

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF GRID MAP PUBLIC MEETING

Scottsdale, Arizona

Tucson, Arizona

Online via WebEx

September 29, 2021

4:10 p.m.

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
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1 GRID MAP PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT
 2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 4:10 p.m. on
 3 September 29, 2021, at Cactus Shadows Fine Arts Center,
 4 33606 North 60th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona; with a
 5 satellite location at Tucson Convention Center, Copper
 6 Ballroom, 260 South Church Avenue Tucson, Arizona; and
 7 online via WebEx.

8
 9 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

10 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
 11 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
 12 Ms. Shereen Lerner
 13 Mr. Douglas York

14 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

15 Mr. David Mehle

16 STAFF PRESENT:

17 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
 18 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
 19 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
 20 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
 21 Mr. Alex Pena, Community Outreach Coordinator
 22 Mr. Daniel Arellano, Ballard Spahr
 23 Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
 24 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group

25 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Justin Wilmeth	Scottsdale, Arizona
John Crane	Scottsdale, Arizona
Tom McGuire	Scottsdale, Arizona
Lynn Walsh	Scottsdale, Arizona
Abby Hemingway	Scottsdale, Arizona
Victoria Kanzlarich	Scottsdale, Arizona
David Garcia	Tucson, Arizona
Barbara Ware	Tucson, Arizona
Kevin Zibal	Tucson, Arizona

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Joe Boogart	Tucson, Arizona
4	John Maynard	Tucson, Arizona
5	Suzanne Cousy	Tucson, Arizona
6	Stan Caine	Tucson, Arizona
7	Ernie Bunch	Scottsdale, Arizona
8	Gayla Parish	Scottsdale, Arizona
9	John Parish	Scottsdale, Arizona
10	Alexander Kolodin	Scottsdale, Arizona
11	Connie Campbell Henry	Scottsdale, Arizona
12	Jalene Griffin	Scottsdale, Arizona
13	Elizabeth Packard	Tucson, Arizona
14	Lyle Aldridge	Tucson, Arizona
15	Shirley Muney	Tucson, Arizona
16	Pam Furrie	Tucson, Arizona
17	George McGaughy	Tucson, Arizona
18	Joanne Pierce	Scottsdale, Arizona
19	Cathy Schwanke	Scottsdale, Arizona
20	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	Scottsdale, Arizona
21	Elaine McGuire	Scottsdale, Arizona
22	Nigel Taplin	Scottsdale, Arizona
23	Janette Moore	Scottsdale, Arizona
24	Linda Evans	Tucson, Arizona
25	Amanda Fischer	Tucson, Arizona
26	Nolan Reidhead	Tucson, Arizona
27	Shelly Kais	Tucson, Arizona
28	Lana O'Brien	Tucson, Arizona
29	Maria Hidalgo,	Tucson, Arizona
30	Annie Ovitz	Tucson, Arizona
31	Catalina Hall	Tucson, Arizona
32	Judy Alkire	Tucson, Arizona
33	Charmaine Roth	Scottsdale, Arizona
34	Mary Grier	Scottsdale, Arizona
35	Tracy Martin	Scottsdale, Arizona
36	Lisa Greenman	Scottsdale, Arizona
37	Bruce Arlin	Scottsdale, Arizona
38	Tom Sonandres	Scottsdale, Arizona
39	Christopher Brown	Scottsdale, Arizona
40	Steve Robinson	Tucson, Arizona
41	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Tucson, Arizona
42	Barbara Tellman	Tucson, Arizona
43	Nathan Davis	Tucson, Arizona
44	Roberto "Bobby" Jaramillo	Tucson, Arizona
45	Brian Bickel	Tucson, Arizona
46	Misty Atkins	Tucson, Arizona
47	Alison Jones	Tucson, Arizona
48	Michael Geddis	Tucson, Arizona

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Wes Crew	Tucson, Arizona
4	Faith Ramon	Tucson, Arizona
5	Priya Sundareshan	Tucson, Arizona
6	Kate Saunders	Tucson, Arizona
7	Joanna Marroquin	Tucson, Arizona
8	Alan Nichols	Tucson, Arizona
9	Anna Clark	Tucson, Arizona
10	John Dalton	Tucson, Arizona
11	Betty Harris	Tucson, Arizona
12	Steve Valencia	Tucson, Arizona
13	Carol Schloff	Tucson, Arizona
14	Adelita Grijalva	Tucson, Arizona
15	Betts Putnam-Hildago	Tucson, Arizona
16	Ron DeSouza	Tucson, Arizona
17	Scott Oldendorph	Tucson, Arizona
18	Paul Stapleton-Smith	Tucson, Arizona
19	Jenise Porter	Tucson, Arizona
20	Sandy Ochoa	Tucson, Arizona
21	Kimberly Fitch	Tucson, Arizona
22	Thomas Prezelski	Tucson, Arizona
23	Levoy Hurley	Tucson, Arizona
24	Eva Carrillo Dong	Tucson, Arizona
25	Kay Davis	Tucson, Arizona
	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Tucson, Arizona
	David Higuera	Tucson, Arizona

*Helen Young, American Sign Language

*Spanish interpreters

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. I think we are ready to get
4 started. Can we first have the Spanish interpreter who is
5 here introduce herself in English and Spanish.

6 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good afternoon, everyone.
7 Can you hear me?

8 My name is Brenda Lopez and I'm the Spanish
9 interpreter.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Thank you.

11 And can we have the interpreter in Tucson do the
12 same thing?

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Can't hear them.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: If we can just wait one second and
15 then we will have Tucson join us, and we will do the Pledge
16 of Allegiance.

17 (Brief pause.)

18 Okay. Excellent, Tucson, can you have the Spanish
19 interpreter there introduce herself or himself?

20 (Brief pause.)

21 SPANISH INTERPRETER: (Spanish language.)

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Excellent.

23 And then right now if we will -- everybody will
24 stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

25 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 And at this time we'll turn it over to Vice
3 Chair Watchman.

4 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, Lori.

5 Good afternoon -- or good evening, everybody.

6 Can you hear me?

7 Get closer? Is this better?

8 There we go.

9 Good evening, everybody, and welcome. I am Derrick
10 Watchman, the Vice Chair of the Independent Redistricting
11 Commission, and it's so good to be here.

12 I now call this meeting to order of the Arizona
13 Independent Redistricting Commission. I would like to do
14 some house rules here before we get on.

15 I would like to ask that we follow the Arizona
16 Department of Health guidelines in regard to COVID-.19 if
17 you're not fully vaccinated you should wear a mask in public
18 space; if you would like to participate from home each of
19 these meetings will be streamed from WebEx, YouTube, and our
20 other social media channels.

21 We are also recording and we will post this --
22 these proceedings today on our website, which is IRC.AZ.GOV,
23 so you can find the information there.

24 If you would also like to -- I'm sorry. If you
25 would like to make a public comment, you may do by signing

1 with the staff at the front there, by filling out a form,
2 and we will acknowledge you.

3 We also have an American Sign Language interpreter
4 joining us virtually and here sitting beside me; and we have
5 a transcript -- transcriptionist who will be transcribing
6 every meeting.

7 For the record, please, speak slowly and clearly so
8 that we have the information and it's recorded.

9 At this time I would like to introduce ourselves.
10 I will start with Commissioner Mehl who is online there.

11 David.

12 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Hello. Glad to be with you.
13 I'm David Mehl and I am from Pima County.

14 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, Commissioner Mehl.
15 To my far left.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hi, there. Erika Neuberg,
17 the Chairwoman, from Chandler, Maricopa County.

18 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Hello, everybody. Thank you
19 for being here. My name is Shereen Lerner, I'm one of the
20 representatives from Maricopa County.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And as I -- as I said
22 earlier, I'm Derrick Watchman, the Vice Chair; I represent
23 Apache County and I come from Window Rock, Arizona.

24 So it's very good to be here to see everybody, not
25 only here, but online in Tucson. I want to acknowledge

1 everybody in Tucson; I see everybody is wearing red. So
2 thank you. Thank you for joining us.

3 Yeah, I see that.

4 All right. Very good. Great. Great.

5 Okay. Now we will move to Agenda Item No. II, and
6 it will start with a presentation on the process, and so I'd
7 like to turn it over to our legal team.

8 MR. B. JOHNSON: Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: The floor is yours.

10 MR. B. JOHNSON: Thank you, Vice Chair.

11 Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Brett
12 Johnson from the law firm of Snell & Wilmer; and I'm joined
13 by my colleague over here, Daniel Arellano from the law firm
14 of Ballard Spahr.

15 And we always like to start out the meetings with a
16 little bit of a civics presentation, so hopefully you
17 learned maybe some of this in grade school, but we'll see.

18 All right. There it is, okay.

19 So, obviously, the -- the need for redistricting
20 goes all the way back to the U.S. Constitution; and
21 basically what the constitution requires is that every ten
22 years, there's a reapportionment of the population for
23 purposes of representation in Congress. So the root of
24 everything is -- is in the U.S. Constitution.

25 The Arizona Constitution, when we became a state,

1 kind of reiterated that for purposes of our legislative
2 district process; and the basics -- the basis of it is is
3 that there's going to be equal population in all of our
4 congressional districts. And for legislative districts,
5 what the courts have said is that you can have a small,
6 little deviation for legislative districts, that's who we
7 represent to our -- our State House.

8 And the reason being is that, obviously, we are a
9 very large state, even though it looks kind of a little bit
10 different when you're looking at a map, or a very large
11 state, much larger than other states; and you're drawing
12 those types of maps you have to take into consideration and
13 a lot of the other factors that are actually bound inside
14 our constitution, which we'll get to in a second.

15 Okay. So from 1912 through 2000, the Arizona
16 legislature is who controlled the redistricting, and that's
17 how it was in the entire United States; all of the state
18 legislators controlled redistricting.

19 Arizona was the first to put inside its Arizona
20 Constitution that taking away that responsibility from the
21 Arizona state legislature and creating an Independent
22 Redistricting Commission.

23 As part of that process, in Proposition 106, it was
24 really meant to avoid a lot of the -- the gerrymandering
25 that occurs in the other states, where you basically have

1 lines that are drawn all over the map primarily to protect
2 incumbents has been the -- the major history, as well as
3 some dark parts of our history for what is called "racial
4 gerrymandering."

5 Okay. So our Commission members basically as
6 required by the Arizona Constitution has five members. No
7 more can -- no more than two can be of the same party, and
8 no more than two Commissioners of the four original members
9 may reside in the same county. So, of course, this is
10 always written by a lawyer to make sure it's a -- the
11 context makes sense.

12 So Erika Neuberg is our Independent, basically
13 was -- was chosen by the -- the other four Commissioners to
14 be the Independent Chair; Vice Chair Watchman is the
15 Democrat and he is from Apache County; Shereen Lerner,
16 Commissioner Lerner, is the Democrat from Maricopa; and then
17 Commissioner David Mehl is the Republican from Pima; and
18 then Commissioner Douglas York is a Republican also from
19 Maricopa County.

20 So obviously meets the criteria.

21 Here is what the Commission has to do and some of
22 the conversation we hope to have with you tonight -- this
23 afternoon.

24 So our constitution lays out six specific criteria
25 that the Commission must consider when it is moving -- or

1 creating the lines.

2 The way the process starts is is that a grid map
3 must be created, and that's already been done by the
4 Commission; and what the grid map must consider is nothing
5 of the previous lines. Remember we talked earlier about
6 gerrymandering and protection of incumbents from other
7 states? Arizona Constitution goes the other way, you have
8 to ignore the previous lines and you recreate from scratch
9 using equal population in a grid-like manner. And that's
10 what has been done and the Commission, I think, two weeks
11 ago adopted that map -- that map from the mapping
12 consultants, okay.

13 As to the six different criteria, the sixth one is
14 obviously applied to the U.S. Constitution; and secondarily
15 what's called the Voting Rights Act. It's a federal
16 statutory regiment which basically protects people's rights
17 to vote, especially in minority populations. Okay?

18 Next is the congressional districts shall have
19 equal population to the extent practicable; and then again
20 state legislative districts shall have equal population
21 always also to the extent practicable. We already talked
22 about how there could be a small deviation.

23 Districts must be geographically compact and
24 contiguous to the extent practicable.

25 That is meant to ensure that, you know, like some

1 states maybe back east and -- and maybe in the midwest where
2 they draw basically a line, a small little district, and it
3 covers most of the -- of the state to protect some sort of
4 interest, et cetera. In this case, they need to be as
5 compact as possible; you cannot have part of a district over
6 here and then a clear divide and then another part of the
7 district in another part of the state. Okay?

8 District boundaries shall respect communities of
9 interest to the extent practical. We're going to talk about
10 communities of interest in particular -- in particular in a
11 minute.

12 The Commission did a 15 -- it was actually more
13 than 15, but 15 in-person visits across the state, with
14 satellites up to I think, 45 more, on top of that, to talk
15 about communities of interest in particular.

16 From there is that -- again, we talked about the
17 geographical features and also being -- giving respect to
18 towns and county boundaries and undivided census tracts
19 when -- when possible.

20 And then finally, and this is what sometimes causes
21 a lot of confusion, and there were several cases when the
22 IRC was first created in 2000, is: To the extent
23 practicable, competitive districts should be favored where
24 to do so should create no significant detriment to the other
25 goals.

1 So what that means is that if -- if a competitive
2 district is possible, so long as it does not significantly
3 impact A through E, then the mission of the Arizona
4 Constitution is to try to create creative [sic] maps so long
5 as the other categories are not impacted.

6 Next slide.

7 Okay. Commission meetings are open to the public;
8 They've been going on for several months. These -- these
9 meetings are in person. The ones that are on every Tuesday
10 are business meetings, and they're handled virtually.
11 There's a public comment section where you're able to
12 comment as to what the Commissioners are discussing, and we
13 strongly encourage you to take a part in -- in all of those
14 meetings.

15 The initial input as I mentioned before was about
16 community of interest. A community of interest report was
17 generated by the mapping consultants to discuss what has
18 already been heard; however, that doesn't mean that you
19 cannot reassert or -- or discuss community of interest all
20 the way during this entire process. It's one of the
21 constitution criteria. Due to some delays with the Census
22 Bureau, the Commission took that opportunity to do a road
23 tour to talk about communities of interest in particular,
24 now all the criteria is being considered.

25 The input on the draft maps, what we're encouraging

1 you to do -- and thank you again for being here tonight and
2 for those of you online and those down in Tucson -- is to be
3 part of the process; and not just for you, for your kids,
4 your grandkids, whoever it might be, your neighbors, is be
5 part of the process, because this is what is going to impact
6 the state for the next ten years as to how the lines and
7 your representation is made.

8 So there are multiple ways to participate in the
9 process. Some of the links are already up there, but you
10 have the ability and we encourage you all to do it, is just
11 to submit your own maps, not just maps statewide; but if you
12 just want -- this is a big issue from our last meeting, if
13 you want to just talk about your individual district as it
14 is on the grid map and you want to see how the lines are,
15 that's fine, too. Be part of the process and be -- and
16 submit maps. However it works out, even if it is literally
17 printing out the map and mailing it in or -- handling --
18 handing it to one of us before we leave, that is what we
19 encourage you to do. It doesn't have to be perfect.

20 I know Mark is probably saying don't say that, but
21 it probably doesn't have to be perfect, but -- but, again,
22 we encourage participation.

23 Again, the process, the way it's going to work out,
24 the draft maps -- grid map has already been selected, now
25 the Commission is in the process of drawing basically the

1 initial draft map; that draft map will be then published for
2 a period of time for both public comment and the legislature
3 gets to comment, too; and then after that process is done,
4 then the Commission will come back and approve the final
5 maps, okay.

6 During that entire process, you're able to reach
7 out to the Commission itself and give your input as to how
8 the process is working and the maps that you want to see.

9 One thing that we encourage, and I'm going to
10 probably steal Vice Chair Watchman's thunder on this, is
11 that when you do propose a map -- remember we mentioned the
12 seven different criteria that were put up before -- when
13 you're proposing a map, explain why you've chosen those
14 lines: Is it because of one of the criteria, is it because
15 of the community of interest, is it because you think that
16 that district is going to be more competitive, is it because
17 it's compact and geographic measurements?

18 Indicate on -- on your map why you're making that
19 decision. That is only going to help inform the policy
20 decisions of the Commission itself.

21 And, with that, I think I'm turning it over to you.
22 So -- go ahead, Mark.

23 MR. FLAHAN: Good afternoon, everyone. Can you
24 hear me?

25 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: No.

1 MR. FLAHAN: Can you hear me now? There we go.

2 I'm Mark Flahan from Timmons Group on the mapping
3 team, I'm the project manager here.

4 Couple of things we're going to talk to you about
5 is some of the tools we have available for you, the
6 citizens, to be involved and look at the data and even
7 submit your own maps.

8 The first four things that we want to talk about,
9 and if you did come to the community of interest listening
10 tour, you've already heard me talk about two of them.

11 First one is socioeconomic report. A hundred --
12 it's got about 13 demographic points for all of Arizona, so
13 you can go there and look at all the different demographics
14 for all the state; that is available online today.

15 Community of interest reports, we took the
16 community of interest survey, there was 913 submissions, and
17 out of that, we have 182 groups of community of interests
18 defined.

19 The other thing that we have for the mapping tool
20 that we'll get into is the redistricting system itself,
21 allows you to draw and submit proposed map changes, the
22 website is there on the screen for you.

23 And the last piece that we'll talk about is our IRC
24 mapping hub, which is a centralized place for you to go get
25 anything map related.

1 So the first thing, socioeconomic report. We
2 talked about demographics. Listed on the screen there is
3 all the different demographic points for the entire state of
4 Arizona; there's actually two different applications out
5 there, so there's a StoryMap and Web app, same data, so go
6 ahead and consume it any way that you like.

7 Community of interest. So here's a sample of what
8 one of the 182 groups looks like; this is the Catalina
9 Foothills in Tucson area. And what we looked is we looked
10 at all the information and lines we got back and we counted
11 the overlaps of however many times multiple people said that
12 this is our community of interest, we grouped those
13 together; and then we had five different categories from the
14 highest number of overlaps to the lowest number of overlaps.

15 So you can see there on the screen where we had the
16 dark red the highest number of overlaps, and last category
17 you can see it's almost very faint on that screen, it's
18 almost a red-gray color with a line on it.

19 And that report is on the IRC mapping hub for you
20 to be able to go look at.

21 At the very bottom of the page is actually all of
22 the paper submittals, too, that we had; there's over 200 of
23 them. So you can download that Excel spreadsheet today.

24 Real quick, what we're going to be looking for is
25 community of interest, so where people have common social

1 and economic interests, shared characteristics, experiences,
2 shared issue or impacts, government policy, and it's
3 basically a geographic area with a shared benefit from being
4 kept undivided in a single district.

5 So redistricting systems. So one of the benefits
6 of the redistricting system that we have, anyone can create
7 an account; it's online 24/7, 365 access for you today to go
8 create an account and draw your own map, view the grid map,
9 you can look at all the demographic points that are in
10 there, you can look at the competitive data that we have in
11 there. So you have access to the same data that the
12 Commission has access to to draw your maps.

13 Again, there is the URL.

14 Early this a morning we added a new feature that
15 will allow you to draw a single district. So now when you
16 create your account and you log in, you're going to have
17 four choices that pop up to you. The first two will allow
18 you to work off the grid map template as a template; and the
19 last two which is named focused legislative and focused
20 congressional district which will allow you to go in and
21 just draw the single district.

22 So the template is already set up, you'll have all
23 the population sitting in a plot two considered district,
24 and then District 1 will be the district that you draw and
25 that will be the one that you can submit.

1 So now you do not have to balance the entire map,
2 you can just submit your one district.

3 This is the IRC mapping hub. That is the URL on
4 the screen. Don't worry about trying to memorize it, you
5 can easily get there from the IRC's website, which is
6 IRC.AZ.GOV, and go to "maps" tab and there is a link right
7 there.

8 So what is it? It is a centralized location for
9 everything maps, apps, training on the redistricting system,
10 information about the grid maps, demographic/competitive
11 data. You want to download PDFs of all the grid maps,
12 you're more than welcome to for a district or for the entire
13 state. The GIS data for all the mapping people are there.
14 So that is that centralized place that you can find that.

15 And going forward, once there are draft maps
16 approved and/or final maps, this will be again the landing
17 place for it, so those pages will be coming soon.

18 On the screen now is the grid map.

19 Brett already mentioned it, but the Commission
20 adopted on the 14th of September; congressional is on the
21 left and the legislative is on the right. It started at the
22 township median, which is 19th Avenue and the corner of
23 Grand and McDowell in the Phoenix area.

24 And there the Commission directed us to build the
25 grid map in a clockwise manner from that median, so we

1 divided the state into four different quadrants and then
2 built it in a clockwise manner. Again, if you go to the
3 hub, you click on the grid map page, it will talk all about
4 it.

5 Again, there's the exact page for the grid map if
6 you really wanted to jot it down.

7 And that is all I have -- that was the schedule
8 moving forward.

9 Other than that, I can give it over to Lori.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Before we -- before we --
11 before we move on to Agenda Item III, public comments, I
12 will read the rules of the meeting.

13 Citizens may only speak when recognized by the
14 Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if the Chair
15 is absent or has otherwise delegated hearing administration
16 authority.

17 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting law,
18 speakers should confine their statements to the issue on the
19 posted agenda which is posted before the Commission.
20 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments to
21 approximately three minutes. In an effort to allow for as
22 many speakers as possible, the Commission may adjust the
23 time limits depending on the amount of speakers requesting
24 to be heard.

25 Additionally, speakers are required to follow

1 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
2 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any
3 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other
4 guidelines may be asked to leave.

5 Any breach of the peace or disruption of Commission
6 public hearing may be cause of report to law enforcement.

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

10 This is a nonpartisan meeting. Please do not
11 distribute political material in the meeting room.

12 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
13 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to
14 address their comments to the Chair and the Commission and
15 not to the audience present.

16 Please show respect for all speakers and avoid
17 personal comments.

18 Remember, the Commissioner must hear all sides of
19 an issue to make an informed decision.

20 And I will send that back over to Vice Chair
21 Watchman.

22 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, Lori, and others
23 for the presentation.

24 Now, we will give the public comment portion.

25 Will staff read the names of the first speakers and

1 the ones in the queue?

2 Lori?

3 I'm sorry, Val. Thank you.

4 MS. NEUMANN: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
5 name is Valerie Neumann; I'm the Executive Assistant here at
6 the IRC.

