricting.

7 These districts would encourage moderate
8 candidates to run and permit elected officials to
9 compromise and make the decisions that are best for all
10 Arizonans and not just consider what is best for their
11 own party. I ask you to please adopt this map.

12 Thank you for listening, and thank you for your
13 service.

14 SPEAKER CHARLIE SILVER: Commissioners, good
15 evening. Thank you very much for your hard work.
16 Charlie Silver. I'm a 40-year resident of Flagstaff.

17 And I have comments regarding three published
18 plans: CDF-010 submitted by the Navajo Nation Human
19 Rights Commission congressional map; LDF-050, Coconino
20 LD-6; LDF-051, Coconino LD-7 maps.

21 I support these published plans as my community
22 of interest and that best reflect competitiveness as
23 well as the other criteria required per Arizona
24 Constitution Article 4, Part 2, Section 1, Paragraph 14.

25 Thank you again for your service.

1 MS. NEUMANN: Next up is Bruce Donelson, Jeffrey
2 Holloway, Marilyn Weissman, Jerome Vogel, and Debra
3 Block.

4 SPEAKER BRUCE DONELSON: Good evening. My name
5 is Bruce Donelson, and my address is 2515 Toho Trail,
6 Flagstaff, Arizona 86005. This is in the subdivision
7 known as Kachina Village. Although my address is
8 technically outside the city limits of Flagstaff, I have
9 a Flagstaff mailing address.

10 Also, there are no public or private schools in
11 Kachina Village or in our neighboring subdivision of
12 Mountaineer. Munds Park, a few miles south along I-17,
13 is also a bedroom community of Flagstaff. All the
14 children here attend school in Flagstaff. All of our
15 jobs, all of our shopping, all of our medical care, all
16 of our entertainment, and all of our local government is
17 in Flagstaff.

18 In order to keep the community of Flagstaff
19 whole, my neighborhood should be included in the same
20 legislative district as Flagstaff. The draft map
21 submitted by the AIRC fails to accomplish this. It
22 separates me into Legislative District 7, while leaving
23 the remainder of Flagstaff in Legislative District 6.

24 The City of Sedona should also be kept whole.
25 It also makes sense to keep it in the same district as

1 Flagstaff as almost all traffic in the area runs along
2 the I-17 corridor.

3 The map unanimously approved by the Coconino
4 County Board of Supervisors is a far superior solution.
5 It is also unanimously endorsed by the city councils of
6 Flagstaff and Sedona. Moreover, it meets the goals of
7 Native Americans having a majority-minority district
8 which would also allow this population to elect a
9 candidate of their choice.

10 I also support the proposed map by the Navajo
11 Nation for a revised Congressional District 2.

12 Furthermore, the Commissioners should ensure
13 that all districts be competitive.

14 And I would like to thank the Commissioners for
15 undertaking a very tough job.

16 SPEAKER JEFF HOLLOWAY: Hello. I'm Jeff
17 Holloway, and I am a resident of the teeming metropolis
18 of Bellemont. And everything that they've said from
19 Kachina Village applies to us except one thing. It
20 looks like maybe we're in Legislative District 6, but
21 the dashes on the map are thicker than Bellemont, so
22 it's not always easy to tell.

23 But I just wanted to be sure that we fell where
24 Flagstaff falls. And looking at the little squiggles
25 here, I think my physical therapist might be in

1 District 7, and my volunteer work is in District 6.
2 You're finely dividing there, and I think it would make
3 sense to lump a little. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER JEROME VOGEL: Hello, and thank you for
5 your work, and thank you for your declared interest in
6 having competitive districts, because I really believe
7 that so-called safe seats are corrosive to democracy.

8 And I live in Kachina Village, and we are
9 definitely part of Flagstaff. Any realtor will tell you
10 Flagstaff -- well, Kachina is a bedroom community of
11 Flagstaff, along with Mountainaire, of course.

12 In addition to having Flagstaff addresses, we're
13 in their school district, and we shop there. That's
14 just our community.

15 And so we would really like to have shared
16 representation along with Flagstaff. We have so much
17 more in common with them than we have with Payson and
18 with Williams. You know, the Town the Payson I'm very
19 familiar with. I'm a part-time resident there.

20 Anyway, we have shared interests, shared
21 community, and we would like to be included and
22 represented in representation with Flagstaff.

23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER MARILYN WEISSMAN: Hello, Commissioners.
25 Thank you, too, for being here in person tonight. My

1 name is Marilyn Weissman. I'm a resident of Flagstaff.
2 Last Saturday, I spoke to you virtually about the lack
3 of competitiveness in the draft 10.2 legislative maps
4 for LD-5, 6, and 7, and also the maps' failure to keep
5 communities of interest together.

