

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Tucson, Arizona

Online via WebEx

August 7, 2021

10:00 a.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 10:00
3 a.m., on August 7, 2021, at The Westin La Paloma Resort,
4 3800 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, Arizona, and online via
5 WebEx.

6
7 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

8 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
9 Mr. David Mehle

10 STAFF PRESENT:

11 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
12 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
13 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
14 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
15 Mr. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
16 Mr. Eric Spencer, Snell & Wilmer
17 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
18 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
19 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics
20 Corp.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

22 Mr. John Maynard
23 Ms. Sally Simmons
24 Ms. Connie Pellman
25 Ms. Payton Davies
Mr. Steve Lynn
Mr. Kalyanraman Tsharathan
Mr. George McGaughey
Ms. Shirl Lamonna
Mr. Jonathan Wiens
Ms. Dee Pfeiffer
Mr. Larry Bodine
Ms. Linda Evans
Ms. Brenda Wexler
Ms. Shirley Muney
Mr. Alan Nichols
Ms. Amanda Fischer
Mr. Lee Nichols
Mr. Nolan Reidhead

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 Mr. Dale Winders
3 Ms. Sherrylyn Young
4 Ms. Lana O'Brien
5 Ms. Karen Weiser
6 Ms. Christine Emery
7 Ms. Corazón Nunez
8 Mr. Kyle Vilaubi
9 Ms. Michelle Whitehead
10 Mr. Steve Ware
11 Ms. Kathy Kimbrell
12 Ms. Linda Burreson
13 Ms. Carol Lindley
14 Ms. Nicole Barraza
15 Ms. Leslie Hunten
16 Ms. Nancy Wexler
17 Mr. Eric Crump
18 Ms. Liz Crump
19 Ms. Ann Hollis
20 Ms. Martha Aguilar
21 Mr. Galen Paton
22 Mr. Levoy Hurley
23 Ms. Faith Ramon
24 Ms. Colleen Mathis
25 Ms. Shelley Kais
Mr. Michael Torres
Mr. Joseph Erceg
Ms. Susan Whittemore
Mr. Scott Oldendorph
Mr. Noah Sundberg
Ms. Teresa Nunez
Mr. Joe Boogaart
Mr. Marrell Livesay
Ms. Lana O'Brien

19 * American Sign language interpreters and
20 Spanish interpreters are also present.

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. CRANK: Before we start the meeting, we would
4 like to ask Mr. Bill Maynard to come up and do the
5 Pledge of Allegiance.

6 MR. MAYNARD: If you'll please stand.

7 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)
8

9 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I would now like to call to
10 order our 13th meeting of the listening tour of the
11 Independent Redistricting Commission Committee --
12 Commission.

13 I'd like to remind you, the public, that the
14 COVID-19 is still prevalent. We ask that you follow the
15 Arizona Department of Health guidelines; if you're not fully
16 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in a public space.

17 If you would like to participate from home, each of
18 these meetings is being streamed through WebEx.

19 Please note that if you would like to make a public
20 comment, you may do so by signing in with staff and filling
21 out the public comment card; and that would be at the back
22 of the room if anyone hasn't done that.

23 If you haven't already done so, also please fill
24 out the community of interest survey. There's a QR code on
25 signs at the sign-in desk and the public comment cards that

1 will direct you to the link, and we will explain this
2 community of interest survey as part of our presentation.

3 Please see a member of staff if you have any
4 questions.

5 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
6 joining us virtually, and we have interpreters and headsets
7 available for those in attendance; we also have a
8 transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting.

9 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear
10 record of our input.

11 Would the interpreters in attendance introduce
12 themselves now, please.

13 THE INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Tiana
14 (technical/audio disruption) and my team today is Tiffany
15 Jones.

16 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Got that?

17 We have a Spanish interpreter?

18 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good afternoon -- good
19 morning. My name is Joy Tucker; I'm your Spanish
20 interpreter.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

22 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: At this time we'll introduce
24 ourselves.

25 I'm David Mehl; I'm an appointee to the Commission

1 by the Republican party, and I'm from Pima County.

2 And welcome to a hotel that I built when I was a
3 young man, so. I hope enjoy this setting.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: A lot of fun being in the
6 hotel that my colleague built when he was a young man.

7 Welcome. My name is Erika Neuberg, I'm the
8 Independent Chairwoman of the Commission; I live in
9 Chandler, representing Maricopa County.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And now we'll move on to Agenda
12 Item II, a presentation of the process that we're
13 undergoing.

14 And, first, is a representative of our legal team.

15 MR. SUMMERS: Good morning, everyone. How are you?

16 My name is Shawn Summers, I'm one of the attorneys
17 for the Commission; I'm from the firm Ballard Spahr. I'm
18 joined today by my colleague Eric Spencer from Snell &
19 Wilmer, another of the Commission's attorneys.

20 I'm going to talk a little bit today about what the
21 Commission is, what it does, why we're today, and what the
22 rest of the process is going to look like.

23 So let's begin with the Constitution. As you may
24 remember from civics class, every ten years the Constitution
25 requires the federal government to undertake a census of the

1 whole country; and the results of that census are used to
2 reapportion representation in the U.S. House of
3 Representatives.

4 While the federal government is the one that
5 reapportions representation, it's up to each state to redraw
6 the lines within its own state; both for congressional
7 districts and the U.S. Congress and the legislative
8 districts in the Arizona House and Arizona Senate.

9 From statehood from 1912 until the year 2000,
10 Arizona did what just about every state did at the time and
11 most states still do now, and they had the state legislature
12 redraw the districts, and so the state legislators would
13 redraw their own districts as well as the districts in the
14 U.S. Congress.

15 That changed in the year 2000 when the voters of
16 Arizona changed Proposition 106. Prop 106 amended the
17 Arizona Constitution to create an Independent Redistricting
18 Commission that would be convened new every ten years to
19 redraw the lines; and that is what we are here today to talk
20 about.

21 The Arizona Constitution requires the Commission to
22 have five members, no more than two members can be from the
23 same political party; and of those four partisan members, no
24 more than two can be from the same county.

25 So two of the Commissioners are here with you

1 today, Chairman Neuberg and Commissioner Mehl, they've
2 already introduced themselves; on the screen behind me you
3 can see the other three Commissioners and where they come
4 from.

5 The Arizona Constitution lays out six goals that
6 the Commissioners have to take into account when they're
7 redrawing the districts, both the legislative districts and
8 the congressional districts. This is probably the most
9 important slide of the things we're going to be showing you
10 today because this is actually how we are going to be
11 redrawing the districts.

12 First, districts must comply with the U.S.
13 Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act.

14 Second, both congressional districts and
15 legislative districts must have equal population to the
16 extent practicable. For congressional districts, federal
17 law requires actual equal population plus or minus
18 1 percent. There's a little bit more wiggle room in
19 legislative districts, but they should be as equal as
20 possible.

21 To the extent practicable, districts should be
22 compact and contiguous.

23 Fourth, district lines should respect districts of
24 interest to the extent practicable. And that to a large
25 part is what we are here to talk about today, to get input

1 from you before the Commission starts drawing the maps about
2 what your communities of interest are and where they are on
3 the maps, and we'll talk a little bit more about that in
4 just a moment.

5 Fifth, to the extent practicable district lines
6 should respect visible geographic features, city, town and
7 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

8 And, finally, to the extent practicable,
9 competitive districts should be favored where to do so would
10 create no significant detriment to the other five goals.

11 So these are the six criteria that the Arizona
12 Constitution lays out the Commission would be following when
13 they draw the maps.

14 Here's what the timeline is going to look like for
15 the rest of the process, for the next hopefully six months
16 or so.

17 July and August, the Commission has been going on
18 and is now about to finish up our first listening tour to
19 get input from members of the public about primarily
20 communities of interest.

21 In August, later this month, the Census Bureau will
22 release the census data; we need that in order to draw the
23 maps because we need to know where the people are. That's
24 later than usual, census data was delayed this year because
25 of the COVID-19 pandemic, so it's coming out in August as

1 later than it typically would.

2 But in September, once the census data is released,
3 the Commissioners will work on and release the grid map.
4 The grid map only takes into account two of those six
5 criteria, and it will have very compact districts of equal
6 population; it will not take into account any of the other
7 four criteria.

8 The purpose of the grid map is just to wipe away
9 whatever came before. So the Commission is required to
10 start from scratch every ten years; we can't just play
11 around with the district lines that are already there. We
12 have to start with a grid map. And then once the grid map
13 is released, the Commissioners will adjust the grid map --
14 it may be adjusted quite a lot -- in order to develop draft
15 maps.

16 In September and October, the Commissioners will be
17 working on developing a draft congressional map and a draft
18 legislative map.

19 Then after the draft maps are adopted, there is
20 a 30-day mandatory comment period where members of the
21 public will be able to comment on the draft maps, suggest
22 changes that they would like to see in October through
23 November.

24 And then finally in December through the end of the
25 project, the Commissioners will be revising that draft map

1 and finally adopting a final congressional map and final
2 legislative map for the text ten years.

3 Hopefully that will be done late December, early
4 January.

5 So there are many ways for the public to get
6 involved in this process, but there are three I want to
7 highlight right now.

8 First, all Commission meetings are open to the
9 public. By law they are streamed online and you can comment
10 at IRC.AZ.gov/public-meetings; you can watch meetings there
11 or send your comments to the Commission.

12 Second, initial input on communities of interest.
13 That's what we're here today to talk primarily, communities
14 of interest, but you can also, as we'll talk about in just a
15 moment, submit maps with your community of interest, as well
16 as comments as the Commission begins to take that into
17 account.

18 Third, before, during, and after the draft map
19 process you will be able to -- once you have the data -- you
20 will be able to submit your own draft maps, comment on draft
21 maps that the Commissioners are considering; once they've
22 adopted an official draft map, you will be able to comment
23 on and suggest changes to that; and then provide additional
24 comments as they move toward a final map.

25 We will have some tools that will allow you to do

1 this both now and throughout the rest of the process, so
2 I'll turn it over to Mark Flahan from Timmons, our mapping
3 consultant, and he'll talk a little bit more about our
4 information.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. FLAHAN: Good morning, everyone. My name is --
7 my name is Mark Flahan from Timmons Group. With me I have
8 Ivy Beller Sakansky who is our demographer from NDC.

9 Today I want to talk to you about that some of the
10 information and empowerment tools that we're putting into
11 your hands, the citizens.

12 The first report that we have is our socioeconomic
13 report, we're going to talk about it a little more in depth
14 in the next slide. But basically it is a web app that is
15 available 24/7 online with a bunch of demographics for the
16 entire state of Arizona that you can browse today.

17 The other two mapping tools that we have is the
18 community of interest survey, which is what we're here today
19 to talk about. It actually allows you to draw your own
20 community of interest on a map to submit back to the
21 Commission. You might have seen some QR codes in the front
22 of the room when you walked in and that will take you to a
23 direct link to do it on your phone.

24 The third tool that we have today is our
25 redistricting system that is currently being set up, and

1 that is going to allow you to draw and submit proposed map
2 changes to the Commission. So that will be coming.

3 So first thing we want to talk about is the
4 socioeconomic report. On the right there is a screen
5 capture of it; and it has 14 different demographic points
6 for the entire state of Arizona, and you can see the
7 demographics listed there on the scene.

8 If you're wondering what "CVAP" means, that's
9 citizen voting age population.

10 So to get there you can go to the IRC's website and
11 you click on the maps, and it should be listed there under
12 the socioeconomic map, and it will take you to a link there.

13 Second thing that we have today is our community of
14 interest survey, which is why we're here today. It's
15 available in English and Spanish. There's two screen
16 captures there, but the one that I want to highlight is the
17 one on the right. That actually allows you to draw your
18 community of interest on a map to submit to the Commission.
19 And it's important that you fill it out as accurately as
20 possible, because now we can 100 percent understand the area
21 that you're describing here today. Otherwise, we have to
22 rely on our understanding of what your area and community of
23 interest is from your words.

24 So I encourage you to, after this meeting, go
25 online and fill it out. Also, if you've already filled out

1 the community of interest survey and you'd like to speak
2 today, let me know, and I can actually pull up your
3 community of interest survey live on the screen, and we can
4 see your area. So please let me know.

5 With that being said, I'm going to turn it over to
6 Ivy to talk about what is a community of interest.

7 MS. SAKANSKY: Thanks, Mark. Good morning,
8 everybody. Wonderful to see you here.

9 (Audience comments.)

10 MS. SAKANSKY: Is this better?

11 (Chorus of "yeeses.")

12 MS. SAKANSKY: Wonderful.

13 So what is a community of interest?

14 It is a geographic area of people who share common
15 stories or connections. Those connections can be common
16 social interests, shared demographic characteristics,
17 similar impact from a legislative and/or congressional
18 issue, or any other connection that leads people in a given
19 area to believe they would benefit from being kept together
20 united in one legislative and/or congressional district.

21 As you think about your community, think about the
22 various demographic factors that Mark has pointed out on the
23 socioeconomic report.

24 And -- and the survey is what we're calling it, it
25 says: Think about you and your neighbors. Do you have

1 similar jobs? Do you rely on similar public services?
2 Belong to the same neighborhood associations? Are you
3 impacted by some regional environmental concern? Is your
4 community defined by similar regional land-use issues,
5 transit concerns, languages spoken, celebrations or
6 traditions or other similar issues or characteristics?

7 Any of these characteristics could define a
8 community of interest.

9 Now it is your turn. As they travel the state on
10 this listening tour, the Commissioners want to hear from
11 you.

12 What do you want the Commissioners to consider as
13 they draft and ultimately adopt their maps?

14 How do you define your community of interest?

15 Using the various and extensive tools that Mark has
16 described and in your testimony today, we want to hear what
17 brings your community of interest together and what are the
18 geographic boundaries of your community.

19 Remember, the Commissioners can incorporate your
20 communities into their maps only if you let us know where
21 your community is on the map.

22 Thank you for being here today. Now, I will turn
23 this back over to the Commission staff to begin taking your
24 comments.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And before we take comments,

1 just something to keep in mind, one of the big challenges we
2 have is when we look at the congressional districts that
3 were drawn in 2011, each of them had 710,000 people roughly,
4 and this time each district will need to have 800- -- about
5 800,000 people -- we don't have the exact data yet; and
6 legislative districts in 2011 needed about 210,000 people,
7 plus or minus for a legislative district, and this time it
8 will be a little over 240,000 people for each legislative
9 district.

10 So a big challenge we have is what communities do
11 we combine in order to create the proper maps. So as you
12 speak to your communities of interest, keep that in mind,
13 and it will be very helpful to us.

14 And, with this, we'll move on to Agenda Item III
15 and begin public comment.

16 And, first, the staff will read the rule of the
17 meeting.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 Citizens may only speak when recognized by the
21 Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if the chair
22 is absent or otherwise has delegated hearing administration
23 authority.

24 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting law,
25 speakers should confine their statements to the issue on the

1 posted agenda which is before the Commission.

2 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments
3 to approximately three minutes.

4 Additionally, speakers are required to follow
5 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
6 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any
7 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other
8 guidelines may be asked to leave.

9 Any breach of the peace or disruption of the
10 Commission public hearing may be the cause of a report to
11 law enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

12 If someone has expressed the same sentiment as you,
13 you do not need to speak in order to have your comment
14 recorded. As long as you have filled out the survey, your
15 input will be received and considered by the Commission.

16 Everyone is welcome to speak, however, should you
17 choose to do so.

18 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
19 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to
20 address their comments to the Chair and the Commission and
21 not to audience present. Please show respect for all
22 speakers and avoid personal comments.

23 Remember, the Commission needs to hear all sides in
24 order to make an informed decision.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. CRANK: Good morning. Madam Chair Neuberg and
2 Commissioner Mehl and members of the listening audience here
3 and also on the WebEx, we have 50 speakers today so we'll
4 try and get through these as quickly as possible.

5 So the first speaker is John Maynard, the next
6 speaker is Sally Simmons; following Sally is Connie Pellman,
7 the fourth speaker is Payton Davies.

8 MR. MAYNARD: Good morning, Madam Chair and
9 distinguished members of the Commission. First of all, I
10 want to thank you for the important work that you're doing;
11 really do appreciate that.

