

1 state where there was terrific gerrymandering and I thought
2 I had left it behind.

3 And I'm not going to be -- take a stand one way or
4 the other on gerrymandering, what I am concerned is that
5 the -- what -- it's a difficult task, it's very Solomonesque
6 that you have to do, but I do join with all my friends and
7 neighbors here who oppose putting Congressional District 8
8 in Congressional District 9.

9 I've lived here and visited here long enough to
10 know that I have very little in common with the people in
11 Lake Havasu. They're fine people; the same with the people
12 in Quartzsite and Yuma and all along the western border.
13 However, as a community of interest, I think it's more
14 important to keep the Sun Cities together with Surprise with
15 the areas that are now currently in Congressional
16 District 8.

17 I support what Lynn Peters --

18 (Applause.)

19 I support what Lynn Peters and others have said,
20 really please don't join parts of Congressional District 8
21 with Congressional District 9, and I really do sincerely --
22 I know it's difficult but I really hope you do listen to us
23 and take what we say to heart.

24 I -- I can't repeat everything that everybody else
25 has said, I -- I think I have time or it's not clicking,

1 somebody didn't turn it on.

2 MS. NEUMANN: I gotcha. I gotcha.

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So what, I have how many seconds?

4 MS. NEUMANN: You've got 20 seconds left.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you for listening to me, I
6 appreciate it.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Eva
9 Walecka, Anj Patterson, Greg Rucker, Larry Templeton, and
10 Melissa Karner.

11 SPEAKER WALECKA: Good evening. My name is Eva
12 Walecka, I have been a resident of Maricopa County for over
13 30 years. I live in current Legislative District 22 and
14 proposed LD-27 in Glendale.

15 My neighborhood is made up of retirees as well as
16 families with young children who attend schools in either
17 Deer Valley or Peoria school districts. My community of
18 interest, east-west boundaries are 67th Avenue to 99th
19 Avenue on both sides of Bell Road. North boundary is Lake
20 Pleasant and Happy Valley Road to 67th Avenue where my kids
21 go to school. We seldom travel below Thunderbird Road or
22 east of 67th Avenue.

23 I think that districts should be compact to
24 accurately represent communities of interest and people who
25 live and work there. I chose to live in my community

1 because it was safe, clean, and included like-minded people
2 who enjoy family -- quiet family time as well as quick
3 access to local hospitals and shops.

4 I think that the western boundary of proposed LD-27
5 should move west to El Mirage Road as it will better unite
6 Peoria and Sun City. It makes sense that the retirement
7 communities should be in the same congressional district,
8 CD-8.

9 We need to put north Glendale, Peoria, Surprise,
10 Sun City West, Sun City Grand in the same district. The
11 I-17 ideally should be the eastern boundary of proposed
12 Congressional District 8 and Northern should be kept the
13 southern border of District 8, as we do not have much in
14 common with Downtown Glendale.

15 Thank you very much for your time.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. NEUMANN: Anj Patterson?

18 No? Okay.

19 Greg Rucker.

20 SPEAKER RUCKER: My -- this is my first time
21 testifying. So my name is Greg Rucker. I live in the north
22 end of Glendale in the Arrowhead Lakes community in the
23 Beardsley precinct. My primary concern is the West Valley
24 as a community.

25 It is common to hear people speak in terms of the

1 East Valley, Phoenix, or again the West Valley. The grid
2 maps had me and my neighbors in LD-28 and the latest
3 versions appear to show us in LD-27; in either case, there's
4 a single string of Phoenix precincts included along the
5 eastern border of those legislative districts. In my humble
6 opinion, LD-28 and LD-27 should be moved west or north and
7 those city of Phoenix precincts included with the Phoenix
8 legislative district.

9 Why? For example, the area below Bell Road west of
10 51st Avenue is entirely in the Peoria Unified School
11 District. One of my neighbors -- we're north of there. But
12 one of my neighbors two houses down runs the library in Zuni
13 Hills Elementary of PUSD north of here on 107th Avenue. My
14 immediate -- immediate neighbor in the same direction is
15 administrator of another school in PUSD. I, myself, am soon
16 to be assisting with a science program at Heritage
17 Elementary, again in PUSD. How -- I'd like to also caution
18 that much of my neighborhood as it's been described can be
19 described as a retirement community and I'm getting there
20 myself, so I -- that's an add-in.

21 Talking about congressional districts, the church I
22 attend is not far north of here, the church building is in
23 the proposed congressional district that runs all the way to
24 Lake Havasu City. The pastor lives in a proposed
25 congressional district that runs into Phoenix.

1 So would you please consider creating a compact
2 congressional district that covers the West Valley as a
3 community.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. NEUMANN: Is Larry Templeton here?

7 Okay. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER TEMPLETON: Hello, I'm Larry Templeton. I
9 live in Surprise. I used to live in the Chicago area where
10 I worked before I came to Surprise. I do not want to be
11 part of Phoenix, please do not move our lines down toward
12 Phoenix.

13 Second, I'm retired now, I would like for
14 retirement districts like Festival, Sun City,
15 Sun City Grand, areas like that to be together, it makes
16 sense.

17 They should be as compact as they possibly can.
18 Now, think of the -- the map that tries to take us out to
19 California, that -- that's no good. We need to stay in
20 Congressional District 8, and we need Legislative District 8
21 not to go south. Okay?

22 Please do consider our areas of interest. Please
23 consider the community we chose to live in and want to
24 continue to live in. I do not want to live in Chicago; I
25 don't want to have my representative from Phoenix. Okay?

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. NEUMANN: Melissa.

