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2 bidding of a partisan map submitted to legally disguise as  
3 public submittal.

4 The creation of the politically safe district for  
5 the party submitting the map unfairly impacted other  
6 districts: LD-21, LD-10, and CD-2.

7 The objectives of the draft maps are as follows in  
8 no particular order: Districts shall comply with U.S.  
9 Constitution and Voting Rights Act; congressional districts  
10 should have equal population to the extent practicable and  
11 state legislative districts shall have equal population;  
12 districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous;  
13 district boundaries shall respect communities of interest;  
14 district lines should -- shall use visible geographic  
15 features, city, town and county boundaries and undivided  
16 census tracts; competitive districts should be favored where  
17 to do so would create no significant detriment to the other  
18 goals.

19 These criteria absolutely all matter.  
20 Competitive -- competitiveness as ruled by the Arizona  
21 Supreme Court in 2008 is absolutely critical to the survival  
22 of -- of the democratic practices and choices of the  
23 leaders. The Court rules that the competitiveness goals  
24 cannot be considered less mandatory than the other goals,  
25 ignored, nor regulated to a secondary role. Yet, in

1 shifting LD-17 from a competitive to a noncompetitive  
2 district in service of partisan outcomes, the Commission is  
3 doing exactly this, drawing this district for a safe  
4 district for one party, the party that submitted the map.

5 As a result of this noncompetitive party-leaning  
6 southern Arizona mapping of LD-17, you have impacted LD-21  
7 into a gerrymandered district that separates core Tucson  
8 neighborhoods from the rest of Tucson; and it also shifts  
9 much of this area from a previously competitive district  
10 into a safe Democratic district and makes LD-17 a safe  
11 Republican district.

12 We need competitive districts that are drawn  
13 responsibly in accordance with the Constitution and not  
14 across party lines. The best way to represent voters is to  
15 give them a competitive --

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 Our next two speakers and our last two speakers  
18 will be Michael Bryan and then Steven McEwen.

19 Michael?

20 SPEAKER BRYAN: Thank you, Commissioners, for being  
21 here and thank you for your attention.

22 My name is Michael Bryan, I'm an attorney residing  
23 in central Tucson for the past 20 years. I would like to  
24 emphasize to the Commissioners that the IRC was created by  
25 Arizona voters primarily to generate more competitive

1 districts than when the current legislature continued to  
2 control the process.

3 To quote the Arizona Constitution regarding the IRC  
4 commission: "To oversee the mapping of fair and competitive  
5 congressional and legislative districts."

6 But far too many of the maps currently under  
7 consideration fail to provide the vast majority of Arizonans  
8 with competitive districts at either the federal or state  
9 level.

10 I therefore urge the Commission to reevaluate how  
11 that has prioritized their mission away from striving to  
12 provide some minimal number of competitive districts and  
13 towards maximizing competitiveness in as many districts as  
14 mathematically and constitutionally possible.

15 I also remind the Commissioners that political  
16 party affiliation alone does not and cannot define community  
17 of interest. Therefore using party ballots primarily and  
18 explicitly to ensure GOP majority districts in Pima County  
19 and especially to provide an oft-quoted check and balance of  
20 metro Tucson is not a constitutionally sound basis for  
21 mapping district in southern Tucson.

22 If your goal is to minimize the legal risk to your  
23 final maps, adopting maps to slight other criteria,  
24 especially ethnic and cultural minorities, to favor the  
25 creation of a safe Republican district in Pima County would

1 certainly fail that goal.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. And our final speaker is  
4 Steven McEwen.

5 SPEAKER McEWEN: Can you hear me, ma'am? Can you  
6 hear me?

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

8 SPEAKER McEWEN: Thank you.

9 Good afternoon, Madam Chairman and members of the  
10 Committee.

11 My name is Steve McEwen, I'm a resident of Rio Rico  
12 and the chairman of the Republican party of  
13 Santa Cruz County. By overwhelming consensus I've been  
14 asked to speak for the conservative citizens of  
15 Santa Cruz County.

16 We'd like to begin by addressing the approved map  
17 of proposed LD-21. In many ways dictated by constitutional  
18 guidelines, this map is a total failure. Although numbers  
19 may imply we are Democrat in numbers, we are first a voter  
20 community in a very rural -- and very rural along with the  
21 city of Nogales. We have a unique culture and our own  
22 values, principles, and morals that we live by. Urban  
23 society does not share these principles and have proven it  
24 in the last ten years of failed representation as a result  
25 of the gerrymandering from the last IRC.

1           We strongly suggest that our little county not be  
2 split up and that the Committee considers we have large  
3 ranches in this region and a very rich mine, South32.

4           We would respectfully argue we have much more in  
5 common with proposed LD-19. We would suggest that you add  
6 Santa Cruz County in whole with LD-19. This change would  
7 put Santa Cruz County in compliance with all six guidelines.

8           We feel your efforts in creating congressional  
9 districts is nearly success; we do have some concerns about  
10 proposed CD-7. Once again, we would emphasize that we are  
11 rural area and have little in common with community interest  
12 in urban society.

13           Understanding that CD-7 will not be created in a  
14 Republican majority, we would ask that competitive numbers  
15 be within 20 percent so that our issues on the border are  
16 represented by the people and not by the politics who watch  
17 NBC.

18           As with our culture on the border, the issues here  
19 are ours to manage and suffer with. It is our fences that  
20 are being torn down, our mines that are being sequestered by  
21 special interest groups, our families that are being forced  
22 into drug trafficking, our women and children that are being  
23 stolen and sold in human trafficking, and our schools and  
24 hospitals that are being overburdened with nontax paying  
25 people when they come here illegally --

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 That was the last speaker. I want to let everyone  
3 know again that you can -- if you didn't get a chance to  
4 speak today or if you aren't able to attend any of the  
5 in-person meetings, that you can submit your comments for --  
6 at several different locations on the mapping hub at IRC.GO-  
7 -- I'm sorry, IRC.AZ.Gov.

8 And I'll turn it back over to Commissioner Mehl to  
9 adjourn the meeting.

10 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Today was very interesting and  
11 we had a lot of very -- very good comments, so we appreciate  
12 that.

13 Please go online and submit a map using our mapping  
14 software at IRC.AZ.gov.

15 Our next in-person public hearing is tomorrow,  
16 Saturday, November 13th, at the Croc Community Center in  
17 South Phoenix and in Florence at the Town of Florence  
18 Community Center.

19 And with this, we hereby adjourn the meeting.  
20 Thank you.

21 (Whereupon the meeting is adjourned at 2:02 p.m.)  
22

23 **"This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please**  
24 **consult the accompanying video for the official record of**  
25 **IRC proceedings."**



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, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter No. 50127, 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 Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 5th of December, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR  
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

\* \* \*

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 5th of December, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Miller Certified Reporting, LLC  
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