

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Thursday, October 20, 2011
6:26 p.m.

Location

**Maryvale High School Auditorium
3415 North 59th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85033**

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner

Ray Bladine, Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director

Bruce Adelson, Legal Counsel
Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162

Phoenix, Arizona
October 20, 2011
6:26 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening. This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

Today is Thursday, October 20th. And the time is 6:26 p.m.

Let's begin by standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening, everyone. I apologize for this delay tonight. We had some technical difficulties and weren't able to get the projector here working, so fortunately we have a backup and it seems to be working fine at the moment. So we'll be moving to that later in our, in our meeting.

But I appreciate your patience while we got all that sorted out.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to obtain public input. That's the whole reason we're here.

1 And there's going to be an opportunity for you to
2 come up and address the Commission tonight. And in order to
3 do that, you need to fill out a request to speak form, the
4 yellow forms that you should have seen on the way in.

5 And fill that out for us, and tell us who you're
6 representing if you're representing anyone. Otherwise if
7 it's just yourself, you can write self. And also note the
8 city or county where you reside. We don't -- please don't
9 tell us your address, but just the city or county or town
10 would suffice.

11 If you are not interested in addressing the
12 Commission tonight, in the back of the packets that were
13 available there's a blue form. The last page of the packet
14 is a blue form.

15 And that will allow you to -- you can fill out
16 written comments essentially and turn that into any one of
17 our staff, whom I'll be introducing in a minute. And it
18 will get entered into the public record just the same as it
19 would if you came up and addressed us at the podium.

20 So feel free to submit input any way you would
21 like.

22 And you can even take that form home and send it
23 in later to us by mailing it to us, and also you can e-mail
24 us through our website. You can submit comments online.

25 There's a whole bunch of ways to do it, so don't

1 feel like this is your last shot by any means.

2 So, with that, I will now go ahead and introduce
3 the people at the table tonight.

4 I have one other commissioner,
5 Commissioner McNulty.

6 Vice-Chair Freeman, Vice-Chair Herrera, and
7 Commissioner Stertz are not here this evening, but we are
8 streaming this live over the Internet and so they can watch
9 this from home, and I am sure they are.

10 And this is also recorded so that later on you can
11 watch this from your home if you'd like to.

12 All of our hearings are recorded and on our
13 website, azredistricting.org.

14 And I should also note that all -- not all the
15 commissioners travel to all the hearings. We're dividing
16 them up. And we're traveling to 26 cities across the state,
17 so taking turns and going to different locations.

18 So, that's the reason that there are only two here
19 tonight.

20 Other folks at the table tonight are legal
21 counsel, Joe Kanefield and Bruce Adelson.

22 We have our mapping consultant, Korinne Belock.

23 We have a court reporter, Marty Herder, who's
24 taking a transcript of everything that's said tonight.

25 And tonight, just a reminder, when you do come up

1 for public comment, please be sure to say your name and
2 spell it so that we get an accurate accounting for the
3 transcript.

4 Other folks in the room are our staff tonight.

5 Our chief technology officer, Buck Forst, who
6 we're putting through his paces.

7 Our executive director, Ray Bladine.

8 Deputy executive director, Kristina Gomez.

9 We also have some public outreach coordinators who
10 should have greeted you on the way in.

11 Lisa Schmelling and Kristi Olson are both here.

12 And I believe that's it for staff.

13 We also have tonight a translator. Federal law
14 requires us to translate all of these hearings, or at least
15 provide translation or interpretive services to anyone who
16 might need them.

17 And tonight we have Carlos Reyes here.

18 And if he could come up.

19 And he'll state in English what he's going to then
20 state in Spanish, which is essentially to offer these
21 services.

22 Thanks, Carlos.

23 CARLOS REYES: Good evening, Chair Mathis and
24 commissioners.

25 Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with Voting

1 Rights -- the Voting Rights Act, a translator and
2 interpreter will be available at all public hearings in
3 order to provide translation and interpreting services that
4 might be needed. For those citizens that need translating
5 or interpreting services, please contact the translator or
6 interpreter present at this meeting so that he can -- he or
7 she can assist you.

8 And now I will read it in Spanish.

9 (Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in
10 Spanish.)

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

12 So with that, I think we have introduced everyone
13 and can move on to the next part of our hearing.

14 And I'll turn it over to Korinne Belock from
15 Strategic Telemetry, and she'll give you a presentation on
16 the process.

17 KORINNE BELOCK: Thank you.

18 Good evening, I'm Korinne Belock, with Strategic
19 Telemetry. I'm happy to be here this evening to discuss the
20 draft congressional and legislative maps presented by the
21 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

22 The goal of these meetings is to hear comments
23 from you about the draft maps, so thank you for taking the
24 time to attend this evening.

25 The draft maps you will see today are currently

1 under a 30-day review period so that the Commission can hear
2 your opinion about the maps.

3 Before getting into the maps, I want to give you a
4 quick overview of the redistricting process.

5 Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the
6 state constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the
7 passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates that the Arizona
8 Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's
9 congressional and legislative districts to reflect the
10 results of the most recent census.

11 Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a
12 congressional seat going from eight to nine seats.

13 So what are the requirements of the state
14 constitution via Prop 106?

15 The new district boundaries must comply with the
16 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

17 They must also have equal population.

18 And criteria A and B are federally mandated.

19 And then to the extent practicable the districts
20 must be compact and contiguous, respect communities of
21 interest, use visible geographic features, city, town, and
22 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and favor
23 competitive districts where no significant detriment to
24 other goals.

25 So just a bit about the Voting Rights Act.

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

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

9 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
10 cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce
11 minority voters' rights, and the presence of discrimination
12 can be determined by analyzing population data and election
13 results.

14 So very briefly, we have Bruce Adelson, who's an
15 attorney with the Federal Compliance Consulting group who's
16 advising the Commission on matters related to the Voting
17 Rights Act and preclearance, to give a few words.

18 BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you.

19 Thank you. And good evening, everybody. It's a
20 pleasure to be here.

21 I wanted to just spend a few minutes with you and
22 talk a little bit about Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

23 I was the senior attorney for the United States
24 Department of Justice nine years ago that reviewed Arizona's
25 legislative and congressional redistricting plans.

1 As you just heard and see in the power point,
2 federal law, the Voting Rights Act, requires that all
3 redistricting from Arizona gain approval from the Department
4 of Justice or a federal court in Washington, D.C.

5 Without that approval, the legislative or
6 congressional maps cannot be used.

7 Nine years ago my team wrote the letter in May of
8 2002 that objected to or blocked the use of your legislative
9 redistricting plan.

10 We determined that the plan under federal law was
11 discriminatory and that it reduced the opportunity of
12 minority voters to elect their candidates of choice.

13 Without that preclearance, without that approval,
14 there can be no redistricting, there can be no election that
15 flows from the redistricting.

16 All your state criteria are very important, like
17 compactness and contiguity, excuse me, competitiveness.

18 The federal criteria of one person, one vote under
19 the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act are absolutely
20 paramount.

21 If the state considerations conflict with those,
22 then those considerations need to be looked at and revised.

23 The Voting Rights Act absolutely needs to be
24 complied with and -- in order to gain that approval of
25 preclearance.

1 I appreciate the opportunity to spend some time
2 with you, and I hope that my perspective as a former federal
3 law enforcement officer will be helpful. Thank you very
4 much.