7 Our first speaker is Justin Wilmeth -- Justin
8 Wilmeth; our second speaker will be John Crane, Vice Mayor
9 of Carefree; and our third speaker will be Thomas McGuire,
10 Cave Creek council person.

11 SPEAKER WILMETH: I appreciate that; I'd hate to
12 lie down too much, my back would hurt.

13 Justin Wilmeth; LD-15, that is the North Phoenix
14 district is what I call it.

15 So roughly right now we're between Cactus Road, up
16 Scottsdale Road to Lone Mountain or Carefree Highway, and
17 from Scottsdale Road over to 67th Avenue or 51st Avenue,
18 which is basically divided into about four, maybe five of
19 those grid map districts at this point just for you guys'
20 reference.

21 So I am here to advocate for the North Phoenix
22 district. Obviously, I'm very interested in how this whole
23 process goes; and I can say this afternoon I did go on the
24 website and test out the legislative district option, and I
25 made a fun little map here with a population of 238,741, and

1 a deviation of only 358.

2 Basically my thought process on the map that I went
3 with was this, is that obviously after our candidacy in my
4 current district the last couple of years and kind of seeing
5 different areas of my current district, I do believe that
6 there's a better way that my district could be formed in the
7 future.

8 So roughly what I have it as now is Bell Avenue --
9 or Bell Road rather, and Union Hills as the southern
10 boundary, I-17 is the western boundary, Maricopa
11 County/Yavapai as the northern boundary, and Scottsdale Road
12 up into the country as the boundary between the current
13 LD-15 and 23.

14 And I went with those because I do believe that
15 those are all community of interest lines. It's a little
16 tougher in the city areas to find true communities of
17 interest, but I do believe that it is a different setup
18 between the 17 on the east and west of that and Scottsdale
19 Road; Scottsdale and North Phoenix are definitely two
20 different communities of interest.

21 Another problem that I saw in the current maps is
22 that LD-1, which is the Yavapai County district traditional
23 comes down to Maricopa County. I feel like the people that
24 are in Anthem and New River and Carefree and Cave Creek
25 don't get the same kind of representation; they might from

1 people in other districts, because LD-1 is the -- is the
2 Prescott/Prescott Valley district. And there's no shame to
3 that at all, but that's a long way between the center of
4 that district and the southern edge of LD-1, which is only
5 minutes from my house. Right now we are in 23, 15 is just a
6 few hundred feet that way, and then LD-1 comes down to
7 Carefree Highway right now.

8 So the reason that I went with this map is mainly
9 to cure that issue of the communities of interest violation,
10 in my opinion, with LD-1 coming over the mountains into
11 Maricopa County. But along the way, I do believe I found
12 some better communities of interest lines, and what is now
13 currently 15 and the divided line between LD-22 and 23,
14 which is the Scottsdale district; because, again, I feel
15 like that's a -- a good line point between those two
16 districts.

17 So I guess that's what I really had to say there.
18 I appreciate you-all doing this. It's quite a difficult
19 task, and I do appreciate all the work you're putting into
20 it.

21 So that's -- that's my piece. Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER CRANE: So good afternoon. I'm John Crane,
25 Vice Mayor of Carefree.

1 The proposed Arizona congressional district map
2 places Carefree and a small portion of Maricopa County into
3 Congressional District No. 2. District 2 is primarily rural
4 and encompasses about half of our state. I think it's fair
5 to say Carefree can better -- best be described as a
6 suburban community.

7 In the reviewing the Congressional District 1 map,
8 we find Congression District 1 is contig- -- contiguous to a
9 small portion of Maricopa County; and this includes
10 Carefree. I suggest that this small portion of Maricopa
11 County be included and be moved into District 1.

12 So should this small portion of Maricopa County be
13 moved into District 1, the compactness of District 1 would
14 be maintained.

15 Existing Maricopa County town and city boundaries
16 would continue to be respected, and we know that the
17 congressional districts shall have equal populations to the
18 extent practical, which is on the order of about 784,000
19 people.

20 So the population of Carefree, Cave Creek, and this
21 small portion of Maricopa County is probably on the order of
22 20- to 30,000 people; so an adjustment can probably be made
23 to allow for this -- this change.

24 And probably most importantly, our infrastructure
25 and social and financial needs within Carefree more closely

1 align with those in District 1.

2 So while some of my most enjoyable experiences with
3 the people and the land in District 2 -- or having
4 experienced in District 2, I think my town of Carefree would
5 be much better served in District 1.

6 So, thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER MCGUIRE: Thank you, Mr. Vice Mayor. Good
10 to see you.

11 I'm Tom McGuire and I am a council person in Cave
12 Creek.

13 We know that every vote should count if the
14 districts are competitive. If they are not drawn in such a
15 way that one opponent has an unclear advantage and everyone
16 gets a chance to have their vote count; and I know that
17 that's very important.

18 And I will say also it is the duty of us as
19 citizens to get out and vote. No matter how we feel, we
20 should be there; and having been there, our vote should
21 count.

22 And I also thank the previous two speakers about
23 speaking how Carefree and Cave Creek can be better
24 represented by being communities that have more in common
25 with others in their legislative districts.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. NEUMANN: Our next three speakers will be Lynn
4 Walsh, Abby Hemingway, and Victoria Kanzlarich.

5 SPEAKER WALSH: I want to thank the Commission for
6 taking so much of their time and interest in listening to
7 public input.

8 My name is Lynn Walsh, and I've been a resident
9 here in Cave Creek and Carefree -- we're the same
10 community -- for 33 years. I've been active in numerous
11 nonprofit boards, active with my church, I've written grants
12 for the town, I've done environmental education; and I just
13 am passionate about loving this community.

14 What I see is our population of interest centers
15 are the northeast part of the Valley, especial- --
16 particularly North Scottsdale and North Phoenix where we
17 shop and have medical care.

18 We have nothing in common for the far afield rural
19 communities way north.

20 I feel it is very important that the new districts
21 be very competitive to mitigate extremism. When districts
22 do not balance political persuasions, the result is one
23 group ruled by the most extreme points of view have no
24 compulsion to campaign to the whole population. Competitive
25 districts require candidates appeal to broad sections of the

1 population and lead to moderation and vibrant communities.

2 Competitive districts are necessary for healthy
3 democracy so no one feels disenfranchised and left out.

4 I also support redistricting, respecting, and
5 representing minority and communities of color. Arizona is
6 a diverse and growing community which we need to respect in
7 the mapping process. Please make our maps competitive.

8 Thank you for using your time and talents to better
9 serve our state and communities.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER HEMINGWAY: My name is Abby Hemingway; I've
12 lived in Arizona since 1956, graduating from the U of A in
13 '60 and NAU in '86.

14 I've lived in Tucson and Scottsdale and then moved
15 to Cave Creek 30 years ago; and also I've been a member of
16 the environmental education group, Desert Awareness
17 Committee for 30 years.

18 I live in LD-1 and CD-6 and feel that my
19 representatives just do not need to hear from me; therefore,
20 I am most concerned about the creation of districts that are
21 fair and competitive, because I feel that if this is done,
22 it solves just about everything else.

23 Competitive districts encourage voter
24 participation, which is a good thing. Fewer people will
25 bother to vote if the outcome of an election is a foregone

1 conclusion; and that's not good in my view.

2 In addition, competitive districts force candidates
3 to appeal to the broad spectrum of the voters in the
4 district not only when they're campaigning, but it also
5 guards about their backing of extreme bills after they are
6 elected.

7 Case in point, Karen Fann represents my district in
8 the Arizona Senate. Having won the last election by over
9 76 percent of the vote, she knows the only voters she has to
10 please are those in her party, so she can embark on projects
11 like hiring an inexperienced group with an agenda like Cyber
12 Ninjas to perform a so-called audit of the 2020.

13 (Chorus of "boos" from audience.)

14 Okay. I just wanted to give an example.

15 Okay.

16 (Chorus of "not appropriate" from audience.)

17 So in other words, she can and any legislator can
18 in a district that's not representative, they can support
19 bills that even 80 percent of the voters would not -- in
20 that district would not agree with.

21 So I just believe that our noncompetitive district
22 requires no moderation at all.

23 I just ask the Commissioners to keep the pre- --
24 the key principles in mind when you draw the districts; and
25 I thank you so much for spending all of this time to get the

1 facts about how people feel in the various communities
2 around Arizona.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

6 SPEAKER KANZLARICH: Good afternoon.

7 I am Victoria Kanzlarich; I'm from LD-23 where I am
8 the Chair of the LD-23 Democrats. I want to thank you for
9 the opportunity to make a little presentation to you today
10 and I actually have visual aid to do that.

11 What -- what I wanted to talk to you about is the
12 makeup LD-23, you heard from other residents from LD-23 in
13 previous Commission meetings who have talked about how
14 uncompetitive LD-23 is. If you look at the map there, it's
15 most of No. 4 as it's -- as it's currently configured.
16 LD-23 right now consumes 1,200 square miles, it's 57 voting
17 precincts, and 185,000 voters. We include all of
18 Scottsdale, all of Fountain Hills, Rio Verde, and all of the
19 Fort McDowell-Yavapai nation, so we have a big footprint;
20 and we have a lot of Republicans compared to Democrats in
21 our district, and that's what I wanted to talk with you
22 about.

23 It would be a really easy for us to reach some
24 conclusions about why LD-23 is or isn't competitive, and I
25 want to walk you through what's actually going on here

1 because there's more to it than meets the eye.

2 I want to make sure that you can see this. Is that
3 a large enough letter?

4 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Mm-hm.

5 SPEAKER KANZLARICH: Okay. In LD-23 our breakdown
6 of party registrations -- and I'm going to talk about party
7 registrations as well as vote counts, because those two
8 things help explain what's going on behind these numbers.

9 The party breakdown across Legislative District 23
10 is 45 percent Republican, 30 percent Independent, and
11 25 percent Democrat. And if you looked at that just on its
12 face, you might say: Well, all the -- the Democrats have to
13 do in this case is appeal to more Independents. That seems
14 logical.

15 But there's something going on here that's not
16 terribly obvious.

17 These are the number of voters in each of these
18 registration categories: 84,000 Republicans, 55,000
19 Independents, and 46,000 Democrats.

20 The key to understanding these data is this number
21 right here. The Independent number. Because what's hidden
22 in that Independent number is the old 80/20 rule.

23 80 percent of the Independents in Legislative
24 District 23 lean Republican, 20 percent lean Democratic.
25 What that means practically speaking, is that in the Arizona

1 Senate race Democrats have not won that race in ten years
2 and this is why: The proportion of the vote count, no
3 matter what the vote count is is always 60-40. We lose by
4 20 points no matter what.

5 In the AZ House races, it's a little bit better:
6 35, 35, and 30 when we run a single candidate.

7 Now, the interesting thing about all of this is is
8 that when it comes to down-ballot races, we do pretty well.
9 When we're able to talk to voters about our values and share
10 those values with voters. We make really great progress in
11 places like school boards and city council and town council
12 races.

13 So I wanted to just make sure that you understand
14 this because this is a feature of that geographic area --

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Your time's up.

16 SPEAKER KANZLARICH: And --

17 MS. VAN HAREN: That's your time.

18 SPEAKER KANZLARICH: Thank you very much.

19 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 At this point, we will turn it back over to Tucson.
22 But, before we go there, I would like to remind everyone of
23 the rules of the meeting. There's a portion I'll reread
24 again in case anyone didn't hear it.

25 Speakers are required to follow proper decorum.

1 Speakers must use appropriate language. Foul and/or abusive
2 language will not be tolerated. Any speaker failing to
3 follow proper decorum or any other guidelines may be asked
4 to leave.

5 Any breach of the peace or disruption of a public
6 hearing may be cause of a report to law enforcement.

7 I'll send it over to Tucson now.

8 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Lori.

9 Commissioners and listening audience, I am going to
10 read the first four names, if you'll follow that and start
11 lining up.

12 The first speaker is David Garcia, second speaker
13 is Mike Wilson, third speaker Barbara Ware, fourth speaker
14 George McGaugh.

15 SPEAKER GARCIA: Thank you.

16 My name is David Garcia; I live here in the city of
17 Tucson, and I'm a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

18 And so I'm speaking as a community of interest.
19 Those of who may not be aware of, we are the second or third
20 largest tribe of federally recognized tribes in the state of
21 Arizona, so our population is 30-, 35,000 tribal members.
22 And so you have not only the Tohono O'odham's members but
23 also the community as a whole in this -- in the Pima County.

24 So I would strongly, strongly recommend that you
25 take a look at, in the best interest of not only Pima County

1 but also the tribal members, not only including Tohono
2 O'odham Nation but also the Pascua Yaqui tribe. And so
3 that's how it important it is if we want to be transparent
4 in regard to the redistricting, but also as far as
5 representation.

6 And so I'm looking forward to those changes and to
7 be recognized, because again we have been part of this for a
8 very long time, but I just feel as an individual -- and I'm
9 speaking only for myself, is that we've been -- we've been
10 put on the back burner in as far as representation on the
11 state legislative level and also congressional level.

12 So it's truly important that we -- that you look at
13 that politically; but also as a former tribal leader those
14 are the kinds of things that we, we as tribal leaders,
15 former tribal leaders, want to initiate to when it comes to
16 indigenous people as a whole.

17 So thank you so much.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER WILSON: Good afternoon and welcome to
20 "Chuk Shon."

21 "Chuk Shon" is a Tohono O'odham word for those of
22 you that know it as Tucson.

23 I came to here as an enrolled member of the Tohono
24 O'odham Nation only as a member of civil society, not
25 representing any tribal government, especially my own, nor

1 any of the other 21 federally recognized tribes in Arizona.

2 I say "Welcome to 'Chuk Shon'," because as a mile
3 and a half from this very location, the state is taking
4 place they take the plan that we're sitting at, are the pit
5 houses, our ancestral remains of the Tohono O'odham village
6 of "Chuk Shon."

7 So this area is our sacred land, it's our ancestral
8 land; but, more importantly, it's our spiritual land in what
9 remains of our spiritual land.

10 So for all of us, welcome, I give you greetings in
11 the name of the Creator and O'odham peoples.

12 My concern as a Native American -- and I've never
13 been referred to, and this is a first, by the way -- as a
14 community of interest, but I guess there's an emerging
15 vocabulary that I got to get used to.

16 During my -- during my 22 years of service with the
17 Army, I was never referred to as a "community of interest"
18 until now. But, that's okay.

19 My point is that I fear that indigenous
20 communities, the indigenous nations, indigenous peoples, if
21 we're not careful in this redistricting, that maybe we will
22 be pushed aside as we have been for over 500 years already.

23 We are here. We're on O'odham and welcome. Bless
24 you. All of us.

25 May we be blessed we're standing in this sacred

1 country and in this sacred land and that sacred flag.

2 Again, my concern, if we're not careful in this
3 redistricting we will be lost in the shuffle.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER WARE: Good afternoon.

7 Hi. This is Barbara. My name is Barbara Ware; and
8 I live at the southern part of Pima County, which is
9 currently part of CD-2 and LD-2.

10 I reside in a semirural rural gated community
11 surrounded by pecan orchards, BLM land, and another small
12 residential development.

13 I moved here from Oregon with my husband in 2019
14 and love our new state of Arizona. The reason we moved to
15 the area outside of Sahuarita/Green Valley was because it
16 was a semirural with conservative values. I have so much in
17 common with the other residents in my community and the
18 surrounding areas.

19 This is area consists of individuals who live a
20 very active lifestyle by golfing, pickle ball, tennis,
21 hiking, biking and socializing.

22 I have seen that recently released grid maps, I
23 understand they represent an equal starting place, but I
24 would like to see adjustments taken into account my
25 communities of interest and following the criteria in the

1 law.

2 Those criteria are compliance with Section 2 of the
3 Voting Rights Act, prohibiting the splitting of minority
4 areas, equal population in districts, compact and contiguous
5 districts, reflecting the communities' interest within them,
6 and using recognized boundaries as district borders.

7 My community consists of residents that have
8 retired from fields of business, management, law
9 enforcement, education, and military. They're educated,
10 well-traveled, pro Second Amendment and very well informed.
11 A large portion are veterans, including my husband; English
12 is our primary language.

13 We attend church in Green Valley, shop at
14 Sahuarita, and Oro Valley, and frequent restaurants in
15 Tubac, Vail, and Amata (phonetic).

16 Citizens that are placed in the communities of
17 Sahuarita, Corona de Tucson, Vail, Sierra Vista, Catalina
18 Foothills, Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley and Marana -- Mariana
19 (phonetic) in the same district, we have very little in
20 common with our current district which includes the city of
21 Tucson and Nogales.

22 Thank you for your time and hard work on the
23 accomplishing this tremendous task.

24 (Applause.)

25 SPEAKER McGAUGHY: Hello, Commissioners. My name

1 is George McGaughy; I am from LD-2. I have lived in Green
2 Valley for the past four years. I am a community leader
3 helping to distribute food at the food banks, volunteering
4 at the HOA, a leader in my church and helping register high
5 school students to vote, plus assisting in other community
6 programs.

7 The reason for the new map has gotten lost. We,
8 the people in order to form a more perfect union, has been
9 replaced with numbers counts. It is the people and the
10 diversity that makes our state strong.

11 In these times of political division, Arizona has
12 become a purple state; neither major party has a stronghold
13 on its voters. As of July of this year, a third of all
14 registered voters in Arizona are Independent. The final map
15 should reflect this new makeup by honoring the U.S. Voting
16 Rights Act; therefore, protecting the voting power of
17 communities of diversity. This should encourage competitive
18 districts with high participation in our elections and guard
19 against extremism.

20 Fair and competitive maps from the voters when the
21 voters passed the Prop 106, competitive districts are
22 favored if they don't significantly harm the other.

23 One-person, one-vote in our democracy is important,
24 but so is representation of all, including minorities in our
25 community.

1 Our community's strong points is its diversity.
2 From Nogales to South Tucson, there is a diverse array of
3 other religion, creeds, politics, and beliefs. Our
4 candidates must reflect the ever-growing community of
5 diversity as stated in the 2016 unanimous Supreme Court
6 decision.

7 Most districts by necessity will be large, but
8 driving distance should be given high consideration. The
9 diving -- driving distance from Sahuarita and Green Valley
10 to Sierra Vista is -- is not a short distance; but may seem
11 long when compared to other areas. But the distance between
12 the two communities does not reflect the different needs of
13 the people in the two communities.

14 This assortment of different needs is because of
15 the geographical -- it's not because of geographical -- the
16 assortment of different needs is because of geographic
17 makeup and not the geographical distance. The maps should
18 reflect the voices of these two different communities,
19 especially those voices allowing the Latino and Native
20 American voices to be heard.

21 The new LD-19 map splits the Tohono Nation in half.
22 District boundaries of tribal communities should -- should
23 not be divided. The current map has divided them into two
24 districts: One in Pima County and the other in Yuma County.
25 It is not reasonable to do it again. It has become a human

1 rights issue when a large, diverse nation is divided into
2 multiple districts and counties.

3 Boundaries should respect the communities of
4 interest of our tribes and communities of color. It is
5 critical to consider the population increase of these
6 communities in the 2020 census and the registering
7 [verbatim] voting district.

8 Arizona needs diverse states. I wish to thank the
9 community for their time in this personal action.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. CRANK: I will be reading six speakers, please
12 follow by lining up on this side.

13 Ken Zibal, Joe Boogart, John Maynard, Suzanne
14 Cousy, Elizabeth Packard, Sherrylyn Young.

15 SPEAKER ZIBAL: Hi, everybody. I'm Kevin Zibal; I
16 live in Saddlebrooke, and we are generally underrepresented
17 and I need your help to get us properly represented.

18 My communities of interest include Catalina,
19 Saddlebrooke Ranch, Vistoso, Oro Valley, and generally the
20 northern part of Pima County, southern part of Pinal County.

21 Where I go to church is the Vista de la Montana
22 United Methodist Church in Catalina. It's a small church,
23 about 300, 330 members, and we share same values, and again,
24 I don't think we're sufficiently represented.

25 We shop locally at Bashas', at Fry's and all my

1 medical providers, doctors, dentists, all those people are
2 still in that same geographical area that I've lived in; and
3 we like it there. But I don't feel that we're efficiently
4 represented, and I need your help to get represented.

5 Thank you so much.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER BOOGART: I'm Joe Boogart; Marana, Arizona.
8 And I'm -- actually, I've spoken before and you know my
9 views and I'm not going to repeat them again.

10 But I do have some concerns on, I went to the
11 mapping site, the grid, and what I noticed here is when I
12 went -- when I looked at it is that -- and you're not going
13 to be able to see this, but I saw four -- scrolled down and
14 I saw the four statewide redistricting maps. All right?

15 To divide those I saw some roll up of specific --
16 this happens to be Maricopa County a blow up of. And on
17 there you can -- if you're on the website, not on my sheet
18 here, but if you look at it, you can actually see three
19 grids in here.

20 I can see communities named, all right? Now, what
21 I wanted to do is I wanted to investigate what you did in
22 Pima County because that's where I live.

23 So I scrolled down to -- there's four of these maps
24 here, and I scrolled down to find Pima County. Not one.
25 Zero.

1 This is map that we have to go off of is the whole
2 state map. How in the heck can we determine the lines if
3 they are so small? If you look at the -- if you look at the
4 state map there. Look at this right here. This red circle
5 on it is -- is Maricopa. All right?

6 Could you imagine what your constituents in
7 Maricopa would say if you gave them this map and says: Now
8 make a determination, give us a comment on looking at that
9 map. All right?

10 Now, we're smaller than that down here. How in the
11 heck where we can't blow that map up like you do on your
12 screen here, how can we determine what we like what you said
13 or what you drew or what you didn't?

14 So what I'd do is I request that you put map
15 similar to the ones that you have in Maricopa County, one
16 for Pima County so we can actually see what you're doing.

17 Thank you. I appreciate it. I appreciate your
18 time.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. CRANK: Just a reminder to the listening
22 audience, when you are clapping and you are speaking, our
23 live WebEx mic will not pick up the speaker. So if you'll
24 just please be mindful of that, we have people listening on
25 the live WebEx, so they will not able to hear the speaker so

1 just be mindful of that.

2 Next speaker John Maynard.

3 SPEAKER MAYNARD: Good afternoon, Commissioners. I
4 certainly appreciate your time and what you are doing for us
5 here.

