

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
6:02 p.m.

Location

**Mesa Convention Center
Palo Verde I Building B Main Campus
263 North Center Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201**

Attending

Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair

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

Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

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

Mesa, Arizona
October 26, 2011
6:02 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will come to order.

It is October 26, 2011. The time is 6:02 p.m. We are on the record.

We are in Mesa, Arizona.

Won't you all rise with me and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you all for coming tonight.

Tonight's hearing is a part of round two of the Commission's public comment hearings.

The Commission has published two maps, a draft congressional map and a draft legislative map.

The purpose of these public comment hearings is to get your input on these maps. We want to hear what you have to say.

If you would like to address the Commission later,

1 please go ahead and fill out one of these yellow request to
2 speak forms, you'll find them in the back, and give them to
3 any one of our staff, and you'll be able to speak.

4 Before we get too much farther, I want to ask our
5 translator, Carlos Reyes, to come to the microphone. He is
6 going to read an announcement in English and in Spanish. To
7 comply with federal law, the Commission is required to make
8 translation services available, so I'll turn it over to
9 Carlos.

10 CARLOS REYES: Thank you, Chair Freeman, ladies
11 and gentlemen, commissioners.

12 In accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a
13 translator and/or interpreter will be available at the
14 public hearings in order to provide translating and
15 interpreting services that might be needed for those
16 citizens that need translating and interpreting services.

17 Please contact the translator and/or interpreter
18 present at this meeting so that he or she can assist you.

19 Now I will read the script in Spanish.

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

22 CARLOS REYES: Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Reyes.

24 My name is Scott Freeman. I'm one of the
25 five commissioners on the Independent Redistricting

1 Commission.

2 As part of these public comment hearings, what
3 we're doing about 26, 27 of them across the state over about
4 a three-week period.

5 So the individual commissioners are sort of
6 dividing the duties in pairs or single commissioners or even
7 three, I think, at one hearing, are sort of dividing up the
8 state and attending these hearings.

9 All of our hearings are live streamed when that
10 capability is available to us. So I know the other
11 commissioners, our chair Colleen Mathis, our other vice
12 chair Jose Herrera, Commissioner McNulty,
13 Commissioner Stertz, are watching these proceedings online
14 and listening to what you're saying tonight.

15 I'd like to introduce a few other people.

16 To my right is counsel for the Commission, Joe
17 Kanefield.

18 We have our mapping consultant, Korinne Belock, is
19 here as well. She's going to have a brief presentation
20 about redistricting that she'll provide to you in a moment.

21 We also have our assistant executive director,
22 Kristina Gomez, in the back.

23 We have one of our outreach coordinators, Lisa
24 Schmelling, is in the back with the forms.

25 Buck Forst, our chief technology adviser, chief

1 technology expert, is manning the live stream.

2 And everything that is being said here tonight is
3 being taken down by our court reporter, Marty Herder.

4 Let's make sure I've covered everything.

5 Again, the yellow request to speak forms are in
6 the back.

7 You'll also see in the back a packet that begins
8 with a cover letter by the chair, and it has some of the
9 maps included in it.

10 At the back of the packet you'll see a blue
11 comment form. If you don't want to speak tonight, but
12 rather submit your comments in writing, I encourage you to
13 go ahead and fill out this form. You can fill it out
14 tonight and submit it to any member of our staff or you can
15 take it home and mail it in to the Commission.

16 The Commission also has a website,
17 azredistricting.org.

18 On that website there is an ability to leave
19 comments through the website, or you can call the Commission
20 where the phone number is available -- also available on the
21 website.

22 With that, I'm going to turn the program over to
23 Ms. Belock, who's got a presentation about the redistricting
24 process.

25 KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Thank you.

1 Good evening. My name is Korinne Kubena Belock
2 with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here in Mesa to
3 discuss the draft congressional and legislative maps
4 presented by the Arizona Independent Redistricting
5 Commission.

6 So the goal of these meetings, of course, is to
7 hear comments from you. So thank you for taking the time to
8 attend this evening.

9 The draft maps you'll see today are currently
10 under a 30-day review period so that the Commission can hear
11 your opinion about these maps.

12 So before I get into the maps, I just want to give
13 you a quick overview of the redistricting process.

14 Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the
15 state constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the
16 passage of Proposition 106.

17 It stipulates that Arizona's Independent
18 Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and
19 legislative districts to reflect the most recent census
20 results.

21 So due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a
22 congressional seat going from eight seats to nine seats.

23 So what are the requirements of the state
24 constitution via Proposition 106?

25 The new district boundaries must comply with the

1 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, and they must
2 have equal population. And criteria A and B are federally
3 mandated.

4 And then to the extent practicable, the districts
5 must be compact and contiguous, respect communities of
6 interest, use visible geographic features, city, town, and
7 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and favor
8 competitive districts where no significant detriment to
9 other goals.

10 So just a little bit about the Voting Rights Act
11 in particular.

12 Arizona's congressional and legislative districts
13 must receive preclearance or approval from the Department of
14 Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting
15 Rights Act before they can take effect.

16 To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that
17 the new districts do not discriminate in purpose against
18 minority voters in purpose or effect, which means there can
19 be no intentional or accidental discrimination.

20 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
21 cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce
22 minority voters' rights.

23 And the presence of discrimination can be
24 determined by analyzing population data and election
25 results.

1 So quickly just want to show you a quick video
2 from Bruce Adelson, who's been advising the Commission on
3 matters related to the Voting Rights Act and preclearance.

4 So just to go into that video now.

5 (Whereupon, a video presentation of Bruce Adelson
6 was shown.)

7 KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Great. So we'll go back
8 into the presentation very quickly.

9 Give me one minute here.

10 Okay. So moving on to the timeline for the
11 Commission.

12 So the overall timeline for the redistricting
13 process can be broken down into five steps. Earlier this
14 year, step one, the Commission was established, and the
15 commissioners were appointed following a thorough screening
16 process and serve in a voluntary role for the state of
17 Arizona.

18 Of course, tonight we have Vice-Chair Scott
19 Freeman. And also on the Commission, Jose Herrera, vice
20 chair, Chairman Colleen Mathis, Linda McNulty, and Richard
21 Stertz.

22 The second round -- the second step was the first
23 round of public hearings.

24 So before drawing a single line, the Commission
25 held 23 public hearings in the months of July and August

1 around the state to get input from members of the public on
2 issues about the redistricting process, such as geography,
3 communities of interest, minority voting rights, and
4 competitiveness.

5 Then the mapping process actually began.

6 So per Proposition 106, the Commission started
7 with a blank slate, which we'll talk a little about a little
8 bit more about when we see the maps.

9 They then divided the state into equal population
10 and compact grid-like districts, and approved a grid map on
11 August 18th.

12 And since adopting the grid map, the Commission
13 has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the
14 grid to accommodate all six of the constitutional criteria.

15 During this time they also received additional
16 public comment and draft maps from the public.

17 Then came the approval of the draft maps. So on
18 October 3rd the Commission approved a draft congressional
19 map that incorporated changes based on the constitutional
20 criteria.

21 They then approved a draft legislative map on
22 October 10th.

23 Which brings us to step four, which is the second
24 round of public hearings, which we're going through now. So
25 currently the Commission's visiting 25 towns and cities to

1 share the draft maps and to receive additional public input
2 during the months of October and November.

3 Step five is with the approval of the final maps.

4 Upon completion of the public comment period, the
5 AIRC will adopt the final maps.

6 And then step six, which Bruce Adelson spoke
7 about, is the preclearance process.

8 So because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the
9 Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the
10 federal Department of Justice or the federal court in
11 Washington, D.C., before they can be used in Arizona
12 elections.

