

**ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Tuesday, November 1, 2011  
6:11 p.m.

**Location**

**South Mountain Community College  
7050 South 24th Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85402**

**Attending**

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair

Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist  
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director  
Stu Robinson, Public Information Officer

Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

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

Phoenix, Arizona  
November 1, 2011  
6:11 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Good evening.

You guys all ready to start? I know this is -- probably what you're watching on screen before starting is more exciting than what we're going to do here, but we've got to do this hearing.

My name is Jose, and I'm the co-vice chair of the Commission. We have other commissioners that are probably watching this presentation via the web. We have Commissioner Stertz who couldn't be here today, Commissioner Freeman, Commissioner McNulty, and also the Chair Mathis who couldn't be here today.

So, welcome to South Mountain. This is -- I think we're having a total of 30 public hearings on this second round. And tomorrow we'll be in, I think, Cottonwood and Peoria for those of you who can't get enough tonight and want some more input you have -- raise the voice?

I'm good.

So there's, again, Cottonwood and Peoria.

1           So, before we start, let's do the Pledge of  
2 Allegiance.

3           I am so sorry. 6:12 p.m. is the start time of the  
4 meeting.

5           Thank you, Marty.

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

7           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let me introduce some  
8 important people in the room.

9           We have our executive -- deputy executive  
10 director, Kristina Gomez, in the back.

11           We have our chief technology officer, Buck Forst.

12           We have our public information officer, Stu  
13 Robinson.

14           We have our community outreach representatives,  
15 both Lisa Schmelling and Kristi Olson.

16           Legal counsel, Joe Kanefield.

17           Strategic Telemetry, Willie Desmond.

18           We have Marty Herder who is recording.

19           And I think that is it.

20           Oh, we also have the -- our interpreter, Carlos  
21 Reyes. We're by federal required to provide interpretation  
22 services.

23           So, Carlos, if you don't mind stepping up and talk  
24 about your services.

25           CARLOS REYES: Good evening, Vice-Chair Herrera,

1 commissioners, ladies and gentlemen. In accordance with the  
2 Voting Rights Act, a translator and interpreter will be  
3 available at the public hearings in order to provide  
4 interpreting services that might be needed for those  
5 citizens that need translating or interpreting services.

6 Please contact the interpreter present at this  
7 meeting so that he or she may -- can assist you.

8 And I'll read the same script in Spanish.

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

11 CARLOS REYES: Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

13 Next will be Mr. Desmond talking about the second  
14 round of public hearings and some background information  
15 that you will find useful.

16 Again, if you're planning on speaking, make sure  
17 you filled out this yellow form.

18 There's a blue form if you choose not to speak but  
19 still want to provide comments to the Commission.

20 WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you all for allowing me to  
21 be here today. My name is Willie Desmond. I work with  
22 Strategic Telemetry. We're the firm hired to provide  
23 assistance to the Commission, the mapping part of it, of the  
24 process.

25 Tonight I'll be talking a little bit about the

1 draft maps that are currently under a 30-day review period  
2 and the development of those maps.

3           Again, the goal of these meetings is to hear your  
4 comments about the draft maps. So thank you all very much  
5 for being here today. We do look forward to hearing what  
6 you have to say.

7           Before getting to the maps though, I do want to  
8 give a little bit more of a quick background on the  
9 redistricting process and how these maps were developed.

10           All right. Arizona's redistricting process is  
11 governed by the state constitution, which was amended in the  
12 year 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106.

13           It stipulates that Arizona's Redistricting  
14 Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative  
15 districts to reflect the results of the most recent census.  
16 The most recent census occurred in 2010. And following the  
17 census, Arizona was allocated an additional congressional  
18 district.

19           Aside from needing to redraw because of this  
20 additional congressional district, there's also been shifts  
21 in population, increases in population and shrinkage. So  
22 this process is developed to ensure that all districts meet  
23 the constitutional criteria.

24           Those constitutional criteria as outlined by  
25 Proposition 106 are that all districts must comply with the

1 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. They must have  
2 equal population.

3           These first two criteria are federally mandated,  
4 and all plans that take effect anywhere in the country must  
5 meet these two requirements.

6           Additionally, Proposition 106 outlines four other  
7 criteria. They are that the districts must be compact and  
8 contiguous to the extent practicable, respect communities of  
9 interest to the extent practicable, must you visible  
10 geographic features, such as city, town, county boundaries  
11 and undivided census tracts when possible, and must favor  
12 competitive district where there is no significant detriment  
13 to the other goals.

14           All right. Just to expound a little bit more on  
15 the Voting Rights Act.

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

20           To get preclearance Arizona's must demonstrate  
21 that the new districts do not discriminate against minority  
22 voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no  
23 intentional or accidental discrimination.

24           Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans  
25 cannot be retrogressive. They cannot weaken or reduce

1 minority voters' rights. And the presence of discrimination  
2 can be determined by analyzing population data and election  
3 results.

4           Okay. The overall timeline for the redistricting  
5 process can be broken down into a couple different steps or  
6 stages.

7           The first step is establishing the Commission  
8 itself.

9           Earlier this year the Commission was appointed  
10 following a thorough screening process to serve in a  
11 voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

12           Currently the -- as far as I know, the Commission  
13 is comprised of five members: Vice Chairman Scott Freeman;  
14 Vice-Chair Jose Herrera, who's here this evening;  
15 Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, and Commissioners Linda McNulty  
16 and Richard Stertz.

17           Following the creation of the Commission, we then  
18 go into the first round of public hearings. Before drawing  
19 a single line this year, the Commission held 23 public  
20 meetings all around the state throughout July and August to  
21 get input from members of the public on issues relevant to  
22 the redistricting process, such as geography, communities of  
23 interest, minority voting rights, and competitiveness.

24           Once those first round of hearings were completed,  
25 the actual mapping begins.

1           Per Proposition 106, we have to start with clean  
2 slate here in Arizona.

3           The state is then divided into equal sized  
4 population districts in a grid-like pattern, and the  
5 grid-like maps were approved on August 18th.

6           I'll talk a little bit more about them in a  
7 minute, but you should know that these grid-like patterns  
8 only meet two of the constitutional criteria. They're  
9 compact and they are equal population.

10           Since adopting these grid maps, the Commission  
11 then has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to  
12 those grid maps to accommodate all of the other  
13 six criteria.

14           During this time they also received a lot more  
15 public input from members of the public and groups that  
16 submitted input versus maps, public testimony, and so  
17 there's -- the public comment has been continually going on  
18 throughout the process.

19           After, after the grid maps are finished being  
20 adjusted, we then come to the draft maps which is where we  
21 are today.

22           So on October 3rd the Commission approved a  
23 congressional draft map that incorporated changes based on  
24 all of the constitutional criteria.

25           It approved a draft legislative map on

1 October 10th.

2           Following the actual mapping, we're going to do  
3 what's happening right now, second round of public hearing.  
4 So we're currently visiting I believe it's now 29 cities and  
5 towns to talk about these draft maps.

