

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF GRID MAP PUBLIC MEETING

Scottsdale, Arizona
Casa Grande, Arizona
Sierra Vista, Arizona
Online via Webex
September 23, 2021
12:13 p.m.

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Reported By:
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1 PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT
2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 12:13 p.m. on
3 September 23, 2021, at Scottsdale Center for the Arts,
4 Virginia Piper Center, 7380 East 2nd Street,
5 Scottsdale; with satellite locations at Radisson Hotel,
6 777 North Pinal Avenue, Casa Grande; Sierra Suites, 391
7 East Fry Boulevard, Sierra Vista; and online
8 via Webex.

9 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

10 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
11 Ms. Shereen Lerner, Commissioner
12 Mr. David Mehl, Commissioner

13 STAFF PRESENT:

14 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
15 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
16 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
17 Ms. Marie Chapple, Community Outreach Coordinator
18 Mr. Alex Pena, Community Outreach Coordinator
19 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
20 Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr
21 Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
22 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
23 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics Corp.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

25 Karen Camp
Laurie Coe
Angela Willeford
Gail Griffin
Tom Crosby
Jo Ann Gasper
Creig McFarland
Neal Carter
Tony Smith

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 Noel Reck
3 Don Markowski
4 Bradley Newman
5 Deila Mangold
6 Yvonne Mayer
7 Jo Ann Caruthers
8 Bob Levline
9 Matt Parrilli
10 Rafael Ihly
11 Brandon Martin
12 Lourdes Fernandez
13 Ted Hiserodt
14 Cynthia Couture
15 Nancy Ordowski
16 Daniel Schwartz
17 Patti O'Neil
18 Karen Garrett

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P R O C E E D I N G

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3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Welcome, everybody. I
4 now call to order the public hearing.

5 Thank you for being here. We ask that you
6 follow the Arizona Department of Health guidelines in
7 regards to COVID-19. If you're not fully vaccinated
8 you should wear a mask in a public space. If you would
9 like to participate from home, each of these meetings
10 is being streamed through Webex, YouTube, and our
11 social media channels. They're also being recorded and
12 posted on our website at irc.az.gov.

13 If you would like to make a public comment you
14 may do so by signing in with the staff and filling out
15 a public comment card.

16 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
17 joining us virtually and transcriptionist who will be
18 transcribing every meeting. Please speak slowly and
19 clearly so we have a clear record of your input.

20 At this time we will introduce ourselves. My
21 name is Shereen Lerner. I am one of the Democrat
22 representatives on the Commission, and I represent
23 Maricopa County.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Do we need both mikes?

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I need that one, too.
2 Sorry. Hi. My name is Erika Neuberg. I am the
3 Chairwoman, and I live in Chandler, from Maricopa
4 County.

5 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And we have any of our
6 Commissioners? Commissioner Mehle?

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: My name is David Mehle,
8 and I'm a Commissioner from Pima County. Glad to be
9 here.

10 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. At this time I
11 would also like to allow our mapping time and legal
12 team to -- and staff to introduce themselves.

13 MR. FLAHAN: Hello, everyone. I'm Mark
14 Flahan. I'm from Timmons Group. I am the project
15 manager for our mapping team.

16 MS. BELLER SAKANSKY: Hi. I'm Ivy Beller
17 Sakansky. I'm from National Demographics Corporation,
18 and I'm one of the demographers.

19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Sorry for all the moving
20 things around.

21 At this point we're going to move to Agenda
22 Item II, where we will have a presentation on the
23 process, and first up is a representative from our
24 legal team. I'll have him introduce himself.

25 MR. HERRERA: Thank you, Commissioner Lerner.

1 Can you guys here me okay? Can you hear me okay?

2 Perfect.

3 My name is Roy Herrera. I'm one of the legal
4 counsel for the Independent Redistricting Commission.
5 Also with me is one of my co-counsel, Brett Johnson,
6 from the law firm of Snell & Wilmer.

7 So, first of all, welcome, everyone, to this
8 now second meeting of the grid map public meeting
9 schedule. I'm going to go through a bit of the history
10 and purpose of the Arizona Redistricting Commission,
11 and then we'll turn it over to the mapping team to talk
12 about how we're receiving public input.

13 So first off the question is: Why are we
14 here? We are here, obviously, because the Arizona
15 Independent Redistricting Commission under the Arizona
16 Constitution is charged with drawing our congressional
17 and legislative district lines. But stepping back
18 before that, we are obviously in a period of time where
19 all the across the country all the states are
20 redistricting. And the reason for that is because the
21 Arizona -- I'm sorry, the federal Constitution requires
22 such redistricting.

23 And we have here in the first slide, you know,
24 under the U.S. Constitution there is a regular
25 reapportionment of the congressional districts

1 nationwide, but ultimately it is up to the states to
2 decide the process for that redistricting. Now, under
3 Article 1, Section 2, which is the language in the
4 Constitution that requires a census to be undertaken
5 every ten years, we see the requirement to undertake
6 the census and the use of that census data as the basis
7 for the reapportionment. It's also further explained
8 under the 14th Amendment, which states that
9 representatives in Congress shall be apportioned among
10 the states according to their respective numbers
11 pursuant to the census.

12 Now, how do we redistrict in the state of
13 Arizona? Well, from statehood up until 2000 Arizona
14 did their redistricting -- or did its redistricting via
15 the legislature. That is historically the most common
16 way that states have done redistricting and certainly a
17 process that is undertaken by other states, but in 2000
18 the voters of Arizona decided to adopt a different
19 process, which is Prop 106, which created the Arizona
20 Independent Redistricting Commission by amending the
21 Arizona Constitution.

22 The purpose of Prop 106, according to the
23 framers of Prop 106, was essentially to end the
24 practice of gerrymandering and approve voter and
25 candidate participation in the electoral process, and,

1 of course, attempt to create fair and competitive maps
2 or districts.

3 Now, the Constitution has a calendar, and Prop
4 106 included a calendar of when the Commission was
5 supposed to be put together and begin its work. Under
6 the Arizona Constitution, by February 28th of every
7 year that begins with 1 -- or I should say ends with 1
8 the Commission is supposed to be put together and
9 created. We met that deadline actually by a good
10 period of time as the Commission was created before
11 that February date.

12 Now, in the next slide we describe what the
13 makeup of the Commission is, who is on the Commission.
14 Well, again, we turn to the language of Prop 106, what
15 is now under the Arizona Constitution, which requires
16 that there be five members of the redistricting
17 Commission. There are also further requirements of the
18 makeup of those five members. One requirement is that
19 no more than two members of the Commission can be of
20 the same political party, and then in addition to that
21 no more than two Commissioners of that original four
22 commissioners can reside in the same county. The fifth
23 Commissioner, who is charged as being independent, is
24 ultimately selected by the four partisan Commissioners,
25 and that's what we have, our independent chairwoman

1 today.

2 You can see here on the slide the current
3 makeup of the Commission, the five different
4 Commissioners, the two Democrats, the two Republicans,
5 and the independent Chairwoman, as well as the
6 geographic location of where they're coming from,
7 which, again, complies with the Arizona Constitutional
8 requirements.

9 So then the question is how does the
10 Commission go about its redistricting? Well, again, we
11 turn to the Arizona Constitution, which sets forth a
12 number of factors that the Commissioners have to
13 consider when drawing the lines. There are six
14 Constitutional goals in the Arizona Constitution for
15 redistricting.

16 The first one is that the districts have to
17 comply with federal law. That is both the United
18 States Constitution as well as the federal Voting
19 Rights Act.

20 The second is that the congressional districts
21 have to have equal population.

22 The third is that the districts have to be
23 geographically compact and contiguous -- contiguous,
24 excuse me.

25 The fourth is that district boundaries have to

1 respect communities of interest. Of course,
2 communities of interest is certainly a topic that may
3 be the subject of some of your probable comments today.

4 The fifth is that the district lines must use
5 visible geographic features, city, town, and county
6 boundaries, et cetera.

7 And then, finally, the sixth factor is that
8 competitive districts should be favored when doing so
9 would not create a significant detriment to the other
10 goals. So those are the six factors.