13 So now moving on to the maps.

14 To show you how the Commission came to the current
15 draft maps, I'm going to go through the progression of the
16 mapping process.

17 So the map that you see here on the screen was --
18 is the congressional map that was approved by the last
19 Redistricting Commission and was most recently used in 2010
20 election.

21 Then, as I touched on earlier, the blank slate
22 maps.

23 So per Proposition 106, the Commission was
24 required to start with a blank slate, not taking into
25 consideration any previous election districts or incumbents.

1 Which brought us to the congressional grid map.

2 Again, also per Proposition 106, the Commission
3 started with a grid map. However, the grid map only takes
4 into consideration two of the six constitutional criteria:
5 Equal population and compactness.

6 So in August the Commission asked that two grid
7 maps be drawn. And on August 18th they agreed on
8 option two, which is the version that you see on the screen
9 here.

10 So after more than the 25 meetings, the Commission
11 voted to approve the draft map that's now on the screen, the
12 draft congressional map.

13 In addition to taking into consideration the
14 six constitutional criteria, the Commission took into
15 consideration public comment that was provided via public
16 hearings, public meetings, round one of the public hearings,
17 comments mailed, e-mailed, telephoned, faxed, any
18 communication that came into the Commission about changes to
19 these maps or recommendations.

20 So over 5,000 comments in total helped to develop
21 the draft map which you see here.

22 And to go through a couple of the highlights for
23 you of this map. The draft congressional map includes
24 two predominantly rural districts, it includes three border
25 districts, it includes three districts in the greater Tucson

1 region, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County,
2 it avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, and it
3 creates two districts where minority voters have an
4 opportunity to elect a candidate of choice.

5 So now just moving into the legislative maps.

6 So, much like the congressional draft map,
7 developing the legislative map followed a very similar
8 process. So here we see the legislative map that was last
9 used -- that was developed by the last commission and was
10 last used in the 2010 elections.

11 Again, per Proposition 106, the Commission started
12 with a blank slate. And the grid map was approved in
13 August, which is on the screen now.

14 So similar to the congressional map, the grid map
15 only took into consideration equal population and
16 compactness.

17 Which leads us to the legislative draft map.
18 Arizona has 30 legislative districts, and each district
19 elects one senator and two house members.

20 So some points about the legislative draft map to
21 share with you today.

22 So, the Commission took into consideration
23 population growth and reduction. So, in the old districts,
24 the population ranged from 155,000 to 378,000.

25 In the current draft, the population ranges from

1 207,000 to 215,000.

2 So to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the
3 draft map also includes ten districts in which minority
4 voters should have an opportunity to elect a candidate of
5 choice.

6 And then this draft legislative map includes
7 three districts wholly within Pima County and three
8 additional southern Arizona districts. It includes
9 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County, and
10 nine districts that are primarily rural.

11 So, again, one of the most important reasons for
12 these meetings are so that the AIRC can get your input. A
13 couple ways you can do that. You can fill out a request to
14 speak form at a public hearing and provide the Commission
15 with your input. Examples of your input might include
16 anything from thoughts on constitutional criteria to
17 specific suggestions for the draft congressional and
18 legislative maps.

19 You can also submit your input by speaking at a
20 hearing, filling out a public hearing form -- public input
21 form at a hearing, or on the AIRC website.

22 Which I'll show you in a bit.

23 And you can also visit the azredistricting.org
24 which is the AIRC's website and submit public input that way
25 for us. You can call (602)542-5221, or toll free at

1 (855)733-7478. You can also phone in your input. So we
2 want to give you all those options.

3 Another important part of this process is that you
4 can stay connected throughout the redistricting process.

5 So what you see on the screen here is a
6 screen shot of the Commission's website.

7 The arrows here highlight a couple of key areas
8 that you might be interested in.

9 So, one, you can find meetings on the website.

10 So the red arrow shows you here. You can
11 basically find future and past meetings. And in case you'd
12 like to watch any of the deliberation that went into drawing
13 the draft maps, you can find meetings by date under this
14 link.

15 You can also make public comments, which is the
16 public input form link, which shows you where that link is.

17 And then finally you see two arrows for maps. The
18 one at the top takes you to the maps, but tonight I'm going
19 to talk about the arrow at the bottom that takes you to the
20 same page basically.

21 So if you click on the link there, the screen that
22 will come up is this screen here, which basically is a
23 listing of the congressional and legislative maps in
24 different file times, so something like a JPEG or a PDF. So
25 basically just different file types.

1 But tonight to talk about one specific type of
2 file, which is the KMZ/Google map file.

3 If you click on the red circle here, or the link
4 to the red circle here, for Google maps, you're brought up
5 to this slide here, which is viewing the KMZ/Google map.

6 So, of course, most people are interested in
7 viewing these draft maps.

8 And once you click on the map, you'll see the menu
9 of choices and you're brought to this screen.

10 The great thing about the Google maps is that you
11 can zoom in and out to specific areas that you're interested
12 in, which gives you a great opportunity to view down to
13 specific blocks and boundaries of these maps.

14 So just to take you through what's shown on the
15 left side here in the screen, those are a series of filters
16 that you can click on and off of to highlight different
17 areas of the maps.

18 So, for example, you can click on and off counties
19 or on and off population -- basically population data here,
20 but on and off different districts, and also on and off --
21 you can click on and off colors which allows you to better
22 view the maps.

23 So that's worth noting on the side there.

24 So now what you see, of course, is a zoomed-out
25 version of the congressional map.

1 And if you zoom in, this slide shows you a zoomed
2 in look on some of the areas surrounding Maricopa County.

3 Again, just noting you have the ability to zoom in
4 and out down to viewing street names and blocks. So it's a
5 really great way to view the maps.

6 So, as I wrap this up, I just want to highlight
7 the Commission's website for you one more time. It's
8 azredistricting.org.

9 Again, at the website you can draw maps of your
10 own. You can watch current or past meetings and get updates
11 about future meetings as well.

12 If you're into social media, I encourage you to
13 follow us on Twitter at the hash tag AIRC and you can also
14 friend the Commission on Facebook and you'll get
15 up-to-the-minute updates through both of those social media
16 mediums as well.

17 And that is the end of the slide. But, again,
18 thank you for coming out this evening and being a part of
19 this process with the Commission.

20 A final word on these maps, just to note, copies
21 of these maps can be found in the packets that you received
22 this evening. We also have large blown-up copies of the
23 maps on the walls in the back of the room, which are a great
24 way to view the different areas.

25 Also, I'm available after the public comment

1 period should you have any questions regarding the mapping
2 process or any advice, you know, about accessing the maps or
3 questions about that as well.

4 And, of course, the staff is available to help you
5 if you have any questions regarding how to find the maps or
6 anything along those lines.

7 So I look forward to speaking with you this
8 evening, and thank you for having us here.

9 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Belock.

10 We'll now turn to the public comment portion of
11 the program.

12 In providing comments, whether you do it at the
13 microphone or in writing, the more specific you can be about
14 the maps, what you like about the maps, what you don't like
15 about the maps, is very helpful to the Commission.

16 If you have specific changes you'd like to see,
17 please lay them out.

18 If you've thought about the next step and how
19 other districts might need to be adjusted to accommodate the
20 change you would like, even better.

21 Once again, if you'd like to speak to address the
22 Commission, yellow request to speak forms are in the back.

23 We also have the blue forms. You can submit them
24 in writing.

25 If you brought written materials or maps that

1 you'd like to submit to the Commission, please submit them
2 to any member of our staff. They will get them to the
3 commissioners, and they become part of our record.

