

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Monday, July 25, 2011
6:03 p.m.

Location

**Mesa Convention Center
Palo Verde I, Building B, Main Campus
263 North Center Street
Mesa, Arizona 85211**

Attending

**Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair**

**Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist**

Joseph Kanefield, Legal Counsel

**Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162
www.CourtReportersAz.com**

1 Mesa, Arizona
2 July 25, 2011
3 6:03 p.m.
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5 P R O C E E D I N G S
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7

8 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Everyone's attention, please.
9 This hearing of the Arizona Independent
10 Redistricting Commission will come to order.

11 The time is 6:04, and we're on the record.

12 Won't you all please rise and recite the Pledge of
13 Allegiance with me.

14 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

15 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you all for coming
16 tonight.

17 Folks, we're here tonight for a public comment
18 session of the Redistricting Commission.

19 That is the only item on the agenda aside from a
20 brief Power Point that our mapping consultant Strategic
21 Telemetry will give us.

22 That is the sole purpose.

23 My name is Scott Freeman. I'm one of the five
24 appointed commissioners.

25 With me here is Jose Herrera, who is also a

1 commissioner.

2 We both serve as Vice Chair of the Commission on
3 an alternating basis.

4 This hearing is being broadcast live stream over
5 the Internet on our website.

6 I know the other commissioners, Colleen Mathis,
7 Richard Stertz, and Linda McNulty, are viewing this and
8 watching this.

9 Over the next two weeks we are traveling all
10 around the state, and in a rapid fashion, and hitting lots
11 and lots of cities and towns to collect public comments from
12 the public on how the redistricting process should play out
13 and how these maps should look.

14 So the public's input is vital in this process.

15 Everything that is being said here today is being
16 taken down by Marty, our court reporter. It becomes part of
17 the record.

18 If you want to make comments tonight, you can find
19 in the back these yellow comment slips. Please fill them
20 out and get them to one of us, our executive director Ray
21 Bladine, who is right over there, or Kristina Gomez, who is
22 also buzzing around.

23 And that will allow you to come and speak.

24 If you do not want to speak, you can also find in
25 the back these blue forms, and you can provide comments in

1 writing.

2 All of your comments, whether you give them in
3 writing or you provide comments orally to the Commission,
4 become part of our record.

5 You can also provide comments through our website
6 or call us.

7 You can submit maps. You can submit written
8 statements, whatever you like.

9 Let me introduce some of our staff here today.

10 I've mentioned Ray Bladine, our executive
11 director.

12 We have Joe Kanefield, who is with Ballard Spahr,
13 counsel for the Commission.

14 We have Willie Desmond from the firm of Strategic
15 Telemetry, who will be giving the presentation shortly on
16 the redistricting process.

17 And federal law requires that we make translation
18 services available, and our translator is right there, and
19 he's going to make that announcement in Spanish.

20 (Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in
21 Spanish.)

22 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

23 Also before we get started I want to recognize
24 some public officials that I've been made aware of that are
25 here tonight.

1 Senator Biggs, I believe, is here.

2 There he is.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Representative Fillmore.

5 Commissioner Pete Rios is here as well.

6 (Applause.)

7 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you for coming.

8 All right. Okay. I think the next item on our
9 agenda is the presentation by Strategic Telemetry, so I'll
10 give the floor.

11 WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you all for the opportunity
12 to present to you today.

13 As was mentioned, this is the fourth public
14 meeting in this first round of public input sessions.

15 Once this input has been gathered and collected,
16 there will be -- the initial maps will be begin to be drawn.
17 There will be a 30-day review period for the public, and
18 then another round of public hearings where you can make
19 your comments known.

20 As you mentioned, for anyone listening at home,
21 that this Power Point is available on the website, and you
22 can download it and follow along if you like.

23 All right. So, again, my name is Willie Desmond.
24 I work with Strategic Telemetry. We're the firm hired to do
25 technical assistance to the Commission as they begin the

1 process of drawing the new district maps.

2 This presentation is designed to give a brief
3 background on the redistricting process and the process here
4 in Arizona.

5 The first thing we will be discussing is why we
6 have -- why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

7 The next is, what is redistricting?

8 What is the difference between redistricting -- or
9 reapportionment and redistricting?

10 Why do we have to redistrict?

11 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
12 new districts?

13 What are the steps in the redistricting process?

14 And how can the public's input be submitted to the
15 AIRC.

16 First, why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

17 This is the second time Arizona's districts have
18 been redrawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting
19 Commission.

20 In 2000 the voters of Arizona approved
21 Proposition 106, which created the AIRC and established a
22 process and criteria for drawing new district lines.

23 The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two
24 Republicans, and an Independent chair elected by the other
25 commissioners.

1 The fifth member shall not be registered with any
2 party already represented on the Commission.

3 The 2011 AIRC members are, Vice Chair Scott
4 Freeman, who is chairing the meeting today.

5 Vice Chair Jose Herrera, who is also here in
6 attendance.

7 Chairwoman Colleen Mathis.

8 And Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard
9 Stertz.

10 What is redistricting?

11 Simply put, redistricting is the process of
12 redrawing congressional and legislative district lines.

13 The difference between redistricting and
14 reapportionment, while slight, there is a technical
15 difference.

16 Reapportionment is the process of allocating
17 congressional districts based off of -- among the states
18 based off of changes in population.

19 Because population growth here in Arizona over the
20 last decade, Arizona has been allocated an additional
21 congressional district going from eight to nine following
22 the 2010 census.

23 Redistricting, again, is just the process of
24 drawing those new boundaries that are established based off
25 of reapportionment.

1 Why do we have to redistrict?

2 Well, because Arizona -- sorry, because Arizona
3 gained a congressional district, new lines have to be drawn
4 to add that new district in.

5 However, even if Arizona had not gained this
6 ninth congressional district, congressional and legislative
7 lines would have to be drawn to account for changes in
8 population.

9 The concept of one person, one vote dictates that
10 there should be as close to the same number of people per
11 district as possible.

12 And because, again, of the rate of population
13 growth is different in different areas, the existing
14 districts are no longer representative of and do not have
15 equal populations anymore.

16 All right.

17 What guidelines need to be followed by the AIRC
18 when drawing these new districts?

19 First, they must comply with the U.S. Constitution
20 and the Voting Rights Act.

21 Next, they plus have equal population.

22 These first few criteria are federally mandated,
23 and all plans must satisfy these two criteria.

24 The next criteria established by Proposition 106
25 is that districts should be compact and contiguous, they

1 should respect communities of interest, they should use
2 visible geographic features, cities, town, and county
3 boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

4 And, lastly, they should create competitive
5 districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

6 The Arizona redistricting process.

7 Well, the first part is actually happening right
8 now, and that's these public hearings.

9 Like I said, there will be 17 of these
10 conducted across the state with several satellite meetings
11 also taking place.

12 Following those, we start with a grid map.

13 In some states the previous plans are used as a
14 starting point, but not in Arizona.

15 The starting point is the grid map, per
16 Proposition 106.

17 And the language is the commencement of mapping
18 process for both congressional and legislative districts
19 shall be the creation of equal population and in a grid-like
20 pattern across the state.

21 It's most likely that this initial grid map will
22 only meet the equal population and compact and contiguous
23 criteria.

24 Following the grid map, it is adjusted to meet the
25 other criteria.

1 The first of which is the Voting Rights Act.
2 Arizona's congressional and legislative districts
3 must receive preclearance or approval from the Department of
4 Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting
5 Rights Act before they can take effect.

6 To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that
7 the new districts do not discriminate against minority
8 voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no
9 intentional or accidental discrimination.

10 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
11 cannot be retrogressive. Plans cannot weaken or reduce
12 minority voters' rights.

13 Finally, the presence of discrimination can be
14 determined by analyzing population data and election
15 results.

16 Following the adjustments to meet the Voting
17 Rights Act, the grid map is adjusted again to again meet
18 equal population, to be compact and contiguous, to respect
19 communities of interest.

20 One of the goals of the AIRC meetings is to
21 establish -- is to solicit public input on the communities
22 of interest.

23 There are forms available up here. The yellow
24 forms you can use if you'd like to speak today.

25 Your, your comments will be recorded on the

1 transcript, but it will also have -- it will also help the
2 Commission to have written information.

3 If you don't feel like speaking today but you'd
4 like to submit your input to the Commission, you can fill
5 out one of the blue sheets and turn it in to our executive
6 director Ray Bladine.

7 Additionally if there's any other information you
8 would like to submit, if you have maps you've drawn, if you
9 have boundaries that you've written out or anything else
10 that you want to be known, you can submit that to Ray
11 Bladine too.

12 We do ask that if you're comfortable that you put
13 your name and contact information on it. That way if
14 there's any questions, we can contact you and clarify
15 exactly what criteria you're trying to outline.

16 Following that, we adjust the map to use visible
17 geographic features. We have city boundaries -- county
18 boundaries, cities and towns, and census tracts.

19 We're lucky that census geography often follows
20 these visible features.

21 And lastly, we create competitive districts where
22 there's no significant detriment to the other goals.

23 Finally, the AIRC does want your input, and we're
24 excited that you're all here today, and hopefully a lot of
25 you are going to speak and let us know exactly what you are

1 thinking and what you hope to happen.

2 To fill out a request to speak form, you can
3 submit your input to the Commission.

4 Examples of inputs include thoughts on criteria,
5 communities of interest, or anything else about
6 redistricting or the redistricting process you'd like us to
7 be aware of.

8 Again, you can speak at a hearing or you can fill
9 out one of the blue forms and submit it.

10 You can also go to our website. There's a newer
11 form available where you can submit your input directly on
12 the website.

13 You can visit us at www.azredistricting.org or
14 call (602)542-5221.

15 Again, thank you very much for letting me speak
16 today, and we look forward to taking your comments.

17 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Desmond.

18 We have such a great turnout, and before we get
19 started with public comment, I want to emphasize a couple
20 things.

21 If you are here and want to submit written
22 comments on the blue form, there is a back side to it if
23 you're here to talk about a community of interest that you
24 believe the Commission should respect in drawing the maps.
25 There's questions on the back, four questions, that prompt

1 you for the information about that community of interest.

2 And, like I said earlier, the Commission is
3 travelling around for the next two weeks hitting various
4 parts of the state to collect public comments.

5 The Commission then will be working with its
6 mapping consultant to develop the grid map, which is, as
7 Mr. Desmond said, is the first step in developing the new
8 maps for the state congressional and state legislative
9 districts.

10 Then we're going to be using the public comment, a
11 lot of public comment that we collect, to take that grid map
12 and adjust it to begin to meet the six constitutional
13 criteria that the Commission must follow.

14 So that's what's -- that's a good thing about this
15 Commission is there's a heavy emphasis on public involvement
16 and what you have to say.

17 These maps that are developed don't belong to the
18 Commission or to any consultant or to any interest group or
19 even the legislature.

20 They belong to you.

21 And you deserve to be here, heard, and involved,
22 and that's what we're trying to do here today.

23 I think we'll go ahead and move to public comments
24 now.

25 I so far have 39 requests to speak.

1 I think we'll have plenty of time tonight, so I
2 think what we'll do is we'll ask you if you please limit
3 your comments to about four minutes.

4 I don't -- I'm not wearing a watch, but Mr. Forst
5 will be the timekeeper for us, and we'll keep it there for
6 everyone. And when you here the buzzer go off, that means
7 please try to wrap it up.

8 And one thing I'll ask you to do is when you come
9 to the microphone -- what I'm going to do is I'm going to
10 call off three or four names, so you know when you're going
11 to be next, and come up to the microphone so we can go
12 through this efficiently.

13 And after you correct me for mispronouncing your
14 name, then please spell your name for the court reporter so
15 we get an accurate record, and tell us the city, town, or
16 county in which you live.

17 And please, please try to speak directly into the
18 microphone.

19 Commissioner Herrera and I will be able to hear
20 you, but people in the back won't, and they won't like that,
21 and you'll hear from them.

22 And it's also important that the court reporter
23 hears you and the people who are watching online. Having
24 watched the hearings in Nogales and Yuma that took place
25 Friday and Saturday, it's really important to have people

1 speak into the microphone.

2 So without further ado, I'll call the first few
3 names.

4 First we'll begin with Commissioner Pete Rios,
5 followed by Bob Burke, Kit Filbey, and West Kenyon.

6 First Commissioner Rios.

7 PETE RIOS: Pete Rios. I'm chairman of the Pinal
8 County Board of Supervisors, but I'm here representing
9 myself. I don't want to mislead anyone.

10 First let me thank you, those of you who are
11 members of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

12 You're very brave, because you're going to take a
13 lot of flack, you're going to invest a lot of time and
14 energy, and you already have, but we as citizens of the
15 state of Arizona appreciate that you're willing to donate
16 your time to do this.

17 Let me first say that I'm here to speak about
18 Legislative District 23, which is made up currently of Pinal
19 County, Gila County, and Maricopa County.

20 Because of the growth that we've experienced in
21 Pinal County, we can't keep that district intact, nor can we
22 keep Pinal County as a whole, because we're currently at
23 376,000 people just in Pinal County alone.

24 You're going to hear from some Pinal County
25 residents that want to keep Pinal County as one LD.

1 I'm here basically because I believe in the Voting
2 Rights Act, I believe in Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act,
3 I believe in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and that is
4 that there are certain protected classes that we need to
5 comply with and we have to ensure that we don't go through
6 what is termed retrogression.

7 LD 23 currently is one of the eight minority
8 majority districts in the state of Arizona.

9 And if you keep Pinal County whole, there are a
10 lot of people, specifically Latino and Native Americans,
11 that will be disenfranchised.

12 So we have some concerns with that.

13 I have spoken with some people outside of
14 Pinal County in Gila County, specifically the communities of
15 Claypool, Miami, and Globe. And they're interested in being
16 part of Pinal County and what is referred to as the copper
17 corridor where there's a lot of copper mining. Superior,
18 Hayden, Winkelman, Dudleyville, Oracle, Mammoth, San Manuel,
19 they want to be part of that.

20 They also want inclusion of Eloy, Florence,
21 Casa Grande, and Coolidge, because there are a lot of
22 protected classes in those areas as well.

23 So I want to make sure that when you all finalize
24 your plans, that you as Department of Justice will say they
25 comply with the U.S. Constitution, one man one vote, and

1 they comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and that was
2 renewed under the Bush administration in a Republican
3 congress in 2006. They voted to keep the Voting Rights Act.

4 So clearly it is something that is very important
5 to the American people, so I ask you to please consider
6 bringing those communities in.

7 One more point, if I still have a minute left, is
8 currently in our district we have three Native American
9 reservations. We have the Ak-Chin Nation, we have Gila
10 River, and we have Fort McDowell.