6 Due to time limits, I was not able to include in
7 my remarks my thoughts about draft Congressional
8 District 2, so I'm before you again.

9 I was disappointed to see that your current
10 draft map of the map for CD-2 puts Flagstaff and its
11 native neighbors in a new noncompetitive district that
12 will primarily reflect the policy priorities and
13 concerns of the people of the Prescott area, a community
14 very different from our own.

15 While you have managed to carve out a state
16 legislative district for our northern native members,
17 you have failed to make a district that will represent
18 their interests in Congress.

19 In regards to my own town of Flagstaff, unlike
20 Prescott, the City of Flagstaff has declared a climate
21 and housing emergency in our community and is working to
22 come up with policies in response.

23 We would like to be in a competitive district
24 that gives us the possibility of having a representative
25 in Congress who will help us with these and other

1 problems. Currently, we are represented here in
2 Flagstaff by a moderate. This is the result of the
3 district being politically competitive.

4 Districts that are lopsided in one direction, as
5 the new CD-2 is, have the effect of electing extremists
6 who rarely campaign in, visit, or represent the values
7 of the parts of the district that did not vote for them.

8 Why have you eliminated the one competitive
9 congressional district in Northern Arizona and added us
10 to a district that was already noncompetitive and will
11 remain so? The Flagstaff area and our native neighbors
12 will now have no voice in the Congress. I hope
13 silencing our voices is not intentional and merely the
14 results of an automated mapping system.

15 Please consider accepting the map submitted by
16 the Navajo Nation which restores congressional
17 competitiveness to our area and gives us the possibility
18 of electing someone who represents our values.

19 Thank you.

20 SPEAKER DEBRA BLOCK: Good evening,
21 Commissioners. Thank you for your presence. My name is
22 Debra Block. I have lived in Flagstaff for 28 years.

23 I voted for Prop 106. The purpose of this
24 amendment to the Arizona Constitution, as stated in the
25 ballot initiative, is, quote, relating to ending the

1 practice of gerrymandering and improving voter and
2 candidate participation in elections by creating an
3 independent commission of balanced appointments to
4 oversee the mapping of fair and competitive
5 congressional and legislative districts.

6 The 2020 census redistricting commission is the
7 third such commission to follow passage of Prop 106. Of
8 the three AIRCs, two counties, Pima and Maricopa, have
9 been represented by multiple commissioners in each
10 respective commission. Apache County has been
11 represented by a single commissioner following the 2000
12 and 2020 census counts.

13 Consistently, two counties have drawn district
14 boundaries for a state which contains 15 counties. I
15 believe that Northern Arizona has not been represented
16 with respect to cultural, political, and economic
17 communities of interest.

18 I'm a constituent of CD-1 and LD-6 as currently
19 drawn. CD-1 has been considered a battleground
20 district. The draft map for a new CD-2 is grossly
21 misaligned and turns a competitive district into a
22 Republican stronghold with no apparent regard for the
23 conditions of redistricting. This is the very essence
24 of gerrymandering, what Prop 106 intended to prevent.

25 Of the six goals specified for the

1 representative district maps, it's noted that, quote, to
2 the extent practicable, competitive districts should be
3 favored where to do so would create no significant
4 detriment to the other goals.

5 But not only does CD-2 completely obliterate
6 competitiveness where it had previously existed, it
7 falls short of the goals with respect to communities of
8 interest and visible geographic --

9 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Rob
10 Wilson, Randie Holloway, William Culbertson, Malik
11 Bossett, and Rex Stermer.

12 SPEAKER ROB WILSON: Good evening, Commissioners
13 and Chairwoman Neuberg, if you're here or online. Thank
14 you for this opportunity to speak to you this evening.
15 I appreciate not just this time but all of your hard
16 work on this process.

17 I was going to congratulate you on the
18 congressional districts you have drawn up here until
19 just recently. I thought we had a win there. It sounds
20 like some people aren't super happy about that.

21 I would like to start by making an observation.
22 It appears that head-of-the-line privileges are given to
23 our elected officials from the cities of Sedona and
24 Flagstaff and our county supervisors. It's interesting
25 that Proposition 106 was intended to specifically

1 exclude our elected officials from this process. So
2 it's interesting to me that you seem to place their
3 opinions and maps ahead of all of the rest of us.

4 If they're speaking as independent individuals,
5 that's fine. I think that them speaking as
6 representatives of their particular cities is contrary
7 to what the intent of 106 was really all about.