6           I know it says 25.

7           And receive additional public input about what  
8 people think of them.

9           Following the end of the second round of public  
10 hearings, we'll then move on to completion of the maps and  
11 development of final maps.

12           Once the maps are adjusted, they will go to the  
13 Department of Justice for preclearance.

14           And, again, because Arizona is subject to  
15 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must  
16 be approved by the federal Department of Justice or the  
17 federal court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used  
18 in Arizona elections.

19           Okay. Now, just to talk a little bit about the  
20 development of the maps.

21           As you see here, this is the current congressional  
22 map. This was used in 2010. It was retired after that  
23 election. This is one of the maps that we're working right  
24 now to replace.

25           Again, per Proposition 106, we started with a

1 completely blank slate.

2           So we do not pay attention to where incumbents  
3 live or the previous districts.

4           The first step is to develop the grid map. So,  
5 again, equal population in a compact, grid-like pattern.

6           The Commission asked that two grid maps for both  
7 the legislative and congressional districts be developed,  
8 and then they just would pick one.

9           They settled on option two of the congressional  
10 and option two of the legislative grid maps. And that  
11 happened back in August.

12           So following that, these grid maps are then  
13 adjusted to come up with the final draft map.

14           Again, there was over 25 meetings to develop these  
15 draft maps.

16           Some of the highlights include two predominantly  
17 rural districts, three border districts, three districts in  
18 the greater Tucson region, five districts that are entirely  
19 in Maricopa County, and avoids splitting Arizona's Indian  
20 reservations, and there are two districts where minority  
21 voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their  
22 choice.

23           Now going on to the legislative draft maps.

24           Again, here is the current draft map that will be  
25 retired. It was last used in 2010.

1           Again, starting with a blank slate, this is the  
2 grid map that was adopted by the Commission.

3           And then that was adjusted to eventually come up  
4 with this draft map.

5           And just some of the highlights here.

6           The old map had some wild population deviation  
7 between the districts. The least populated districts had  
8 about 155,000 people in them. The most populated districts  
9 had about 378,000 people in them.

10          So some people had -- some districts had twice as  
11 many people as others.

12          The current draft has a deviation of about 207,000  
13 to 215,000.

14          Again, to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the  
15 plan includes ten districts where minority voters should  
16 have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

17          And, again, the map includes three districts  
18 wholly within Pima County, three districts that go on the --  
19 primarily in southern Arizona, 17 districts primarily in  
20 Maricopa County, and nine districts that are primarily  
21 rural.

22          So as we do continue this process, we very much  
23 so want your input. We're interested in what you have to  
24 say.

25          Again, thank you for being here. This is a great

1 way to submit your input.

2           You can fill out one of the yellow forms and speak  
3 today.

4           You're allowed to speak on anything that you feel  
5 passionate about, but you can talk about the constitutional  
6 criteria, the draft congressional map, or the draft  
7 legislative map.

8           Aside from speaking at the hearing, you can also  
9 fill out one of the blue forms and turn it in, that  
10 information. Your comments are recorded. They go on the  
11 record. They are considered by the Commission.

12           Additionally you can fill out an input form on our  
13 website or you can call our office at (602)542-5221, toll  
14 free at (855)733-7478.

15           And, again, if you do visit the website, there are  
16 a few things I would like to highlight for you. These red  
17 arrows highlight some sections you may be interested in.

18           If you click on the meeting tab, you can go see  
19 information about upcoming meetings, both location and time.  
20 You can also go back and read the transcripts or watch the  
21 videos of any of the previous meetings.

22           So if you're curious about how these maps were  
23 developed and you want to go back and watch some of those  
24 25 meetings that took place, you can do it, you can go back,  
25 and it's all available on the website.

1           Additionally there's a public input form if you  
2 would like to comment on the maps.

3           And probably most importantly, if you just want to  
4 look up the maps, there's two different ways of doing this.  
5 Clicking on the maps tab or on the bottom on the draft maps  
6 takes you to a page that looks very much like this.

7           The maps are available in several formats, JPEG,  
8 PDF, Google Earth files. There's also reports on the  
9 population, and different sort of mapping files if you have  
10 your own software that you would like to load up the  
11 information.

12           One thing I would like to highlight again is the  
13 Google maps section.

14           By clicking on the Google maps section and taking  
15 you to a, you know, Google maps front page lets you see the,  
16 see the maps, lets you zoom in and zoom out just like you  
17 would on any other Google map. You can get down to the  
18 individual house level. You can follow the streets that  
19 comprise the borders by clicking on the buttons on the left.  
20 You can turn the shading on and off or the county lines on  
21 and off.

22           It's a great tool for you to learn more about  
23 these maps.

24           This is just a screen grab of zooming in. I  
25 believe this is in Maricopa County. But you can drill down

1 much further than this if you're interested.

2           So, again, thank you all for being here tonight.

3           I encourage you to visit our website at  
4 [www.azredistricting.org](http://www.azredistricting.org).

5           And there you can draw your own maps, you can  
6 watch the current meetings or the past meeting, and you can  
7 get updates on future meetings.

8           If you would like to stay connected with us, you  
9 can follow us on Twitter at hash tag AIRC, or friend us on  
10 Facebook.

11           So, again, thank you for all very much for being  
12 here today.

13           If you have any questions, please feel free to  
14 approach me. I will be more and happy to answer any  
15 questions you have. Or the staff also.

16           So thank you again, and we very much so look  
17 forward to hearing your comments.

18           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Desmond.

19           The purpose for tonight's hearing is to hear from  
20 the public and the changes that you would like for us to  
21 make on both congressional and/or legislative maps. So when  
22 you make recommendations, just give us as specific  
23 information as possible.

24           You will have -- each speaker will have  
25 four minutes. And you will have to have filled out this

1 form.

2 We'll have Buck Forst taking time. Is that  
3 correct, Buck?

4 He can't hear me.

5 Okay. But it will be four minutes, and we'll be  
6 timing it.

7 So just to -- we want to maximize public comments,  
8 so make sure you -- I think four minutes is more than a  
9 enough.

10 So just speak clearly. We'll have Marty recording  
11 the information. And Marty would like for you to spell your  
12 first name and last name, speak clearly.

13 Four minutes doesn't go by that quickly. You can  
14 take your time. Four minutes is a long time.

15 And let's be respectful of people's comments. You  
16 may disagree or agree with the people who are speaking, but  
17 let's listen to everyone speaking. And these are their  
18 opinions, and we appreciate them.

19 And thank you for being here tonight. You could  
20 have easily been home eating Halloween candy, but you chose  
21 to be here with us.

22 The first speaker will be CJ -- if I mispronounce  
23 your name, I do apologize.

24 CJ Briggie, B-R-I-G-G-L-E.

25 CJ BRIGGLE: You pronounced that correctly. Can

1 you hear me? CJ Briggie, B-R-I-G-G-L-E.