11 My hope is that if we move and pick up Globe,
12 Miami, we can also pick up San Carlos Apache tribe and maybe
13 even go up the mountain towards the White Mountains and pick
14 up the White Mountain Apache tribe.

15 And that gives Native Americans a bigger, broader
16 base, so that they can hopefully elect a person from their
17 tribe.

18 With that, I will conclude. And I thank you very
19 much for your time.

20 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

21 Bob Burke.

22 BOB BURKE: I too want to thank the commissioners
23 for their service and for your time and for your effort that
24 you're putting in.

25 I think the main issue I'm interested in are A, B,

1 C, and E are probably going to already be settled within
2 your other issues that don't need to be addressed by me.

3 I think that D, however, like Mr. Rios just said,
4 should as much as possible involve communities of interest
5 such as Indian tribes be considered so that even if they
6 don't elect a member of their tribes to the legislature,
7 that they are representative, and that, that the legislature
8 that does represent them does listen to them.

9 There are other groups as well that we can point
10 out, but I won't go into that.

11 Just very, very important to do that.

12 F is the last one. And it's very important to
13 have competitive races so that a free exchange of ideas can
14 be allowed and so that people can have choices to make.

15 And thank you very much for your time.

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Burke.

17 Kit Filbey.

18 KIT FILBEY: Thank you.

19 Can you pull this down?

20 Is that okay? Okay. Kit Filbey. You wanted the
21 spelling; is that correct?

22 K-I-T. F, as in Frank, I-L-B, as in boy, E-Y.

23 And I am here to speak tonight to competitiveness
24 and equal population.

25 I, first of all, want to thank you very much for

1 the job you're doing, a thankless job, and tell you that I
2 appreciate it.

3 I live in District 19.

4 And I was a legislative candidate in the 2010
5 election, a Democrat candidate.

6 And as probably almost everybody here knows, in
7 District 19 it is not a competitive district. It is
8 probably -- I think it is the least competitive in terms of
9 Republican domination.

10 The differential between Republicans and Democrats
11 is the highest of all the 30 districts in the state.

12 I'd like to explain what happens when you live in
13 a noncompetitive district.

14 First of all, there's no debate.

15 I showed up for an election debate, but neither
16 one of my competitors did.

17 They had no interest, and frankly probably there
18 was no need, because it's so Republican it dominated.

19 There were 50 people that attended the debate, but
20 neither one of my competitors attended the debate.

21 One of my opponents did not even show up for the
22 Arizona Republic because that was not considered important
23 enough to him. I did get the endorsement, but that didn't
24 make much difference.

25 I have yet to meet my representative,

1 Representative Justin Olson, who has not yet shown any
2 interest in the Democrats in this area or the people that
3 voted for me.

4 And, again, in fairness to Representative Olson,
5 because of the noncompetitiveness, there really isn't a need
6 on his part.

7 I see that this problem exists in both Democrat
8 and Republican districts that are noncompetitive.

9 Our leaders only represent the views of the
10 majority of the people they represent.

11 My ideas are not always represented by our
12 Democratic leaders.

13 And I find it interesting that two of our most
14 powerful leaders in our legislature, Senator Sinema and Chad
15 Campbell, received less votes than I received, and that is
16 because of the lack of equal population within the district.

17 I believe strongly that we have to create an
18 environment which encourages listening and discussing and
19 compromise, not a game of power control.

20 And if we expect Washington to do better, we
21 should begin to do better here.

22 I hope very much that you look at the equal
23 population and competitiveness when you study everything.

24 My state senator has told -- has said at rotary
25 that the line is now going to be drawn from Gilbert to

1 Val Vista. I'm not sure if you're aware of that. But that
2 is what he is saying.

3 And to me just moving the line over a little
4 farther east is not the secret to doing this.

5 So, thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

7 West Kenyon.

8 And then on deck will be Jayne Friedman, Gloria
9 Morelli, Arthur Jacobs, and John Chiazza.

10 Mr. Kenyon.

11 WEST KENYON: Good evening. West is the first
12 name, W-E-S-T, and the last name Kenyon, K-E-N-Y-O-N.

13 Thank you, guys, for what you're doing. I
14 appreciate it, to the Commission.

15 There's a ton of stuff to talk about tonight, but
16 I want to pick on one small district line.

17 And that is the district that runs down Scottsdale
18 Road.

19 I live in Maricopa County in northeast Phoenix.
20 And based on all the criteria, we've got a great line.
21 Scottsdale Road as the north-south direction divides two
22 cities.

23 But I think the importance of that specific
24 district line is the separation of not just two cities, but
25 two very different identities in two totally different

1 elements of our county.

2 One is there's been a lot of contention between
3 who gets what side of the roads. Scottsdale owns Scottsdale
4 Road. Phoenix is on the west side. Scottsdale is on the
5 east.

6 One of the examples was Kierland, and the battle
7 between Kierland, where Kierland was going to be, and what
8 address, and what ZIP code it was going to end up in.

9 And this is more of a nonpartisan argument, that
10 I'd like to bring to the Commission, that should that
11 particular area be redrawn, mixing Scottsdale, what is now
12 the Scottsdale half, into the Phoenix half or vice versa.

13 It doesn't matter if you're Independent,
14 Republican, or Democrat. You are going to have a very hard
15 time blending two different medias together, two different
16 climates together, to say I'm going to have to listen, if I
17 was the congressman for that district, for the congressional
18 district, I would have to say, here's what this group wants,
19 here's what this group wants, how do I separate the two
20 demands from two totally different worlds.

21 And essentially what would end up happening in
22 that respect is, as we're all human, it would end up being
23 one simple thing that I would have to draw a line in my own
24 head and say, well, this group wants this, this group wants
25 this, and you have a new boundary again. Which would highly

1 affect how legislation gets passed and how people are
2 actually served.

3 And I hope that's something that you all will
4 consider.

5 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

6 WEST KENYON: Thank you.

7 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Jayne Friedman.

8 JAYNE FRIEDMAN: J-A-Y-N-E. F-R-I-E-D-M-A-N.

9 Thank you, Mr. Desmond, for your, your Power
10 Point.

11 The only thing is -- my only concern is that
12 you're not a mapping company. You're a data mining
13 operation.

14 But that's my concern.

15 Last week I listened to people passionately plead
16 to honor the integrity of their districts.

17 Someone even labeled us a bunch of sheep.

18 Actually, some of us are sheepdogs.

19 The sheepdog disturbs the sheep. He is a constant
20 reminder that there are wolves out there.

21 Political parties have way too much fun at our
22 expense. They whip us up into a froth, like gladiators.

23 Not me.

24 Look, we've been farmed out.

25 Excuse me.

1 We've been farmed out, think about it.

2 Would you be confident enough to map a concrete
3 jungle?

4 Oh, and this jungle has thousands of little ethnic
5 neighborhoods, communities of interest, if you will, that
6 crisscross and intersect everywhere.

7 Our landmarks are washes, desert, Indian land,
8 mountain ranges, Strategic Telemetry's landmarks, Trump
9 Tower with a doorman.

10 And some of you say, don't worry, it's the
11 commissioners who will make the decisions.

12 That's a talking point.

13 Come on, this cannot be your first rodeo.

14 Or do you say that because you too want a
15 political goal over fairness.

16 Strategic Telemetry will advise these
17 commissioners. And they will defer to their suggestions.

18 Use your common sense.

19 Those of you who so eloquently enlightened
20 Strategic Telemetry about our unique geography did so at
21 risk.

22 You cannot map what you do not understand.

23 Would a GIS specialist understand the unique
24 qualities of an area in northeast Maricopa County, many of
25 which are dirt roads, propane tanks, neighborhood street

1 maintenance, horses, and other livestock?

2 I think it's futile to explain that to someone who
3 lives and works and breathes in a concrete jungle.

4 And why do I think that?

5 Because I was born, raised, and educated in
6 New York.

7 A New Yorker's DNA believes that there is no
8 culture west of the Hudson River.

9 New Yorkers think they are the nucleus of the
10 universe.

11 We cowboys out here are like cheap accessories
12 that get lost in some drawer.

13 If only we were more Ivy League educated, we might
14 understand better.

15 I object to Strategic Telemetry mapping our unique
16 corner of this universe. And so should you, says this
17 sheepdog.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Gloria Morelli.

20 I was close enough.

21 GLORIA MORELLI: Thank you.

22 Chairman Mathis -- okay. I'm Gloria, G-L-O-R-I-A,
23 Morelli, M-O-R-E-L-L-I.

24 Chair Mathis and commissioners, first of all, I
25 really want to thank you for your time and your dedication

1 and your patience and for being the ears of our
2 constituents. I really appreciate that.

3 I am from Anthem. And as most of you know, Anthem
4 is a real young community. I think around 11 years. And I
5 am a transplant from another state.

6 And I chose Anthem because of its sense of
7 community and the relationships they have with northern
8 Phoenix and businesses around.

9 I want to speak to geographic features and the
10 practicality of the competitive districts.

11 I -- personally a little bit about me. I worked
12 for a U.S. congressman and senator of the state I'm from,
13 and I have been a caseworker and have been at the other end
14 of the phone calls that I get from constituents, and when a
15 fragmentation of communities, et cetera, that you're trying
16 to help someone in one community and someone right next door
17 has the same problem but they need to contact someone else.

18 And it works at all levels from the very community
19 level to the federal level.

20 I was also very involved in the medical community,
21 with the EMS system, disaster preparedness, and know what --
22 how important, especially in our time of terrorism and our
23 budget constraints and everything, how important it is to
24 have cohesiveness.

25 And when I first moved here -- I wanted to let you

1 know I've been here almost five years. And I put
2 50,000 miles on my car just going from Anthem, and then
3 several years just trying to get through I-17. And
4 thanks -- I-17 is now completed.

5 And thank you.

6 And how important it is to us as a community
7 in Anthem to have I-17, 101, and SR 51 as a convenience to
8 us.

9 I've spent many, many -- a lot of time on I-17.

10 We have a very active community in Anthem, a very
11 active community center, and most of the people that we
12 interact with are businesses with our relationships with our
13 medical groups are from northern Phoenix.

14 And I would really like to be able to continue
15 with that.

16 I think splitting districts affects our zoning,
17 our disaster plans, to name a few, senior citizens.

18 And Anthem is a community of small businesses, and
19 they do depend on the communities right next to them for our
20 common interest that we have.

21 So I just think that our infrastructure, just to
22 get a sewer fixed from one community that connects to the
23 another one can be a real problem.

24 My top concern is, as all of us are aware from
25 competing today, is our economy and trying to just fix that

1 on a level. And border control, terrorism, and a lot of
2 medical issues.

3 So I would really, again, like to thank you in
4 advance for listening and understanding what our very gut
5 level and our needs in our community is as far as our
6 relationship with everyone else.

7 Thanks again.

8 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

9 Arthur Jacobs.

10 ARTHUR JACOBS: Arthur Jacobs. I'm in District 5.
11 Tempe, Arizona.

12 I've lived there since 1960.

13 You have all the information you need.

14 J-A-C-O-B-S.

15 If I can borrow this lady's speech, I would tell
16 her I was raised in Brooklyn, New York, and I could go about
17 that, but I've lived out here for a long time now.

18 I would like to start out with that if I would
19 have been doing in your shoes, the first thing I would have
20 done is given me a map and say this is your current
21 district, this is the population of that district, and
22 here's where we got to get to, to make it right, equal
23 population in all districts.

24 So I can see all the districts.

25 I mean, I'm telling you, there's a number that

1 you're looking for.

2 You don't need Strategic Telemetry to tell you to
3 do that.

4 You go out. You take my current district. It's
5 right on the map. It's shown. You count that population.
6 You look at the ethnicity and those that live there. And I
7 can tell you, I live on my block, and on my block we have
8 several minorities.

9 I mean, do you count them?

10 Because they live with me and I am Caucasian and
11 they're minorities?

12 So this business of treating everybody equally and
13 getting it squared away is a nightmare.

14 And I don't understand why you want to do this.

15 I think what you need to do is to start off with,
16 here's where we're at and this is where we got to go.

17 For example, I'll just give an example,
18 District 5. You're now at 600,000. You got to get to
19 733,000 to fulfill your district.

20 District 1, you're at 500,000. You got to have
21 200,000 more.

22 Not that those are going to be the districts, but
23 you ought to start that way.

24 That's the simple way.

25 This is not rocket science. This business of

1 Strategic Telemetry is not the deal.

2 You know, telemetry means something to me that it
3 may not mean to you.

4 I don't know what you're going to do here. You're
5 going to take pictures, use GPS, use Google, or what have
6 you.

7 So I think if you keep it simple, right down to
8 the point.

9 And remember, I live in a community. That
10 community was made up a long time ago.

11 I have the same neighbors today that I had
12 yesterday.

13 I'll have the same neighbors tomorrow, and there
14 will be more.

15 And the neighborhood keeps changing.

16 So I don't know all this business about equalness
17 and what have you.

18 And, listen, I have a Republican representative.

19 This is for the lady who talks about her not being
20 representative.

21 I have a Republican representative. He doesn't
22 listen to me either.

23 So what difference does it make?

24 I don't mean to be funny. I'm just telling you.
25 It's a serious thing.

1 I asked the question the other day. For example,
2 I'll give you an example of this.

3 We have 535 people up there working for us, all of
4 us. And I asked someone, how can 535 people get by with
5 this credit debacle? How can we let that happen?

6 You know why it happens? They don't listen to us.

7 Makes no difference what kind of districts you
8 make or how you separate them.

9 But, please, keep my district the way it is.

10 Just to add a little bit here, a little bit there.
11 You know, whatever you have to do to make up the 733,000, or
12 703,000, whatever the number is now.

13 You know that number; right? What is that number
14 per district? What is it? Please? Are you allowed to
15 answer?

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: We're not allowed.

17 ARTHUR JACOBS: You're not allowed.

18 Is anybody here that can answer?

19 It's about 700 and some thousand per district of
20 what we have to have. Let's just leave it at that.

21 So, if you know what I have now, you can just
22 tweak it a little bit, and you don't need all this hocus
23 pocus.

24 Thank you very much, and thank you for your time.

25 (Applause.)

1 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Folks.

2 Folks, I'd ask you all to be mindful of the fact
3 that we're trying to get the record, and our court reporter
4 has to be able to hear what people are saying.

5 So if you can just try, as best you can to -- I
6 know everyone wants to be enthusiastic, and all of that, but
7 if you could keep that in mind, it's an important job that
8 you have here to create the record.

9 Okay. John --

10 JOHN CHIAZZA: John Chiazza, C-H-I-A-Z-Z-A.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

12 JOHN CHIAZZA: I'm from Gilbert, and I'm a
13 seven-year board member of the club GEMDEMS, Greater Eastern
14 Maricopa County Democrats. This organization includes four
15 legislative districts of 18, 19, 21, and 22, with Mesa being
16 the third largest city and a big part of our group.