4 Right now I think I have about ten request to
5 speak forms.

6 So I think going forward I'd ask that if you're
7 speaking to try to limit your comments to five minutes.

8 And we'll keep a timer on that. If you hear --
9 Mr. Forst will keep the timer. When you hear the chime or
10 whatever it is, the buzzer, don't feel you have to end
11 your comments immediately, but do try -- please try to
12 sort of wrap up your thoughts so we're fair to everyone else
13 who has come and make sure everyone else has a chance to
14 speak.

15 When I call your name, please come up to the
16 microphone. Don't be shy about wrestling with it, because
17 we need you to speak right into it so the people in the
18 back will hear and so people on live stream will hear as
19 well.

20 Please state your name and spell your name so
21 Mr. Herder has an accurate record of who you are.

22 And if I haven't mentioned who you stated on your
23 form who you are here representing, or where you're from,
24 please go ahead and add that.

25 And when you say where you're from, what we're

1 looking for is not a street address. We're not looking for
2 that, but a city or county where you're from.

3 So with that, I'll invite our first speaker, Lynne
4 Pancrazi, who is a state representative from the former
5 District 24, from Yuma, representing her constituents.

6 REPRESENTATIVE LYNNE PANCRAZI: Good evening. You
7 look lost by yourself up there. Nice to see you again.

8 I am here as I was in three other meetings to let
9 you know that rural Arizona would like to stay rural and
10 would not -- does not want to be attached to Surprise,
11 Litchfield Park, and all of Glendale and Avondale and all
12 the places that belong to Maricopa County.

13 We are very concerned about losing our rural
14 voice, and also ask that Yuma County has been a competitive
15 district in the past. Let's put it this way, District 24
16 has been a competitive district in the past. And we'd like
17 to remain a competitive district.

18 We'd also like to remain all of Yuma County and
19 all of La Paz County if that is at all possible.

20 If not, and we do need to split for some reason
21 because of federal requirements, La Paz County has been with
22 Yuma County as part of Yuma County and as part of La Paz
23 County from its very existence.

24 And we know the issues there, that we connect
25 really well together, and we represent La Paz County very

1 well and would like to have La Paz County connected to and
2 not to the Mohave district.

3 I understand the strip wants to come down to
4 La Paz County. That would allow La Paz County to come out
5 of that and be able to go with Yuma County and District 13
6 if at all possible.

7 But if it's possible and we can do that, I
8 would -- Yuma County wants to remain whole.

9 So that's what I'm here for. And you've heard me
10 before, but I'm asking you again and again until you get
11 tired of seeing me here to please keep Yuma intact, Yuma
12 County intact, and keep La Paz County with us.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

15 Next will be Jenn Daniels, vice mayor, town of
16 Gilbert, representing the town of Gilbert, and from Gilbert.

17 VICE-MAYOR JENN DANIELS: Thank you,
18 Vice-Chair Freeman.

19 My name is Jenn Daniels, J-E-N-N, D-A-N-I-E-L-S.

20 I am the vice mayor from the town of Gilbert and I
21 am here representing the council.

22 While we very much appreciate the difficult nature
23 of your work, the Town of Gilbert was disappointed to see
24 the IRC's draft legislative map that was adopted for
25 consideration.

1 The IRC's proposed map clearly contradicts the
2 Town's expressed preference and legitimate need for stronger
3 representation in the Arizona state legislature.

4 On October 6, 2011, the Gilbert Town Council
5 unanimously passed a resolution supporting IRC proposed map
6 Legislative 9 minority district, option one, version 8A.

7 And we respectfully requested the IRC to honor the
8 Town of Gilbert's input into its creation of legislative
9 districts.

10 Your vote, however, approved a legislative map
11 that places the bulk of Gilbert into one single legislative
12 district, at the same time alienating a small sliver of our
13 town by placing it into another district where our residents
14 will be grossly outnumbered by residents of a neighboring
15 municipality. Under the IRC's map these residents will be
16 harmed by being effectively disenfranchised.

17 The town of Gilbert, despite our town designation,
18 we are 74 square miles and 209,000 citizens strong.

19 We represent the fastest growing region of the
20 Phoenix metropolitan area. And despite the downturn of the
21 economy, Gilbert maintains steady rates of growth that
22 surpass any city in the state.

23 Again, by placing the vast majority of Gilbert
24 into one legislative district, the IRC has effectively
25 diluted the representation of Gilbert residents from the

1 Arizona state legislature and done harm to the one man,
2 one vote principle.

3 If the IRC's proposed legislative map is firmly
4 adopted, it is important for this Commission to know that
5 within just a few short years Gilbert's population will
6 render its one legislative district substantially
7 overpopulated and severely underrepresented.

8 The consequence of this is that Gilbert residents
9 will have to endure ten long years of underrepresentation.

10 In light of these facts, the Town of Gilbert
11 respectfully asks the distinguished members of this
12 Commission to understand that its adopted draft map is not
13 in the best interest of the town or its residents.

14 The Town of Gilbert supports the concept of
15 two strong legislative districts for the town, as embodied
16 in the IRC's originally proposed map, Legislative 9 minority
17 district version 8A.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

20 Next is Lerry Alderman, Globe city councilman,
21 representing rural eastern Arizona.

22 COUNCILMAN LERRY ALDERMAN: Thank you for allowing
23 me to speak tonight.

24 Superior Mayor Hing was supposed to speak tonight
25 on behalf of rural eastern Arizona. However, his father was

1 hospitalized just hours ago, and I was asked to fill in for
2 him.

3 And unfortunately I grabbed the wrong stack of
4 papers, but, as you know, we had submitted maps for rural
5 Arizona, rural eastern Arizona.

6 We have joined with other citizens of governments
7 of eastern rural Arizona in urging the Commission to keep
8 the congressional representation of this region solely rural
9 and undivided.

10 If you'll notice that your map divides
11 specifically Gila County into three different sections,
12 which is unacceptable.

13 We also in rural Arizona have some common
14 interests. And that's mining, ranching, timber, and
15 tourism.

16 We would like to have that recognized as like
17 things that we have in common.

18 And also I would also like to bring to your
19 attention that we now have 12 cities who have adopted
20 resolutions supporting rural eastern Arizona and keeping it
21 together.

22 The last two last night, the City of Winslow and
23 the Town of Snowflake, adopted a resolution. And as you
24 know, we are a representative type of government.

25 Unfortunately everyone from our communities, and

1 they are widespread, are unable to come to these meetings.
2 So we, as representatives of those people, speak on their
3 behalf.

4 There hasn't been any opposition to the
5 resolutions that we've all passed supporting rural Arizona.

6 I would like to remind you that the City of
7 Winslow has a total of 9,655 signatures by virtue of that
8 resolution.

9 The Town of Snowflake has 5,590 signatures tagged
10 with that.

11 I would also like to let you know that St. Johns
12 and Camp Verde have a resolution on the table for tonight,
13 and they will probably pass as well without any opposition.

14 We are fundamentally alike in all aspects of what
15 your requirements for the redistricting process is.

16 We are a little bit on the heavy side as far as
17 minority representation. We have more minority
18 representation in rural Arizona. And we also have -- we're
19 right at 54 short of having the exact amount of people
20 represented in that district -- or in that rural Arizona
21 coalition.

22 I'd just like to ask you to be mindful that each
23 one of those resolutions carry a number of individuals that
24 we represent.

25 Most of those people -- I have 1200 people that I

1 represent. I deal with them on a daily basis. I interact
2 with them. I know what their desires are, and I try to
3 serve that.