5 KORINNE BELOCK: Thank you.

6 Before we get to the maps, just a little bit more
7 about the process of redistricting.

8 To go into the timeline, earlier this year, step
9 one, the Commission was established. Commissioners were
10 appointed following a thorough screening process and serve
11 in a voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

12 And you can see tonight we, of course, have Madam
13 Chairman Colleen Mathis and Linda McNulty. And the other
14 commissioners that aren't present are listed here on the
15 slide.

16 The second step was the first round hearings.

17 Before drawing a single line, the Commission held
18 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to
19 get input from members of the public about issues related to
20 things such as geography, communities of interest, minority
21 voting rights, and competitiveness.

22 Then the mapping actually began.

23 Per Proposition 106, which we'll talk a little bit
24 more about, the Commission started with a clean slate. Then
25 they divided the state into equal population and compact

1 grid-like districts, which a grid map was approved on
2 August 18th.

3 Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has
4 met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid
5 to accommodate all the state constitutional criteria.
6 During this time, they received additional public comment
7 and draft maps from the public as well.

8 Approval of the maps, of these draft maps. On
9 October 3rd, the Commission approved the draft congressional
10 map that incorporated changes based on all the
11 constitutional criteria, and it approved a draft legislative
12 map on October 10.

13 Which brings us to the process we're in now, which
14 is second round hearings.

15 Currently the Commission is visiting 25 towns and
16 cities to share the draft maps and to receive additional
17 input during the months of October and November.

18 The fifth step is the final maps. Upon completion
19 of the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt the final
20 maps.

21 And step six, which Bruce touched upon, is the
22 preclearance.

23 So because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the
24 Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the
25 federal Department of Justice or a federal court in

1 Washington, D.C., before they can be used in Arizona
2 elections.

3 So just moving on to the maps now.

4 To show how the Commission came to the current
5 draft map, we'll show you a progression of the mapping
6 process.

7 The map you see on the screen here is the
8 congressional map that was approved by the last
9 Redistricting Commission and was most recently used in the
10 elections in 2010.

11 Then per Proposition 106, the Commission was
12 required to start with a blank slate, not taking into
13 consideration any election districts or incumbents.

14 With the congressional grid map, it was created
15 also for Proposition 106, which you see on the screen. The
16 Commission started with a grid map, but the grid map only
17 takes into consideration two of the six constitutional
18 criteria, equal population and compactness.

19 So in August the Commission asked that two grid
20 maps be drawn. On August 18 they agreed on option two,
21 which is the version that you see on the screen here.

22 Which brings us to the congressional draft map.

23 After more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted
24 to approve the draft map that you see on the screen here.

25 And addition to taking into consideration the six

1 constitutional criteria, the Commission took into
2 consideration public comments that they received via the
3 public meetings in round one and in the comments mailed,
4 e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and telephoned into the
5 Commission.

6 Over 5,000 comments helped to develop this map.

7 And as you see, some of the highlights of the
8 congressional map are listed here.

9 Which include two predominantly rural districts,
10 three border districts, three districts in the greater
11 Tucson region, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa
12 County, the draft map avoids splitting Arizona's Indian
13 reservations, and it has created two districts where
14 minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of
15 choice.

16 So going through the process for the legislative
17 maps was very similar.

18 Here we see the legislative map that the
19 Commission -- the last Commission developed and used most
20 recently in the 2010 elections.

21 Then we go to the blank slate per Proposition 106.

22 Which takes us to the grid map, which was approved
23 in August.

24 And similar to the congressional map, the grid map
25 only took into consideration equal population and

1 compactness.

2 Which leads to the congressional -- I'm sorry, the
3 legislative draft map.

4 Arizona has 30 legislative districts, and each
5 district elects one senator and two house members.

6 Some points about the legislative map to touch on.

7 The population growth and reduction was taken into
8 consideration. For the old districts, the population ranged
9 from about 155,000 to 378,000.

10 With the current draft as it is, the population
11 ranges from 207,000 to 215,000.

12 To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the plan
13 includes ten districts in which minority voters have an
14 opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

15 And the draft map includes three districts wholly
16 within Pima County, and three additional districts in
17 southern Arizona. It includes 17 districts primarily within
18 Maricopa County. And nine districts that are primarily
19 rural.

20 So, again, as I mentioned the Commission very much
21 wants to hear your input and your say about these draft
22 maps, and there are many ways to make sure that your voice
23 is heard.

24 You can fill out a request to speak form at any
25 public hearing and provide the Commission with your input.

1 Examples of input might include your thoughts on the
2 constitutional criteria or the specific recommendations to
3 the congressional or legislative maps.

4 THE WITNESS: You can submit your input also by
5 speaking at the hearing. You can fill out a public input
6 form at a hearing or on the AIRC website. And, again, visit
7 the website Arizona -- azredistricting.org or call
8 (602)542-5221, or toll free at (855)733-7478, with any input
9 or comments that you might have about these maps.

10 Another goal of the Commission is to make sure
11 that you can stay connected through this process.

12 And what you have here is a screen shot of the
13 Commission's website.

14 The arrow highlights some key areas of interest.

15 For example, under meetings, you can find
16 meetings, future, past.

17 If you want to see how the public comment for
18 forming the draft maps came together, you can visit maps --
19 the meetings by date on the map -- on the website.

20 If you'd like to make comments, you can click on
21 the public input form.

22 And then if you want to view maps, you can click
23 on maps.

24 The arrow on the bottom takes you to the draft
25 maps that have been created.

1 And this is the screen that will pop up for you.

2 Most people, of course, are more interested in
3 viewing the draft maps, and the maps are displayed on this
4 screen as you see them in a number of different formats.

5 File types like JPEG, PDF, or Google maps are some
6 examples.

7 The KMZ/Google link, circled in red on the screen
8 here, is a great way to view the maps and will take you
9 to -- directly to Google maps.

10 We'll talk a little bit more about that.

11 This is a view of the Google maps. It's a great
12 way to view the maps because you can zoom in and out to
13 specific areas to see the boundaries of your district or
14 areas you're interested in.

15 Here you see the draft congressional map as it
16 shows through the KMZ file, Google map.

17 On the left side you have the ability to turn off
18 or on any of these filters, such as the names of the
19 counties, the names of the districts.

20 You can also un-highlight colors of the maps. You
21 can better view specific areas you want to see.

22 This just allows you -- turning on and off the
23 filters allows you to view the maps even more clearly.

24 And now to show you a zoomed in version of the
25 map.

1 This slide shows you a zoomed in version of
2 districts surrounding Maricopa County as an example.

3 Again, you have the ability to zoom in and out on
4 the maps, so you can zoom in down to your block or street
5 level and those surrounding areas so you can see exactly
6 where the lines are drawn.

7 So as I wrap this up, I just want to highlight the
8 Commission's website once again, azredistricting.org.

9 On the website you can draw maps, you can watch
10 hearings, and you'll find information about the future
11 hearings.

12 I also encourage you to follow us on Twitter at
13 /AIRC, and you can also follow us on Facebook and friend us
14 on Facebook for up-to-the-minute updates.

15 So, so I'd like to thank you for attending this
16 evening and for being part of this process.

17 As a final point on these maps, copies can be
18 found in the packet that you received tonight.

19 And we also have poster size versions of the
20 maps, I believe, out in the lobby. I'll double check that
21 just to be sure. I didn't see them when I walked in here.
22 But we usually have the blown-up versions of the maps out
23 there.