8 Let's see. Number three here. Independents are
9 not as well represented, obviously, in this process.
10 They're outnumbered on your commission. And
11 independents is what I think -- also a characteristic of
12 people who tend to live not in cities like Sedona and
13 Flagstaff but instead in the rural areas of Arizona. I
14 live in Doney Park where my mailing address says
15 Flagstaff, but my home and my heart are in Doney Park.

16 Rural Arizona has completely different needs,
17 desires, and representation needs than what cities do.
18 It sounds like the City of Flagstaff and the City of
19 Sedona have already made a pact. Let's let them work
20 together and do what they need to do, but give us out in
21 the rural communities of Arizona the voice that we
22 deserve to have out here and not combine us with people
23 that have a difference of interest.

24 We voted by choosing where we live. We bought
25 homes. We live -- such a great idea.

1 All right. Thank you very much.

2 SPEAKER RANDIE HOLLOWAY: Hi. I'm Randie
3 Holloway, and I'm a citizen and taxpayer out in
4 Bellemont.

5 And all of our connections are in downtown
6 Flagstaff. Okay. We have friends down there. We do
7 our shopping. Our medical interests are down there.
8 And I urge you to keep us with Flagstaff. We have a
9 Flagstaff address even. So thank you.

10 SPEAKER MALIK BOSSETT: Hello. My name is Malik
11 Bossett. I'm currently an undergraduate at Northern
12 Arizona University.

13 And what I would like to say is that these
14 currently proposed maps has me very concerned not only
15 because these maps are going to dilute the voting power
16 and -- dilute the voting power and choice of
17 underrepresented communities, it's also going to dilute
18 the very pillar of democracy that this country calls
19 itself and the states within it.

20 These heavily Democratic and heavily Republican
21 districts are really going to only encourage politicians
22 not to listen to the people's concerns and issues, and
23 it's really going to -- they're really just going to
24 just go off of, you know, the majority party, and that's
25 going to help in eroding the democratic process.

1 So that's why I'm hoping that you adopt the
2 LDF-050 and LDF-051, which are competitive districts
3 which will help in creating a more conducive environment
4 for debate, discussion, and for conversation and
5 understanding between both sides of the political
6 spectrum, and it will help reinforce and prop up the
7 very democratic process that we so pride ourselves on as
8 a country. Thank you.

9 SPEAKER REX STERMER: Hello. My name is Rex
10 Stermer. I'm just an old Vietnam vet. Been in Arizona
11 since 1978 in Coconino County. I'm with my wife Dorothy
12 and my son Guy. I'm going to speak for all three of us
13 to save you time so you don't die of old age listening
14 to it.

15 I'm only going to speak about LD-7. What I'm
16 concerned about is I would like to see that the Verde
17 Valley, which includes all of Sedona and Cottonwood and
18 the others, to be mixed in with the Flagstaff area
19 surrounding the urban city of Flagstaff. And the urban
20 city of Flagstaff should go to the native district
21 because that would reach that population equity, which I
22 believe is one of the goals of the group here.

23 And I feel sorry for you guys. You've heard a
24 whole bunch of different opinions tonight, and you're
25 going to have to sort through them and come up with

1 something. So good luck on that one. I can see how the
2 Congress can't get anything done.

3 All right. Thank you and good night.

4 Now you can say "time." That's good.

5 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Nathan
6 Jones, Matthew Billings, Helen Ferrell, Aly Graham, and
7 Daniel Hiel.

8 SPEAKER NATHAN JONES: Hello. Hi. I'm Nathan
9 Jones. I, like a few others, am a resident of Bellemont
10 Arizona. This is a community about 10 miles west of
11 here off the I-40.

12 You know, I think what's worth mentioning here,
13 and I double checked on the maps and I was able to zoom
14 in through the squiggles, and it certainly is -- or
15 would move to LD-7 under this proposal, which I'm here
16 to oppose.

17 This is just one micro example of what I know
18 are one of many reasons why the Coconino Board of
19 Supervisors' recommendations, also endorsed by Sedona
20 and the City of Flag, should be very -- should carry
21 significant persuasive weight with the Commission.

22 I live in a subdivision called Flagstaff
23 Meadows. We pay our taxes to the Flagstaff Unified
24 School District. We shop in Flagstaff. I commute to
25 Flagstaff every day. I have lived here for 15 years.

1 I'm a resident of Flagstaff. This may look like an
2 unincorporated community, but it also contributes. It's
3 also a growing one. Population probably has it
4 somewhere around 1,000, but I doubt that captures recent
5 developments because exploding property values in
6 Flagstaff have pushed people to buy homes out in places
7 like where I live. That has lead to a building boom out
8 there.