2 This is the fourth time I'm speaking in front of  
3 this Commission.

4 I've been here more often than that. I've been  
5 following it from the beginning.

6 And I have previously had a script in order to  
7 read, but tonight I come because I am impassioned about a  
8 process that is occurring outside of this office. And I am  
9 so angry that I needed to tell the Commission what a great  
10 job they've been doing, that the honor and integrity of this  
11 Commission should be upheld, and the legislation that is  
12 being enacted at this point in time as I'm speaking is  
13 beyond outrageous.

14 Thank you for all of your wonderful, integrous  
15 input that you've done and all of the hard work you've put  
16 into this.

17 I just cannot believe that my voice is not being  
18 heard and that Prop 106 will not be followed in any kind of  
19 manner.

20 My constitutional rights have just been impugned,  
21 and I'm very angry about that.

22 Not at the Commission.

23 At our legislature.

24 This is exactly why we enacted Prop 106.

25 And thank you for letting me say that.

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

2 (Applause.)

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Second speaker is Mel Hannah,  
4 chairman of the African American Legislative and --  
5 Leadership and Legislative Council -- African American  
6 Leadership and Legislative Council.

7 Also when you come up, in addition to spelling  
8 your first and last name, tell us where you're from and who  
9 you're representing if you're representing someone other  
10 than yourself.

11 MEL HANNAH: Good evening. My name is Mel Hannah.  
12 I'm the chairman of the African American Leadership and  
13 Legislative Council, a body of folks that's been existence  
14 here in the valley for about ten years. So I'm representing  
15 that body.

16 I'm also an active member of District 20 in  
17 Ahwatukee.

18 And will quickly echo the comments made by the  
19 first speaker in terms of being somewhat outraged at how our  
20 voter driven initiative and process that was enacted in 2000  
21 is now, for the very reason we take it out of partisan  
22 politics, is now being held ransom to go back into partisan  
23 politics.

24 And we know this could be political. That's the  
25 nature of this beast. But the process that the voters

1 thought was appropriate has just seemed to be very  
2 unAmerican almost. In the middle of this game to not only  
3 move the goal posts but even change the stripes and bring  
4 the sidelines in.

5 That being said, representative -- looking at the  
6 legislative districts, I do want to, as before, support the  
7 Minority Coalition of state representatives in terms of the  
8 boundaries that they were suggesting. And those particular  
9 boundaries did and do still endorse communities of interest  
10 in south Phoenix, particularly Laveen and Guadalupe and  
11 south Phoenix.

12 Also we wanted to maintain the minority-majority  
13 district that is obviously important to fit the criteria for  
14 the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

15 Certainly if the Commission is open to a tweaking  
16 that particular proposal, a couple of suggestions could be  
17 to perhaps move the western boundary out to 35th or  
18 54th Avenue, maybe not go as far north as McDowell as they  
19 currently might do, and perhaps pick up a little bit more  
20 south of Baseline.

21 Thank you for your comments. And, again, I want  
22 to commend the Commission for a very difficult job and a  
23 decent job you've done.

24 Just in closing, certainly media has indicated  
25 that, quote, both parties are perhaps not satisfied with

1 what's occurred today in terms of the boundaries. I would  
2 say to you that because both parties are, in fact, not  
3 satisfied, that probably indicates you're doing something  
4 good.

5 Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

7 (Applause.)

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: We next have A.J. LaFaro,  
9 chairman of the LD 17 Republicans.

10 A.J. LAFARO: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and  
11 members of the committee.

12 My name is LaFaro, A.J. LaFaro. I'm the chairman  
13 of the Legislative District 17 Republicans.

14 But, I'm not in that capacity this evening. I'm  
15 representing the chairman of the Arizona State Republican  
16 Party, Mr. Thomas P. Morrissey.

17 And with your permission, sir, I would like to  
18 read this resolution and letter into the record.

19 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you spell your last  
20 name, your first and last name for the record?

21 A.J. LAFARO: Last name is capital L-A, capital  
22 F-A-R-O. First name is A.J.

23 October the 29th, 2011, resolution of the  
24 Executive Committee of the Arizona State Republican Party,  
25 state of Arizona.

1           Strongly condemning the actions of the Arizona  
2 Independent Redistricting Commission, AIRC.

3           Whereas the Arizona Independent Redistricting  
4 Commission has knowingly violated its responsibilities for  
5 redistricting under federal and Arizona law including, but  
6 not limited to, the 14th and 15th Amendments to the United  
7 States Constitution Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973 and  
8 Article 4 of the Arizona Constitution.

9           And whereas the Arizona Independent Redistricting  
10 Commission has failed to demonstrate a sincere commitment to  
11 performing its responsibilities in an honest, independent,  
12 and impartial fashion, and to upholding public confidence  
13 and the integrity of the redistricting process.

14           And whereas the Arizona Independent Redistricting  
15 Commission has knowingly violated its responsibilities for  
16 conducting open meeting laws to the public under law  
17 including, but not limited to, Title 38 of the Arizona  
18 Revised Statutes.

19           And finally whereas the Arizona Independent  
20 Redistricting Commission has knowingly violated its  
21 procurement responsibilities to the public under Arizona law  
22 including, but not limited to, Title 41 of the Arizona  
23 Revised Statutes.

24           Now therefore be it resolved that the executive  
25 committee of the Arizona State Republican Party, state of

1 Arizona, strongly condemn the partisan actions of the  
2 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, excuse me, and  
3 recommends the following.

4           Item one, that Governor Jan Brewer, state of  
5 Arizona, remove the five members of the Arizona Independent  
6 Redistricting Commission in accordance with Article 4 of the  
7 Arizona Constitution.

8           Item two, Arizona -- that Attorney General Tom  
9 Horne, state of Arizona, aggressively continue his criminal  
10 investigation and civil litigation against the Arizona  
11 Independent Redistricting Commission.

12           Item three, that the majority leadership of the  
13 senate and house of representatives, state of Arizona, make  
14 written redistricting recommendations to the Arizona  
15 Independent Redistricting Commission in accordance with  
16 Article 4 of the Arizona Constitution that are in the best  
17 interests of the state of Arizona, not the Commission's  
18 favorite special interest groups, recommendations that  
19 eliminate the wholesale gerrymandering of Arizona and  
20 highjacking of the voters' constitutional and democratic  
21 rights guaranteed under both the equal protection clause of  
22 the 14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act.

23           Cover letter dated October the 31st, 2011, to the  
24 Honorable Janice K. Brewer, the Honorable Tom Horne, the  
25 Honorable Russell Pearce, and the Honorable Andy Tobin, with

1 a carbon copy to Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery.

2 Dear Governor Brewer, Attorney General Horne,  
3 Senate President Pearce, Speaker of the House Tobin, I'm  
4 writing you on behalf of Republicans throughout the state of  
5 Arizona, over 1,138,000 strong.

6 The Arizona State Republican Party Executive  
7 Committee unanimously passed the attached resolution after  
8 statewide executive committee meeting held on  
9 October the 29th, 2011.