24 And that will allow you to see everything more
25 clearly.

1 Again, I'm available for after the public comment
2 portion of this meeting if you have any specific questions
3 about viewing maps or about the maps that have been created,
4 and also you can contact any of the staff members tonight
5 for any questions you might have about that, or have access
6 to the maps on the Commission's website as well.

7 So, I look forward to speaking with you, and
8 thanks again for having us here tonight.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Korinne.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I think I neglected to
12 mention where we are tonight, and I should for our friends
13 who are streaming. We're at Maryvale High School, and we
14 very much appreciate their hospitality in hosting us
15 tonight.

16 So thank you all for doing this for us.

17 This is our 11th hearing in this second round of
18 public hearings, out of a total of -- it's right now 27.
19 Who knows if a couple more get added.

20 But we're not quite halfway through the second
21 round yet.

22 So we have a ways to go, but we appreciate you
23 participating tonight.

24 So we're now at the public comment portion of the
25 meeting, and I've got a stack of request to speak forms in

1 front of me.

2 Again, this is the primary purpose we're here
3 tonight is for you all to tell us your thoughts on the draft
4 congressional map and the draft legislative map.

5 And to the extent you can be specific, please feel
6 free to do so.

7 The more specific you are about why you like or
8 don't like the maps, that's very helpful to the Commission.
9 And even if you thought about if modifications in your
10 opinion need to be made, if you could tell us about how
11 those would impact the other lines, or changes you might
12 make elsewhere in order to accommodate your changes, that's
13 very helpful too.

14 Because, as you know, any movement of the lines
15 means you have to move other lines.

16 They all move together, so, we, we are looking for
17 all that kind of input, so please feel free to be as
18 specific as you can.

19 Just a reminder for public comment, if you could
20 come up to the microphone and speak directly into it, give
21 us your name, please spell your last name, state where you
22 live, and if you're representing anyone please tell us that
23 information as well. Otherwise if it's just yourself,
24 please just say self.

25 And with that, I think that will allow us to move

1 into public comment.

2 I don't think there's any other things I'm
3 forgetting.

4 Our first speaker tonight -- and if you could
5 actually limit your comments to four minutes per person.
6 We won't cut you off if you're going over four minutes,
7 but just to give everyone a chance to speak, I'd appreciate
8 it if you could try to limit your comments to four minutes.
9 If you hear the timer go off, you don't need to stop
10 instantly, but just begin to wrap up your thoughts, that
11 would be very helpful.

12 So our first speaker tonight is
13 State Representative Richard Miranda, representing AZ
14 Minority Coalition Committee, from Phoenix.

15 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD MIRANDA: Richard Miranda.
16 You want to know the general area?

17 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Even closer, if you could get
18 closer.

19 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD MIRANDA: I'm from the
20 Tolleson area? Is that --

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: That's fine.

22 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD MIRANDA: Okay.

23 Basically, you know, it's like the Rolling Stones.
24 It's like you don't always get what you want but you get
25 what you need.

1 And with the coalition maps, they -- the way you
2 have them drafted now, I understand the issues that you had
3 to deal with, but I understand the need to pass the DOJ
4 preclearance.

5 And I would, I would just suggest that in
6 District 19, the northwest corner, there's a little
7 community that sticks out like a -- it sticks out, and that
8 northwest, that upper extreme northwest community is quite
9 unlike the rest of the district.

10 And so knowing that you have to -- if you push
11 your finger in somewhere, something else bulges out, my, my
12 suggestion is that, you know, people ask me, the
13 Commission's asking for suggestions, is try to include a
14 little bit more of the Isaac School District in 19.

15 I understand the population that's there on that
16 north -- extreme northwest corner, but -- and then try to,
17 try to see how much we can get a little bit more
18 representative of the entire -- the rest of 19.

19 And also everything from Santa Maria, which is
20 that old community off of 67th Avenue and Lower Buckeye
21 Road, all that kind of meshes in, Power School District,
22 parts of Riverside School District, Riverside School
23 District, actually part of the 35th Avenue and Southern
24 areas, because it kind of, kind of is -- there's a lot of
25 commonality there.

1 So I think that was something that, that looks,
2 looks like something that works as far as trying to put maps
3 together.

4 You know, it's -- the population percentages,
5 voting age population percentages are not what I would like
6 to see them at.

7 Again, I know that it's 43 percent total
8 population over the last ten years is, is Hispanic. I think
9 you have an issue that I'd like to try to, try to make sure
10 that you pass DOJ.

11 And on the legislative maps, that's pretty much
12 what I would have to comment on.

13 I would comment on the congressional maps as well,
14 especially the one in inner Phoenix, the suburban area.
15 That's the majority-minority district.

16 I would suggest to you that that northeast area is
17 a little uncommon with the rest of the area. And if some of
18 that could be put -- taken out and then more of the Tolleson
19 area -- you know, I understand the numbers issue in dealing
20 with the district that wraps around Tucson comes up that
21 way, but I would, I would, I would like to see a little bit
22 more including that other Tolleson area all the way, maybe
23 possibly Lower Buckeye all the way to 99th Avenue.

24 So those would be my suggestions.

25 And that's, that's basically all I have to say.

1 Those are my suggestions.

2 Obviously nobody's ever happy with these maps,
3 but -- totally happy, but that's something that we all have
4 to deal with.

5 So thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Walt Gray, Merchants For A
8 Better Maryvale, from Phoenix.

9 WALT GRAY: Thank you. I'm representing myself
10 tonight, although I am associated with Merchants For A
11 Better Maryvale.

12 I have had extensive education and work experience
13 in community affairs.

14 I've lived in Arizona 35 years. I've worked in
15 both rural Arizona and metropolitan Arizona. And I've lived
16 in Maryvale for 30 years. And I've been active in the
17 community since retiring ten years ago.

18 I want to welcome you to Maryvale.

19 What I have to say, I think, is demonstrated
20 tonight.

21 And that is that public participation to me is a
22 real basic issue of redistricting and low income
23 representation.

24 We are a community of 200,000 people. We're
25 80 percent Hispanic, and I don't think the audience tonight

1 represents that.

2 Spanish is our dominant language in Maryvale. I
3 don't speak Spanish, but I get along very well in Maryvale.
4 And I -- so I think that that indicates the
5 underrepresentation and the way we communicate with low
6 income people.

7 Low income people are low tech. They're not high
8 tech. And I think that, that we need to adjust to that.

9 And I don't think this Commission stands alone in
10 that.

11 I think many government units and even the private
12 sector don't know how to communicate with low income people.

13 I think when I spoke to the Commission in
14 Glendale, I -- my basic point there was that school
15 districts should be the basic building block, and because
16 school districts are very closely related to residential
17 districts and open space, and residential districts and
18 open space are very closely related to commercial
19 development and infrastructure. And then, and then all of
20 that combines with churches and other kinds of athletics and
21 entertainment that are all associated with building a strong
22 community.

23 And I think we have that in Maryvale. I think we
24 have that in Maryvale.

25 And I think you're basically, from what I've

1 looked at, the district -- the congressional district
2 boundaries and the legislative district boundaries,
3 basically I don't find too much fault with them with those
4 areas that I -- that I'm familiar with mostly.

5 I live currently in District 13. I will be in
6 District 29.

7 Congressional district, I'm currently in two, and
8 I will be in seven.

9 I think you -- in those areas, I think you
10 followed as best you could. You know, we have -- it's no
11 secret that we have social, economic segregation in, to a
12 large degree, in Phoenix, in the valley, and in the state.