9 Were you to get in your cars and drive that
10 10 miles west on the 40, you would see a surprisingly
11 large group of subdivisions. We're up to three
12 townhouse groups; I think four phases of planned
13 community construction. You would not know that you
14 weren't in a city if you were to drive through this
15 particular unincorporated area.

16 So what I hope to see is to keep the community
17 of Bellemont in LD-6, which is one of many examples why
18 you should go with the Coconino recommendation. Thank
19 you.

20 SPEAKER MATT BILLINGS: Hello. My name is Matt
21 Billings. And I'm going to give you all a break from
22 talking about Coconino and Yavapai, and I'm actually
23 going to talk about the proposed border between
24 Congressional District 8 and Congressional District 3 in
25 Peoria, Arizona.

1 Currently, right now, the proposed plan goes
2 right through one neighborhood. It's the Paseo Verde
3 Elementary School neighborhood where one house across
4 the street from each other are actually in two different
5 districts, which is kind of interesting because they
6 share a community mailbox. And talk about a community
7 of interest; right?

8 These -- I'm going through my maps.

9 These communities -- or these two district
10 boundaries not only cut through an elementary school
11 boundary, but it also cuts through the same census
12 tract.

13 And I don't know why, but it even cuts through
14 census tract blocks, which is quite impressive, because
15 there's no precinct that cuts through census tract
16 blocks. So I'm -- you know, congratulations for doing
17 something that is kind of impressive.

18 But to further the concern, these two
19 communities are actually in the same legislative
20 district. So while they share the same concerns to be
21 in the same legislative district, they're in two
22 different congressional districts, homes that are
23 literally across the street from each other.

24 You all have received some praise for the good
25 congressional maps and legislative maps you all have

1 drawn tonight. I don't share that opinion. I think
2 this is lazy. Actually, it's not lazy. It's very
3 intricate and malicious. I don't understand why a
4 community where homes are literally across the street
5 from each other need to be separated.

6 You all should fix this. I don't have any
7 proposed maps, but fix it and do better.

8 SPEAKER HELEN FERRELL: Good evening, Madam
9 Chairman and Members of the Commission. My name is
10 Helen Ferrell, and my address is 12391 Pegasus Road in
11 Bellemont.

12 I'm here tonight to ask that you do not separate
13 the small bedroom communities associated with and
14 reliant upon Flagstaff from Flagstaff in your district
15 maps. I'm speaking of Bellemont, Kachina Village,
16 Mountaineer, and Munds Park. This takes away our
17 rights to be represented by someone who will be open to
18 and familiar with our concerns and needs.

19 My other concern has to do with competitive
20 districts. As a former county recorder for 17 and a
21 half years, I spent much time and energy educating the
22 young and diverse communities in my county as to the
23 importance of their vote, how one vote can make a
24 difference.

25 I am pleased to say those efforts were rewarded

1 by increased voter turnout and participation in our
2 democracy. I'm deeply concerned that with the lack of
3 competitive districts and separation of communities of
4 interest, the motivation to vote will be greatly
5 undermined. I cannot believe you have spent your time
6 and energy for that purpose.

7 As members of this Commission, you have taken on
8 the difficult task of balancing the various needs,
9 interests, and mandates outlined in the Constitution and
10 laws to come up with district boundaries that protect
11 the sacred and meaningful vote of each individual.

12 Thank you.

13 SPEAKER ALY GRAHAM: Good evening, Madam Chair.
14 Thank you for recognizing me.

15 I appreciate your work on redistricting, the
16 Commission's work on redistricting, trying to have
17 Arizona fair and competitive maps that respect
18 communities of interest. I think there may be a little
19 bit lacking there for maps in this area.

20 My name is Aly Graham. I'm a Navy veteran from
21 the Vietnam era, and I live in that gem of Old Route 66,
22 Bellemont, which started out as a former Pony Express
23 stop. I'm quite proud to be part of Arizona history,
24 living there.

25 Personally, things have already been said --

1 everything that I wanted to say has been said so much
2 better and organized so much better, particularly this
3 row over here. All I can say is I second you. Thank
4 you very much.

5 But on just a personal note, Bellemont, Kachina
6 Village, Mountaineer are listed as bedroom communities
7 of Flagstaff. That's important. A community of
8 interest. They're called suburbs of Flagstaff, although
9 it's hard to believe they're suburbs. I'm originally
10 from northern New Jersey, New York, north metropolitan
11 area. Those aren't suburbs. They're little teeny
12 communities.