17 I know for a fact it will need to be split on a
18 congressional and legislative level.

19 Mesa has to be split apart in a way that
20 recognizes geographic, economic, and demographic differences
21 in the city.

22 West Mesa is a distinct area of the city of Mesa.

23 The Tempe-Mesa boundary or the 101 freeway is on
24 the west. Mesa Drive is on the east. Loop 202 and
25 Eighth Street are the boundaries on the north and Guadalupe

1 on the south.

2 West Mesa is competitive politically and should
3 belong as a part of the competitive district.

4 Lightrail extension and downtown revitalization
5 make it much more similar to Tempe than the rest of Mesa.

6 Revitalization of Fiesta District is an important
7 issue and is distinctly known as west Mesa.

8 West Mesa is a rapidly growing Hispanic community
9 and will have an emerging influence on the region.

10 Mesa Community College would benefit from being in
11 the same district as ASU.

12 These are districts that you have to really pay
13 attention to in this particular area, in this area that
14 we're in.

15 I would like to thank the Commission for all its
16 hard work in this difficult task. All of you are doing a
17 great job. And as a board member of the club of GEMDEMS, I
18 fully support all of your efforts.

19 Thank you.

20 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

21 Next up I'd like to invite Naomi White -- thank
22 you, sir -- who's here from Navajo Nation Human Rights
23 Commission.

24 Speaking after her will be Marilyn Zerull, Geri
25 Ottoboni, Lynne Stevens, and Lynne St. Angelo.

1 NAOMI WHITE: Hello. Good evening. Thank you,
2 commissioners, for allowing me to speak.

3 My name is Naomi White, with the Navajo Nation
4 Human Rights Commission.

5 In January, 2011, the Navajo Nation Human Rights
6 Commission was appointed to work with the office of the
7 president and vice president, office of the speaker, the
8 Navajo Nation Department of Justice, the Navajo Nation Board
9 of Election Supervisors, as well as the Navajo Nation
10 Elections Administration.

11 And in March of 2011 we are cast as an agency for
12 redistricting in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

13 Because Arizona has a history of discrimination,
14 the main purpose of -- for the Navajo Nation Human Rights
15 Commission is to ensure that the Navajo voters' power is not
16 diluted.

17 Also to avoid retrogression.

18 Also to maintain our community of interest, as was
19 found in the year 2000.

20 As far as congressional and legislative districts,
21 our office has composed several maps of which the Navajo
22 Nation council will be meeting within the next couple of
23 weeks to propose a recommendation.

24 Currently our recommendation for the -- for this
25 Commission to consider involves a deviation of .03 percent

1 population. And also to maintain our minority majority
2 standard.

3 Right now in applying the 2010 census data to the
4 current -- excuse me, Congressional District 1, the American
5 Indian population sits at 63.97 percent.

6 And the Navajo Nation would like to maintain or
7 exceed that number, and the option that we have developed
8 does do that.

9 It involves an American Indian population of
10 65.96 percent.

11 And also with regards to Legislative District 2,
12 the American Indian population in that district that we've
13 composed is 65.97 percent.

14 And our office has been in contact with the Hopi
15 tribe, San Carlos Apache tribe, White Mountain Apache tribe,
16 Havasupai, Hualapai, and the Kaibab Nation. And we hope to
17 get tribal resolutions, because all of the tribes have
18 expressed interest to be in our Congressional District 1,
19 and also they have expressed interest in the Legislative
20 District 2 map that we have proposed.

21 Thank you very much.

22 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

23 Marilyn Zerull.

24 MARILYN ZERULL: Yes, you pronounced it right.

25 Marilyn, M-A-R-I-L-Y-N. Last name is Z-E-R-U-L-L.

1 I'm here representing Pima County Republican
2 Women.

3 I cannot tell the Commission how disappointed I am
4 in how they have selected the mapping company for which we
5 are paying.

6 Commissioner Herrera admitted to bid fixing, which
7 may not be criminal, but certainly is unethical.

8 Commissioner Herrera admitted to the Arizona
9 Capital Times investigator that he had given Strategic
10 Telemetry a perfect score and coincidentally two other
11 commissioners gave them perfect scores as well.

12 Herrera said he had to give that score because he
13 was afraid that another company would be chosen.

14 Today I learned that half of the scoring was to be
15 based on past experience with mapping and that Strategic
16 Telemetry has no experience.

17 No experience.

18 So the three commissioners chose for the least
19 experienced and the most expensive bid.

20 This is exactly what happened at the other meeting
21 that I attended, where the three commissioners told the two
22 Republican commissioners that they could not have the
23 attorney they wanted, though the Democratic commissioners
24 got the Democrat attorney they wanted.

25 In 2000, both sides got the attorneys they wanted.

1 So this time the Republicans chose a Republican
2 attorney that had been through the redistricting process
3 before and so was the most experienced.

4 But the other three commissioners told the
5 Republicans the attorney they wanted was less qualified.

6 Even though one of the Republican commissioners is
7 an attorney, one who can expect him to know who was the best
8 qualified attorney to represent him.

9 So the Republicans have been denied the best
10 attorney and the most qualified, less expensive mapping
11 company.

12 This entire process hinges on trusting the
13 commissioners to do the right thing.

14 Hopefully Attorney General Tom Horne will make
15 sure that the right thing gets done.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Geri Ottoboni.

19 GERI OTTOBONI: She's taller than I am.

20 Can you hear me okay?

21 My name is Geri Ottoboni, and I worked on fiscally
22 conservative Democrat and Republican campaigns in the 2010
23 election.

24 In fact, I may be one of the few nonpartisan
25 persons in this room.

1 What I care most about is being fiscally
2 responsible with my money.

3 If the government is taking my money from me, I
4 expect my elected representatives to be careful and prudent
5 in how they spend it.

6 Proposition 106 instituting the Arizona
7 Redistricting Commission took redistricting out of the hands
8 of 90 legislators and put it in the hands of five unelected
9 commissioners who have total authority and are accountable
10 to no one.

11 Before Prop 106 we had people paid, our
12 legislators, an annual salary that included the cost of
13 redistricting.

14 Our legislators still receive the same salary, but
15 now they don't do the redistricting.

16 Instead the AIRC will spend a minimum of
17 \$6 million to draw our lines.

18 For the six million, we were supposed to get
19 public input in the lines and look at all the dealings of
20 the process.

21 Now documents have been shredded. And I repeat,
22 documents have been shredded.

23 So that no one can tell how the Commission chose
24 the mapping company.

25 The company the Commission has hired is a campaign

1 company that only works on progressive candidate campaigns
2 and was hired by the DNC to map lines in every state to get
3 the most Democrat districts possible to counter the huge
4 Democratic loss in the 2010 election.

5 Over 50 percent of the Commission's time has been
6 spent behind closed doors, and now the documents supporting
7 what transpired behind those closed doors are mysteriously
8 missing.

9 In addition, there were cell phone conversations
10 where voting trading was discussed.

11 This is a clear violation of the open meeting law,
12 where nothing can be discussed off the record, even over
13 lunch, because the discussions -- if it isn't open to the
14 public to review.

15 If the three commissioners are corrupt, we have a
16 corrupt process. With the legislative, 47 elected people
17 have to be corrupt to get the same result.

18 And this is what we have acquired for \$6 million?

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Lynne Stevens.

22 LYNNE STEVENS: Hi. I thank you for allowing me
23 to speak tonight.

24 This is Lynne Stevens, L-Y-N-N-E, Stevens,
25 S-T-E-V-E-N-S.

1 The first meeting you threw out numbers for
2 different items, and we're going to spend this much for this
3 and this much for that, and I'm going -- and you go to the
4 website, 82,000?

5 I'm going, um, red flag went blip, blip.

6 I have been with the company and have a website.
7 I went up there and looked at their most expensive, super
8 duper, giant, gargantuan site with everything and whatever,
9 and \$189 for a year.

10 Who's getting the other \$81,000?

11 You said \$82,000 for the website.

12 Hmm, is that for the web person? I'll be the web
13 person, and I'll do \$50,000.

14 Like I said, I have a website, and I take care of
15 it.

16 I thank you much for your time. Bye.

17 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: After Mrs. St. Angelo, we'll
18 have Paula Linker, Susan Leeper, Sean Bowie, Daniel Grimm.

19 LYNNE ST. ANGELO: I am Lynne St. Angelo,
20 L-Y-N-N-E, S-T, period, A-N-G-E-L-O.

21 I was present at the Redistricting Commission
22 meeting when Jean Clark, the State Procurement officer, went
23 over and over with the commissioners how they must be very
24 careful for categories they use and the weight they give to
25 each criteria in evaluating the mapping company.

1 There can be no perceived bias or favoritism in
2 the selection of the mapping consultant, or the State
3 Procurement Office would have to pull out of this election
4 process, and the commissioners would have to write an
5 administrative contract with the mapping consultant
6 themselves.

7 The reason Jean Clark gave to this was that the
8 State could then be sued if there was bias or favoritism
9 used in the selection of the mapping company.

10 I now have a letter from Jean Clark, that State
11 Procurement officer, to the Commission stating, quote, the
12 Commission has frequently pursued direction other than that
13 offered by SPO, and so the Commission will be responsible
14 for all further procurement responsibilities and actions
15 with respect to this procurement, end quote.

16 I would like to submit a copy of this letter into
17 the public record.

18 So the State Procurement Office has done what Jean
19 Clark said and pulled out of the process.

20 From her own statement in the meeting I attended,
21 this means that there must have been perceived bias or
22 favoritism in the selection of the mapping consultant.

23 That is the only conclusion the public can reach.

24 (APPLAUSE.)

25 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Paula Linker.

1 PAULA LINKER: That's Linker, L-I-N-K-E-R.

2 And I am going to yield my time to Karen Garrett,
3 because last week she had to leave before her name was
4 called very late in the evening. So I'm giving my time to
5 Karen Garrett.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Did you fill out a request
7 for speak form?

8 KAREN GARRETT: No. But can I now?

9 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes.

10 KAREN GARRETT: All right.

11 After I'm done?

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes.

13 KAREN GARRETT: Okay.

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Give it to Mr. Bladine.

15 KAREN GARRETT: My name is Karen Garrett,
16 G-A-R-R-E-T-T.

17 And I live in Scottsdale, Arizona.

18 And I have been a resident of Scottsdale for
19 30 years.

20 I have a couple of children who were born in
21 Arizona and are lifetime Arizona residents, so I have a
22 long -- a record of experience in living in this state.

23 I want to give you a little bit of background.

24 A year ago I had never voted in a primary, and I
25 was not politically active.

1 When I saw the amount of corruption that was going
2 on in our country over the 2008 election, I let a couple --
3 a year or so go by until I decided that it was my time as a
4 more moderate Republican to get involved in the process.

5 And I too am very, very upset with the corruption
6 in choosing this mapping company.

7 Colleen Mathis, I've been told, lied by omission
8 on her application to get on the Commission.

9 And her husband was a paid staff member of
10 Democrat Nancy Young.

11 When she submitted her application, her husband
12 was in the height of this campaign. So it wasn't something
13 that she could just forget about.

14 We already talked about destroying documents, bid
15 rigging, vote trading, the State Procurement officer.

16 But Proposition 106 in 2000 was passed to
17 keep us from having deals made in back rooms behind closed
18 doors.

19 The people have gone from paying legislators to
20 drawing lines -- to draw lines and the people can vote them
21 out if they don't appreciate or like what they accomplish to
22 paying \$9 million to five people who are totally
23 unaccountable to anyone.

24 And the voters have no way of removing them.

25 Strategic Telemetry also has done targeting down

1 to the precinct level for Barrack Obama, and we are giving
2 them our voting data to use in the future.

3 And they can also give this to other -- might, I
4 don't know if that's true, but I would wonder if they can
5 give that information to other people to use in the next
6 election.

7 Strategic Telemetry has now scrubbed its website
8 and Facebook page of all former references to its consulting
9 work for these progressive clients and has bolstered and
10 retooled its resume to highlight its work in redistricting.

11 On their application they put in 47 names of
12 progressive people that they have represented. Democrats
13 were among the names in the names of more than half of these
14 people that they represented.

15 Competitive districts should be favored, but as
16 the Arizona Constitution requires, only to the extent that
17 doing so causes no significant detriment to the other
18 redistricting criteria.

19 We have people say that they're not represented in
20 their precincts by their legislators or congressman, but we
21 can't gerrymander to the point to make sure every single
22 solitary district is equal.

23 It's just not possible.

24 And we cannot be gerrymandered solely for the
25 purpose of competitiveness.

1 The voters clearly rejected that idea when they
2 passed Proposition 106 at the 2000 election.

3 I appreciate your time, and I hope that I speak
4 for a good many of the people in this room of how upset I am
5 at having been a moderate Republican before I got active a
6 year ago with this process, and I hope that something can be
7 done about it.

8 (APPLAUSE.)

9 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Folks, we're getting more
10 request to speak cards coming in, and my concern is that at
11 some point we'll get into a time restriction problem.

12 I want to make sure everyone has their say and
13 this opportunity to speak.

14 So -- and is made a part of the record that our
15 court reporter can hear what's going on.

16 So I love enthusiasm, but if we can try to keep it
17 down so that we can go more quickly and efficiently through
18 the public comment, I would appreciate it.

19 Thank you.

20 Susan Leeper?

21 SUSAN LEEPER: Yes. My name is Susan Leeper,
22 S-U-S-A-N, L-E-E-P-E-R.

23 And I've lived in Scottsdale for the last
24 20 years.

25 Reading about the vitriol happening in other

1 states over their redistricting initiative, I was proud that
2 Arizona had changed to an independent Commission to
3 accomplish this effort.

4 But I did not expect to substitute the back rooms
5 of the state legislature for the closed executive sessions
6 of the Commission.

7 Under the state Commission, the chair is charged
8 with providing political balance, openness, and fairness,
9 something Ms. Colleen Mathis has yet to accomplish.

10 Number one, the selection of Mathis is fraudulent.

11 She lied on numbers one, six, and eight on the
12 application. Even forgetting that her attorney husband was
13 a paid staff member of a Democrat candidate.

14 This fraud alone is cause enough to dismiss Mathis
15 immediately, not to mention how she's running the
16 Commission.

17 Number two, the Republican commissioners were not
18 given the opportunity to choose legal counsel.

19 Number three, Mathis violated open meetings laws
20 and engaged in vote trading by phoning a Republican
21 commissioner to trade a vote for Strategic Telemetry,
22 hereafter ST, and in exchange for a vote on the mapping
23 portion.

24 This commissioner filed an affidavit with the
25 county attorney attesting to this.

1 Four, in violation of open meetings laws, scoring
2 sheets that eliminated three firms from competing were
3 destroyed, and also all seven score cards were shredded.