10 The resolution represents in part a grassroots  
11 effort started by Republicans in Arizona's legislative  
12 District 17 back in early October when they unanimously  
13 passed the original resolution strongly condemning  
14 the actions of the Arizona Independent Redistricting  
15 Commission.

16 Even though all of the original resolution's  
17 requested action items are now being addressed, the Arizona  
18 State Republican Party Executive Committee felt it important  
19 to show solidarity and statewide support for all of your  
20 efforts to protect the voters' constitutional and democratic  
21 rights.

22 We have witnesses one egregious act after another  
23 by the AIRC which has failed to demonstrate.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

25 A.J. LAFARO: And can I submit a copy for the

1 record?

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: You can submit a report.

3 A.J. LAFARO: Appreciate it. Thank you.

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

5 A.J. LAFARO: Thank you very much.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thanks again.

7 And, again, if you can stick to the four-minute  
8 time limit, that would be great.

9 TONY SISSONS: Thank you, Commissioner Herrera.

10 My name is Tony Sissons, T-O-N-Y, S-I-S-S-O-N-S.

11 My continuing concern is that partisan forces have  
12 been very effective at convincing everyone that very few  
13 competitive districts are possible.

14 The Commission gets to decide how many. That is  
15 made clear by Arizona Supreme Court. But I personally want  
16 you to know that many more competitive districts are  
17 possible than the political parties would have you believe.

18 A couple weeks ago Steve Muratore of the Arizona  
19 Eagletarian called me one day and asked me for some evidence  
20 to back up my assertion that as many as 12 competitive  
21 districts were possible on the plan that would also comply  
22 with the Voting Rights Act.

23 I prepared for him a map showing a wide expansive  
24 Maricopa County that was heavily dominated by Republicans,  
25 in which competitive districts could not be drawn because

1 every way you look to find Democrats to balance that  
2 demonstration and achieve competitiveness you just find more  
3 Republicans.

4 I contend that just as the voting rights  
5 compliance creates many noncompetitive Democratic districts,  
6 the almost as many heavily Republican districts  
7 counterbalance them leaving about half the state with almost  
8 an even ratio of Republicans and Democrats.

9 In that remainder area, at least 12 competitive  
10 districts could be drawn.

11 And I understand that Mr. Muratore presented that  
12 map to you at an earlier meeting.

13 That's kind of a theoretical look at the  
14 situation.

15 I just want to quickly give you a real  
16 on-the-ground illustration from the last decade.

17 In 2004 the City of Flagstaff hired me to draw a  
18 legislative plan for the city to submit to the Commission.

19 City leaders wanted different treatment of  
20 northern Arizona than they saw in most of the Commission's  
21 published plans.

22 I was asked to merge one particular Commission  
23 plan that had a northland treatment of the Flagstaff light  
24 with an IRC test plan called the Hall-Minkoff plan.

25 I was instructed not to make any changes to the

1 IRC's ten voting rights districts or any changes to  
2 districts south of the Phoenix metro area.

3 I was also charged with making as many competitive  
4 districts as I could while minimizing the number of  
5 districts that I changed.

6 Following those instructions, I created a nine  
7 competitive district map. Flagstaff's mayor presented the  
8 plan.

9 The legal counsel, the IRC's legal counsel at the  
10 time, promptly declared that the IRC could not consider  
11 Flagstaff's plan because it had not been presented at  
12 multiple hearings statewide.

13 Which I think was a very ridiculous thing to say.

14 Later from personal curiosity I looked at the IRC  
15 drawn legislative districts in southern Arizona. I adjusted  
16 a short section of the boundary between Districts 28 and 30,  
17 and created the tenth and eleventh competitive districts.

18 Details of that plan are on a handout that I will  
19 give to your staff.

20 Think about it. Ten voting, ten voting rights  
21 districts and 11 competitive districts, all on the same map  
22 at the same time.

23 And I only made changes to ten districts.

24 And this was all while the prior IRC and its  
25 attorneys and consultants were saying that only three or

1 four competitive districts were possible because voting  
2 rights districts use up so many Democrats that -- well, you  
3 know the refrain because you've been hearing that song this  
4 decade also.

5 The political parties are currently telling you  
6 what they think of the draft plans.

7 Partisans will not be satisfied no matter what.

8 Even an advantaged party will complain that it  
9 doesn't have the amount of advantage that it thought it was  
10 somehow entitled.

11 Please honor your real constituency and the voters  
12 of Arizona.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Sissons.

14 Just a reminder that I guess the four minutes do  
15 go by pretty quickly. So if you'll read, read as quickly as  
16 possible.

17 And, Mr. Sissons, if you want to leave that for  
18 the record.

19 If you can give that to Buck.

20 Our next speaker is a former state representative  
21 from District 16, Mr. Campbell.

22 And, again, please don't forget to spell your  
23 first and last name for the record.

24 CLOVES CAMPBELL: Good evening.

25 First of all, I want to thank you all, the

1 commissioners, Chairwoman Colleen Mathis,  
2 Commissioner Herrera, Freeman, McNulty, and Stertz for  
3 taking time to do this.

4 I know it takes a lot of energy, a lot of time,  
5 and people don't appreciate the amount of things you put  
6 into and the amount of time you take away from your family  
7 to do such things.

8 I just want to briefly say that understanding the  
9 process, understanding what's going on, nobody is going to  
10 be satisfied.

11 We understand that.

12 But the job that you've done in the time that  
13 you've taken to do this is commendable, and I appreciate it.

14 I want to let you know that we look forward to  
15 having these programs. We appreciate the opportunity to  
16 come talk about this.

17 This is the first time that we ever had this much  
18 input from citizens when we talk about this project and  
19 process and understanding people really take time to come  
20 and listen to you and understand your program that you're  
21 doing. And it's commendable.

22 So my first point is to say thank you. We really  
23 appreciate what you're doing.

24 Secondly, I want to say that understanding that no  
25 good piece of legislature and everybody is always satisfied.

1 So that means you're definitely doing something right here  
2 and that you continue to do what you're doing.

3           There are some things that we're not happy with.  
4 We understood that you have more people in one place and  
5 less in another. But we would like to have districts  
6 working the exactly the way we want to see them work. But  
7 that isn't always the case.

8           And as Arizona continues to grow and we become a  
9 more diverse population, we're going to see more people out  
10 here, more people get involved.

11           It's good to see, you know, that you're all  
12 bringing this to the community, making sure that we have an  
13 opportunity to be involved in the process, and taking that,  
14 every comment people have, good, bad, indifferent. No  
15 matter what it is, you're still taking time to listen to our  
16 comments.

17           I want you to know I appreciate your work, not  
18 only representing the -- my District 16, but also  
19 representing the Arizona African American Democratic Caucus.  
20 We want to make sure that we do everything to assist you,  
21 and we appreciate your time and your efforts.

22           Thank you.

23           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next speaker is Jeffrey  
24 Tucker, representing self.

25           JEFFREY TUCKER: Hi there. My name is Jeffrey

1 Tucker, J-E-F-F-R-E-Y, Tucker, T-U-C-K-E-R.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to present another  
3 letter to the Commission.