11 I'll turn to the final slide for me, which
12 discusses public involvement. The Commission desires
13 to receive as much as public input as possible so it
14 can use that information as it makes its decisions on
15 redistricting. There has been a number of ways to do
16 that. The first and obvious one is that every Tuesday
17 the Commission has a regular public meeting. That
18 meeting is watchable on YouTube and other online
19 methods. And then before, during, and after the public
20 is able to provide public comments to the Commissioners
21 for those meetings.

22 In addition to that, prior to the adoption of
23 the grid map the Commission undertook a listening tour
24 to discuss communities of interest across the state.
25 Through that listening tour and now this listening tour

1 post grid map the Commission is asking the public in
2 Arizona to provide input on what they believe are their
3 communities of interest. Of course, the definition of
4 communities of interest is kind of a large concept.
5 It's a vague concept, but it comes down to the question
6 of what geographic areas or neighborhoods do you
7 believe should be considered when drawing the graph
8 maps.

9 The calendar on this last bullet point
10 regarding the input, the calendar here I think shows
11 the different stages that the Commission has to go
12 through. The first, of course, is that the public has
13 the ability to submit draft maps and comments on
14 in-progress draft maps prior to the selection of the
15 actual official draft map. That is the stage that
16 we're in now. The Commission has adopted a grid map
17 and is working towards the actual map drawing and the
18 adoption of a draft map.

19 Next, of course, the public can submit
20 proposed revisions and comments after the IRC selects
21 an additional draft map, and then there will be an
22 additional comment period after that where the public
23 can submit comments as the Commission nears its final
24 map.

25 So that is the process that we have undertaken

1 and are going under right now, and I'm going to turn it
2 over to Timmons to describe and tell us how the public
3 can actually provide the information that the
4 Commission is seeking.

5 MR. FLAHAN: Thanks, Roy.

6 So we have some tools that are available to
7 you guys as the public. It's really four tools right
8 now. The first one you already heard about, the
9 socioeconomic report. We talked about that in the
10 second slide.

11 Also, communities of interest. There is a
12 report of it, and we found 182 groups based on
13 different overlap counts from your feedback on the
14 community of interest survey.

15 The third thing we have is the redistricting
16 system, and that's going to allow you to draw some
17 proposed map changes and the URLs here in that slide
18 that allow you to get there. Totally free. You can go
19 ahead and create your own account, and that's open to
20 the entire public.

21 The last one we have is our centralized
22 mapping location, which we call the IRC mapping hub.
23 It houses all of our applications and data. It houses
24 the page about the grid maps. It allows you to
25 download PDFs of them or the actual GIS data, and that

1 is all in that centralized location.

2 On the screen, you've already probably seen
3 this in the community of interest tour, but here is a
4 socioeconomic app. It has 14 different demographic
5 data points. You see a screen grab on the right side.
6 I'm not going to read every demographic there, but that
7 is on the hub.

8 Same thing with the community of interest
9 report. So what we did is we took all the digital
10 surveys that we got online, 910 of them. We looked for
11 commonality overlaps and came up with 182 groups, and
12 it will allow you to see highest to the lowest rank.
13 That's online. You can explore it and see through the
14 data and go check it out.

15 The redistricting system. So what are the
16 methods of our redistricting system? I think the
17 biggest thing for the public is that anybody can create
18 an account. It's free. It's web based. You got 24/7
19 access. It allows you to draw your own maps. You can
20 go in there and draw your own maps, and it gives you
21 access to the same data that the Commission has here,
22 so everybody is using a common platform. Again, the
23 URL is sitting there right now. There is also training
24 videos on the IRC hub that allow you to get started
25 really easily.

1 That is the IRC hub. That is the URL there.
2 There is a little screen grab there. But I encourage
3 you guys to check that out because as this process
4 progresses and we actually have draft maps and/or final
5 maps that's where they're going to be posted, so I
6 would familiarize myself with the site.

7 So what is it? It is a centralized location,
8 like we talked about. It's 24-7 web based. It has web
9 maps that you can interact with, very similar to a
10 Google Maps looking field, so it will allow you to go
11 do that. With the grid maps that we have out there
12 there is actually a section that will allow you to put
13 an address and see where -- what district you fall in
14 on the grid map. And then the three sections that are
15 sort of broken down into the Maps and Apps,
16 Redistricting System page with training, and the Grid
17 Map page.

18 So the grid map. So the grids map was adopted
19 by the Commission on September 14th, 2021. It started
20 at the township median, which is 19th Avenue and the
21 corner of McDowell and Grand, where all those three
22 roads come together. The Commission asked us to work
23 in a clocklike manner, so we divided the state up into
24 four quadrants, and then we worked through in a
25 clockwise manner, which you can see the output on the

1 screen there for both the congressional and the
2 legislative grid map.

3 If you want more information on the grid,
4 there is a lot more details up there. That's the URL
5 that you use to get there, and that's where you can
6 find all of the data, also, about the grid map.
7 Demographics and competitive data has actually been
8 posted there so now you're welcome to see that or even
9 download that.

10 With that, that should be my last side, and
11 I'll turn it back over to Lori.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Before we move on to Agenda
13 Item III, I will read the rules of the meeting.

14 Citizens may only speak when recognized by the
15 Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if the
16 Chair is absent or has otherwise delegated hearing
17 administration authority. In compliance with Arizona's
18 open meetings laws, speakers should confine their
19 statements to the issue on the posted agenda which is
20 before the Commission. Speakers are also requested to
21 limit their comments to approximately three minutes.
22 In an effort to allow for as many speakers as possible
23 the Commission may adjust the time limits, depending on
24 the amount of speakers requesting to be heard.

25 Additionally, speakers are required to follow

1 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate
2 language. Foul and/or abusive language will not be
3 tolerated. Any speaker failing to follow proper
4 decorum or any other guidelines may be asked to leave.
5 Any breach of the peace or disruption of a Commission
6 public hearing may be cause of a report to law
7 enforcement.

8 If someone has already expressed the same
9 sentiment you wish to express, you may say so, and your
10 comments will be recorded.

11 This is a nonpartisan meeting. Please do not
12 distribute political material in the meeting room.
13 Opposing view points may be expressed by the citizens
14 present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to
15 address their comments to the Chair and to the
16 Commission and not the audience present. Please show
17 respect for all speakers and avoid personal comments.
18 Remember, the Commission must hear all sides of an
19 issue to make an informed decision.

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you. We are now
21 going to begin the public comment portion, so will
22 staff read the names of the first speaker and the ones
23 in the cue. Thank you.

24 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you. I'll read the names
25 of the first three speakers, and because of the layout

1 of the area you might want to work your way down as
2 your -- the first speaker is going.

3 And, by the way, sorry, allow me to introduce
4 myself. My name is Marie Chapple Camacho. I am one of
5 the community outreach coordinators for the Commission.

6 So our first speaker will be Karen Camp,
7 Laurie Coe, and Angela Willeford, who is speaking on
8 behalf of President Harvier of the Salt River
9 Pima-Maricopa Indian community.

10 MS. CAMP: Good afternoon. My name is Karen
11 Camp. I live in McCormick Ranch, which is in current
12 district -- Legislative District 23 and Congressional
13 District Number 6. I moved here from San Francisco two
14 years ago and have been very active locally as a board
15 member in my HOA, of which I'm going to be president in
16 two weeks, and also as a precinct committeeman --
17 committee person.

18 I would like to thank you for your hard and
19 impartial work in setting the new maps for all of us.
20 Since moving to Arizona I have been concerned that
21 despite our being sort of a picture perfect purple
22 state, there seem to be several current office holders
23 who provide extreme views that do not really represent
24 the full communities that they were elected to
25 represent. To that end I am hoping that our

1 legislative district will change and will be set up
2 with the following priorities: Number one, our
3 district needs to be competitive such that as our
4 elected officials truly represent fairly the diversity
5 of our community.

6 Secondly, our district needs to protect the
7 voting power of our minority voters, of whom -- of whom
8 there are many, in conformance with the U.S. Voting
9 Rights Act and our state Constitution.

10 And, thirdly, I'd like to make sure that fair
11 districting will ensure that we are all properly
12 represented.

13 I hope that you will prioritize this fairness
14 as you complete your important redistricting this year.
15 Nothing will be more important. Thank you so much.