4 Ray Bladine, who is executive director of this
5 commission, admits that this happened.

6 Let's recap the selection of this consultant.

7 ST received a perfect score from three
8 commissioners even though the firm failed to meet the RFP
9 requirements, did not have the experience, and were twice
10 the cost of any other bid.

11 ST is not an expert mapping company. In fact,
12 they said they would need time to learn the software
13 package, which is an industry standard.

14 The State Procurement officer submitted a letter
15 stating that the selection process for ST was in violation
16 of State Procurement operations.

17 Prop 106 specifically states that voter records
18 not be used in mapping, but ST performed micro-targeting
19 down to the precinct level for Obama's presidential campaign
20 and is now downloading our voting records to Washington,
21 D.C.

22 Finally, looking at the meeting process,
23 number one, meetings should be, should be scheduled more
24 than 48 hours in advance and should be held on evenings and
25 weekends.

1 Number two, the chair refuses to put items on the
2 agenda that commissioners have requested, so she limits what
3 can be discussed in public session.

4 And number three, the first Commission held almost
5 40 meetings, but 20 meetings now are not adequate for a
6 state that is 1600 times the size of Washington, D.C.

7 Usually dispersed, densely populated areas have no
8 meetings scheduled within a reasonable distance.

9 And, four, although it's not happening at this
10 meeting, by putting public comments at the end is chicanery.

11 Let the public speak first, then conduct your
12 other business.

13 Either way, you stay for the same amount of time.

14 I'm originally from New Jersey, and we're used to
15 this kind of malfeasance.

16 If the IRC continues without change, we'll end up
17 paying \$9 million for suspect redistricting that will taint
18 all voting for the next decade.

19 I don't want that, and neither do you.

20 (Applause.)

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sean Bowie.

22 SEAN BOWIE: Good evening. I'm Sean, S-E-A-N,
23 Bowie, B-O-W-I-E.

24 Thank you, Commission, for letting me speak to
25 tonight.

1 I'm not reading from talk points, so bear with me.

2 I want to talk tonight about something that I
3 think we as the public have actual control over, which is
4 how the lines are going to be drawn.

5 And I know a lot of us are talking about things
6 about competitive districts, but I think most people don't
7 realize how noncompetitive the current district lines are,
8 at least in Maricopa County.

9 We have 18 legislative districts in Maricopa
10 County. Seventeen of them have only one party representing
11 them in the legislature.

12 In the last four years, 16 of them have sent one
13 party to the Legislature.

14 So, you know, we have competitive areas in
15 Maricopa County, I believe, but the lines are not drawn to
16 reflect that.

17 West Mesa, I think, is one of those areas that
18 which, you know, drawn the right way can be a competitive
19 district.

20 Ahwatukee, Chandler, Laveen, Avondale, central
21 Phoenix, you know, we have areas, that, you know, have the
22 potential to be competitive and can benefit the entire state
23 as a whole in terms of who we send to represent us in the
24 legislature and in congress.

25 But it's now up the Commission to ensure that we

1 have more competitive races so that better candidates are
2 running, more people participate, and really helps the state
3 as a whole.

4 At the congressional level, we have six
5 congressional districts in Maricopa County. Five of them
6 have only sent one party to Washington in the last
7 four years.

8 That's both Republicans and Democrats.

9 So, again, you know, as you guys are drawing
10 lines, you know, I know a lot of people, myself included,
11 would like to see their own area drawn to reflect their own
12 political party. I'm guilty of that.

13 Most people in this room are guilty of that.

14 But I think when we're looking at lines, you know,
15 there has to be a point when we think about what's in the
16 best interest of the state, not just our own communities and
17 our own political parties.

18 You know, who we send to legislature and who we
19 send to congress, you know, affects all of us.

20 No matter what party we are, no matter what
21 (inaudible), no matter what area we live in, it affects
22 everybody.

23 So, you know, what you guys are doing is impacting
24 millions of people, not just hundreds of people who will
25 testify before you around the state.

1 So I would encourage you, when you're looking at
2 the six measures of -- six criteria measures, looking at
3 competitiveness, and Arizona is a state that is very red in
4 terms of its political feelings, but is also a state where I
5 think if it's drawn the right way we can have more
6 competitive races, better candidates, and higher voter
7 turnout as a whole, if we have competitive districts.

8 Thank you.

9 (APPLAUSE.)

10 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next will be Daniel Grimm,
11 followed by Mike Wright.

12 Michael McAfee, Joanne Johnson, and James
13 Leverington, I think.

14 So Mr. Grimm.

15 DANIEL GRIMM: Yes. Daniel, D-A-N-I-E-L, Grimm,
16 two Ms, just like the brothers.

17 I'd like to address the topic of community of
18 interest.

19 When we form communities, typically they start out
20 with geographic boundaries, mountain ranges, rivers,
21 streams, washes. And out of those, people plan and
22 develop where houses will be built, planned communities of
23 various sizes and tract homes and custom and semi-custom
24 homes.

25 And while we may plan and decide where those homes

1 get placed, we don't plan and decide who lives in them.

2 Communities form organically.

3 I chose the community I live in. My neighbors
4 didn't choose it for me. And I didn't choose my neighbors.

5 Thank God they didn't have the choice to choose
6 me. I don't know if they would.

7 We have examples of how we make our decisions
8 based on what the local schools are like, where the presence
9 and absence of local parks and recreation.

10 Is there going to be a soccer club or Little
11 League for my kids to play in. Will there be a hiking club
12 or dog park.

13 What are the local areas of worship that exist.

14 How convenient is transportation, access to the
15 nearest highway, or bus service.

16 What's the local shopping like. Am I going to
17 find grocery stores in the chains I'm used to.

18 What's the entertainment like, theaters and art
19 and music.

20 All of these play a part on where we choose we
21 want to live.

22 When we finally move into our home, we find very
23 quickly there's a basic political structure. We have a city
24 council. We have legislators. We have school boards. We
25 have water boards.

1 We have the opportunity to get to know those
2 people.

3 We find them by meeting them wherever they're
4 going to run for election, going down to where they're going
5 to hold office in public events, calling them up on the
6 phone or e-mailing.

7 The community I moved into in east Mesa, and I've
8 been out here for about 30 years now having moved here from
9 back east, is a relatively new community.

10 The boundaries we organically form that define our
11 area are a little bit distinct from those boundaries in the
12 older more established areas of Mesa.

13 It's neither better nor worse, but it is subtly
14 different.

15 We have our own community.

16 We chose it.

17 To have our boundaries summarily redrawn to cross
18 over various other communities would be as disruptive to
19 those communities and their traditions and establishment as
20 it would be to ours.

21 I don't see any reason why we need to impose
22 external viewed agendas across our communities.

23 We need to respect the communities as they are, as
24 they developed organically, as we have chosen them.

25 I would loathe to see some political agenda

1 established that would attempt to redraw boundaries in a way
2 to further vulcanize a society that has already suffered
3 under the strife of race or ethnic division.

4 Nor would I like to see it gerrymandered further
5 all for the purpose of creating weird shapes under the guise
6 of making it more politically competitive.

7 These divisions have been defined by those of us
8 that have moved and chosen to live where we live. Please
9 honor our choices.

10 Thank you.

11 (APPLAUSE.)

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Mike Wright.

13 MIKE WRIGHT: Mike Wright, W-R-I-G-H-T.

14 I'm here to speak about west Mesa as a community
15 of interest and help you understand why we believe it is a
16 community of interest.

17 I was born and raised in west Mesa. I've lived
18 here all my life, 63 years.

19 When I was born and raised, Mesa was only west
20 Mesa.

21 As it extended to the east, it grew remarkably
22 farther and farther east, but west Mesa has maintained its
23 identity as a community.

24 We have neighbors, a large amount of residential
25 neighborhoods, Westwood, Dobson, and so forth.

1 And these neighborhoods have access to businesses.

2 I own a business on University Drive near Country
3 Club and Alma School.

4 I'm also an attorney and practice law in west
5 Mesa.

6 And I have commercial interests there.

7 Shopping is convenient there.

8 We don't go clear out to east Mesa to do my
9 business.

10 We are close to Tempe, do business there, close to
11 Scottsdale, Chandler, and so forth.

12 So it's kind of a hub, again, west Mesa, that has
13 all of the amenities of a community.

14 West Mesa includes the downtown Mesa area, with
15 the Fiesta Mall area and so forth.

16 So I ask you to consider that in drawing the
17 boundaries so that that area of west Mesa is maintained.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

20 (APPLAUSE.)

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. McAfee.

22 MICHAEL MCAFEE: Michael R. McAfee, M-C-A-F-E-E.

23 Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to
24 speak again.

25 I'm going to be very brief since I've addressed

1 you before.

2 I just want to point out that our constitution,
3 our state constitution, on the requirements that you have to
4 meet in redistricting, each of those requirements have what
5 I call wiggle worms involved.

6 You've got, for example, the districts must be
7 contiguous so far as possible.

8 That kind of language for each of the
9 requirements, including the requirement for competitive
10 districts.

11 The next thing I want to point out to you is that
12 at meeting after meeting, several folks, perhaps more than
13 half the folks, not here tonight, but more than half at the
14 other meetings, come up, and they are pleading with you to
15 have competitive districts.

16 Our democracy demands it.

17 If we have foregone conclusions, then there's no
18 race.

19 Even, you know, at the South Mountain meeting
20 where I addressed you before, in LD 15, a noncompetitive
21 district, heavily Democratic, we had both Republicans, which
22 you might expect, come up urging you to make that area
23 competitive and Democrats coming up urging you to make that
24 area competitive.

25 Because why wouldn't a Democrat want that? We

1 want responsible and responsive government.

2 And when you've got the situation we have now,
3 where you have loggerheads in D.C., and you basically have
4 one party rule in Phoenix, that doesn't reflect the party
5 registration in the state.

6 We're almost 30 percent Republican, 34 percent --
7 I mean, 30 percent Democrat, 34 percent Republican in this
8 state, yet representation doesn't nearly reflect that when
9 you get to the Legislature.

10 So, it has to be competitive districts, guys.

11 Our democracy is at stake.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Joanne Johnson.

15 JOANNE JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Joanne
16 Johnson, J-O-A-N-N-E, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

17 I am a 26-year resident of the city of Tempe.

18 And my understanding of the redistricting process
19 is from your mission statement on your website.

20 It states the Independent Redistricting
21 Commission's mission is to administer the fair and balanced
22 redistricting of congressional and legislative districts of
23 the state of Arizona.

24 I also went to the website for Strategic
25 Telemetry, and that's www.StrategicTelemetry.com.

1 On their home page I pressed -- I clicked press on
2 their website.

3 I read from the following press releases.

4 March 1st, 2011. What's next? Four innovators
5 pushing campaigning ahead.

6 Ken Strasma, president of Strategic Alliance and
7 the national target director for Obama's 2008 presidential
8 campaign, is a pioneer in the application of high tech
9 strategical modeling for political campaigns. His
10 Washington, D.C., based firm launched in 2003 has led
11 numerous campaigns to victory, including many Democratic
12 campaigns as well as the New York City Michael Bloomberg's
13 2009 re-election campaign.

14 I also read, support seen for GOP recalls.

15 District level micro-targeting indices for
16 progressivism.

17 Ken Strasma, the much lauded national target
18 director of Barrack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, at
19 the head of this effort was Ken Strasma, the Democrats'
20 demographic genius.

21 Out of ten press releases on their own website,
22 ten were progressive and democratic leaning.

23 I could not find on their website conservative or
24 Republican leaning information.

25 I could not find on their website moderate

1 information.

2 I also clicked other services on the Strategic
3 Telemetry website. I read: Other services from Strategic
4 Telemetry. In addition to micro-targeting, Strategic
5 Telemetry offers many other valuable services to progressive
6 campaigns and organizations.

7 All this information is available on their
8 website.

9 As a citizen of Arizona, as a taxpayer supporting
10 your Commission, I would like to hear an explanation as to
11 how Strategic Telemetry will provide support for a fair and
12 balanced redistricting of the congressional and legislative
13 districts for the state of Arizona.

14 I am submitting a copy of my statement to this
15 Commission, to Governor Jan Brewer, to Attorney General Tom
16 Horne, and to the Arizona Republic newspaper.

17 Thank you for your attention.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Jamie Leverington.

20 JAIME LEVERINGTON: That's fine.

21 Jaime Leverington, J-A-I-M-E,
22 L-E-V-E-R-I-N-G-T-O-N.

23 In Mesa, Arizona. And I live in Maricopa County.
24 I've been here since 2004.

25 The first thing I wanted to say is I respect

1 all members of the Commission and I appreciate your work.
2 This is something that's difficult to do, and I appreciate
3 that.

4 And I'd also like to address the people of
5 Arizona, the people in this room, and the Commission, and
6 say that I appreciate the fact that we live in a state where
7 we get a chance to be a part of this process, that we get to
8 do this outside of the legislature.

9 In almost every other state this is done in the
10 legislative process, excluding the people and their voice.

11 And the people that are elected are not elected
12 for the purpose of redistricting. They're elected for many
13 other purposes.

14 So I think that references to the elections as a
15 solution to maps that don't appease the people in some way
16 aren't -- are maybe a little misguided.

17 We are -- and I would also like to say that I
18 appreciate the fact that we as citizens are filling a room
19 here.

20 I'd like to see more people here, and I respect
21 everyone in this room for showing up tonight and giving up
22 their time to be a part of the political process in this
23 state.

24 It is remarkable to see this.

25 I think it's important too to remember that the

1 purpose of this meeting is to offer comments on
2 redistricting and to offer the communities' concerns about
3 the actual map that we will be voting within for the next
4 ten years.

5 It is important that we create competitive
6 districts, respect community interests, as those are really
7 the only two purposes that are listed on the map that have
8 any real possibility of shaping that map outside of the
9 other restrictions.

10 At the end of this, we will get a map that we will
11 vote within. And it's important to remember that we should
12 focus on that this evening.

13 I'd like to take a moment just to look back to the
14 purpose of the House of Representatives for the United
15 States, which was described in Federalist 52 by Alexander
16 Hamilton and James Madison. And they in that Federalist
17 paper said: As it is essential to liberty that the
18 government in general should have a common interest with the
19 people, so it is particularly essential that the people --
20 it is particularly essential that the branch of it under
21 consideration should have immediate dependence on and an
22 immediate(sic) sympathy with the people.

23 I believe that in order for this legislature to
24 have immediate dependence and an intimate sympathy with the
25 people of Arizona that it is essential to break up Mesa into

1 different legislative districts.

2 Voting in District 6 for the past several
3 elections, I've voted in the least competitive district in
4 the U.S. House of Representatives in this state and one of
5 the least competitive districts in the United States of
6 America.