13 But the way I think about them is they are
14 satellites of Flagstaff. They have nothing to do with
15 Williams, very little to do. Williams is twice as far
16 away from my house as Flagstaff is. And anyway, I just
17 want to note that you have really messed with the
18 satellites' orbits. And when you do that, satellites
19 will crash and burn.

20 Sorry. It's too late for me to be serious, but
21 please rethink your maps in this area because you have
22 really violated the communities of interest idea.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 MS. NEUMANN: Our last three speakers are
25 Elizabeth Hiel, Kathleen Petty, and Ann Heitland.

1 SPEAKER KATHLEEN PETTY: Good evening,
2 Commissioners. My name is Kathleen Petty. I have lived
3 in Flagstaff eight years.

4 And I'm grateful that we the people can address
5 you and tell you what is on our minds and our concerns
6 about this. One of the things that I would really like
7 to go over -- I have five points. Short, sweet, and to
8 the point.

9 One of the points is we want suburban-rural
10 outer lying parts of Flagstaff retained in the nonnative
11 future of LD-7.

12 We want deeply urban wedge of downtown, densely
13 populated Flagstaff to go native district.

14 Three, we want Cottonwood, Cornville, Clarkdale,
15 and Camp Verde to be kept in the future nonnative LD-7.

16 We do not want Pinal County district because
17 they're not a Northern Arizona community of interest.
18 It's kind of silly. That's my point -- my opinion, for
19 what it's worth.

20 And we want even population numbers among all
21 the districts. We want a fair election. I can't say
22 fair, but, like, even. So the Democrats have theirs and
23 the Republicans have theirs and it's not lopsided, which
24 it has been.

25 And so I'm just very grateful for you to let me

1 speak as one of we the people. Good night. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER ANN HEITLAND: My name is Ann Heitland.
3 I'm a resident of Coconino County just outside of
4 Flagstaff, and I've lived here for more than 25 years.

5 I want to talk about CD-2, which is very
6 troubling to me. You've taken a very competitive -- the
7 most competitive district in the state and you've turned
8 it into a noncompetitive Republican district which is
9 populated with our major Native American communities in
10 the state. This is entirely unfair, inappropriate.
11 It's immoral.

12 I have heard your mapper Doug Johnson say, "It's
13 just too bad. We can't make it work."

14 You have millions of dollars, you have maps that
15 can be drawn to the half city block, and you can't make
16 a Native American district that can be representative of
17 the people who were here before any of the rest of us?
18 I find that unbelievable. Really, I find that
19 unbelievable.

20 Take Prescott out of CD-2. Put Graham and
21 Greeley back into CD-2. You will find there have been
22 written comments from Graham and Greeley about how they
23 don't want to be with Southeast Arizona. Do this right.

24 As far as the legislative district maps, I don't
25 want to repeat all the good things that have been said

1 about the County Board of Supervisors' maps, but I will
2 say that I was kind of appalled by some of the comments
3 I heard in opposition to them.

4 If the Arizona Constitution wanted each county
5 to be sovereign and have its own representatives, the
6 Arizona Constitution would say that, but that is not
7 what it says. It says you're bound by six criteria, and
8 the current legislative district map does not follow
9 those criteria. Thank you.

10 MS. NEUMANN: That concludes the speakers in
11 Flagstaff. We'll go back to Yuma now.

12 CHAIR NEUBERG: Thank you, Val, and thank you
13 Flagstaff, and thank you Yuma.

14 This brings us to Agenda Item 4, Adjournment.
15 We have a virtual town hall focusing on Southern and
16 Eastern Arizona on Friday, November 12, at noon. Please
17 go online to register. Our next in-person meeting is at
18 the Krock Center in South Phoenix on Saturday,
19 November 13, at 10:00 a.m.

20 Also, rather than relying purely on our
21 interpretation of your comments today, we encourage you
22 to go online and submit a map to us using our mapping
23 software at IRC.AZ.GOV. If you have any questions about
24 how to submit a map, visit our YouTube page or log in
25 for "Mapping Mondays with Mark" to have your individual

1 questions answered.

2 Thank you everybody for your participation.
3 Thank you Staff, consultants, colleagues, public. And
4 we will now adjourn the meeting.

5 (The Public Hearing concluded at 8:38 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Michele E. Balmer, Certified Reporter No. 50489, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

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

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206.

Dated at Yuma, Arizona, this 22nd day of November, 2021.

Michele E. Balmer

Michele E. Balmer, RPR, CR, CSR
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50489)

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206.

Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 23rd day of November, 2021.

MCR

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058