13 And this job is very, very difficult when you have
14 those circumstances.

15 Because -- it's hard because those things
16 influence political thought.

17 And, and so with segregation, it's hard to have
18 competitive districts.

19 But I don't -- I'm not concerned about competitive
20 districts, or how many are Hispanic or non-Hispanic or
21 African American or something else or Republican or Democrat
22 or -- I don't even know. I haven't looked. I know the
23 press writes it that way. I don't know how many districts,
24 according to this map, will be Republican and how many will
25 be Democrat, how many will be Hispanic, how many will be

1 non-Hispanic.

2 I don't know that.

3 It doesn't matter to me.

4 To me, if you have the good strong communities of
5 interest, you will have public participation, and that a
6 robust democracy will bring about the best results.

7 The only thing that I would say -- I know my time
8 is up now -- is that in the congressional districts, I
9 looked at the numbers, and it seems to me that you took all
10 the Native American reservations and combined them, you'd
11 get one congressional district.

12 You get enough of the people for one congressional
13 district.

14 And I know that's not contiguous, but there are
15 native and our mother ethnic group, and they -- they're so
16 easily -- since they are spread out, they're so easily
17 marginalized.

18 And I think that, that in the congressional
19 districts -- and I think you've done a pretty good job in
20 the legislative districts, but in the congressional
21 districts, I, I think would support one, just one district
22 for the Native American tribes. And then that would tighten
23 up all the other districts, which would give you compactness
24 and continuity and contiguousness.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

2 Our next speaker is Jacquie Rose, representing
3 self, from Maricopa.

4 JACQUIE ROSE: Hello. Can you hear me? Okay.

5 My name is Jacquie Rose, J-A-C-Q-U-I-E, Rose is
6 the last name, R-O-S-E.

7 I currently live in District 9, and I've lived in
8 Arizona for almost ten years.

9 It isn't in my prepared notes, but after looking
10 at the maps, I'd like to make a suggestion that what is
11 now -- what is proposed to be District 21 be divided, and
12 the eastern half of that, east of Sun City, be part of 20,
13 and Sun City and Sun City West, which is 21 and 22, be
14 together in one district.

15 It's not just a matter of community of interest.
16 It's also a matter of stage of life.

17 And a lot of people who live in retirement
18 communities do not want to think about school systems and
19 educational costs. They feel they've already done that.

20 And I think the school systems would benefit from
21 having a district that is made up of people who are
22 concerned about the schools.

23 That's just in addition to what I was going to
24 say.

25 Now, I know you've been under tremendous pressure

1 from some of our state leaders to not do the job for which
2 you were appointed and to leave Arizona with noncompetitive
3 districts.

4 I want to thank you for continuing to hold these
5 hearings and trying to do the job for which you were
6 appointed.

7 I think you've been very brave and valiant in this
8 effort. And I want to thank you for that, and I think
9 everyone here should thank you for that.

10 (Applause.)

11 JACQUIE ROSE: And I hope the IRC does not stand
12 for incumbent retention commission and is truly the
13 Independent Redistricting Commission.

14 (Applause.)

15 JACQUIE ROSE: Fair and competitive redistricting
16 is very important for the future of our state and will
17 determine the direction the state takes for the next decade.

18 Without competitive districts, there is no fair
19 representation for the majority of residents.

20 Furthermore, a lack of competitive districts hurts
21 public participation in the government of Arizona.

22 People feel that since they do not have a
23 representative in government who shows an interest in their
24 opinions and views, they drop out of the political process.

25 In addition, it's very difficult to get

1 candidates, good candidates, to run for office when they
2 don't have a snowball's chance of winning.

3 This lack of participation can destroy a
4 democracy.

5 It's also very important to maintain
6 competitiveness in each legislative and congressional
7 district to more closely represent our voter registration.

8 No one party should dominate the state. That does
9 not represent the voters.

10 Less than four competitive congressional districts
11 would not be acceptable.

12 If you do not create fair and competitive
13 districts, you are doing a disservice to the people of
14 Arizona.

15 We need to see the end of gerrymandering that
16 benefits only the powerful in the state. We need to return
17 to a system -- we need to return the system to the hands of
18 all of the citizens.

19 Your work will leave a lasting legacy.

20 The consequences will trickle down for the next
21 generation -- for the next ten years and into the next
22 generation.

23 I sincerely hope that you will not hand our system
24 back over to the status quo. That would negate the purpose
25 and goals of the Commission.

1 That is how you will be remembered in the future
2 if you do not create fair and competitive districts.

3 Listen to the thousands of people who you -- who
4 have spoken before you.

5 I've lived in different states, in different parts
6 of the country, as well as in Washington, D.C., before I
7 moved to Arizona.

8 With the exception of the time I spent in
9 Washington, D.C., where there's no representation in
10 congress, this is the first time that I've felt that I have
11 absolutely no representation in both the state legislature
12 and in congress. My representatives and senators do not
13 share my values or views in any area of civic or civil
14 thinking.

15 In fact, when lobbying and/or writing to my
16 congressman and senators, their staffs have indicated to me
17 on more than one occasion that they, quote, only represent
18 the people who voted for them, unquote.

19 And they have said that.

20 Furthermore, when I write to them, I receive
21 automatic responses that ask me to prove that I am one of
22 their constituents.

23 This is not the way an elected official should
24 relate to their constituents, whether or not I voted for
25 them.

1 In my civics classes I learned that a
2 representative or a senator represented all the people in
3 their districts, not just the members of their party.

4 But they don't care.

5 They know that without competitive districts they
6 will be reelected no matter what they say or do.

7 It's important that you listen to the people of
8 Arizona, rather than special interest groups or
9 organizations which are promoting the interests of elected
10 Republicans, rather than the citizens of our state. No less
11 than four competitive congressional districts will be
12 acceptable.

13 Thank you for your time and attention.

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is John Martin Keck, representing
16 self, from Phoenix.

17 JOHN MARTIN KECK: Here's a copy for each of the
18 commissioners.

19 Good evening. Thank you for giving me the
20 opportunity to speak.

21 My name is John Martin Keck, and I come from
22 Phoenix.

23 And if I read the map correctly, I'm in future
24 Legislative District 30 and Congressional District 7.

25 Both of these are surprisingly compact.

1 Although I'm here to represent myself and not any
2 organization, in a sense I represent the 30 percent of the
3 public that do not have a computer, are not on the Internet,
4 do not have an e-mail address, and do not text or tweet.

5 But, we do vote. Early, on time, and often.

6 Since the Redistricting Commission is paperless, I
7 rely on the Capital Times for my information concerning maps
8 and the proposed districts.

9 At the public meeting in Glendale about a month or
10 so ago, the people who spoke asked that the compactness of
11 the district, communities of interest, and a minimum of
12 gerrymandering be the primary consideration when drawing
13 district lines.

14 The present maps do not show this.

15 When you hold meetings up north, the Hopi Indians
16 will probably request to be placed in a district that is
17 more in line with their political beliefs, as has always
18 been done in the past.

19 On the congressional map, I do not understand why
20 Yuma County was split between Districts 3 and 4.

21 District 4 could extend over the rest of Yuma
22 County.

23 District 3 could then extend into Pinal County.

24 And the domino effect would be for District 1 to
25 extend over the rest of Gila County, and District 4 would

1 give up western Gila, northern Pinal, and eastern Maricopa
2 Counties.