7 In the past elections, the Democratic candidate
8 has had no real opportunity and no voice.

9 And I believe that we should, as citizens of this
10 the state, look to a way where we can have elections where
11 there is competition, where there is debate, where we as
12 citizens can hope to have our voices heard and have the
13 goals of sympathies and dependance met.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

16 (APPLAUSE.)

17 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next I have a John Fillmore,
18 followed by Steve Muratore.

19 Followed by Patty Meyer.

20 And then Christopher Bradley.

21 John Fillmore.

22 (No oral response.)

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Steve Muratore.

24 STEVE MURATORE: Here.

25 Thank you, commissioners.

1 A couple of points I think it's important to
2 cover.

3 I've heard tonight comments from several people
4 misstating a number of things, but most specifically, I want
5 to address that there has been exaggerations of the amount
6 of money this Commission has to spend.

7 People have variously stated 6 million and
8 9 million.

9 We know it's only three and a half million.

10 And that is significant in the difference.

11 And I'd also like to mention that while
12 Commissioners Stertz and Freeman have on several occasions
13 said on the record that it is time to move on past the
14 controversy that several people have raised today --

15 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Then let them move
16 on.

17 STEVE MURATORE: -- I would like to ask, and I
18 know you can't say anything about it now, but I'd like to
19 put it on the record that I think it's time for Mr. Freeman
20 and Mr. Stertz to clearly and emphatically state that for
21 both the record and for all of the state's media.

22 It needs to be done in order to let the people
23 know that it's time for you to keep focused on the job that
24 you have.

25 I thank all five of the commissioners for the hard

1 work that you've subjected yourself to as well as the public
2 pressure.

3 I know that you are putting a lot of effort into
4 it.

5 I know that and I believe that all five of you
6 have a great deal of integrity and ability, and I appreciate
7 it very much.

8 And I know that ultimately you will do the right
9 thing.

10 So thanks.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Patty Meyer.

14 Followed by Christopher Bradley.

15 PATTY MEYER: My name is Patty Meyer, P-A-T-T-Y,
16 M-E-Y-E-R.

17 And I really don't have a whole lot to say. I
18 have three brief statements.

19 The first thing I'd like to say is that I second
20 what Joanne Johnson said with regards to the Commission. I
21 have great concerns about the mapping company that was
22 chosen.

23 Secondly I'd like to say that we have not had
24 enough meetings. The meetings are too few and they are not
25 in enough locations to get the input of all the people that

1 are involved in this issue.

2 And thirdly, and my last statement, is that I live
3 in Tempe, I've lived there for many years, and I think that
4 it is a community of interest.

5 We focus on Arizona State University.

6 I believe that if you were to draw lines that
7 would somehow include other communities that are not focused
8 on the university, that that would be unfair, and that it
9 would create a situation where the needs of two different
10 distinct groups would be in conflict. And therefore it may
11 be impossible for our representatives to represent us
12 completely.

13 And that's all I have to say.

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

15 PATTY MEYER: Thank you.

16 (APPLAUSE.)

17 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next will be Christopher
18 Bradley, followed by Ryan Duncan, Wayne Manske, and Michael
19 Conway.

20 CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY: I'm Christopher Bradley,
21 B-R-A-D-L-E-Y.

22 And I also, like many others, I just want to thank
23 the committee for the work that you're doing.

24 And I just want to make my comments brief here,
25 but I think it's very important that this is an independent

1 committee.

2 When you have a state that's essentially one third
3 Independent, one third Democrat, and one third Republican,
4 and there's a massive over-representation of Republicans in
5 the legislature, there's something wrong.

6 Something's not happening here.

7 And I understand that the Republican party doesn't
8 want an independent committee, doesn't want that money spent
9 on an independent committee, because it takes then their --
10 essentially the isolated power that they have, it threatens
11 that isolated power.

12 But no matter who draws the map, we've got to
13 start having districts that actually represent the actual
14 breakdown of political parties in this state.

15 And I hope that when the districts are being
16 redrawn that you'll keep that in mind.

17 Thank you very much.

18 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Ryan Duncan.

21 RYAN DUNCAN: My name is Ryan Duncan. I'm a
22 multi-generational native to Arizona that was raised, still
23 live in, and now raising my family in the east valley city
24 of Tempe.

25 I did go away for college years, as I applied for

1 scholarship. I was excited to return and begin my goal as a
2 land broker in the east valley.

3 It is the area that resonates with the quality of
4 life that I expect and enjoy during my formative years.
5 There's wonderful schools in the Kyrene and Tempe School
6 Districts, and access to any and all forms of activity and
7 entertainment that are important to a young family like
8 mine.

9 I was keeping an office in Scottsdale in the last
10 ten years since graduating from college. I made a living
11 selling land parcels located in the east valley cities of
12 Tempe, Chandler, and Mesa.

13 This is my home, and I enjoy playing a small role
14 in the growth and development of this area for future
15 generations to come.

16 I'm here today to say a few words related to what
17 I feel is an important distinction in discussions
18 surrounding the possible redrawing of congressional district
19 lines that could possibly change the direction of my current
20 area and therefore quality of life that I've grown up
21 knowing and expect for my family.

22 From my perspective, Tempe is the nucleus of all
23 these valley cities, especially in the case of neighboring
24 municipalities of Scottsdale, Chandler, the Ahwatukee
25 neighborhood, and parts of Mesa.

1 The possibility that it could somehow be made part
2 of other valley communities west of this area makes little
3 sense to me.

4 Tempe does obviously draw people from across the
5 state because of all it has to offer, but I would submit
6 that if you were to poll my neighbors they would tell you
7 that they are an east valley community linked by the 101
8 Freeway, U.S. 60, and I-10.

9 That fabric of growth, entertainment, and facility
10 that I enjoy as a resident is important to me and my family.
11 The east valley is our identity, and I do not want that to
12 change. I'm a resident of the east valley by choice, and I
13 believe the lines should remain the way they've been since
14 the time I was raised here.

15 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Wayne Manske.

16 WAYNE MANSKE: Wayne Manske, M-A-N-S-K-E.

17 I've lived here in Mesa since 1973.

18 It's interesting to hear all the experts here that
19 know more about mapping than our professional mapping
20 company that we've selected.

21 I appreciate your efforts to make Arizona and
22 Mesa, Mesa particularly, to have more competitive districts.

23 I am very satisfied with the work each
24 commissioner and their chairperson has demonstrated.

25 Your choice of map developers and your desire to

1 hold open meetings such as this one ensures that our
2 community has public input.

3 I have a great appreciation for your business --
4 excuse me.

5 I have a great appreciation for your efforts to
6 conduct business up front and to accept public comments at
7 the end of the business meetings so that the public comment
8 shenanigans that have occurred at prior meetings do not
9 occur and that we can hear the business that the
10 Commission's in charge of.

11 Regarding the district we are meeting in this
12 evening, current LD 18, west Mesa, I would hope that you
13 would consider incorporating the current LD 18 boundaries
14 south to include the Fiesta district and the Dobson Ranch
15 community.

16 West Mesa should remain intact, but I hope that
17 our west Mesa district will be allowed to include Mesa
18 Community College, the Fiesta district, and Mesa's Dobson
19 Ranch.

20 Thank you.

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Michael Conway.

24 MICHAEL CONWAY: Mike Conway, Mesa, Arizona,
25 C-O-N-W-A-Y.

1 I'd like to thank the commissioners for coming to
2 my home, Mesa, and my Legislative District 18, the home of
3 the recently and only senate president ever to be recalled,
4 Russell Pearce --

5 (APPLAUSE.)

6 MICHAEL CONWAY: Okay. The people over here
7 obviously don't understand the process, which should come as
8 a surprise to no one.

9 I'm frustrated. I'm frustrated for being
10 interrupted right now.

11 And I'm frustrated that people cannot be
12 respectful and allow the process to move on.

13 Russell Pearce, Andy Biggs, Steve Montenegro,
14 these are all examples of the disasters that come out of
15 noncompetitive districts.

16 I'm going to disagree with, I believe, Sean Bowie,
17 who said most of the people don't realize how uncompetitive
18 the districts are.

19 I'm going to make the reverse argument.

20 I'm going to argue that most of the people in this
21 room understand completely how noncompetitive the districts
22 are, they're happy with the way the districts are, and
23 they're afraid of losing their hold on political power.

24 That is why you have the anger and vitriol against
25 the commissioners, the head commissioner.

1 If they really were concerned about all
2 commissioners not being honest on their applications, surely
3 the name of the commissioner who was put on the board by
4 Russell Pearce in his non-truthful answers on his
5 application would come up.

6 But never a word from these folks.

7 Complete silence.

8 Just in closing, I'd like to say that I'm also
9 from New York, and not everybody from New York is so
10 ignorant to think that nothing has culture west of the
11 Hudson.

12 (Prolonged applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Once again, let's try to curb
14 the enthusiasm a little bit.

15 We had a problem with our last speaker, the court
16 reporter couldn't hear him, and it's not fair to that
17 gentleman --

18 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: He doesn't need to point at
19 people and --

20 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Just a moment, sir. Just a
21 moment.

22 Let's have some order. Okay?

23 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me. I have
24 a question.

25 Is it okay for the former speaker to tell someone

1 to go to hell right now as he left?

2 (Inaudible comments by multiple members of the
3 audience.)

4 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Let's continue.

5 Next we have Don Markowski.

6 Followed by Randy Keating, followed by Patrice
7 Kraus.

8 DON MARKOWSKI: Thank you, commissioners.

9 My name is Don, D-O-N, M-A-R-K-O-W-S-K-I.

10 And I live in LD 20, northwest Chandler.

11 Okay.

12 I would like to begin by echoing a previous
13 person's comments that it would have been a nice way to
14 start the meeting by showing a map of where we are now and
15 where we need to be without drawing the specific district
16 lines but giving the folks an opportunity to see that such
17 and such area has too much population, such and such area
18 has too little, and we need to shift some districts back and
19 forth.

20 Okay.

21 For those of you who don't know, LD 20 in
22 northwest Chandler is the same district as the Ahwatukee
23 area.

24 Okay.

25 And I feel it's abhorrent that we have a

1 representative from Ahwatukee representing northwest
2 Chandler.

3 And I'll give you an example of why I feel that
4 way.

5 Senator John McComish is the current senator from
6 Ahwatukee representing northwest Chandler.

7 A few years ago I wrote to him regarding a
8 situation with the Mesa School Board hoarding money.

9 His quick response back to me was I don't
10 represent the Mesa School District.

11 Well, he was representing the Mesa School District
12 for about six years before he realized he was representing
13 the Mesa School District.

14 So one of the things I would ask the commissioners
15 is to strongly consider breaking off Ahwatukee from
16 northwest Chandler.

17 As far as I know, it is not adjacent.

18 I don't see any commonality of interest, and it's
19 not contiguous.

20 Thank you.

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

22 Next will be Randy Keating.

23 RANDY KEATING: My name is Randy Keating,
24 R-A-N-D-Y, K-E-A-T-I-N-G. And I have no relation to Charles
25 Keating.

1 I agree with the man -- with the woman who spoke
2 about ten minutes earlier that Tempe is definitely a
3 community of interest.

4 Contrary to belief, our biggest voting block
5 actually is Independents. They compose 36 percent of all
6 voters in Tempe, with Republicans and Democrats only being
7 separated by two points.

8 Speaking for the 17 Democrats, I say we welcome
9 competitive districts. Nothing would please us more to
10 avoid things like Green Party candidates and voter fraud
11 allegations, cheap tricks like that that we saw in the last
12 election cycle that we don't want to see anywhere in our
13 community.

14 Also, outside I was given two pages worth of
15 talking points to yell at you guys about.

16 Although I am not going to do that tonight, I am
17 going to thank you for what you are doing here.

18 You guys are providing us, the public, with a
19 very important service that our voters have mandated that
20 you do.

21 Being as it is, I ask that you look past the
22 intimidation, look past the yelling, look past the threats
23 being shouted from the back of the room just today, and
24 maintain the integrity that the voters expect of you.

25 Keep politics out of it, and thank you.

1 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Patrice Kraus.

4 She's going to be followed by Gary -- Gila?

5 Brad Barlum and Christina Shelley.

6 PATRICE KRAUS: Thank you, members of the
7 Commission.

8 For the record, my name is Patrice Kraus,
9 P-A-T-R-I-C-E, K-R-A-U-S.

10 I'm here on behalf of the city of Chandler.

11 As a fourth largest city in the state, we're very
12 concerned about our representation, especially at the state
13 legislature.

14 We currently are divided into two legislative
15 districts, and we like having six members at the state
16 legislature.

17 However, we do not want to be divided into more
18 than two districts.

19 Both of our legislative districts currently have
20 significant numbers of Chandler residents in them, and so
21 our influence is not too diluted by other communities that
22 make up these districts.

23 We would like the new districts to be divided
24 somewhat in the same way so we can maintain that influence.

25 Although we know that there's going to be a need

1 to change these districts because one pop -- one of our
2 districts is slightly overpopulated and one is slightly
3 underpopulated, we are generally happy with the lines that
4 we have in our city now, and we would like to make as few
5 changes as possible.

6 We also do have a very close relationship with an
7 incorporated area, Sun Lakes. We provide some services to
8 them, and we would like to have them continue to be in one
9 of our districts.

10 We're looking at how best to balance a population
11 between these two districts right now, and will likely
12 submit a map in the next new weeks.

13 And I want to thank you for the opportunity to
14 speak tonight.

15 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Gary Gila.

17 (No oral response.)

18 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Fred Barlum.

19 FRED BARLUM: I'd like to salute you, the hard
20 working members of the IRC, for the excellent job that you
21 were doing in keeping the redistricting process in Arizona
22 independent.

23 I'm going to be very brief because I know we have
24 a new more speakers for this evening.

25 With the passage of Proposition 106 by the voters

1 in 2000, independent redistricting became the law of the
2 land of Arizona.

3 It is highly disturbing that there are elected
4 officials, such as Attorney General Tom Horne and people
5 from political factions, who want to undermine the legally
6 mandated independence of you people, the IRC.

7 And even more disturbing is the view that the
8 continuing independence of the IRC is a threat.

9 An Independent Redistricting Commission is a boon
10 to freedom-loving people throughout the state, and voters
11 wisely realized that in 2000.

12 Fair and competitive legislative and congressional
13 districts will ensure that the voices of all people of
14 Arizona will be heard, and isn't that what democracy is
15 really about.

16 If the people who speak so vehemently in
17 opposition to having an Independent Redistricting Commission
18 truly love liberty and freedom, then it is time for them to
19 proclaim that the independence of the IRC must be preserved
20 in order to create fair and competitive legislative and
21 congressional districts in this state.