4 If you take \$36.15 away from my pay, every payday,
5 every -- twice a month, I will have to pay to serve them.
6 Which I would gladly do.

7 I believe that in these rural communities as well
8 as the bigger communities, we on the front line, grassroots,
9 feel the same way.

10 We are here to serve, and we feel that our
11 interests would be better served with a rural Arizona as it
12 is mapped out and it's -- it doesn't cut counties up, and
13 it's -- it represents all the people and meets all the right
14 criteria for the redistricting process.

15 That's about all I've got to say.

16 If you have any questions for me?

17 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you,
18 Councilman Alderman.

19 And please extend the Commission's sympathies to
20 Mayor Hing. I had the opportunity to meet him when we were
21 up in Globe. Thank you.

22 COUNCILMAN LERRY ALDERMAN: Thank you. God bless.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next will be Douglas Coleman,
24 councilman, city of Apache Junction, representing
25 Apache Junction.

1 COUNCILMAN DOUGLAS COLEMAN: Hello,
2 Vice-Chair Freeman. I'm Douglas Coleman, D-O-U-G-L-A-S,
3 C-O-L-E-M-A-N. And I am here representing Apache Junction.

4 I need to tell you that our council discussed the
5 proposed maps, and I differ from the majority of our
6 council.

7 I think the other six members all felt that on the
8 legislative district that we should stay in Pinal County and
9 should be in Pinal County and so that the legislative
10 district should stop at the county line and go further east.

11 I actually like the compactness of proposed
12 Legislative District 16.

13 I think it's far better than what we have been
14 operating under the last ten years, where I live in a little
15 finger that connects me with Gilbert, whereas the rest of my
16 community is in District 23.

17 So I like that.

18 Like I say, if I'm representing the council, I
19 need to tell you that the majority, in fact all six of the
20 rest of the council, feels that we need to be in Pinal
21 County exclusively.

22 The main problem that all of us have though is
23 with the congressional district. And I believe that I'm the
24 third council person to come before the Commission and
25 testify.

1 We have concerns about the compactness and
2 communities of interest and the geographic features.

3 We are in Congressional District 4, proposed
4 Congressional District 4, which is the river cities
5 communities, the Superstition Mountains.

6 We'd have to go through three other congressional
7 districts to get to the other population areas of our own
8 district.

9 There's no way -- well, I guess we could go up
10 through Globe and around through Payson. I don't know how
11 we get there.

12 But to get to Bullhead City, for example, we
13 just -- we have nothing in common.

14 We do support the map that the Pinal County
15 Governmental Alliance proposed.

16 I will give this to your staff.

17 We feel that it better suits our needs. It keeps
18 us with regions of which we share common interest.

19 And so we would ask that on the congressional
20 district side that the Commission take a look at that.
21 We're part of that claw that comes down and around Mesa,
22 which we just feel is unfair and will make it so that we
23 don't really have a voice, we feel.

24 And that's all I have to say. Thank you for your
25 time.

1 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

2 Next is Robin Benning, council member, town of
3 Queen Creek.

4 COUNCILMAN ROBIN BENNING: Good evening,
5 Vice-Chair Freeman, and other members of the Commission who
6 are probably watching right now.

7 For the record, my name is Robin Benning,
8 B-E-N-N-I-N-G. I'm the council member representing the
9 town of Queen Creek.

10 I want to take this opportunity to thank you for a
11 chance to share the Queen Creek Town Council's thoughts on
12 the proposed congressional and legislative map -- district
13 maps.

14 The town is focused on two primary issues with
15 regard to redistricting.

16 First and foremost, we believe that the entire
17 town should be included in only one congressional and only
18 one legislative district.

19 Queen Creek is a small town of approximately
20 26 square miles with 27,000 residents.

21 We're unique in that the town falls for the
22 majority in Maricopa, but we do have some area within
23 Pinal County.

24 Even though our geographic boundaries cross the
25 county line, our residents share a strong sense of

1 community.

2 They do not see themselves as Maricopa or Pinal
3 County residents, but rather see themselves as residents of
4 Queen Creek.

5 Unlike some other cities and towns looking to
6 increase their representation, the town council feels
7 strongly that they cannot support districts which would
8 split our town into more than one congressional or
9 legislative district.

10 That would in turn split our residents and cause
11 great pain and anxiety.

12 The second key issue for our town is that the town
13 be located in a urbanized district.

14 Queen Creek for the most part falls into a
15 friendly relationship with both the urbanized county of
16 Maricopa as well as the rural -- more rural county of Pinal.
17 However, our alignment is and our partnerships are stronger
18 in relation to the urbanized county.

19 The mayor has sent several letters to the
20 Commission explaining the town's community of interest is
21 with Maricopa County, because we partner with our
22 neighboring communities and jurisdictions to deliver many of
23 the services that our residents demand.

24 Unfortunately both the proposed congressional and
25 legislative maps divide the town along the county line.

1 This is a problem for us.

2 So the town council respectfully asks that the
3 Commission consider amending the maps to move the entire
4 town into Congressional District 5 and Legislative
5 District 12.

6 We really do not want our town to be divided.

7 I want to thank you again for the opportunity to
8 speak. And on behalf of the mayor and my fellow council
9 members, I sincerely hope that you can consider revising the
10 maps and include the town in one congressional district and
11 one legislative district.

12 Thank you very much.

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 Next we'll have Mayor Jay Schlum, mayor of
15 Fountain Hills.

16 MAYOR JAY SCHLUM: Thank you, Vice Chair, and
17 thanks commissioners and staff for doing an important job
18 and I know not an easy one.

19 We have forwarded a resolution signed off by our
20 council, town of Fountain Hills, and our staff, our citizens
21 have voiced a lot of concern with the congressional
22 district. And that's what I'm here to speak about tonight.

23 Before you is the Resolution No. 2011-45, to your
24 attention. It's signed. I'll leave a copy as well tonight.

25 We are urging the Arizona Independent

1 Redistricting Commission reconsider its determination
2 regarding placement of the town of Fountain Hills on the
3 finalized draft 6 congressional district map.

4 Obviously, you know, on October 10th you adopted
5 that map, which has nine congressional districts.

6 And the draft map shows Fountain Hills in
7 Congressional District 4, while surrounding communities of
8 interest including the city of Scottsdale, Fort McDowell,
9 Yavapai Nation, Salt River Indian community, all surrounding
10 communities of ours, actually all attached to us, they are
11 our neighbors, all in a different district, District No. 6.

12 The town and the surrounding communities of
13 interest have very strong ties with one another in many
14 respects, including joint cooperation, coordination of fire
15 and emergency medical services.

16 The town and Fort McDowell jointly provide -- or
17 promote town's funding and tourism efforts through common
18 tourism bureau and various other events. And the economies
19 of the town and Fort McDowell are inextricably linked.

20 The town and Fort McDowell share a common school
21 district and the children of both communities share many of
22 the same schools.

23 The town and the surrounding communities often
24 share common interests with respect to major infrastructure
25 projects, which projects often require the communities to

1 work cooperatively through regional and federal
2 transportation agencies, which cooperation will be severely
3 hampered if the town is located in District 4.

4 The current boundaries between District 4 and 6
5 divide these tightly-bound communities of interest into
6 separate congressional districts, splintering representation
7 of the town and aligning it with rural Arizona communities
8 with whom it has very few common interests. And, in some
9 cases, placing it at odds with communities in District 4
10 where urban/metro areas of interest collide with the
11 interests of rural Arizona communities.

12 The shape and extremely -- is extremely diverse
13 and remote geographic locations of the major population
14 centers of the proposed District 4 creates substantial
15 difficulties for representatives elected from one portion of
16 the district to be familiar with or even physically reach
17 the other areas of the district.