12 My name is John Maynard; I live in Oro Valley near
13 Pusch Ridge here in the beautiful Catalina Mountains.

14 My area of concern is comprised of Oro Valley,
15 Marana, Catalina, Eagle Crest, Saddlebrooke, and
16 Saddlebrooke Ranch. None of these should be segregated, and
17 especially Saddlebrooke Ranch should not be segregated from
18 Saddlebrooke.

19 That's my community. I have so much in common with
20 the other residents there. So many friends, including some
21 300 that I exchange e-mails with on a regular basis.
22 Probably more so than some would like, but anyway there --
23 there are four groups that business and professional that I
24 belong to and attend monthly meetings, and one of those
25 groups has over 300 members, and ever since now 150, 160

1 attendees each month.

2 My favorite restaurants are in the area; at least
3 once a month I attend a meeting, a function, at a very
4 special -- very special meeting at the Gaslight Music Hall
5 in Oro Valley.

6 I have two sons and one daughter and their families
7 that live in the area and five wonderful grandchildren. Two
8 of those grandchildren attend Ironwood Ridge High School.

9 We have excellent schools. I attend the twice
10 monthly meetings of the Amphi School Board and spoke at the
11 last two and plan to speak at the next one coming up on
12 August 10th; the church at which I worship is in the area;
13 my office is in Oro Valley.

14 Oro Valley, Marana, Catalina, Eagle Crest
15 Saddlebrooke and Saddlebrooke Ranch are a tight, close
16 community. On a map they form a crescent moon, if you will.
17 The residents have so much in common from income,
18 current/past employment, recreation, and love of the
19 physical beauty of the area. It would be hard not to marvel
20 at the rugged beauty of the Catalina Mountains, especially
21 as they change colors throughout the day from purple in the
22 morning, to tan at noon, dusty rose to the afternoon -- my
23 daughter says dusty rose -- dusty rose in the afternoon, and
24 in the Oro Valley golden brown as the sun sets in the west.

25 Please keep my community -- please keep us in the

1 same district. I thank you so much for listening to me this
2 morning.

3 With best regards and much appreciation, John
4 Maynard.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SIMMONS: Good morning. My name is Sally
8 Simmons; I live in Legislative District 29 and Congressional
9 District No. 2.

10 I have lived in Arizona for 68 years, and I have
11 lived in my same house in the Catalina Foothills for almost
12 44.

13 I voted for Proposition 106, and I thank you all
14 for keeping it alive.

15 The portion of Catalina Foothills in which I live
16 comprise -- comprised -- and which comprises my community of
17 interest is unincorporated Pima County. It is not Tucson;
18 it is not Marana; it is not Oro Valley. Catalina Foothills
19 extends to the north and the east of those municipalities.

20 We get our services from the county or from private
21 companies; our -- the sheriff is our police protection; our
22 fire and waste management services are from private
23 companies; communities in the Catalina Foothills come
24 together to protect our desert setting.

25 Just one example of this was a development of

1 La Encantada shopping center. Neighborhoods came together
2 to create changes in the original plan so that La Encantada
3 could be an asset to our community rather than a blight on
4 our desert.

5 We also work together to keep our schools thriving.
6 We are proud of Catalina Foothills School District No. 16,
7 and we support it financially even after our kids have long
8 since graduated.

9 The districts in which I live and of which Catalina
10 Foothills is a part have been competitive and balanced for
11 the most part; I want this to continue.

12 The percentage of Independent voters is roughly
13 equal to the percentage of recognized party members. By
14 having balanced and competitive districts, you recognize the
15 growing number of all citizens who do not affiliate with any
16 political party, you also force our representatives to
17 consider all opinions in any given question.

18 I am asking you for two things: Recognize the
19 Catalina Foothills outside of municipalities as a community
20 of interest; secondly, I am asking you to work toward
21 balanced and competitive districts throughout the state
22 while assuring that the voting power of minorities is not
23 diluted. By doing this, you are recognizing the increasing
24 diversity of our state and the people in it.

25 MS. CRANK: Time.

1 MS. SIMMONS: Diversity of race, ethnicity and of
2 thought give us choices.

3 Again, thank you for volunteering for this
4 important work. You are helping to make Arizona better.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CRANK: Connie Pellman.

8 MS. PELLMAN: Good morning.

9 My name is Connie Pellman and I live in Oro Valley.

10 I am retired and I have a grandson who attends
11 Ironwood Ridge High School. I spend my free time doing
12 numerous activities, all of which are in the Oro Valley
13 area. My school district is the Amphi School District. My
14 ZIP Code is 85737. My grandson plays football and track at
15 Ironwood Ridge; I attend church in Oro Valley.

16 I sincerely request that you follow the articles of
17 the Arizona and Federal Constitution regarding
18 redistricting. I believe that is the way redistricting can
19 be impartial and put like communities together.

20 In the last redistricting, my Congressional
21 District 1 became a behemoth area. I traveled the district;
22 there is little or no community of interest between the
23 Navajo Nation and those who live south of Globe. Many of
24 the candidates from northern part of the state -- state,
25 speak Denali, which obviously puts candidates in south of

1 Globe at a distinct disadvantage.

2 I don't believe the southern portion of
3 Congressional District 1 can be adequately represented by
4 someone who lives in northern Arizona and vice versa.

5 I have not heard from my representative nor have I
6 seen him until he was elected until now and elections are
7 starting to heat up.

8 In LD-11 we have very little in common or contact
9 with those in Casa Grande. It takes 45 minutes to drive
10 from Casa Grande to Oro Valley. Saddlebrooke, on the other
11 hand, has been part of my previous legislative district.

12 I do not want to be part of any legislative
13 district that includes any part of Tucson.

14 Thank you for your time and for accepting the task
15 to redistrict our state.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

18 MS. DAVIES: First of all, thank you all for being
19 here and taking the time to listen to us. You don't have an
20 easy task, but I do ask you to be fair.

21 My name is Payton Davies; I've lived in Oro Valley
22 for 15 years.

23 Our congressional district is the largest
24 congressional district in the United States, save for the
25 states that have only one district. I attended as many of

1 the redistricting forums as I could ten years ago -- at
2 least six or seven; one or two in Phoenix.

3 Oro Valley was very vocal against the person who
4 was named as an Independent person on the panel. I believe
5 she and the two democrats were actually malicious when they
6 redrew the lines of our congressional -- congressional
7 district. I beg -- Erika, I beg for you to listen
8 independently; thank you.

9 From my house to the northeast corner of our
10 district is 476 miles. I love stopping at a motel in the
11 reservation area to listen to stories about Navajo Wind
12 Talkers in World War II, but it's not an afternoon drive.

13 At the State -- at the State Convention two years
14 ago, we talked to the people in the northern area of CD-1,
15 we asked if we could get together somewhere and discussed
16 issues; nothing came of it, it was just too far to go from
17 either one of us to get together, it would make it at least
18 a two-day drive.

19 I go to church, play golf, dine out, and grocery
20 shop all in the Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, Eagle Ranch,
21 Marana area.

22 I do not -- at the same time I do not think we have
23 a common interest with Tucson. If I were drawing the new
24 map, I'm not sure where I would put the northern line of our
25 district, but I am sure that it would not go all the way to

1 the northern border nor would it include the city of Tucson.

2 Thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CRANK: Next four speakers are Steven Lynn,
5 K. Tsharathan -- I'm sorry if I mispronounce your name --
6 George McGaughey, Shirl Lamonna.

7 MR. LYNN: Good morning, Commissioner Mehl,
8 Chairwoman Neuberg.

9 My name is Steve Lynn and I am here to talk about a
10 slightly different community of interest.

11 As many of you know, I sat where you sit 20 years
12 ago and chaired the first Independent Redistricting
13 Commission for the state. We made a number of case law
14 decisions that would make your job easier in many respects
15 and more difficult in some; but by the same token, I want to
16 talk a little bit about your community of interest, the
17 community of interest of the Commission.

18 And I think we need to go back to the definition of
19 "community of interest" as it was introduced. The first
20 time we heard that phrase was in a redistricting case that
21 was at the Supreme Court in the '90s, and it was actually a
22 term of art that was developed by Sandra Day O'Connor in her
23 opinion on that case.

24 I had the opportunity about ten years ago to meet
25 with Justice O'Connor and ask her directly what she meant

1 when she developed that term: "community of interest."

2 Her answer was: "I have no idea." And: "You'll
3 know it when you see it."

4 Well, this morning you are getting a firsthand look
5 at it. And I encourage you to listen very carefully not
6 only to my fellow Tucsonans and Southern Arizonans, but also
7 those in all parts of the state who have a very clear
8 picture of what their communities of interest should look
9 like.

10 Given the opportunity, all of these folks should
11 and hopefully will take the -- the opportunity to draw maps
12 and submit them to you because, as we found out, the public
13 draws really good maps; and should you have several to
14 review and look at, you might find they fit nicely in the
15 kind of mosaic that you're trying to put together, and it is
16 a mosaic.

17 Please understand redistricting has as it's been
18 described is (technical/audio disruption) a Rubik's Cube, in
19 the dark, wearing oven mitts. It's not an easy thing to do.
20 And many of the criteria that you will be dealing with
21 are -- are not compatible with one another, so you have to
22 make choices; and the choices should depend very heavily on
23 what you heard from the people of Arizona.

24 I am -- I am delighted that you have chosen to
25 volunteer to do this task because it is a task that keeps

1 this process out of the hands of those of who would draw
2 their own districts for their own purposes. Your job
3 different from that is to draw districts for the public's
4 purpose, and that's why all of these folks are here today,
5 why the other attendees to all of your meetings have been
6 there, and I urge you to listen very carefully to them.

7 The last thing I will tell you today, we made a
8 decision very early on, even though we had all of the
9 software that you have and in fact --

10 MS. CRANK: Time.

11 MR. LYNN: Well, let me just finish the thought.

12 The software that you have is far more developed
13 and has more capabilities than what we used ten years ago,
14 and each of you has the ability to draw your own maps. As
15 Commissioners, I would urge you not to do it. I would urge
16 you very strongly not to be defending your map against the
17 maps of the public, and in that way you can take all of the
18 maps that come in and treat them the same, not comparative
19 to the one that you drew last night at home.

20 Thank you very much for your time.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

24 MR. TSHARATHAN: Good morning.

25 My name is Kalyanraman Tsharathan. I'm a South

1 Haitian, a first-generation immigrant, and a resident of
2 Tucson for almost exactly 33 years this month.

3 Many Haitian-Americans have been through an
4 experience that I believe is of significance to this
5 Independent Redistricting Commission, and that is this:

6 Many of us grew up in nations that were newly
7 liberated from colonial rule where the national dream of a
8 democratic egalitarian society had been planted by those
9 colonial powers. The dream was also largely inspired by the
10 example set by the United States, the first large nation in
11 the world that was founded on a common idea, not just on
12 ethnic similarities.

13 As we grew up we saw the vulnerability of that
14 dream. That dream was either tarnished and distorted by
15 corruption, lack of vision, and sheer greed of leadership in
16 the countries that we came from; or it was destroyed
17 altogether by the emergence of totalitarian dictatorship.
18 Yet, through it all, the U.S. symbolized the possibility of
19 the dream being realized.

20 I don't believe many of us thought that the U.S.
21 was such an ideal, but we have been inspired by the thought
22 that it could be and was striving to be the role model for
23 democracy everywhere; and many Haitians like me made the
24 effort to come to the U.S. to settle here for the values
25 that democratic spirit represented to us, to our children,

1 and for the world itself.

2 It is in that sense that I thank you for the work
3 that you are doing, ensuring that the basis of democracy,
4 elections in a free, fair, and competitive environment
5 constitutes continues to be sustained in this, our country.

6 I know that many in my community of Haitians will
7 agree with this thought: Your work must ensure that we are
8 not disillusioned in the finding the vulnerabilities that
9 have distorted, spoiled, or destroyed so many budding
10 democracies should also have an adverse impact on this, our
11 nation.

12 Thank you very much for what you're doing.

13 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible) George McGaughey.

16 MR. McGAUGHEY: Thank you, Commissioners.

17 My name is George McGaughey; I live in Green Valley
18 south of Tucson.

19 I'm here to ask the Commissioners to leave LD-2 in
20 its current map form and that it remain within the current
21 Congressional District 2.

22 As a leader in the Santa Cruz Valley, I'm aware of
23 the diversity within its boundaries from the city of Nogales
24 to the city of South Tucson; it's made up of assortment of
25 races, economic levels, religions, and tribes that give

1 strength to this community.

2 Congressional District 2 is anchored by south --
3 Tucson South and southeast sides, and the gateway city of
4 Nogales by the suburbs of Green Valley and Sahuarita; some
5 of the most beautiful scenic areas in our -- in between.

6 Approximately 70 percent of registered voters in
7 LD-2 reside in Pima County and 27 percent reside in
8 Santa Cruz County; there are a total of 57 present precincts
9 in LD-2.

10 South Tucson is an older community with Spanish as
11 predominant language and traditional barrios. The economics
12 of this area is on the low side with small industrial
13 businesses mixed in; where the rural areas of South Pima and
14 Santa Cruz are made up of ranchers, farmers, and those
15 looking for more wide-open spaces; Green Valley is a
16 retirement community with all forms of entertainment for
17 those who are still working but are still very active;
18 Sahuarita is a youthful community comprised of family
19 members that are working; Santa Rita contains the master
20 plans of communities of Rancho Santa Rita Resort and Quail
21 Creek.

22 With all this diversity, the political leaders in
23 LD-2 are required to be well-rounded in knowledge of the
24 communities' needs: businesses, schools, farmers and
25 ranchers, tribes' need, transportation, and water are a few

1 of the samples that they will be need to act with and
2 support.

3 The strength of voting within the boundaries of
4 our -- is our diversity; if you redrew the current map, we
5 would lose this diversity. The fundamental resource of
6 democracy is to compromise to support the good of the whole.
7 I'll say it again: The fundamental resources of democracy
8 is to compromise to support the good of the whole.

9 Those running for office soon know how important
10 that is in LD-2; farmers need water as well as do residents.
11 Shippers need good road, so do mothers and fathers taking
12 their children to school; everyone needs water used in many
13 different ways. Throw those boundaries off and you lose the
14 strength of diversity balance that now exists in LD-2.

15 Please leave the current map form as it is now
16 drawn for the good of the whole.

17 I wish to thank you for your hard work.

18 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. CRANK: Sheryl (phonetic) Lamonna. Sheryl?
21 Sheryl Lamonna.

22 MS. LAMONNA: Good morning.

23 My name is Shirl Lamonna; I live in Oro Valley,
24 LD-11/CD-1.

25 Thank you for volunteering for this Commission. I

1 did participate in the meetings ten years ago, was very
2 disappointed with the results. So this time I look forward
3 to compliance with all the criteria of the law, and that is
4 what will create fair and equitable representation across
5 the state that we've been denied these last ten years.

6 As you're likely aware, Oro Valley is suburb of
7 Tucson. It was incorporated back in 1974 with slightly over
8 500 people because the area residents didn't want to be part
9 of the city of Tucson; they had to go to court to accomplish
10 that because the State didn't want incorporation on the
11 outskirts of the larger municipalities at that time. They
12 even established laws that areas proposed for incorporation
13 had to meet a population threshold and the residents had to
14 exhibit common goals and objectives, which sounds very much
15 like your community of interest.

16 So what's Oro Valley community of interest? Well,
17 I'll start with where they don't align, and our interest is
18 clearly not aligned with a city such as Tucson or Flagstaff.

19 Both Oro Valley and Marana approved general plans
20 outlining our community priorities. They include: public
21 safety, low crime, preserving the scenic beauty of our
22 desert, growth management, design standards, high quality
23 schools, parks, and nature trails.

24 Oro Valley's population now is about 44,000
25 with 49 percent of them over the age of 55, which gives us

1 commonality with the two Saddlebrooke communities,
2 retirement communities.

3 Saddlebrooke residents come to Oro Valley to shop,
4 to dine, to obtain medical care at the Oro Valley Hospital;
5 Marana, Catalina, and Eagle Crest residents do the same. We
6 attend the same churches, our kids and grandkids attend the
7 same schools and play sports together; we hike in HoneyBee
8 Canyon and the Catalina State Park; we shop at Oro Valley
9 marketplace on the Saturday farmer's market.