22 The founding fathers of this great nation would
23 have demanded no less of me, no less of you, and no less of
24 them.

25 I thank the Commission for allowing me to speak

1 this evening.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHRISTINA SHELLEY: Christina, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A.

4 S-H-E-L-L-E-Y.

5 I'm Christina Shelley. I am on the board of
6 directors for -- I'm on the board of directors for LD 22
7 Democrats.

8 I live in Gilbert, which could not be more
9 polarized, although I recognize that a lot of the districts
10 are polarized.

11 I would like to point out that, and this is
12 secondhand information, but it's from a very credible
13 source, in 2000 the mapping company was primarily backed by
14 Republicans, and the Democrats had a cow.

15 This year they're primarily backed by Democrats,
16 and the Republicans are having a cow.

17 So maybe next time we can find someone backed by
18 Independents.

19 Okay. That was a little subtle.

20 I'm an Arizona native. I haven't been here as
21 long as Mike Wright, because Mike's older than me.

22 Just a little.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Into the microphone.

24 CHRISTINA SHELLEY: It's my hope that this
25 Commission -- and you guys must feel like you're damned if

1 you do and damned if you don't, and I feel for you.

2 But I hope that you proceed in changing our
3 legislative districts so that they're equally divided, much
4 more competitive.

5 And, no, we're not going to be one to one.

6 I don't want to have 100 percent Democratic
7 districts, not that that would be possible, but that takes
8 away from the rigor of the process.

9 I was involved in the process last year very
10 deeply.

11 My son ran.

12 It's a wonderful process.

13 So I don't want anything to be lopsided. And
14 right now most of Arizona is really, really lopsided.

15 I would hope that outside interest groups, groups
16 from outside of Arizona, and even Arizona based special
17 interest groups, would understand why this is so important
18 to democracy.

19 It's the only way that we can have a responsive
20 and responsible government.

21 I would also hope that recognized political
22 parties would appreciate this.

23 As Ms. Filbey has said, the districts are far from
24 even.

25 The losing candidate in District 7 last year got

1 more votes than the winning candidate in District 18.

2 That's how lopsided the voting has gone.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

6 Next up we have Armando Shelley.

7 Brenda Rascon.

8 Roman Ulman.

9 And Loren Kuby.

10 AMANDA SHELLY: Good evening. It's actually
11 Amanda Shelley.

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sorry.

13 AMANDA SHELLY: A-M-A-N-D-A, S-H-E-L-L-E-Y.

14 I'd like to thank all of the Commission members as
15 well for the good job you're doing.

16 I'd like to encourage everyone to please allow it
17 to continue as an independent process, and not try to get
18 too politicized about it.

19 I too am a multi-generational Arizona native.

20 I was born and raised in Mesa and moved to Gilbert
21 because I thought it had better things to offer for my
22 family.

23 On arriving in Gilbert, I realized that I'm an
24 outsider there.

25 I have zero chance of getting someone who

1 represents me on a city level, a state level, or on a
2 national level.

3 My legislative district, which is LD 22, and my
4 congressional district, are so far lopsided that even
5 candidates realize there's no chance, so no one tried.

6 There is absolutely zero fairness.

7 I think everyone in this room should recognize
8 that if someone who has the right to vote has absolutely no
9 chance of being represented, it's an un-American idea.

10 Thank you, and thanks again for holding this
11 session in Mesa.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Brenda Rascon.

14 BRENDA RASCON: Good evening. Thank you for
15 allowing me to speak tonight.

16 I'm an LD 18 resident. I'm a resident here of
17 this area of Mesa.

18 I believe the redistricting process should split
19 Mesa in a way that properly reflects its diversity.

20 So there's a lot of diversity here economically,
21 culturally, demographically.

22 I would like west Mesa to be a more competitive
23 district or to be absorbed by a competitive district.

24 Again, I'm going to echo what everyone else has
25 said, that a competitive district is important. It's

1 crucial and pivotal to a good democracy. It creates a
2 higher civil involvement, better representation.

3 What I'm afraid of, my biggest concern is when
4 districts become noncompetitive, I think it encourages
5 extreme politics.

6 I for one am really tired of being poorly
7 represented, poorly represented by the politics of my
8 district.

9 I have a representative who wants to nullify
10 federal law, throw children off health care, and who make
11 law that infringed on my civil rights as a U.S. citizen of
12 non-White descent.

13 Please district in a way that will not further
14 dilute the voices of minority U.S. citizens, please.

15 And I'd like -- once again, my main concern, equal
16 population, fairness, checks and balances.

17 I think a lot of people have said here that there
18 are no checks and balances right now. We're one third
19 Independent, one third Democratic, one third Republican, and
20 we have a wildly conservative legislature at the moment, and
21 that's my main concern.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 BREND A RASCON: Brenda Rascon, B-R-E-N-D-A,
25 R-A-S-C-O-N.

1 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Folks, when people are
2 speaking, I'd ask everyone to be respectful of the speaker
3 so they can get their comments into the record.

4 And probably I've been remiss in that.

5 And I'll remind you when you come to the
6 microphone, please spell your name for our court reporter.

7 Next is Roman Ulman.

8 ROMAN ULMAN: Roman Ulman, R-O-M-A-N, U-L-M-A-N.

9 I'd like to thank the commissioners for allowing
10 me to speak today.

11 During my lifetime I have worn many hats.

12 Today I am speaking as a small business owner in
13 east Mesa.

14 Let me say, first of all, I want to thank you very
15 much for taking the insults that are being hurled at you so
16 graciously.

17 I have served on the Mesa master planning
18 committee and went through some of the things that you are
19 now going through.

20 Except at that time we had the developers were
21 trying to control the entire process. We ignored them, and
22 because of that fact we've drawn up a very good master plan
23 for Mesa.

24 I urge you to do the same thing.

25 Ignore the political parties, ignore the factions

1 of the political parties, ignore the out-of-state special
2 interest people, and do what the people of Arizona have
3 mandated you to do.

4 I was in states where the politicians drew the
5 boundaries.

6 And they were really bad.

7 And that is why the people of Arizona set up an
8 independent body, because they were sick and tired of the
9 politicians trying to draw districts where a line ran
10 20 miles this way so a politician could stay in his own
11 district.

12 That is not what you have been mandated to do.

13 You have been told specifically by the voters of
14 Arizona how to conduct yourself, how to draw up the
15 districts, and I urge you to do that.

16 There are a couple of charges that need to be
17 answered.

18 First of all, I resent very much that anybody
19 would ever say that a wife was an extension of her husband.

20 My wife, my three daughters, my seven
21 granddaughters would say that that is a lie.

22 My wife is the president of our company. If
23 anything, I'm an extension of her.

24 And to bring up that charge here I think is an
25 insult.

1 Number two, you have been selected by a process
2 that ten years ago was controlled by the Republicans.

3 They did the same thing that you are now doing.

4 They selected their own staff.

5 And for anybody to say that your staff is going to
6 tell you what to do is an insult to the commissioners.

7 You ought to be -- just totally ignore that
8 charge.

9 The other allegations that are being made, and you
10 notice I don't have any speaking points, is that all of the
11 allegations that are being made to you are on talking points
12 for certain factions of political parties and certain
13 out-of-state interests.

14 You can go out there and check them.

15 And that's why you have talking points.

16 You are responsible to the voters of Arizona.

17 This process was set up by them because the previous process
18 did not work.

19 I would just say one other thing.

20 Even though I'm represented by a member of another
21 party, I like that representative.

22 He's very good because he cares about our
23 community.

24 Our city of Mesa representatives care about our
25 community. I'm very happy with the administration.

1 And I would urge people to stop practicing hate
2 and anger and start coming together.

3 These people run as politicians, but once they're
4 elected they're representatives of the people.

5 Thank you very much.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

7 (APPLAUSE.)

8 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Before you begin, there's
9 been more talking, and I would ask everyone to be respectful
10 of the comments so that we can hear them and so we can have
11 a record.

12 Next we have Loren.

13 THE WITNESS: Loren Kuby, L-O-R-E-N, K-U-B-Y,
14 23-year resident of Tempe.

15 And I was hoping to speak earlier because I wanted
16 to sort of rattle off talking points that I received when I
17 came inside the room, and I received them by e-mail as well,
18 from the Tea Party.

19 So we have heard a lot of these talking points
20 tonight, and I want to approach them because I know this is
21 a public comment period and you're not to supposed speak and
22 I respect that.

23 We know that a lot of people in the room aren't
24 happy with the mapping consultant you've chosen.

25 They comment that ST's previous clients include

1 Democrats, that somehow Barrack Obama is here as a puppet
2 master trying to control with strings the operation. And I
3 think he's a little busy with a major league crisis right
4 now that he's not able to attend our redistricting
5 commission.

6 Also they've attacked the choice of attorneys, and
7 wish that we had chosen or you had chosen Lisa Hauser who
8 was the original attorney in 2000.

9 You guys are public service. Lisa Hauser was a
10 paid employee. She earned \$2 million from the process.

11 She's, if I'm not mistaken, suing the State, suing
12 you guys, because she feels she should have been chosen to
13 represent whatever interest.

14 I also want to remind our audience that the
15 Republicans on the Commission gave Strategic Telemetry very
16 high marks too.

17 The old company really mucked things up, and you
18 chose to go a new direction.

19 I salute you for that.

20 Another talking point we've heard is they attacked
21 the integrity of Colleen Mathis, and since her husband was
22 paid treasurer to a democratic legislative candidate,
23 somehow she can't be impartial.

24 It won't matter that she and her husband have
25 donated and worked for Republican candidates in the past and

1 have even attended George Bush's inauguration.

2 Somehow she's married to someone who's worked as a
3 treasurer in a democratic campaign, so she must be taking
4 his orders.

5 So I reiterate Roman's complaint as well.

6 Another thing is this idea that somehow there are
7 not enough meetings.

8 Now, there's 17 public meetings where you've asked
9 for input.

10 This is, I understand, this is the first stage.
11 You're getting public input before the maps are drawn,
12 and then there's going to be many opportunities later to
13 get public input once the maps are drawn, so let's clarify
14 that.

15 There's also this sense of this backroom dealing,
16 things are happening behind close doors.

17 In my position at ASU, I interview a lot of people
18 for jobs, and I know that we do not make it sort of public
19 or out in the open when we're discussing different
20 candidates for different positions.

21 That's considered -- in the resume things are
22 confidential, and you need to talk in confidence about the
23 candidates that are before you.

24 And another complaint is that 48 hours isn't
25 enough for a meeting.

1 I know in this case, today's meeting, we had more
2 than 48 hours, but the Arizona Constitution requires
3 48 hours, and you guys have met that requirement.

4 I thank you for that.

5 They also complain that there's no agendas for
6 these public meetings. These public input meetings are
7 meant to have public input. That is the agenda.

8 So that also is a capricious sort of claim.

9 We have to ask ourselves why is this organized
10 group trying to stall and impede the independent
11 redistricting process. Could it be that voter registration
12 numbers which show the growth of Independents in Arizona do
13 not justify the GOP having a super majority in the
14 legislature?

15 Just asking.

16 Within these talking points we don't hear any
17 discussion of what they would like to see in terms of a fair
18 map. That is why we're here. We're to give public input
19 about mapping.

20 And I realized it's ironic because I haven't
21 focused myself on the map, but give me that break.

22 So because this is why the Commission was created
23 in the first place, to redraw legislative district lines so
24 that we have competitive elections.

25 So I ask my fellow citizens, can we please let go

1 of these attempts to impugn, malign, and castigate the
2 Commission, and get on with the task of giving input to the
3 Commission about the maps that they will be drawing.

4 Thank you very much, and thank you for your public
5 service.

6 (APPLAUSE.)

7 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next up will be Philip
8 Amorosi, followed by Craig Falasco and Paul Brierley.

9 PHILIP AMOROSI: Philip Amorosi, P-H-I-L-I-P,
10 A-M-O-R-O-S-I.

11 I'd like to address the Commission on legislative
12 districts.

13 I know they have to get larger.

14 I live in Tempe.

15 As a community of interest, Tempe has been around
16 since the 1870s.

17 I've been in Tempe since the 1970s.

18 And I think that right now it's two districts.

19 I don't want to see it split up into any more
20 districts. Tempeans really identify with each other, and if
21 anything we should try and make Tempe as much as one
22 district as we can.

23 And if there's another community of interest that
24 should be included, it would be the small town of Guadalupe,
25 which is surrounded on three sides by the city of Tempe.

1 Their other side is the I-10 freeway.

2 And, but right now they're part of District 16,
3 which is part of Phoenix.

4 The small town of Guadalupe actually shares some
5 city services with the city of Tempe, so I would think that
6 they would be a better match with the city of Tempe than
7 maybe some other areas.

8 Second point I want to make is that I'm part of
9 District 17, which currently is one of only four competitive
10 districts in the state.

11 I've seen the people get more engaged in the
12 process in a competitive district. A lot more people want
13 to get involved because they know they have a fighting
14 chance.

15 And that way more people vote and the best
16 candidates do get elected.

17 We don't want to lose that.

18 We need more than four competitive districts.

19 My final talking point is for the Commission to be
20 strong, stay independent, don't bow to the powers that be,
21 and from what I can hear are obviously scared and going to
22 go down swinging.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25

1 CRAIG FALASCO: Craig Falasco, C-R-A-I-G,
2 F-A-L-A-S-C-O.

3 Thank you for allowing us to speak tonight.

4 First of all, I want to say that I am concerned
5 about certain elected officials trying to interject
6 themselves into this process.

7 In 2000 I voted for an independent Commission.

8 And, in fact, I think it was 56 percent to 44
9 voted to approve that proposition.

10 I think we did the right thing.

11 I think we need to stick with this process and not
12 allow it to go back into the hands of elected officials.

13 We did this because we knew that the elected
14 people who are elected should not be drawing their own
15 lines.

16 And, lastly, I just want to say that I have done
17 quite a bit of reading about this process and the
18 Commission, and I really have not read anything or heard
19 anything credible that would cause me to question the
20 integrity of the process or the Commission.

21 Thanks for having us tonight. Thank you for
22 listening.

23 (Applause.)

24 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: After Paul Brierley, we'll
25 have Wendy Rogers, David Cantelme, and Dawn Master.

1 PAUL BRIERLEY: Thank you. Paul Brierley,
2 B-R-I-E-R-L-E-Y.

3 I'm chairman of District 21 Republicans and also
4 director of organization at the Arizona Farm Bureau, but I'm
5 here representing myself tonight.

6 I want to thank the Commission to your efforts
7 gathering public opinion.

8 I think that's important.

9 And I hope that's nothing predetermined and you'll
10 take what we say tonight to heart.

11 First, I want to give you my perspective as a
12 district chairman for a legislative district, and I'll do it
13 in a nonpartisan way.