4 In my October 18th letter, I showed that there was  
5 a problem with competition in the maps. It did not give  
6 concrete solutions or guidelines as to the methods that the  
7 Commission could use to reasonably satisfy that they have  
8 drawn a competitive Arizona map.

9 In this letter I offer two criteria when used  
10 together that the Commission can use to measure -- in this  
11 letter I offer two criteria when used together that the  
12 Commission could use to measure and benchmark their success.

13 Criteria one, the Commission shall achieve the  
14 fair representation of voters and shall create a reasonable  
15 minimum level of competition in Arizona when the percentage  
16 were competitive districts equals or exceeds the percentage  
17 of statewide independent voters.

18 For Arizona as it stands today, this would mean  
19 having at least one third of all proposed districts be drawn  
20 competitively.

21 This is due to the fact that one third of the  
22 state's voters are Independent voters.

23 Criterion two, the Commission shall achieved a  
24 fair and competitive statewide balance of safe partisan  
25 districts when the distribution of safe partisan districts

1 is approximately equal to the respective balance of the  
2 statewide partisan voters.

3 For Arizona as it stands today, this would mean  
4 having an approximate 47 percent to 53 percent balance of  
5 safe Democratic proposed districts to safe Republicans  
6 districts. This is derived from the fact there are  
7 one million Democratic voters as opposed to 1.14 million  
8 Republican voters representing the 47:53 ratio.

9 Looking at the congressional map under these  
10 criteria, the Commission has achieved an adequate number of  
11 competitive districts, which is three in this case.  
12 However, when it comes to safe partisan districts, the  
13 congressional map fails because the current proposal  
14 provides Republicans with an uncompetitive overwhelming  
15 two to one advantage rather than an approximate  
16 47/53 balance of safe partisan districts that would  
17 sufficiently represent the statewide elections.

18 Looking at the legislative map under these same  
19 criteria, the situation is worse as the map drawn does not  
20 meet either criterion. By definition the Commission should  
21 strive to draw at least ten, pardon me, competitive  
22 legislative districts where currently it has only drawn  
23 four.

24 Regarding the balance of safe partisan districts,  
25 the view is consistent with the congressional map. The

1 current proposal gives Republicans an uncompetitive  
2 overwhelming two to one advantage instead of an approximate  
3 47/53 balance of safe partisan districts that would  
4 sufficiently represent the statewide electorate.

5 I conclude that it is very distressing that a slim  
6 plurality of this state's voters should received the lion's  
7 share of representation as they do under the existing maps.

8 Again, I implore that the Commission revise its  
9 maps to create greater competition and to truly represent  
10 Arizona in its work.

11 Please further examine where communities of  
12 interest have been packed into districts and in those  
13 districts where competition has been proposed and achieved  
14 to find ways of making that competition even stronger.

15 Thank you again for this opportunity.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

17 Our next speaker is Dr. Janie Hydrick,  
18 representing self.

19 JANIE HYDRICK: Good evening. I'm Dr. Janie  
20 Hydrick, J-A-N-I-E, H-Y-D-R-I-C-K.

21 I've been a Chandler resident for 35 years, and I  
22 am speaking as an individual.

23 Please know that the most vitriolic voices are  
24 neither the majority nor the ones which should deter you  
25 from the courageous path you as a Commission have chosen to

1 follow.

2           Your perseverance alone could shepherd Arizona  
3 into a politically active future that can be fair,  
4 equitable, and truly reflective of its population, not  
5 simply a small group who are mean spirited, self-serving,  
6 and determined to preserve their own political positions  
7 regardless of the will of the people.

8           The will of the people is that each of us may have  
9 the opportunity to have a voice in all levels of government.

10           The will of the people is that our state is  
11 bipartisan and politically competitive as possible.

12           My remarks tonight will address the draft  
13 Congressional District 9 map and the, excuse me, and the  
14 draft Legislative District 18 map, both of which include my  
15 home in Chandler.

16           First let me address the CD 9 map.

17           Our congressional district has been evolving.

18           Its residents no longer overwhelmingly reflect the  
19 unbending predictable theology of a single party.

20           Independence and the voters of both major parties  
21 must be able to elect people who reflect the increasingly  
22 moderate views of my community as a whole.

23           Making the new CD 9 more competitive will really  
24 reflect the moderate state of our community, and I thank you  
25 for doing that.

1           Next I'll address the draft LD 18 map.

2           As with our larger congressional districts, our  
3 legislative district community has shown a clear tendency to  
4 support candidates from both parties.

5           Thank you for enhancing the competitiveness of our  
6 legislative district.

7           For the first time in many years, and for the  
8 first time in too many election cycles, we feel there's  
9 finally the opportunity to be represented rather than be  
10 disenfranchised by the political system.

11           However, there are a couple tweaks that would  
12 render two adjoining LDs, LD 18 and LD 26, even more  
13 competitive.

14           Baseline Road is the proposed divider between  
15 LD 18 and LD 26.

16           By moving that divider north, to Route 60, and by  
17 pulling the eastern border back west to Dobson, both LD 18  
18 and LD 26 would be virtually 50/50.

19           In closing, as a career educator and a parent of  
20 four children who attended Kyrene elementary and middle  
21 schools and graduated from Corona Del Sol High School, I  
22 want to address the overlays of the Kyrene School District  
23 and the Tempe Union High School District.

24           With the current drafts, Kyrene essentially  
25 matches the boundary of LD 18, and Tempe Union High School

1 District fits right inside of CD 9.

2 The lifelong friendships and the intense community  
3 engagement that our children garnered from their years in  
4 the Kyrene and Tempe Union High School Districts should be  
5 hallmarks of every community.

6 With a truly competitive legislative district and  
7 a truly competitive congressional district, our community  
8 will finally have an opportunity to impact education policy  
9 and education funding.

10 The benefits to our communities and our state can  
11 make the difference between a well-educated workforce that  
12 can take its place in an American and global economy and a  
13 poorly educated workforce that cannot.

14 Thank you, and the Commission, for conducting  
15 these public hearings, and thank you for the great  
16 investment of your integrity and hard work. We really  
17 appreciate it.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

20 The next speaker is Kevin Kopp, K-O-P-P,  
21 representing himself.

22 KEVIN KOPP: Hi, it's Kevin Kopp, K-E-V-I-N,  
23 K-O-P-P.

24 I'm here representing myself.

25 I've never been here before, so I've written my

1 notes down in text for you.

2 I come speaking to you as a football coach,  
3 Little League football coach, Little League baseball coach,  
4 a small business owner, and specifically about the  
5 Congressional District 3.

6 My wife and I live in the Phoenix neighborhood of  
7 Arcadia.

8 I work closely with Desert Ridge. My wife works  
9 just south of Desert Ridge off of Tatum.

10 Living in Arcadia, we find a lot in common with  
11 our friends and neighbors and many close and strong  
12 connections to the neighboring communities of  
13 Paradise Valley, the Biltmore, and northeast Phoenix.