10 The current LD-11 and CD-1 needs to be realigned
11 into a district with other areas that share our interests.
12 Quite honestly, I have had no congressional representation
13 on any issue since the last redistricting despite my
14 numerous calls and e-mails.

15 So to be clear, we should not be in an LD or a CD
16 that include the city of Tucson or Flagstaff.

17 And I thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible), Dee Pfeiffer, Larry
20 Bodine, Linda Evans.

21 In case didn't you hear, the next four speakers:
22 Linda Evans, Jonathan -- Jonathan Wiens first, I'm sorry.
23 Dee --

24 Jonathan Wiens, Dee Pfeiffer, Larry Bodine, and
25 Linda Evans. Those are the next four speakers.

1 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Which one is up now?

2 MS. CRANK: One that is up now is Jonathan Wiens.

3 MR. WIENS: Hello and good morning. Thank you for
4 being here and thank you for the work you're doing.

5 I am from Legislative District 14 and Congressional
6 District 2, and I live in Vail; and it's about, you know,
7 20-, 30-minute drive into town, and I never really
8 understood when I see the districts on the television how
9 there are some -- some are here in this bubble and some are
10 there, and they just kind of bring it together. It's like a
11 30-, 40-minute drive sometimes into town if you take
12 Old Spanish Trail; there's many communities on
13 Old Spanish Trail and within Vail.

14 And I've been living in Vail since 2006. It's
15 grown to be its own community with its own grocery store.
16 It used to have a small gas station; now we've got
17 everything: grocery store, Marco's Pizza, everything.
18 People don't even like to go into Tucson for dinner. When
19 it was 2006, it was like: Oh, got to go into town for
20 dinner; we got to do this. We have enough stuff to stay in
21 Vail for your, you know, daily life.

22 So I'm just asking that places with, like, long
23 drives together, that we don't incorporate into Tucson
24 because we have graduated into our own community.

25 And that's all I got to say, so thank you very

1 much. Lord bless you and keep you and be gracious unto you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Next speaker Dee Pfeiffer.

4 MS. PFEIFFER: Good morning.

5 My name is Dee Pfeiffer and I live in the community
6 of Vail, CD-2 and LD-14.

7 I'm retired now but I served nine years in the
8 Air Force, worked 30 years in California and the last --
9 and 10 years from my home.

10 So I've come to realize that Vail has grown a lot.
11 We moved here 23 years ago looking for a small community, a
12 small town, we wanted to get away from the city environment
13 that we came from in California, so we intentionally moved
14 to Vail to get away from the bigger town; in this case
15 Tucson.

16 Now, Vail has grown enormously since then. There
17 were just two schools in Vail when we arrived. Now there's
18 more than 20. However, our community of interest still
19 includes homes and ranches on large lots or acreage with
20 horses and still that rural soon-becoming-subdivision-type
21 lifestyle.

22 We have areas to hike, the Saguaro National
23 Monument, we have caves, mining, ranching is still strong,
24 and small locally owned restaurants and gathering places
25 that we attend and go to on the east side. I've probably

1 been into Tucson the city to eat or do any shopping three
2 times since we moved here 23 years ago.

3 We are in no way aligned with the city of Tucson
4 with its poor streets that are in terrible shape and poorly
5 maintained, the homelessness problem, and the sad, sad lack
6 of public safety.

7 I would like to say that I was very involved with
8 the 2010-2011 Arizona redistricting process and all the
9 problems that was associated with it. However, I'm very,
10 very pleased to see the changes on this Commission. The
11 appointment of a fair Independent chairperson, the process
12 used to hire a more impartial mapping consultant, and the
13 more fair way you chose each party's legal counsel. It's
14 been very, very pleasing up to this point.

15 I hope this Commission will work in accordance with
16 the Arizona Constitution and ensure that the six legal
17 criteria are satisfied in our district so that competitive
18 districts are not instituted as was done in the last one,
19 rather fair districts are instituted for our communities of
20 interest.

21 I would like to close by saying that with all the
22 new subdivisions in Vail, we have much more in common on the
23 east side of Tucson going south, going east; and if
24 necessary to fulfill the other requirements, we would be
25 more in common going north to Oro Valley-Marana much more

1 than the city of Tucson. Vail should never be included in
2 the same LD or CD as the city of Tucson.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. CRANK: (Technical/audio disruption.) Next
6 speaker is Larry Bodine.

7 MR. BODINE: Hello, my name is Larry Bodine.

8 I'm a retired lawyer; I've lived in Arizona for
9 20 years, and I want to give you a warm welcome to my
10 community of interest.

11 You are right in it, and that is the Catalina
12 Foothills. And, Mark, I do have a map that I've submitted
13 if it's possible to show that.

14 So the Catalina Foothills start at the Catalina
15 Mountains and come down to River Road. It was started to be
16 developed in the 1930s, designed with lots for maximum
17 privacy, preserving desert vegetation and natural terrain,
18 and of course the mountain views.

19 We're an older community, the average age is
20 53.8 years, but we have many bright, active, retired adults.
21 A lot of us are retired doctors, attorneys, professors,
22 management people, and -- and professionals who have
23 succeeded in our careers, and we just love being in the
24 Foothills.

25 So, for instance, we love our hiking trails. I

1 recommend the Finger Rock Trail to anybody who has been down
2 here if you have time.

3 We have fabulous parks, Tohono Chul is my favorite.
4 In fact, I know where there's a cactus that it's kind of
5 hidden, but when you look at it, it looks like as if it has
6 two eyes, and crested cactus; you got to see this thing.

7 The schools in Catalina Foothills Unified School
8 District make this area one of the very best places to raise
9 a family. And I want to be sure to add, that according to a
10 Niche survey in 2021, the Catalina Foothills was named the
11 best place -- suburb to live in in Arizona; and you're right
12 here.

13 We do have many houses of worship including
14 Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist temples all doing good works
15 in the communities. We have three library branches, and
16 pretty much everybody I know has a book on reserve; we are
17 an area of homeowners, 73 percent of us live and own our own
18 home; we have fabulous shopping centers including
19 La Encantada, St. Philip's, and a lot of other ones.

20 And, of course, we have excellent resorts; you're
21 in one of them right now, and it's clear that the Catalina
22 Foothills have an energy and an identity and should be kept
23 intact by the Independent Redistricting Commission.

24 And, with that, I want to thank you for all your
25 work and appreciate the opportunity to speak.

1 Thank you (Applause.)

2 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Linda Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Welcome to beautiful Pima County,
4 Arizona.

5 My name is Linda Evans; I lived pressed against the
6 Catalina Mountains in Skyline County Club at my permanent
7 residence for 28 years; no one lives to north or west or
8 east of me. My community of interest is geographical, the
9 Catalina Mountain Range. Fires such as last year's Bighorn
10 Fire, evacuations, wildlife preservation, and open spaces
11 binding me to my neighbors in the Catalina Foothills,
12 Casas Adobes and Oro Valley.

13 Since 2016, all my representation in government is
14 lopsided. My district board of supervisor, my two
15 legislators to the State House, my state senators, and my
16 congressional representative are all from the opposing party
17 who consistently vote against my beliefs. These officials
18 support the beliefs of people I don't interact with who live
19 below another geographical boundary, River Road.

20 The City Council of Tucson who believes they govern
21 me through Ward 3, though I don't live in Ward 3 nor the
22 city, seized my money, raising my water rates 40 percent as
23 a declared incentive published in the Daily Star newspaper
24 to goad me to beg them to be annexed into the city, where I
25 would be surrounded by people who do not share my beliefs.

1 The city has declared they will rezone our
2 incorporated land for high-density housing though they have
3 no jurisdiction.

4 I am a highly taxed citizen without representation.
5 No single elected official, not one, not in our county, not
6 to the state, represents my values; this violates my rights
7 given by the Arizona Constitution.

8 I call on you, good people, to invoke the Voting
9 Rights Act in favor -- in my favor as you are directed.

10 I am a candidate for the House of Representatives
11 in this great state of Arizona, yet I am told there is no
12 use in trying because no one -- no one gets elected from our
13 party in this district.

14 How truly sad that the numbers are so
15 overwhelmingly against me. The district as it stands
16 automatically gives a 2.5-to-1 ratio against me and my
17 beliefs though they are not evil beliefs, only an opposing
18 view.

19 This great country has always been in favor of a
20 two-party system and redistricting where permissible; and we
21 taxed people have a right. We the people who have a common
22 communities of interest for (technical/audio disruption)
23 Casas Adobes and then westward, Oro Valley perhaps, and even
24 north to the Pima County line, in general already exists;
25 our county supervisor won already-drawn boundaries.

1 While listening to the IRC's online meetings, the
2 issue of the rubric is the tool to weigh equally the five
3 standards given by the Arizona Constitution was discussed;
4 it was even on the agenda. I was alarmed by this proposed
5 unprecedented use for redistrict in the nation and urge the
6 IRC to abandon it. It could draw unwanted lawsuits.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. CRANK: Next four speakers: Brenda Wexler --
9 please hold your applause until the end.

10 The next four speakers: Brenda Wexler, Shirley
11 Munet -- Muney, Alan Nichols, Amanda Fischer.

12 If you would all please hold your applause until
13 the end; we do have 59 speakers.

14 MS. WEXLER: Good morning.

15 My name is Brenda Wexler. I moved to Tucson more
16 than 50 years ago -- you can't hear me? -- and, wow, has
17 the economic engine of the area changed. It is now -- it is
18 now ser- -- should I repeat that?

19 It is not services, technology, and sustainable
20 energy. Just miles from my house is a new 65-acre biotech
21 and tech industrial park, going in is 175 acres of
22 residential housing in support.

23 Tucson was a diverse community then and has evolved
24 in the best possible way making it even more diverse now:
25 young, old, Native, Hispanic, military, university students,

1 and many others. The city itself and its environs is my
2 community of interest and it must stay whole.

3 I live in LD-10 and CD-2, and it can best be
4 described in terms of its representation as fair and
5 competitive. I want it to remain so.

6 My district has 212,000 people and our voters are
7 one-third Republican, one-third Independent, and one-third
8 Democrats. We are bordered on the east by Davis-Monthan Air
9 Force Base with 14,000 employees, many of whom remain here
10 and become enmeshed in our community after service, and on
11 the west side by the University of Arizona.

12 Despite living in a metro area, my immediate
13 neighborhood has a small-town vibe, yet it remains diverse.
14 Illustrative is the diversity of religion. Within walking
15 distance from my house -- actually a stone's throw from my
16 house is a Mormon church, two synagogues, the Church of
17 Christ, a Lutheran church, a new African-American church,
18 and a few blocks south a Vietnamese Catholic church.

19 We are well represented in Pima County by our
20 congressional district and my legislative one, please
21 retain.

22 I know you are an independent commission with the
23 task of formulating fair maps. Our population is best
24 served by retaining it in its present form.

25 Thank you for listening.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. MUNNEY: Good morning.

3 My name is Shirley Muney. I'm retired and I live
4 in the north central edge of the city of Tucson. I live
5 in -- just inside the Tucson boundary, which is about
6 20-minute drive from the east side, the west side, downtown,
7 and the Foothills; I get around a lot.

8 My communities have been mostly civic
9 organizations, and 90 percent of the work that I do is
10 nonpartisan. And since these hearings are all about drawing
11 fair electoral district boundaries, I think it's wise to
12 remember that Arizona's electorate is now split about
13 one-third Democratic, one-third Republican, and one-third
14 Independent; and, therefore, I urge you to give more weight
15 to the consent of creating more competitive districts than
16 we now have.

17 We need everyone, every voter, to have a fair
18 choice among candidates. We don't need a jigsaw puzzle of
19 competitive districts or competitive communities of
20 interest. Voters need a fair choice of candidates.
21 Competition is the name of the game.

22 Thank you for coming to Pima County.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. NICHOLS: Dear Chairman Neuberg and members of
25 the Arizona Redistricting Committee, my thanks to you for

1 allowing the citizens to have a voice in the redistricting
2 process; it is important that citizens be heard,
3 represented, and involved in our republic.

4 My name is Alan Nichols; I'm a native Tucsonan.
5 When I grew up in Tucson, it was small family homes, one
6 school district, no one locked their doors; that is not true
7 today.

8 When I had the opportunity, I moved my family to
9 what is called the Catalina Foothills area of Pima County,
10 into that area -- and that is the area that represents me.

11 The goal of redistricting to ensure that my vote is
12 equally represented in my community, having my current
13 legislative district combined with the city of Tucson does
14 not accomplish that.

15 I moved out of Tucson for better schools, better
16 roads, and a better lifestyle. I live in an unincorporated
17 area of Pima County that the city of Tucson sees as a
18 discriminatory funding source for their pet social justice
19 experiments.

20 I'm not represented by the city of Tucson. My
21 community is one of good schools, good and clean streets,
22 with neighbors that take pride in living and maintaining
23 their community as well as I do. It is single-family
24 housing with no large structures.

25 I have in-laws that live in Vail, friends that live

1 in Saddlebrooke. I shop all along Sunrise Road and use the
2 same road to get to Phoenix. I use Houghton to get to New
3 Mexico. We have a couple of malls and a couple of parks and
4 we stay out of Tucson. I shop and worship from Marana to
5 Kolb Road. My friends, doctors, and social groups live,
6 work, gather and play in this very same area. This area
7 represents my Foothills community. It borders the Pinal
8 County line and includes Saddlebrooke, it borders Marana and
9 I-10, the Eagle River and the Pantano River is to the south.
10 The Rincon and the Santa Catalinas protect us to the east
11 and the north. This area is called the Catalina Foothill
12 and it is my community of interest.

13 We wish to be aligned into one legislative district
14 that provides representation that takes into account our
15 area, our values, our lifestyles, and our unique and
16 geographical area with its natural beauty.

17 If we were to be combined with other legislative
18 districts for congressional representation, I would hope
19 that this same consideration for community would be applied
20 allowing us to work with the areas of Vail, Corona de Tucson
21 and Green Valley. All these areas share the same interest,
22 concerns from defense to law enforcement and community.

23 Thank you for your time and commitment to the
24 process.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. CRANK: Next four speakers Amanda Fischer, Lee
2 Nichols, Nolan Reidhead, and Dale Winders.

3 MS. FISCHER: Good morning.

4 Is that good?

5 My name is Amanda Fischer; I live at 641 East Dion
6 Lane; I am a Native Arizonan, Tucsonan, and retired teacher.
7 I have lived in my current home which is in the Catalina
8 Foothills for 30 years.

9 I am in -- excuse me.

10 I am in Pima County Congressional District 2 and
11 Legislative District 9; I find that most of what I do I do
12 in this area. I see bobcats on my back wall, javelina in
13 the early morning knocking over my trash cans, and in the
14 spring I enjoy roadrunners and quail families on my daily
15 walks through the streets of my neighborhoods; I hike up the
16 mountain north of me, and I am able to -- and I can -- I am
17 able to see the city below me.

18 I often walk through the streets of my neighborhood
19 taking pictures of beehives in trees or interesting cacti
20 that bloom.

21 I have two children and they both went to the
22 public schools in the area. Both of my children swam on the
23 neighborhood club teams. I am looking forward to watching
24 my darling grandson Anson swimming on one of those same
25 teams; and I hope that I can continue to time as he crosses

1 the finish line.

2 I shop, have my hair cut, and have my nails done
3 all in the shopping center located -- located in that same
4 area of Ina and Oracle minutes from my home; I have lunch
5 with my friends often at Wildflower, Sauce, or grab a gelato
6 with my grandkids from Frost, which are all located in the
7 historic Casas Adobes Plaza.

8 We often go to watch the U of A games at HiFalutin,
9 which is located down the street and through the
10 neighborhood.

11 We go to breakfast on Sundays after church in one
12 of the lovely restaurants in the area which has gorgeous
13 mountain views.

14 My Catalina Foothills community has many common
15 factors that bring us together. The lovely mountains are
16 our north star -- I'm sorry figuratively and practically.

17 The last time this redistricting committee split my
18 district in half and included part of the city. We are more
19 of a rural community and have very little in common with
20 those that live in the city, who truly have a different
21 lifestyle.