14 If you think about it, a legislative district is
15 really the ultimate community of interest.

16 It's a group of people living in the same area,
17 working to elect their congressmen and their state
18 legislators to best represent us.

19 For logistical reasons and to better define a
20 community of interest, I believe legislative districts
21 should be geographically compact and they should be
22 contiguous.

23 They shouldn't cross the boundaries of
24 congressional districts, counties, municipalities, or tribal
25 nations.

1 Why is that?

2 It's because we work together to elect the best
3 representatives for our community.

4 If a congressional district, county, or
5 municipality is split with only a minor part of our
6 district, then we can't work together to elect our
7 representatives.

8 For example, District 21 is most of Chandler and
9 small pieces of Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, and Sun Lakes
10 within our boundaries.

11 Only three of our 79 precincts are in the town of
12 Gilbert.

13 That makes it pretty tough for our district to get
14 real excited and get behind them on Gilbert's town council
15 race, and those precinct committeemen don't really have a
16 voice to help with that election.

17 Most of our district is in
18 Congressional District 6, but a few of our precincts are
19 in Congressional District 5, so, again, those people in
20 District 5 don't have much of a chance to work together with
21 our district and try to elect their representatives.

22 If our boundary was moved to the east, our
23 district would include parts of both Maricopa and Pinal
24 Counties.

25 And I have a concern about that.

1 There would be different county meetings for
2 people to attend, different issues, different elections
3 depending on where you lived in the district.

4 Not only does this really violate communities of
5 interest, but it exponentially increases the complexity of
6 managing the affairs of our district.

7 We'd have different sets of precinct committeemen,
8 different proxies that could be accepted and all sorts of
9 stuff, and it makes it very hard to help those people be
10 politically active.

11 If our boundary were moved south, our district
12 would include part of the Gila River Indian community, and
13 that would clearly break up their community of interest.

14 So to end that point, District 21 clearly is going
15 to have to shrink. We've gained a lot of population growth.

16 I ask you to keep it compact, contiguous, and to
17 not cross the boundaries of municipalities, tribal, or
18 congressional districts.

19 And that brings me to the second point I want to
20 make.

21 One of the greatest, the strongest communities of
22 interest we have in this state consists of Arizona's rural
23 communities.

24 They share much in common with each other, no
25 matter how far apart they are.

1 Their voices can be drowned out by an urban
2 population in their district, and that urban population
3 might be closer in proximity but not in ideology.

4 Rural areas are focused on issues such as natural
5 resources and public lands, agriculture, small business,
6 transportation, property rights, and much more.

7 If I can tell a little story to demonstrate why
8 it's so important.

9 Back before, before we had CD 1 in the last
10 process, there was a gentleman representing a small
11 community talking to his congressman who had most of his
12 constituents in Tucson and then of course spread out to a
13 lot of rural area.

14 And he talked to him about an issue. And the
15 congressman said, Mark, I understand what you're saying.
16 And, Mark, I even agree with you're saying, but, Mark, I
17 can't vote that way because my constituents in Tucson don't
18 feel that way.

19 So the rural areas don't get represented if
20 they're mixed in with urban populations.

21 Ten years ago I stood before this Commission as a
22 resident of Graham County to ask for an all rural district.

23 And we got that with CD 1.

24 By all measures it has been a great success.
25 We've had Republican representatives and Democratic

1 representatives. And I'd say, yeah, I used to live there.

2 And both sides always focused on natural resources
3 in their issues.

4 So I asked you to remember that if you combine a
5 rural and urban population, the rural people are going to
6 lose their voice.

7 Thank you for your attention. The work you do is
8 critical to the future of Arizona. I hope you will do it
9 impartially and take the best interests of the state to
10 heart.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Wendy Rogers.

14 WENDY ROGERS: Wendy Rogers, W-E-N-D-Y, like the
15 hamburgers, R-O-G-E-R-S.

16 Thank you for letting me present.

17 I'm from District 17, which I've had many fellow
18 voters up here to talk from.

19 District 17 is comprised primarily of Tempe, with
20 some of south Scottsdale. So it's about a third south
21 Scottsdale.

22 By way of background, I'm a retired Air Force
23 lieutenant colonel, a pilot, and served 20 years, and have
24 been a small business owner for the last 14 years. I have
25 ten employees. I own a business in Tempe.

1 I ran for the State Senate in this last 2010
2 cycle.

3 I bicycled to over 10,000 homes over the course of
4 15 months.

5 And I would argue that District 17 is perhaps not
6 as competitive as you might be led to believe.

7 I raised my funding privately. I did not
8 participate in clean elections as did my opponent.

9 I raised four times the amount of money that my
10 opponent did.

11 I had over 400 donors, small donors.

12 I had probably 3,000 yard signs out in every
13 single precinct.

14 And worked very hard.

15 Yet could not overcome what I saw as a
16 competitive -- noncompetitive district.

17 I say it's noncompetitive because for the last
18 ten years all three, both state representative and state
19 senate positions, have been from one party.

20 So if someone works very hard, follows through,
21 and does the degree of door-to-door work and fundraising and
22 outreach for a solid year and a half and can't overcome what
23 is the landscape there, I would submit to you that it is
24 arguably not competitive.

25 So, my suggestion is as follows.

1 Right now District 17, I agree, community of
2 interest-wise and competitive-wise should still keep Tempe
3 primarily intact.

4 As such, with it including a third of it is south
5 Scottsdale, I would suggest that the district, because it
6 must grow by some 60,000 voters or so, I would suggest that
7 it extend more up into Scottsdale.

8 In that way it would still keep the community of
9 interest intact of Tempe primarily, and it would simply
10 extend the south Scottsdale component up in a more northerly
11 direction.

12 Thank you very much.

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: David Cantelme.

16 DAVID CANTELME: Good evening, members of the
17 Commission. I also commend you for your hard work. I know
18 this is taking you away from your families, and I really
19 appreciate the job that you're doing.

20 I'd like to make a few points.

21 First point I want to stress is that of course the
22 U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and the Arizona
23 Constitution must be strictly followed, along with the laws
24 that govern the way the Commission is supposed to do its
25 work.

1 Second, Native American reservations and
2 communities must never be split, either congressionally or
3 legislatively.

4 Third, Latinos make up 29 and a half percent of
5 the state's population, and that means that they are
6 entitled to have at least two congressional districts from
7 which they can elect someone of their choice, and a third
8 district in which they should have a strong influence.

9 By the same token at the Legislature, they should
10 have at least nine districts from which they can elect
11 someone of their choice.

12 You know, Arizona's had a very poor history the
13 way it's treated its minority residents.

14 In my lifetime we had high schools in Phoenix and
15 Tucson segregated. We had areas in Arizona in which
16 minority populations could not buy homes.

17 Not in my lifetime, but not much after it, Native
18 Americans didn't have the vote.

19 Now we've passed that thankfully. That sad
20 history is gone. But it should never be repeated, and the
21 way to make sure it's never repeated is to strongly enforce
22 the Voting Rights Act in this state.

23 Whole counties and cities to the extent possible
24 should be placed in the same district.

25 Districts should have equal populations. The

1 software exists so that you can do it with no more than one
2 person different per district.

3 That can be done. The state constitution requires
4 it.

5 Communities of interest. I would strongly urge
6 you to adopt definitions of what those -- that term means,
7 so it can be applied evenly and equally all around this
8 state.

9 Communities of interest should be respected. Our
10 state constitution says that.

11 Independents. The numbers of Independents we know
12 have grown enormously in this state and yet they don't seem
13 to have any voice.

14 Their voice must be respected as you draw the
15 districts that are before you.

16 And last I want to address competitiveness.

17 A lot has been made of competitiveness, and it's
18 certainly a factor in our state constitution, but only to
19 the extent that it does not cause significant detriment to
20 the other criteria that are placed in the constitution above
21 it.

22 I want to make a point with respect to
23 competitiveness.

24 In our congressional districts in the last three
25 elections, we have elected -- we have eight seats in

1 congress, three elections, that makes 24 seats. We have
2 elected 12 Democrats and we've elected 12 Republicans, and
3 that is a very competitive number, and I would put it up
4 against any state in the United States.

5 Finally, I would strongly urge you not to
6 gerrymander districts just for the sake of competitiveness.

7 You must respect communities of interest.

8 Competitiveness will follow.

9 Thank you so much, and I again applaud the work
10 that you're doing.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Dawn Master.

14 She'll be followed by Ronald Gibson, Naomi
15 White -- oh, she already spoke.

16 And Martha Jo Billy.

17 Ms. Master.

18 DAWN MASTER: My name is Dawn Master, D-A-W-N,
19 M-A-S-T-E-R.

20 And I've lived in Arizona for most of my life, and
21 I consider myself a native even though I've grown up on the
22 east coast.

23 I've listened to some extremely good comments here
24 tonight with regard to fairness regarding redistricting.

25 I've also heard some vitriol, and I am sorry to

1 hear that, because political slams against the candidates
2 that we voted into office have no place in meetings such as
3 this.

4 I've walked my area with a Democrat who was
5 campaigning.

6 I've also walked my area with a Republican, Justin
7 Olson.

8 And, by the way, he did visit the houses of
9 Independents, Democrats, and Republicans, and so did the
10 Democrat. So if you weren't home, you didn't see these two
11 men.

12 But let's be fair to them.

13 The other thing I have to say regarding your
14 redistricting, if we start doing this on a racial ethnic
15 basis, then where do my Irish, Scottish, Welsh, German,
16 French, et cetera, et cetera, ancestors, with their little
17 carved out section, so I think you have to be very careful
18 doing this.

19 Communities have developed for a reason.

20 Within my community, I have Blacks, I have
21 Hispanic, I have White, and we have other, other ethnic
22 groups. So are you going to carve those out and put those
23 over into a Hispanic area?

24 I certainly hope not.

25 I've campaigned for some of those people.

1 I think we need to use common sense here.

2 And the gentleman that spoke just shortly from the
3 beginning, who said this is not rocket science work, he's
4 absolutely right.

5 You people have been selected. You're highly
6 intelligence, anyhow we're hoping for that, and hoping
7 you're fair.

8 And we think any one of you could sit down and
9 look at a map and see where our districts now are, are --
10 the lines are drawn, and understand if you need 50 more
11 people, you don't go drawing them from up in the north end
12 of the state or taking them from the south.

13 As for the rest of us here, I would like to tell
14 you that one third of Arizona are Democrats, one third are
15 Republicans, one third are Independent.

16 What does that really mean?

17 Well, obviously we've heard from the Democrats,
18 and we've heard from the Republicans, and that crosses both
19 sides here this evening.

20 They have definite views. What are the
21 Independents? Who are they?

22 They're disgruntled Democrats and Republicans.

23 We don't like to hear that, but that's exactly
24 what they are.

25 I'm a precinct committeeman, and I've visited the

1 homes of all these people, Independents, Republicans, and
2 Democrats. They're disgruntled. They are unhappy with what
3 our representatives are doing.

4 Not, not the Republicans aren't just unhappy with
5 what the Democrats are doing. They're unhappy with what the
6 Republicans are doing.

7 The Democrats aren't just unhappy with what their
8 Democrats are doing -- or the Republicans are doing.
9 They're unhappy with what the Democrats are doing.

10 We're a very unhappy nation.

11 So if you're going to draw your lines based on
12 Independents, and they're not getting their vote, believe me
13 they are voting.

14 And they are switching back and forth.

15 That's why you see Republicans get in, then you
16 see Democrats get in.

17 It's not because they're not being represented.
18 It's because they're tired of all of them.

19 So if we have representatives that get into our
20 office and speak clearly and do what they say they're going
21 to do, just like we're asking you gentlemen and the lady who
22 is missing to do, if you do what you promise us you're going
23 to do, we'll say God bless you, get on your way, you've done
24 a good job.

25 But if you're giving us double speak like some of

1 our politicians on both sides of the aisle have done, we're
2 going to boot you.

3 So, that's what I have to say.

4 And I'm just a grandma, but I'm telling you we
5 care about our kids, we care about our grandkids, and we
6 care about our community. And we don't need to be divided
7 racially.

8 That's what is wrong with us right now.

9 Let's start reaching out to one another.

10 My father was a Republican. My mother was a
11 Democrat.

12 I truly know what Independent means.

13 (Applause.)

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Ronald Gibson.

15 RONALD GIBSON: I am Ronald Gibson. My last name
16 is spelled G-I-B-S-O-N.

17 I too was born in west Mesa like many others
18 here, but more recently than some of the others, so I've
19 probably not seen as much of the politics of the state as
20 you have.

21 I have however learned a lot of history of
22 politics of this state and this of nation which I imagine
23 most people in this room don't seem to pay that much
24 attention to.

25 George Washington stated in his farewell address

1 in 1789 a long list of reasons why we should not allow a
2 two-party system in this country, because of the reasons
3 being to assure that if we did, that all of these reasons
4 which he had seen happen in England before would happen
5 here.

6 Every one of those predictions came true.

7 I would like invite everyone to read that.

8 Now, I am a Libertarian, which is why I will not
9 comment on any of the Republicans statements here or the
10 Democrat statements here.

11 There has been a lot of repetition here tonight.

12 You want to hear something new, listen up, because
13 that's what I'm here to say.

14 All right.

15 Now, I rehearsed a lot of this and now I can't
16 remember.

17 All right. Well, at any rate, what we have
18 here -- see, Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men are created
19 equal.

20 It's a self-evident truth.

21 There's a lot of talk here about racial people
22 here who want to make sure that the districts are based on
23 race.

24 Why do we want to make them based on race?

25 Are we not all people here? Is it not one race,

1 the human race?

2 The census shouldn't even be counting people's
3 race.

4 These districts should be based on the total
5 number of people in them, period.

6 Not White people, Black people, Hispanic people,
7 Asian people.

8 People.

9 We're all humans.

10 How many races do we need to consider?

11 Do we have Martians that are here? Do we have
12 Klingons? Do we have any Wookiees?

13 I don't think so.

14 We're all humans here.

15 And many of us are actually mixed race. Where do
16 they get counted as was mentioned before?

17 Okay. I am repeating a little bit. I should
18 avoid doing that.

19 So my basic point is we need to stop thinking of
20 race.

21 We need to just divide people.

22 Now, I don't believe that we can necessarily get
23 them all based with one different, one person different, as
24 most houses do not average one person in them. And this is
25 also part of the complex decision, but within five or ten,

1 it's possible.

2 Why in the world would we have any districts that
3 were not connected -- the entire district was not connected
4 to each other.

5 I've heard several people mention districts that
6 have a little bit over here, a little bit over there.

7 Why don't we draw the lines to where they're all
8 connected and, as was also mentioned, that they can work
9 together to elect their people.