3 I realize the density of population may play a
4 part in this, but I'm sure the accommodations can be made.

5 There are other adjustments that can be made, such
6 as northwestern District 6, northeastern District 3,
7 southeastern District 2, northeastern District 8, and the
8 crescent shaped District 9.

9 When any district is split across natural
10 barriers, such as mountains, rivers, and canyons, or manmade
11 barriers, such as freeways, canals, or huge shopping
12 centers, different communities of interest develop on each
13 side of the barrier.

14 This needs to be considered.

15 Gerrymandering is rampant on the legislative map.

16 The southeastern area of District 2 appears that
17 it follows a cattle trail after they've eaten too much loco
18 weed, and the northern arm reaches up into Tucson.

19 District 6 meanders over parts of four counties.

20 Western District 24 goes through southern
21 Scottsdale and across north central Phoenix almost to the
22 Black Canyon Freeway, which has little in common with the
23 Indian reservations that now make up the eastern portion of
24 the district.

25 District 14 has two bulges on the eastern area and

1 another bulge in the southern area.

2 District 13 has a northeastern arm that reaches up
3 into the western metropolitan Phoenix.

4 District 22 has a highly irregular border running
5 from southwest to northeast.

6 District 19 has a protrusion to the southwest.

7 District 15 can use some work in the northern
8 portions.

9 Districts 1, 8, and 11 need major adjustments.

10 Of course when you make adjustments to border
11 areas, District 7 will need modifying also.

12 I'm happy with District 5 since it almost
13 100 percent follows county lines, reservation borders, and
14 rivers.

15 The rest of the districts need minor adjustments.

16 Namely, three, four, nine, ten, 12, 16, 18, 20,
17 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

18 As I previously said, you're not going to make
19 people 100 percent happy, but please strive for a higher
20 percentage of happiness than exists at the present time.

21 Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak
22 my opinions of redistricting.

23 Are there any questions?

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: No. Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Mike
2 Albertson, representing self, from Maricopa County.

3 MIKE ALBERTSON: My name is Mike Albertson,
4 A-L-B-E-R-T-S-O-N.

5 Hello? Better?

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: It's working.

7 MIKE ALBERTSON: I'm here, and I believe the new
8 district that I would be in is 13. And, I -- well, neither
9 of the maps really show the area very well because it has
10 type over it.

11 And as you can see, the district starts clear up
12 toward the Sun Cities and it goes all the way to Yuma.

13 And the point that I'd like to discuss or talk to
14 you about is the communities of interest, and that theme
15 that I think everybody that we've heard from today is
16 concerned about the communities of interest after you pass
17 it.

18 The community in the -- you know, essentially the
19 Waddell, the Litchfield Park area, has very little interest
20 with the community of Yuma. Very little.

21 In fact, the social demographic factors are very
22 different. The interests are different. The social
23 business climate is different.

24 There's very little in common between those
25 different communities.

1 I think one thing that I struggled with in looking
2 at the definitions here is how you define community.

3 I'm not going to waste a lot of time, but I went
4 to Webster's Dictionary, and there are over eight
5 definitions for the word community.

6 I think as it relates to Legislative District 13,
7 it failed on all eight.

8 I would encourage you to look at the definition of
9 Webster's of what a community is. And District 13 is not
10 meeting any of those definitions.

11 So I believe Mr. Miranda, who spoke earlier, very,
12 very eloquently identified the top portion of 19 would fit
13 very well within 13.

14 Ms. Jacqueline Rose, I believe I called it, if I
15 pronounced her name correctly, talked about the historical
16 problems with the Sun City population having absolutely
17 nothing to do with children and the educational system.

18 And they have common interests of their own, and
19 it would not benefit anybody outside of that district that
20 has an interest in education or children to be tied in that
21 with Sun City population.

22 I just encourage you to look at some of the
23 factors of how communities interact among themselves when
24 you're looking at these districts.

25 So that being said, I really encourage you to

1 relook at the definition of communities of interest.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

4 Our next speaker is Rivko Knox, representing self.

5 And you'll have to tell us where you're from.

6 After Ms. Knox will be Aaron Jahneke, followed by
7 Bill Mitchell.

8 RIVKO KNOX: Thank you. I'm sorry, I forgot to
9 fill that out. I live in Phoenix.

10 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

11 RIVKO KNOX: Maricopa County.

12 I do not have written comments, so I want to
13 admire all the people who are thoughtful enough to write
14 them before. I do not.

15 Going to try to be brief.

16 I first want to thank you all for what you're
17 doing.

18 A thankless, difficult job, and you've had a great
19 deal of criticism and all kind of lawsuits, threats, and all
20 kinds of other stuff, and I really, really admire what
21 you're doing.

22 I have spoken at two hearings before, before there
23 were maps. And I'm very bad at the computer, although I do
24 have one. So I've not tried to look at the maps at home, so
25 this is really my first good view of them.

1 They have not particularly changed what I said at
2 the prior hearings, which is that to me the whole issue of
3 competitiveness is the most important issue of all.

4 And I am aware of the criteria and the initiative
5 that is now law. I'm very well aware of that. However, the
6 bottom line really is some of the criteria -- I mean,
7 clearly we all know about the Title V Voting Rights Act
8 requirements. And I support the idea. I think it's a very
9 good idea.

10 But it does strike me as strange when you look at
11 the registration of this state, about 30, 30, 30, that there
12 are, what is it, 18 -- 17 Republican districts, eight
13 Democratic districts, and five that are pretty equal.

14 And regardless of party, I just don't think that
15 is right.

16 Again, I'm not -- I'm sure you can all find my
17 registration by going on the voting list and find out, but
18 that is not the issue.

19 The issue is it's really unfair.

20 It's unfair to the -- all of the people of the
21 state to have so few competitive districts.

22 I have lived in the same house in Phoenix since
23 1966 when I moved here. Most of the years I've lived here
24 I've lived in noncompetitive districts.

25 And it is very, very depressing.

1 As a prior speaker said, it's very difficult to
2 get candidates, the elected officials really don't listen to
3 you, because -- and it's all done in the primary.

4 And primary elections may serve a purpose, but
5 they should not be the entire election.

6 I have one other very specific comment that I
7 wanted to make.

8 It looks like I live -- will live in District 6,
9 congressional, and in Legislative District 20.

10 And by looking at 20, it does strike me as really
11 unusual that 20 shoots up above the 101.

12 And I -- it does not seem to make any sense to me
13 to have an area north of the 101 to be part of the same
14 legislative district, because things like major highways and
15 so on do make a significant difference.

16 So, again, thank you for your time.

17 I would like to make, I'm sorry, one more very
18 quick comment. And I haven't heard the buzzer yet.

19 Which is that, as I said, I certainly support the
20 idea of majority-minority districts, but I -- and I
21 understand our state is very diverse and will continue to
22 become quite diverse over time.

23 And that's fine.

24 I think I'm very -- that's the way our country has
25 always been, welcoming to all kinds of people from all over

1 the world and all other cities, all religions, et cetera.

2 But I do think that it is incumbent upon the
3 district -- the commissioners to ensure that in order to
4 create majority-majority -- majority-minority districts
5 there is not a skewing of registration and so on so that you
6 kind of do away with more competitiveness in other
7 districts.