22 I want a district that would represent my
23 interests.

24 I am asking that the Arizona Constitution be
25 followed and -- and that we have more in common with the

1 north and the northwest than we -- and to the Houghton
2 Corridor.

3 Thank you very much for your time.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a question.

6 (Inaudible/technical/audio disruption.)

7 MS. NICHOLS: Good morning and thank you,
8 Chairman Neuberg and members of the Commission, for taking
9 time to speak with local residents; appreciate it.

10 My name is Lee Nichols and I did submit a map if
11 you wanted to bring that up.

12 I've lived here since 1975, and live in the
13 Catalina Foothills area. I'm a precinct committeeman in
14 Legislative District 9.

15 I feel my vote has not counted in the last ten
16 years. Looking at my district boundaries as well as the
17 (technical/audio disruption) respond, because they do not
18 meet the direction in my opinion to the IRC set by the
19 Arizona Constitution.

20 My legislative district does not represent my
21 community of interest. It should not include the city of
22 Tucson, it is not geographically defined, and political
23 party's representation is truly unbalanced.

24 Could you find it?

25 I'm apologize, I go by my middle name and it just

1 reeks havoc with everything. Thank you.

2 Thank you.

3 So my community of interest as displayed includes
4 the entire northern span of the Catalina Foothills, Vail,
5 and Saddlebrooke. Didn't quite take it over to Vail, but my
6 brother lives there.

7 I live in the eastern part of the Foothills and
8 have business in the western area several times a week.

9 Excuse me.

10 I hike Sobino Canyon almost every day and I go to
11 Catalina State Park on occasion to hike there as well; I
12 visit my brother and wife in Vail, and I go to the town of
13 Catalina for my favorite restaurants.

14 The city of Tucson is not part of my community of
15 interest. The city doesn't like me, and I truly don't like
16 the city.

17 (Laughter/applause.)

18 I avoid going to the city.

19 And their disdain for county residents has been
20 recently demonstrated by an arbitrary water hike to many
21 county residents, including those in my area.

22 So if you haven't gotten it, the City should be
23 excluded from any legislative district that may have
24 (inaudible).

25 (Laughter/applause.)

1 I ask that you please ensure my community of
2 interest is fairly represented. It should be geographically
3 compact and contiguous and provide even political
4 representation.

5 My boundaries are the Santa Catalina mountains --

6 MS. CRANK: Time.

7 MS. NICHOLS: -- to the north Vail to the east and
8 up to Saddlebrooke with the Rita River on the south.

9 Thank you very much for your time; I appreciate it.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. REIDHEAD: Chair Neuberg, Commissioner Mehl, I
12 appreciate your time, I really appreciate the opportunity to
13 have these hearings.

14 My name is Nolan Reidhead and I live in Oro Valley
15 and have done so for about 22 years; I live in LD-11 and
16 CD-1.

17 And I have somewhat of a unique experience in the
18 sense I ran for Congress in CD-1 the last cycle, and the
19 mapping and creation of CD-1 was a disaster for three
20 reasons.

21 Number one, there were no community of interests
22 involved. Cultural and interests -- and language for that
23 matter -- in the Navajo Nation, the Apache reservation
24 really have little in common with here in Oro Valley,
25 Saddlebrooke, Catalina Foothills. The diversity and

1 interest is completely different. Farming and mining
2 history and the interest of the Copper Corridor in Graham
3 and Greenlee Counties are very different and vast from the
4 interest of Sedona and Flagstaff.

5 Number two, the -- the district is not compact and
6 contiguous. As was mentioned, CD-1 is the size of
7 Pennsylvania. It's about 400 miles from my home to the
8 northern border of CD-1 where -- where Page and Fredonia
9 is -- are located. It's almost 300 miles from Sedona to --
10 Clifton-Morenci where Representative Halleran lives in
11 Sedona. It's over 200 miles from my home up to Saint Johns
12 and Eagar. It's almost impossible for a representative to
13 represent that -- that vast experience and also very,
14 very -- almost impossible for the representatives to be
15 represented.

16 My community of interest survey is in Oro Valley.
17 (Technical/audio disruption) intentionally for -- for home
18 ownership, for the schools and the great restaurants, for
19 the -- for the great -- the quality of schools, the public
20 safety, my wife works at Marana High School. My children
21 have played softball, football, youth sports all in this
22 area. They went to CDO High School and Ironwood Ridge. My
23 wife has a horse; we live in a rural area.

24 My community of interest does not include city of
25 Tucson. If you are looking to include the compliance with

1 the Voter Rights Act and also the various factors, that
2 would include the city of Tucson and South Tucson. If you
3 drop the boundaries down to maybe River Road or Orange
4 Grove, that would be a great congressional district and
5 maybe legislative district.

6 But if you're looking at community of interests --
7 not diversity, that's not required by the six constitution
8 factors, it would include Marana, Oro Valley, Catalina
9 Foothills, Saddlebrooke, Vail, Green Valley. Those are
10 communities of interest. Where the areas are rural, they
11 are more in line with -- with -- with factors as far as
12 property ownership, as far as public safety; and I would
13 just encourage you to look at those six factors, not
14 diversity, not competitiveness, but population, the Voting
15 Rights Act, the div- -- communities of interest that you've
16 heard about today.

17 I would encourage you to look at those, the
18 requirements of the Arizona Constitution and adhere to those
19 factors, that way our representation can be better. We can
20 be better represented throughout Arizona.

21 Thank you very much.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: (Inaudible.)

24 MR. WINDERS: Hello. My name is Dale Winders.

25 First, thank you so much for volunteering for this

1 difficult task. I'm a registered voter in Legislative
2 District 11, Precinct 188.

3 I'm so glad this gathering is evidence of it that I
4 don't live in a democracy; I live in a constitutional
5 republic.

6 (Applause.)

7 My family and I are so blessed that our home sits
8 in a low-income area on over an acre of land at the very end
9 of a steep dirt road. Our community of interest area
10 stretches from Oro Valley through the Village of Catalina,
11 all the way to Saddlebrooke Ranch.

12 I'm a retired carpenter, a husband, a dad, a
13 grandpa, and a member of my local America-loving church. I
14 showed up here this morning to give you information about my
15 community of interest. Of course, our community is a
16 diversity of families including students, blue-collar
17 workers, entrepreneurs, and retired folks. We are not
18 Tucsonians as a lot of people have said; and most of us do
19 not agree with the political views of the majority of voters
20 in Tucson.

21 The last redistricting was not fair to many of
22 rural Arizonans. Our community does not want that to happen
23 this time around. We want -- we want you to be very careful
24 to abide by the Arizona Constitution when you are drawing
25 these lines.

1 Please do not include my community of interest in a
2 legislative district with the city of Tucson. By doing so
3 you would, in fact, be canceling out my community's votes in
4 favor of the much larger population of voters living in the
5 city of Tucson.

6 Again we are not Tucsonans and that's no accident.
7 With most of us, you couldn't pay us to live in Tucson.

8 Just one example -- I won't go on now. Just one
9 example how very different our political views are than
10 Tucson's huge majority, is that our community of interest
11 want -- doesn't want to dishonor or defund our law
12 enforcement but rather --

13 (Applause.)

14 -- we sincerely want to honor and respect these
15 very brave officers who risk their lives for us every day,
16 and it's so much that we want to give them a raise.

17 So in closing, my family and I feel so blessed by
18 the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ to still be living in the
19 land of the free and the home of the brave.

20 Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. CRANK: Next four speakers -- next four
23 speakers are Sherrylyn Young, Lana O'Brien, Karen Weiser,
24 and Christine Emery.

25 MS. YOUNG: Good morning and thank you,

1 Commissioners.

2 For 35 years I've lived in the Tanque Verde area,
3 which is on the far east side of Tucson. Tanque Verde is in
4 LD-10, which also extends into the middle of the city of
5 Tucson.

6 Since 2020, because of legislative boundaries which
7 were drawn with no consideration of communities of interest,
8 my neighbors and I have been left with virtually no
9 representation.

10 The reason for this is that Tanque Verde area of
11 LD-10 and the midtown area of LD-10 have almost nothing in
12 common. With two such different communities, our elected
13 officials cannot represent all the voters and must choose
14 one side or the other. Unfortunately, our representatives
15 have chosen to represent the voters of the city leaving our
16 much different issues almost completely ignored.

17 Recently my family attended an Independence Day
18 celebration at Forty Niner's Golf Course in the Tanque Verde
19 area of LD-10, and half the people there was from LD-9;
20 there was almost no one there for the midtown area of LD-10.

21 What would I consider to be my community of
22 interest?

23 Specifically Catalina Foothills north of River
24 Road, Tanque Verde and the Houghton Corridor, and Vail.

25 What do these areas have in common?

1 They're family communities in semirural areas, some
2 with horse property or 4-H animals. We socialize in the
3 same places and eat at the same restaurants. We have small
4 school districts. Catalina school -- Catalina Foothills
5 School District, Tanque Verde School District, and Vail
6 School District, rather than Tucson Unified School District;
7 and our school districts have very different issues from
8 Tucson Unified School District. Our residents often
9 congregate around our school activities.

10 We rely on the same public services, that is county
11 services rather than city services.

12 Because we are in mostly unincorporated areas, we
13 even have completely different local representation. We're
14 represented by county supervisors whereas the areas in the
15 city are represented by city council members for whom we
16 can't even vote.

17 I know because of the census data our legislative
18 districts are going to be very large. If our community
19 needed to be larger, it could wrap around the north of the
20 city to include areas in the far northwest up to
21 Saddlebrooke and/or wrap around below the south of the city
22 to include areas in the far southwest, even over to
23 Green Valley; this would also ensure that our minority
24 majority areas of the city remain intact.

25 I thank you so much for holding these hearings.

1 And I want you to know, it's been ten years since we felt
2 like we were being heard.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CRANK: Please hold your applause (inaudible)
7 as it does take seconds from the -- from the speaker, so
8 please hold your applause.

9 MS. O'BRIEN: Hello. My name is Lana O'Brien. I
10 live in Pima County Congressional District 2, Legislative
11 District 9.

12 I'm here today to give you information about my
13 community. My community is located in Oro Valley and --
14 near Oro Valley in Marana. We are proud of our
15 middle-income community that supports each other through
16 family, churches, and local resources.

17 My community gathers in Oro Valley, Marana, and
18 unincorporated areas of Pima County. We generally identify
19 our community as the northwest area of town. Our northwest
20 side of town we have everything needed: schools,
21 healthcare, hospitals, food banks, and all types of stores
22 to shop in.

23 We also have excellent bike paths -- which I go on
24 all the time -- parks and hiking trails, which I also enjoy.

25 The last time the district lines were done, it

1 split my community in half, right down the middle of my
2 neighborhood, and I don't want that to happen again.

3 I'm asking the Arizona Constitution be followed
4 this time when drawing the districts. Specifically, don't
5 include us in the legislative congressional district that
6 includes Tucson. My community needs to be with other
7 communities on the northwest side of town.

8 Pima County is diverse and the city of Tucson
9 doesn't represent the diversity of my community. I know
10 this because I'm a Native Tucsonan, and I've lived on the
11 northwest side of town almost my entire life.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WEISER: My name is Karen Weiser; I'm a
15 precinct chairwoman for Legislative District 11.

16 Before moving to Oro Valley, my husband and I had
17 also been looking for a place to live in Marana and
18 Green Valley. We knew we wanted to live close to Tucson
19 where our grandchildren lived, but not inside the city
20 limits of Tucson. We liked the idea of living in a rural
21 area or suburb.

22 We grocery shop every week at Basha's in Catalina.
23 People living in Saddlebrooke shop in Oro Valley because
24 it's the closest area with a variety of name-brand stores.

25 I think Oro Valley, Marana, Saddlebrooke, Oracle,

1 Catalina Foothills, Patagonia, Green Valley, and
2 Tanque Verde, and Vail need to be kept together in one
3 district for contiguity.

4 My daughter-in-law's mother, a legal
5 Mexican-American U.S. citizen who lives in South Tucson
6 thinks all of South Tucson should be kept in one district to
7 be represented from someone from her community.

8 As a veteran, being married to a veteran, having
9 two sons as a veteran, I believe an effort should be made to
10 keep the military base and as much of the military
11 population together in one district.

12 As a voting member of the Cherokee Nation, my
13 mother, her parents along with her ancestors were born in
14 the Cherokee Nation. My fourth great grandfather, Chief
15 Major George Larry, Jr., led the Cherokee down the Trail of
16 Tears; my fourth great grandfather, Chief Richard Fields led
17 a band of Cherokees into Texas which later became known as
18 the Texas Cherokees; my half fifth great uncle Sequoia who
19 worked with Cherokee syllabary making reading and writing in
20 Cherokee possible, and whose mother was my fifth great
21 grandmother, so I feel I can speak for the Indian tribes in
22 Arizona.

23 My bother, although Cherokee, ran hundreds of sweat
24 lodge gatherings for the Navajo Nation in Phoenix, which are
25 spiritual gatherings like going to church for the Native

1 Americans; he also was on the committee to keep sweat lodges
2 going when the State tried to shut them down due to the
3 James Arthur Ray setting up fake sweat lodge in Sedona which
4 caused three deaths and 18 people to be hospitalized.

5 I believe the 22 sovereign American Indian tribes
6 in Arizona would like to be kept together in one district
7 and represented by Indians who are from their district.

8 20 percent of the land in Arizona is Native
9 American land, but the population is 284,528; that's over
10 the 240,000 for a district, but I think they need to be kept
11 together as a district, not separated and mixed with other
12 areas.

13 I think as much of Downtown Tucson should be kept
14 together in their own districts since they have similar
15 cultural and spiritual beliefs --

16 MS. CRANK: Time.

17 MS. WEISER: -- and should be represented by
18 someone from their district.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. EMERY: My name is Christine Emery, and I live
23 in the southern part of Pima County in Legislative
24 District 2 and CD-2.

25 I reside in Quail Creek, a rural gated community --

1 retirement community surrounded by pecan orchards, BLM land,
2 and another small residential development. I moved here
3 from California in 2006. I escaped California; I don't want
4 to have to escape Arizona. I'm so happy to have Arizona as
5 my home.

6 The reason I moved to area outside Sahuarita and
7 Green Valley is because it was a semirural conservative
8 values. I found I had much in common with (technical/audio
9 disruption) in our community and the surrounding area.

10 The area consists of individuals who live a very
11 active lifestyle by golfing, pickle ball, tennis, hiking,
12 biking, and socializing. The majority of residents have
13 resided -- or, excuse me, are -- are retired fields of
14 business, management, law enforcement, education, and
15 military -- as I am a veteran myself.

16 They are educated, well-traveled, pro-Second
17 Amendment, and very informed. A large portion of the
18 residents are veterans. English is the primary language.

19 Most attend our local schools -- excuse me,
20 churches, shop locally, and are very involved in our
21 community. Several have been elected to the local school
22 board and city council; they volunteer and donate heavily to
23 local charities and service organizations.

24 When I first moved to the area, we had conservative
25 representation in Congress and Arizona. Unfortunately, in

1 2010, redistricting changed all that by moving lines so as
2 to split up the conservative areas, place them in Democrat
3 strongholds. We are now sandwiched between two huge
4 Democratic voting blocs: The city of Tucson and Nogales.
5 Our strong conservative majority was reduced to a low
6 20 percent minority in our legislative district.

7 It is so bad there that the Democrat candidates
8 even bragged during the last two elections that they didn't
9 have to campaign because it was a given they would win.
10 That is not fair, and that is not right.

11 I ask you to correct the error that was made in
12 2010 redistricting. Please place and return our Southern
13 Arizona area into a conservative congressional legislative
14 district.

15 It has been -- we have very little in common with
16 Tucson and Nogales; our interests, needs, values are much
17 different than these two cities. We have much more in
18 common with Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, Catalina
19 Foothills, Vail, Coronado de Tucson, and even Cochise
20 County.

21 I love my community and I love Arizona, but we have
22 become so disillusioned with what has happened in our area
23 and the lack of representation that my husband and I are
24 considering moving out this area and --

25 MS. CRANK: Time.

1 MS. EMERY: Excuse me.

2 -- out of this area.