10 Also a lot of other people have also said that
11 they are very happy with the way the districts were drawn
12 and they won't want to change.

13 That could be because they're happy with the chair
14 they're sitting in right now.

15 That might be a good thing. That might be a bad
16 thing.

17 But if things need to change, they need to change.
18 That's simply the way it is.

19 And we're going to need a new legislative district
20 for the state, because Arizona's going to get another
21 congressman.

22 The question is where that congressman is going to
23 be from.

24 I'll be interested in seeing that.

25 What else did I have to say?

1 Oh, yes, nearly every district in this state has
2 either a Republican majority or a Democratic majority.

3 Now, I would like to see that changed.

4 I don't think necessarily that we should be
5 gerrymandering based on party. But if we do, we might
6 consider having some parties -- some districts that are not
7 dominated by one of these parties.

8 There are the Libertarian party, there's the Green
9 Party, and there's about two dozen other parties in this
10 state.

11 I think perhaps we might have a better chance of
12 fairness if instead of having two Republicans and two
13 Democrats and one so-called Independent, that is, in fact, a
14 purported Democrat in disguise, depending on which party
15 happens to control the district -- the Redistricting
16 Commission, we should instead have five different parties
17 represented here.

18 Because we do have more than two parties in this
19 state, believe it or not.

20 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sir, four minutes, could you
21 wrap it up, please?

22 RONALD GIBSON: Okay. Well, I pretty much said
23 what I had to say.

24 I mean, we need to consider other parties around
25 here.

1 It's been -- we've got Republicans fighting
2 against Democrats, and that's all we've got. We need to
3 have somebody else to consider.

4 Thanks.

5 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Martha Jo Billy.

6 Followed by Kathy Pearce and William Crum.

7 MARTHA JO BILLY: Good evening. I'm Martha Jo
8 Billy, B, as in boy, I-L-L-Y.

9 If I -- this -- I'm not used to public speaking.
10 So if I get rambling, blink a red light at me as long as
11 it's not a laser.

12 I know some people have talked about their number
13 of years in Arizona. And other than the man who said he was
14 born in east Mesa and had the white hair, I may have been
15 here longer than anybody else.

16 I've been here 54 years.

17 And living from the Navajo reservation, the
18 Fort Apache reservation, down through the center of Arizona,
19 south, and I live in District 18 now, which is very
20 noncompetitive.

21 And probably the most noncompetitive district in
22 the state.

23 I would like to say that I admire you for your
24 work you're doing and the purpose of doing the
25 redistricting.

1 And, please, do it in a fair way and not have
2 districts going from the northern part of the state down
3 through the southern part of the state.

4 The gentleman that mentioned redistricting and not
5 doing it by race, it was done by race.

6 I know like with the Navajos, they were divided up
7 in the last redistricting because predominantly they have
8 voted Democrat and they were divided up so they would have
9 less power as a nation in their voting.

10 I heard someone remark tonight that they needed
11 more than 48 hours to know -- be notified about these
12 meetings.

13 I believe that's the way she said it.

14 I don't know why she didn't know before, because I
15 could have gone to all of your meetings.

16 I've gotten them in the e-mail. I think you had
17 one in Yuma and somewhere else.

18 If I could have driven to them.

19 So I've been -- I think you've done well in
20 notifying people where the meetings are.

21 I would -- I cannot believe after the last census
22 the way the redistricting was drawn. It was obvious it was
23 political. And I hope that this committee will not redraw
24 the lines in a political way.

25 I also for a short while, a little earlier,

1 wondered if I was at the 2012 presidential election when
2 people were talking about President Obama.

3 What does he have to do with the redistricting in
4 Arizona?

5 These people should not be allowed to get -- go to
6 websites and then stand up here and read and quote websites.

7 And if they are planning to do that, only one of
8 them should do it.

9 So, I haven't seen the red light, but I -- oh,
10 it's that.

11 Then I'll quit, and thank you very much.

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Kathy Pearce.

15 KATHY PEARCE: My name is Kathy, K-A-T-H-Y,
16 Pearce, P-E-A-R-C-E.

17 As in Senate president Pearce's spelling.

18 I'm going to yield my time. I think everything
19 has pretty much been said.

20 A gentleman covered the topics that I was going to
21 talk about.

22 But I just want to remind everybody in this room
23 and you commissioners that if we will follow the
24 constitution and the Voting Rights Act and the Arizona
25 Constitution, that I think we can solve all of these issues.

1 And that competitiveness is not the major factor
2 here.

3 That can be done as long as we're not eliminating
4 other more important factors in redistricting.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

7 (APPLAUSE.)

8 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next we have William Crum,
9 followed by Karyn Cushing, and then Richard Van Duyne.

10 WILLIAM CRUM: My name is William Crum,
11 W-I-L-L-I-A-M. And the last name is -- last name is
12 C-R-U-M.

13 I can give you a perspective from my -- basically
14 what I am. I heard our -- my party mentioned in a negative
15 way, which is the Arizona Green Party.

16 We are the smallest party in our state.

17 And when you look at both sides of our -- the
18 Democrats and Republicans, and say what the heck, they've
19 already carved out the state, so we're not going to -- but
20 we're still going to try.

21 Because the first thing that I am, before I am a
22 member of the Arizona Green Party, I am an American.

23 And that's all we would be doing here.

24 I have the largest district per people voters in
25 the state. It's over 500,000.

1 It's in CD 2.

2 Now occupied by Trent Franks.

3 And why is Trent there? Because the party had
4 over 206,000 voters in my district.

5 They have 146,000 Democrats. 146 Independents is
6 what we call that.

7 So I do like the last name they call them. They
8 called them others.

9 The last time -- I'm still an American, and that's
10 what I would like to be called.

11 When I sit there and run, and I don't know if
12 anyone here has run before, but you get to see a different
13 perspective when you run. Perspective, pardon me.

14 The thing is make it fair.

15 I mean, I don't care what you do. Basically right
16 now part of CD 2. It's the Hopi nation.

17 Does anybody know what the Hopi nation?

18 Why are they included in CD 2?

19 The problem is these districts are White people.
20 There's some the Democrats can walk in with any Democrat and
21 win.

22 There are some the Republicans can walk in and
23 win.

24 But there's none for me.

25 So I'm fighting all the way, regardless of who's

1 in charge.

2 The problem is I have a lot of things in mind.

3 I've been married to Marilyn for over 35 years, and it's all
4 in Arizona.

5 I have five daughters, and they have for some
6 unGodly reason gave me 21 grandkids.

7 So who do I fight for?

8 They're not part of a party.

9 They're not part of the left or right. They don't
10 need to see their school cut in half because we need to make
11 people stupid.

12 And we don't.

13 These are smart kids out there. When they catch
14 on, get up where they can vote, I'm afraid some of these
15 politicians are going to get walking papers.

16 That's what I want.

17 I want to make it fair enough that regardless of
18 race, if you want to call it that, your color or creed,
19 whatever you want, that people look at you as just an
20 American running for office.

21 Thank you.

22 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Karyn Cushing.

25 KAREN CUSHING: Karyn, K-A-R-Y-N, Cushing,

1 C-U-S-H-I-N-G.

2 And I just want to say that on this piece of paper
3 here is my own talking points and my own thoughts and
4 concerns.

5 I'm sure that all of you gentlemen here are
6 aware -- are aware that a great many of us are concerned
7 about Strategic Telemetry's ability to redistrict our state
8 in a fair and nonpartisan manner.

9 What really disturbs me is that Strategic
10 Telemetry has specifically been involved in helping only
11 Democrat and progressive campaigns to help liberal
12 progressive candidates to win.

13 Now, those of you that may think and vote
14 differently than I do, let me ask you this. How would you
15 feel if you discovered that the consulting firm that your
16 Commission hired backed only Republican and conservative
17 candidates and causes? Wouldn't you be suspicious?

18 The American task before you is to be fair and
19 nonpartisan.

20 Conservatives like myself will be watching the
21 redistricting process very closely.

22 And I just want to add, we talked -- we've had
23 people come up and talk about the constitution. And I just
24 want to say that nowhere in the constitution does it say
25 that we live in a democracy.

1 We live in a constitutional republic.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

4 (APPLAUSE.)

5 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Richard Van Duyne.

6 RICHARD VAN DUYNE: My name is Richard Van Duyne,
7 V-A-N, D-U-Y-N-E.

8 To the committee, thank you for taking on this
9 task. I said this to you once before, and I mean it.

10 Thank you for listening.

11 I live in District 19.

12 It's not very competitive.

13 My concern is the importance of competitive
14 districts.

15 I understand communities of interest,
16 neighborhoods, and a common culture.

17 I like my neighborhood. I like my schools. I
18 like my community.

19 However, and this is my point. It is my opinion
20 that competitive districts allow voters and compel
21 candidates to better understand the concerns of others.

22 In a representative democracy, our government,
23 that's us, we should be concerned about all people, just not
24 ourselves.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I want to call out for John
4 Fillmore, Representative Fillmore, sorry, we missed him
5 earlier apparently.

6 And Gary Gillger, is he here?

7 (No response.)

8 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: No, he isn't.

9 That brings us to the end of the public comment
10 phase of the hearing.

11 (Applause.)

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I want to thank you all for
13 coming.

14 The commissioners -- and I was probably remiss in
15 not giving my friend Jose Herrera a chance to welcome you
16 all when we started.

17 The commissioners are allowed to respond to public
18 criticism at the end of the public comment, and I want to
19 give him the opportunity to do that, and also to say any
20 other words he may have.

21 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I can't thank you enough for
22 being here. These are long meetings. I know most of you
23 work.

24 We work.

25 We don't get paid for this.

1 The reason I volunteered is I really want to make
2 a difference in the state of Arizona.

3 I'm a native here.

4 I intend to live here.

5 And to me competition is the main thing.

6 I don't care if it's a Republican district or a
7 Democratic district. You got to have competitive districts
8 for all districts.

9 And if, you know, things eventually will change in
10 Arizona, whether you like it or not. They may go Democrat
11 and may switch back. But if the party that you favor is in
12 power, some of your thoughts may change.

13 You may not want the legislature to redraw the
14 districts as they did once before.

15 And I don't know if they had public comments like
16 we did, but I think I want to urge you to, you know, if you
17 supported Prop 106 in the past, I hope you continue to
18 support it.

19 Because the voters spoke, and I think it's the
20 right thing.

21 I voted for Prop 106, and we are trying to make it
22 as open as possible to get the comments.

23 And I appreciate you guys being there.

24 We may not always agree.

25 But I think all five of us, including my fellow

1 Republicans and the Independent, they're good people. They
2 really are. They care about the state.

3 And when you vilify them, it really doesn't help
4 us in terms of determining what you want from us.

5 Because we're looking here for -- to draw the
6 maps, and vilifying us or the mapping consultants or the
7 attorneys doesn't really get at what we want from you.

8 What we want from you is to tell us about your
9 community, tell us about if competition is important to you,
10 and those six criteria that we're looking at. That's what
11 we're looking for because that's exactly what can help us
12 draw those maps.

13 And I encourage you in the next meetings to do
14 that.

15 If you didn't talk about those issues that are
16 important to you, do so.

17 Because that's how -- it will make our lives a lot
18 easier.

19 So I -- we tend to focus a lot on our differences,
20 but I would bet that some of the Tea Party members, or some
21 other parties represented here, we probably have more in
22 common than you think.

23 We are all Arizonans. We love the state.

24 And let's focus on the similarities we have
25 instead of the differences.

1 We tend to do that quite a bit.

2 I would venture to guess if you guys get to know
3 me, or the other Democrats or Republicans, that we have a
4 lot in common.

5 I, again, thank you for being here. We'll be in
6 Lake Havasu -- excuse me, Bullhead City tomorrow. We're
7 traveling there. And if you're planning and you want to
8 travel with us, not in the same car, but maybe follow us,
9 I'm happy to have you.

10 And, again, get to know people in the Commission,
11 and you'll find out that we're not bogeymen and neither is
12 the mapping service or the attorney that we hired.

13 They're good people, and they care about the
14 state, and they will do the job that the public wants us to
15 do.

16 So, thank you for being here tonight, and have a
17 good night.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Herrera.

20 Before we break up, can we have quiet, please.

21 I'm sorry, I didn't mean to delay you. I wanted
22 to take a quick moment to respond to some of the criticism
23 myself.

24 First on the issue of hearings.

25 The Commission has scheduled a lot of hearings

1 over the next two weeks all over the state.

2 I agree with some of that criticism that perhaps
3 we needed to be looking at other high growth areas in the
4 state, and, and in service more -- another hearing, perhaps
5 one in the Globe, Chandler area, Flagstaff area, perhaps the
6 west valley.

7 I'll ask around to see if the Commission will take
8 that correction.

9 There was also criticism levied and here tonight
10 it has been a recurring theme that goes towards the
11 almost -- almost the legitimacy of the process or perhaps
12 even the Commission itself.

13 And unfortunately that is a narrative that began
14 some months ago.

15 It's been quite a distraction for us.

16 It began with the retention of the lawyers. And
17 there were accusations raised at the time of behind closed
18 doors negotiations and sort of rigging of the -- sort of a
19 result-oriented process has been the narrative.

20 That continued unfortunately with the retention of
21 the mapping consultant.

22 Again, there's been lots of controversy swirling
23 around that.

24 Again, the theme is it's a result-oriented
25 process.

1 And for some people out there, I want to
2 acknowledge, they feel like that's two strikes against us
3 right now, and we're just coming up to the most important
4 thing we're going to do, which is to develop these maps.
5 And I don't want it to be strike three. I want us to swing
6 for the fences.

7 I want us to do a good job for the people.

8 What I support here is a fair, politically
9 balanced, and independent Commission that conducts itself in
10 a way that builds confidence in the people, not only in the
11 process, but I would hope in the end result.

12 And I want to be very clear on that. To that end,
13 I support each and every one of the commissioners. I
14 support Commissioner Herrera, Madam Chair, and
15 Commissioner Stertz, and Commissioner McNulty.

16 And I think the most important thing we can do is
17 to make sure we do a good job with the maps.

18 If the people get very involved and watch
19 every step, come to our hearings, make comments, make
20 criticisms, tell us about your communities of interest, tell
21 us about competitive districts, compactness, community of
22 interest, geographic lines, and just stay with us on this
23 process.

24 I hope we get to an end result where it's not a
25 3-2 vote, that we have a bipartisan map that represents the

1 state and we can all feel proud of it.

2 And with that, that ends our hearing. We will
3 close the hearing at 8:46 p.m.

4 Thank you all very much.

5 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.
3

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
5 taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter,
6 CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 125
7 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all
8 proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to
9 the best of my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 2nd day of
11 August, 2011.

12

13

14 C. Martin Herder, CCR
15 Certified Court Reporter
16 Certificate No. 50162

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