16 MS. COE: Benjamin Disraeli said, "No
17 government can be long secure without formidable
18 opposition."

19 Chairwoman Neuberg and redistricting
20 Commissioners, my name is Laurie Coe. I live at 9214
21 East Wood Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona. I rise today to
22 speak on behalf of myself, a 43-year citizen of the
23 state of Arizona. For the past 20 years I've lived,
24 shopped, played, and worked in the city of Scottsdale.
25 I served on the Scottsdale Union Relations Commission

1 for six years, offering public programs and
2 conversations regarding diversity and advising the
3 mayor and city council as to how Scottsdale can thrive
4 as a welcoming and inclusive city.

5 Currently I serve on the Scottsdale Community
6 Partners Board. We work along with the City of
7 Scottsdale to fundraise and help staff implement
8 services to the people in our town who are living below
9 the poverty line.

10 Independent redistricting maps protect
11 Arizonans against extremism, creating fair and
12 competitive voting districts that reflect all
13 communities and that comply with the Voting Rights Act
14 that is vital to the growth of our state. In balanced
15 districts, all of us benefit. Candidates compete with
16 ideas and ideals rather than dogma. Voters win when
17 there is competition.

18 When you live in a competitive district and
19 you don't like what your representative is doing you
20 can vote them out. I am looking forward to living in a
21 state that reflects all of the citizens, where no one
22 is left out or marginalized when it comes to voting.
23 Nothing is more sacred than my right to vote. Even if
24 my candidate of choice loses I will have the
25 assurance, at least, that I have a seat at the table.

1 Every Arizonan deserves this.

2 Thank you, each of you, for serving on this
3 Commission. I appreciate the time and energy you are
4 giving to our community and believe in your mission.
5 We are fortunate to have a nonpartisan approach to
6 creating fair and competitive voting districts, and I
7 sincerely hope that you will be guided by these goals.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. WILLEFORD: Good afternoon, Chairwoman
10 Neuberg and members of the redistricting Commission.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on
12 the Commissioners Congressional Grid 1 and Legislative
13 Grid Map 4. My name is Angela Willeford, and I
14 represent the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian
15 Community, which is just located west -- north --
16 actually, I shouldn't have said that.

17 In general, we believe the grid maps are
18 consistent with the Commission's criteria of drawing
19 grids when they are compact, contiguous, respect
20 communities of interest, and recognize the geographic
21 elements. Specifically, with regards to Congressional
22 Grid Map 1, the Community supports the construction of
23 the grid, and it's consistent with the principles
24 outlined previously.

25 Second, while we applaud the Commission for

1 its efforts to construct Legislative Grid Map 4, we
2 have a couple of specific recommendations.

3 One, the Community would like the Commission
4 to consider including parts of the city of Mesa into
5 legislative districts that is consistent with the
6 principles presented to the Commission. Specifically,
7 the Salt River Pima-Maricopa County Indian Community
8 requested a legislative district to include parts of
9 Mesa where we have shared interests. One interest in
10 particular is the majority of our students attend Mesa
11 public schools. We are -- the schools are located in
12 northwestern parts of the city, and we can be specific
13 and provide those schools if need be.

14 Two, conversely, there is little to no
15 commonality with the area of the grid that is north and
16 west of the community. That would include
17 municipalities such as Anthem. We would recommend
18 excluding these areas from the legislative district
19 that would include the community.

20 Three, more specifically, there are two -- two
21 acre parcels of land located west of McDowell that is
22 part of the community that we would like to be added
23 into the congressional and legislative district map.
24 We had our GIS team go through the boundaries, and
25 there was just that little two-acre parcel. We can

1 also provide a map if need be.

2 Members of the Commission, we believe these
3 recommendations meet the criteria of the Commission and
4 hope you will consider these recommendations. We look
5 forward to working with you through this process. And,
6 again, our doors are open if you would like to host a
7 meeting within our community, and we will send
8 logistics over to one of your staff. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. And I have a
10 follow-up just comment, suggestion. I really -- you
11 mentioned the importance of school districts, and I
12 think that there are logical boundaries and communities
13 of interest that reside there. Our outreach staff has
14 been reaching out to school superintendents. You
15 mentioned your school superintendent. To the extent
16 that we can get school superintendents chiming in with
17 feedback we welcome that, so thank you.

18 MS. WILLEFORD: Definitely. I will -- we'll
19 relay the message.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

21 MS. WILLEFORD: Thank you.

22 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, speakers. And next
23 we'll go to Alex in Sierra Vista.

24 MR. PENA: Thank you, Marie.

25 The first three speakers that we have is state

1 representative Gail Griffin, county supervisor Tom
2 Crosby, and Jo Ann Gasper.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Can you hear me? The
4 audience -- the audience can't hear.

5 Thank you. I'm Gail Griffin. I am a state
6 representative. However, I'm here as a resident of
7 Cochise County. I am -- I want to thank you for coming
8 to Sierra Vista. We made this request in Bisbee, so
9 you were listening. Thank you very much for being
10 here.

11 The grid maps are very interesting. I see
12 areas that are not compact, and I understand that this
13 is the beginning of the process, so thank you very
14 much. Cochise County, Greenlee County, and the current
15 portion of Graham County all have similar communities
16 of interest. Those community of interests include
17 ranching, farming, mining, wineries, military, retired
18 military, and most of these areas are represented by
19 electric cooperatives that provide electric service.
20 This -- these issues are our communities of interest.

21 Also, Green Valley has a similar retirement
22 community as Sierra Vista, and the eastern portion of
23 Santa Cruz County is very similar, with their ranching
24 and wineries, as Cochise County is as well.

25 So those are my comments. I want to thank you

1 again, and we'll take advantage of the maps that will
2 be available and submit maps at a later time for you.
3 So I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you
4 very much.

5 MR. CROSBY: Hello, Commissioners and
6 Chairwoman. My name is Tom Crosby. I am a supervisor
7 here in Cochise County, and I would like to take a few
8 moments.

9 Progressive dissatisfaction and envy are at
10 the heart of the so-called competitive district
11 debates. Just like with economics, progressives want
12 to be free from political market forces, unwilling to
13 accept the unpopularity of the progressive political
14 philosophy. They cry that something must be unfair, so
15 addressing any proposal for a border legislative
16 district. Such a district would be the one to be the
17 most likely sympathetic to Mexico, the most likely to
18 have constituency favoring open borders. The localist
19 entities refer to what I call the border as the
20 trans-boundary community.

21 In my opinion, the north side of such a
22 proposed border legislative district is what global
23 progressives hope will be the de facto new U.S.-Mexico
24 border. The cartel dope industry is estimated to be
25 worth between \$13.6 to \$49 billion annually. I believe

1 that the strategy of drug cartels is to infiltrate one
2 county deep into the U.S., and if they can't get the
3 whole county they will settle for a border legislative
4 district in the meantime.

5 In the face of the failure of the Mexican
6 government in its fundamental function to protect and
7 defend its own citizens and because of the corruption
8 necessitating having to reorganize its law enforcement
9 five times since 1980s and in the wake of the now over
10 120,000 NARCO war-related atrocities in Mexico, the
11 cartels are now the ones offering peace and safety for
12 Mexicans instead of the government.

13 In my opinion, we should disregard racial
14 demographics in redistricting because of the disruptive
15 and divisive consequences I've outlined today.
16 Meanwhile, those of us that believe in liberty, don't
17 be intimidated by accusations of racism. When I say,
18 "We the people," I'm not excluding any of our citizens.
19 And if you believe in liberty, you're one of us. Don't
20 get tired. Don't give up. We the people, and we of
21 southeast Arizona. Thank you very much.

22 MS. GASPER: Thank you for the opportunity to
23 be here today, and Commissioners, I must applaud you
24 because you are facing a very difficult and challenging
25 challenge, if I can be redundant.

1 My name is Jo Ann Gasper, and I live in
2 Hereford, Arizona. Now, Hereford is kind of
3 interesting because we have a city, but we have no
4 city. It's a rural community, and rural communities
5 are an endangered species today, and the map that is
6 currently being considered divides and conquers and
7 gets rid of rural communities. We have nothing similar
8 to Nogales. We don't have anything like Tucson. We
9 are a rural community. We have ranchers. We have
10 farmers. We have the San Pedro Riparian Conservation
11 Area, which does influence us.