18 And the unique physical land forms around the town
19 give it a particularly intimate relationship with the
20 surrounding communities, particularly with respect to the
21 interconnected open spaces.

22 THE REPORTER: Could you repeat that, sir? Could
23 you repeat that last part, please?

24 MAYOR JAY SCHLUM: The shape and extremely diverse
25 and remote geographical locations of the major population

1 centers of the proposed District 4 creates substantial
2 difficulties for a representative elected from one portion
3 of the district to be familiar with or even physically reach
4 the other areas of the district.

5 The unique physical land forms around the town
6 give it a particular intimate relationship with surrounding
7 communities, particularly with respect to the interconnected
8 open space and recreational facilities.

9 The boundaries of District 4 and District 6 on the
10 map if left unchanged with respect to the town may cause
11 irreparable damage to the decades -- to the decades of
12 cooperative efforts between the town and surrounding
13 communities.

14 So the mayor of the town of Fountain Hills,
15 myself, hereby request the IRC to approve an amendment to
16 the draft map to alter the boundary -- boundary line between
17 District 4 and District 6 to also include the town and its
18 community neighbors of Rio Verde within the boundaries of
19 District 6.

20 On the map you'll see, and you're probably
21 familiar because it's already been a challenge, is that the
22 map uniquely seems to come down and grab Fountain Hills
23 and it removes us from every one of our neighboring
24 communities.

25 So it's very important for us to remain in those

1 communities of interest that we partner with. And we
2 believe greatly in regionalism, so we would appreciate your
3 strong consideration of realigning Fountain Hills with the
4 district that is the same with our neighbors.

5 Thank you for doing a difficult job.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

7 Next I have Ken Hand, representing self, from
8 Tempe.

9 KEN HAND: My name is Ken Hand, H-A-N-D.

10 And I want to thank all the members for taking on
11 this difficult and probably thankless task.

12 Maricopa County is about four times the population
13 of Pima County, so I was a little bit surprised when I saw
14 that the members of the committee were -- the Commission
15 were about 60 percent.

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Would you pull that
17 microphone up a little bit?

18 KEN HAND: So Pima County has about 60 percent of
19 the representation.

20 So I thought it might be of benefit for me to
21 provide information being a more than 44 year resident of
22 proposed CD 9 continuously.

23 I lived in the northeast Phoenix area and all
24 the way to south Tempe, so I've lived in that area for more
25 than 44 years and gone to school and worked in that CD area.

1 My issue is really the community of interest on
2 the -- for the congressional districts in Arizona.

3 Northeast Phoenix, as you know, CD 9 stretches all
4 the way from northeast Phoenix all the way to Chandler. And
5 northeast Phoenix is much more a part of north Phoenix or
6 Phoenix than it is or even Scottsdale than it is of Tempe,
7 Mesa, and the east valley.

8 And so I'm not too sure why it would have been
9 spread all the way up that far north.

10 Tempe is also more identified as part of the east
11 valley of Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, and so forth.

12 I also will second -- or actually you've heard
13 this a number of times, and you just heard now, of
14 Fountain Hills and Apache Junction being part of the Phoenix
15 metro area.

16 They're much more identified with the Phoenix
17 metro area than cities like Yuma, Bullhead City, and even
18 Colorado City.

19 And I think it's in their best interest, and the
20 residents know much better and say so.

21 My solution is to -- I think northeast Phoenix
22 should be included in proposed CD 6 or 7.

23 And that's more aligned with their community
24 interest in that area.

25 CD 9 should be expanded east rather than north

1 into Mesa to make up for the northeast Phoenix being draw up
2 to that district.

3 CD 5 should be expanded to include
4 Apache Junction, all of Queen Creek, Florence, San Tan,
5 et cetera.

6 And I think you've heard that from those towns
7 specifically, but I'm just kind of voicing my agreement with
8 those, just making those part of that and change those
9 boundaries.

10 Thanks.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

12 Next I have Pam Whitney, representing LD 18.

13 PAM WHITNEY: Hi. I am Pam Whitney, P-A-M,
14 W-H-I-T-N-E-Y.

15 Okay. You want to vote taxation without
16 representation, we need every vote to count.

17 If political parties in these districts are
18 grossly unbalanced, those people aren't being represented
19 there. They aren't being heard.

20 To be fair, we need to make -- we need to have
21 these be competitive. We need it to actually be a true,
22 true race between the political parties so we know what a
23 true majority feels about things.

24 And I think that it's important that we try to get
25 it as balanced as we can.

1 That's all.

2 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

3 Next is Randy Keating, representing self, from
4 Tempe.

5 RANDY KEATING: Hi, my name is Randy Keating,
6 R-A-N-D-Y, K-E-A-T-I-N-G. And I'm here tonight to talk to
7 you briefly about competitiveness. But, first of all, thank
8 you for your public service. It's a thankless job, I know.
9 I've been to a lot of these. You've taken a lot of abuse,
10 and you're almost done, which I'm sure you're very happy
11 about.

12 Overall, I have mixed feelings about both of these
13 maps, legislative and congressional.

14 I would like to see more competitiveness,
15 particularly in our legislative maps.

16 An example of a district I think that would be a
17 good model would be the new LD 26.

18 Only a few points separate the Rs and the Ds. A
19 majority of those voters are registered as Independents.

20 And it kind of -- you know, it's contiguous. It's
21 compact. It respects for the most part communities of
22 interest.

23 Although I do think that it is a mistake to not
24 include the Tempe Links in that district.

25 I lived in Tempe Links for a number of years, and

1 that's just as much a part of Tempe as is the university.

2 So I would like to see that included in the future
3 LD for that area.

4 But, overall I think that other legislative
5 maps -- other legislative districts would do well to be
6 modeled after the new LD 26.

7 As far as the congressional maps, I do -- I live
8 in what will be Congressional District 9, and I think that
9 that is another good example of what a competitive district
10 can look like.

11 Again, only a few points separate the Ds and the
12 Rs. The majority of the voters are registered Independents.
13 So it gives us an opportunity to have a real race for our
14 congressman about real issues.

15 If a Republican only has to talk to a Republican
16 and a Democrat only has to talk to a Democrat to win an
17 election, we don't get anything done.

18 We turn over our democracy then to special
19 interests that compose our political parties.

20 So the only way to move forward in this country --
21 and I do believe that a vast majority of our problems right
22 now have to do with polarization of our political parties.
23 I think that the only way to solve that is to make sure that
24 all races for congress, all races for state legislature are
25 competitive.

1 Without that, we're just going to have more of the
2 same, no matter who's voted in.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

6 Next I have Amy Kalman, representing self, from
7 LD 17, perhaps 12.

8 AMY KALMAN: My name is Amy Kalman. That's A-M-Y,
9 last name is K-A-L-M-A-N. And I am representing myself here
10 today.

11 Just wanting to tag in a bit on what Mr. Keating
12 just said very eloquently about competitiveness.

13 It's been posited lately that competitiveness in
14 some ways is secondary, or even more than that, tertiary,
15 that somehow it is the last in for any kind of goal this
16 body should be establishing.

17 And I'd just like to forward you the language of
18 the most recent Arizona Supreme Court redistricting
19 decisions that affirmed that competitiveness is as important
20 as communities of interest, is as important as everything
21 except the Voting Rights Act, which must, of course, come
22 first.