6 I live in Oro Valley. I've been a resident of
7 Arizona for about 16 -- well, actually, 26 years. Moved to
8 Oro Valley because of the population, the make up and so
9 forth; my community of interest includes Marana, Oro Valley,
10 Catalina, Eagle Crest, Saddlebrooke, and Saddlebrooke Ranch.

11 I have three children in the area; I have seven
12 wonderful grandchildren in the area; I worship at a church
13 the community; my two favorite restaurants are in this
14 community; I have 300 personal friends that I communicate
15 with frequently multiple -- multiple times every week.
16 Probably -- (technical/audio disruption).

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Tucson. Tucson, we lost you.

18 MS. CRANK: Madam Chair, Commissioners, can you
19 hear us?

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes, we can hear you now. Can you
21 hear us now? Yes.

22 MS. CRANK: Can you hear us now? Hello? Hello?

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Start over.

25 SPEAKER MAYNARD: Okay.

1 Good evening, good afternoon. Thank you so much
2 for the great work that you're doing, I really appreciate.
3 Appreciate the opportunity here to speak with you.

4 My name is John Maynard; I'm a resident of
5 Oro Valley. My communities of interest include Marana,
6 Oro Valley, Catalina, Eagle Crest, Saddlebrooke,
7 Saddlebrooke Ranch.

8 I've got three young children and seven wonderful
9 grandchildren in the area; I worship at a church in the
10 community; My favorite restaurants are in the community; I
11 have a 300 personal friends and associates I community with
12 multiple times each week, sometimes probably more often than
13 they would like. I have similar lifestyle, education, work
14 experience, interest, and the people in the community.

15 I have civic and professional meetings weekly and
16 monthly there. In my community I find that we have a group
17 of well-informed, very active, and highly motivated
18 individuals.

19 Active in the Amplify School District, attend their
20 meetings, I have two grandchildren in schools there; Marana
21 School Board meetings, I have one grandchild there, and I
22 will have several more.

23 I'm currently in LD-11, on the grid map that you
24 show, it looks like it's 16 or so. Very much like to keep
25 that pretty much close to what it is now because I have so

1 much interest with the people there.

2 Thank you so much. I appreciate your time.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER COUSY: Hello. My name is Suzanne Cousy;
5 and I live at 5830 West Turkey Lane, we're off of the Twin
6 Peaks exit; I have been a homeowner since 2001 and have
7 lived here since 2013.

8 What I'd like also please -- I'm sorry, I didn't
9 say this earlier: Thank you for this opportunity to speak
10 to you.

11 My communities of interest are also Marana,
12 Oro Valley, Catalina, Eagle Crest, and Saddlebrooke.

13 My church is in Oro Valley, St. Mark's Church, I'm
14 very active in the church, I sing in the choir and have many
15 close friends there. We shop in that area.

16 And my main concern for right now is we'd like to
17 keep our legislative district the same. We have a special
18 interests and I live in a slightly rural area; we have a
19 cul-de-sac; there's approximately 90 residents there and
20 more than half of the residents are horse owners; we'd like
21 to -- we spend a lot of money on our properties there, we
22 like -- that's our special interest, and also afford
23 businesses for the blacksmiths and veterinarians that live
24 in the area; we all -- many families also have different
25 farm animals, to include some -- mostly chickens and pigs.

1 But I would like the district to stay the same or
2 as much as possible.

3 And, once again, would like to thank you for this
4 opportunity.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER CAINE: My name is Stan Caine; and I live
8 in Tucson, Arizona; I'm a retired federal civil servant.

9 Now, except for three years of a job reassignment,
10 I lived within a three-mile radius of Pima County,
11 unincorporated City of Tucson since 1998. I've own homes in
12 this limited area, raised three awesome kids, taught as a
13 substitute teacher, and built my life there.

14 I understand that change is inevitable, but I am
15 happy in my current Legislative District 9, LD-9; I'm a
16 precinct committeeman, a state delegate and a state
17 committeeman.

18 LD-9 is easy to navigate and be part of it and it
19 is totally contained within Pima County. The new
20 District 21 that you propose to put me in is none of these
21 things.

22 District 21 is not contiguous as it stretches from
23 Mexico border to Phoenix and nearly halfway to Yuma; it
24 includes two Indian reservations and areas of interest that
25 are not mine, such as mining, cattle, farming, and more.

1 Now, I'm in favor of keeping the reservations on
2 split because they have common interests, goals, and
3 community; and I'm also in favor of the cultural diversity
4 maintaining for minorities. But as you can see, I am not a
5 minority.

6 The new District 21 has a polygon area test of over
7 8,000. This is one of the three highest numbers in the
8 proposed areas you have. It does not adhere to the
9 requirement that you have natural landmarks and geography.
10 An example is Interstate 10. This landmark roadway would
11 make a wonderful boundary.

12 My house is east of I-10 about a mile, in a small
13 subdivision of 69 homes, it's just off Quinteros Land Road
14 (phonetic). The new District 21 cross -- it crossed over
15 this natural boundary, grabbed my little neighborhood, and
16 by crossing over this natural boundary, it grabbed my
17 neighborhood.

18 Now, visually what does it look like? It looks
19 like a puzzle piece with a very small nub on it. It makes
20 no logical sense to include my area in District 21 as it
21 violates the I-10 natural boundary.

22 Now, another example of violating natural
23 boundaries is the number of counties included in the
24 District 21. As I stated in current LD-9, it's contained
25 solely to Pima County. The new District 21 covers several

1 counties. This makes it nearly impossible to be involved in
2 my LD county government; I would have to drive hundreds of
3 miles just to attend board of supervisor meetings. The
4 natural boundaries of county lines should be considered.

5 Now, I am not trying to create issues and I'm just
6 trying to live my life, be involved, and be an informed
7 citizen. I welcome logical change, appropriate change.
8 Please reconsider throwing my neighborhood into this
9 no-man's land of District 21.

10 Now, in short, it's almost over, guys. My family
11 made our lives meld in this area, and it brings us comfort
12 knowing that the people, the shops, the history and the
13 culture, and what's happening in the area. I go to Phoenix
14 a few times a year, mainly to the airport, and to Nogales a
15 couple of times a year for the food; I've never been to any
16 tribal meetings or council, though I'd love to go.

17 There's got to be a better way of keeping
18 contiguity in my area. So, please, don't put me in 21.

19 And, lastly, I did submit a proposed map. It's
20 called LD0005. Once again, LD005 [sic]. It's passed the
21 integrity check of your system, I ask you consider it as a
22 viable alternative.

23 Thank you very much for your work and your
24 dedication.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. CRANK: We'll send it back to Scottsdale.

2 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Michele.

3 Our next three speakers, we got the mayor of Cave
4 Creek, Ernie Bunch, Gayla Parish, John Parish.

5 MAYOR BUNCH: Thanks for the work you're doing, I
6 really appreciate it.

7 I just want to say that I appreciate the map with
8 the legislative district where you've got us all back in
9 Maricopa County, which is I think is where we belonged; we
10 really shouldn't be split up with all these folks up north.

11 And as to the congressional district, you can't get
12 any more broader spectrum of the United States, America's
13 population of what you got in this country; I appreciate it
14 because it represents everyone.

15 You're all doing a great job. Thank you much.

16 SPEAKER G. PARISH: Hello, there. My name is Gayla
17 Parish, and I'm a precinct committee member for LD-1--

18 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Can you step closer to the
19 microphone?

20 SPEAKER G. PARISH: I have received -- I have
21 reviewed the preliminary map, and I have two concerns that I
22 would like to talk about.

23 Number one: CD map for us up there in the north.
24 Anthem is cut in two; and if you live in Anthem, Anthem is a
25 very close-knit community. If you live there, you go to the

1 doctor there, you go to the dentist there, the schools are
2 there, you only have to drive a few miles to go to a
3 hospital. So they're very close-knit, and if they were cut
4 in two, I know -- I don't think they would appreciate being
5 cut in two.

6 And the other legislative district I would like to
7 talk about, we're in LD-1. And I have a map that I have
8 made up.

9 What I'd like to say about that is, if you look on
10 the number four that you've made, LD-4, you cut it off at
11 Carefree Highway and you go way down and then you go in; and
12 I believe the lawyer guy, I'm sorry I don't know your name,
13 he said you're not supposed to do that because right under
14 where it says Cave Creek in number three, those are our
15 communities; and our communities are Anthem, New River,
16 Desert Hills, Cave Creek, Carefree, Dove Valley, and
17 Tramonto.

18 So I'm speaking only on location, but this is what
19 we -- these are our communities, and I would like to
20 lovingly request to keep them all together.

21 And I have a map about it.

22 So thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. NEUMANN: I'll take that.

25 SPEAKER G. PARISH: Okay.

1 SPEAKER J. PARISH: I'm her better half. My name
2 is John Parish; I live not far from here, 7th Avenue and Joy
3 Ranch Road, the Desert Hills area, and I'd like to talk
4 first about your drawing for Congressional District 2.

5 And as it is drawn, there's several problems with
6 it, probably the provisions with B, C, and D; and we are
7 included in that because the Prescott-Flagstaff population
8 areas. And there are other areas and interest that -- and
9 also a vast rural area, Coconino County, all the way around
10 the eastern side of the Arizona down to the border.

11 Our community of interest, of course, starts pretty
12 much with New River and south along I-17, including Anthem,
13 east and west of I-17, the communities of Desert Hills, Cave
14 Creek, Carefree have -- all have interests in the greater
15 Phoenix metropolitan area. So you're not going to find much
16 of us up in Coconino County singing cowboy ditties around a
17 camp fire unless we have all texts where you have that.

18 But, presently, I'm in Congressional District 8 and
19 my Congressman -- Congresswoman is Kate [sic] Lesko; and I'm
20 a veteran, and I have issues with the VA, and I can drive
21 over to Congressman Lesko's office from here and personally
22 talk with somebody on her staff, but I'm not going to be
23 driving to Prescott or Flagstaff or down to Douglas, Arizona
24 just to talk about my problems with -- with the VA. I'm not
25 going to do that.

1 The second thing is our legislative district.
2 We're leg -- we're right now presently in LD-1, Legislative
3 District 1, you want to make up a District 4 there that
4 couples us with Scottsdale and Paradise Valley.

5 We've pretty much been stepchildren of Prescott and
6 Legislative District 1 since its inception because all the
7 representatives are from up there.

8 As you have drawn it now, we're still going to be
9 stepchildren of the Scottsdale/Paradise Valley community,
10 and so same thing we're seeing and we do; but I would
11 much -- much rather see us draw a district. Here again,
12 starting up in New River/Black Canyon City, come south along
13 I-17, and include the communities along that Anthem, all the
14 way down, pretty much to the 101 and as far -- reaching --
15 including Cave Creek and Carefree --

16 MS. NEUMANN: That's time.

17 SPEAKER J. PARISH: -- to Pima and --

18 MS. NEUMANN: That's time, sir.

19 SPEAKER J. PARISH: Thank you very much.

20 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

22 MS. NEUMANN: Our next three speakers before we go
23 back to Tucson, we've have Alexander Kolodin, Connie Henry,
24 and Jalene Griffin.

25 SPEAKER KOLODIN: Commissioners, thanks for coming

1 into our neck of the woods to have this meeting. Appreciate
2 the opportunity to speak with you.

3 I was reading during the first listening tour
4 that -- that there have been some comments from the
5 Commission that they were surprised that nobody seemed to be
6 coming to the meetings and saying that they liked their
7 current district, everybody liked a change.

8 Well, I'm here to tell you that I really like my
9 current district.

10 I live in Legislative District 23, which is
11 Old Town Scottsdale, North Scottsdale, and Fountain Hills
12 primarily.

13 And to tell you that these constitute community of
14 interest will be obvious to basically anybody from Arizona.
15 They're -- the economy in all these three places is
16 basically exactly the same, it's high-value services,
17 tourism, resorts; and so the types of people who live in all
18 three places, professionals who work in these sorts of
19 industries.

20 And there's -- it seems to be a bit of change to
21 the district with the District 4 that's on the current map.
22 District 4 essentially cuts out North Scottsdale and loops
23 around over to Anthem, and that doesn't seem to be very
24 contiguous or compact. Now, Scottsdale itself is not
25 particularly compact, it's elongated, but it is more compact

1 than cutting out part of Scottsdale and looping over.

2 And, you know, the chairman of the LD-23 Democrats
3 has said that it -- that it wasn't a very competitive
4 district, but if you bore in mind if, in the 2018 cycle, the
5 Democrats almost picked up a House seat. They came within
6 three points; in the last cycle they're a little bit more
7 distant but not much. The demographic changes, the district
8 is becoming quite -- quite competitive. The mayor of
9 Scottsdale, which is the largest portion of the district, is
10 a Democrat and all of that.

11 So I'll leave you with this final thought. The way
12 that I am dressed now, I can go to any part of LD-23, go out
13 to the bar and be sharp; if I go south of there, I'm way
14 overdressed, and I'm square. If I go to Cave Creek, they're
15 going to be like "Where's your Stetson, partner?"

16 So if that ain't a community of interest, what is?

17 Thanks.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER HENRY: Hi name is Connie Campbell Henry,
20 and I live in Anthem; and I want to thank the Commission for
21 drawing the map that brought us back down into Maricopa
22 County instead of having Anthem be in LD-1, where it has
23 been since I've lived here for 20 years.

24 But I do have a few suggestions on that. As the
25 Parrish's who spoke of a little earlier, Anthem has been

1 divided in two, and I think that's an important thing that
2 you need to take into consideration.

3 Anthem is on the east side and the west side of
4 I-17. Now, I know I-17 is a natural boundary, but I think
5 it's important on that northern part of the Valley to
6 understand the communities there.

7 Our communities of interests live on both sides of
8 I-17 going from basically New River all the way down to 101,
9 and to split those communities is very problematic. Our
10 school districts are set up so populations come from both
11 sides of I-17 to the Deer Valley School District.

12 So I'd love for you to consider that in your
13 transitions here.

14 And that was for the legislative district you cut
15 Anthem in half.

16 And in the CD, in the congressional district we're
17 now becoming the same situation we had with LD-1, Anthem is
18 stuck in with La Paz County and Mojave County; and that,
19 again, is problematic for being off in the one little
20 segment there.

21 We really consider ourselves part of Maricopa
22 Phoenix area. We do all of our schools, our shopping, I
23 founded an orchestra and a chorale and we have over a
24 hundred people that rehearse every week and we're all within
25 that corridor; and the idea that we would use that as a

1 dividing line, you're not considering those areas of
2 interests that most people have that live in that area.

3 And we're very diverse, and much more diverse than
4 mi- -- than Mohave County and La Paz County. And as spoken
5 to earlier, competitiveness is prime. We need to have
6 competitiveness; and these areas are diverse that I'm
7 speaking about, my areas of interest.

8 So I hope you would please consider carefully how
9 you make your slice and dice.

10 Thank you. And I appreciate all that you do around
11 the state to pull this off.

12 SPEAKER GRIFFIN: Hello. I'm Jalene Griffin out of
13 LD-1 currently.

14 And I would like to speak about the current grid
15 map you have you have us in 4, and I think people have
16 already expressed their opinion about how that's been drawn,
17 it's concerning; we're not really rural, we consider ourself
18 a very tight-knit community. And I have a map also that I
19 have drawn that would put us up -- not split Anthem like the
20 last lady spoke to, go up to Black Canyon, down to the 101,
21 go up I-17, go over to the west side a little bit over to
22 Pima Road and up and around.

23 Taking us from LD-1 into 4, wrapping us all the way
24 down underneath into North Scottsdale, that is not our
25 community.

1 We have a lot of shopping up and down the corridor
2 like that lady said that we feel very, very comfortable in
3 our area.

4 Having us drive 35, 40 minutes to go into an area
5 way down on Shea, I mean it's -- it makes no sense to me.
6 So I really think you need to really, really look at how you
7 draw these maps and bring us more into the D-3 area,
8 Dove Valley. Because we're currently Anthem, New River,
9 Dove Valley, Cave Creek, Carefree, Desert Hills, and
10 Tramonto.

11 And as it says in your provision number C, keep us
12 compact. You don't get that the way you've drawn that,
13 that's not compact; you have us going like this and this and
14 this. It's a little crazy to be honest. So if you really,
15 really consider how our community is and keep this all a
16 compact area, we all would really, really appreciate it.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

19 MS. NEUMANN: Okay. Now on to Tucson.

20 MS. CRANK: Just a reminder to my Tucson listeners
21 here, we have 79 speakers, so as I read your name, please
22 line up according to how I read your name on this side.
23 Please do so.

24 The next speaker is Elizabeth Packard, Sherrylyn
25 Young, Lyle Aldridge, Pam Furrrie, Shirley Muney.

1 Elizabeth.

2 SPEAKER PACKARD: This one?

3 Good evening. My name is Elizabeth Packard, and I
4 very much appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on
5 the most recent grid -- grid maps and redistricting.

6 I moved to Arizona about 50 years ago and have
7 raised three children here, was a teacher in the Amphi
8 Schools for 20 years; and I've lived much of that time in
9 midtown, but about a year ago I moved to Oro Valley to be
10 closer to my most youngest and most adorable grandchildren.

11 So, living in more than one neighborhood in Tucson
12 has given me a broader perspective of the character of
13 greater Pima County.

14 Moving to Oro Valley has been quite delightful;
15 I've enjoyed the kindness, the friendliness, the hospitality
16 of new neighbors and friends, and I have much to be
17 appreciat- -- much to appreciate.

18 However, my only disappointment has been the lack
19 of diversity or demographic balance in my legislative
20 district, which is in currently LD-11. I also just noted
21 recently looking at these maps, that Pima County which
22 formerly has five legislative district now has only four
23 listed, so I am somewhat concerned about that.

24 Yes? Okay.

25 I ask that this Commission draw district boundaries

1 that consider the population increases of 2020 census and
2 the registration and voting history which in Arizona is
3 one-third Republican, one-third Democrat, and one-third
4 Independent as has been previously noted.

5 I look forward to draw- -- seeing districts
6 drawn -- redrawn, so that in 2022 when I vote I can find
7 viable candidates from each of our political parties who
8 represent at least some of my points of view. Lacking that
9 opportunity invites political extremism as there's no need
10 to represent a diverse constituency if only one voting bloc
11 dominates the legislature or the congressional district.

12 Thank you for -- to the Commission for signing on
13 to this demanding position and for encouraging citizens like
14 me to participate in the democratic process.

15 (Applause.)

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you move the mic for
17 her, the feedback is bad.

18 Thank you.

19 SPEAKER YOUNG: My name is Sherrylyn Young, I'm a
20 retired physician who has lived in Tucson for 40 years.

21 I hear a lot of people coming to you speaking about
22 diversity and competitiveness, I'm here today to talk
23 against diversity and against competitiveness.

24 You'll notice that in the goals, the constitutional
25 goals, for the IRC that there is no mention anywhere of

1 diversity. The other thing I'd like to mention is that
2 diversity, in case nobody has noticed, is the exact opposite
3 of a community of interest.

4 (Applause.)

5 We want representation that will represent our
6 community. The other thing I'd like to say is that
7 competitiveness is the final, the fifth of the
8 constitutional goals, and is also the least important. It
9 says only if it doesn't interfere with the other issues.
10 Competitiveness definitely is interfering with our
11 communities of interest.

12 What's happening is that the outskirts of Tucson
13 tend to be Republican whereas Tucson tends to be Democrat.

14 So when there is a competitiveness it has to
15 include areas outside of Tucson and areas of the city, and
16 what's happened is that the urban interests have come to
17 subjugate all the outlying areas. That's why you're seeing
18 all these people here today dressed in red; we're tired of
19 being subjugated to the interests of the city of Tucson. We
20 want -- (Applause.)

21 We want representation for our out -- outskirt
22 areas, for our unincorporated areas, for our rural areas.

23 I'm also noticing that with the congressional
24 districts, we have three districts that all come into
25 Tucson. This means that three congressional districts are

1 going to be influenced by the city of Tucson. Tucson should
2 have its own congressional district, its own community of
3 interest, and we should have better representation in the
4 outskirts.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER ALDRIDGE: Good afternoon. My name is Lyle
8 Aldridge, and the lady who just spoke to you happens to be
9 my wife, and she is a tough act to follow.

10 She said -- she said most of the things I would
11 have said, except to point out as someone else already
12 noted, it's kind of hard to look at the Tucson map and see
13 what it is you're really planning to do, but it does occur
14 to me that if you're planning to split Tucson to at least
15 three legislative districts -- I realize there is nothing
16 even remotely final about these plans, but if 17 and 18 are
17 to exist, I think it would match the communities of interest
18 better if that jaggedly dividing line between north and
19 south were a dividing line between east and west that ran up
20 and down the Houghton Corridor, and included the east side
21 of the Tucson with the unincorporated area to the east of
22 it.

23 I also heard a lot of comments; I was at your last
24 meeting, suggesting that there was a belief that the current
25 districting was competitive, and I'm not sure the people are

1 aware that the last redistricting was challenged in court,
2 and your predecessor commission admitted that 10 of those 30
3 districts legislative district in the state were
4 deliberately made noncompetitive, and we can see the results
5 of that especially here in Pima County we there really
6 haven't been many Republicans elected under that plan.

7 I would ask that you do increase some
8 competitiveness that will allow people, the communities of
9 interest, to be represented by people who actually represent
10 a community of interest and can represent those of us who
11 feel the same.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 SPEAKER MUNNEY: Hello. My name is Shirley Muney;
15 and I've -- after visiting in Tucson for several years, I
16 lived in Tucson since I retired more than 20 years ago.

17 Since then I've been active in several community
18 organizations, most of them nonpartisan such as the Pima
19 County Tucson Women's Commission, The League of Women
20 Voters, my HOA, the Friends of the Library, Great Decisions,
21 and AAUW, the American Association of University Women.

22 I've always been interested in good government, in
23 fact, government was my minor in college. As such, I want
24 the best kind of government for my adopted state.

25 I'm here surrounded in a sea of red to speak on

1 behalf of the principle of fair and competitive districts.
2 In fact, this was the exact ballot language for Proposition
3 106 in 2000 when it was handily adopted by the voters.

4 As such, that principle became part of the
5 constitution of Arizona by which we still must abide.

6 Competitive districts force candidates to not take
7 voters for granted but to appeal to them by expressing their
8 principles and priorities, showing up at forums and other
9 events, not expecting to win automatically by being in the
10 majority party.