12 We have a federal government that is
13 attempting to take water away from us. I don't think
14 people of Tucson have problems with the government,
15 federal government, taking their water away or in
16 Nogales the federal government taking claim to their
17 water. And we have mining. These are not things that
18 are in the Nogales, not things that are in Tucson.

19 We have a wonderful sheriff that has managed
20 to protect our southern border. And I live about six
21 miles off of the Mexican -- Mexican border, and it's
22 not uncommon to see illegals stopped on the side of the
23 road by border patrol and our sheriff's department, and
24 they are commended for keeping us safe. These are
25 problems that Tucson doesn't have.

1 So please keep our community of interest of
2 together so that our -- we are actually represented and
3 not being overshadowed by more urban areas. So please
4 protect our rural areas and keep Cochise County
5 together.

6 MR. PENA: Thank you very much. I'm going to
7 send it over to Casa Grande, with the first speaker
8 being Mayor Creig McFarland on Webex.

9 MR. MCFARLAND: Hello, everyone. Can you hear
10 me?

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yes.

12 MR. MCFARLAND: Okay. Thank you. Thank you,
13 Madam Chair and fellow Commissioners. My name is Creig
14 McFarland. I'm the mayor of the city of Casa Grande.

15 I just wanted to first of all thank the
16 process that we've gone through so far. I believe that
17 our -- the U.S. Legislative District that now Pinal
18 County is a piece of is extremely well done. I think
19 it will help our county, at least from our
20 representation standpoint, so we like the way that has
21 been set up, so no suggested changes there, and I
22 appreciate the works that's been done to bring this
23 back together.

24 And then, secondly, on the local state
25 legislative district, my biggest concern is the city of

1 Casa Grande is cut right in half, and obviously that
2 does not fit with the Item D and E in terms of the
3 Constitutional provisions and what should be used to
4 guide the districting. So we will be providing some
5 additional input and map -- mapping for you.

6 Also, we will give you input, but it also
7 splits -- to the Salt River Indian Community's point,
8 it splits our school districts. We have a high school
9 district and elementary school district. It cuts them
10 right in half. It also cuts my community right in
11 half, and it's obviously not representative of using
12 our city boundaries as a boundary.

13 So those are my biggest concerns. Just want
14 to make that public, and appreciate your efforts and
15 all your work on this. I know it's not easy. So I,
16 again, just want to thank you for all your efforts, and
17 that's all I have. Thank you.

18 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

19 Madam Chair and Members of the Commission, we
20 have three speakers here in Casa Grande. The first
21 speaker is Neal Carter. The next one is Tony Smith,
22 and then Noel Reck. Neal Carter.

23 MR. CARTER: First, thank you to the
24 Commission for serving. I know this is a big process,
25 so thank you.

1 My name is Neal Carter. For full disclosure I
2 should tell the Commission that I'm a candidate for
3 what's now District 8, which is obviously changing, and
4 it looks like I'll be in District 15 based on where I
5 live.

6 I wanted to reiterate what Mayor Creig
7 McFarland just mentioned. The city of Casa Grande is
8 divided so that those who are north of Cottonwood and
9 east of Peart are in the district of Maricopa, and
10 Maricopa is divided so that those who are south of
11 Bowlin and west of 347 are in the Casa Grande district,
12 so it seems to me it would be a very easy fix to simply
13 draw the line, for example, along I-10. That would
14 bring those communities into Casa Grande and would not
15 split that city, and you could compensate for the
16 difference in population there by bringing in the
17 couple of communities in Maricopa that therefore
18 wouldn't be separated from their cities, so that was
19 one suggestion I wanted to bring up.

20 I do want to congratulate the Commission and
21 thank you because the districts as they're drawn now I
22 think are much preferable to how they were ten years
23 ago, specifically on District 8.

24 Very last thing, San Tan Valley, although
25 much, much better this go-around than has been, is also

1 split. For example, Circle Cross Ranch is divided
2 along Gary Road. This is a problem that we have over
3 the last ten years with San Tan Valley where HOAs are
4 split in half literally along somebody's street, so an
5 across-the-street neighbor, even though you have the
6 same community pool and everything else, it's in a
7 different district.

8 So this is much better, but along Gary Road
9 they're splitting Circle Cross Ranch. It would be much
10 better to run the district boundary line along the
11 county line, I would think, or if not along the county
12 line at least along the railroad there -- I can see
13 it's on your screen -- to include that -- that one
14 community.

15 And if you do need to make up the population,
16 I remember that former supervisor and former state
17 Senator Pete Rios had attended the Florence meeting,
18 and he suggested keeping the Copper Corridor together,
19 which it isn't. So, for example, you could include
20 those communities in San Tan Valley and Pinal County
21 that are taken out and then give the Copper Corridor
22 together to the district, or do vice versa, keep the
23 Copper Corridor with one district, and so on, so it's
24 just some suggestions.

25 But, overall, I would reiterate what Mayor

1 Creig McFarland said, which is we're actually very
2 happy. We think this is much an improvement. And,
3 again, I really want to thank the Commission. I know
4 it's a thankless job, and we really do appreciate it,
5 so thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you. I'd just
7 like to mention you mentioned population. As people
8 are coming up and speaking, if you're considering
9 changes I -- I was appreciative of the fact that you
10 recognize that when we move people around there is a
11 population cap that we -- or a population mandate that
12 we have, so as folks are thinking about like the rural
13 areas in particular, please keep that in mind, that we
14 do have some requirements in terms of population size
15 for our legislative and congressional districts, so
16 thank you for mentioning that.

17 MR. CARTER: Thank you.

18 MR. SMITH: Madam Chair, Commissioners, thank
19 you for giving me this opportunity. I'm Tony Smith,
20 president and CEO of Pinal Partnership. Pinal
21 Partnership represents over 200 businesses,
22 institutions, utilities, and municipalities within
23 Pinal County. I'm personally pleased with the
24 congressional district grid map, so my comments today
25 will be directed to the legislative district grid map.

1 Pinal County is the only rural county outside
2 the two major metropolitan counties of Maricopa County
3 and Pima County to have major cities within our county
4 split into two legislative districts. The other 12
5 rural counties all keep their major cities within the
6 same legislative district. The city of Maricopa, Casa
7 Grande, Florence, and Coolidge are all major growth
8 communities in Pinal County, and they are very similar
9 communities of interest. Great effort should be made
10 to keep Pinal County's communities of interest within
11 the state legislative districts.

12 My second concern, Madam Chair, Commissioners,
13 is that the grid map for Pinal County shows Casa
14 Grande, city of Maricopa, Florence, and Coolidge with
15 significant parts of their communities in separate
16 legislative districts. Neighborhoods within rural
17 communities shouldn't be divided and represent two
18 legislative -- separate legislators. This violates
19 Item E of the sixth criteria.

20 Madam Chair, Commissioners, my request is that
21 the Independent Redistricting Commission does the best
22 to ensure that the draft and final maps place all of
23 Pinal County's major cities within the same legislative
24 district, and especially do not divide neighborhoods
25 within these communities into separate legislative

1 districts.

2 Thank you for your time and your
3 consideration.

4 MR. RECK: Thank you to the Commission for
5 your time and your effort. My name is Noel Reck. I
6 live in Casa Grande. I have three concerns and related
7 questions that go along with that.

8 First of all, regarding the census issues, I
9 imagine that it's too late to do anything about the
10 undercount now, but I'm wondering if in the next time
11 we go around with this that the Commission could be
12 involved so we don't have these problems in the future,
13 seeing the impact that the undercount has on this
14 entire process.

15 I'm also in agreement in regard to Item E that
16 Casa Grande should not be split, and I ask that that
17 not be done.

18 I believe that it's very important to seek
19 balance within our districts. As was mentioned by
20 previous speakers, there is just way too much extremism
21 in Arizona today.

22 In regard to the community of interest, I'm
23 wanting to know to what extent is that a factor? I
24 don't think it's a big jump to think that those
25 communities could also reflect a political orientation,

1 and thus, if even unintentionally, this could lead to
2 gerrymandering by concentration, which has certainly
3 been done in the past across the country.

4 Those are my concerns. I hope some of those
5 questions can be answered sometime. And, again, direct
6 the committee to work with the communities, especially
7 in regard to the census issues and Item E. Thank you.

