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November 16, 2021

To the Redistricting Commission:

I am a 33 year resident of Cave Creek and have been very active in community affairs and environmental education. I have read in national papers that gerrymandering is on a huge uptick across US. AZ voters were the first to demand competitive district when remapping and I want your commission to lead the country by making Arizona districts more competitive and strengthening democracy.

Safe districts do not enhance democracy but lead to extremism and petty legislation that erodes faith in democracy and bad laws. Competitive districts require candidates appeal to broad sections of the populations and leads to moderation and quality legislation.

Your proposed 10.0 map does not reflect enough competitiveness. Out of 30 districts there are only 6 that meet your criterion of 7% vote spread.

The new LD3 district is not at all competitive with a 20.4% Republican majority and is a far cry from the stated goal of 7% disparity between the parties. This is not acceptable because you are disenfranchising many citizens.

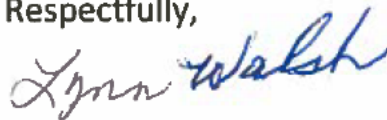
Thank you for moving Cave Creek out of Yavapai County, but moving us east into Fountain hills and Eastern AZ toward Gila County is no better. They are geographically cut off from us and we have no centers of interest or easy access.

Please put Cave Creek and Carefree into districts that reflect our true community of interest. We shop, dine, and use specialized services south along a corridor of Cave Creek Rd and Tatum Blvd to approximately Sunnyslope. A map reflecting

this will be forthcoming. This would still give a Republican majority but is closer to the goal of 7%.

Thank you for using your time and talents to better serve our state and communities. We are counting on you to have AZ lead the country by making competitive maps and reinforcing the importance of having districts that reflect communities of interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Walsh

Presentation to IRC November 16, 2021

Phyllis Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Commissioners:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. And thank you for the work you're doing on behalf of Arizona.

I live in the LD3 presented on the adopted draft map. But, I want to speak about the LDs as a whole.

The Legislative Districts reflected on the adopted draft LD map do not approach the mandate prescribed in Proposition 106.

Here's why:

1. Twenty-four (24) LDs have vote spreads over 7% which was adopted by the Commission. Of these, 21 have spreads greater than 10% meaning they are "safe" districts.
2. Safe districts are so non-competitive that whatever the majority party is, their candidate is assured of being elected. (giving the minority party voter no chance to elect their own candidates for the next 10 years. Meaning their vote is ineffective, meaningless.)
3. What happens to the voters of the minority party in the 24 safe districts? Do their votes count for the State Legislature? Absolutely not!

What impact, then, does this have on the make-up of the State Legislature for the next 10 years?

4. Many of these LDs, as drawn on the draft map, are so packed and the spread so large that reducing their spread would have a positive effect on adjacent LDs and accommodate a more fair and balanced rendering of competitiveness while still considering communities of interest.
5. We, the citizens of Arizona, Republicans, Democrats and Independents, voted for Proposition 106. It mandates fair and competitive districts. ESRI is a powerful multi-layered tool. I ask the Commission to request Timmons to redraw the maps to make the districts more competitive and bring them into alignment with your adopted 7 % spread.

Thank you.

Thank you, Chairwoman and Members of the Commission.

My name is John Genette, my spouse and I have been residents of Carefree for 25 years.

I'm a co-founder of the Institute for Civil Dialogue, associated with the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State ~ with a mission to promote civility in ~~public and personal~~ conversations on ~~difficult subjects~~. ~ Like this one.
HOT TOPICS

I commend the Commissioners for doing the hard work of redistricting and for drafting a competitive map of Congressional District 1.

With regard to the draft map for Legislative District 3, I have two concerns. ~ The first has to do with your obligation to consider communities of interest.

When we built our house in 1996, the Carefree-Cave Creek area was remote, an island unto itself. ~ But since then, Phoenix has developed right up to our doorstep.

Like it or not, Carefree-Cave Creek and Phoenix are joined at the hip, with shared interests in roads and resources and safety. ~ But your draft map of LD3 only sticks a toe into Phoenix then lumps us in with remote areas to the east like Apache Lake where local concerns are different.

I urge you to re-draft LD3 with more consideration for communities of interest.

My other concern has to do with competitiveness.

The Commission set a reasonable standard, targeting no more than a 7% vote spread between Democrats and Republicans. ~ But your draft map of LD3 reflects a 20% disparity. By your own standard, it's not fair.

~~The voter profile in Arizona is changing.~~ ~ In 2011 Democrats trailed Republicans in voter registration in Maricopa County by 9%. ~ Today, the gap has narrowed to 4.4%. ~ AND TEN YEARS FROM NOW sliced in half in ten years. ~ In far more years it could be a dead heat. ~ The maps you draw today should reflect this new state of competitiveness, as you promised. ~ Thank you.

I KNOW YOU DON'T LOOK AT VOTER REGISTRATION, BUT IT DOES GIVE US A WINDOW ON COMPETITIVENESS
TEN YEARS LATER
9 PERCENTAGE POINTS
3.5%

GOOD EVENING CHAIRWOMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

MY NAME IS ANDREA GENETTE. MY SPOUSE AND I BUILT OUR HOME IN CAREFREE AND HAVE LIVED THERE FOR 25 YEARS.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO CITIZENS AS WE PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS TOWARD FULFILLING THE GOAL OF PROP 106 – CREATING FAIR AND BALANCED DISTRICTS TO MAKE ARIZONA A MORE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE REPUBLIC.

I AM SPEAKING TO MAP 10.0, AND WHAT IS PROPOSED FOR MY STATE DISTRICT, LD3.

IT DOES NOT MEET THE IMPORTANT CRITERIA OF GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS, COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST, NOR COMPETITIVENESS.

I AM GLAD WE HAVE BEEN DISINCLUDED WITH YAVAPAI COUNTY. BUT THE DRAFT TO DRAW US INTO A DISTRICT WITH ANOTHER EQUALLY DISTANT, RURAL, AND NON COI AREA MAKES THE SAME MISTAKE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. MY COMMUNITY OF INTEREST FOR 25 YEARS HAS BEEN TO THE SOUTH OF CAREFREE AND CAVE CREEK, ALONG THE CAVE CREEK AND TATUM CORRIDORS. WE ARE A SUBURB OF PHOENIX-- IT IS WHERE WE SHOP AND TAKE CARE OF OUR HEALTH, LIVE OUR LIVES, AND HAVE COMMON INTERESTS IN CIVIC ISSUES, NOT IN RURAL AREAS TO THE EAST.

ALONG WITH THIS REDRAWING COMES A 20.42% COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE TO ONE PARTY OVER ANOTHER, ALMOST TRIPLE THE TOP END OF 7% SET BY THE COMMISSION FOR NEW DISTRICTS. THE 7% WAS SET FOR A GOOD REASON. COMPETITIVENESS KEEPS A REPRESENTATIVE REPUBLIC THRIVING, IT KEEPS THOSE ELECTED RESPONSIVE TO THE CONSTITUENCIES THEY REPRESENT.

I HAVE LATELY WATCHED A NARROW, NARROW MAJORITY IN THE STATE SENATE AND HOUSE RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER THE -- BY ONE OR TWO SEATS -- MINORITY THESE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THIS MODE OF OPERATING DOES NOT REPRESENT THE POPULATION OF ARIZONA IN 2021 WHICH IS MUCH MORE EVENLY SPLIT. THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION HAS A RARE AND CRUCIAL OPPORTUNITY TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE FAIRNESS OF REPRESENTATION AND THE TENOR OF POLITICS IN THIS STATE. I URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN YOUR WORK, AND PARTICULARLY IN LD3.