23 It says that the direction -- the direction that
24 competitiveness should be favored unless one of two
25 conditions occurs, and that would be practicality and

1 harming the other goals, substantially occurs does not,
2 contrary to the Commission's assertion, mean that the
3 competitiveness goal is less mandatory than the other goals,
4 can be ignored, or should be relegated to a secondary role.

5 The constitutional language means what it says.

6 There's been a lot of outside bodies trying to
7 influence this one, and a lot of rumors, a lot of threats,
8 and a lot of name calling.

9 And I think that's seriously a concern. Because
10 this body is supposed to be independent, is supposed to be
11 able to do its job without harassment, and is supposed to be
12 taking competitiveness and making it work, making it work
13 within these districts, making it work within the parameters
14 that it has.

15 I very much appreciate that it has been doing so.
16 Under what I would consider to be horrible political outside
17 attempts at influence.

18 And I would just like to stand up here and affirm
19 that competitiveness need not be feared. Competitiveness
20 could be what saves Arizona from extremism on both sides
21 rendering it completely impractical to do anything at all.

22 And therefore your goal, your job here, is and has
23 been an extremely important one.

24 I appreciate everything that you and the other
25 members of the Commission have done.

1 I have looked at these maps. I think that some of
2 the people who stood up here before me have made may very
3 well researched and very poignant points.

4 But on the larger global level, I would urge the
5 Commission to consider that competitiveness also needs to be
6 one of those overarching goals.

7 There are plenty of ways we can tweak something
8 here and there. And then of course we have to go back and
9 fix things as far as whether we're complying with the Voting
10 Rights Act and then we have to fix things as to whether
11 we're complying with population issues, landmarks, things
12 such as this.

13 Don't let competitiveness get lost in the dust.

14 We all are looking not only to have our towns kept
15 together, to have the people that we formed communities
16 with, people that we work with, but to have our system work.

17 And that above all is why you are here and why are
18 of you are so important.

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next I have Jana Granillo,
22 representing self, from Tempe.

23 JANA GRANILLO: Good evening. I've been here
24 before. My name is Jana, J-A-N-A, Granillo,
25 G-R-A-N-I-L-L-O.

1 I live in Tempe. I'm currently in District 17.
2 And I'm here today to speak again in support of the proposed
3 Congressional District 9.

4 I support what the drawn map is.

5 I do understand based on comments that tweaks will
6 be done, and I appreciate that, as long as the prior speaker
7 informed me, as her point was made, that there is some
8 competitiveness.

9 When looking at the compact, Maricopa County, yes,
10 there are communities of interest, but we're all compact.
11 We're pretty close together with very few exceptions. And I
12 think that we have the ability to work together and to
13 collaborate.

14 I have faith in Arizona that we can do that when
15 given the opportunity, but we need that foundation in which
16 to work.

17 As far as the legislative district, the only one
18 that I've looked at is the one that it was going to affect
19 me directly, no surprise.

20 And that would be potentially District 26,
21 Legislative District 26.

22 Again, I'm okay with that.

23 If things get moved, then the competitiveness
24 seems to be -- needs to be there.

25 If things get moved down and over, that's fine by

1 me.

2 If it stays like that, like it is, that's fine,
3 again, with the competitiveness there.

4 We're very compact in that particular area.

5 And although it doesn't fit my ideal, I need to
6 take into consideration what the impact is of the whole
7 state.

8 And I truly support your efforts in doing so.

9 The other reason I come here today is to -- I told
10 my story before as to why I think competitiveness is so
11 important, and today I come to you with a new story.

12 I was able to go to the hearing in the capital
13 last Friday and witnessed what happens to a participating
14 individual when you have a partisan body.

15 And for me personally I went there on my own with
16 my own ideas, was allowed to give testimony, and then
17 subjected to questioning that I thought was very leading,
18 and also more like an interrogation as opposed to being able
19 to give testimony like I was here today.

20 I think in that particular hearing there was a
21 tone and manner that was set. And particularly for the
22 first woman who spoke, who was an African American woman.
23 And I have to tell you that it took all my courage as a
24 woman of color to get up there and express an opposing
25 viewpoint.

1 And I took it.

2 And I'm here to tell you today that that's
3 unacceptable, that we can have such partisan politics, and I
4 hope that Arizona can do better than that so that citizens
5 like myself, a woman, of color, who just simply wants to
6 express an opinion, doesn't get beat up in the process.

7 I appreciate your work that you've done.

8 I can't imagine being in your shoes and going
9 through what you have gone through, what you have been
10 doing.

11 And I support your efforts. I support your work
12 that you've done in Arizona.

13 I support your ability to make quality decisions
14 and tweak the lines as need to be so that they hold back for
15 Arizona is competitiveness and keeping that in balance.

16 And I thank you very much for your time. Thank
17 you for your service.

18 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

19 Next is Lauren Kuby, representing self, from
20 Maricopa County.

21 LAUREN KUBY: Hello. Lauren Kuby, K-U-B-Y.

22 And from Tempe, a 23-year resident of Tempe,
23 Arizona.

24 And I'd like to speak today also in support of
25 Congressional District 9.

1 I've heard some arguments before that the
2 Commission -- that this not does not represent a natural
3 community of interest. And I would like to say it actually
4 really does. When you look at the flow of people from Mesa
5 Community College and ASU Tempe campus to downtown campus,
6 there's been a natural flow in terms of social, academic,
7 economic interests that has been sort of encapsulated by the
8 lightrail, lightrail system. And I think it creates a
9 natural community of interest that seems to be helpful in
10 creating the only competitive district that is in
11 congressional map.

12 I'd also like to give another example of why I
13 think CD 9 is a community of interest.

14 Council -- city council district six, which is
15 represented now by Council Member Sal DiCiccio, that
16 district is almost entirely within CD 9. So that makes a
17 lot of sense I think. There's a lot natural community
18 there.

19 Another reason I'd like to give, ASU has a current
20 project now called Energize Phoenix that is funded by the
21 Department of Energy.

22 And the idea behind Energize Phoenix is to create
23 the green rail, to make the lightrail and the communities,
24 the institutions, schools, homes, along the lightrail as
25 green as possible in terms of lot of retrofitting of

1 buildings and such.

2 So ASU and the U.S. government saw that that would
3 be a natural community of interest that needed to be
4 supported and sort of held up as a model in the state of how
5 we can have a greener, greener economy and more sustainable
6 community.

7 So those are my reasons why I think CD 6 should
8 be -- sorry, CD 9 as proposed should be kept the way it is.

9 I wish there were more competitive districts
10 within the congressional map. I know you're balancing a lot
11 of criteria there.

12 I also, like Jana who spoke before me, would like
13 to speak out very strongly against interference from the
14 governor and the legislature in the proceedings.

15 You're all public servants. You're all volunteers
16 giving enormous amounts of your time.

17 I know my husband was being considered for the --
18 to be on the Commission, and he withdrew when he realized
19 what kind of commitment we're talking about here, ten years,
20 ten years of your time and countless hours with not much
21 thanks.

22 And I want to thank you for that.

23 But I see all that interference is happening. And
24 I second the experience that Jana related on Friday, because
25 I was there today, and found a lot of bullying tactics going

1 on.

2 I happen to be the fifth of sixth kids, so I know
3 about bullies. So I felt like I handled myself well in
4 reaction. But some in ways with the commission -- sorry,
5 the committee the legislature has put together, in some ways
6 it's very poetic I find because it reaffirms exactly why we
7 need an Independent Redistricting Commission.

8 It reaffirms that Proposition 106 and the voters'
9 will in 2000 was to keep this out of the hands of the
10 legislature and not to be interfered with.

11 And today I mentioned to the legislators that all
12 their comments were -- could be aimed and directed at the
13 legislative -- I'm sorry, at one of your many public
14 hearings.