8 MS. CRANK: Madam Chair and Commissioners,
9 we'll turn it back over to the Phoenix location. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, Michelle. I have
12 three more speakers in Scottsdale: Don Markowski,
13 Bradley Newman, and Lael Weston.

14 MS. WESTON: My concerns have been addressed.

15 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you. Then following that
16 it should be Deila Mangold. Thank you.

17 MR. MARKOWSKI: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
18 Thank you for holding this meeting. My name is Don
19 Markowski. I'm elected in LD18, but I'm here
20 representing myself. I currently reside in northwest
21 Chandler, and currently this is LD9, which has been
22 referred to as the doughnut hole from the last
23 redistricting ten years ago. And looking at the grid
24 map, I'm glad to see that that doughnut hole has been
25 changed, because as you folks know, the doughnut hole

1 encompassed lots of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe,
2 Gilbert, Ahwatukee area, and I didn't feel that it was
3 a very well-drawn map. And I know a lot of people did
4 agree with me on that so hopefully the new grid map
5 will reflect a closer community of interest, and I
6 would like to see Chandler as well as Gilbert having
7 their own CD, and from what I can see on the numbers
8 that population very closely would equate to getting
9 their own congressman.

10 Secondly, on the LD, living in LD18 I'm also
11 currently in with -- as a resident of Chandler I'm in
12 with Gilbert, south Tempe and Phoenix, and we're
13 separated communities of interest by I-10 as well as
14 101, and I feel that area could be compacted a lot
15 better, also.

16 And that's all I have. Thank you.

17 MR. NEWMAN: Hello, members of the Commission.
18 Thank you for giving us time today. My name is Brad
19 Newman. I live at Desert Mountain at the very north
20 end of Phoenix -- or rather Scottsdale, up against the
21 Tonto National Forest, so I'll be referring to CD --
22 proposed CD2, if you can pull that map up. So really
23 referring to Cave Creek, Carefree, and Desert Mountain.

24 I believe that the separation -- right now
25 we're in CD6, which really includes us with Scottsdale

1 and really the Phoenix metro area, and our interests
2 are covered in that way. Under the new proposal it
3 really separates us out and really across that whole
4 northern tier separates us out and puts us with
5 everything northeast of there, all the way up to the
6 four corners area. So not only does that kind of take
7 us out of Phoenix area and the interests there and
8 considerations there, but I think with the population
9 there it overweights those -- against those rural
10 communities, which the lady on the other side mentioned
11 disenfranchises them, and I think that's a valid
12 concern. If you look at the overall design of the --
13 of the current proposal, a lot of those districts come
14 into the outskirts of Phoenix area, and those
15 populations then overweight -- I think could overweight
16 the votes in those rural areas and the considerations
17 there, so I think that's an important strategic
18 consideration for the board.

19 I tried to go into the thing and put my own
20 design here and was not technically able to do that,
21 but it made me appreciate all the work that went into
22 this so far because you've dealt with all the easy
23 variables. Now you have the variable of human input,
24 so, which makes it even more difficult at this point.

25 But what I want to ask is that we re-include

1 those areas into the Phoenix area, and I did see one
2 design on the website there by -- let me just get it
3 here. Bear with me a moment. There was a design by
4 JGADELN on the website, and actually that design puts
5 us into a proposed CD1, but actually that basically
6 includes kind of the north Phoenix area on up into
7 Desert Mountain. Because when you get to Desert
8 Mountain and Cave Creek, there is a mountain range
9 there, and there is the Tonto National Forest, and
10 there is -- it becomes rural very quickly, so the
11 interests of that area are very different than
12 everything north of the area. I would ask that we make
13 that consideration, and I think it makes sense because
14 Arizona is kind of Phoenix metro area and then Arizona,
15 and there are very different interests there in the
16 design. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, I just want to
18 commiserate that -- that the Commissioners also have
19 had difficulty with some of the technology. We're all
20 in it together. And if anybody cannot submit your map
21 electronically, I know this sounds so simplistic, but
22 you're welcome to draw a map, print something. You can
23 take a photograph and send it as an attachment. You
24 can send it to us now. You can put it in an envelope.
25 Our mapping team literally tracks all of these maps,

1 and even if it's not included in electronic overlay,
2 you know, view, the Commissioners see every visual,
3 every narrative, so make sure we get the data, whether
4 or not you're having technological challenges or not.

5 MR. NEWMAN: Thank you for that. I do have it
6 here on PowerPoint slides, and I can submit that
7 both --

8 CHAIRWOMAN NEUBERG: Please do.

9 MR. NEWMAN: -- paper and electronically and
10 happy to do that here at the break. Thank you.

11 MS. MANGOLD: Hi. My name is Deila Mangold.
12 I have been a homeowner in McCormick Ranch for 26 years
13 and have been volunteering in many different areas to
14 do good for Arizona and Scottsdale and Phoenix area,
15 includes dog fostering, Family Promise homeless shelter
16 for families, St. Mary's Food Bank, and the other IRC,
17 the International Rescue Community.

18 I appreciate the work you're doing. I'm
19 having a hard time focusing on the maps, and I have not
20 seen them before. It appears to me that you are trying
21 to really make my district, LD23, and Congressional
22 District 6 a little more competitive, because certainly
23 in the past there is no question about who is going to
24 win, and there are people who don't represent my
25 interests.

1 I worked very hard for Proposition 208. My
2 state senator and state representative have voted an
3 awful roundabout to take the funding out of the law
4 that was passed by a significant majority, which means
5 that they're not responding even to what the majority
6 of the people want. It's my belief the quality of
7 education is one of the first things that our
8 legislatures should be ensuring for the betterment of
9 our communities.

10 I also don't like the bills that they put out
11 there regularly. You know, more guns for more people
12 everywhere. That's not sane. It's just -- feel like I
13 don't have a voice.

14 So I thank you for trying to make our district
15 more competitive. It looks like you have addressed of
16 the issues of the diversity between North Scottsdale
17 and South Scottsdale and Pima-Maricopa County -- I'm
18 sorry, the Pima-Maricopa reservation and the Yavapai
19 reservation, who have also been in 23. I am concerned
20 that some of these districts are a split between urban
21 and rural. But I know there is apparently only so much
22 you can do. But I do think that we should have a
23 district where the same person isn't reelected for
24 life. We don't like that in this country. We're
25 diverse, and right now we have legislators representing

1 me who I have never agreed with for over ten years, and
2 they're still there, and they will be there until they
3 drop dead, and I don't want that to happen.

4 So thank you very much for your efforts in
5 fair and competitive redistricting.

6 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you. If I could
7 just do a quick follow-up of the previous speaker.

8 MS. MANGOLD: Not me.

9 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Not you, but I
10 appreciate your comments. I do appreciate your
11 comments.

12 The previous speaker, we have on the screen an
13 example. I wanted to know if this was the map that you
14 were referring to when you said you had taken a look at
15 a map.

16 MR. NEWMAN: That is correct. That is the
17 mapping that I was looking at that was proposed on the
18 website, and I was glad that was there because it in
19 spirit it explains what I'm saying here is that really
20 a design should be that the Phoenix metro area kind has
21 its own congressional considerations, and then there is
22 rural Arizona that has its considerations. I realize
23 there are many, many variables and there is quotas and
24 requirements to make all the districts relatively even
25 so it's impossible to get a perfect solution, but I

1 that this covers that in spirit as to what I was
2 speaking about. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.

4 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, speakers. And we'll
5 go back to Sierra Vista with Alex.

6 MR. PENA: Thank you, Marie.

7 I have five speakers left. I'm going to call
8 up the first three right now: Yvonne Mayer, Jo Ann
9 Caruthers, and Bob Levline.

10 MS. MAYER: Thank you for this opportunity to
11 speak. I live in Hereford, a rural community, and I'm
12 a precinct committeeman. At our first redistricting
13 meeting I spoke of the importance of communities of
14 interest. LD14 as it currently exists meets this
15 criteria. It does not need to be changed.

16 One segment of communities of interest I did
17 not hear mentioned until today is retirees. Currently
18 the Cochise County portion of CD2 has significant
19 retirement communities in Sierra Vista, Benson, Bisbee,
20 Tombstone, and Willcox, all small cities. CD2 would be
21 well-served by adding eastern Santa Cruz County,
22 including Green Valley and Sahuarita, which would
23 encompass large retirement communities. Again, small
24 cities, rural areas, communities of interest. Thank
25 you.