11 While in primary elections, candidates can appeal
12 to just one party by intending to take more extreme
13 positions. In a general election if they're in a
14 competitive district, they would have to appeal to a mixed
15 population of voters, and their stance on issues would tend
16 to be more moderate.

17 Since Arizona has become much more diverse over the
18 past ten years, more diverse than race, gender, and
19 especially in political affiliation with one-third of the
20 voters registered as Independent, a truly purple state, we
21 can't take party affiliation or votes for granted by
22 creating districts for one party or another.

23 I therefore urge you to make, after population
24 figures and geographical features, the principle of fair and
25 competitive districts your priority.

1 Thank you so much for volunteering your time, your
2 energy, and your commitment to the cause of good government.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER FURRIE: Hi. My name is Pam Furrie, and
6 I'm from Oro Valley.

7 And as you --oh.

8 Hi, my name is Pam Furrie. Oh. Between them?
9 Like that?

10 Okay. Hi. Again, my name is Pam Furrie; I'm from
11 Oro Valley.

12 And I am the delegate for AMAC, that is the
13 nonpartisan Association For Mature American Citizens, and
14 right now the district that we're in, as you know, goes from
15 Tucson to Flagstaff to Show Low to Sedona; that district is
16 huge. It's like the fifth largest congressional district in
17 the country.

18 I feel as an AMAC delegate, I would like to be able
19 to represent and hear the voices of our senior citizens in
20 the community of interest that I mentioned; and those issues
21 that we have are: Social security, Medicare, elder care,
22 the education of our grandchildren, and I feel that I cannot
23 fully hear those voices when our congressional district does
24 not include the community of interest.

25 We have a lot of citizens in Oro Valley, Marana,

1 Saddlebrooke, Saddlebrooke Ranch, and as its representative
2 for an act of -- on voters approved, I would like to be able
3 to form a chapter where I can hear these voices from our
4 citizen -- senior citizens, because our senior citizens,
5 we're not ready to be put out to pasture; we have a lot of
6 living to do. We have a lot to say about that, and we would
7 like our vote voices to be heard.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. CRANK: Madam Chair, Commissioners, I'm not
11 sure, I think I received that message that we might want a
12 break, a few minute break at this moment?

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yes, that's correct. We will
14 do a ten-minute break and give our transcriber a little rest
15 here. So ten-minute break. So bear with us.

16 MS. CRANK: We can't hear you.

17 We'll be taking a ten-minute break at this moment.

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: 10-minute break. Thank you,
19 everybody.

20 (Recess taken from 5:46 p.m. to 5:59 p.m.)

21
22 MS. NEUMANN: Welcome back, everyone. Thank you
23 for taking a break for us.

24 Our first speaker here is Joanne Pierce, Cathy
25 Schwanke, Mary-Jeanne Fincher.

1 Joanne Pierce, are you still here?

2 Oh, okay.

3 SPEAKER PIERCE: Oh. Good grief. My pardons.

4 Hi. Thank you for having me -- us.

5 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Welcome.

6 SPEAKER PIERCE: I'm Joanne Pierce, I live in
7 Wickenburg Ranch, five miles north of the town of
8 Wickenburg.

9 Wickenburg Ranch Precinct is known as WICK209. I'm
10 the precinct captain; we are the furthest southwest section
11 of Yavapai County and proud of it. However, the town of
12 Wickenburg five miles down the road is in Maricopa County;
13 The structures of both counties are completely different.

14 We at the Ranch are clearly less than 1,500 people.
15 Our interests, activities, lifestyles are not in line with
16 Phoenix proper or Maricopa County.

17 The town of Wickenburg probably has 6- to 8,000
18 people and definitely still is a small town. The interests
19 we have is our western flavor. We enjoy horses, cattle,
20 livestock; we enjoy rodeos in our five arenas just minutes
21 from downtown; we also enjoy roping, bronc busting, mutton
22 busting. We enjoy our small town celebrations, our cowboy
23 traditions, Fiesta de September, High Desert Golf Classic,
24 Blue Grass Fest, Cowboy Christmas Poetry Gathering,
25 Christmas parade, Old Gold Rush Days, dance streets, food

1 truck fests; we even celebrate taking our cowboys out
2 together, riding through town, and sending them out into the
3 desert for a week, we welcome them back at the end of the
4 week, and then kick it up high on their return.

5 We are a conservative little tiny town that thrives
6 on God, family, manners, and morales. We enjoy good
7 old-fashioned ways of life. As you can see, our flavor for
8 a small town does not relate in any way to Maricopa big box
9 or big population ways.

10 However, it's nice for us when we have those
11 moments or desire big-box amenities, we drive an hour down
12 the road to Sun City, Surprise, and yes on into Phoenix to
13 satisfy these rare times that we want big population.

14 It's our opinion that this redistricting you as a
15 board take note that the town of Wickenburg and
16 Wickenburg Ranch are separated into two counties. It's our
17 Wickenburg Ranch remain -- it is our opinion
18 Wickenburg Ranch remain in Yavapai County. It's also our
19 opinions that you consider removing the town of Wickenburg
20 from the hold of Maricopa County and also be included in the
21 Yavapai county as it should.

22 We enjoy our rural lifestyle; it's why we live
23 there, it's why we moved there.

24 We have a little in common with big city, big-box
25 population such as Surprise --

1 MS. NEUMANN: That's time.

2 SPEAKER PIERCE: That's time?

3 Okay. Thank you for kindly hearing me. We're
4 cow- -- proud cowboy people, and I just want to be giving
5 you the written and I'll hand it --

6 Thank you kindly.

7 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER SCHWANKE: My name is Cathy Schwanke, and I
10 live in nearby Desert Hills near I-17 and Carefree Highway
11 in the 85086 ZIP Code.

12 The LD grid map divides my own precinct. My
13 precinct is Deadman's Wash, which extends south of Carefree
14 Highway, so it needs to say in my precinct and my LD; but
15 the LD grid map cuts off my precinct voters south of
16 Carefree Highway and adds them to the LD to our south.

17 It would be the best fix to just combine us and
18 Anthem/Desert Hills/New River, and also Carefree/Cave Creek
19 with those Deadman's Wash voters south of Carefree Highway
20 bordered by I-17 on the west and Cave Creek Road on the
21 east.

22 So I'm advocating that all our area be routed
23 directly south, not with Tempe and Scottsdale, completely
24 different community, different schools, different fire,
25 different police.

1 The CD grid map cuts away Anthem and parts of
2 New River from our Anthem/New River/Desert Hills community.
3 My post office and Walmart are in the cutaway area.

4 The map should keep us together: All of Anthem,
5 all of New River, west and east of I-17, along with all of
6 Desert Hills.

7 Ever since I've lived here, 22 years, my CD has
8 routed south along I-17 because we are in Maricopa County
9 and part of Phoenix. The CD grid map totally changes this.
10 So even though we have Phoenix Board of Supervisors, Phoenix
11 school districts, Phoenix voting locations, not to mention
12 Phoenix shopping, entertainment, doctors, airports, and
13 more.

14 Our Anthem/Desert -- no, I'll skip that one.

15 It's widely announced that the last redistricting
16 maps wrongly put us into northern -- northern Maricopa
17 County legislative district in Yavapai County. Please do
18 not allow this to happen regarding the CD grid map. Our
19 current CD has worked fine all these years, routing us south
20 along I-17 which is where we transact and do business,
21 instead of the mountainous regions north of the Maricopa
22 County border.

23 The new Sleepy Ranch in Eastern Dove Valley
24 Precincts east of I-17 need to stay included with their
25 neighborhood precincts near Carefree Highway on the east

1 side of I-17. Take a look at that because when I went to
2 the reprecincting meeting with the Board of Supervisors, it
3 looks like it's splitting some precincts there; they're
4 making a new precinct called Sleepy Ranch.

5 The LD grid map places us into a vastly rural
6 district robbing us of proper representation. Just as
7 Scottsdale/Fountain Hills are sister communities, so are
8 Anthem/New River/Desert Hills and Cave Creek/Carefree, if
9 you haven't gotten the message yet, and we all align with
10 Phoenix to our near south.

11 One last point. The CD grid map has us very out of
12 kilter as it combines with Yavapai County, Coconino County,
13 Navajo County, Apache County, Gila County, Graham County,
14 Cochise County with whom we have no business instead of
15 where we belong and have always been in Phoenix, Maricopa
16 County.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER FINCHER: Hello. My name is Mary-Jeanne
20 Fincher and I live in Paradise Valley, a Phoenix suburb
21 about 20 miles south of here.

22 Like many people, I've struggled to use the IRC's
23 redistricting system tool and to find a way to intelligently
24 look at maps being proposed by the public.

25 So far 23 maps has been submitted by the public

1 which they created using the redistricting system tool. The
2 IRC made these maps available for public review, but only in
3 a separate tool, the plan viewer. However, the plan viewer
4 currently does not provide the kind of detailed analysis of
5 demographic and competitive data and evaluation found in the
6 redistricting system tool.

7 The submitted maps are not listed in the
8 redistricting system's open plan dialogue, nor does the plan
9 viewer allow saving or exporting a map so it can be imported
10 into the redistricting system or other mapping or evaluation
11 tools like PlanScore.

12 The public needs the ability to review the
13 submitted proposals using the full range of demographic and
14 competitive data. Perhaps, if given that ability, a
15 submitted map could be improved upon by an unrelated person
16 and submitted as a new proposal. We could, through that
17 process, work together to come up to the best maps possible
18 for Arizona.

19 Yesterday, Timmons said they're working on a
20 workflow to address this problem. It was not clear that
21 when and if this workflow is created, that it will be for
22 both the Commissioners and the public; we both need access
23 to this workflow in order to understand and evaluate
24 submitted maps.

25 I also have some questions about concerns about

1 upcoming work sessions. Based on yesterday's discussion,
2 the Commissioners will be meeting in person and will be
3 directing the mapping company to make adjustment to the grid
4 maps in real time.

5 Please consider how well will the public be able to
6 hear and understand the comments of each Commissioner, and
7 how will the public be able to see the changes being made to
8 the maps.

9 I submitted a public comment yesterday expressing
10 my frustration that when the mapping company is sharing a
11 screen during your meetings, for instance to show how the
12 redistricting system tool works, it is impossible for me to
13 follow everything because it's too small. This problem
14 needs to be resolved for the working group sessions.

15 I've also watched the first six training videos,
16 several of them multiple times and I have the same problems:
17 I can't see the speakers screen clearly enough to follow
18 directions. The videos need to include zoomed-in
19 screenshots or showing each shot be accompanied by written
20 step-by-step directions or both.

21 And, finally, I'm disturbed by the delay in
22 fulfilling public records requests -- thank you -- some of
23 which go back to June.

24 If justice delayed is justice denied, I think the
25 same must be said for public records request that languished

1 for more than three months.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

4 Before we -- Mark? Mark, can you help me here and
5 maybe shed some light on what was discussed here about
6 access, with the lady's comment here? Do you have anything
7 to add to that and enlighten us on access and those issues?

8 MR. FLAHAN: Sure. Can you hear me?

9 The -- yeah, there were a couple of things that
10 were discussed at yesterday's meeting, I know that we ran
11 through a couple different ways of importing data into the
12 redistricting system. There is also videos that were
13 created for both methods that were posted to YouTube on the
14 Commission's YouTube channel, so those are there.

15 On the regards to submitted maps, yes, we are
16 working on a workflow, we had it validated today, and we're
17 working on making adjustments that -- to make that possible
18 where you can see submitted maps in the redistricting system
19 and use the tools.

20 As far as the Google Map -- or the Google Meet
21 comment, I will try my best to blow up the screen a little
22 bit more, I did not know that was a concern at that time.

23 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: So thank you, Mark.

24 And thank you for raising those issues. We're
25 doing, I guess, the best we can to provide as much

1 information as possible, to be as -- as meticulous as
2 possible. When you get into the -- into the system, we're
3 also trying to use YouTube and as much tutorial as possible
4 to give the public as much information to get access, so
5 that if you choose, you can draw your own maps and submit
6 it.

7 Next week we'll have the -- the first draft, and so
8 we will do our best to make sure that everybody hears, we
9 have access to the maps, and do the best we can so that you
10 all can see what we're doing.

11 So we're doing our best, but I appreciate your
12 concern and thank you.

13 So let's move on to the next speaker. Yeah, go
14 ahead.

15 MS. NEUMANN: We'll do three more speakers and send
16 it back to Tucson.

17 We've got Elaine McGuire, Nigel Taplin, and Janet
18 Moore.

19 SPEAKER MCGUIRE: Hello. My name is Elaine
20 McGuire; I'm a 21-year resident of Cave Creek, and I would
21 just like to comment on the legislative district map.

22 I'm so glad to see that Cave Creek is now back in
23 Maricopa County. I really feel we had nothing in common
24 with Yavapai County, and we did not get the representation
25 that we need; we were kind of the stepchildren down here.

1 The other thing with the current congressional
2 district grid map, you're putting us in a district that has
3 very little community of interest with us. You know, Navajo
4 County, Coconino County, they're not anything like Cave
5 Creek which is a suburban Phoenix city. So I -- I would
6 commend you on doing that.

7 And also make sure that you still keep in mind when
8 you're doing these maps that they are fair and competitive,
9 because that is so important to move our fair government
10 forward.

11 Thank you.

12 SPEAKER TAPLIN: Good evening. My name is Nigel
13 Taplin, father of three sons who are educated in K
14 through 12s and university here in Arizona.

15 During my professional years, I was committed to
16 the education of our youngest students, many schools and
17 early childhood through 12th grade education. On retirement
18 two years ago, COVID permitting and as a humanitarian, I've
19 committed my time to the welfare of the community.

20 For example, I am a PC and board member of LD-23
21 and in my role of Vice Chair of Civic Engagement, I
22 encourage people to volunteer for city boards and
23 commissions, and submit their candidacy for the local school
24 boards.

25 In my legislative district, LD-23, during the last

1 election cycle in 2020, I was astonished to discover that
2 one party's registered voters vastly outnumbered the other's
3 by nearly double, placing talented and committed --
4 committed legislative candidates in an unelectable position,
5 thus creating an unfair and uncompetitive election cycle.

6 I am asking the IRC to correct this situation by
7 creating a fair and competitive legislative district where
8 all voters, regardless of party affiliation, have a voice
9 and an opportunity to make a difference for the meaningful
10 vote. Surely, fair and competitive elections are the
11 bedrock of our democracy.

12 Thank you for your commitment and dedication to
13 carry out this essential work. I mean, listening to this
14 today, I fully understand how complicated this is and all
15 the issues that you're dealing with.

16 But the bottom line is that we have to make sure
17 that democracy works for us all.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER MOORE: I got too comfortable.

22 My name is Janette Moore, I live in the town of
23 Cave Creek; I am a Realtor, I've been a Realtor since
24 198- -- I don't know, '84, '85.

25 And I've always been in the Scottsdale community.

1 I was on the government affairs committee for the
2 Association of Realtors, and -- and then I became a little
3 bit more active in about 2009 and I became a PC, so I've
4 been very involved; and I've also been involved in
5 Scottsdale, even though I live in the town of Cave Creek.

6 About 2010 when they did the other redistricting,
7 they did a little -- I'm going to call it an experiment and
8 they said: You're rural, so you're going to be up with
9 Prescott and Yavapai County. And I am not -- I am not
10 rural; I have always been Scottsdale urban. All my friends
11 are, all my businesses are, all my business associates.

12 And the lovely lady that was here from Wickenburg
13 is just a perfect prop for me because she's rural and I --
14 and I think she needs to be up in Yavapai. I hope that you
15 grant her her wish. But I really want to go back home to
16 Scottsdale, and I want to be down with them.

17 I was in more of the LD-23 situation people before,
18 that's where we go for restaurants, that we're where we go
19 for business, that's where my clients are, that's where
20 my -- my kids went to this school and this school is in
21 Scottsdale. So I would really like to be part of that
22 community again.

23 As far as the CD maps that you did, we don't have
24 anything to do with that big area up there, and it's not
25 even fair for the representatives. How are they going to

1 cover all that area? That's just not fair. No one is going
2 to get represented the way that it is.

3 As then far as the legislative map, if you turn on
4 the satellite -- and you might remember me speaking in
5 Glendale when you were there, if you turn on that satellite,
6 you will see that the northern part of Maricopa County is
7 all BLM land, there is no population. So when you have that
8 little stretch from Carefree Highway up, you know, there's
9 just not a population; and then you have a stretch all the
10 way over past 124th Street, past Alma School, it's --
11 there's no population.

12 I mean, we are not rural. We want to be back to
13 Scottsdale. Please send us back home. Please get us out of
14 this experiment. We do not want to be rural anymore.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

17 MS. NEUMANN: Okay. Now to Tucson.

18 MS. CRANK: The next five -- the next five
19 speakers: Linda Evans, Amanda Fischer, Darren Venters,
20 Steven Ware, Mikki Niemi.

21 Linda Evans.

22 SPEAKER EVANS: Hello -- Hello? Can you hear me?
23 My legislative map is "Indigo," if somebody wants
24 to look at that.

25 My name is Linda Evans; my legislative map user

1 name "Indigo," satisfies the requirements as follows:

2 Complies with the constitution, close to equal population,
3 compact and contiguous regions, and respects my communities
4 of interest, and uses geophysical features, river and
5 mountain, city, county boundaries, and undivided census
6 tracts.

7 My legislative map Indigo importantly satisfies the
8 requirements of voting minority groups for the Voters Rights
9 Act within the region of northern Pima County. My map goes
10 north from the Rillito River, starting in the east at
11 Houghton Road in the Tanque Verde region; northward up to
12 the Catalina Mountains, then it sweeps to the west including
13 the Catalina Foothills, up again to the Catalina Mountains;
14 all north of the geographical river boundary, the Rillito
15 River.

16 This map continues westward to Casa Adobes region
17 where the Hispanic population has increased by three times
18 in the last ten years; then continues west including Marana
19 to I-10, and sweeps to Oro Valley which touches the Catalina
20 Mountains and goes north past the Pima-Pinal County line
21 toward Florence, Pinal County, but not including Florence.

22 This satisfies my low-density communities of
23 interest, maintaining pristine lands with other fellow
24 residents who want the land to remain a place with wide open
25 spaces supported by organizations over the years such as

1 Friends of Savino Canyon and the Catalina Development
2 Association.

3 We who now live in LD-9 and LD-10 have not had
4 legislative representation in Phoenix for ten years.

5 Thank you for your time and kind consideration.
6 Linda Evans.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER FISCHER: Good evening. My name is -- is
9 that okay?

10 Good evening, my name is Amanda Fischer; I am a
11 Native Tucsonan and a retired teacher.

12 I have lived in my current home which is in
13 Catalina Foothills for over 30 -- 30 years. I'm in Pima
14 County Congressional District 2 and Legislative District 9.
15 I see bobcats on my wall and javelina in the af- -- in the
16 early morning knocking over my trash can.

17 In the spring I enjoy roadrunners and quail
18 families on my -- on my daily walks through the streets of
19 my neighborhood. I hike up the mountain north of me and I'm
20 able to view the city below.

21 I am often -- I often walk through the streets of
22 my neighborhood, I shop and have my hair cut and -- and have
23 my nails done and lunch with my friends often in the
24 Casas Adobes Plaza. We go to breakfast on Sundays in one of
25 the fabulous restaurants in the area with gorgeous mountain

1 views.

2 My Catalina Foothills community has many common
3 factors that bring us together; the lovely mountains are our
4 north star.

5 The last time the redistricting committee split my
6 district by unlawfully forcing competitive districts and
7 included part of the city. We are more of a rural community
8 and have com- -- very little in common with those that live
9 in the city who truly have a different lifestyle.

10 I want a district that really truly represents my
11 interests.

12 I am asking that the Arizona Constitution be
13 followed and that -- and that it is in compliance with the
14 Section 2 of the voting rights.

15 I am asking that there be contiguous regions in my
16 community of interest, as well as the population be
17 satisfied.

18 We have more in common with those to the north and
19 northwest of me and even to those that are east of the
20 Houghton Corridor.

21 Specifically, I do not want to be included in the
22 city of Tucson any longer.

23 I believe this Commission should give very serious
24 thought to this community in that light and draw the maps
25 accordingly.

1 Thank you very much and thank you for your time.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Darren Venters?

4 Ray Durash or Darragh, Nolan Reidhead, Shelly Kais

5 -- Kise, Lana O'Brien, Joe Holden.

6 SPEAKER REIDHEAD: Good evening, members of the
7 committee; we really appreciate your time and the
8 opportunity to address you.

9 My name is Nolan Reidhead; I live in Oro Valley and
10 have done so for over 23 years and want to speak about two
11 issues primarily. Number one, following all factors of the
12 Arizona Constitution; and, number two, my communities of
13 interest.

14 You as Commissioners are well aware of the factors
15 and the six criteria, you probably will have nightmares
16 after all this is done as you probably recite them in your
17 sleep; but, however, we as citizens hope you will strictly
18 adhere to all factors.

19 Last redistricting the Commission focused primarily
20 on competitiveness and you're hearing a lot of -- a lot of
21 talk about that. But please remember that competition is
22 only to be considered where there is no significant
23 detriment to the other factors.

24 Much about competition, it's not the prime
25 important factor, it's not the all be all; in fact, it's the

1 least important factor of them all. Focusing too much on
2 competition results in close to half of the district
3 population being unrepresented, forgotten, and
4 disenfranchised. Not just a small portion, but almost half
5 of the -- of that district.

6 Please make sure that the districts are compact and
7 contiguous.

8 Right now I live in CD-1 and LD-11, and I can drive
9 through almost four to five districts through Phoenix to get
10 to Flagstaff which is also in CD-1. I can drive seven to
11 eight hours to Paige and Fredonia, rural communities that
12 have really nothing in common with us here in Oro Valley.

13 I can drive five to six hours to Kayenta and Tuba
14 City, also in CD-1. Rural Native American communities with
15 wonderful history and -- and traditions, but little in
16 common with us in Oro Valley.

17 My communities of interest are northwest Pima
18 County, Oro Valley, Marana, Catalina, and Saddlebrooke.
19 I've lived in Oro Valley for almost 23 years; I've raised
20 five children, all have gone to high schools, Ironridge High
21 School in CDO; I specifically moved to these areas because
22 of their academically inclined schools, their secure
23 neighborhoods, with a strong police force and vibrant and
24 business-friendly atmosphere.