15 There are many opportunities to do that.

16 I spoke with thousands of people that have given
17 public testimony.

18 And I sort of paused and thought, oh, wait, no,
19 you wouldn't want to do that because that would be seen as
20 interfering with an independent Commission. So you're not
21 going to go there. So why are you doing it in this body?

22 So I reaffirm too that you need to continue your
23 constitutional obligation, and please continue to protect
24 the will of the voters as expressed in 2000 and beyond.

25 Thank you very much.

1 (Applause.)

2 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

3 Next is CJ Briggie, representing self, from
4 Maricopa County.

5 CJ BRIGGLE: Thank you. CJ Briggie,
6 B-R-I-G-G-L-E.

7 And I do applaud the Commission for all of your
8 very hard work.

9 We're getting close to the finish line, and I am
10 confident that it feels pretty good on your side.

11 I know it does from ours. We've been diligently
12 following you also. And it's been quite a process.

13 I've been -- I'm an Arizona resident for over
14 26 years, and I now live in Ahwatukee.

15 And, it is now encompassed, in your new map,
16 LD 18.

17 And I approach this commission to tweak just a few
18 map lines in order to make this new LD 18 a truly
19 competitive 50/50 district.

20 If you take the proposed Baseline divider and move
21 it north to 60, and move the eastern border west to Dobson,
22 the other districts affected by this map can be easily
23 adjusted with minor change -- line changes either north or
24 further east.

25 And with these changes, our district will be a

1 true 50/50 competitive district at the legislative level.

2 And that's a first for our community.

3 With just a few minor tweaks, our district would
4 be the most competitive in the state and the model for all
5 competitive districts statewide.

6 And with these changes, competition will give each
7 of us a voice in our election process. And that's really
8 what we're all after.

9 Thank you for listening.

10 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

11 Next is Genevieve Vega, representing self. I
12 believe I probably mispronounced your name before.

13 GENEVIEVE VEGA: You did, but you got it right
14 this time.

15 Genevieve Vega, G-E-N-E-V-I-E-V-E, last name
16 V-E-G-A.

17 I just wanted to come in front of the Commission
18 again. Thank you very much for your time. I understand
19 this is a really difficult task and you got a lot of things
20 that you have to weigh.

21 One of -- just to reiterate my previous statement
22 about keeping the integrity of Congressional District 9, I
23 think that's, gosh, one of the only ones that's actually
24 truly competitive.

25 And, and competitive is such an important step for

1 how we succeed as a state.

2 So, so to please keep the integrity of
3 Congressional District 9.

4 Also to please -- I've heard a lot of comments
5 about all the different legislative districts, so I'm not
6 going to reiterate any of those.

7 But, again, I notice there's a high deviance from
8 what ideal as far as competitiveness goes.

9 And want to just state that all the criteria for
10 the different, the different criteria set forth upon the
11 Commission to consider withdrawing these maps, that they all
12 need to be considered equally.

13 So please do look at the competitiveness of the
14 legislative districts.

15 That's all I have to say.

16 Thank you.

17 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you. That was the last
18 request to speak form I have.

19 Is there anyone else who would like to address the
20 Commission?

21 One more.

22 (Brief pause.)

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Janie Thom.

24 JANIE THOM: Yes.

25 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Director of Central Arizona

1 Water Conservation District, for Maricopa County.

2 JANIE THOM: Yes.

3 Thank you very much for allowing me to speak, and
4 I apologize my tardiness.

5 I am elected to represent Maricopa County's
6 countywide office.

7 I represent Central Arizona Water Conservation
8 District. And you may more familiar with us. We operate
9 the Central Arizona Project canal. We take water from the
10 Colorado River and supply it to cities, farms, industry.
11 And we do recharge and replenishment in Maricopa, Pinal, and
12 Pima Counties.

13 We -- our canal is 336 miles long. And to move
14 the water, we are the largest power user in the state.

15 It's very important for us that we have
16 legislators who understand our issues and who are able to
17 deal with water and power in Arizona.

18 And looking at the legislative maps, I see that
19 there's a problem.

20 We have in the state, I'm not sure you're aware of
21 it, what we call active management areas. They were created
22 by the state government in 1980.

23 And those active management areas are in Maricopa,
24 Pinal, and Pima County.

25 And I see that some of these legislative districts

1 combine parts of two active management areas and also parts
2 of two counties.

3 And I don't think that that really respects the
4 communities of interest and compactness that the
5 Constitution provides that you folks need to go by.

6 Also, as far as communities of interest go, the
7 legislative districts specifically that you have drawn for
8 No. 25 and 16. It -- they -- it follows Power Road. And
9 16 encompasses part of Pinal County, part of Maricopa
10 County, part of Apache Junction, part of Mesa.

11 We're not looking at community of interest here at
12 all.

13 We have a shotgun sort of situation where we have
14 just all kinds of people thrown together into one
15 legislative district. This does not address communities of
16 interest and compactness. We're dealing with several school
17 districts, several cultures, different active management
18 areas, different counties.

19 And I think that returning the dividing line to
20 Meridian Road makes a lot of sense.

21 It does for Central Arizona Water Conservation
22 District.

23 It does for the school districts in
24 Apache Junction and in Mesa.

25 And the communities themselves are quite distinct.

1 Their water issues are different.

2 And I just think that a close review would be in
3 order.

4 And I just want you to think about the
5 communities. School districts are a really, really good
6 definition. It's something that people are always close to,
7 even if they don't have children in school.

8 I know I look at it myself, and my children are
9 grown.

10 So, anyway, that is kind of what I had to say.

11 I'm a resident of Mesa, and I'm the only person on
12 my board of directors from the east valley.

13 So did you have any questions you wanted to ask
14 me?

15 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: No, ma'am. Thank you very
16 much.

17 JANIE THOM: Oh, thank you very much for the
18 opportunity to address you.

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: One -- two more.

20 Allison Shannon, representing self, from Tempe.

21 ALLISON SHANNON: Hi. Allison Shannon,
22 S-H-A-N-N-O-N.

23 A lot has been said tonight about competitiveness
24 and how important that is in this process and in the
25 political process in general.

1 And I wanted to let you know I moved to Tempe
2 four years ago. And the first thing I did was get involved
3 in the political process in the city where I lived.

4 Why was that important? It was important because
5 the community that I lived in had a competitive political
6 process.

7 And I think that if we think about political
8 participation in our state, and the need for people to be
9 involved, and all of the dissatisfaction that we currently
10 see, if we encourage political participation by maintaining
11 districts like Legislative District 26 or encouraging
12 districts like 26, Congressional District 9, more people
13 will want to participate.

14 Communities matter to people.

15 And if they feel like they have a stake in their
16 community and the political process that occurs in their
17 community, more people will participate in politics in this
18 state, and I think that we'll have a better political
19 climate for it.

20 So in the interest of maintaining competitiveness
21 and encouraging participation, I encourage you to look at
22 other districts that are maybe skewed toward one political
23 side or the other and rethink those in terms of
24 competitiveness.

25 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

1 Next is Donald Savino, representing self, from
2 Maricopa County.

3 DONALD SAVINO: Hi. My name is Don Savino,
4 S-A-V-I-N-O.

5 This is impromptu. I didn't mean to speak. I
6 just thought I'd broach some subject that I heard.

7 First I want to thank you for what the
8 independent -- the district has done.

9 To be independent has been, I'm sure, incredibly
10 difficult. There's so many special interests that are vying
11 for attention that I can't believe. Today, if you haven't
12 heard, you've been sued by just about everybody who's
13 Republican, including Governor Brewer.