1 MS. CARUTHERS: Hello. I'm Jo Ann Caruthers.
2 I'm retired, and I live in Hereford. And in the part
3 of Hereford I live in, I wouldn't exactly call it
4 rural. It's -- I live in a community of maybe one-acre
5 homes. I would call it suburban.

6 I have to say that I have been in Arizona a
7 long time. I was born in Tucson, grew up in Tucson,
8 educated in Tucson, and graduated from the University
9 of Arizona. I taught school for ten years, eight years
10 of those in the barrio in Tucson. I stayed home for a
11 few years to take care of my kids, and then I went back
12 and got a degree in industrial engineering and spent
13 the rest of my career working mostly on Fort Huachuca
14 as a contractor doing really quite technical work.

15 So I've been around for a long time. I saw
16 Tucson grow from being smaller than Sierra Vista area
17 as it is now to you know what it is. And I used to go
18 to Phoenix, and guess what, you left Tempe and went to
19 Mesa and went to Scottsdale, all separate. You know,
20 you knew when you left one. Not so much now. Okay.
21 Enough about me.

22 I think Arizona is an amazing state. I love
23 living here. I've visited other parts of the country,
24 but this is where I want to be. It's where I've been,
25 and it's where I would like to stay, and my children

1 and grandchildren live here, so I have a lot at stake
2 in this state. It's a diverse state. I would put it
3 up there as one of the most beautiful states in the
4 country, from canyons to mountains to deserts to the
5 magnificent Saguaro cactus. That said, its people are
6 equally diverse, and I would very much like to see that
7 reflected in our districts, this diversity. Diversity
8 is important because we are a diverse country, a purple
9 state, and I would like to see a good deal of
10 competitiveness in our districts so nobody feels that
11 they are always on the losing end. You would like to
12 think you at least have a chance to win. And having
13 worked for a number of years in the barrio, I feel very
14 strongly that our northern communities, our communities
15 of color, their voices need to be heard. They should
16 not be varied or diluted so that they don't come
17 through.

18 So I think I have pretty well covered it. I
19 would like to see competitive districts that reflect
20 some of the diversity of the country, and I would also
21 like to see following constitutional and Voting Rights
22 Act precepts. And I thank you very much for your time.

23 MR. LEVLIN: Good afternoon. I'm Bob
24 Levline. I live in Sierra Vista, and I have property
25 in Santa Cruz County.

1 You have a difficult task. Maybe I will just
2 confuse you at a higher level. I'm really for
3 homogeneous districting with people with fairly like
4 interests, as other people have stated. If I just took
5 Cochise County out of everything and made it a state of
6 the union, it would be almost as big as Connecticut.
7 It would be bigger than Rhode Island. It would be
8 bigger than Delaware. And what would be interesting
9 about that state being very close to Connecticut, we're
10 not that populous. We're closer to Wyoming in
11 population. So our interests are very diverse versus
12 population.

13 I know your charter is to look at population,
14 but as practicable. So having property in Sierra Vista
15 and Santa Cruz County, I look at Legislative District
16 7, and I go, gosh, I'm more in the Cochise County, and
17 I know the legislative district goes all the way up to
18 Utah and to the border. So there is a heck of a lot of
19 diversity with Native Americans up in the northeast
20 corner and us folks down here. So if I was in the
21 Nogales area in that district, I would have very
22 different concerns than if I was in Cochise County.
23 Sierra Vista will now be with Santa Cruz County, which
24 I would have a differing opinion on recommendations to
25 my legislature.

1 So that's my two cents worth, and have a good
2 day and good luck on your job.

3 MR. PENA: Our next two speakers are Matt
4 Parrilli and Rafael Ihly.

5 MR. PARRILLI: Good day, ladies and gentlemen.
6 Nice to see you again. We first met in Nogales on the
7 5th of August, where I spoke with you about my Sonoita,
8 Elgin, and Canelo area of the eastern edge of Santa
9 Cruz County and what we needed to have done. I left
10 you with a hard copy of what my -- our proposal was. I
11 hope you still have it.

12 On the subject of the current grid map, it
13 looks eerily -- eerily and frighteningly like the grid
14 map that we had in 2011. I hope that the final outcome
15 will not be anything like what happened in 2011. What
16 happened then, as I said to you before, was competitive
17 districts ruled everything, to the detriment of
18 communities of interest, which is listed higher on the
19 hierarchy of your tasks. And I've worked in government
20 and with politicians long enough to know that those
21 hierarchies don't just fall into place by themselves.
22 They're driven into a priority. So if you do nothing
23 else, and I think you're on the right track, trust me,
24 I believe you are, that communities of interest deserve
25 your higher order.

1 Regarding population densities and equalities,
2 the wording says "to the extent practicable." What
3 you're hearing is a lot of folks, including me and the
4 people who live around me, say, wait a minute. Let's
5 not take that as ironclad. Let's be a little more
6 flexible about that. Why? Because communities of
7 interest give you a voice. Right now the eastern side
8 of -- the eastern edge of Santa Cruz County, the
9 conservatives have no voice. They have totally
10 Democrat representatives in the state legislature, and
11 one of the House members in that district, in the U.S.
12 Congress, is also a Democrat, so in a sense it denies
13 us representation.

14 In terms of the communities of interest, let
15 me reiterate to you that my brothers and sisters in
16 this room from Cochise County are closer relatives than
17 the west side of Santa Cruz County, by all the things
18 that have already been mentioned by a couple of the
19 speakers in particular. You know, and once again, as
20 far as population goes, if you -- if you take to heart
21 what I gave you on the 5th of August, you'll remember
22 that I said the total population within that
23 recommended boundary is 1,500 people, period, so, you
24 know, it should not be a big deal.

25 Thank you very much for the time, and I hope

1 you're having fun still.

2 MR. IHLY: Members of the IRC, I'm Rafael
3 Ihly. I go by Ray. Just so you all know, I'm the
4 chairman of the party in Legislative District 14, and
5 I'm also the second vice-chairman of the Arizona
6 Republican Party.

7 I'm speaking for myself because there is a
8 tremendous amount of diversity inside the party, and
9 everyone will not agree about the same things. So I
10 wanted you to know that I live in unincorporated Pima
11 County on a private well. I own a ranch property in
12 rural Cochise. I'm a retired aerospace worker. I have
13 numerous connections to military and law enforcement.

14 I've seen the recently released grid maps. I
15 understand they represent only a neutral starting
16 point, but I must say compared to what I would like to
17 see representing my communities of interest, they have
18 a long way to go. I believe you understand that.

19 Therefore, my purpose in appearing today is to
20 reiterate the importance of following all the criteria
21 in the law in making the final maps, thereby making
22 so-called competitive districts not necessary and not
23 found. The criteria are compliance with Section 2 of
24 the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting splitting of
25 minority areas, equal population, compact and

1 contiguous districts, reflecting the communities of
2 interest within them, and using recognized boundaries
3 as district borders.

4 My interests support communities like rural,
5 suburban lifestyle, personal responsibility, individual
6 rights, private property rights, water rights, mining,
7 agriculture, ranching, wine production, public safety
8 and law enforcement, religious faith, the military and
9 aerospace and defense industry, retirement communities,
10 hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. These
11 communities are found in most areas outside the city of
12 Tucson and Pima County, especially unincorporated land
13 on private or community wells, plus most of the
14 counties in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz
15 County east of the mountains and the I-19 corridor,
16 including the communities of Sahuarita, Vail, Corona De
17 Tucson, Rita Ranch, Dragoon, Morenci, Safford, San
18 Simon, the agricultural valley from Willcox to McNeal,
19 Duncan, Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia, Davis-Monthan Air
20 Force Base, Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Raytheon
21 Tucson, and surrounding communities in Saddlebrooke and
22 Quail Creek.

23 I urge you to fashion districts and keep these
24 communities together and fully represented. Generally,
25 my community likes LD14 as it is. Please keep Cochise

1 County together. It's a unique, ruggedly
2 individualistic, free-thinking rural western community
3 that must not be split.