3 Please do the right thing by grouping communities
4 of interest, lifestyles, values together in the new map.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CRANK: Two more speakers, and then we'll take
8 a break.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: A question before we break
10 and just for -- for future speakers, we're hearing a little
11 bit about the veteran community, a little bit of the
12 military community. We're not hearing much about the
13 military interests of this region, where it aligns, does it
14 aligned with the rural community, are there other military
15 communities?

16 So in the future if there are comments about that,
17 that's something that -- that I think at least I personally
18 would be interested in learning.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. CRANK: The next two speakers, and then we'll
21 take a break.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Let's go ahead and take a break
23 now.

24 So it's -- it's 11- -- it's 11:37 and we'll --
25 we'll take an eight-minute break and reconvene at 11:45.

1 (Recess taken from 11:37 a.m. to 11:46 a.m.)

2
3 (Technical/audio disruption.)

4 MR. BRADSHAW: Teresa Nunez, Kyle Vilaubi --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear.

6 MR. BRADSHAW: The next four speakers we have are
7 Teresa Nunez, Kyle Vilaubi, Michelle Whitehead, and Steve
8 Ware.

9 MS. NUNEZ: Hello.

10 First, my name is Corazón Nunez, not Teresa. I
11 think that was a mix-up.

12 My name is Corazón Nunez, and I live in Catalina
13 Foothills on Paseo del Bac.

14 I did fill out the online map, so you can pull that
15 up.

16 I live about eight minutes southeast of here; I was
17 born and raised in Tucson, as was my father and my
18 grandparents. My family was actually in Tucson before
19 Arizona became a state, so you can say that we know the area
20 pretty well.

21 My map reflects where we tend to gather and
22 socialize and generally speaking is north of the Tucson city
23 limits, west of the Sobino Creek, and east of Oracle. This
24 includes both BASIS Tucson North, where I attended high
25 school, as well as Catalina Foothills High School where most

1 families in the area send their kids. It also includes the
2 Jewish Community Center where I went to preschool and where
3 my family and many of our neighbors go for youth sports, gym
4 facilities, and community events.

5 A major point pride for my community is our
6 proximity to the Catalina Mountains, which others have
7 mentioned, as the environment here reflects the incredible
8 biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert and we value policies
9 which are sustainable and protect our natural environment,
10 especially because this area faces extreme wildfire risk as
11 we saw last summer. Some of those who live north of us had
12 to evacuate their homes.

13 My community tends to travel south into Tucson for
14 work, medical care, restaurants, and shopping; and I say
15 that we have much more in common with Tucson residents than
16 we do with communities farther west.

17 I am in Tucson almost every day to meet friends, go
18 to the University, and I can't name a single time that my
19 family has ever had to travel to Marana, Oro Valley, or
20 Vail. By no means would I classify Catalina Foothills as a
21 rural area.

22 You will notice that my community is completely
23 constrained within LD-9 as it is. I believe that the last
24 cycle of redistricting accurately respected the boundaries
25 of Catalina Foothills and I ask that the Commission do the

1 same this year.

2 It's a fairly competitive area, as you can tell
3 just by taking out the yard signs during election season; my
4 street was pretty 50/50.

5 LD-9's current representatives are responsive to
6 our specific needs. In high school when I reached out to
7 them for a community event, they responded really accurately
8 and promptly and sent out representatives. I don't believe
9 that this was the case if LD-9 was extended to include areas
10 further from Tucson but don't have the same city connection.

11 Thank you for your time, and I appreciate the work
12 you're doing.

13 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Would --

16 MR. VILAUBI: Hi. My name is Kyle Vilaubi. My
17 last name and heritage is Spanish from Spain.

18 My career for 20-plus years is in architecture and
19 I'm a map drawer extraordinaire.

20 I was born in Southern California but raised in
21 Pima County, northwest Tucson, Arizona. This is my home. I
22 have two young boys and my wife and I moved them to private
23 school because of the horrible public school system and
24 everything that's went on in our area in the last 18 months.
25 It's a Lutheran school, and in my opinion everybody could

1 use a little more Jesus right now.

2 My family and I frequent Catalina State Park and
3 Oro Valley to go hiking and camping when the weather is
4 cooler. We love the beautiful scenery that surrounds us on
5 all four sides: The gorgeous Catalina Mountains to the
6 northeast, Tucson Mountains to the west, and the
7 one-of-a-kind sunsets also on the west.

8 The issue I see with the current legislative
9 district is that we have a dense city of Tucson residential
10 area mixed with rural less-advanced residential areas of the
11 unincorporated Pima County.

12 Why should these two be mixed?

13 I love being in the county, and I will fight tooth
14 and nail to stop any sort of additional annex. This is
15 going against the communities of interest. These two the
16 entities do not share communities of interest.

17 In 2011, the redistricting committee remapped Pima
18 County by making a pie, with the center of the pie being the
19 center of the city. Against the rural -- again, the rural
20 area should not be blended with the urban areas.

21 Here is my proposal -- proposed legislative
22 district for Pima County.

23 You can see here's River -- River Road, Rita River,
24 here's the east side of Houghton Corridor, up through around
25 the Catalina Mountains to Saddlebrooke, and across through

1 Marana and back down.

2 The city of Tucson should be bloc'd within its own
3 legislative district, as you've heard throughout this --
4 your time.

5 And, again, you go south and then you have another
6 district and west and you have another district.

7 They should be separated.

8 Dense city does not belong in rural Pima County
9 areas, this will destroy the beauty of Southern Arizona.

10 Artificial intelligence has no place in making
11 maps.

12 We, the people, demand these needs be met.

13 The congressional district maps should follow the
14 same premise: The inner cities should not mix with rural
15 areas. The city of Tucson within the city limits should be
16 its own congressional districts with all surrounding areas
17 in a different district.

18 In closing, we have not been represented by the
19 majority in last decade due to the previous map lines that
20 were put in place. Equal population was ignored and the way
21 the maps are currently drawn is unconstitutional.

22 Thank you to Erika Neuberg for making these
23 hearings happen for we, the people.

24 Thank you and have a great day.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. BRADSHAW: Next up is (inaudible).

3 MS. WHITEHEAD: Hello. Thank you.

4 My name is Michelle Whitehead; I live in Pima
5 County, and I'm here today to give you information about my
6 communities of interest.

7 I live in the city of Tucson right smack in the
8 middle of Midtown at Speedway and Country Club, yet the
9 majority of my legislative district, LD-9, encompasses the
10 Catalina Foothills and Oro Valley. Almost half of my
11 neighborhood is connected to the University of Arizona
12 either as employees or students. We have almost nothing in
13 common with the communities north of River Road. We have
14 the city water, city council, wards, Tucson Unified School
15 District, public transportation, and dense population.

16 The city of Tucson was split into two congressional
17 districts during the last redistricting. I'm in CD-2, but
18 only blocks from CD-3 which includes the University of
19 Arizona, which I walked to daily when I was working there.

20 The city of Tucson needs to be represented by one
21 congressional district and not split into two so our
22 communities of interest can be represented as a whole.

23 My neighborhood is far more impacted by what goes
24 on at the U of A, Banner, 4th Avenue and Downtown than it is
25 by Cochise County or even east side of Tucson, which my CD

1 now encompasses and, yet, our voices are unrepresented there
2 as we are split from CD-3.

3 The last redistricting carved a large section out
4 of our dense area and put us with communities in which we
5 have little in common and separated us from those in our own
6 communities. It doesn't make sense for the city of Tucson
7 to be carved up in this way.

8 Currently 70 percent of my legislative district is
9 outside of city limits. In my congressional district the
10 representation of the city is split. The congressional
11 districts should be redrawn to keep the city of Tucson
12 together to keep our communities whole. The city of Tucson
13 should be in one or two legislative districts, at least the
14 heart of the city should be.

15 There are enough issues in the city to deal with
16 without compounding our district with the needs of
17 communities that lay outside.

18 The districts that the previous Commission drew
19 were not compact and did not have equal population, there
20 was too much focus on competitiveness.

21 Please follow the Arizona Constitution when you're
22 drawing districts this time so that this does not happen to
23 us again.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. BRADSHAW: Next up is (inaudible).

3 MR. WARE: Madam Chair, honorable members of the
4 Commission, thank you for your time and your volunteerism.

5 My wife and I live in Quail Creek. Unlike many
6 people here, we are relatively new to Arizona, two years;
7 political refugees from Oregon.

8 (Laughter.)

9 Quail Creek is rather unique. If you look at our
10 ZIP Code, it's 85614 which relates to Green Valley, but
11 legally we are within the city limits of Sahuarita. We pay
12 our taxes and fund the city, and we fund Continental School
13 District. We are very proud of the fact that Continental
14 School District passed a resolution banning CRT.

15 We do not belong to South Tucson in any way, shape,
16 or form. We have nothing in common with them. We should be
17 disenfranchised from them, please give us a piece of surgery
18 and remove us from there.

19 Our main community of interest is obviously
20 Sahuarita where we shop: Safeway, Sprouts, Ace Hardware,
21 Walgreens, we get our gas there.

22 Green Valley, not so much. I go through once a
23 month for a haircut, my wife goes there once every six
24 months for a haircut and we drive through it to go to
25 church.

1 Primarily, other than Sahuarita, we spend a lot of
2 time in Amado, Tubac, and Tumacacori. We're in Amado once a
3 week to Longhorn restaurant having lunch with friends; we
4 shop frequently in Tubac; they have stores there that carry
5 products that are essential to us that we can find no place
6 else; and we love Wisdom's and the margaritas in Tumacacori.

7 Vail is important to us as well. I am a Vietnam
8 veteran currently terminally ill with Stage-4 metastatic
9 lung cancer due to Agent Orange. I need assistance with
10 navigating the Veteran's Department and the VA health system
11 and my veteran service officer is in Vail, and we meet
12 frequently at the American Legion. Also, we enjoy
13 Argenziano's Italian Restaurant there.

14 In addition to Vail, South Houghton Corridor is
15 important to us. My wife's dentist is there and we love
16 going to Lucky's restaurant; and we also frequent Benson.
17 We love going to Kartchner Canyon State Park and sliding
18 over to Downtown Benson for lunch at the Horseshoe Cafe.

19 Sonoita we love, we plan to explore more of the
20 wineries there. We love going to the Copper Brothel for a
21 micro brew and a sandwich and then sliding over to Lake
22 Patagonia.

23 So we consider ourselves urban/rural --

24 MR. BRADSHAW: Time.

25 MR. WARE: -- not metro.

1 And I would just ask that you follow the Arizona
2 Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and respect and
3 recognize majority-majority [sic].

4 Thank you very much.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BRADSHAW: (Inaudible) Kathy Kimbrell, Linda
8 Burreson, Carol Lindy -- Lindley, and Nicole Barraza.

9 MS. KIMBRELL: Hello.

10 My name is Kathy Kimbrell. My husband and I are
11 14-year residents of the Quail Creek Community, that's an
12 age-restricted community in Green Valley. Currently it's
13 part of Precinct 84, LD-2, CD-2 just southeast of Sahuarita.

14 I'm a retired bank officer and my husband was a
15 small business owner in the commercial construction
16 industry. We moved to this area of Arizona in 2007 because
17 we were looking for a small-town atmosphere consisting of a
18 mix of retirees and families from all backgrounds but with
19 similar interests politically, socially, and culturally.

20 The 2010 gerrymandering landed us in a district
21 sandwiched between South Tucson and Nogales; neither of
22 these areas share our community of interest.

23 As a result, we have been completely overlooked by
24 our legislative representatives and any conservative voices
25 have been silenced in favor of citizens with which we have

1 very little in common.

2 As a result, we must be placed in a legislative
3 district with more community similarities like Southern
4 Vail, Corona de Tucson, and even into Northern Cochise
5 County. These areas are much more indicative of our
6 interests and lifestyles than those of South Tucson and
7 Nogales.

8 It is only right and fair that the redistricting
9 mistakes made following the 2010 census be corrected by the
10 current Independent Redistricting Commission.

11 And I appreciate your help in that respect.

12 I implore the Commission to look closely at all
13 these facts and at least give us a chance at fair
14 representation.

15 Thank you for listening.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. BURRESON: Hi.

18 My name is Linda Burreson. My husband and I are
19 native to Arizona and current residents of Pima County; our
20 children were born here at the University of Arizona and
21 were raised here. I'm now retired after 40 years at the
22 title insurance business, and my husband 42 years with
23 Southern Pacific Railroad.

24 The last 34 years we have lived in the county in an
25 area called Tanque Verde Valley located in LD-10.

1 Tanque Verde Valley is its own community where my children
2 attended and graduated school, we attend church, and
3 socialize with friends that share our same interest.

4 Tanque Verde Valley is a suburban area in the
5 county north and east of the river and close to mountains
6 where we enjoy the separation from the city of Tucson.

7 Socially and economically my area aligns with those
8 more with the Catalina Foothills, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke,
9 and Marana which are surrounding communities just like my
10 own.

11 Our current legislative and congressional districts
12 cater to those living within the city and do not represent
13 me or the suburbs or the rural areas.

14 It is my understanding that the previous maps did
15 not have equal population and I ask you to ensure that they
16 do, making them as compact as possible with equal
17 representation.

18 I respectfully ask the constitution to be precisely
19 followed with regards to this situation so that everybody
20 feels represented.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. LINDLEY: Hi, there. Can you hear me okay?

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Mm-hm.

1 MS. LINDLEY: I'm Carol Lindley (phonetic), and I'm
2 an Arizona native and a resident of Pima County.

3 I grew up here on the east side of Tucson; my three
4 children were born at Tucson Medical Center and -- and
5 raised here.

6 There we go.

7 (Laughing.)

8 I am retired from two careers. And, Commissioner
9 Mehl, I had the distinct honor and pleasure of representing
10 Westin La Paloma in the early '90s -- woo-hoo -- and at that
11 point sold the -- or booked the single largest business ever
12 booked at La Paloma up 'til then in 1992, Hoffmann-La Roche
13 Pharmaceuticals. I love this place. Love it. Fabulous.

14 Anyway, and then I also retired from a career in
15 hospice after that.

16 I now live in the suburbs in 85748, LD-10,
17 Congressional District 2. I still have childhood friends
18 who live in the area, and because of Tucson's growth, I
19 (technical/audio disruption) in that area and commonly known
20 also as the Houghton Corridor. It's where I go to church,
21 it's where I do my socializing, it's where I hike in the
22 Saguaro National Park, which is absolutely spectacular. And
23 you know it already. But, Erika, it's fabulous, it's
24 incredible. I spend a lot of time at my public library;
25 and, like I said, I take advantage of all of the abundant

1 recreation on the east side.

2 This is where I shop, it's where my dentists are,
3 it's where I feel most comfortable.

4 Our current legislative district -- and I am
5 echoing, I guess -- but really do cater to city dwellers;
6 and I've chosen a more suburban lifestyle, you know, like
7 you've heard from many people, and it -- and the city of
8 Tucson does not represent my lifestyle or my conservative
9 values necessarily.

10 The previous maps did not have equal -- equal
11 population. I just implore you, please, this time to ensure
12 that they do, make them as compact as possible, and consider
13 that equal representation.

14 Also, I ask very respectfully that the constitution
15 be followed; we have it for a reason and so that, again,
16 everybody can be represented.

17 And I really -- really appreciate this time that
18 you all are spending to give us the opportunity to feel
19 heard.

20 Thank you. Thank you so much.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. BARRAZA: Good afternoon. My name is Nicole
24 Barraza, and I'm the Director of Governance and Outreach at
25 the Southern Arizona Leadership Council. SALC is a

1 member-driven organization comprised of CEOs, business and
2 community leaders in Southern Arizona. We work to improve
3 the economic climate and the quality of life of greater
4 Tucson and the state of Arizona.

5 This afternoon I'm here to talk about Pima County
6 as a community of interest. We believe Pima County's
7 representation at the state legislature was negatively
8 impacted by the last redistricting process.

9 As the second most populace county in the state
10 with the larg- -- second largest city, Pima County has not
11 had representation in the majority party for ten years.
12 This has made it increasingly difficult to effectively
13 advocate for the region. Without any representation in the
14 majority, our public policy engagement on specific Pima
15 County needs and education, infrastructure, healthcare,
16 taxes, and regulatory issues has been constrained by the
17 lack of committee chairs at the legislature from our region.

18 Of the seven legislative districts within Pima
19 County, only three are entirely in the county; the remaining
20 only have slivers within Pima County.