14 So I wouldn't want your job for anything.

15 Competitiveness, which has been brought out by a
16 huge number of people here today, seems to be the topic that
17 most people are concerned about. Because that's what gives
18 us our opportunity to speak.

19 What is it about competitiveness that people don't
20 get.

21 I know that just looking at the numbers, getting
22 the districts numerically as close as possible as you did is
23 tremendous compared to the way it was before.

24 Astounding.

25 And I'm sure that was incredibly difficult to do.

1 Competitiveness is probably the most important
2 thing that can be done.

3 There's all these criteria. None of them are more
4 important other than the Fair Act. Competitive, as far as
5 the rest of us are concerned, probably number one. Really
6 is.

7 In that case, reason rules.

8 People can make their choice based on how they
9 feel. They don't have to just vote because that's your
10 party, and then once that person gets in there, especially
11 this area, that automatically gets them elected. So the
12 most extremism rule.

13 And we need to get beyond that.

14 So, that's my point.

15 Competitiveness.

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

17 Next is Glen Gaddie, representing self, from Mesa.

18 GLEN GADDIE: I came here just to listen -- first
19 of all, thank you for allowing me to speak,
20 Vice-Chair Freeman.

21 America basically came together as a group of
22 individuals and people who had like ideals.

23 When they didn't like the ideals of the people
24 they were with, they shifted and made other communities and
25 even states.

1 Competitiveness to me is another word for trying
2 to take a community or an area and make it different than
3 what it is.

4 I've lived in the same area for 30 years. I chose
5 to raise my kids there. I like my neighbors. I like how
6 they think. I like how they vote. I like my
7 representative.

8 And I would hate to see that changed into
9 something where I have to go to battle with people that are
10 different.

11 So I don't see competitiveness as something that's
12 anything but very divisive.

13 I live in a district where we are very divided
14 right now. It's ugly.

15 And if that's competitiveness, than I would rather
16 not participate.

17 I hope you keep that in consideration that we
18 live -- I think we heard that tonight. We have people in
19 rural that want to stay rural, because that's their
20 community. That's what they are comfortable with. They
21 want representatives from that area. They don't want to
22 have representatives from other things.

23 And that's, that's how I feel. And I appreciate
24 your time.

25 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

1 Well, once again, that was the last request to
2 speak form.

3 Is there anyone else who would like to address the
4 Commission?

5 Going once, going twice.

6 Did you -- I'd ask that you please fill out a
7 form.

8 BILL KILGORE: I don't have a form.

9 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, after you make your
10 comments you can --

11 BILL KILGORE: Well, you want to wait?

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Go ahead and make your
13 comments. State your name and then you can spell it.

14 BILL KILGORE: Bill Kilgore, K-I-L-G-O-R-E.

15 And that's just interesting hearing all this
16 because I've read some on it and had a lot of friends who
17 have varied opinions on it. And I've written a letter.

18 But this competitive, I guess I'm not too sure I
19 understand what that is.

20 But I do know the community aspect.

21 I moved into a community in Tempe, and it's not
22 quite the same community as when I lived there.

23 Used to be competitive.

24 The high schools were more competitive. There's
25 two high schools. No problem.

1 But I didn't leave the community. Different
2 people moved in. We got along together. And we voted. But
3 we elected our representative from our area based on who
4 lived there.

5 So I guess my whole thing is I listen to what's
6 being said here, and I thought about it is, if I don't like
7 it, I'm going to move.

8 But I'm electing and helping to elect a person
9 from our community based on what I think the interests are
10 for our community. And the people there are voting.

11 So I believe we should be deciding, not the state
12 or Commission, deciding on the rural, over here, joining
13 this section over here.

14 It looks like a mismatch. I couldn't believe it
15 when I saw it.

16 And I heard the rural people express their
17 desires.

18 But, boy, do I empathize with all of you and what
19 you're doing. It's not an easy task. And I do commend you
20 on it.

21 I'll live here anyway.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 Two more?

25 Mike Conway, representing self, from Mesa.

1 MIKE CONWAY: Mike Conway, M-I-K-E, CO-N-W-A-Y.

2 I was not planning on speaking. I don't have
3 anything prepared, so hopefully I will not ramble.

4 Competitiveness to me is -- must be approached
5 equally based on the Arizona Supreme Court decision, but the
6 same as everything except the federal Voting Rights Act.

7 I'm somewhat perplexed that the people who seem to
8 be from the party mostly Republicans are afraid of
9 competitiveness.

10 It has been a mantra my entire life growing up in
11 the era of Reagan and forward that Republicans believe that
12 competitiveness drives everything to a better level.

13 I'm a school teacher. I get the idea of
14 competitiveness in schools improving the outcome of kids'
15 learning.

16 Competitiveness works.

17 Republicans claim that public service workers must
18 be privatized because competitiveness will improve the
19 product.

20 What is it about competitive districts that
21 Republicans are afraid of?

22 If competition reaps a better product in the end,
23 competitive districts should reap better politicians in the
24 end, which represent all the people, not special interests,
25 and not just one faction way to the right or way to the

1 left.

2 Be true to yourselves.

3 You promote competition in all aspects of our
4 life, except when it comes to competitive districts.

5 I want to thank you for your time, but I do not
6 think you have succeeded. When you guarantee one political
7 party, no matter which one it is, a hold on 50 percent of
8 the districts or legislative seats, you failed.

9 Go back, do your job like the voters wanted you to
10 do when they passed this.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Bob Bourke, representing
14 self, from Mesa.

15 BOB BOURKE: My name is Bob Bourke, spelled
16 B-O-U-R-K-E.

17 I want to thank the Commissioners for their time,
18 dedication, and putting up with a lot of aggravation.

19 Competition is what makes America work in
20 capitalism and exchange of ideas and in a free market of
21 politics.

22 Choice is an option that has always brought out
23 the best solution as people choose by voting on the ballot
24 as they choose by putting their money with ideas and
25 products that work for them at the time.

1 C-O-M-P-E-T-I-T-I-O-N.

2 I don't know how the maps reflect the competition
3 statistically.

4 Now, as far as community of interest, I know in
5 Mesa having lived there for about -- in downtown area -- for
6 about six and a half years, minor changes could be made
7 based on how I see, but it is relatively fair and
8 representative based on what I see and how things stack in
9 the area.

10 Thank you.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

12 Anyone else?

13 (No oral response.)

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: All right then.

15 I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight.
16 The Commission holds a hearing tomorrow night in Safford,
17 and I get to have that enjoyable drive out to Safford
18 tomorrow. And then in -- on Friday we are in Nogales, I
19 believe, and Saturday in Yuma.

20 Then the hearing -- I don't believe there's a
21 hearing scheduled on Monday, but hearings for the rest of
22 that week.

23 And you can go to azredistricting.org, and the
24 entire schedule is on there. And I'm saying that because I
25 don't remember all the -- I know we're in Scottsdale,

1 Peoria, south Phoenix, Casa Grande, and a few others,
2 Cottonwood, and a few other places.

3 Anyway, thank you for your comments. Your
4 comments are very important.

5 As many of the commissioners said, when the
6 draft maps were adopted, that they were drafts, and that I
7 think it's incumbent upon all the commissioners to take all
8 the public comments into account and to apply the
9 six constitutional criteria and make whatever adjustments
10 are appropriate to these maps before we get to final maps.

11 So what we've done here tonight is important to
12 that process, so I thank you.

13 And with that, it is 7:26 p.m., and I declare the
14 meeting adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
 2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.

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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 63 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 3rd day of
 11 November, 2011.

12

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

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