4 Please comply with Section 2 of the Voting
5 Rights Act and place Nogales, excuse me, and the I-19
6 corridor of Santa Cruz in their own districts. None of
7 the new CD2 should be in the city of Tucson at all.
8 The shitty -- city -- excuse me. The city should
9 confine -- Freudian slip. Sorry about that. The city
10 should continue its influence -- or confine its
11 influence to one CD of its own. Likewise, LDs in or
12 near the city of Tucson should be either suburban or
13 urban in character and not mixed -- as not mixed as
14 possible.

15 God bless you in your hard work. I wish you
16 all every success under the difficult circumstances,
17 and thank you. And, again, I hope you're having some
18 fun doing this. Thank you again.

19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: If I could just follow
20 up for a second. You had some very specific
21 recommendations in your comments. If you can be sure
22 to submit those, if you want to submit them on paper or
23 if you want to submit them on the map, but you were
24 very specific in naming communities and some
25 boundaries, so that's the kind of thing that would be

1 helpful for us as we move forward.

2 MR. IHLI: Okay. I certainly will do that.
3 I've also submitted written comments already. I'll do
4 that. Thank you.

5 MR. PENA: I have two more speakers: Brandon
6 Martin and Lourdes Fernandez.

7 MR. MARTIN: Hello. Can everyone hear me on
8 the Commission?

9 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yes.

10 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

11 First, I would like to say thank you to the
12 Commissioners for the job that you're doing and the
13 ability to speak here today. My name is Brandon
14 Martin, and I'm not an elected official but I have run
15 for office. I'm now in my third time running, so I was
16 the nominee in this district last time in CD2.

17 And I've been all over the district and talked
18 to many people, and my concern today is that Cochise --
19 that Cochise County is kept intact, not only in any
20 congressional districts but also the legislative
21 districts. I have talked to people all over the county
22 from Sierra Vista to Benson, Benson to Willcox, Willcox
23 to Douglas, and back up to Sierra Vista. And we are a
24 county that I believe serves the community of interest
25 portion. We have ranchers, farmers, and we have unique

1 water issues that have been brought up by other
2 individual speakers.

3 A lot of what is being said today is talking
4 about diversity, equality in the districts, and we can
5 argue that some districts are heavily weighted one way
6 politically compared to others. Here in LD14 where I
7 believe we are currently well represented as a
8 community, you could say it leans more conservative,
9 where in LD2 that's next door it seems that they are
10 consistently represented by more Democrat
11 representation, as well as CD3 compared to CD2.

12 I would urge the Commission as much as
13 possible to try to keep Cochise County intact, and I
14 think the current lines for the legislative district
15 and congressional district serve our community well and
16 may need to be adjusted slightly to incorporate more of
17 the recent population numbers. Thank you.

18 MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. My name is Lourdes
19 Fernandez. I was born and raised, educated in Arizona.
20 I am a little bit distressed by the fact that I
21 have been traveling across -- around the world,
22 around -- worked around most of the United States and
23 Canada, returning home and finding that what I'm
24 returning home to is -- there is an effort to change
25 it.

1 We came -- those of us that live in Cochise
2 County are here because of the nature and the culture
3 of Cochise County. We're basically looking at a rural
4 area. To even consider lumping us in with larger
5 cities would be -- is -- is an injustice and an
6 disgrace. I am a member of a minority, and the reason
7 why I'm here is not to be lumped with other minorities.
8 It's not to be lumped with other types of people. I'm
9 here because of the individualism and the ruggedness of
10 Cochise County. And if you succeed in redistricting us
11 so that we disappear into a Tucson or a Nogales, you're
12 doing us an injustice.

13 Please keep Cochise County intact. We like --
14 we like what we see here. We like the diversity of
15 people. We like the diversity of businesses. And
16 we -- we're here because it's a rural community, and
17 please don't do away with that. Thank you.

18 MR. PENA: That is all the speakers I have in
19 Sierra Vista. Hand it over to Scottsdale.

20 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, Alex.

21 I have six speakers remaining, and I'll call
22 the next three up. Ted Hiserodt, Cynthia Couture, and
23 Nancy Ordowski.

24 MR. HISERODT: Hello, everybody. My name is
25 Ted Hiserodt. I'm a resident of north central Phoenix,

1 so that will be currently CD9, LD28. Kind of the
2 Sunnyslope area, if you will.

3 Just a couple of quick comments for today. I
4 want to echo what some of the other speakers have said
5 about the necessity of competitive districts. It is in
6 my belief not a hierarchy in the state constitution.
7 They are labeled A through F, not 1 through 6. There
8 is no subservient condition there or requirement. And
9 if you look at Arizona, we're very much a purple state.
10 We're not a blue state. We're not a red state. We are
11 a state that sort of pivots a little bit on
12 Independents, and competitiveness will give
13 Independents a voice, so that's my first comment.

14 Second, just my personal community of
15 interest, if you look at the top of LD1 there there is
16 the mountain preserve. I believe that the preserves
17 themselves are somewhat of their own community of
18 interest. It's a recreational area that people enjoy.
19 It's an area where there is a lot of communities of
20 faith. One of the largest synagogues is adjacent to
21 the -- to the preserves, in addition to several
22 different churches of all types of faith, and they all
23 draw from around the mountains, so I would be
24 interested in perhaps a radius of a couple of miles
25 around that mountain preserve.

1 My third point I would like to bring up today
2 relates to the origin of the maps. As I understand it,
3 the maps are -- the point of reference to start from is
4 the township meridian. My understanding of the
5 township meridian is where the Salt River and Gila
6 River come together. It's out in Avondale, not at
7 McDowell Road and 19th Avenue. I don't -- I don't know
8 that that intersection has any significance whatsoever
9 to the surveying of townships or sections in the state
10 of Arizona, so I would be interested in feedback from
11 the Commission to understand why that particular
12 intersection was chosen instead of the actual township
13 meridian.

14 That's it. Thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: We're going to actually
16 have our mapping consultants answer that question.

17 MS. BELLER SAKANSKY: Thank you for your --

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Do you want to -- we can
19 move this down.

20 MS. BELLER SAKANSKY: Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 With regards to the township median being
23 located on the redistricting maps where it is with the
24 intersection of 19th Avenue, Grand and -- and McDowell,
25 thank you, that is historically with the Independent

1 Redistricting Commission, the place that they have
2 started. I understand that the meridian, the township
3 meridian, is where you had stated. However, we went
4 with the history of the Commission and where they
5 started on the grid maps. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.

7 MS. COUTURE: Hello, Commissioners. I'm not
8 representing anybody but myself. I'm not that
9 important. But I wanted to relate just a little
10 historical anecdote to you to tell you why I'm so glad
11 that you're looking at providing competitive districts.
12 My name is Cynthia Couture. I'm a teacher of 43 years,
13 retired from the Fountain Hills School District, and
14 I'm a 17-year resident of Arizona's LD23. It
15 encompasses mostly Scottsdale and Fountain Hills
16 presently.

17 My strongest wish is that the Commission makes
18 Fountain Hills, Scottsdale district competitive. It
19 needs to be competitive so that our senator and
20 representatives will be responsive to all its residents
21 and to guard against the extremism that seems to be
22 pervasive in Arizona and brings down a lot of scorn
23 upon us. In the last decade no Democratic legislators
24 have been elected in LD23.

25 When I first -- here is my incident. When I

1 first moved to Fountain Hills I was told it was useless
2 to even vote if you are not Republican. On my first
3 day in town as I entered the local Ace Hardware store I
4 was told by a man brandishing a Republican petition
5 that I now lived in a Republican town and I had best
6 change my party affiliation. That was depressing to
7 me.

8 Since then I have followed the politics of my
9 area. I have seen that even the strongest Democratic
10 candidates have no chance of winning against even the
11 weakest Republican candidates. Only one side of the
12 political arena is listened to, and that side seems to
13 be very arrogant about it. I've been told in person by
14 one of my representatives that Democrats are only given
15 lip service in LD23, both in the legislature and in our
16 LD.

17 So I am thankful that you are giving voices to
18 all Arizona voters. I'm glad you're creating districts
19 that are competitive. I think a competitive district
20 will bring out the best in Arizona and make our state
21 great again. Thank you.