25 The city of Tucson provides none of these for my

1 family.

2 Please do not include these communities and
3 neighborhoods in Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, Marana, and
4 Catalina and northwest Pima County in an LD or CD.

5 The current -- the proposed CD-5 that you have I
6 think covers all of those community of interest and all of
7 the factors of the Arizona Constitution; I would, however,
8 encourage you there's a small drop down on the
9 east-southeast portion of the proposed CD-5, I would
10 encourage you to raise that north and move it to include
11 Marana.

12 Marana and that area just west of the -- of the
13 freeway includes a lot of our communities of interest that
14 are not included with that portion of the southeast portion
15 of that -- of the proposed CD-1.

16 So in closing, the districts the previous
17 Commission drew up were not compact, did not have equal
18 population, were too focused on competition, and did -- did
19 not give the proper consideration to communities of
20 interest. I do not want this to happen again and I've seen
21 you've -- I know you've heard that from many of the -- of
22 the individuals here today.

23 Please follow all factors of the Arizona
24 Constitution when you're drawing the districts and please
25 only consider competition and what's fair and all of these

1 factors as the last resort making sure that everything else
2 is equal.

3 Thank you very much and thank you for your time.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER KAIS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
6 My name is Shelly Kais, and I'm the chairman of the Pima
7 County Republican Party.

8 My community of interest is Pima County. Because
9 you see, when you opened this meeting tonight, you saw a sea
10 of red behind you, and that sea of red of about a 150 people
11 was people who are saying "No, we will not live within these
12 boundaries where our voices are not heard."

13 And while you were so eloquently presenting our
14 civics lesson, we were being given masks and told that we
15 had to put these masks on.

16 (Applause.)

17 Here they are. But, you see, when we came in
18 tonight there was a sign that we signed in that said If you
19 are fully vaccinated, you do not have to wear a mask. The
20 sign is gone now, but I have a photo of it.

21 (Applause.)

22 Our voice has been silenced in Pima County for ten
23 years. It cannot be silenced any longer.

24 I'm not going to even begin to try and tell you how
25 to draw the lines; you have the experts, you're collecting

1 the information. I am just going to ask you to look at Pima
2 County, the second largest county in the state of Arizona,
3 the 44th largest county in the United States.

4 (Applause.)

5 And provide us with representation in Phoenix and
6 in Washington, D.C.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your time.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER O'BRIEN: Hello. My name is Lana O'Brien;
10 I live in Pima County, current Leg- -- Congressional
11 District 2 and Legislative District 9.

12 I'm here today to talk about the map boundary
13 changes I've made and why I made them, specifically in
14 District 17.

15 First, I want to note the mapping process for
16 changes in the Arizona redistrict -- redistricting program
17 were cumbersome and time consuming, which is a problem
18 because many individuals who wanted to provide a revised map
19 didn't because they didn't have time to work with it.

20 Despite the obstacles, I did a revised map.

21 I spoke at the last public meeting, and I'm here in
22 front of you all again today.

23 I've gone to all this time and trouble because it's
24 important that District 17 be represented properly. Proper
25 representation means that huge swaths of highly dense areas

1 south of River Road are not included in District 17, those
2 areas south of River Road don't represent the diverse
3 culture and communities that choose to live away from the
4 city.

5 I know this, because I've lived in those
6 unincorporated parts of the northwest town most of my life.

7 My parents moved first out to the northwest side,
8 there was a lot of desert all around us and a few housing
9 developments with a bit of space around them. I believed
10 back then as well as I do now, that communities that live on
11 the northwest side connect and love the beautiful desert
12 because we are all so close to it in one way or another.

13 After I got out of the military, it didn't take
14 much arm twisting to talk my husband into moving up to the
15 northwest side of town. We bought a fixer-upper near Pima
16 Canyon with some land around it; we fixed it up; we raised
17 our children there, but we've since moved on to another
18 neighborhood but we are still near our beloved Pima Canyon.

19 When I see a fire down in Tucson, I think to myself
20 "I hope everyone is okay." But last year when the fires
21 raged in the Catalinas and Pima Canyon, it was personal to
22 us. The day our former neighborhood needed to be evacuated
23 because of the fire, our family didn't hesitate to help our
24 former neighbors. Because that's what communities do for
25 each other.

1 I hope I have impressed upon all of you how
2 important and personal it is for me and others to ensure
3 that we have proper representation this time around in
4 redistricting.

5 Specifically, District 17 boundaries should start
6 at the Pinal County line and go all the way west to I-10;
7 and on the southern portion, boundaries should start at
8 River Road and then move again down to Tanque Verde; and
9 then over to Houghton.

10 Thank you for your time and consideration.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. CRANK: The next five speakers: Joe Holden,
13 Maria Hidalgo, Annie Ortiz, Catalina Hall, Judith Alkire.

14 Joe Holden, Maria Hidalgo, Annie Ortiz, Catalina
15 Hall, Judith Alkire.

16 SPEAKER HIDALGO: Hello, Chairperson Neuberg and
17 members of the IRC Commission.

18 My name is Maria Hidalgo, and I'm so happy to be a
19 part of the Tucson community; and currently live in what is
20 known as the LD-9, Congressional District 2.

21 First of all, thank you for your time and your
22 public service in this most important task; recognizing that
23 we're just starting the mapping process and that there is
24 still so much to do.

25 My intent on speaking to you today is really about

1 three concerns that I have. One, is the IRC's engagement of
2 communities of color in this once-in-a-decade process, and
3 the mapping software and the redistricting criteria.

4 I cannot encourage you enough to continue to do
5 everything that you can to ensure that these public meetings
6 and the grid maps, but in particular in the next phase of
7 the public comment for the draft maps, that you engage and
8 make these meetings as accessible to the communities,
9 especially with high Latino and Native American communities.

10 (Applause.)

11 With more than 30 percent of Arizona's population
12 being Latino as the 2020 census -- and that means 2 million
13 Latino voters -- having venues inside these communities
14 really will promote the importance of transparency and
15 trust.

16 Now, I consider myself savvy with technology.
17 However, I'm self-conscious to share with you, no matter how
18 hard I've tried, but I've not given up, using the software
19 for the mapping was very complicated and overwhelming.

20 As of today I had been able to look at about 23
21 maps that had been submitted statewide. Think about that,
22 just 23 maps statewide. With about some of the mappers
23 submitting as many as two or three maps.

24 This appears to substantiate my concern about the
25 software, okay?

1 Anything that you can do -- and I think some of the
2 previous speakers have spoken to this -- to increase the
3 participation in this mapping process will be very
4 important, especially in those communities with notable
5 populations of color that have either no access to the
6 Internet or not reliable access to the Internet.

7 On the area of redistricting criteria, I ask that
8 any map which -- which immediately does not meet all of the
9 six redistricting factors, and in particular
10 competitiveness, should not be considered.

11 Also, it would go a long way to foster, again, this
12 issue of trust if at all possible you could let us know as
13 citizens of Arizona, what legal guidance you've been given
14 as Commissioners on how you can interpret these factors.

15 Again, I'm choosing to be optimistic about this
16 process that we ensure that Arizona's electoral maps truly
17 reflect what citizens in Arizona voted for 20 years ago;
18 and, it has worked.

19 Thank you so much for your time.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER OVITZ: Hello. My name is Annie Ovitz; I'm
22 LD-2, Green Valley.

23 Members of the Independent Redistricting
24 Commission, thank you for being here today and for
25 listening.

1 The representation of whatever culture, ethnicity
2 and any other such group that needs separation from
3 general -- the general melting pot of the population will
4 not happen in this new redistricting if you do not protect
5 the people's voice that needs to be heard.

6 You've collectively as the Commissioners of this
7 project have the responsibility to align this map so it
8 gives a voice to the people who are voting; and it is
9 important all voices be heard.

10 When it infringes on the rights of individuals
11 because our representation has been skewed, we have the
12 right to speak here today.

13 We all have the basic understanding of cultural
14 needs, and when it ceases to have merit we have to speak up.

15 We as a people choose to live in certain areas for
16 many reasons identified as family of origin, common
17 interest, socioeconomic background, and other commonalities.

18 Once our identity as a group of community or
19 individuals has become diluted into a melting pot of many
20 cultures, it stops deserving the purpose and becomes a focus
21 of a voting bloc or political gain for one political party.

22 We all need to know we have a fair representation
23 for all of us.

24 It will benefit both parties and those Independents
25 if you make your decision not on the equation of population

1 but on identifying factors driving the needs of the voters
2 and their constituents.

3 Thank you for your consideration and thank you for
4 your time.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER HALL: My name is Catalina Hall; and I live
7 in unincorporated Pima County, area called Picture Rocks.

8 I am an Asian American Pacific Islander who has
9 faced a lot of discrimination.

10 I urge you to critically pay attention to
11 communities of color, Latinx and Native Americans.

12 Draw district boundaries that reflect
13 majority-minority districts, communities of color, and the
14 voting history.

15 Balance party registrations to accurately reflect
16 the current registration information: One-third Democrat,
17 one-third red, and one-third Independents. Let your
18 Commission be known and be remembered as the one that made
19 every voter feel that their vote counted.

20 Make districts fair and competitive. Make
21 candidates compete for votes and really help to show that
22 even across communities of interest there are commonalities
23 that we must never forget.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 SPEAKER ALKIRE: Good afternoon, Commissioner
2 Neuberg and members of the Commission; I'm Judy Alkire from
3 Green Valley, Arizona.

4 I'm here to suggest that the community of interest
5 of Green Valley, which is a retirement community, is very
6 much like that of Sahuarita, our neighboring town, and the
7 communities to the east side of Sahuarita which will be
8 Carina Del Sol (phonetic), Vail, and as well as -- as if you
9 would go south, those would even include Sierra Vista.

10 We -- we like the semirural community that we're
11 in, it is -- we've lived in cities before, but now we enjoy
12 the rural, less-populated areas where traffic is less, and
13 opportunities for a life out of doors is great.

14 One of the things that they suggested is how have I
15 been affected by the last ten years of the previous
16 redistricting.

17 One is, I looked today for the voting record of my
18 representative in the United States Congress, and I have
19 discovered that Ann Kirkpatrick has voted by proxy 222
20 times, followed closely by another congressional
21 representative Grijalva, Raul Grijalva who has voted by
22 proxy 221 times. This -- many elections, many votes.

23 I'm a taxpaying citizen of Pima County and the
24 state of Arizona and I do not believe that I have been
25 totally represented for the last ten years. I'd like you to

1 keep this in mind.

2 We are now -- we now are included with part of the
3 city of Tucson. Tucson is large enough to be its own
4 congressional district, but definitely its own legislative
5 district; and then the people living in Tucson will be
6 equally represented, and then we will not be diluted by the
7 votes in the communities outside of the rural areas
8 surrounding the city of Tucson.

9 So with that in mind, I thank you for your service
10 and look forward to the maps that are yet to be determined.

11 Also, if I was in my community of interest of Green
12 Valley and Sahuarita, I would not be wearing this mask.
13 This mask was forced upon us by the rules and regulations of
14 city of Tucson.

15 Thank you so much.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CRANK: We will now send it back to Scottsdale.
18 Thank.

19 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Michele.

20 Our next three speakers are Charmaine Roth, Mary
21 Grier, and Tracy Martin.

22 SPEAKER ROTH: Hi, my name is Charmaine Roth, a new
23 resident to Arizona; I moved here three years ago from
24 Illinois. I live in Rio Verde precinct in LD-23.

25 And I also am very happy with my legislative

1 district and choose that it does not change.

2 The LD Democrat chairman forgot to mention the
3 number of PNDs that are registered in our legislative
4 district, which happens to equal Independents and Democrats
5 I think together. It's a little point she forgot to
6 mention.

7 And, additionally, the Democrats are the mayor of
8 Fountain Hills and Scottsdale. So kind of question the fact
9 that Democrats have been squeezed out.

10 And, additionally, in 2018, the Democrats lost by
11 only 3 points.

12 So I was not pleased with her numbers because I
13 don't believe that they were accurate.

14 Secondly, my -- our community is, as Alex said, is
15 more in line -- the way it is now, it's in line
16 professionally, economically, and with interest with the
17 people in the community. Our community of interest is
18 that's where -- you know, I live in Rio Verde, I go into
19 Scottsdale, I go into Fountain Hills. That's where I go, so
20 I hope it will stay the same.

21 Let me see what else I wrote here.

22 Oh. Alex made a very good point when he mentioned
23 the way that he was dressed because, you know, attire does
24 indicate who you are and what -- and that's fine, 'cause I
25 think that's a good thing, but he did mention that if he

1 goes to a certain place the way he does now, he'd look like
2 a foreigner, if he went to someplace else, he'd look like --
3 you know, he doesn't really belong; and we're really
4 comfortable in our community of interest.

5 And the only suggestion I have when I looked at the
6 map is the way it's designed, if there's a possibility to
7 cut off the area from Thomas, Thomas goes across, to cut
8 that part out and put it someplace else, that would be
9 great.

10 But I love LD-23, please don't change it. 'I'm
11 happy here. And I'm glad I'm from Arizona and not in
12 Illinois.

13 SPEAKER GRIER: Good evening, Madam Chair, members
14 of the Commission. My name is Mary Grier; I live in LD-23
15 in McCormack Ranch precinct.

16 Our democracy is in trouble and I want to thank you
17 for taking the time and the effort to do your part to make
18 sure that you do what you can to preserve it.

19 The purpose of representative democracy is to
20 represent the people. Not parties, not special interests.
21 The creation of noncompetitive districts serves parties and
22 special interests, not the voters, with the possible
23 exception of those who have historically been
24 disenfranchised and do deserve special treatment.

25 Noncompetitive districts draw the most extreme and

1 nonresponsive candidates. This leads to polarization,
2 tribalism, and political gridlock.

3 We find that people are self-selecting into little
4 groups, they don't want to associate with members of the
5 other party; they're swiping left so they won't date members
6 of the other party; they're claiming to be rural in
7 character and that that is a community of interest, because
8 they don't want to be associated with the urbanites who have
9 supposedly different interests.

10 But I submit to you that as Americans we have more
11 in common than what divides us, and that we ought to be
12 focusing on promoting our common values and our common
13 interests by creating competitive districts that do just
14 that, that bring us together rather than polarizing us.

15 In 2018, More in Common did a study that was
16 published called "Hidden Tribes," and what they found was
17 that two-thirds of the population which they described as
18 the exhaustive majority is more flexible, they're fed up
19 with division and politics, and they're less active in
20 political discourse; and that one-third of the population
21 divides itself into the political left and the political
22 right, and they're more active and they're noisier and they
23 create a lot of -- a lot of press and a lot of activity.

24 But that what the majority of Americans wanted
25 going into the 2018 midterms, 87 percent felt the country

1 was more divided than at any time in their lifetimes;
2 86 percent were exhausted by this political division;
3 89 percent wanted the parties to find compromise; 86 percent
4 worried that this division would lead to violence.

5 And it did. On July 6th, we saw that violence
6 erupt.

7 Jennifer Lynn McCoy of Georgia State did a study of
8 11 of the most polarized democracies around the world, and
9 what they found was that they were characterized by the
10 formation of in-groups and out-groups: You win, I lose.
11 Each side begins to view the other as a threat to their
12 nature and to their country, to their way of life.

13 This is a self-reinforcing process, and the more we
14 segregate, the more that happens. The way to overcome that
15 they found was to broaden voter participation to encourage
16 people to cross the divide; not to subrogate but to put them
17 together and have them work through their differences. And
18 you can do that by creating more competitive districts.

19 Thank you for your time and for listening to these
20 comments.

21 SPEAKER MARTIN: Hello. My name is Tracy Martin;
22 and I live in the much-talked-about-tonight community of
23 Anthem.

24 I moved here from another state and a small town
25 within that state. We gathered at the town green and the

1 local business, handed out cookies and chocolate to the kids
2 and the town band played, and we turned on the lights for
3 the Christmas tree, the parade for the 4th of July every
4 summer; we ended it in the town green, and everybody came
5 and picnicked and visited and various local businesses
6 contributed miniature flags and little gifts and candy for
7 the kids, and that's what I found in Anthem. This is a
8 town.

9 I know HOAs are a collection of houses and
10 everybody has to paint it from the same colors on the list,
11 but that's not Anthem. It's a town.

12 You can be on the same -- your child can be on the
13 same team with people who own one of the business there,
14 because the people that own those businesses actually live
15 in our town; their kids go to our schools, they belong to
16 our churches, we see them when we're in the grocery store
17 shopping: It's a real town.

18 And it is very much connected to the neighboring
19 communities in Desert Hills and in New River and in Cave
20 Creek and Carefree; we all kind of go together. And our
21 major interests do tend to move more to the south than up
22 into Yavapai County.

23 We have in Anthem the fire -- the fire service,
24 Daisy Mountain, and we also have a substation for Maricopa
25 County sheriffs. We love the Daisy Mountain guys and we

1 love our Maricopa County sheriff guys, and we are happy to
2 have them both in our community in Anthem to help out at
3 that north end of the county and the neighboring
4 communities.

5 If you've ever made the mistake of trying to get to
6 the post office about the time the high school is going to
7 start on the Anthem Way overpass, you will realize that on
8 the east and west side of the freeway, it's all Anthem. All
9 the children that live on this side are going to school over
10 there, and all the children that live on that side are going
11 to school over here at least by the amount of traffic that
12 is passing over Anthem Way at that time.

13 So we really do belong together.

14 MS. NEUMANN: Time.

15 SPEAKER MARTIN: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speaker is John Patton, Lisa
18 Greenman, Bruce Arlen.

19 John is gone? Okay.

20 Lisa and then Bruce.

21 SPEAKER GREENMAN: Hi. My name is Lisa Greenman;
22 and I live in Cave Creek.

23 And, first of all, thank you for doing all this
24 because we know it's like herding cats. So appreciate it.

25 I live in Cave Creek, and I live up by the

1 conservancy; and one of the things that I would like to say
2 is that when you live -- as everybody else has pointed
3 out -- Cave Creek and Carefree and Anthem/New River, that
4 whole district, it -- it relates down to the 101, it relates
5 down -- goes to that's where we shop, that's where
6 everything takes place. Why we are always tossed in with
7 Fountain Hills is beyond me. I have no idea why, you know.
8 It doesn't make any sense.

9 And why we right now are up in Prescott is even
10 more looney. I have no idea what's that all about as well.

11 Also, in listening to some of these comments, I
12 would like to say, isn't the whole reason that we have
13 Prop 106 is not to be gerrymandering? I mean, if we're
14 trying to prevent gerrymandering within the legislature, why
15 the heck are we trying to do it with the whole frickin'
16 state?

17 I mean, you know, I think that we have to take into
18 account our community interest for sure, and we have to take
19 into account the geographics of the area as well. I mean,
20 right now if you're in Cave Creek, there's nothing north of
21 us. I mean, you're not -- it's -- that's -- to put us up in
22 that congressional district makes no sense whatsoever.

23 It's -- it's a totally -- I mean, I don't -- Payson
24 doesn't make any sense for a congressional district, and as
25 somebody else pointed out, who the heck is going to

1 represent that?

2 I mean, some- -- I mean, it's kind of a crazy zone.

3 So I bring that up, and I also would just like to
4 say that, remember, don't split precincts, don't split
5 towns. We understand that counties get split, but precincts
6 and towns are communities and they should be stay -- stay
7 together.

8 So I think that's all that I want to say except,
9 remember, a community of interest is also that we are
10 Americans first, Arizonans second, and we all have our town
11 areas as well; and within that, of course, we all have
12 different political points of view, and we shouldn't be
13 doing this to accommodate what is now in 2021 a political
14 point of view, because this is going to last for ten years,
15 and it's going to be built on the ten years after that.

16 So keep in mind communities first and all of us
17 working as Americans first.

18 Thank you so much for your time. I know you put a
19 lot into this, so thank you.

20 SPEAKER ARLIN: Good evening. My name is Bruce
21 Arlin.

22 You've heard a lot of people tonight, I hope
23 you're -- you're taking it all in. I'm sure it's being
24 recorded and you are going to disseminate all of this
25 information.

1 But I have some notes; I'm just going to wing it.

2 The common theme that I hear tonight is people want
3 to belong to their group, and I'm not talking about skin
4 color or even political party but their community where they
5 live, where they shop. So I live in Cave Creek, it's
6 semirural, but we are abutted to Scottsdale and Carefree and
7 Phoenix; we do everything in those areas.

8 So I don't want to be part of Prescott, please. I
9 don't want to be part of Fountain Hills, it's about
10 45 minutes away. Fountain Hills is a community that's like
11 an isolated island. I only use that as an example.

12 Don't do that to me and to all the people in Cave
13 Creek; it's not fair.

14 Ten years ago -- we got here nine years ago, so ten
15 years ago when these new districts were made, I have no
16 personal memory of it or history that I can refer to, but it
17 seems to me there were some mistakes made, a lot of
18 far-flung districts, very -- very silly stuff that has to
19 do, I believe, probably with politics; various lobbying that
20 went on, it's probably still going on and probably with you
21 guys I have a feeling.

22 So resist that, please.

23 All of these crazy districts need to be corrected
24 and we can correct it -- you can correct it now. It's going
25 to be hard, I think. It's a hard job. But if you do the

1 right thing and, again, I use the word "resist." Resist the
2 pressures that have to be upon you, your own political
3 beliefs; the people who are calling you, the insiders, all
4 those guys, resist them and just think of the people. It's
5 the people. And other people tonight have mentioned that.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. NEUMANN: Our last two speakers we have Tom
8 Sonandres and Christopher Brown.

9 SPEAKER SONANDRES: Hi. I'm Tom Sonandres.

10 I want to thank the Commission for allowing
11 comments tonight and throughout your history, and
12 congratulate you're endurance and also to the staff.

13 I have three asks: One, give back to -- speaking
14 of Legislative District 1, give back to Yavapai County what
15 belongs to Yavapai County and move to -- and replace that
16 subtraction by moving us south where we have our
17 geographic, educational, school district, economy, and
18 community of interest.

19 Number two, on competition. In 19-- 2020,
20 regarding the election, 1 out of 9 congressional districts
21 was competitive measured by the winner won by 5 percent or
22 less; 3 of 30 congressional districts in terms of the race
23 for Arizona Senate were competitive, 10 percent.

24 This Commission can do better than that.

25 My concern is what I've read in the media, which

1 does not necessarily make it true, is that up to three
2 Commissioners considering competition as a throwaway,
3 something nice to have if the other five are met; and I
4 think competition encourages candidates to appeal to a
5 broader audience and encourages honest debate, which we're
6 very short of.