21 This is not a partisan issue, but Pima County needs
22 representatives from both parties for our region to make
23 progress. But now when we advocate for Pima County and our
24 area, we are forced to go outside for other representatives
25 to sponsor our bills.

1 SALC's work -- works significantly at the state
2 level and our region's needs are not getting addressed. We
3 encourage this Commission to give Pima County balanced
4 representation and access to the party in the majority for
5 issues of regional concern.

6 This can be achieved by combining into a Foothills
7 corridor communities north of River: Saddlebrooke, Marana,
8 Oro Valley, Catalina Foothills; then wrapping around
9 Tanque Verde Valley, the Houghton strip, and Rita Ranch into
10 one legislative district. These are all contiguous
11 communities that share like-minded political views and don't
12 want to be inside the city of Tucson as has been previously
13 mentioned.

14 For congressional districts, we urge the Commission
15 to take a commonsense approach. We recognize the challenge
16 of balancing equal population, but we do not understand how
17 the current congressional map includes a district, CD-1,
18 that goes from the four corners all the way into Pima
19 County. It does not make sense that CD-1 includes
20 Oro Valley with the Navajo Nation. Suburban residents with
21 urban residents. This makes travel and the visibility and
22 responsiveness of the representative in Congress extremely
23 difficult.

24 These are some of our suggestions for how we
25 believe Pima County can gain fair and functional

1 representation with the forthcoming district map drawings.

2 Thank you for your service to our state.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Make sure your map is
5 (inaudible).

6 MR. BRADSHAW: Next up we have Sandra Gibson, Nancy
7 Wexler, Leslie Huntten, and Rick Gibson.

8 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Maybe repeat who is up now.

9 MR. BRADSHAW: Sure. We have Rick Gibson, Leslie
10 Huntten, and Sandra Gibson.

11 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Who is the first speaker of
12 that group?

13 MR. BRADSHAW: Rick Gibson.

14 Let me repeat. Leslie Huntten, Nancy Wexler, and
15 Sandra Gibson.

16 MS. HUNTEN: Hello. Do I sound good?

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yes.

18 MS. HUNTEN: Hi. I'm Leslie Huntten, I'm a long
19 time Tucsonan; I was born in Phoenix and lived here most of
20 my life.

21 In the year 2000, as has been mentioned, an amazing
22 thing happened: We developed an Independent Redistricting
23 Commission. I am still astonished that we accomplished
24 that.

25 As I see it, the purpose of this Commission's work

1 is to prevent gerrymandering.

2 Sorry.

3 Gerrymandering is a political gain that carves up
4 states into districts that favor one party over the other.
5 These manipulated districts eliminate the voice of large
6 parts of our population. When voices are silenced, we get
7 laws passed by politicians who don't represent the
8 constituents.

9 Do you think the majority of Arizonans want us to
10 be 48th or 49th in the nation for education funding?

11 Do you think the majority of Arizonans want to give
12 tax breaks to giant corporations and the wealthy?

13 I'm positive we don't. So why is this happening?

14 Too many voices have been silenced and it hurts all
15 of us to have an underfunded state budget. It hurts all of
16 us to have poorly educated students who grow up to be
17 tomorrow's adults.

18 That's why this redistricting process is so
19 important: We need to include every voice and every vote
20 fairly.

21 The laws we pass and the budget we adopt needs to
22 truly and accurately be -- accurately represent the will of
23 all the people, not just the minority.

24 The districts we draw for the next decade need to
25 be truly competitive.

1 This IRC is supposed to be free from the political
2 game of tug-of-war, but with the hiring of the controversial
3 Timmons Group, it already feels biased to me. As the
4 listening tour goes on, I hope the IRC will pay attention to
5 communities of colors and communities of interest, but keep
6 in mind that the point of this whole effort is to draw
7 politically fair boundaries.

8 I hope to see an unbiased, professional, and
9 transparent environment for the deliberations.

10 According to the recent Center for the Future of
11 Arizona Report, only 10 percent of Arizonans believe that
12 their elected officials really represent them. This is
13 terrible, and it has to change. We citizens need to be able
14 to have faith that the State is directed by people who
15 represent all of us, not just a wealthy or vocal minority.
16 So let's be careful to prevent gerrymandering and political
17 gaining; let's create districts that preserves communities
18 and confidence in our government and a positive attitude
19 towards the future.

20 Thank you for your time and attention. I
21 appreciate you coming on this listening tour.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. WEXLER: Hi. Can you hear me okay?

24 Okay.

25 Well, thank you to the Commission for being here to

1 hear from Southern Arizonans and our communities. I would
2 like to note that -- can you hear me?

3 I would like to note that the location selected for
4 these hearings are not the most accessible to our rural,
5 remote, and areas of high concentration of communities of
6 color. So if that can be taken into account for the next
7 round, that will be greatly appreciate.

8 My name is Nancy Wexler. I came to Tucson in 1968;
9 my family has developed deep roots and connections
10 throughout this area. I live on the far west side, my
11 mother lives Midtown, and my brother lives far east; we're
12 all represented by different electorates. We're all
13 involved in community engagement and ensuring the next
14 generation have as good of a future and life as we all have
15 here.

16 We've attended and taught at our public schools and
17 universities, and enjoyed the climate, culture, and
18 community the greater Tucson area has to offer.

19 Pima County represents highly diverse interests and
20 many shared values such as education, racial equity, civic
21 engagement, economic opportunities, and a healthy
22 environment.

23 Tucson is also the home to the VA Hospital as was
24 mentioned, it's central -- centrally located and important
25 to all.

1 I dedicated my career to community health and have
2 friends and colleagues in all parts of Tucson, Green Valley,
3 and smaller communities I frequent. We all want to be able
4 to access important services like healthcare, broadband, and
5 we all want to serve our communities.

6 Thus far we've been well represented, and in my
7 Congressional District 3 encompasses a large population of
8 two tribal nations and ensures those voices are heard.

9 Our three congressional districts in the county
10 work together and represent a competitive and balanced
11 landscape for the region: rural, suburban, and dense
12 metropolitan areas alike.

13 My own Legislative District 3 reaches from West
14 University to the Tucson Mountain area and into the south
15 side. My state representative is so accessible and
16 service-orientated he provides his cell phone to his
17 constituents; and we use it.

18 More young people are moving in, and at the same
19 time our state has been a sanctuary to older adults; and
20 that population is grown.

21 Arizona is known for its climate and this is one
22 area requiring representation to ensure communities have
23 access to water and that Southern Arizona can endure summers
24 far more scorching than those I experienced as a child.

25 We have an opportunity to lead the way in modern

1 energy jobs and eco-friendly communities.

2 I know you're entrusted to ensure we remain the
3 three C's: Compact, contiguous, competitive and committed
4 to our (technical/audio disruption).

5 Thank you again for your service in the most
6 complex and essential charge and considering from those who
7 will be impacted by your work.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

10 Who is the next speaker?

11 MR. BRADSHAW: We have Rick Gibson and Nancy
12 Wexler.

13 Oh. Then -- my apologies. Rick Gibson and Sandra
14 Gibson.

15 No?

16 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Go ahead.

17 MR. BRADSHAW: Okay. The next four is Eric Crump,
18 Liz, I believe it's Chainey, Ann Hollis, and Martha Aguilar.

19 MR. CRUMP: Hello.

20 I'm Eric Crump. I was born and raised here in
21 Tucson; and I'm going to make this a little short because a
22 lot of people have already said what I was going to say.

23 Obviously, the Foothills does not want to be
24 represented by the city of Tucson because they don't
25 represent the Foothills. They've tried to annex the

1 Foothills a number of times but the people always reject it
2 because they have different values, so I hope you take into
3 account when you make the legislative districts.

4 One thing that nobody has brought up though is the
5 way the congressional districts are.

6 So Flagstaff and Oro Valley and Pima County are in
7 the same congressional district, but you can only get from
8 Flagstaff to Oro Valley by I-17 and I-10; you have to go
9 through Congressional District 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 before you
10 get to Oro Valley from Flagstaff or Sedona, and that's kind
11 of ridiculous.

12 If you're up north by Flagstaff, if you have to
13 bring in the population from part of Phoenix to make the
14 numbers level, that's okay; but don't wrap around Phoenix
15 and have us in Pima County, which has nothing to do with
16 Flagstaff -- I know people go from Phoenix to Flagstaff to
17 ski, people in Flagstaff go to Phoenix for commercial
18 airlines, but they never come to Oro Valley, you know?

19 So I -- I would really like for you guys to really
20 consider to make it more fair. Okay?

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

22 MR. CRUMP: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. CRUMP: Okay. Can you hear me?

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Okay.

1 MS. CRUMP: Is this one better?

2 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Uh-huh.

3 MS. CRUMP: Okay.

4 Dear members of the Redistricting Commission, my
5 name is Liz Crump, and I have lived in Pima County since
6 1988; and I live on the northwest side of Pima County near
7 the city of Marana -- nobody wants to claim us.

8 But I'm a precinct committeeman for LD-9. My
9 legislative community of interest includes Marana School
10 District where my ZIP Code is 85741. The natural boundaries
11 of my communities of interest go from River Road to Pinal
12 County, the freeway to the Tanque Verde corridor; this is a
13 compact and continuous community -- I'm sorry, I forgot my
14 glasses -- which includes the communities of Saddlebrooke,
15 Oro Valley, Marana, and Catalina Foothills which have
16 nothing in common with the city of Tucson.

17 So we are a tight-knit community. We have similar
18 interest, conservative values. We enjoy activities like
19 churchgoing, horseback riding, biking, hiking in the
20 mountains in Rita Canyon and then Catalina Mountains.

21 My conservative community of interest for the
22 congressional district would include Vail, the Houghton
23 Corridor, Catalina Foothills, Marana, Oro Valley,
24 Saddlebrooke, and Pinal -- all the way to Pinal County.

25 The people there have similar interests and

1 constitute a community of interest defined by the Voters
2 Right Act that as their tight-knit communities of interest.

3 Now, concerning the redistricting maps, it appears
4 that the redistricting maps were drawn unfairly in 2011 and
5 were too competitive. Some populations were
6 underrepresented by 12 percent.

7 My community of interest was underrepresented.

8 The Arizona Constitution says that all political
9 powers is inherent in the people and government derives its
10 power from the consent of the governed.

11 My concern -- my consent has not been heard; I have
12 no conservative representative at my -- in my legislative
13 district. So my desires and hopes for the legislative and
14 congressional districts for my community of interest are not
15 represented at all.

16 Please do not include the city of Tucson in my
17 community of interest as they do not share my values as a
18 conservative wanting small government and more autonomy. My
19 consent has not been represented for the past ten years;
20 therefore, I'm requesting a change in the redistricting maps
21 that more accurately represent the population and the common
22 communities of interest at the legislative and congressional
23 districts.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. The next speaker is Ann
3 Hollis followed by Martha Aguilar.

4 MS. HOLLIS: Thank you.

5 Thank you for allowing me to speak and thank you
6 for very much for holding these town halls.

7 I'm Ann Hollis, I've been in Tucson almost
8 30 years; the military brought me here.

9 I'm not really sure what you're looking for from
10 the military people because we're spread all throughout the
11 county in Cochise -- Pima and Cochise County. But as a
12 military person, a lot of my friends live in Rita Ranch. I
13 live in the northeast end, East Tanque Verde; and I am in
14 city limits.

15 But we're very rural on -- in East Tanque Verde.
16 For those who don't realize, we are a scenic corridor
17 because we lead to the national forest, and we lead to the
18 Houghton Corridor as well.

19 East Tanque Verde we have horse property, one- and
20 five-acre lots in the neighborhood, Bears Path Road on
21 Woodland and if you drive on Woodland, you'll see pecan
22 orchards, you'll even see a longhorn steer. So we are in --
23 we have a completely different mood than parts of
24 Legislative District 10 that we're in, which are just east
25 of the University.

1 So the western portion of LD-10 reaches deep into
2 the city of Tucson and does not fit at all with what we have
3 in East Tanque Verde within city limits as well as the rest
4 of Tanque Verde area.

5 We fit more of the community of the Houghton
6 Corridor where there are other horse ranches and larger
7 lots; we fit more in with the Catalina Foothills. It's a
8 better fit for us than the University area.

9 And a point I'd also like to mention is that there
10 are a lot of assisted living homes in LD-10, mainly in the
11 north as well as in the Foothills. If the Catalina
12 Foothills and the Tanque Verde area were in one legislative
13 district, then the people who live in assisted living would
14 have a voice. Right now it's diluted by mixing with the
15 tend -- tend to be the younger crowd, the university folks.

16 So that's something I would like to mention as a
17 voting bloc that we have in LD-10 and a portion of LD-9.

18 So thank you for letting me speak.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. VAN HAREN: The next up is Martha Aguilar.
22 Martha will be followed by Colleen Mathis, Gail Paton, and
23 Jolyn Evans.

24 MS. AGUILAR: My name is Martha Aguilar.

25 Thank you guys for a being here today. We really

1 appreciate what you're doing.

2 I'm a Native Tucsonan and precinct committeemen in
3 LD-9, Congressional District 2, my ZIP Code is 85750, and
4 I've resided in my current home and community for ten years.

5 The Arizona State Constitution says "District
6 boundaries shall respect communities of interest."

7 My community of interest is north of River Road,
8 the Catalina Foothills community. We have a quarterly news
9 magazine devoted to our community; my kids attend
10 Pusch Ridge Christian Academy; I -- we attend the church
11 there at Catalina Foothills; we shop in these -- in this
12 location, eat, socialize all north of River; we recreate at
13 Sobino Canyon which is a protected wildlife preserve.

14 We have our own unique community of retired and
15 young professional families north of River Road. We also
16 have unique environmental concerns such as preserving
17 wildlife corridors throughout our neighborhoods. Down the
18 street we have horse rescues, stables, and boarding; we have
19 multiple hiking and wildlife clubs and museums of art.

20 We have purposefully chosen to move out of the city
21 of Tucson. We don't want to be governed by the city of
22 Tucson as you guys have heard, nor would we expect the city
23 to be governed by us.

24 As it stands, we have unjustly lost our
25 representation due to the nefarious rigging of our

1 legislative and congressional districts. Not only have the
2 counties lost their votes and voices, but so have many other
3 communities: the ranching communities, the military
4 families, veterans, small business owners.

5 Tell me, what does the retirement community of
6 Green Valley have to do with South Tucson? What do they
7 have in common?

8 Nothing.

9 The current map violates both of these communities
10 and their unique interests. They were put into the district
11 with South Tucson to create a competitive district, but the
12 result has been no representation at the legislature. How
13 can we even begin to focus on competitive districts when we
14 have entire counties and legislative districts without
15 representation?

16 A stunning example of this is the city council
17 mandate for 50 -- for a 50 percent water increase rate in
18 the next year. If you live outside the city, you have no
19 vote. 80 percent of all Tucsonans surveyed rejected this
20 price gouge, but Regina Romero passed it anyway claiming
21 that equity and social justice justified her position.

22 She's also the same mayor pushing to defund our
23 police. Her militant ideology does not represent me, my
24 family, or my community of interest; yet, we have no
25 representation.

1 The map has failed.

2 It's also a violation of the intent of the Voting
3 Rights Act to dilute the votes of like-minded minority
4 communities and their interest. There's no quality in
5 dividing or segregating the interest of these communities.
6 Why are we not keeping Midtown together? Retirement
7 communities together? Rural communities together?

8 How is it that the second largest region in Arizona
9 has no representation?

10 Our state constitution says --

11 MS. VAN HAREN: (Inaudible.)

12 MS. AGUILAR: I will. Give me one second.

13 Our state constitution -- we've had no
14 representation, so please let me just speak. Okay. Thank
15 you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. VAN HAREN: We have --

18 MS. AGUILAR: Our state constitution says "District
19 lines shall use visible geography features, city, town and
20 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts."

21 What would make sense is to have a northern
22 corridor that stretches from Green Valley to Saddlebrooke.

23 (Inaudible) but this is all -- we have a northern
24 corridor.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Can we have the next speaker

1 please come up?