14 We pay close attention to city of Phoenix zoning  
15 issues that impact these areas, as well as issues that  
16 impact the town of Paradise Valley since it is surrounded  
17 entirely on three sides by the city of Phoenix.

18 The arterial streets that link these areas  
19 together include Camelback Road with the prominent business  
20 and retail presence along the Camelback corridor,  
21 Lincoln Drive, which directly links Paradise Valley to the  
22 Biltmore area, and Tatum Boulevard which links the Arcadia  
23 area and Paradise Valley with northeast Phoenix and the  
24 north valley.

25 This section of the valley is strongly linked

1 through the long-established small businesses that serve  
2 this area, the long-time residents, concern for zoning and  
3 quality of life issues, school and youth activities, and our  
4 overall strong sense of community.

5 All of these communities of interest are west of  
6 Scottsdale Road.

7 We were shocked that your proposed congressional  
8 draft maps split these communities in half. Pulling the  
9 Arcadia and the Biltmore away from the section of the valley  
10 we identify with, and placing them in a district with Tempe  
11 and Chandler, doesn't make sense.

12 I've discussed this with many neighbors and  
13 community leaders who disagree with your draft maps,  
14 including the chairman of the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce  
15 who opposed moving Arcadia into a district with east valley  
16 cities such as Tempe.

17 I've even heard the mayor of Tempe on behalf of  
18 his constituents point out that the competing and  
19 conflicting interests between east valley cities such as  
20 Tempe and this section of Phoenix are compelling reasons not  
21 to have them in the same congressional district.

22 It is clear that you're trying to place  
23 communities together that do not want to be together.

24 Please reconfigure the draft congressional maps to  
25 respect communities of interest by keeping Arcadia and the

1 Biltmore Links to Paradise Valley, northeast Phoenix, and  
2 the north valley.

3           These communities are a natural fit and should not  
4 be split.

5           Thank you for your time and consideration.

6           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

7           You want to submit that for public record?

8           KEVIN KOPP: Sure.

9           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: And give that to Buck Forst.

10          Next speaker is Marcia Busching.

11          MARCIA BUSCHING: Thank you.

12          Mr. Vice Chairman, members of the Commission, my  
13 name is Marcia Busching. It's spelled M-A-R-C-I-A,  
14 B-U-S-C-H-I-N-G.

15                 I am here representing myself.

16                 As many of you know, I was a finalist to be chosen  
17 for the Redistricting Commission and have attended or  
18 watched numerous if not most of the Commission hearings.

19                 But most importantly I was -- I received an  
20 honorable mention in drafting maps for the competitive  
21 contest. And so I know from firsthand experience how  
22 difficult your job is.

23                 On following the work of the Commission, I have  
24 realized and salute you for the great work you've done as a  
25 public servant with the very, very long hours you've spent,

1 the unpaid time that you're putting in, and you have -- each  
2 of you have tried very hard to do the best job possible.

3 I really, really, really appreciate that from the  
4 bottom of my heart.

5 Overall, I think that you have done a good job on  
6 the maps.

7 It -- they -- you balanced the criteria, and  
8 you've certainly improved competitiveness over what was in  
9 existence ten years ago.

10 But moving specifically to the area that we're  
11 currently located in, and is close to my heart and my  
12 residence, LD -- proposed Legislative District 27.

13 I want to say that you've granted it the dubious  
14 distinction of having the greatest compliance of any  
15 district with the Voting Rights Act, while at the same time  
16 having it be the least competitive district of any of the 30  
17 districts.

18 It has, as proposed, the highest percent of  
19 Democrat voters and the lowest percent of non-Hispanic White  
20 voters. It has the lowest percentage of non-Hispanic voting  
21 age population, and it has double the African American  
22 population of any other district.

23 So despite trying to make everything more  
24 competitive, this proposed LD 27 actually has, as I  
25 indicated, the dubious distinction of being the least

1 competitive of any district in the state.

2 Certainly if it weren't so late in the process, I  
3 would recommend changes to it to make it more competitive.

4 And one of the things that I think should be done  
5 is moving the Winston precinct out of proposed LD 27 into  
6 either of the two adjoining districts.

7 However, now I think it's more important for the  
8 Commission to get the maps passed and submitted to the  
9 Department of Justice and move on with the process.

10 There's way too many people that are waiting out  
11 there to find out what the final maps will be to be making  
12 any major changes at this point.

13 So with that, I thank you for your service, I  
14 really appreciate it, and on behalf of all the Arizona  
15 citizens, thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next speaker is Lisa  
18 Blackhorse.

19 LISA BLACKHORSE: I'm short, so hopefully you can  
20 hear me.

21 Independent Redistricting Commission, my name is  
22 Lisa Blackhorse, B-L-A-C-K-H-O-R-S-E, just like a horse, but  
23 it's black.

24 I am a Phoenix resident for the last -- over the  
25 last ten years.

1 I am representing myself as a Native American  
2 mother.

3 I have a great interest in voting rights in our  
4 communities.

5 The American Indian Citizenship Act was not passed  
6 until 1924. In Arizona, Native Americans were not even  
7 allowed to vote until 1948. So I do have a lot of interest  
8 in the Voting Rights Act, as you have spoken.

9 Having this Commission has been an important  
10 process.

11 This process is going to make our state a better  
12 state.

13 And one of my passions is -- a lot of the people I  
14 know, as in this room, a lot of people are trying to  
15 survive.

16 So having this Commission has been an important  
17 process, because not everyone's voice can be heard.

18 And so I do want to thank the people that took the  
19 time tonight to come speak before this Commission, because  
20 this is an opportunity to give back to people of Arizona,  
21 this Commission, and have our voices heard.

22 I want to thank you again for this opportunity to  
23 speak, and I hope that this will continue to be a open and  
24 fair process, because I think we owe it to the people of  
25 Arizona.

1 Thank you.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is Michael  
5 Williams.

6 MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Mr. Commissioner and rest of  
7 the activists here in Arizona, my name is Michael Williams,  
8 and I live in District 20.

9 Which is soon to be District 18.

10 I'd like to go on record and support of the  
11 Redistricting Commission.

12 What is happening now is reminiscent of an old  
13 saying that was displayed on T shirts back in the '90s, that  
14 said, just as I was beginning to win the rat race, along  
15 came faster rats.

16 The move to remove commissioners is a fast one,  
17 geared to stop change.

18 And District 20 has long been dominated by a  
19 single party, but that's starting to change.

20 Personally I would have preferred seeing the new  
21 District 18 include Guadalupe rather than going east as  
22 proposed.

23 But we've selected individuals to serve on this  
24 Commission and should let them do the job.

25 You do not change the rules of a race simply from

1 fear that you might lose it.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next I have -- I think it's  
6 representative -- oh, actually senator, Leah Landrum Taylor,  
7 representing herself and the minority Commission.

8 SENATOR LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: Thank you to the  
9 commissioners and to the visitors that are here this  
10 evening.