8 And thank you, and I appreciate it, and I will
9 probably submit written comments later. Appreciate it.

10 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thank you.

11 Our next speaker is Aaron Jahneke, chair
12 District 10 Democrats, representing self, from Maricopa.

13 AARON JAHNEKE: Thank you. Thank you very much,
14 and it's J-A-H-N-E-K-E.

15 I'm used to spelling it, so it's not a problem at
16 all.

17 And then in the interest of full disclosure, I
18 thought it was important for you to know what volunteer work
19 I've done politically.

20 I wanted to speak to some of the points.

21 I agreed with some of the comments about
22 Sun Cities in terms of being communities of interest.

23 I think that their being retirement communities,
24 they should probably be together in one of the, one of the
25 future legislative districts.

1 And I agree with what Ms. Knox just said about
2 competitiveness.

3 I think that particularly when we have an
4 increasing number of independent voters in all these
5 districts, not one of the proposed districts currently has
6 Independents as the most registered percentage in that
7 district, even though they're rapidly outpacing both
8 Democrats and Republicans in voter registration.

9 That is an inevitability that will occur.

10 I live -- I've lived in the current District 10
11 legislative districts throughout my whole life.

12 Now, when I was there when it was part of the old
13 Legislative District 16 that was the district prior to when
14 you redistricted last time, generally Washington Elementary
15 District is the focal part of the community in the
16 legislative district.

17 I believe that should continue to be the case.

18 I think that having the district go north of the
19 101, I would venture to say that most people north of the
20 101 would not self-identify with the portions of the
21 district that include Metrocenter.

22 And I also think that most of the people in the
23 Metrocenter area and around that area would not
24 self-identify socioeconomically with the community north of
25 the 101.

1 It seems like an odd place.

2 I recognize that you have a very tough job.

3 I served on a HOA. I thought that was hard work.

4 I can't imagine what this must be like. And I do
5 appreciate the time and energy that you're putting into
6 these maps.

7 I'm hopeful this will be a good process at the end
8 and that Arizonans will have an opportunity to -- and I've
9 been there. I know how this goes. And I've met both
10 Republican and Democratic candidates who simply had no
11 chance to win, even though they were hard-working,
12 competitive candidates.

13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Bill
17 Mitchell, representing self, from Maricopa County.

18 After Bill will be Anna Huberman, and Patricia
19 Bryant.

20 BILL MITCHELL: Bill Mitchell, M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L.

21 I thought I was going to be limited to
22 six minutes, so I took all the good stuff out here.

23 Man is without a doubt the most interesting fool
24 there is, says Mark Twain. And if alive today, he probably
25 would label the public of Arizona as most interesting fools

1 if they were to accept the present draft maps without
2 comment.

3 Let's count the ways.

4 First, and in defense of the Commission, is the
5 idea of the independence of the Commission.

6 I believe the referendum that established this
7 Commission doomed it to a limited success.

8 You can't take a political process and remove the
9 politics. We've seen that time and time again.

10 Second, I have been present at a number of the
11 meetings and watched the online streaming, and I've observed
12 the Democrats requesting individuals coming to this podium
13 acknowledge who they really represent in the name of
14 transparency, which I would agree with.

15 Those commissioners along with the chair refused
16 to give the AG an interview regarding this -- his
17 investigation.

18 Now that pains me.

19 Because in this process we should all be above
20 board, and it pains me because if we have nothing to fear we
21 should tell the truth, and in doing so suspend the cloud of
22 suspicion from around the Commission and instill in the
23 public confidence that this Commission can act in the voting
24 public's best interest.

25 Third, once the CD maps were out, and I often

1 disagree with the Arizona Republic's comments in their
2 editorials, but they commented that this CD map flunks out
3 and needs to be retooled. Bob Robb stated that the
4 chairwoman is independent in name only, siding with the
5 Democrats in every major decision.

6 In my observations of what was going on sitting in
7 the room, what I saw was the chair voting with the Democrats
8 regarding legal counsel, choosing a Democratic campaign
9 strategist and not an independent demographer, and then the
10 CD map, which to my knowledge still lacks complete data from
11 earlier in this decade.

12 Fourth was in watching the maps unfold, Republican
13 commissioners tried to keep the communities of interest
14 whole where the Democrats were creating designer districts
15 cutting up Pinal County into three pieces, Gila County into
16 two pieces. And what emerged was what I heard called the
17 Mathis McNulty map.

18 Now isn't it nice to have a map named after you?

19 But I didn't see any compromise there, and that's
20 what disturbed me in my observation of the Commission.

21 Fifth, the Commission started with a grid map, and
22 I could follow what was being done. However, I have yet to
23 understand what the Republic calls a lobster, proposed
24 District 4, and what I call the Rube Goldberg or District 9.

25 District 1 borders two, almost three states, and

1 hits Mexico. Why is Flagstaff even in that?

2 What happened to whole counties version 7E?

3 I could understand it. It was simple, it was easy
4 to follow, and constitutionally correct.

5 Recently I really understood how some
6 commissioners looked at competitiveness ahead of communities
7 of interest, when others were trying to keep them as whole
8 as census tracts would allow.

9 Specifically Representative Gifford's CD has gone
10 for 4.8 percent registration of Republicans to .1 percent,
11 looking like protection.

12 Representative Gosar's new district goes from
13 3.8 percent to 9.5 percent Democrat taking a competitive
14 district and making it not competitive.

15 That district was competitive before. In fact,
16 three of the eight districts had changed parties in the last
17 two elections.

18 I encourage you to please utilize that data from
19 the '04 and the '06 elections. It doesn't make sense to
20 have almost 60 percent of the decade's elections not being
21 considered.

22 The proposed CD 99 takes part -- parts of more --
23 of eight or more major cities and it fairly crafts them in
24 spite of the constitutional requirements for political
25 opportunity, or so it seems.

1 These six have little in common between them, and
2 need to be kept together as communities of interest.

3 Although the Commission had to follow the Voting
4 Rights Act, and seemingly spent a lot of time on
5 majority-minority and coalition districts, our constitution
6 still requires the Commission to follow state requirements.
7 And I ask you to keep communities of interest foremost in
8 your consideration and adjust the maps accordingly.

9 Now, with respect to competition, I maintain that
10 competition is a messenger and a message.

11 It is difficult to force participation.

12 Participation is taught in schools. It's taught
13 in home. Via citizenship and love for your fellow man,
14 community, city, country, and community. And taking actions
15 to make it better.

16 I would implore you to keep communities of
17 interest foremost and adjust the CD maps.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Anna Huberman, representing
21 self, from Glendale.

22 After Anna, Patricia Bryant, followed by Drex
23 Davis.

24 ANNA HUBERMAN: Hello. My name is Anna Huberman.
25 That's H-U-B-E-R-M-A-N.

1 I would just like to comment on my concern about
2 the competitiveness of the new districts.

3 The state right now is roughly divided one third,
4 one third, and one third. And I'm concerned that the
5 districts do not reflect that division and that there are
6 not enough competitive districts.

7 I want our districts to represent the diversity of
8 the state, and I am concerned that we are losing the
9 minorities in the districts that aren't the
10 majority-minority districts.

11 And like I said, I would like all districts to be
12 competitive.

13 Jacquie Rose said that it's hard to get good
14 candidates when there's no chance of winning.

15 My experience actually is that it's not necessary
16 to get good candidates in districts where they know they
17 will win.