7 And I would like the assurance of the Commission
8 that they will have Moon Duchin -- Duchins, who is one of
9 your consultants, fully participate in the next round of
10 maps. She has developed this amazing software that spots
11 gerrymandering, that spots competitiveness, and meets the
12 other criteria but also plugs in competitiveness.

13 And number three, for the map consultants, we're
14 all taxpayers, we're paying your salary, I think you should
15 have an e-mail site that allows us to ask questions and get
16 answers. And this is not a real friendly mapping thing; I
17 appreciate the changes you made in responses to
18 competition -- to comments, but I'd like to have a friendly
19 place to go saying "I'm stuck; what do I do with this or
20 that."

21 And with that, again, thanks for the good job
22 you're doing.

23 SPEAKER BROWN: Well, batting cleanup here.

24 So thank you, everyone. You know, for the
25 Commission, the people who showed up in here and Tucson and

1 across the state.

2 This is what democracy looks like. This is us
3 having our voices heard through structured process and I
4 appreciate that.

5 My name is Chris Brown, and I've lived in Arizona
6 for 42 years and Scottsdale for 25, and I'm an ASU graduate,
7 class of '86.

8 My background is customer loyalty research. So in
9 being in research, I've dealt with numbers and sampling and
10 things, and you guys have a very tough task; and I
11 appreciate that.

12 I come today to talk about competitiveness.

13 And competitive districts create accountable
14 politicians; and to speak to that I'm just going to go to a
15 few numbers off of the elections in my congressional
16 district, CD-6, from 2018, 2016.

17 Noncompetitive districts are decided in the
18 primary. The primary voters, you know, if you look at
19 percent in CD-6, we've got you know 470,000 registered
20 voters, 83,000 votes were cast in the Republican primary
21 which was an uncontested primary, and that candidate ran --
22 ran unopposed, that candidate then won. That 17 percent of
23 the registered voters decided the candidate and decided the
24 winner in the primary.

25 Same thing in 2016. We had 25 percent of the

1 registered voters voted in the primary, 63,000 of those
2 votes, 14 percent of the overall registered voters of that
3 district decided who won that election.

4 Those numbers speak for themselves.

5 As I said, you know, competitive districts create
6 accountable politicians who are -- whose voices are heard.

7 Now, accountability. So, for me, this is an issue
8 where I've -- I've ended up that my candidate has lost
9 because of that. My congressman, Harry Mitchell, voted for
10 the Affordable Care Act, a vote I supported, and many feel
11 that he lost his next election due to that vote.

12 MS. NEUMANN: That's time.

13 SPEAKER BROWN: Okay.

14 So I still support competitiveness even though a
15 person that I supported paid the price because of a
16 competitive district.

17 So that's what I had to say and thank you all for
18 your time.

19 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

20 MS. NEUMANN: Now back to Tucson.

21 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are Judith Hoagland,
22 Steve Robinson, Matthew Levitt, Barbara Tellman, and Melissa
23 Westbrook.

24 (Long pause.)

25 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Did we lose them?

1 Oh.

2 SPEAKER ROBINSON: My name is Steve Robinson.

3 And I want to thank you for giving me, a fairly new
4 Arizona resident, the opportunity to speak with you.

5 My wife and I moved to Oro Valley a little less
6 than a year ago, we followed our daughter here who is a grad
7 student at the University of Arizona. And in that short
8 time, we've been pleased to see and we've really enjoyed the
9 diversity that defines Pima County and the commonality of
10 interest among all the people in Pima County.

11 At the same time we've been disappointed to learn
12 that the legislative district we're in does not really
13 reflect that diversity.

14 We've also learned that the districts around us are
15 not drawn with any measure of party, race, ethnicity, or
16 overall dema- -- excuse me, demographic balance.

17 The result is the candidates running in one of
18 these skewed district need only cater to one group or one
19 segment of the electorate. When a candidate espouses views
20 that satisfies only one group, the result is that the winner
21 is likely to embrace extreme positions in order to win the
22 votes of that one portion of the one electorate.

23 It's interesting to me in listening and sitting
24 through this whole meeting, the community of interests, I've
25 read this a number of times in -- in your -- in your charge

1 to people of Arizona, and I read "common social or economic
2 interests, shared characteristics or experiences, similar
3 issues or impact of government policies or otherwise
4 identifies a geographic area with a shared benefit of being
5 kept undivided in a single district."

6 I've read this a number of times over the last
7 couple of hours, and I don't see any one of those that can't
8 be invoked by any member of the community; not only Pima
9 County, but in the state of Arizona.

10 Like so many Americans, I'm alarmed at the
11 polarization that has engulfed our political life, and I
12 really fear the growing number of politicians who are
13 comfortable espousing extreme views because they know they
14 have the support of a unrealistically uniformed district.

15 The solution it seems to me is not to
16 compartmentalize ourselves into -- into groups that we are
17 perhaps more comfortable with or that we think that we share
18 experiences with. The solution is to encourage the
19 candidacy of men and women whose views appeal to a broad
20 range of voters in their district, not the extremist on
21 either fringe because the concerns and hopes of all
22 different groups are shared.

23 The way forward for Arizonans is to give voters in
24 that diverse middle a balanced opportunity to support
25 candidates who share all their hopes and concerns.

1 And I want to thank you for the difficult but
2 essential work you're doing.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen of the
6 Independent Redistricting Commission, I am here today to
7 speak on behalf of Corona de Tucson and to reflect upon the
8 new district grid maps survive for distribution to the
9 general public. They are in a word atrocious and a complete
10 nullification of Arizona's many communities of interest.

11 This is evidenced by the blending of diametrically
12 opposed communities that propose Congressional Districts 2
13 and 6 with Legislative Districts 7 and 19, Bisbee versus
14 Tucson, Tuba City versus Safford, Nogales versus Sierra
15 Vista, Douglas versus Sells, Alpine versus San Simon, and
16 Benson versus South Tucson to name a few.

17 The proposed districts completely destroy the voice
18 of all those who choose not to live in the urban metroplex
19 of Tucson and make it impossible for the people of
20 Southeastern Arizona to make decisions based upon their own
21 lives rather than having to compromise to the wants and
22 needs of millions who live within the concrete confines of
23 one of America's largest cities.

24 I think that we can all agree that the current
25 district proposals cannot be implemented in their current

1 form. Thankfully, as we are all also aware, these grid maps
2 are produced by computer algorithms based upon ineffective
3 parameters. Computers will not take into account the vast
4 differences in the communities they combine together, nor
5 will they take into account the physical barriers dividing
6 said communities such as interstate highways, military
7 bases, electrical pylons, railroad yards, and vast stretches
8 of forests and mountains buffered by seas of chaparrals.

9 They will not take into account the fact that my
10 home in Corona de Tucson has far more in common with the
11 communities of Benson and Sierra Vista than the communities
12 of Nogales and Three Points. They will not take into
13 account the fact that Southeastern Arizona as a whole is
14 tied with a rural suburban lifestyle as based upon a rich
15 history of mining, ranching, wilderness exploration,
16 military installation, aerospace engineering, farming, data
17 production, law enforcement, religious settlement
18 establishment, and retirement community founding thanks to
19 our vast lands, futile soils, moderate climate, and our
20 hardworking and well educated workforce who are spread out
21 across five counties in a general area that is larger than
22 many countries.

23 In deed, the computer algorithms are not represent
24 ive of the needs and desires that we the people of
25 Southeastern Arizona for they lack the human factor that

1 links all people as one.

2 That, ladies and gentlemen of the Independent
3 Redistricting Commission, is where you come in. For you are
4 the lucky few who can and will take these many
5 considerations into account so that Southeastern Arizona may
6 once more have its voice heard.

7 Thank you again for your time and consideration.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER TELLMAN: I am Barbara Tellman, a resident
10 of Pima County and of LD-3, a minority-majority district,
11 which, to me, is a real plus.

12 I support congressional district map 0009, which is
13 fair and similar to today's map, but otherwise a major CD-1
14 problem from last time. But today I'm going to restrict
15 myself to comments about a map that I did for LD 0006.

16 I think I'm one of the very few people who managed
17 to navigate successfully the mapping system which is
18 cumbersome at least.

19 My map meets all the required criteria regarding
20 equal population, minority-majority districts, compactness
21 and contiguity; its party distribution is very close to the
22 2020 presidential vote distribution, including districts
23 that went heavily for one party or the other, and those with
24 small margins of mixed victory that could have gone either
25 way; it reflects the current registration statewide of

1 one-third Democrat, one-third Republican, and one-third no
2 party.

3 These are my reasons for the way I drew 6 and why I
4 support it.

5 Major communities of interest. For example, this
6 map takes Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley and Marana, keeps Green
7 Valley with Sahuarita; it keeps unincorporated communities
8 such as Vail and Sun City intact; and it keeps related small
9 communities such as Show Low with Pinetop and it's
10 associated tribal community of White River.

11 That's not the case today.

12 Tribes. This tribe map keeps the tribes intact as
13 far as possible and in the same district as nearby tribes.
14 It has Navajo, Hopi, and two Apache tribes together, for
15 example, and includes the associated commercial area between
16 them.

17 The Tohono O'odham Nation, including the smaller
18 community of Sells, is kept primarily in the Tucson
19 metropolitan area with which it is associated through its
20 casinos and commercial activities.

21 But today its legislators reside in Yuma, a nearby
22 town, because of the way that District 4 is written today to
23 include parts of the Phoenix metro area. My map eliminates
24 that.

25 Compactness. This map splits counties as little as

1 possible; and where they have to join with other counties,
2 their section is kept in compact. I also deal with
3 topography, transportation routes.

4 And I think I'm one of the few people who has tried
5 to take a statewide view and not just concentrate on a
6 particular area of my concern.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are Nathan Davis,
10 Bobby Jaromillo, Brian Bickel, Misty Atkins, and Allison
11 Jones.

12 SPEAKER DAVIS: Members of the board, thank you for
13 the opportunity to speak tonight.

14 My name is Nathan Davis; I'm a former Tucson
15 teacher, I run a small business in the Foothills, and I'm a
16 candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives.
17 However, today I'm speaking as a resident of the Casa Adobes
18 neighborhood.

19 When I spoke before the IRC last month, I mentioned
20 how interconnected this region is. That I taught in Tucson,
21 that I own a business in the Foothills, that I associate
22 with areas all around northern Tucson including the city
23 over -- and over into Tanque Verde.

24 My community of interest includes Casas Adobes
25 neighborhood, Catalina Foothills, and the northern portions

1 of the city of Tucson; and I'm glad to see that many others
2 told the IRC the same thing.

3 Today I want to urge the members of the IRC to
4 follow the Arizona Constitution as amended by Prop 106 and
5 to weigh all six provisions equally.

6 The spirit of the voter-approved proposition is
7 clear: The people of Arizona want free and fair competitive
8 maps.

9 Voters deserve a real choice when casting their
10 ballots next November. I encourage the board to take
11 seriously the language in section F. Every section includes
12 the phrase to the extent possible -- all, you know, A
13 through F -- but only section F says "should be favored."
14 "Competitive districts should be favored."

15 I urge the IRC, the board members, to adhere to the
16 spirit and the letter of the constitution and create fair
17 and competitive districts.

18 I thank you for your time.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER JARAMILLO: Good evening, Madam Chair,
21 committee members. My name is Roberto "Bobby" Jaramillo;
22 and I reside in the Seven Grid area and I have for many,
23 many years; and I speak on behalf of a lot of working people
24 that couldn't make it this evening due to the scheduling of
25 4 o'clock in the afternoon, it's rather hard for working

1 individuals to make it here.

2 What we want is, you know, inclusiveness in
3 minority and Latino population as well as Native American
4 communities and people of color communities; and -- and to
5 be treated equitably.

6 And I relate a story to you where as we stand here
7 at this meeting, where the people of the community here
8 where we're sitting at, where this community center was
9 built, didn't have equitable representation, and they were
10 uprooted from their homes they had lived for generations and
11 had to go live elsewhere. And that's why it's crucial that
12 we have a reputable and equitable representation for all
13 community members.

14 I extend our offer to work with the Commission.
15 All we want is a fair redistricting process and work jointly
16 on the process of a solution. We don't want meaningful
17 representation compromised and community of interest
18 sacrificed to the partisan goals of political parties.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER BICKEL: Chair Neuberg, members of the
22 Commission, thank you for your service; thank you for the
23 opportunity to speak to you this evening.

24 I my name is Brian Bickel; I'm a resident of
25 unincorporated Pima County.

1 I've submitted two maps, CD 0009 and LD 0011. The
2 challenge in working with these maps is dealing with
3 Arizona's increasingly urban population. Your team started
4 at the population center and spiraled out -- spiraled
5 outward in a clockwise direction. I started in the
6 southeast corner of the state and spiraled inner -- inward
7 in a clockwise direction. This eliminates the district that
8 runs from Utah to Mexico.

9 My sole criteria for population equality, and to a
10 much lesser degree majority-minority districts, focusing on
11 the indigenous population.

12 Our current maps provide a 5-4 congressional
13 delegation; a State House that is 31-29; and State Senate
14 that is 16-14.

15 After I completed my maps, I ran them through the
16 evaluator and came up with a congressional split that was
17 four Republican, two democrat, and three that were even.

18 Three of the nine districts were majority-minority
19 or majority-minority coalition; and there were five counties
20 that were split.

21 On the legislative slide there were 2 Republicans
22 districts, 2 Democratic districts, 12 that leaned
23 Republican, 10 that leaned Democratic, and 4 that were even;
24 11 of the 30 districts were majority-minority or
25 majority-minority coalition districts, approximately the

1 same as the congressional districts, both about a third.

2 In both the congressional and legislative district
3 have a slight Republican lean which reflects the "R plus 2"
4 status of state as a whole.

5 By doing nothing more than drawing the maps that
6 reflects the shift in population from rural to urban, I
7 created a set of maps that addressed all of the requirements
8 of the Voting Rights Act and reflects the current makeup of
9 both federal and state legislatures.

10 Each majority party has solid wins, districts they
11 are going to have to work for, and several they're going to
12 have to bust their butts for. That ensures that neither --
13 that either party has the opportunity to have the majority
14 in Congress, the State House, and the State Senate.

15 To come up with any other distribution would
16 require undue manipulation of boundaries to the benefit of
17 one party over the other, which by definition is
18 gerrymandering.

19 I look forward to seeing your first set of draft
20 maps.

21 Thank you for your time and the opportunity to
22 speak with you this evening.

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER ATKINS: Hello. Thanks for taking the time
25 to piece together this complicated puzzle.

1 My name is Misty Atkins; my husband and I moved to
2 Oro Valley for the beautiful weather and abundance of
3 year-round outdoor activities.

4 I'm here today to state the importance of
5 considering all the criteria. Take my LD-11 district, it is
6 neither compact nor competitive. It goes from Ina Road all
7 the way up to Maricopa County; it's very difficult and
8 nearly and prohibitively time consuming for voters to get
9 together and for candidates to canvas.

10 The solution in my mind would to be split off the
11 northern part of Pinal County and balance our neighbors by
12 incorporating more of Marana or more of the areas going east
13 towards Sabino Canyon, or more of the south toward River
14 Road; there are many options to make our future district
15 more compact.

16 The double whammy for us is that our district has
17 so many voters from one party, the other party cannot win;
18 the very definition of gerrymandering.

19 Our legislators have only to listen to the
20 constituents from their own party. In our case it has
21 fostered extreme and one very extreme legislator who has
22 kept his seat because there is no risk of being outvoted.
23 There aren't -- there just aren't enough people in the other
24 party; our vote doesn't matter.

25 When the idea of an independent redistricting

1 commission was put before voters in 2000, the ballot title
2 read "Proposition 106, proposing an amendment to create
3 independent commission to establish fair and competitive
4 districts."

5 The word "competitive" is right in the title put
6 before the voters, and that is what the public wanted. For
7 the Commission not to work toward building competitive
8 districts in as many parts of Arizona as possible would be a
9 failure. And from the previous two maps, we see that it's
10 very possible.

11 I'm well aware that these first maps are only a
12 starting point, but I'm asking you to equally consider all
13 of the criteria when finalizing the maps.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 SPEAKER JONES: Thank you members of the Commission
17 for allowing me to speak tonight.

18 My name is Alison Jones; I live in Tucson, I work
19 here as a hydro geologist on environmental and water supply
20 issues. I've been appointed to the Community Water Advisory
21 Committee for the City of Tucson and the County's Regional
22 Waste Water Reclamation Advisory Committee. Thank you for
23 the work you're doing.

24 I ask you first to read carefully the map that --
25 the maps that Barbara Tellman provided, LD 0006, that she

1 presented just three speakers ago or so. Those maps do meet
2 all the requirements.

3 And one thing I would like to see, counties are
4 communities of interest, and part of those -- those
5 divisions shown there try to not parse out a particular LD
6 over many counties. Right now Pima has pieces of 14, 2, 11,
7 and 4.

8 Second, we are a politically competitive state. I
9 think a successful redistricting map will be one-third
10 Republican, one-third Democrat, one-third competitive; and
11 in the competitive districts, may the best candidate win.
12 What a concept.

13 Finally, it's been proposed by some that this area
14 north of the Rillito River in Tucson be separated from the
15 city. I completely disagree with that. In fact, that area
16 north of the Rillito River, those folks have Tucson mailing
17 addresses. I think it would be a mistake to separate those
18 folks, they come down the hill every day, down Campbell
19 Boulevard, and they -- they live and work in Tucson.

20 One final thing I want to make a point of is a
21 community of interest that I represent is working people. I
22 took vacation time to be here today; and not a lot of people
23 can do that. If -- it's great if you're independently
24 wealthy and not working and you can be here at 3 o'clock;
25 but if you cannot, you have to wait 'til late or maybe not

1 attend at all. I have implore you to institute a random
2 speaker list by maybe giving out those tickets -- numbered
3 tickets like people do for door prizes, I think you would
4 get a younger group of people here, you would get more
5 working people here, you would get a more representative
6 group of speakers coming to you today.

7 So, in closing, Barbara Tillman's map, LD 0006,
8 it's a winner.

9 Thank you for listening to me today.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are Michael Geddis,
12 Wes Crew, Faith Ramon, Leslie Stall, and Priya Sundareshan.

13 SPEAKER GEDDIS: My name is Michael Geddis from
14 LD-9 in Pima County.

15 Thank you for help to protect our democracy from
16 gerrymandering, it's the only way to ensure fair American
17 elections.

18 I live in Tucson and I also work as a hydrologist
19 and a lot of is because of the University of Arizona, a
20 critical community of interest, it spawned this industry;
21 and I help sponsor student field trips so they can observe
22 and engage in the rich and important mining industry in this
23 state and try to train them to also become good
24 environmental stewards.

25 So if successful, these students, I mean, they'll

1 go on to pay taxes, above average compared to their peers,
2 and that's a good thing because democracy is not cheap.

3 So, your job is really important. Like Alison just
4 said, counties are communities of interest. Counties have
5 clearly developed into strong, well administered communities
6 of interest. Keep the LD lines on your map from crossing
7 lines -- county lines wherever possible, please.

8 Counties have or share functioning school, water,
9 and fire districts; they have invested in development plans
10 that already account for county lines. If this is
11 significantly undone by your maps, it will end up
12 significantly redone in the future at tax- -- taxpayer
13 expense.

14 So Arizona party registration, not a community of
15 interest. Nonetheless, Arizona state party registration is
16 roughly a third Democratic, a third Republicans, and a third
17 other. If your Commission is successful at the end of your
18 process, you should create districts that reflect this data.

19 Why? This is it. I mean, this is the core of
20 democracy. The candidate who listens to voters wins. The
21 candidate who connects with voters wins. The candidate who
22 convinces voters wins. I want candidates to earn my vote.
23 That's what this is all about. Would you really rather rely
24 on ninjas to determine who has won?

25 Finally, some -- some people favor rolling part of

1 LD-9 north of River Road in the Foothills into a district
2 with Marana and Oro Valley. This would not be compact.
3 Tucson and the Foothills are far closer to downtown than the
4 Tucson population expansion areas of Marana and Oro Valley.

5 So, please, my asks: Keep LDs from crossing county
6 lines wherever possible; honor these de facto Arizona
7 communities of interest; honor the percentage distribution
8 of voter registration data when you create your LDs; keep
9 districts politically competitive; force candidates to
10 convince voters to vote for them; and do not split the
11 Catalina Foothills off from the city of Tucson. I mean,
12 seriously, would the motivation for doing that not just be a
13 little too obvious?

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER CREW: Good afternoon. My name is Wes
16 Crew; I'm here representing the Arizona Center for
17 Empowerment.

18 More of us would be here but this meeting was
19 scheduled at 4:00 p.m. in the middle of a weekday and a
20 school day, which working families with students cannot
21 participate. As you heard earlier, as she mentioned, more
22 young people and more working families would be here if that
23 was not the case.

24 We know the grid maps that you've made don't
25 include the voter rights act considerations. However, we're

1 disappointed that the mappers and consultants are weeks
2 behind on delivering the racially polarized voting analysis.
3 That data would not only help our community members, but
4 would help you as Commissioners understand how the Latino
5 community could best be represented, yet nothing has been
6 made public yet.

7 The Commissioners could demand the RPV report
8 before considering these lines should be changed.

9 Now, concerning the congressional district. Grid
10 District 5 also touches Pima County; and connecting Pima
11 County and Maricopa County will water down the
12 representation of both of those counties. The district also
13 includes rural Arizona. This does not serve any of these
14 three communities well; it dilutes rural representation,
15 while also combining the two largest counties that should
16 have separate representation from each other.

17 The majority Latino communities in Yuma and Pima
18 counties should be combined with the Latino communities in
19 Santa Cruz County. These are Southern Arizona communities
20 that often interact with each other. Residents of
21 Santa Cruz and Yuma frequently come to Tucson to work, shop,
22 or for recreational activities.

23 Issues like health policy, transportation, economy,
24 and border community representation affect these areas
25 similarly. The configuration of grid 6 takes the

1 communities of Santa Cruz and places them with different
2 communities in Cochise County. This should be corrected and
3 Santa Cruz should be removed completely from Grid
4 District 6.

5 Regarding the District 7 on Grid District 7,
6 southeastern Pima County should be the anchor for a district
7 of Latino majorities. This district should include the
8 Latino communities of Yuma and Santa Cruz County.