11 First of all, I want to say I'm sorry for being a  
12 little bit late here this evening, but we were stuck at the  
13 capital during the special session that just occurred.

14 I do want to say I truly do thank the Commission  
15 for the hard work.

16 I realize that this is a purely volunteer gig that  
17 you all have here. And it's not an easy one that you're  
18 doing. But we certainly appreciate that.

19 Is everybody going to be happy with the maps and  
20 the lines and the way they are? I doubt it.

21 But at the same time what this is is it gives us  
22 an opportunity to come forward and to be able at this point  
23 to recognize what the voters of this state put forth  
24 11 years ago in Proposition 106.

25 And that was to have a fair, independent

1 redistricting committee and to be able to take out all of  
2 the politics that were involved in this.

3           We now have, have this opportunity to come forward  
4 and to be able to voice our concerns.

5           I wanted to make sure that the session on the  
6 floor ended because I come as a citizen that lives here in  
7 this community.

8           And the maps that we have -- I guess the proposed  
9 map that's coming forward with the proposed District 27, I  
10 believe it was up on the board a little earlier today, the  
11 Minority Coalition has worked really hard on three of these  
12 districts here throughout our state. And the ones that  
13 we've been concerned about is we want to make sure,  
14 number one, that the districts go forward and pass the  
15 Department of Justice and the necessity of making sure that  
16 we do have majority-minority districts here so that we have  
17 an opportunity for minorities to be able to run and to be  
18 able to win and be able to serve Arizona and offer the  
19 diversification that's necessary for that.

20           I know that several people have spoke tonight, so  
21 I don't want to carry on and on and on on some of the  
22 proposals that the folks in my district have asked me to  
23 bring forward as it relates to that proposed 27, and that's  
24 take a look at the area from 44th Street, 24th Street, from  
25 Van Buren to McDowell, to be able to add back the community

1 of interest from Southern to Lower Buckeye, from 35th Avenue  
2 to 51st Avenue.

3           These are some of the concerns that were brought  
4 to my attention, but overall there was a map that the  
5 Minority Coalition came forward with right in this very room  
6 a little bit ago when the commissioners came to hear from  
7 the community, and that was the map that the community  
8 supported, but in realizing there will always be changes as  
9 you move forward.

10           We have to say that the hard work that the  
11 Commission has put forward, we're quite pleased with the  
12 direction that we're going at this point, and really feel  
13 that our state can be represented well.

14           The other districts, as it relates to Minority  
15 Coalition, I know there have been concerns that have been  
16 brought forward. And certainly I'm sure the Commission is  
17 taking a look at those areas and to make sure to be able to  
18 increase some of the minority representation in those  
19 districts for the Minority Coalition.

20           And I certainly would strongly agree with that as  
21 well.

22           So I know they've submitted in their concerns, and  
23 we're going to continue to be here as long as you guys come  
24 forward for our various communities. We certainly  
25 appreciate being able to at least give what our concerns and

1 our opinions are in the place that we live.

2 Thank you so much.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: The next speaker is Joseph  
6 Murphy.

7 JOSEPH MURPHY: Good evening. Joseph Murphy,  
8 M-U-R-P-H-Y. Joseph like it sounds.

9 I'm in -- currently in Congressional District 4,  
10 apparently moved into nine, which I guess we've had some  
11 voter registration to do. And then I'm in the pancake 24,  
12 kind of squashed pancake. It's interesting.

13 My political life, I'm chair for Democracy For  
14 America, Maricopa County. Some of you have probably heard  
15 of us. Some of you probably don't like us. Too bad.

16 We try to help people learning how to run  
17 elections, to get elected, and working with issues.

18 And the issue that I see most in front of us right  
19 now is the corporate Republican party will never be  
20 satisfied while it -- with 80 percent safe seats of the  
21 legislature, seven out of nine congressional seats being  
22 safe for them. We all knew that there would be lawsuits if  
23 they didn't get what they wanted, and that's going to happen  
24 anyway. But now they have their friends at the corporate  
25 legislature also weighing in.

1           We also have a lobbyist through Fair Trust which  
2 incorporated as a non-lobbying group to hide their clients'  
3 identities from Arizonans. And they would have been forced  
4 to actually admit being lobbyists, except this is Arizona.  
5 And unfortunately we run in a state run by people who have a  
6 Banana Republic ideology.

7           I also happen to be working with the Occupy group  
8 in downtown Phoenix, helping with outreach.

9           The Occupy movement exists today because of the  
10 kind of Banana Republic actions that are being pursued by  
11 the Arizona Republican Party and the Chamber of Commerce  
12 allies.

13           These kids are angry.

14           We got the ACLU to help us set up -- or a former  
15 member of the ACLU to help us set up legal observers for the  
16 marches in downtown to keep everything safer.

17           When people from the border militia group showed  
18 up with their guns, the kids said, take them the mic, they  
19 were afraid to go to the mic because they are armed and we  
20 weren't. So they didn't go to the mic.

21           But the kids down there have no problems with  
22 people with guns.

23           One of the police officers asked if we should  
24 remove them -- if they should remove them. And they said,  
25 no. And they pointed out, well, they have guns. And they

1 said, you do too.

2 And they got confused with that too.

3 But the Occupy kids are brave. And they're  
4 registering to vote, which is really nice.

5 Our Banana Republic legislature abhors fair  
6 election competition, just like they abhor fair taxation,  
7 they abhor fair trade policies.

8 Your work can give Arizonans fair competitive  
9 elections at least.

10 So please ignore the Banana Republic Arizona  
11 legislature and help our state become a democracy again.

12 I believe that the state, the people of the state  
13 of Arizona are behind you, even though the Banana  
14 Republicans are not.

15 Thank you for your work.

16 (Applause.)

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: The next speaker is Elaine --  
18 and I hope I pronounce it correctly -- Espericueta. And  
19 please spell your last name.

20 ELAINE ESPERICUETA: It's going to take me longer  
21 to spell my name than it will be to say what I have to say  
22 tonight.

23 Elaine, and it's Espericueta, E-S-P, like in Paul,  
24 E-R-I-C-U-E-T-A.

25 And I am representing myself, and I'm from Laveen.

1           And the only reason I signed up to speak tonight  
2 was that I was afraid that you would be getting so many ugly  
3 comments and I just wanted to offer my support.

4           I think, you know, I could probably sit down and  
5 work things out a little differently than what you have in  
6 your maps, but I think this is the fairest look at maps that  
7 I've seen in many years, and I've been in the state since  
8 1969.

9           So I just wanted to express my gratitude for the  
10 hard work that you do and for the fact that you're standing  
11 up against so much ugly pressure. And I just felt like I  
12 needed to say thank you.

13           So that's all.

14           (Applause.)

15           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16           This is our last speaker. And, again, if anybody  
17 in the audience would like to speak, you can fill out one of  
18 these yellow forms.