18 And I think that's the detriment to the state. It
19 does not allow for the best people to be elected and to be
20 representing us.

21 I am currently in District 12.

22 I, with the new maps, will be moving into
23 District 29.

24 And I'm really pretty torn about it.

25 I feel on the one hand that it is a community of

1 interest for me, to belong to District 29.

2 But then on the other hand it's a district that
3 has 67 or 68 percent Hispanics already in it.

4 And I feel that I am being diluted -- the other
5 districts are being diluted because these are just too
6 heavily Hispanic districts. That's not necessary for the
7 majority-minority districts.

8 Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Patricia Bryant, representing
11 self, from Phoenix.

12 PATRICIA BRYANT: Madam Chairman and
13 commissioners.

14 Thank you very much for listening to me. My name
15 is Patricia Bryant, B-R-Y-A-N-T.

16 I am an early childhood special education
17 preschool teacher in the Cartwright School District, and I
18 live in the legislative district to be 30 and the
19 congressional district to be seven.

20 I have lived in six different states.

21 I have been in corporate as well as education and
22 international work. I worked in a third world country
23 writing parliamentary procedures for the country of Malawi,
24 Africa, for the USAID.

25 I've had lots of information given to me about

1 redistricting things in another country, but not so much
2 here in Arizona.

3 I want to take the opportunity right now to
4 applaud the Commission for paying such careful attention to
5 all of the necessary things, like the voter -- Voting Rights
6 Act and representing us the best way they can. However, I
7 would like to bring to your attention the piece on the
8 competitiveness.

9 That, again, has come to my attention. And though
10 I think you've done a fantastic job on District 30, I think
11 in some of the other areas there has been some -- been some
12 need in that same area that I have heard over and over
13 again, that 30, 30, 30. We're not seeing the breakdown in
14 our competitiveness.

15 We have 43 percent Hispanic, but then we also have
16 the Native Americans, the African Americans, the Asians, the
17 Hawaiians and multiracial.

18 I see myself as multiracial.

19 I don't see myself as one, one specific race.

20 I don't think any one of us can say that, because
21 we come from a melting point here in the United States.

22 We're a republic, and we're turning into a
23 oligopoly.

24 One group is running everything, and I feel very
25 much like speakers that have come before me in saying that I

1 have gone down and I have tried to talk with representatives
2 and been told that I feed at the trough because I'm a
3 teacher. To my face.

4 So I am a little bit put aside.

5 I'm a Republican, and yet I vote my conscience.

6 I spent a hundred dollars of my American money to
7 go and vote in Malawi, Africa, at the embassy, and spend my
8 night in a, a motel, and I use that term very loosely, in
9 third world country. So I take my voting rights very, very
10 seriously.

11 And yet I feel like my vote oftentimes is for
12 naught. Because the legislative districts do not give that
13 competitive edge.

14 In closing, I want to speak about how much the --
15 I'm sorry.

16 How much the current map uses only three out of
17 the six competitive districts.

18 Again, we're talking about less than five percent
19 competitive, and we're talking about having 18 as --
20 18 heavily weighted as opposed to 12, and then not
21 representing the Independents at all.

22 So where is this competitiveness going? We're
23 going in the wrong direction.

24 We need to be increasing competitiveness to allow
25 us to be able to get someone who's going to be representing

1 us in the way that we would like to be represented.

2 Thank you very much for your time.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

4 Our next speaker is Drex Davis, representing
5 Las Sendas residents, and from Mesa.

6 And I'll just announce the next few after Drex.
7 Gene Diehl, State Rep Lynne Pancrazi, and Jim Williams.

8 DREX DAVIS: Thank you. My name is Drex Davis,
9 D-R-E-X, last name D-A-V-I-S.

10 I apologize, I didn't know the appropriate
11 protocol to follow.

12 But I have a letter that I'd like to read from
13 ten individuals, five families, from my neighborhood.

14 Before I do, I just want to thank you all and
15 recognize your hard work.

16 I was trying to find a night that I could come
17 down and speak. I drove an hour to get here, but I looked
18 at your schedule, and you put in a lot of time away from
19 your homes.

20 I want you to know I recognize that and appreciate
21 that.

22 I'll submit this along with the blue sheet and
23 some documentation that I have as well.

24 We're writing today to express concern with the
25 most recent IRC map that has split several of our

1 communities of interest.

2 We live east of Power Road in the small area which
3 was included in the LD 25 boundaries rather than Legislative
4 District 16.

5 We would like to propose that the IRC keep the
6 proposed District 25 and 16 divider line all the way up
7 Power Road.

8 As it stands, the proposed map comes up Power, but
9 then heads east on McKellips, and then up 76th Street to
10 McDowell, and then over to Hawes and north from there. It
11 basically carves Las Sendas and a few other neighborhoods
12 into District 25.

13 The best outcome for us would be to keep the
14 divider long all the way up Power so that we remain in -- or
15 so that we are in District 16.

16 And the reason for this is it would maintain the
17 connectedness and important communities of interest of us,
18 which I can enumerate.

19 So here are those that are currently affected,
20 that I'm aware of.

21 First, the city of Mesa has designated the area
22 east of Power Road and north of University as the desert
23 uplands, quote, the desert uplands area.

24 And I have some accompanying documentation that
25 shows that.

1 The current plan splits the desert uplands into
2 two.

3 The desert uplands have commercial development
4 environmental rules that are different from those in the
5 rest of the city of Mesa.

6 They are rules intended to preserve natural
7 vegetation, undisturbed hillsides, and natural washes in and
8 around the city's far northeastern residential areas.

9 Secondly, Power Road is a major divider for school
10 districts, schools.

11 The elementary school Las Sendas is divided by
12 Power Road. And I have some accompanying documentation that
13 shows how that school has been split by 25 and 16 in the
14 current arrangement.

15 The junior high school, Fremont, is divided by
16 Power Road.

17 And the current map would also put Fremont
18 students in 25 and 16. And several of the other signatories
19 to this letter are parents like myself that are concerned
20 about that.

21 Third, communities east of Power like Las Sendas
22 are more rural and share more in common with the rural
23 communities of District 16 than with the central Mesa
24 communities in District 25. Even our ZIP code is divided at
25 Power Road.

1 I don't want to come here just to bring a problem.
2 The -- I think the most reasonable solution, if
3 you follow the desert uplands, would be to -- if you need to
4 go eastward would be to go eastward south of University.
5 That would be our proposal.

6 So we believe this change would be vitally
7 important in maintaining appropriate and cohesive
8 representation in the legislature for the communities of
9 interest to which we belong.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thank you.

12 And if you want to give anything that you brought
13 to our executive director --

14 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Could you spell the name of
15 your neighborhood?

16 DREX DAVIS: I'm sorry?

17 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Can you spell Las Sendas?

18 Sure. L-A-S, first word, S-E-N-D-A-S.

19 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Gene
21 Diehl, representing self, from Phoenix.

22 (No oral response.)

23 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Maybe he left. Okay.

24 Representative Lynne Pancrazi, from District 24,
25 Yuma County.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LYNNE PANCRAZI: Good evening, and
2 thank you for the job that you're doing and representing the
3 people of Arizona, which is what the Independent
4 Redistricting Committee is all about.

5 I have been a legislator in a competitive district
6 for my entire career, and I like the fact that some of these
7 districts are going to become more competitive, and I hope
8 that with some of the input from people around here that you
9 will include even more competitive districts for the state
10 of Arizona so that we all will have to campaign to be able
11 to be elected and we'll have to meet the needs of the people
12 that we represent, the entire communities that we represent.