22 MS. ORDOWSKI: Hello. Thank you for the job
23 you're doing. It's a huge task. My name is Nancy
24 Ordowski, and to be -- make everyone aware so that you
25 know where I am, I'm the first vice-chair and first --

1 of Maricopa County Republicans and the first vice-chair
2 for LD23 Republicans.

3 I'm not here to speak about diversity, the
4 parties. What I'm really looking at is the landscape
5 of each one of these districts. And I think that it's
6 vitally important that we're aware we can make any map
7 in Maricopa County come out with the right population,
8 but I think it's very important that we keep our
9 boundaries between main streets and that we don't take
10 any one district too far east or west all the way
11 across all of the borders and the boundaries, because
12 all of these -- most of the cities, the towns,
13 communities around Maricopa are good-sized districts.
14 Obviously, Phoenix is huge. And the more that we can
15 keep every bit of the districts within one
16 congressional district it really is helpful to the
17 voters because it becomes very confusing when they
18 don't recognize that they may be in one legislative
19 district but in a different congressional district, and
20 so all of those processes make a huge difference in
21 dealing with any party. Thank you.

22 MS. CHAPPLE: And our final -- my final three
23 speakers are Daniel Schwartz, Patti O'Neil, and Karen
24 Garrett.

25 MR. SCHWARTZ: I want to thank you all for

1 your efforts. I know this is a difficult task.
2 Unfortunately, I've not yet had the time to wear my hat
3 as a data scientist and look at the map so I'll have to
4 make comments of a general nature.

5 I'm Dan Schwartz. I came to Arizona to live
6 in the desert east of Apache Junction in '98, and I've
7 been living in south Scottsdale since 2004 with my
8 wife. We raised two kids here. And I've worked in the
9 communications technology since 1993, starting with
10 Motorola and moving on to other Arizona companies,
11 sharing a leadership of a group of 130 very talented
12 Arizona engineers and scientists.

13 Since making my home in Scottsdale, I've been
14 driven to understand more about how the state and local
15 governments work, ultimately motivating me to volunteer
16 for multiple get out the vote campaigns. The same
17 curiosity has led me to participate in the Maricopa
18 County hand count for the 2020 general election. While
19 working to get to know the voting neighbors, I've been
20 seeing a full range of people from the peak of
21 affluence in Arcadia and PV to those who are barely
22 getting by in Yaqui -- in the Yaqui community and
23 nearby communities in south Scottsdale.

24 Over the course of time I received a number of
25 responses when I've gone around the neighborhood like

1 that. They range from those who enthusiastically
2 introduce me to their newly eligible voters to a lot of
3 blank indifference, which is fine, and on to
4 increasingly outright hostility. What concerns me and
5 what I hope the Commission most is the increasing
6 hostility that I've seen both in talking to people in
7 my neighborhood and from the armed and banner-carrying
8 protestors in front of the county elections department
9 in the days following the election. It simply is not
10 right for diligent election workers to be fearful for
11 simply doing their jobs, nor for volunteers to have to
12 pass through security and Concertina wires in a secured
13 parking lot to participate in democracy.

14 To this end we have to ensure that the
15 extremists who are chosen by the few during the primary
16 elections can be rejected during the general election
17 so that they do not speak for the community at large.
18 Obviously, the solution to this is to maximize the
19 number of competitive districts, protecting against the
20 extremes from either side of the aisle, as is the
21 charter of the Commission. I recognize not the only
22 one.

23 I recognize the task for the Commission is a
24 Promethean one, and that if they do -- if you do your
25 jobs well you're going to hear most loudly from the

1 most vocal among us, and they're going to be angry, but
2 so be it. As we debate the boundaries, I would like to
3 implore you to reject the words of the likes of Paul
4 Weyrich, who famously said, "I don't want everyone to
5 vote," and instead ensure that every community in this
6 rich fabric which is Arizona will have its voice heard.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. O'NEIL: Good afternoon, Chairwoman and
9 IRC members. Thank you for the first draft of the
10 district and congressional maps.

11 I would like to address district maps. I live
12 in North Scottsdale, and I would like to focus on a
13 community of interest that I have by Scottsdale School
14 District. By keeping all of SUSD together we can have
15 a proper and unified representation. The kids lose out
16 when we break up school districts. I know many school
17 districts are split between legislative districts.
18 However, by keeping SUSD in one LD you have also had
19 the opportunity to keep most of the city of Scottsdale
20 in one LD, so you kill two birds with one stone.

21 As for congressional districts, I think it is
22 important to draw lines that represent the needs of
23 rural versus populated areas. We are doing both a
24 disservice when we don't keep that in mind.

25 Thank you very much for all you do.

1 MS. GARRETT: Thank you for all of your hard
2 work. My name is Karen Garrett. I have been very
3 active in this process. Ten years ago I was one of
4 those privileged to basically attend all local meetings
5 that you had and participated and also spoke. I'm
6 quite disappointed that we don't have a better turnout.
7 I'm hoping it's because of COVID and that many, many,
8 many people will send you their comments online because
9 that is very, very needed, and I plead that people do
10 that on every side of this issue.

11 Ten years ago Scottsdale was split. I mean,
12 and at this point when I spoke it was similar to now,
13 and I got reassured over and over again, "Karen, don't
14 worry about it. It's going to be changed." And I hope
15 that that happens this time, because you have literally
16 decimated Scottsdale into three pieces, both
17 legislatively and congressionally. And you have
18 also -- I live at 8706 East Chama Road, and on that map
19 I am one block east of Pima -- west of Pima, and I am a
20 half a mile north, and it cuts me away from all of my
21 current people that -- a lot of my current people that
22 I deal with in Legislative District 6 and 23. We're
23 just thrown to the wind, scattered. And I'm not going
24 to get -- try to get too much more emotional because
25 I'm hoping that it will happen the same time this time

1 as last time where you restore the integrity of
2 Scottsdale.

3 Another thing I want to say that in 6 -- I'm
4 now currently in 2 by this map, and I am split from
5 others who are in 1. 2 is now rural, and 1, which is
6 Fountain Hills, is now urban. And in Legislative 23, I
7 am in 3, which is urban, and Fountain Hills is in
8 rural. So you've also decimated us by that. You split
9 us up into rural versus urban, urban versus rural, and
10 so it's a mess. So I hope that you clean this up and
11 that everybody out there that is living in my
12 neighborhood and in these circumstances will realize
13 that community of interest is s important. And when
14 you talk about Fountain Hills -- you know, I often say
15 there are certain things if we all got what we wanted
16 in the city that we live in you could never make a map.
17 And I have often said, Well, then you have to move, but
18 that isn't very nice to say, but we have to be
19 reasonable here.

20 Thank you for your help and your support.

21 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I just would like to
22 again reiterate if you can submit your comments with
23 some specifics with the lines and all that you're
24 interested in, that would be very helpful.

25 MS. CHAPPLE: Thank you, speakers.

1 Madam Chair, members of the Commission, that
2 concludes our speakers.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Well, first of all, I
4 wanted to say thank you from all of the Commissioners
5 for being here, for providing comments on all the
6 different venues. We appreciate that. And I would
7 like to remind you to please go onto our website and
8 submit any comments and maps that you can. We
9 encourage you to do that so that we can -- don't have
10 to try to interpret the words as much as we know
11 exactly what your interests are.

12 And, again, for those of you who are not
13 comfortable with the mapping tool, as our chairwoman
14 said, please submit it on paper. Any comments, be as
15 specific as you can so we can look at that. We will be
16 looking at everything that is submitted so we want to
17 be able to be sure that we understand exactly what your
18 interests are.

19 Please also -- we recognize we didn't have
20 lots and lots of people today, but we have -- we did
21 conclude a very successful tour of the state over the
22 summer months where we had hundreds of people, and we
23 will be doing this again. But what we do is encourage
24 your friends, neighbors, anybody you know to please
25 share their thoughts. Even if they can't attend a

1 meeting we want to hear from everybody, so please do
2 help us out by getting the word out.

3 Anyone can submit online any time. There is
4 no requirement to attend one of these meeting to be
5 heard. So please spread the word, and we again want to
6 thank you for your time, and with that we adjourn the
7 meeting.

8 (Meeting concluded at 1:41 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 64 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 8th day of October, 2021.

Deborah L. Wilks

Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50849

* * *

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 8th day of October, 2021.

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