9 Overall, Latinos are more than 30 percent of all of
10 Arizona's population and their voting strength should not be
11 watered down by these grid maps.

12 There have been two majority-minority Latino
13 congressional districts in Arizona, and we need to keep it
14 that way and make sure that those two continue to comply
15 with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

16 The hub for one of the most -- the hub for one of
17 the congressional districts should be the Latino population
18 in Phoenix and the other one should remain the Latino
19 population in Tucson.

20 Lastly, I would like to speak on agricultural
21 areas. The agricultural areas in the southwest region of
22 Pinal County are a natural addition to the Southern Arizona
23 Latino majority district. These areas fit with the Tohono
24 Nation, as well as surrounded with the Nation's Chuichu
25 Village.

1 Lastly, as I know I am timed, ask when you do the
2 plans for the next round of satellite locations or you're
3 going to do public hearings, that you represent the tribal
4 nations that were forgotten during the first round of
5 canceled satellite locations.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER RAMON: (Navajo language.)

9 My name is Faith Ramon and welcome to my ancestral
10 land. I was born and raised in Keota (phonetic) which is in
11 the Gu Achi District in the Tohono O'odham Nation; I reside
12 in Congressional and Legislative District 3; I'm also a
13 member of the Native American Church of Southern Arizona as
14 a water protector. I preserve and carry the values of my
15 humidack (phonetic) and my faith; my geographic boundaries
16 include the Tohono O'odham, San Xavier, Pascua Yaqui
17 Reservation, as well as south side Tucson.

18 As a community organizer with LUCHA, I fight for
19 equality and how I do that is educating and empowering my
20 community to vote.

21 We have registered over one million Arizonans in
22 2020 to come out to vote. In particular, over the past ten
23 years people of color have been growing, including
24 First Nations. First Nations have been oppressed by voting
25 rights. In these basis our community is showing up and

1 showing out. Folks are scared and are reshifting the power.
2 Taking away our community of color, you cannot continue to
3 take away our power and our voice which is protected in the
4 Voting Rights Act; and the Commission must uphold these
5 protections in the maps that are being drafted for the next
6 ten years of Arizona's electoral representation.

7 The legislative grid maps deny Latino's effective
8 representation on the southern border. Grid District 19
9 runs from the border through I-17, which is both a trade
10 corridor between U.S. and Mexico, and also a corridor that
11 connects my nation to Tucson where many border residents
12 come to shop, recreate, and socialize. That corridor should
13 be part of the Latino majority districts, including
14 agriculture areas in the southwest region of Pinal County as
15 a natural addition to the Southern Arizona Latino majority
16 districts. Those districts fit with the Tohono O'odham
17 Nation, as well as surrounding the Nation's Chuichu Village
18 Sif-oldak district. They also follow the agriculture band
19 through Gila Bend, connecting the Sana -- San Lucy Village
20 and San Lucy district on Yuma-Maricopa County, borders the
21 rest of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and it's connected the
22 agricultural areas of Pinal County to the agricultural lands
23 along the 1-A corridor including those of south Yuma
24 countries (verbatim).

25 I ask that we do not separate us. We have passed

1 segregation. My community of Tucson; my home, the Tohono
2 O'odham Nation; my neighbors, the Pasque Yaqui Tribe; as
3 well as South Side barrios deserve minority-majority fair
4 districts.

5 Equality diversity is important to those of us who
6 have to fight for our right in this country, for our land to
7 be seen, to be recognized, and to be counted. Diversity
8 equals representation.

9 (Navajo language.)

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER SUNDARESHAN: Good afternoon, Commiss- --
12 well, evening now, Commissioners; thank you for the
13 opportunity to comment and for sticking through this
14 gruelling process.

15 My name is Priya Sundareshan; I was born and raised
16 in Catalina Foothills area north of Tucson and seen it
17 change over the past almost four decades. Our lives in the
18 Foothills have always been intricately connected to the city
19 of Tucson as my parents and many of my friends' worked at
20 the university or the surrounding area and we visited
21 restaurants and entertainment in the city. I now live near
22 and teach at the university, and I'm fortunate to have the
23 flexibility so I could be here now and earlier as this
24 meeting started.

25 Understanding that the grid maps will change, my

1 comments are more general. Although, I hear that Barbara
2 Tellman's map is pretty good, so I will lend my support to
3 that.

4 There's nothing wrong, however, with including city
5 areas with suburban areas or rural for that matter if the
6 constitutional criteria require it.

7 It's also very important that minority communities
8 are protected and given meaningful voting power as demanded
9 by our federal Voting Rights clause. As we just heard,
10 majority-minority districts are an important way that such
11 communities are protected; and this may have to come at the
12 expense of perfectly even population counts, which is also
13 fine.

14 Change is inevitable and we must adapt to it. Our
15 districts must change to reflect our city's and state's
16 growing population in a way that gives community members the
17 opportunity to interact meaningfully with their elected
18 officials.

19 I echo others who ask for the competitive maps for
20 these reasons so that our representatives do not bow to the
21 extremes, but are incentivized to listen to all of their
22 constituents to form a winning coalition of votes.

23 Therefore, please draw districts that do not distort our
24 suburban connections to the cities near us, that are
25 competitive for meaningful access to representatives, and

1 voting and protect the Voting Rights Act of our minority
2 communities.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. PENA: Madam Chair and Commissioners, we're
6 going to take a five-minute break.

7 (Recess taken from 7:42 p.m. to 7:47 p.m.)

8

9 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are Kate Saunders,
10 Joanna Marroquin, Alan Nicholas, Anna Clark.

11 Commissioners, can you hear me?

12 You can. All right. Our next speakers are Kate
13 Saunders, Joanna Marroquin, Alan Nichols, Anna Clark.

14 SPEAKER SAUNDERS: Good evening, Commissioners. My
15 name is Kate Saunders, some of you will remember me from the
16 last hearing in Phoenix.

17 I recently finished my masters of science at ASU,
18 I'm a deeply committed member of my LGBTQ+ community, I'm an
19 artist, a researcher, and an organizer. I currently work
20 with Equality Arizona, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy group, and
21 I'm here to speak on the importance of recognizing and
22 respecting LGBTQ community across the state in its
23 redistricting process; and even though I live in Phoenix,
24 I've compiled data around the Tucson area in order for you
25 to officially recognize LGBTQ folks as a community of

1 interest in this process, especially here where we are
2 geographically connected in these hubs in -- in Tucson.

3 So a few things that are important to note about
4 Tucson, it's home to the second largest public university in
5 the state, the U of A, and in 2018 the Association of
6 American Universities found that nearly 17 percent of
7 college students across the country identify as LGBTQ+.

8 In Tucson in 2013, Susan Striker established one of
9 the first transgender study initiatives in the country, and
10 that's now the LGB -- the LG- -- The Institute of LGBTQ
11 Studies at the U of A. This is an educational hub which
12 hosts a multitude of LGBTQ+ related groups and services.

13 Tucson is home to a significant amount of queer and
14 trans art collectives and community spaces and resource
15 centers and nonprofit organizations. It's home to groups
16 like the Tucson Interfaith HIV and AIDS Network, Southern
17 Arizona Senior Pride, PFLAG Tucson, and many more.

18 I will say I'm going to -- I have maps for you
19 similar to what we produced for Phoenix outlining -- it's
20 data that we compiled using the LGBT -- the Tucson LGBTQ
21 Chamber of Commerce data on queer owned and allied
22 businesses, historical sites, health clinics, parks where we
23 hold our festivals, cultural hubs, art collectives, and
24 spaces for youth.

25 And it is still -- we still have not been listed as

1 an official community of interest through the redistricting
2 committee, and we suffer -- there's so many reasons that
3 I've spoken on before about why we are officially -- like,
4 we should be counted as a community of interest.

5 It's also -- in Tucson specifically, it's where
6 trans and queer people come together not because we own
7 horse property or not because we get our nails done, but
8 because our lives depend on us coming together and seeking
9 safety amongst one another. That's why we create businesses
10 so that we can be included and feel safe because we suffer
11 such grave degrees of discrimination. And so that's why the
12 places like Tucson -- in the city of Tucson, and I -- in the
13 maps I describe especially along Fourth Avenue all the way
14 down to Alvernon, Reed Park, and, like, the Fourth Avenue
15 Downtown area, especially close to the university.

16 So what that looks like on the maps, Tucson is
17 currently split in the congressional and legislative
18 districts and the -- we are split on CD-2 and 3, and we're
19 also split in LD-3, 9, and 10. So pay attention to where
20 LGBTQ+ community are concentrated and geographically
21 connected in these downtown areas.

22 As members of Arizona and Tucson, you have the
23 opportunity to recognize and respect the LGBTQ+ folks in
24 this redistricting process. Keep us together and keep us in
25 districts where we -- our values aligned because we have a

1 deep, vested interest in voting with one another.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER MARROQUIN: Good evening, Commissioners.

5 Can you hear me?

6 Yes, okay.

7 Hi. My name is Joanna Marroquin, and I represent
8 Folx, an LGBTQIA community. I am a community advocate, a
9 fellow social worker, a daughter, a friend, a cousin that
10 has known home for two generations here in Tucson, Arizona.
11 I teach at a local university teaching social policy and
12 community organizing. I live in District 10 and am active
13 in District 10. I'm also part of the Tucson LGBTQ Chamber of
14 Commerce, which resides in District 9.

15 We as the Chamber of Commerce envision an economic
16 and social equity for all of Southern Arizonans and have
17 diverse inclusive business, have been so since 1996; and we
18 believe that inclusive business is good business.

19 And if it weren't for this pandemic, we'd be
20 celebrating Pride this Friday, Pride festival and Pride
21 parade this Friday and Saturday.

22 But I'm not here today to talk about that; I am
23 here to talk about our community, though. I'm asking for
24 your support in understanding that the redistributing of the
25 districts certainly runs along Congressional Districts 2

1 and 3, and Legislative Districts 3, 9, and 10 and LG -- and
2 it deeply impacts us as an LGBTQIA community.

3 Why? Because LGBTQIA+ individuals and businesses
4 that serve them, well, are significantly impacted. We have
5 built and cultivated areas of Downtown Tucson up and until
6 all the way through Alvernon to protect and keep our
7 communities safe from interference and harm while providing
8 support to the LGBTQIA community through health and
9 well-being resources, businesses, inclusive businesses,
10 events, culture and arts, and have contributed to this
11 economy here in Southern Arizona for many years.

12 A recent poll by Gallup actually said that 5.6 of
13 Americans identify as LGBTQIA, and nearly 16 percent of them
14 24 years of age and younger will be eligible to vote in the
15 next election.

16 So what does that mean? We know strategically
17 redistricting -- redistributing is one of the things that will
18 happen, but we know that when more votes are available to
19 us, representation will happen and it matters. It matters
20 because this is where our values are aligned.

21 And I know that you-all are working hard, and I
22 would love for you to consider us as a very specific
23 community of special interest.

24 We all know that we have very various intersections
25 and -- where we live, work, and play. And the downtown

1 community for LGBTQIA folks has always been a place to call
2 home.

3 And who doesn't want to have their needs met? Who
4 doesn't want to have a quality of life to be increased? And
5 taking away that and the opportunity to stay within our
6 community promotes the notion that our community doesn't
7 matter. And that to I say, we will continue to be present
8 and our voices will continue to be heard.

9 I ask you today to consider that there are
10 equitable ways to include the LGBTQIA community, and it
11 doesn't involve taking apart the current community as it
12 exists.

13 We ask you this, to consider, to protect and to
14 support LGBTQIA+ communities here in Tucson.

15 Thank you so much for your time. Have a good
16 night.

17 (Applause.)

18 SPEAKER NICHOLS: I guess I produced a map, plan
19 number LD 004. If they could bring that up, please, and
20 focus in on District 16, 17, 18, and 20.

21 My name is Alan Nichols; I'm here in Tucson,
22 Arizona. We're here today to discuss the grid maps as
23 generated by the IRC and redone by many people, including
24 myself. This is a map I built.

25 At the beginning of the presentation I noticed that

1 you displayed a community of interest map that was overlaid
2 primarily about Southern Arizona and it was focused around
3 the Catalina Foothills area.

4 That grid map in no way represents the area of that
5 the maps give us for a legislative district. The grid maps
6 that are provided by the IRC divides the area against your
7 guidelines.

8 As I developed my map, I incorporated the IRC
9 requirements like population, contiguity, compactness.
10 Additionally, I used natural and manmade boundaries like
11 freeways and mountains to help define my districts all
12 around the whole state. I also used information presented
13 in previous rounds of testimony to try to make my
14 legislative district conform to many of the communities of
15 interest like your grid map showed around the state, as well
16 as taking into things like the Copper Corridor.

17 While this process was not easy for me and it did
18 take some time, I was very happy with the outcome; it passed
19 all the IRC requirements, and my new legislative LD district
20 conforms to those requirements and to the Arizona
21 Constitution.

22 I would like to note that the grid map presented by
23 the IRC did not always comply with their own requirements,
24 in many cases taking things and extending boundaries across
25 freeways and thus separating communities.

1 I understand that this is a complicated process,
2 but I believe that it is possible to maintain areas of
3 interest, communities, while balancing population without
4 resorting to divisions of precincts or making odd outlines
5 and areas to achieve a sort of balance or outcome that might
6 be required.

7 I look forward to seeing your final output and
8 moving forward to more public input in the future.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER CLARK: Good evening, members of the
12 Commission.

13 My name is Anna Clark, I live in Oro Valley; I'm in
14 Legislative District 11, Congressional District No. 1.

15 I appreciate your time, we're going on hour four
16 here, so it's -- I know it's been long, and I will be brief.

17 Looking at the grid maps, I was encouraged with
18 Congressional District 5 and Legislative District 16. I --
19 my communities of interest are Oro Valley, Marana,
20 Saddlebrooke, Saddlebrooke Ranch, Catalina; and these
21 legislative and congressional districts encompass those with
22 the exception of Marana. So we really need to keep
23 Oro Valley-Marana together, they really are one community.

24 You know, I've appreciated a lot of the testimony
25 we've had here and we've heard a lot about fair and

1 competitive districts. That's something that I really agree
2 with here in Pima County. In Pima County we do not have
3 fair and competitive districts as they stand now.

4 Right now we have three congressional districts
5 that run through Pima County, all of which are held by one
6 party. We have seven legislative districts that runs
7 through Pima County, half of which are repre- -- 14 out of
8 the 21 are represented by one party.

9 So, please, we do need -- we do need fair and
10 competitive districts here in Pima County.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are Peggy Gibbson,
14 Linda Nelson, John Dalton, Tom Chabin, and Francis Bergen.

15 SPEAKER DALTON: Good evening, Commissioners. My
16 name is John Dalton, I'm the chairman for Legislative
17 District 9 for the Republican Party.

18 I'll keep it short and concise; you've been here
19 for quite a while, so you've heard every argument under the
20 sun so far.

21 But basic gist, as of right now I kind of support
22 the map submitted by Indigo, which is LD 0008. Again,
23 LD 0008. That's the map that I currently am liking so far.
24 Of course, we'll expect some changes coming down the pike
25 probably in next couple of weeks.

1 And just the last point, just keep in mind, which
2 you guys probably already know, is that representatives are
3 called "representatives," because they're supposed to
4 represent the people in their communities and the people
5 they're elected by.

6 So, thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are Kevin Oberg, Betty
9 Harris, Steven Valencia, Carol Schloff, Adelita Grijalva.

10 SPEAKER HARRIS: Hi. My name is Betty Harris, a
11 Southern Arizona resident for over 50 years; I came here
12 from Baltimore to attend graduate school, met my late
13 husband, an Arizona Native, at the U of A, and taught at
14 Pima County for over 30 years; we built our home outside the
15 city limits where the land was cheaper at that time and
16 now -- and never left.

17 Thank you for allowing me to add my two cents to
18 this important discussion.

19 Right now I live in LD-3 and in CD-3, both of these
20 are majority-minority. I feel that it is very important to
21 my neighbors and to myself for this to continue.

22 I believe that the maps mentioned earlier, LD 0006
23 and CD 0009, do that. Particularly in regard to the Tohono
24 O'odham Nation and over to other Native American nations.

25 I -- this is all rather new to me and that's about

1 all I have to say.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER VALENCIA: Here we are at long last.

5 My name is Steve Valencia -- my name is Steve
6 Valencia and I'm with Coalition of Jobs for Justice, and
7 we've been functioning as a labor community coalition for
8 over 30 years; and over those 30 years we've been involved
9 in many different campaigns for workers' rights. As a
10 result, we know a lot of people, and I think I speak for a
11 lot of people here today.

12 And so I wanted to share some points with you
13 today, but I did not get through my entire speech 'cause
14 it's on my phone and I've been here so long that it probably
15 shut off on me.

16 But let me add some -- just a few points.

17 Latinos are now more than 30 percent of Arizona
18 population and our voting strength must not be diluted.
19 There has been two majority-minority Latino congressional
20 districts in Arizona, and we need to make sure to keep those
21 two to comply with the Voting Rights Act. The hub for one
22 of the congressional districts should be the Latino
23 population in Phoenix and for the other one the Latino
24 population in Tucson.

25 A Southern Arizona Hispanic majority district

1 should be anchored in Tucson and Pima County. There are
2 many Latino neighborhoods in Tucson that can be included in
3 this district to protect the Latino majority voting
4 strength. Many of these neighborhoods were part of a
5 Southern Arizona Latino majority congressional district in
6 the past.

7 Hispanic communities in the border regions of
8 Southern Yuma and Santa Cruz Counties must be combined to
9 complete the Pima County centered congressional district.
10 Joining these communities are the border lands of South Yuma
11 County and Santa Cruz County with Latino majority
12 neighborhoods in Pima County will help ensure that Hispanic
13 residents down by the border are able to elect
14 representatives of their choice and ensure compliance of the
15 Voting Rights Act.

16 I offer those in all respect to the Commission.

17 Thank you so much.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER SCHLOFF: Hi. My name is Carol Schloff; I
20 live in unincorporated Tucson in the foothills of the Tucson
21 Mountains, I've lived there for seven years; and prior to
22 that for ten years I spent every winter and spring in
23 Tucson.

24 Tucson is surely a world-class city. I love the
25 cultural diversity. I love its majestic mountains, and the

1 warmth and wonder of the desert and, of course, I love the
2 food.

3 I want to thank you for giving your time to this
4 important process and listening to the diverse voices in our
5 Tucson community.

6 Today I would like to talk about communities of
7 interest and advocate for keeping the communities in
8 unincorporated Tucson part of the Tucson grid. I live two
9 miles outside of the Tucson city limits, and I'm currently a
10 part of Legislative District 3.

11 My life is in Tucson; I shop there, I take
12 advantage of cultural activities, and it's where I spend my
13 money.

14 I know my representatives and they know me. My
15 community can advocate for things that matter to us, and we
16 are physically close enough to our representatives to hold
17 them accountable if we feel we aren't being heard.

18 Now, just a couple of miles west of where I live,
19 also in unincorporated Tucson, there's a community called
20 Diamond Bell Ranch, they're part of Legislative District 4
21 in Pima County. But Legislative 4 is basically run out of
22 Yuma. So they are 230 miles away. They're not a CD, this
23 is an LD. They're 230 miles away from their hub in Yuma,
24 which is about a three-and-a-half-hour drive.

25 Like me, they're invested in Tucson for their

1 shopping, their cultural activities, and it's surely where
2 they spend their money.

3 When a community is sliced apart from where they
4 call home, their voices are minimized and elected officials
5 have no incentive to listen to them.

6 Finally, another close neighbor is the
7 Tohono O'odham Nation and its major community Sells. This
8 area needs to have their district boundaries kept in the
9 Tucson metropolitan area. Their major commercial and
10 revenue-producing areas, including their casinos, are
11 located within the Tucson metropolitan area.

12 When creating the draft maps, I urge you to approve
13 maps that respect communities of interest, keep people
14 together in their home community; it's where we belong.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER GRIJALVA: Hi. Good evening.

18 Buenas Tardes.

19 My name is Adelita Grijalva; I'm a third-generation
20 Arizonan, granddaughter of a Bracero, life-long resident of
21 Arizona; and I live in CD-3, LD-3, and unincorporated Pima
22 County.

23 As president of the Tucson Unified School District
24 and Pima County Supervisor for District 5, I would like you
25 to welcome you to TUSD -- even though it's virtual -- TUSD

1 and Pima County.

2 I'm here to speak for the legal need under the
3 Voting Rights Act to protect both the Arizona Department --
4 Justice Department approved Hispanic voting rights district
5 and Latino representation for Southern Arizona.

6 I last spoke to you on September 6th and appreciate
7 the opportunity to speak to you again this evening as a
8 representative of the Latino Coalition of Southern Arizona,
9 as a collective of Latino leaders inclusive of community,
10 neighborhood, business, grassroots leaders, and collectively
11 we have decades of service to our community.

12 We have joined together again and seek to engage
13 the Commission for the interest of Pima County and Southern
14 Arizona's Latino communities. Our statewide coalition will
15 be filing our proposed Voting Rights Act districts to aid in
16 the Commission -- to aid the Commission in drawing Voting
17 Rights Act-compliant congressional and legislative maps that
18 reflect the broad Latinx community representative support in
19 the very near future.

20 Tonight I will speak to the seventh grid map as
21 presented which is far from meeting the constitutionally
22 protected goals of the Voting Rights Act and other as
23 practicable changes in the Arizona -- charges of the Arizona
24 Independent Redistricting Commission.

25 The most glaring issue is the removal of the Tucson

1 Hispanic community from this district as well as being
2 significantly short of reaffirming our two VRA districts in
3 Arizona that are currently recognized.

4 Our coalition has worked hard across Arizona to
5 move together to consensus in an equitable, defensible, and
6 constitutional and also competitive grid map.

7 Based on our census data, we now know that our
8 Latino population supports anchoring one Voting Rights Act
9 district in Maricopa and another one in Tucson. Existing
10 lines of Congressional District 7 and Pima County should be
11 adjusted to include the majority and significant
12 Latino-populated neighborhoods north and south of East 22nd
13 Street corridor, as far east as Craycraft Road, and east of
14 I-10, north of Grant Road and south of Prince, east of
15 Campbell Avenue as previous neighborhoods included in past
16 iterations from the 2002 Arizona Independent Redistricting
17 Commission to meet the goals of the majority-minority
18 district.

19 The district must include Pascua Yaqui, the
20 Tohono O'odham Nations of Pima County including San Luis
21 district in southwest Pinal County, as well as Old Pascua,
22 the urban Yaqui neighborhoods predating the recognition of
23 their tribal nation off of Grant Road; and Santa Cruz County
24 belongs with us and not Cochise.

25 Our coalition looks forward to our continued

1 engagement with the Commission as we strive for equitable,
2 legally defensible and representative congressional and
3 legislative maps.

4 Thank you so much for your time this evening.

5 MR. PENA: Our next speakers are James Hanley --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not here.

7 MR. PENA: He's not here.

8 -- Betts Hidalgo, Cory McGarr, Gary Olson, Ron
9 DeSouza.

10 SPEAKER HIDALGO: Which one of these works?

11 Okay.

12 My name is Betts Putnam-Hildago. I'm in Pima
13 County and I live in LD-3; I've lived here for more than 40
14 years, I'm embarrassed for how long I've lived here. I've
15 owned a home for about 40 years here.

16 My interest in redistricting is an interest in
17 representation. That is the point. My community of -- my
18 community of interest are all of the people in Arizona whose
19 voices are not heard through our current districting
20 process, and I urge you to keep those people in mind.

21 It is supposed to be a representative democracy,
22 and that means that all voices should be heard; and I don't
23 believe that that's happening now, and I hope that it
24 happens in the future.

25 My specific communities of interest are the

1 downtown area here in Tucson, the university, Tucson
2 Mountains, South Tucson area, the land out to and including
3 the Tohono O'odham lands.

4 My community of interest doesn't look like me. Why
5 would it? They don't shop where I shop. Why is that a
6 community of interest? It's a community of interest, not a
7 community of where we get our nails done.

8 My community of interest, I repeat, are all of the
9 people whose voices are not heard.

10 The point has already been made that the Tohono
11 O'odham land should be kept intact and they should be a part
12 of the Tucson area because that is what they want to feel
13 represented.

14 Gerrymandering has no place in a democracy and
15 should have no place in Arizona. As I said, the point of
16 representative democracy is representation for everyone.

17 Many are excluded now. This must end.

18 I ask you to support CD 00009 and LD 0006, both of
19 which highlight fair representation for all.

20 Thank you.

21 And I hope next time you make these meetings far
22 more accessible to working people.

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER DeSOUZA: All right. So, first of all,
25 thank you, Commissioners, for being so generous with your

1 time. I promise I'll be brief.

2 So my name is Ron DeSouza; I'm the first vice
3 chairman of the Legislative District 9 Republican Party. I
4 just graduated from U of A this May; and I've lived in the
5 Tucson area for 18 years now with my communities of interest
6 being Oro Valley, Marana, Catalina Foothills, and
7 Casas Adobes.

8 And I'm up here speaking to support and lend my
9 full support to proposal LD 0008 by Indigo, Linda Evans
10 here.

11 This particular proposal completely fulfills the
12 criteria required of proposed districts, including
13 contigigu- -- sorry, contiguity, it properly utilizes the
14 Rillito River as a southern border, and makes good use of
15 the highways; the communities of interest including Marana,
16 Catalina Foothills, Oro Valley and others are kept together.
17 And as someone who grew up in Oro Valley, that really means
18 a lot to me because, you know, we -- we competed with high
19 schools that were based in Marana, based in Casas Adobes, we
20 did our shopping in Casas Adobes very often.

21 Also, equal population to the extent practical, we
22 see that there. Also very important.

23 Community of color, proper representations for
24 communities of color.

25 One of my concerns with the Committee's grid map

1 proposal approved last Tuesday is that District 17 is being
2 pushed too far south dividing communities of color,
3 including the Latino community in particular. Indigo's
4 proposal would ensure minority communities in the heart of
5 Tucson and Casas Adobes are kept intact and maintain proper
6 electoral representation.

7 For most, I would suggest keeping Oro Valley and
8 Marana together, both of our -- I already said that, sorry.

9 I think it would be in their best interest to keep
10 these two towns together just because of how interconnected
11 they are.

12 Sp please consider this proposal by Indigo, which
13 does justice to our communities.

14 Thank you so much.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. CRANK: The next speakers Scott Oldendorph,
17 Paul Stapleton-Smith, Jessie (verbatim) Porter, Sabrina
18 Nickerson, Justin Wadsach, Annika Catrina-Rodriguez
19 (phonetic).

20 SPEAKER OLDENDORPH: Good evening, ladies and
21 gentlemen.

22 My name is Scott Oldendorph from the precinct 187,
23 LD-9 and CD-2; and my community of interest from my last
24 testimony I gave to you a month ago is still the northwest
25 and north Tucson up into Oro Valley and Catalina to the

1 Pinal County -- or Pima-Pinal County line; but not so- --
2 not Tucson south of the river.

3 There are no -- there was no advanced notice from
4 the IRC to inform our LD-9 citizens of this new hearing day
5 for testimonies after the IRC maps were released on
6 September 14th; I only heard through the grapevine of
7 today's meeting.

8 I really tried to create my own map for your
9 viewing and going through the software checks to be approved
10 to be submitted to you; but, I failed.

11 And only -- and I failed because there was a target
12 district lockout and only have my spoken words to visualize
13 what my map would have been.

14 As I said, I am from LD-9 which would be LD-17 but
15 was placed due to my address into LD-16.

16 My LD-17 map would have the borders of the Rillito
17 River to the south, the Catalina highway to the east, the
18 Interstate Highway 10 to the west, and the Pima-Pinal County
19 line with Saddlebrooke and Oracle to the north.

20 This is my community of interest. Your first draft
21 of the IRC map put me in LD-16, which cut me off from my
22 Tucson Foothills community to the south and unrealistically
23 stretched the LD-16 north all the way to Casa Grande and
24 Superior just south of Phoenix.

25 My community of interest is not Tucson south of the

1 Rillito River and is not north across the desert to Casa
2 Grande, San Tan Valley, and Superior just south of Phoenix.

3 Let me live and prosper in my own community of
4 LD-17.

5 The grid lines for the last ten years have favored
6 the Democrats and divided the Republican population allowing
7 the Democrats to dominate the elections. You have seen what
8 they have done; that -- that is not my community. It needs
9 to be compact, connected, contiguous, and in line with our
10 constitution and voting right laws.

11 Do the right thing for our future. It's all based
12 on your decisions.

13 Let's make Arizona great again.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 SPEAKER STAPLETON-SMITH: To the Commissioners and
17 to everybody who is in attendance, thank you for your
18 amazing endurance here.

19 My name is Paul Stapleton-Smith; Tucson, Arizona,
20 born and raised; father, grandfather, working person; and I
21 do an awful lot of work with current technical education.
22 We have a phenomenal JTED program, and I want to
23 underscore -- as an example.

24 And I want to underscore what Brother Mike Wilson
25 and Faith and Barbara Tellman regarding map LD 00006 and the

1 Tohono O'odham Nation.

2 It's imperative that we have an inclusion there
3 that's meaningful for our economy, for our educational
4 systems, and for the reasons that you've already heard
5 today.

6 And, in addition, on the competitive aspect, it's
7 also imperative that we maintain true competitive districts.
8 I know you've heard that and -- and I'm compelled to stand
9 here and say once again that -- that those competitive
10 districts are enormously meaningful to us and to all that we
11 aspire to.

12 So thank you very much for your time. You must
13 know that we appreciate and admire all of the effort that
14 you're putting into this. And, again, your stamina.

15 So, thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER PORTER: Good evening. My name is Jenise
18 Porter; I've lived in Arizona since 1994 and Tucson since
19 2007; I chose to live in Arizona because of its diversity.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

21 I believe that with rights come responsibilities,
22 and in order to preserve and promote democracy I take
23 seriously my responsibility to participate in the democratic
24 process.

25 The right to vote and the right to have competitive

1 districts within the state is one of the reasons that I
2 voted "yes" on Proposition 106 to establish the Independent
3 Redistricting Commission in Arizona in 2000.

4 Arizona is a competitive state with one-third
5 Independents, one-third Republicans, and one-third Democrats
6 registered.

7 Extremism thrives in noncompetitive districts and
8 has sent to the legislator -- legislature some of the most
9 inalcitrant (verbatim) and immoderate politicians.
10 Competitive districts foster a climate of debate and
11 compromise, both necessary to a functioning democracy.
12 Democracy requires that more people vote -- not fewer -- and
13 competitive districts encourage that.

14 When creating the draft maps, please make your best
15 effort to balance the party registrations in each district
16 to accurately reflect the current registration information.

17 Thank you for your time and your consideration.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER OCHOA: Good evening to all of you today.

20 My name is Sandy Ochoa; I am with La Familia Vota.

21 According to the Arizona I -- IRC website, Arizona
22 must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate
23 against minorities, minority voters in purpose or effect,
24 which means there can be no intentional or accidental
25 discrimination; under Section 5, Arizona redistricting plans

1 cannot be retrogressive; the plans cannot weaken or reduce
2 minority voter's rights; The presence -- the presence of
3 discrimination can be determined by analyzing population
4 data and election results.

5 Latinos are now more than 30 percent of Arizona's
6 population, and our voting strength must not be diluted. A
7 Southern Arizona Hispanic majority district should be
8 anchored in Tucson and Pima County.

9 There are more Latino neighborhoods in Tucson that
10 can be included in this district to protect the Latino
11 majority voting strength.

12 Many of these neighborhoods were part of Southern
13 Arizona Latino majority congressional district in the past.
14 We need to keep the two congressional districts with the
15 highest Latino population in Arizona.

16 For this, I ask that you-all take into
17 consideration that hard workers, families, that cannot be
18 here should be here, and we ask that the timing of the
19 meetings be considered very highly so that everybody can
20 participate in all this.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CRANK: Barbara Cain, Tom Prowloski, Kimberly
24 Fitch, Amilia Eldridge, Levoy Hurley, Eva Carrillo-Doug.

25 SPEAKER FITCH: Good evening.

1 My name is Kimberly Fitch, and I have lived in
2 Tucson and Pima County for almost 40 years; I live in
3 Congressional District 2 and Legislative District 9. I own
4 a property management company in Tucson that employs almost
5 90 employees with almost 4,000 apartment units in Yuma, Casa
6 Grande, and Sierra Vista.

7 Establishing competitive districts is part of the
8 criteria established by the Proposition 106. The current
9 political environment is extremely divided and keeping the
10 voting districts competitive is important. Elected
11 officials -- electing officials who are moderate in their
12 political persuasion will allow better cooperation to ensure
13 the government works for all people, not just those in the
14 winning party.

15 Establishing districts based on political party
16 would eliminate the competitiveness of Arizona's political
17 climate. It would be like removing a competitive football
18 team from the league simply just because you can't beat
19 them. That's not the way to win, nor is it a way to run our
20 elections.

21 My goal tonight is to request you to keep the
22 boundary so that no individual has to drive an undue fair
23 distance to vote or to meet with their representatives; to
24 keep our districts competitive and to work to make sure that
25 every vote counts.

1 Please reflect party registrations to reflect the
2 current registration information.

3 Thank you for taking this very important role, and
4 I trust and support the voting rights of all individuals per
5 the U.S. Constitution.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER PREZELSKI: Well, my name is Thomas
9 Prezelski. I used to be -- I was a -- I used to be a member
10 of the Arizona state legislature. I represented this
11 district in the House of Representatives and, clearly, that
12 was a long time ago because nobody knows how to pronounce my
13 name anymore.

14 I'm here to argue something that -- that's been
15 already been talked about and that's the need to preserve
16 representation for the Mexican-American community, but I
17 want some -- I want the Commission to consider that there
18 are things that aren't necessarily reflected in statistics
19 in the -- in the number crunching.

20 For instance, people have already cited that the
21 Tohono O'odham Nation, for example, has had very
22 longstanding political and economic ties with Tucson and
23 that goes back decades, if not longer; and so it's important
24 to keep the -- the -- the Nation with Tucson. But if you
25 look at some of the -- especially on the legislative map,

1 we're dividing historically connected Mexican-American
2 neighborhoods.

3 Despite what a previous speaker said, a freeway is
4 not a natural boundary; freeways were not always there, and
5 some of those neighbors were divided by the freeways and the
6 people still maintain those ties across the freeways.
7 Particularly in the boundary that we see between 18 and 20
8 north of South Tucson.

9 Conversely, when we talk about some of the -- the
10 other communities outside of Tucson that are majority Latino
11 communities like -- like Nogales, Douglas, and Bisbee to a
12 lesser extent, those families have ties in Tucson and these
13 are very old ties. These are -- you know, we talk about the
14 Mexican-American community being both very new because
15 there's immigrant -- constantly new immigrant population.
16 But it's also very old, you know, families that have been
17 here for generations. Like, you know, as -- as Supervisor
18 Grijalva mentioned, her grandfather -- like my
19 grandfather -- was Bracero, and our families have been here
20 for a very long time.

21 So I just ask the Commission to consider these
22 things, to do a little more consulting with both the tribal
23 nations and with the Mexican-American community. Consult
24 some of those -- some of those proposals that have been
25 coming out of some of the community groups; and just think

1 about these communities before you start dividing them. And
2 consider history, consider old family ties, consider old
3 political ties before one starts chopping things up; because
4 potentially you're diluting political power, and that is
5 certainly inconsistent with not only the Voting Rights Act
6 but also the language that has enabled this -- this
7 Commission. So keep those things in mind.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER HURLEY: Good evening. My name is Levoy
11 Hurley; I live on the east side of Tucson in the
12 unincorporated Tanque Verde Valley area.

13 I know I'm not quite the last person, but it's
14 getting late, I'll cut to the chase.

15 Contrary to what some of the folks here have said,
16 people like me on those outskirts areas, we don't have -- I
17 have nothing in common with the U of A neighborhoods that
18 are currently part of my Legislative District 10.

19 I go to Tucson because I don't have any choice for
20 shopping and most of my restaurants and things like that.
21 But I don't see the people from the west side from Tucson
22 coming out to my area. If our areas were truly linked, that
23 would be a two-way street; it's not.

24 And that gets to my second point, that I've heard
25 other people talk about here on both sides of the aisle.

1 Tucson needs its own district, both its LD and move -- and
2 incorporate the entire body -- and I'm talking about the
3 central part of Tucson, not the outlying areas which have
4 been incorporated -- or annexed over the years.

5 The central part of Tucson is, in fact, a
6 community. It needs representation; it doesn't have it.

7 The current maps, the grid maps -- frankly, you
8 know, my opinion, the grid maps, they kind of suck because
9 they don't do anything. They don't incorporate anything
10 except the population, equal numbers. But it cuts up
11 Tucson.

12 Stop dividing Tucson. All right? It doesn't make
13 any sense.

14 If you start frankly with that central part, that
15 Tucson is a community of interest, then the outlying areas
16 in those suburban areas, they will naturally fall out, much
17 as we've been talking about with the communities out in the
18 external areas.

19 So I'll leave you with that. Stop cutting up
20 Tucson and go from there.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CRANK: As Ms. Carrillo is making her way up
24 here, next five speakers and the final five speakers George
25 Leyva, Sabrina -- Serena Leonard, Kay Davis, Nichols

1 Lockwood, David Higuera.

2 SPEAKER DONG: Hi. Thank you for having me here
3 today -- tonight.

4 My name is Eva Carrillo Dong. My family has lived
5 here all of my lives, as my grandmother was born here in
6 1908 before we even became a state.

7 I am the chair of Legislative District 3, and I
8 would like to talk to you about the grid map number 7. I
9 realize that statewide coalitions will be filing proposed
10 Voting Rights Act districts to aid the Commissions in
11 drawing Voting Right Act-compliant congressional and
12 legislative district maps that reflect broad Latino
13 community representative support in the near future.

14 However, here I want to speak to the 7th grid as
15 presented because I feel it is far from meeting the
16 constitutionally protected goals of the Voting Rights Act
17 and other charges of the Arizona Independent Redistricting
18 Commission.

19 The most glaring result is the removal of the
20 Tucson Hispanic community from this district as well as
21 being significantly short of reaffirming two VRA districts
22 in Arizona as currently recognized.

23 I feel that adjustments can be made to correct
24 these current deficiencies while meeting other goals of the
25 Commission.

1 At the last Arizona IRC public hearing meeting here
2 in Tucson, the Southern Arizona representatives of the
3 statewide Hispanic coalition spoke of providing a voice here
4 in Pima County and southern Arizona's border lands region by
5 being represented of someone of their own choice.

6 Now that the census numbers have been released, we
7 know that Pima County on its own has enough minority Latino
8 residents to ensure the second VRA district population
9 majority as well as the Latinos being the majority
10 population in the Pima County portion of this district.

11 As a member of the Sunnyside Unified District
12 Governing Board, I personally ask that you keep us whole.
13 We are a very diverse majority-minority community. As a
14 matter of fact, existing Tucson and Pima County
15 neighborhoods within the current CD boundaries reflect
16 historic Latino neighborhoods and the connections to each
17 other for decades and have been reflected in past
18 congressional and legislative districts.

19 Tucson City Council Wards 1 and 2 as majority and
20 minority Latino wards should remain whole. And as we see in
21 the census, significant majority-minority neighborhoods of
22 Ward 3 help make up the majority Latino portion of the Pima
23 County's portion of the second majority-minority Latino VRA
24 complaint district.

25 The University of Arizona surrounding by

1 neighborhoods including ones with significant minority of
2 Latino populations with historic connections to the
3 university and to each other, with the university being the
4 magnet that brings them all together.

5 Tucson and Pima County are home to the Tohono
6 O'odham and Yaqui Nations, and these people are an integral
7 part of our region's identity; they've always been an
8 important part throughout my childhood, and they must remain
9 whole as nations and in our Southern Arizona borderlands
10 regions, majority-minority Latino district.

11 It is not just and it is disrespectful that they
12 not be included as a voice in their own neighborhoods.

13 I just ask that the Commission to work fairly to
14 define and redefine the lines establishing the Voting Rights
15 Act moving forward.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 SPEAKER DAVIS: Hi. My name is Kay Davis; I live
19 in the city of Tucson on the southwest side; and since
20 moving here I have learned much about the tribal communities
21 of our state.

22 Current district boundaries have the Tohono O'odham
23 Nation in several districts; they do not respect the
24 community of interest of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

25 I urge you to consider a map LD 0009. The

1 Tohono O'odham Nation needs to be primarily in a district
2 associated with the Tucson metro area and Pima County.

3 Map LD 009 is a fair and competitive map and will
4 ensure the voice of our Native American community is heard.

5 I've also submitted my comments online.

6 Thanks for listening and your commitment to
7 redrawing congressional and legislative districts to ensure
8 that districts are fair and competitive, compact, and
9 respect district boundaries.

10 Thanks so much.

11 (Applause.)

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Commissioners.

13 I'm here representing LD-9, but that's not what I
14 want to discuss.

15 I want to discuss the proposed boundaries of CD-5.
16 CD-5 is a land grab. Taking away historically Tucson
17 neighborhoods of the Foothills and combining them with Pinal
18 County? Southern Phoenix? This is 50,000 people that have
19 their whole lives been a part of the Tucson community.

20 Now, I've heard earlier today that -- that we're
21 not a part of it but that -- how can that be? For 60 years
22 the second house in my neighborhood, that's where my family
23 is from. We've gone to the U of A, we've worked at
24 Raytheon. We are Tucson. Just like Tucson is the
25 Foothills. It's a symbiotic relationship that you cannot

1 take away.

2 It would be an egregious error to all of us in the
3 Foothills.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CRANK: Commissioners and listening audience,
7 our last speaker is David Higuera.

8 SPEAKER HIGUERA: Commissioners, thank you for your
9 dedication to this process. I know that tonight is only one
10 of many long meetings for you, but thank you for the hard
11 work you're doing and will do.

12 My name is David Higuera; I'm a resident of
13 Tucson -- in fact, I live walking distance from here -- and
14 my community of interest is every child growing up in our
15 state who needs good public policy that particularly takes
16 into account the fact that we need to grow sustainably for
17 decades to come if we want a state for our children to
18 actually be able to prosper.

19 And to get at that, I think the number one criteria
20 you should be focused on is competitiveness. When elected
21 officials have to find common ground and they have to appeal
22 to people on both sides of the political aisle, they are
23 much more likely to come to the table and give a little to
24 get will a little, to compromise and collaborate and come up
25 with workable solutions that can actually help us tackle

1 huge issues like how we are going to adopt to climate change
2 in our state.

3 So I think competitiveness is the number one thing.

4 I want to say, on the issue of the Voting Rights
5 Act I've heard many speakers this year and ten years ago
6 say, you know, make sure you abide by the Voting Rights Act;
7 and I agree to a point.

8 I don't think it serves anybody to ghetto-ize
9 communities of colors. If it's a 65 percent district,
10 making it a 68 percent district does not do anything in
11 terms of the folks' ability to elect somebody -- to elect
12 somebody who -- who has a similar background; but it does
13 mean that other representatives in nearby districts don't
14 need to listen to that community.

15 So I think that we need to be really careful about
16 abiding by the Voting Rights Act but not ghetto-izing
17 communities of color so that more representatives also feel
18 the need to listen to all members of the community,
19 including communities of color within their districts.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. CRANK: Pro Tem Chair and members of the
23 Commission and listening audience, that concludes our
24 speakers at the Tucson location.

25 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Okay. It looks like we're at

1 the end here and everybody here in Scottsdale has cleared
2 out, but I appreciate everybody that's sticking in there in
3 our Tucson location.

4 And so we will -- yes, thank you for hanging in
5 there. We appreciate it.

6 But rather than relying purely on the
7 interpretation of the comments today, we encourage you to go
8 online and submit a map to us using our mapping software.
9 You know, we did hear the complications, but we're working
10 hard to make it as easy as possible.

11 So look at our mapping process at IRC.AZ.GOV. This
12 will ensure that we correctly understand your definition of
13 your community. Please encourage your friends and neighbors
14 to share your thoughts as well.

15 Anyone can do this online as we've been discussing;
16 and we encourage, again, continue to log in, we will be
17 continuing these meetings, and we hope to hear from
18 everybody.

19 So, with that, we want to say thank you for
20 everybody participating, our staff, legal counsel; and so we
21 will call this meeting adjourned.

22 Safe travels, everybody, and have a great evening.
23 Good night.

24 (Whereupon the meeting concludes at 8:48 p.m.)
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 25th of October, 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 25th of October, 2021.



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058