2 I'm sorry, ma'am you had three minutes to speak.

3 MS. AGUILAR: No, I'm going to finish. Thank you.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: (Inaudible.)

5 MS. AGUILAR: What would make sense is to have a
6 northerner corridor that stretches from Green Valley and
7 Saddlebrooke to Tanque Verde Valley and out to Houghton
8 East. All of these communities share places of employment,
9 social constructs, and the unique rural environment that is
10 away from the city with a focus on families, ranching,
11 retirement communities, military, and a rural lifestyle with
12 a visible geography feature among the mountains and north of
13 River Road.

14 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you. We really
15 appreciate your time.

16 MS. AGUILAR: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: We need to move on.

18 Next speaker, please.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker will be Galen
20 Paton, followed by JoAnn Evans, followed by Levoy Hurley.

21 MS. AGUILAR: Okay. I would like to just finish.

22 We need common sense; we need to keep our
23 communities together, and we need this committee to redraw
24 the boundaries that our like-minded communities and
25 interests are represented.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. PATON: Hello.

4 My name is Galen Paton, I live in 85748, which is
5 the Houghton-Broadway area.

6 I went to Saguaro High School, Magee Jr. High, the
7 University of Arizona; I've lived in this area for almost
8 50 years; I taught school at Sobino High School; and I lived
9 down by the Vail area for 15 years. My wife works at the
10 cancer center as a nurse.

11 I'm a Realtor now as being a retired teacher, and
12 you were asking about the -- the employment areas that
13 people are speaking about.

14 These rural areas should be -- our congressional
15 district should go from, like, Saddlebrooke, loop around the
16 Catalina Foothills, all the way down to Green Valley, Corona
17 de Tucson, possibly Cochise County, possibly Pinal County.

18 These people all -- many of them -- my clients are
19 military veterans or military Border Patrol, sheriff's,
20 two-teacher families, those kind of people. A lot of them
21 work at Raytheon, a lot of them work at IBM, a lot of them
22 are the tech people.

23 The we -- we all talked about the travesty of
24 having District 1 go from Page, Arizona, which is one of the
25 few towns in my life in Arizona I've never been to; I've

1 been to most every other part -- part of Arizona.

2 I would propose also the -- since we need 800,000
3 people to have a congressional district, to have two in the
4 Tucson area, you're going to have to split Tucson somehow.
5 So I would suggest you go east of Wilmont, north of the
6 river, the Rita, into Pinal County or into Cochise County.

7 Green Valley has been totally cut off since the
8 last census, they used to be a big part of -- I think it was
9 congressional and district 2 at the time, used to be a big
10 part. Now they're nothing, nobody pays attention to Green
11 Valley anymore; and these are people that have made our
12 country what it is, it's a retirement area, and they have
13 very little voice now.

14 So, anyway, I've -- I've sold many houses up by
15 Benson, Corona de Tucson, Vail, the Houghton Corridor where
16 I live; and those people are -- they value their school
17 districts, that's mainly why they moved out there. And even
18 though I worked for TUSD for 12 years of my life, they --
19 they have that in common.

20 The city of Tucson has their ward system. So if
21 you're not within a Democratic majority, they don't pay
22 attention to you at all.

23 So, anyway, I guess I'm out of time.

24 So, thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Did Colleen Mathis already come up
4 and speak?

5 So JoAnn Evans, Levoy Hurley, and then Faith Ramm.

6 COMMISSIONER MEHL: It appears maybe she's not
7 here.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Is there a Joann Evans?

9 What about Levoy Hurley?

10 (Chorus of "He's here.")

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay.

12 Mr. Hurley, you're up; and then he'll be followed
13 by Faith Ramm.

14 MR. HURLEY: My name is Levoy Hurley; I live on the
15 east side of LD-10, CD-2.

16 I'm going to try to squeeze in a couple of answers
17 you've asked, so bear with me on the time.

18 Ladies and gentlemen of the Commission, thank you
19 for coming to Tucson. I want to talk briefly about my
20 community of interest.

21 Nineteen years ago Raytheon transferred me to
22 Tucson; my wife and I spent five months getting to know the
23 city and surrounding areas and searching for a home. What
24 we learned was that the central part of Tucson, along with
25 the University of Arizona, is a college town basically;

1 there was nothing there for us.

2 We found our home in the east side of Pima County
3 at the Tanque Verde Valley with its wide open spaces and
4 neighbors who respected each other's privacy. We have a
5 small one-acre lot. We found a community of shared values
6 on both sides of the aisle. Heck, we even found Democrats
7 who supported the Second Amendment. Try that in Downtown
8 Tucson.

9 Over time we learned that our common interests
10 extended across the Catalina Foothills and south along the
11 Houghton Corridor. We are truly a community that looks
12 nothing like the city of Tucson. And, frankly, we want as
13 little to do with Tucson as possible.

14 Are you sensing a pattern here?

15 I hope you are.

16 We do venture west, it's along Sunrise, to some
17 businesses up there at Catalina Foothills. We rarely
18 venture west of Kolb; we eat, we shop, we socialize on the
19 east side of Pima County.

20 As we settled in, we get to know our neighbors at a
21 different level. It was easy, after all, we have a lot of
22 shared values.

23 You asked about defense contractors and military.
24 I'm retired Raytheon; my neighbor across the street is
25 Raytheon, my neighbor to the left of me -- who is recently

1 deceased, unfortunately -- was retired military and
2 Raytheon. They run through the Foothills to Tanque Verde
3 Valley down to the Corridor, even into Rita Ranch and Vail.
4 Now, Rita Ranch and Vail, they're younger but they still
5 have that military and Raytheon like the last gentleman just
6 said.

7 We got to know our LD-30 legislators and they got
8 to know us; they had regular town halls.

9 Pima County had a strong voice in Phoenix. LD-30
10 was truly a community of interest.

11 All that changed in 2011, when a corrupt commission
12 targeted our district and destroyed our community. They
13 extended our boundaries into the University of Arizona,
14 right where we rejected in the first place.

15 These people do not share our interests. We have
16 no legislation. I couldn't point out my legislator if they
17 were in this room.

18 So what do we do?

19 We heard about the corridor -- I'm running out of
20 time. Again that backwards "C" we've talked about: From
21 Oro Valley down around the corridor down to the south. I
22 mean, Quail Creek? Does anybody really think Quail Creek
23 belongs in South Tucson?

24 Come on, man.

25 (Laughter/applause.)

1 So that whole area, obviously, is too large for a
2 legislative district; it probably divides about Broadway.
3 It's a good start for a CD, congressional district.

4 And with that I leave you; I am out of time.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Could you, just for the help of
6 our mapping consultants, could you tell us where the
7 Houghton Corridor is?

8 MR. HURLEY: Well, Houghton Road -- Houghton Road,
9 of course, on the east side is Houghton Boulevard, right?
10 It's that corridor out there.

11 So there's a -- obviously, extends to the east
12 to -- to the mountains, which is a protected area, so
13 there's nothing out there. Vail, Rita Ranch, and then I
14 would say from Houghton to the west, you know, arbitrarily,
15 you know, Camino Saco, you know, that kind of -- that kind
16 of a thing.

17 So, basically, it's just east side of Houghton
18 going south all the way down to I-10, I think that's --
19 that's my understanding of it anyway.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

21 MR. HURLEY: Sure.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24 Our next -- our next speaker is Faith Ramm.

25 And then is Colleen Mathis still here?

1 Okay. And then after that one will be Colleen
2 Mathis and followed by Shelley Kais.

3 MS. RAMON: Hello. And it's Faith Ramon.

4 So thank you for having me today. Like I
5 mentioned, my name is Faith Ramon; I was born and raised in
6 Keota (phonetic) which is in the Gu Achi District on the
7 Tohono O'odham Nation, and for the past year -- past
8 15 years I've been living in Ward 1 with my children, my
9 grandchildren.

10 As an indigenous woman native to the O'odham land,
11 my geographic boundaries would include the Tohono O'odham
12 Nation, San Xavier, Pascua Yaqui Reservation, and south side
13 barrios, as well as other communities of color within this
14 draft.

15 So many have -- so many things have happened in the
16 past ten years: Our communities have been losing loved
17 ones, our schools are underfunded, our elders cannot afford
18 healthcare, and we are experiencing a water drought; but
19 most important the population has grown.

20 The population of communities of color in
21 particular has grown. My ask is that the Commission
22 maintain the same number of districts where the communities
23 of color have the ability to elect the candidate of their
24 choosing, which is protected in the Voting Rights Act and
25 the Commission must uphold these protections in the map that

1 are being drafted for the next ten years.

2 Ten years of Arizona electoral representatives, we
3 need a minority-majority fair district.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Colleen Mathis, followed by
9 Shelley Kais.

10 MS. MATHIS: Good afternoon, Commissioners, and
11 thank you for making the trek to Pima County, and staff.

12 I'm Colleen Mathis, I served as the past --
13 immediate past chair of this Commission, so I really
14 appreciate where you're sitting today, and I appreciate all
15 the people from Pima County who are coming out to testify
16 because that's where the rubber meets the road; and it's so
17 helpful to have that engagement.

18 With the exception of Commissioner Mehl who I
19 actually met at prayer breakfast ten years ago, and he spoke
20 of his very inspiring background; he was the keynote and big
21 draw, I haven't spoken with any other Commissioner or met
22 them.

23 With that, I just wanted to share a few thoughts
24 based on my unique capacity having served on this
25 Commission.

1 The preamble of Proposition 106 that voters
2 approved in the year 2000 and which has now been
3 incorporated into the Arizona Constitution states that this
4 Commission is to oversee the mapping of fair and competitive
5 districts, that was up on the screen earlier today, and I
6 appreciate you guys using that language and showing
7 everybody.

8 That's the specific language that the voters read
9 when they filled out their ballots. That's the whole idea
10 behind why we're here today.

11 As a former Republican from Illinois and now a
12 political Independent, I highly value competition, a fair
13 fight, and a level playing field. I think those are
14 fundamental American values. That said, I know well that
15 you can't draw 9 competitive congressional districts, nor
16 can you draw 30 competitive legislative district. Not
17 possible. I wish you could.

18 You must also consider the Voting Rights Act,
19 population clustering in our state, and of course the other
20 criteria; but your goal should be to draw as many
21 competitive districts as possible.

22 Competitiveness is a straightforward concept. If a
23 district is truly competitive, either of the major party
24 candidates should have a real chance of winning. Making a
25 safe district a little less safe but where one of the

1 candidates still has no real choice of winning is not a
2 competitive district, or a candidate, you know, when a
3 candidate only needs to win a primary election to have a
4 safe seat for ten years, that's not achieving true
5 competitiveness.

6 Each of you should be representing everyone in the
7 state, and your job is not to draw Democratic maps or
8 Republican maps or maps that please your friends and family,
9 the job is to justify the constitutional criteria to the
10 State and to craft districts that reflect the way the State
11 fits together and best represents the State's citizen.

12 There are six criteria, they're actually lettered,
13 not numbered in the constitution. The Arizona Supreme Court
14 has ruled that you must weigh them equally. Of the six
15 criteria, communities of interest and competitiveness need
16 not compete with each other or present some kind of zero sum
17 binary choice. You can draw districts that are head-to-head
18 competitive and also well reflect communities of interest.

19 Now, it's true, you're going to have to group more
20 than one community of interest in order to achieve those
21 population requirements in a single district; and people may
22 not like that, but that is the reality of the game.

23 Those are my thoughts today. To the extent I can
24 be a resource to any of you, including your fellow
25 Commissioners who aren't here today, I'm at your service.

1 I'm happy to help.

2 And if -- one last piece of advice, if you don't
3 already have a beloved pet in your home that you can go home
4 to every day, I highly recommend you get one.

5 So thank you. Thanks for your service.

6 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our next speaker is
8 Shelley Kais, followed by Michael Torres, followed by Joseph
9 Erceg.

10 MS. KAIS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members
11 of the Independent Redistricting Commission. Welcome to
12 Pima County and thank you for conducting this listening
13 session.

14 My name is Shelley Kais, and I am the chair of the
15 Pima County Republican Party.

16 There are approximately 630,000 voters in
17 legislative districts in Pima County, many of whom have
18 spent the last decade with no representation in the Arizona
19 legislature.

20 What does this mean for the Pima County voter?

21 While demographically our county closer represents
22 the state of Arizona in race, age, gender, foreign-born
23 citizen, our high school graduation, and bachelor degree
24 completion rates, 72 percent of us speak English, comparable
25 with 73 percent in Arizona; our median household income is

1 within \$5,000 of the State median; our persons living in
2 poverty is .5 percent higher than the State percentage.
3 However, we do have a statistically significant greater
4 number of veterans, 5 percentage points.

5 So while our representation in Phoenix and
6 Washington is dramatically different, not one Republican
7 state senator resides in Pima County, the second largest
8 district in the state.

9 Only one Republican state representative resides in
10 Pima County. There are six Republican representatives in
11 the Arizona legislature who represent portions of Pima
12 County, however, five of them do not live in Pima County.

13 Legislative Districts 3, 9, and 10 are exclusively
14 in Pima County yet only represent 62 percent of the Pima
15 County voters.

16 Legislative Districts 2, 4, 11, and 14 are shared
17 districts with Cochise, Maricopa, Yuma, Pinal, Santa Cruz,
18 and of course Pima County representing 38 percent of Pima
19 County voters.

20 Congressional Districts 1, 2, and 3 are Democrat
21 seats.

22 While our communities of interest are diverse in
23 Pima County, minimizing their influence by separating
24 communities impacts the ability of Arizona to be
25 competitive.

1 Mining, aerospace, veterans and military retirees,
2 law enforcement professionals in Green Valley, Sahuarita,
3 Quail Creek have little in common with South Tucson or
4 Nogales. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, logistic centers,
5 and innovation parks are partnered with farming and
6 agriculture in LD-2 and 14; semirural areas of LD-9 and
7 LD-10 are combined with urban Tucson, and suburban areas of
8 Oro Valley are combined outside the county with farming in
9 LD-11.

10 While many of those are here today and speaking of
11 their personal situations, I request that you consider Pima
12 County Republicans as a whole body who have not been
13 represented due to the 2010 redistricting, and we
14 respectfully request your consideration and realignment
15 of our congressional and legislative districts.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Michael Torres,
20 followed by Joseph Erceg, followed by Susan Whittermore.

21 MR. TORRES: Hello.

22 My name is Michael Torres. I was born and raised
23 in rural Wilcox, Arizona; I grew up doing the ranching,
24 cattle, farming, and just rural stuff there.

25 I relocated to Oro Valley in '97; nice, quiet town,

1 just because Tucson was just a little too up -- uppity-up
2 for me. All right?

3 I like the outskirts of the city of Tucson after I
4 came back from the military. I own my own business which is
5 a mold inspection and testing company. From Oro Valley, I
6 ventured down southward a bit to Home Depot and Lowe's for
7 various home improvement supplies when -- when I needed it.
8 We do lots of things in the wilderness out in north in the
9 Oro Valley, including hunting and trail riding. I have
10 friends in the Saddlebrooke area who do their shopping,
11 working, and pleasure in Oro Valley. We meet on the
12 weekends at Catalina State Park and enjoy other -- other's
13 company and the beautiful southwest scenery.

14 We also frequent Sobino Canyon recreation area in
15 the Catalina Foothills to cool off during the summer months.

16 I was told to ask myself: What is the issue with
17 the district I live in?

18 The only real thing that I could come up with was
19 most of the things that I do outside of my district, but
20 also outside of the city of Tucson, I commute around the
21 northwest outskirts of Tucson for most of what I do on a
22 daily and weekly basis. I feel the same as what I am
23 hearing from most of the other testimony that I'm hearing,
24 the rural areas do not belong to the same districts as urban
25 areas like the city of Tucson.

1 The Voting Rights Act of which these district lines
2 are supposed to be dictated seems to have been broken at the
3 last time these maps were made. You can clearly see the pie
4 that was made by whoever made the maps previously -- 2011,
5 if I'm not mistaken.

6 What does rural Oro Valley have to do with the city
7 of Casa Grande? I was shocked to learn that my legislative
8 district stretched from Ina Road all the way to Casa Grande,
9 almost an hour-plus away.

10 This absolute -- this is absolutely wrong. We
11 share no interest, being two separate towns 60 miles away
12 from each other.

13 Thank you, Erika Neuberg, for creating this
14 Commission and allowing us to speak in front of you to
15 change the way these maps are drawn.