4 SPEAKER KARNER: Hi, my name is Melissa Karner. I
5 live in Surprise, Arizona. I have lived in Surprise for
6 17 years. I have three children which are all attending
7 either high school or community college. One is attending
8 Shadow Ridge in the Dysart School District and the other is
9 attending Estrella Community College in Avondale.

10 Surprise has been an inner-connected city with Sun
11 City, El Mirage, Waddell, Sun City West, Sun City Grand. We
12 all hold a common interest. We are a large part of the West
13 Valley, we work together, drive together, shop together,
14 live and share similar values with other West Valley
15 families.

16 With that said, as I have reviewed the draft maps,
17 I request District 9 be compacted to remove Lake Havasu,
18 Peach Springs, Kingman, Colorado City. These cities are way
19 too far west and north to have anything in common with our
20 community. We need to have D-9 much smaller and only
21 include the cities I mentioned -- West Valley, Maricopa
22 County.

23 Our districts should be compact to accurately
24 represent communities of interest who live and work
25 together. For example, what common interests do we have

1 with the city of Dolan Springs or Peach Springs? Not a lot,
2 and I'm sure they're beautiful. These small town
3 communities function totally different than our
4 inner-connected West Valley cities of Maricopa County.

5 In conclusion, please consider making these maps
6 smaller as to not break up like communities and add
7 communities that are too far to have anything in common with
8 like-minded communities.

9 Thank you and I appreciate your time.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. NEUMANN: Our last three speakers are Larry
12 Thomas, Donald Madison, and Tom Berry.

13 Larry?

14 SPEAKER THOMAS: That's me.

15 Hi, I'm Larry Thomas. I've resided in Arizona
16 since 2008 (verbatim). After taking a job with the public
17 works department in the city of Surprise in 2003, I moved to
18 the West Valley. Later I worked for the State and retired
19 from public service in 2017.

20 I want to speak about CD-9. To create the new
21 ninth congressional district, the draft map peels off part
22 of highly urbanized Metro Phoenix and dumps its residents to
23 a far-flung geographic entity and this has already been
24 spoken of on several occasions.

25 This sprawling CD-9 encompasses vast deserts and

1 range lands, agriculture areas, Native American tribes and
2 hundreds of miles along the Colorado River. This
3 contradicts the requirement for creating compact districts.

4 The new district includes almost the entire
5 Colorado River area from north to south but it excludes the
6 city of Yuma. The driving distance from Wellton at the
7 southernmost boundary of this district up to Saint George,
8 Utah, at the northern boundary is approximately 400 miles,
9 which is a seven-hour drive one way.

10 Furthermore the current analysis by the IRC shows
11 new CD-9 is outside of the competitiveness range, they say
12 it leans towards one political party. It would be more
13 correct to say that the new CD-9 is completely dominated by
14 one party and will remain so for the foreseeable future.
15 Any candidate running on the ticket of the dominant party
16 will have zero incentive to address the needs and desires of
17 those Arizonans supporting a different party. As a
18 registered Independent, this total lack of political
19 competitiveness is deeply unsettling.

20 MS. NEUMANN: That's time, sir. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER MADISON: My name is Don Madison. I'm not
23 a native of Arizona, I was -- moved here in 1946 when I was
24 three years old.

25 I've lived in Maricopa County for approximately

1 60 years, sometimes in California in the military. I live
2 currently in Surprise, in Sun City Grand, we've been there
3 since 2004.

4 I strongly believe that we need to maintain things
5 as they have been, like many people have said tonight. I
6 know you have a thankless task, it's very difficult to do
7 this in a way that's going to satisfy everyone, but I
8 believe you should consider the fact that all of us that are
9 retired, living on fixed incomes, live our little
10 communities in a very compact and sort of nice way.

11 And so God bless you all, I hope you do well and
12 thank you for letting me speak.

13 (Applause.)

14 SPEAKER BERRY: Good evening, my name is Tom Berry
15 and I live in Trilogy in Vistancia, which is a 55-plus
16 community that's been talked about a lot this evening and
17 I'm very glad to hear my neighbors and friends standing up
18 and trying to give you the message about our retirement
19 communities.

20 I'm actually glad I'm the last speaker because I
21 want to leave you with an analogy that you will probably
22 remember and I hope it helps you remember us.

23 The retirement communities of Sun City Grand, Sun
24 City, Sun City Festival, Sun City West, Vistancia,
25 Corte Bella and so on, we're like a beehive. When the sun

1 comes up, we leave the hive and go out into community; when
2 the sun goes down, we're back in the hive and most of us
3 should be there right now.

4 Please, please don't throw us out in the desert
5 with the mosquitoes and the stagnant water. Please don't
6 put us in the anthill with the red and black ants, let them
7 figure that out.

8 And by all means, please don't put any of us in the
9 bat cave because none of us will make it.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: That was a great way to end a
12 great meeting.

13 So we want to thank you all for all of your
14 testimony, participating in the process. We appreciate all
15 of your comments and that you came out to provide us with
16 your input.

17 We remind you that you will be able to also, if you
18 want to continue to put input we have our website, you
19 can -- if you receive the documents, please go ahead and
20 submit those online. We'll be continuing to work for the
21 next month or so.

22 And with that, we are adjourned. Thank you all.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)
25

1 (Whereupon the meeting concluded at 8:01 p.m.).

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3 **"This transcript represents an unofficial record.**
4 **Please consult the accompanying video for the official**
5 **record of IRC proceedings."**

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 STATE OF ARIZONA)
4) ss.
5 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)
6

7 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
8 taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter
9 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.


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

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the
13 requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield
Park, Arizona, this 7th of December, 2021.

14 
15 _____
16 Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

17 * * *

18 I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has
19 complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and
20 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 7th of
December, 2021.

21 
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23 Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
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