19           Our last speaker, Tonya Norwood, the executive  
20 director of the Consumers Council.

21           TONYA NORWOOD: Good evening. My name is Tonya,  
22 T-O-N-Y-A, last name Norwood, N-O-R-W-O-O-D.

23           And I'm doing all I can right now to contain  
24 myself.

25           I just left the capital, and I witnessed one of

1 the most horrendous misuse of time and government money that  
2 I have ever seen in my 42 years here on this earth.

3 I am not only appalled, but I am angry that this  
4 was allowed to happen.

5 It is against the constitution. It is also  
6 against Prop 106 where we voted to remove this type of thing  
7 from happening.

8 I will not go into that. I will come back at  
9 another hearing. I know I only have four minutes.

10 But on behalf of Arizona corporation -- I'm sorry,  
11 Arizona Consumers Council, we have a resolution.

12 And we hope that the Department of Justice steps  
13 in to take a really good aim at what's going on and defend  
14 Commissioner Mathis and what she stands for.

15 Whereas, November, 2000, Arizona voters passed  
16 Proposition 106, a citizens initiative that amended the  
17 Arizona Constitution by removing the power to draw  
18 congressional and state legislative districts from the state  
19 legislature and reassign the task to the newly created  
20 Independent Redistricting Commission, otherwise known as the  
21 AIRC.

22 Whereas, the Arizona Constitution, the sole task  
23 of the IRC is to establish congressional and legislative  
24 districts, the Constitution permits no more than two members  
25 of the IRC to be from the same political party and require

1 the fifth commissioner not to be registered with any  
2 party -- I'm sorry, registered with any party represented on  
3 the IRC at the appointed time.

4 Candidates must demonstrate a commitment to  
5 performing the IRC's charge in an honest, independent,  
6 impartial fashion, and to uphold public confidence and an  
7 integrity of the redistricting process, which we believe  
8 Commissioner Mathis has done.

9 Whereas, the state of Arizona falls under the  
10 Voting Rights Act of 1964, which is a landmark civil rights  
11 act legislation that protected -- that protects the rights  
12 of minority voters to participate in the electoral process.  
13 It was enacted, once again, in 1965, I'm sorry, amended and  
14 extended in subsequent years.

15 The act's two majority provisions that concern  
16 redistricting are Sections 1 -- or 2 and 5.

17 And I invite you commissioners to be aware of such  
18 language and requirements. I will not go into them.

19 Now therefore be it resolved we align ourselves  
20 with the maps that honor the minority-majority landscapes  
21 and maintain equal voting representation.

22 Be it resolved that we affirm the autonomous  
23 rights and responsibilities of the Arizona Independent  
24 Redistricting Commission.

25 Also, be it resolved that we support the Arizona

1 Independent Redistricting Commission transparent  
2 implementation of the will of the Arizona voters outlined in  
3 Proposition 106 that took place in the year 2000.

4 Be it further resolved that we assert faith and  
5 trust in the character and integrity of those chosen  
6 commissioners assigned to fulfill the charge of the  
7 redistricting process.

8 This resolution will be signed and delivered,  
9 hand-delivered on Saturday at an additional redistricting  
10 hearing.

11 I'd just like to say thank you.

12 You do have support. And as this continues, you  
13 will definitely have people behind you.

14 So please carry on and pass that on to the other  
15 commissioners.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'd ask you to submit the  
17 document for public record, but I would have to confiscate  
18 your laptop.

19 TONYA NORWOOD: We may need to talk on that.

20 But I will make sure that this is in your hands.

21 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Please.

22 TONYA NORWOOD: Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

24 I guess we have one more.

25 (Applause.)

1           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: We have Mr. Randall Holmes,  
2 representing himself.

3           And, again, I think you just walked in. You have  
4 four minutes.

5           RANDALL HOLMES: Thank you, members of the  
6 Commission.

7           It seems that you have fewer and fewer -- I'm glad  
8 we have one of you that shows up. And one of my favorites  
9 also.

10          The gloves are off. No more Mr. Nice Guy.

11          There is no reason to appease a bully. The only  
12 way to treat a bully is to give him a bloody nose, as soon  
13 to be former Senate President Pearce is going to find out in  
14 a couple weeks.

15          (Applause.)

16          RANDALL HOLMES: This is war.

17          You're either with the Vichy or you're with the  
18 Free French.

19          As the famous Jim Hightower often says, the only  
20 thing in the middle of the road is the white line and the  
21 occasional dead armadillo.

22          The junta of theocrats and kleptocrats which have  
23 gained control of our state government by hook or by crook,  
24 mostly by crook, have overstepped their authority.

25          They've taken off their masks.

1           And as we've seen, at least in the Arizona senate,  
2 there are no moderates. There are no moderate Republicans.

3           And anybody that claims that mask is fooling  
4 themselves or trying to fool their constituents.

5           They don't want their constituents to choose them.  
6 They wanted to choose their constituents.

7           And this is why we, the voters of Arizona,  
8 established this Commission. It's been under attack.

9           And I am told that one third of Arizona voters are  
10 Independents.

11           But I'm sorry, I don't believe that. There is no  
12 such thing.

13           There's no such thing as an Independent.

14           There's only two teams can play football at one  
15 time. You can't have three teams.

16           And if you're trying to be in the middle of the  
17 field not taking sides, you're going to get run over.

18           And as my favorite president once said, you're  
19 either with us or you're with the terrorists. Please don't  
20 let the terrorists win.

21           And I use that term advisably.

22           People that try to scare people into altering  
23 their political behavior is the dictionary definition of  
24 terrorist.

25           I wish Chairman Mathis were here.

1           I understand why she isn't, but that's the same  
2 things I would say to her.

3           This -- I hope this is going to court, and I hope  
4 we spend a good long time in court until after the 2012  
5 election if necessary.

6           But the last thing I want to say to you is that  
7 there is no reason to try to appease the bullies now.

8           You can draw four or five competitive  
9 congressional districts, I'm told by experts in the field,  
10 and I'm sure you can draw a whole lot more competitive  
11 legislative districts.

12           The only way people of Arizona are going to get  
13 peacefully out from under the rule of this junta is if we  
14 have competitive districts and we have a chance to change a  
15 lot of face in the legislature.

16           Thanks for your time.

17           (Applause.)

18           VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: That was our last speaker of  
19 the evening.

20           So, again, I want to thank you guys for being here  
21 and spending time with us. And I also want to thank the  
22 staff. You know, without their hard work. Kristina Gomez  
23 in the back, she put together all these public hearings. I  
24 would like to thank her and the staff for doing this.

25           Again, tomorrow we'll be in Cottonwood and also in

1 Peoria. On the 3rd we will be in Scottsdale, and, let's  
2 see, on the 4th we'll be at the Tohono O'odham Nation, and  
3 followed by Marana at 6:00 p.m., Green Valley on the 5th and  
4 Casa Grande on the 5th.

5 So, again, we'll have plenty of opportunities for  
6 you to the speak to the Commission, if you guys can travel  
7 with us, not in the same car, but travel with us.

8 So thanks again and have a good evening.

9 7:19 is the end of the meeting.

10 (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 55 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 5th day of  
11 November, 2011.

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

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