13 I'm here today because I am very concerned about
14 rural Arizona.

15 Rural Arizona, you have in here that there are
16 primarily nine districts are primarily rural.

17 Well, primarily rural and rural are two different
18 things.

19 You have Yuma County divided in half, which it has
20 never been in the past, and which they have always sent --
21 been a competitive district and sent members from both
22 parties to the legislature for representation.

23 And you have several rural communities connected
24 to Maricopa County and Pima County, which have entirely
25 different needs than those in rural Arizona.

1 We have at the legislature a rural caucus, and
2 it's made up of every rural legislator there is. And the
3 reason we do is because the needs of rural Arizona are so
4 completely different than those of Maricopa and Pima County.

5 So my hope is that this committee can look at
6 rural Arizona, including Yuma County, and find a way to
7 divide it up so that we are not having to represent folks in
8 a metropolitan area of Avondale, Litchfield Park, Glendale,
9 all the outskirts of Maricopa County, but can remain a rural
10 legislative district.

11 That is my concern.

12 And I, I tried to stay out of this process,
13 because it is an independent redistricting committee, but my
14 constituents and the calls and e-mails that I've been
15 receiving from my constituents have me here trying to make
16 sure that Yuma County is not split and that we represent
17 rural areas and not metropolitan Phoenix, as this map
18 proposes.

19 So with that, thank you very much.

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

21 Our next speaker is Jim Williams, representing
22 self, from Glendale.

23 (No oral response.)

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: How about William Crum, from
25 Maricopa.

1 After William will be Vera Anderson.

2 WILLIAM CRUM: My name is William Crum, and
3 basically I represent myself, so obviously I'm in a very
4 small part --

5 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry, closer to the mic,
6 please.

7 WILLIAM CRUM: Anyway, my name is William Crum,
8 C-R-U-M.

9 And I would like to first start off with I think
10 the Commission's doing a great job of not listening to all
11 the garbage about who's what, who chose who, whatever.

12 First thing about politics you'll learn, if you're
13 anybody that's smart, is you don't always get what you want.

14 And I am usually happy with what I get.

15 I'm now going to go from a competitive district --
16 I'm losing my voice.

17 When you sit there and you look at the parties and
18 they already have a 60,000 edge on any other party in the
19 valley, you start to wonder, is this a competitive district.

20 And it never has been. It has been since I've
21 been running for the last ten years.

22 The reason I knew is I'm running there just to let
23 people know there are other citizens in a district that's
24 too pleased to far. Either way, I'm not going to tell you
25 which way.

1 I believe right now my district is going to be
2 District 8, which it used to be CD 2.

3 And right off the bat you've already proved to me
4 that the right thought is being placed, and I'm not -- I
5 don't care if they're going to lose their 60,000 edge,
6 because the first thing I am when I go out and tell people
7 I'm running in the area is I'm an American, period. I'm not
8 a Democrat. I'm not a Republican. I'm an American.

9 The second thought you must have is you've got to
10 be an Arizonan. What's good for Arizona is what you should
11 think every time you go out.

12 I'm getting so sick and tired of these talking
13 points from either party that we seem to be lost in the
14 shuffle. And the only way people are going to start
15 thinking like Americans is to think like an American. What
16 is good for America, not what's good for Democrats, what's
17 not good for Republicans.

18 Personally I don't care who draws the maps.

19 As long as they have a license to do it, that's
20 what I want, because they're going to do it for Americans,
21 not the Democrats, not the Republicans, let's do it for
22 America.

23 That's why we are occupying right now downtown
24 Phoenix. Because we're thinking about American, not
25 Democrat, not Republicans. Not the Arizona Greens. We're

1 looking to see what is best for our country.

2 I mean, when you guys spend over five times the
3 money to defend our country, something's wrong.

4 So I really applaud both of you, all of you. Even
5 the ones that aren't here. You're doing a great job. And
6 it's Americans. Let's finish the job and bring it home.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is Vera Anderson, representing
10 self, from Maricopa.

11 VERA ANDERSON: Good evening. Vera Anderson,
12 V-E-R-A, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

13 I live in the Anthem area.

14 And one of the goals of the Commission it's
15 required to follow is to respect our community of interest.

16 And I feel like that in both my CD 3 and LD 6 that
17 is not being followed, because now I believe CD -- or LD 6
18 is going to be LD 15, and that it goes to the north. If I'm
19 reading that right, it probably includes Black Canyon City
20 and New River, and then it goes -- it's broken up several
21 times by the 101. And also the 51. So there's different
22 pockets of between those two freeways that really doesn't
23 respect those community of interest.

24 And, again, in my first meeting I asked that you
25 be fair in your process.

1 And, again, at the end of this process, I'm asking
2 the Commission to be fair to all parties.

3 So thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Haryaksha Gregor Knauer,
6 representing self, from Tempe.

7 HARYAKSHA GREGOR KNAUER: Thank you. My name
8 Haryaksha Gregor Knauer, from Tempe.

9 I'm a member of the Green Party.

10 And on the new legislative map, I'll be in 26,
11 Tempe, Mesa. Currently 17.

12 And so may I please use this opportunity --
13 opportunity to raise a warning against the so-called Oakland
14 government act, Arizona constitutional amendment voter
15 initiative.

16 Instead of advantaging incumbents and shutting out
17 minor parties and suppressing the vote even before the
18 general election comes around, instant runoff vote would
19 keep voters engaged and enthused. Instant runoff voting,
20 IRV, is also called rank choice.

21 In IRV voters can vote their consciences without
22 risking the charge of spoiling minor parties like us Greens,
23 are for those of us who can't shoehorn into R or D.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

1 I'll reread the two gentlemen that I -- that
2 didn't come up earlier.

3 Gene Diehl, in the room?

4 And Jim Williams?

5 Okay.

6 Is there anybody else who would like to address
7 the Commission tonight that I missed?

8 (No oral response.)

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Well, with that, I
10 thank you all for coming and participating in the process.
11 We really appreciate your input, and we got some very
12 specific recommendations tonight, which is always welcome
13 and helpful. So thank you for that.

14 I'll let our Commissioner McNulty address you now.

15 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you for coming,
16 spending your evening with us, and for giving us your
17 comments.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: All right. Well, with that,
19 thanks again to Maryvale High School for hosting us tonight,
20 and to all of you who took time out of your lives to come
21 talk to us, and also to the staff who got everything going
22 tonight. We appreciate it. As well as all of the people at
23 the table.

24 So thanks for being here. And tomorrow eve --
25 tomorrow day actually we will be San Carlos Apache, if I can

1 find my list.

2 Here it is.

3 Tell you where the Commission will be tomorrow.
4 Apache Gold Casino Resort in San Carlos, Arizona. And the
5 time for that will be 11:00 a.m.

6 And then tomorrow evening in the city of Globe, at
7 6:00 p.m. at the Gila County Courthouse.

8 So please plan to keep following the Commission
9 around the state as we continue the second round of
10 hearings, and thank you again for coming tonight.

11 With that, we will go ahead and adjourn.

12 The time is 7:48 p.m.

13 And thanks again for coming.

14 (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 62 pages
7 constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings
8 had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of
9 my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 31st day of
11 October, 2011.

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C. Martin Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50162

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