16 Have a good day.

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 The next speaker is Joseph Erceg, followed by Susan
21 Whittermore, followed by Scott Oldendorph.

22 MR. ERCEG: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of
23 the Commission.

24 My name is Joseph Erceg, I live in Legislative
25 District 11.

1 My church home is in Oro Valley, both my children,
2 adult children, graduated from Pusch Ridge Christian
3 Academy; and my -- little bit different take, my community
4 of interest is small business owners and managers.

5 I've been a resident of Southern Arizona since
6 1981, with just over 40 years split evenly between Tucson
7 and Oro Valley. I'm the former Southern Arizona Director
8 for the Arizona Small Business Association, for the former
9 president and CEO of the Green Valley-Sahuarita Chamber of
10 Commerce, and was with Mix FM in radio for over 19 years.
11 So why that experience matters is that I've become very
12 familiar with Southern Arizona's small business community
13 through meetings and consultations.

14 According to the U.S. Small Business Association
15 Office of Advocacy 2020 small business profile, small
16 business owners employed 47.1 percent of the private
17 workforce. So I've been blessed with over a thousand
18 business relationships, and in my experience and point of
19 view, the business people, the voters, in Marana,
20 Oro Valley, Eagle Crest, Saddlebrooke, Saddlebrooke Ranch,
21 the Catalina Foothills, and the Tanque Verde Valley have
22 much in common.

23 Choosing not to live in the city of Tucson's
24 corridor, they either operate home-based businesses or
25 choose to make the commute to Tucson shops or to their

1 offices for their businesses.

2 Household incomes and home evaluations tend to
3 exceeds Tucson's average, their shopping and entertainment
4 patterns are very similar, and generally speaking I believe
5 they have strong preferences for uncrowded road and quality
6 schools.

7 I believe the areas I articulated should be kept
8 together; that legislative district would be more compact
9 and contiguous than the other -- than the present district.

10 If population totals make it necessary to add other
11 outlying areas to the legislative district map, I'd
12 encourage your consideration to add Green Valley, Sahuarita,
13 Vail and the other -- and the area south and east of
14 Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

15 I also believe strong consideration be given to add
16 voters to Pinal Counties, Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca to
17 the congressional map.

18 Thanks very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 Our next speaker is Susan Whittemore, followed by
22 Scott Oldendorph, followed by Noah Sundberg.

23 MS. WHITTEMORE: Thank you.

24 Thank you all for being here. Welcome to Tucson.

25 I am not a native Tucsonan but I claim native

1 status through my children; I've lived here for more than
2 50 years.

3 My community of interest is the Tucson east side.
4 I have lived here, as I said, for more than 50 years, I'll
5 define the east side for you starting at Davis-Monthan,
6 Wilmont, go north, and then just keep going east all the way
7 to the river.

8 We are not rich people; we never have been. We're
9 working class people. If we were rich, we would live in the
10 Foothills but we don't -- sorry, I'm not jealous or
11 anything, I accept what -- what God gave me in life, and I'm
12 grateful for it because I still love this country. It's the
13 greatest country in the world.

14 (Applause.)

15 The reason I -- the reason I say Wilmont Road as a
16 north and south dividing line, is because median home prices
17 change drastically -- and you can check that out on Zillow.

18 So I ask you to formulate LD-10 where I live from
19 Wilmont east as far as you got to go, but you might even
20 want to throw Benson in there if you have, that's fine. I
21 like Benson real well.

22 In fact, I go to church in Benson.

23 I just have two things to ask you: Please, number
24 one, comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act; and,
25 number two, please endeavor to comprise all districts in

1 contiguous and compact form.

2 When we used to play kids with -- used to play
3 marbles as kids, I didn't want to end up with anything but
4 one color, and I hope that's the way you keep it in our
5 LD-10.

6 Thank you for your time. God bless you and God
7 bless America.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Scott Oldendorph, followed by
11 Noah Sundberg, followed by Teresa Nunez.

12 MR. OLDENDORPH: Good morning, Commission. Thank
13 you for having me here today.

14 I am a 66-year-old Air Force veteran living in
15 Northwest Tucson; I transplanted myself from California in
16 1989 and followed my parents who retired just south of here
17 in Green Valley.

18 My compact ethnic -- or ethnic diverse community of
19 interest in Tucson, I live here, is known as Northwest
20 Tucson, Oro Valley, and the Foothills bordered by the Rialto
21 River and River Road to the south, Tanque Verde Falls and
22 Mount Lemon Highway to the east, and the Santa Cruz River
23 and Silver Bell Road to the west, and the Pinal County line
24 and the Saddlebrooke community to the north; and is not the
25 city of Tucson south of River Road.

1 I worked here at the Pima County Regional
2 Reclamation Treatment Facility and I'm now retired, go the
3 church here, belong to many communities here, spend my money
4 here without needing to drive long distances.

5 Now I have the time to give back to my community by
6 volunteering at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum as an
7 aquatic interpreter, being a deacon of my Presbyterian
8 church, being on the board of directors of my homeowners
9 association, serving as a chair for the Pima County Regional
10 Waste Water Reclamation Advisory Committee representing
11 District 1, and trying to save Pinal -- or, I'm sorry, to
12 save Pima County and America by being a Republican Precinct
13 187 committeeman and a State LD-9 committeeman.

14 I've seen the decline of our gerrymandered Tucson
15 and surrounding community, especially south of River Road
16 for these are not of my ethnic, ethical, and conservative
17 values for my family.

18 Arizona was a prosperous conservative family value
19 state which follows the values of constitution, church, law,
20 and border enforcement with the rights of -- for free speech
21 and the right to bear arms. It doesn't take a rocket
22 scientist to see that common sense has been lost. Racism
23 has been blown up to create division, and responsibility for
24 our speech and actions are being taken away from us and
25 replaced by a socialist, progressive, liberal government

1 that wants to control us from cradle to grave.

2 This came to a head ten years ago at the
3 redistricting, the last one that we had where the
4 legislative and congressional lines were gerrymandered to
5 give complete political control to the Democrat parties
6 locally and throughout the state of Arizona.

7 Today, do the right thing. Not be judged by skin
8 color or the ethnic background, nationality, or origins
9 where we came from, but be judged by the content of our
10 characters, our words we speak, and by the actions that
11 define us. We may gather in communities of interest be --
12 be it compact or spread out rurally, but don't divide us
13 from our communities of interest to fulfill our -- your
14 competitive districts and equal population goals.

15 Keep us in our compact communities of interest that
16 represent us and allow us to choose our own representatives
17 that represent us, our compact communities.

18 Let the areas outside of the city of Tucson and
19 outside the county of Maricopa get their representation
20 back, for that is our compact communities of interest.

21 Thank you for this opportunity.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 Our next four speaker are Noah Sundberg, Teresa

1 Nunez, Joe Boogaart, and then Marrell Livesay.

2 MR. SUNDBERG: The U.S. Constitution reserves the
3 right to redistrict to the state legislatures, but given
4 that we don't follow that process, I do appreciate all of
5 the help you've done to do this; I've seen how many meetings
6 you've done, I appreciate your efforts in meeting the format
7 that we are due, even if it doesn't follow the constitution.

8 I live in the neighbor of Rancho Sahuarita in the
9 incorporated town of Sahuarita in Pima County. That is my
10 neighborhood. Those are well-defined, stable boundaries.
11 They're all stable boundaries between mountain ridges and,
12 let's say, the Colorado River and Grand Canyon to have no
13 sense to have like a CD-1 district cross.

14 But, the fact of the matter is, that's all you
15 should care about is regional closeness to satisfy all of
16 your other requirements much better than you have. I've
17 been through here through two -- two redistricting policies,
18 and so far I have seen an effort that has taken
19 gerrymandering from the state legislature and then given it
20 to an unelected body twice. Two times, same results. I
21 live in Sahuarita, which was very conservative, gerrymanders
22 to be conservative with Vail and Sahuarita; now, it's
23 gerrymandered to be liberal and very leftist. I don't get
24 much -- didn't get much representation either way, so your
25 efforts to maintain competitiveness has failed twice. Not

1 yours, but the -- the -- this process.

2 So, stick to regional districts. Keep them as
3 close as possible and balanced as possible, that is what's
4 fair.

5 I find this whole process, if you listen, a little
6 abhorrent where people say: I don't want people in
7 South Tucson or I don't want people south of River where the
8 economics go down and the trailer parks go up. It's
9 abhorrent. I don't think that's how we redistricting. We
10 do it by communities, and obviously there's human biases in
11 there. I believe in machine learning, I believe you can
12 evenly distribute things much more less biased, with a
13 non-biased set of prequalifiers to just -- to do it and have
14 a machine do it, and make small adjustments.

15 Ninety percent of your job is done before you start
16 once you pick your team to do the -- do the map. Random
17 processing is much less biased processing than you guys. I
18 appreciate your effort, but that's where things should stay
19 because you have -- had created bias issues in the past.

20 Never take advise from the last people who did it
21 because they were as biased as they come. They made
22 horrible districts.

23 CD- -- CD-1 was such a gerrymandered monstrosity,
24 but so are most legislative districts, but I'm going to
25 attempt to make a district look [sic] a backwards "C," from

1 Marana wrapping around Tucson, it will look like the
2 gerrymandered segregationist districts in the south. Just
3 as bad as CD-1.

4 So don't. Be concise in your districts, balance in
5 your population, and let it be. It won't always be exactly
6 what the best is, it will be far better than anything you
7 can come up with. That is what I would like you to do.

8 Minimalistic: Keep them balanced, keep them
9 concise, small touches where deemed necessary and nothing
10 else.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 Our final three speakers are Teresa, Joe Boogaart,
15 and Marrell Livesay.

16 MS. NUNEZ: Good afternoon. I was going to say
17 good morning, but this has been a long morning.

18 My name is Teresa Nunez and my friends call my
19 Terri. I live at the Highlands Mobile Home Park, which is a
20 park for 55 and older where I own a home and land and -- the
21 home and land in Oro Valley and Pima County; the ZIP Code
22 there is 85737.

23 I am a retired real estate broker; I'm a mother of
24 two sons who graduated from Canyon Del Oro High School in
25 1977.

1 My community, Oro Valley, was incorporated in 1974,
2 and I love living there.

3 I am proud of our reputation as being the safe --
4 safest city in Arizona and Arizona's best small city.

5 Oro Valley was named by Fortune Magazine as one of
6 our -- one of one hundred best places in America to live and
7 launch a small business.

8 Oro Valley is a designated "playful city USA
9 community" for its recreational opportunities, and Family
10 Circle has called Oro Valley one of the ten best communities
11 for families.

12 We have approximately 45,395 residents and the
13 median home value is approximately \$326,000. We have great
14 schools, and this month the University of Arizona opened its
15 College of Veterinary Medicine in a new Oro Valley campus.
16 Oro Valley is emerging as a center in the bioscience
17 industry.

18 We are a proud community that supports each other
19 through family, churches, and other local resources.

20 There are many senior retirement communities with
21 many activities to get involved in; and my neighborhood, my
22 area, and my town are all communities of interest, and they
23 should remain whole.

24 I am in Congressional District 1 and my current
25 legislative district is 11. I am not in Tucson, and I do

1 not want to be drawn into Tucson in any way.

2 My district is not with Flagstaff and does not
3 represent my community of interest.

4 My request of the Commission is to follow the
5 constitution and adhere to all six of the criteria laid out
6 in the constitution.

7 Thank you so very much for your time and for
8 listening to us.

9 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 Our last two speakers are Joe Boogaart and Marrell
13 Livesay.

14 MR. BOOGAART: I want to thank you all for the
15 opportunity to speak this morning. I and my wife live in
16 Marana; CD- -- CD-1, LD-11.

17 My name is Joe Boogaart and we moved to Southern
18 Arizona to retire.

19 We picked Marana for the climate, availability of
20 senior services such as hospitals, clinics, assisted living,
21 and medical specialists. Social -- socially, the
22 convenience of restaurants, theatre, parks, and recreation
23 and infrastructure were important.

24 The following is the best -- best defines our --
25 our community of interest that would be Marana, Oro Valley,

1 Saddlebrooke, and a corridor east of I-10 down to Orange
2 Grove, then followed the Catalinas on the north and the Rita
3 Tanque Verde Creek east on the south.

4 They all have predominantly similar characteristics
5 and demographics and consist 95 percent of my wife's and my
6 activities.

7 Within this area there's a high percentage of
8 seniors over 55; facilities, services, and recreation
9 catering to seniors; senior communities, independent,
10 assisted living residences. In general, the area is middle
11 upper class -- upper income; density is urban median to low
12 residential with low crime, up-scale restaurants, and
13 shopping.

14 The best testimony of all is the Commission
15 itself -- or at least their staff. I'm quite certain the
16 event or locations were not done with a dartboard. They say
17 the similarity to what I've stated and set the location
18 representing two distinctly -- distinctively different
19 geographical boundaries and communities of interest, that
20 comply with the minority-majority laws, extend -- I lost it
21 here -- I lost some of my thought here.

22 But, anyway, and they -- they also follow the other
23 not only minority-majority areas of interest and they -- oh.
24 My goodness gracious. I apologize. I apologize.

25 Extending -- anyway, because of the requirement for

1 certain population, I would recommend that it extend --
2 extending my defined area down to Houghton Road and then
3 east or west to -- to east or west to Green Valley, which is
4 absolutely the same demographics that we have in the -- in
5 the Marana area.

6 I appreciate the opportunity and apologize for the
7 part that I left out.

8 COMMISSIONER MEHL: We still got it, so thank you.

9 MR. BOOGAART: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 Our final speaker is Marrell Livesay.

13 MR. LIVESAY: Thank you.

14 Hi. I'm Marrell Livesay. I live in Picture Rocks,
15 beautiful Picture Rocks; and I have a Tucson address, but
16 there is a mountain range between Picture Rocks and Tucson.
17 I am bigger than the mountain range is the difference
18 between what we value in Picture Rocks and what they value
19 in Tucson; we don't have the same interest.

20 We have horses, we have people that are very
21 independent and live on small acreages and like their
22 freedoms and support the police.

23 Even though it drives me crazy that I have a Tucson
24 address and to be affiliated with that when Picture Rocks is
25 so different, we should have our own.

1 But when you leave Picture Rocks, you go down
2 Picture Rocks Road, you go to Ina, you shop in Marana,
3 Casas Adobes, Catalina, Oro Valley.

4 I -- me and my partner spend months without ever
5 going south of River; we just don't go south of River Road.
6 We -- Picture Rocks has similar interests to places like
7 Tanque Verde.

8 One of my friends which is a native of Tucson jokes
9 that Picture Rocks is a poor version of Tanque Verde -- or
10 Tanque Verde is Picture Rocks with money is I think is how
11 he said it.

12 But we have the same interests because money
13 doesn't make interest. We have horses, we value our
14 freedom, we value our space.

15 So Picture Rocks is frequently forgotten, please
16 don't forget us; and include us in with Marana, Catalina
17 Foothills, Tanque Verde, Oro Valley. We'd really
18 appreciate.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 That was our final speaker. I'll send it back to
23 the chairman.

24 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Wow. We got a lot of input.

25 (Laughter.)

1 And as you -- I want to remind you back to our
2 presentation hours ago where we did share with you the
3 different tools you can use to give us additional input; and
4 especially as we move forward and we produce draft maps,
5 your input will be very, very important and your more
6 specific response to those will be important.

7 So -- so rather than just relying purely on the
8 comments today, we encourage you to go online and submit
9 your own draft maps once -- once the census data is loaded,
10 which will be a few weeks from now. This will ensure we
11 correctly understand the definition of your community.

12 And encourage your friends and neighbors to share
13 their thoughts with us also.

14 So anyone can go online anytime, and there's no
15 requirement to attend one of these hearings for us to get
16 your input. But we do really appreciate the input today, we
17 appreciate your time and -- and putting up with us and being
18 with us this long, shows the passion you have with this.
19 And it's obviously the passion we share or we wouldn't be
20 volunteering; we all recognize how important it is.

21 So thank you very much for today.

22 And we -- we hereby adjourn the meeting.

23 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 1:16 p.m.)
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter No. 50127, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 29th of August, 2021.



Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 29th of August, 2021.



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC