

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF GRID MAP PUBLIC MEETING

Cottonwood, Arizona

Phoenix, Arizona

Online via WebEx

November 16, 2021

6:00 p.m.

**Miller Certified Reporting, LLC**  
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Reported By:  
Annette Satterlee, RPR, CRC  
Certified Reporter (AZ 50179)

1 GRID MAP PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT  
 2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 6:01 p.m., on  
 3 November 16, 2021, at Cottonwood Community Clubhouse, 805  
 4 North Main Street, Cottonwood, Arizona; with a satellite  
 5 location at Residence Inn Desert View at Mayo, 5665 East  
 6 Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona; and online via WebEx.

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8 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

9 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson  
 Ms. Shereen Lerner

10

11 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

12

13 Mr. David Mehl

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15 STAFF PRESENT:

16 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director  
 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director  
 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant  
 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer  
 Ms. Marie Camacho  
 Mr. Alex Pena, Community Outreach Coordinator  
 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group

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18 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

19	SPEAKER NAME:	LOCATION
20	Dee Jenkins	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Joe Butner	Cottonwood, Arizona
21	Harry Oberg	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Robin Whatley	Cottonwood, Arizona
22	Jessica Williams	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Susan Fairchild	Cottonwood, Arizona
23	Bill Regner	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Scott Jablow	Cottonwood, Arizona
24	Holli Ploog	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Kathy Kinsella	Cottonwood, Arizona
25	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Phoenix, Arizona

## 1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	SPEAKER NAME:	LOCATION
3	Elysa Daniels	Phoenix, Arizona
	Suzanne Mead	Phoenix, Arizona
4	Alexander Rosado	Phoenix, Arizona
	Genoveva Guzman	Phoenix, Arizona
5	Raquel Mamani	Phoenix, Arizona
	Linda Mighdoll	Phoenix, Arizona
6	Daniel Conway	Phoenix, Arizona
	Robert Melikian	Phoenix, Arizona
7	Ellen Kozakis	Phoenix, Arizona
	James Gregory	Cottonwood, Arizona
8	Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Mandy Worth	Cottonwood, Arizona
9	Beverly Hedden	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Rose Sperry	Cottonwood, Arizona
10	Michael Cosentino	Cottonwood, Arizona
	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Cottonwood, Arizona
11	Mack Davis	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Jack Williams	Cottonwood, Arizona
12	Noel Campbell	Cottonwood, Arizona
	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Phoenix, Arizona
13	Rhonda Smith	Phoenix, Arizona
	Nancy Dombrowski	Phoenix, Arizona
14	Michael Johnson	Phoenix, Arizona
	Phyllis Smith	Phoenix, Arizona
15	Anna Arnold	Phoenix, Arizona
	Brendan Walsh	Phoenix, Arizona
16	Heather Turley	Phoenix, Arizona
	April Smith	Phoenix, Arizona
17	Thomasene Cardona	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Dwight Kadar	Cottonwood, Arizona
18	Andrea Kadar	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Cindy Farmer	Cottonwood, Arizona
19	Joe Farmer	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Craig Swanson	Cottonwood, Arizona
20	Lynn Zonakis	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Elaine Bomkamp	Cottonwood, Arizona
21	Gloria Brown	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Llama Habern	Cottonwood, Arizona
22	Catherine Tunget	Phoenix, Arizona
	Diane Niemann	Phoenix, Arizona
23	Ana Sanchez	Phoenix, Arizona
	Pat VanMaanen	Phoenix, Arizona
24	Michele Stephens	Phoenix, Arizona
	Nancy Ordowski	Phoenix, Arizona
25	Rachel Sulkes	Phoenix, Arizona

## 1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	SPEAKER NAME:	LOCATION
3	Katie	Phoenix, Arizona
4	Don	Phoenix, Arizona
5	Michael Mathews	Cottonwood, Arizona
6	Leah Donell	Cottonwood, Arizona
7	Stephen Hanks	Cottonwood, Arizona
8	Claudia Clark	Cottonwood, Arizona
9	Kristen Pantone	Cottonwood, Arizona
10	KG Deem	Cottonwood, Arizona
11	Betsy Houlihan	Cottonwood, Arizona
12	Jeannine Reno	Cottonwood, Arizona
13	Lily Schultz	Cottonwood, Arizona
14	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Phoenix, Arizona
15	Bruce Linker	Phoenix, Arizona
16	Don Scalera	Phoenix, Arizona
17	Doug Menkes	Phoenix, Arizona
18	Phyllis Lerner	Phoenix, Arizona
19	Christine Carmona	Phoenix, Arizona
20	Charmaine Roth	Phoenix, Arizona
21	Michael Joiner	Phoenix, Arizona
22	James Roth	Phoenix, Arizona
23	Marla Neely	Phoenix, Arizona
24	Wayne Schultz	Cottonwood, Arizona
25	Angela LeFevre	Cottonwood, Arizona
26	Dieter Knecht	Cottonwood, Arizona
27	David Osborn	Cottonwood, Arizona
28	Patricia Kopitke	Cottonwood, Arizona
29	Pete Asencio	Cottonwood, Arizona
30	Marilyn Bernhardt	Cottonwood, Arizona
31	Ernie Strauch	Cottonwood, Arizona
32	Paul Schween	Phoenix, Arizona
33	Vianey DeAnda	Phoenix, Arizona
34	Yvonne Cahill	Phoenix, Arizona
35	William Smith	Phoenix, Arizona
36	Shawn Rohr	Phoenix, Arizona
37	Summer Baker	Phoenix, Arizona
38	Connor Owen	Phoenix, Arizona
39	Catherine Hopkins	Phoenix, Arizona
40	John Hasset	Phoenix, Arizona
41	Makuach Chol	Phoenix, Arizona
42	Gregory Wodynski	Cottonwood, Arizona
43	Chris Jivan	Cottonwood, Arizona
44	Jan Dubauskas	Cottonwood, Arizona
45	Judy Robbins	Cottonwood, Arizona
46	Connie Levinson	Cottonwood, Arizona
47	Ellen Ferreira	Cottonwood, Arizona

## 1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	SPEAKER NAME:	LOCATION
3	Linda Johnson	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Anne Emerson	Cottonwood, Arizona
4	Sandy Immerso	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Toby Friedman	Cottonwood, Arizona
5	Nancy Robb Dunst	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Sue Gould	Cottonwood, Arizona
6	Angelica Cosentino	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Marlene Macek	Cottonwood, Arizona
7	Mary Kokula	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Margaret Connery	Cottonwood, Arizona
8	Diane Lenz	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Howell Usher	Cottonwood, Arizona
9	Bill Feldmeier	Cottonwood, Arizona
	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER	Cottonwood, Arizona
10	James Warren	Cottonwood, Arizona
	Jerry Martin	Cottonwood, Arizona

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12 \*American Sign Language &amp; Spanish Interpreters

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P R O C E E D I N G

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MS. VAN HAREN: Good evening, everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started right now. I'm going to go ahead and end the practice session here. And then I would also invite the interpreter up to announce herself and show where she is.

Oh. Him. Sorry.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good evening. My name is Dr. Jesus Culminaris [phonetic] and I will be the interpreter, English/Spanish, and I will be located in the back. Now in Spanish.

(Spanish language.)

Thank you. Gracias.

MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

So a couple of announcements before we get started. Here in the Cottonwood location, we have a couple of exits that the fire marshal wanted me to point out.

There are two exits to my right and my left behind me, and then one in the area that you probably all came in through. If you'll look in the back, you'll see the exit sign. There's also a restroom out there towards the exit sign for men and women.

And we also have on the microphone, for

1 everyone who is speaking, you can adjust it to your  
2 comfort. So feel free to go ahead and adjust it if you  
3 are shorter or taller. That would be work -- fine.

4 Also, we are going to start right now doing the  
5 Pledge of Allegiance. So if everyone will stand and join  
6 me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. And I will now  
10 turn it over to Commissioner Lerner.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Good evening, and  
12 welcome, everybody. We're really glad to see so many  
13 people here wanting to participate in this process.

14 I now call to order the public hearing. There  
15 is a transcriptionist who will be recording every word.  
16 We ask that you please speak slowly and clearly so we  
17 have a clear record of your input.

18 At this time, we will introduce ourselves.

19 CHAIRWOMAN NEUBERG: Hello, everyone. I am  
20 Chairwoman Neuberg. And I live in Chandler, and it's  
21 wonderful to be here in Cottonwood.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I am Shereen Lerner.  
23 I'm a representative from Maricopa County.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: I believe we also have  
25 Commissioner Mehl, who is calling in right now. And we

1 will try and unmute him and put him on the panelists'  
2 display.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So now what we will do  
4 is move to Agenda Item II, public comment.

5 Staff will now read the rules.

6 MS. VAN HAREN: In compliance with Arizona's  
7 open meeting laws, speakers should confine their  
8 statements to the issue on the posted agenda which is  
9 before the Commission.

10 Speakers are also requested to limit their  
11 comments to approximately two minutes. The two minutes  
12 will be strictly enforced for all speakers.

13 Additionally, speakers are required to follow  
14 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.  
15 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any  
16 speaker failing to follow proper decorum, or any other  
17 guidelines, may be asked to leave.

18 Any breach of the peace or a disruption of  
19 Commission public hearing may be cause of report to law  
20 enforcement.

21 If someone has already expressed the same  
22 sentiment you wish to express, you may say so, and your  
23 comments will be recorded. If you have already spoken at  
24 a previous meeting, your comments were recorded in the  
25 public record.



1           Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the  
2 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded  
3 to address their comments to the Chair and the Commission  
4 and not to the audience present.

5           Please show respect for all speakers and avoid  
6 personal comments. Remember, the Commission must hear  
7 all sides of an issue to make an informed decision.

8           We will now begin public comment, and I'll ask  
9 Michele to call the first speakers.

10           MS. CRANK: I will be calling the first 10  
11 speakers, and if the speakers can line up accordingly  
12 against that wall and come up as soon as the speaker in  
13 front of them is done.

14           The first speaker is the mayor of the Town of  
15 Camp Verde, Dee Jenkins. The next speaker is Joe Butner,  
16 vice mayor of Camp Verde. Next speaker is Harry Oberg;  
17 Ron Whatley; Jessica Williamson; Susan Fairchild,  
18 speaking for supervisor Donna Michaels. Seventh speaker  
19 is Bill Regner. Eighth speaker is Sedona mayor -- I'm  
20 sorry if I can't -- Scott Jablow. And also city council  
21 from Sedona, Holli Ploog, and Kathy Kinsella.

22           So the 10 speakers. First speaker is Dee  
23 Jenkins.

24           SPEAKER JENKINS: Good evening, ladies and  
25 gentlemen. Thank you for this meeting.

1           My name is Dee Jenkins. I am the mayor of the  
2 town of Camp Verde, and I have a statement to read on  
3 behalf of the Town of Camp Verde.

4           The town of Camp Verde values an outcome that  
5 creates a district that maintains the Verde Valley  
6 communities that includes the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the  
7 City of Sedona, Cottonwood, Jerome and Clarkdale, as well  
8 as other unincorporated areas around the Verde Valley.  
9 We want these together within a district.

10           Further, the Town of Camp Verde seeks a  
11 legislative and congressional district outcome that  
12 recognizes the importance of aligning communities of  
13 interest.

14           The Town of Camp Verde values placement within  
15 a district with other communities that have similar  
16 common interests related to our economy; educational  
17 institutions; public safety; infrastructure, such as  
18 transportation and broadband; our healthcare systems;  
19 natural resources, emphasizing our most precious resource  
20 the Verde River; ecotourism and economic development  
21 opportunities.

22           At our next regular session and council meeting  
23 on December the 1st, we will discuss the exact plan that  
24 we will endorse. Thank you.

25           SPEAKER BUTNER: Excuse me. My name is Joe

1 Butner. I'm the vice mayor of Camp Verde. And I guess  
2 we're real lucky that we got called up first. We'll get  
3 this thing rolling, hopefully the right direction.

4 I heard the statement that our town council  
5 endorsed in Camp Verde, read by the mayor. And that  
6 statement was actually submitted to us by the town of  
7 Sedona. And we wanted to be cooperative with Sedona, but  
8 that was before we found out that Sedona voted to be  
9 included with Coconino County.

10 We don't want to be included with Coconino  
11 County in a legislative district, nor do we want to be  
12 included with Pima County in a legislative district as we  
13 have been in the past.

14 We do believe that we have common interests of  
15 economy and educational institutions; public safety;  
16 infrastructure; transportation; broadband; healthcare  
17 systems; natural resources, emphasizing, of course, the  
18 Verde River; and ecotourism, as well as economic  
19 development opportunities that are very common to all of  
20 the communities in the Verde Valley. And we want to be  
21 kept together. We don't belong with Arizona down in the  
22 south or Arizona down in the north, or, for that matter,  
23 rural Arizona over in the east. We belong with central  
24 Arizona and with Yavapai County.

25 And that's what we ask. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 SPEAKER OBERG: Good evening, Madam Chair and  
3 Commissioners. My name is Harry Oberg, and I'm a  
4 supervisor of Yavapai County.

5 I fully concur with the current map which shows  
6 Yavapai County as its own legislative district. I find  
7 this appropriate since our county's population is very  
8 near the required target of 238,000 per district.

9 Also, this map supports our long-standing  
10 communities of interest, which include our western rural  
11 heritage, culture and lifestyle, and our collective  
12 concern in Yavapai County for saving the Verde River.

13 I hear that the town of Sedona wants to not be  
14 split between two legislative districts. I totally  
15 agree.

16 So the only change I propose to the current map  
17 is to have the very small portion of the town of Sedona  
18 in Coconino County be included in Yavapai County's LD-5.  
19 This makes imminently more sense than the most recent  
20 maps by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, and  
21 others, which proposes to remove the Verde Valley --  
22 which is approximately one-third of my county's  
23 residents -- and realign that elected officials of other  
24 counties proposed to complicate the policymaking and  
25 governing of our county. And it makes it more complex

1 for our Board of Supervisors to provide support for our  
2 county's citizens and their communities.

3 We would never, as a Board of Supervisors,  
4 mettle or violate Coconino County's, or any other  
5 county's, sovereignty in the governing in support of its  
6 constituents and communities.

7 So, in closing, I feel that keeping Yavapai  
8 County as its own LD and including the entire town of  
9 Sedona in LD-5 is fair and consistent with the  
10 Constitutional principles that established the  
11 Independent Redistricting Commission.

12 Further, it is the intent of the Yavapai County  
13 Board of Supervisors to be inclusive in all of our  
14 decisions in matters of policy to remove our perceived  
15 schism that has developed over time in the valley.  
16 Removing the Verde Valley from the current proposed LD-5  
17 would greatly complicate our board's governing efforts in  
18 this regard.

19 Madam Chair and Commissioners, thank for you  
20 time, and I'll look forward to your support in  
21 maintaining our county's sovereignty. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CRANK: Calling Robin Whatley the second  
24 time. Robin Whatley.

25 SPEAKER: Now?

1 MS. CRANK: Yes.

2 SPEAKER WHATLEY: Okay.

3 IRC members, my name is Robin Whatley. I'm a  
4 city council member for the Town of Camp Verde.

5 Yet, I do have strong ties to Prescott and the  
6 surrounding area. I was born in Prescott. I graduated  
7 from Prescott High School and from Prescott College. I  
8 spent my childhood years in Chino Valley.

9 Currently, I've been a resident of Camp Verde  
10 for 40 years. I am greatly concerned about Camp Verde  
11 being lumped into the same legislative district as  
12 Prescott. A representative from all of Yavapai County  
13 would likely be more interested in the issues and  
14 concerns of the Prescott area with its higher population.

15 We in the Verde Valley have seen this bias,  
16 particularly in our minority votes on the board of county  
17 supervisors, and in decisions made by Yavapai College.  
18 The citizens of Camp Verde -- of the Verde Valley deserve  
19 the same level of representation as those who reside in  
20 the Prescott area.

21 Up to this point, the Verde Valley has enjoyed  
22 the benefits of not being linked to Prescott  
23 legislatively. By being in competitive legislative and  
24 congressional districts, it means our cities and towns  
25 receive better attention from our representatives.

1 I'd like to urge you to consider maps that keep  
2 the Verde Valley in competitive districts. The current  
3 draft maps do not do that. You have the opportunity to  
4 keep our current representation that we've had up to this  
5 point separate from that of Prescott. Please keep our  
6 legislators attentive to us in the Verde Valley and allow  
7 LDF-50 and LDF-51 maps to move forward.

8 Thank you for your time and attention to this  
9 incredibly important decision that you are tasked with.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I'm Jessica Williams. I'm  
12 an elected member of the Sedona city council.

13 I urge you to accept maps LDF-050 and 051 that  
14 were submitted by the Coconino County Board of  
15 Supervisors and supported unanimously by the Sedona city  
16 council.

17 You may not know, but the Mingus mountains  
18 create a real and significant separation between the  
19 Verde Valley and Prescott. It's -- it's not made up.  
20 It's a -- it's a significant mountain. Sedona is part of  
21 the Verde Valley, not Prescott or Prescott Valley. Those  
22 are over the mountains.

23 I don't go over the mountains very often, but I  
24 do go to Flagstaff often. I go there to shop. I go  
25 there to see my doctors. I go there to hike. Flagstaff

1 is my community of interest. Not Prescott. The  
2 mountains make a huge separation.

3 Yavapai County is huge. It's the size of Rhode  
4 Island and Connecticut together, and it's the fifth  
5 fastest-growing county in Arizona. It's growing fast.

6 In the draft maps, 12 of the 15 counties are  
7 split between electoral districts. Given that, there  
8 doesn't seem to be any rationale for arguing to keep  
9 Yavapai together just for that reason. The community of  
10 interests are different. In fact, the fact that Yavapai  
11 County is so big argues that perhaps it should be two  
12 districts with two sets of representatives.

13 LDF-050 and LDF-051 meet the IRC criteria that  
14 you're all mandated to look at. They're competitive.  
15 The current maps are not competitive. They fail  
16 miserably at that criteria. Those -- LDF-50 and 51 also  
17 reflect a real, genuine, on-the-ground, everyday  
18 community of interest.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. VAN HAREN: For anybody who is standing in  
21 the back, there's a ton of chairs up front if you want to  
22 come up here and sit.

23 SPEAKER FAIRCHILD: Good evening. My name is  
24 Susan Fairchild. I'm here representing Yavapai County  
25 district supervisor Donna Michaels. She has asked me to



1 read her redistricting position statement to you, so  
2 these are her words.

3           As a 30-year resident of the Verde Valley, and  
4 serving as Yavapai County supervisor, I encourage the IRC  
5 to carefully consider and strongly support the intrinsic  
6 values of our communities in determining new districting  
7 considerations.

8           The Verde Valley is comprised of communities of  
9 interest consisting of Sedona, Camp Verde, Cottonwood,  
10 Clarkdale, Jerome, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, and all  
11 unincorporated communities of eastern Yavapai County into  
12 one legislative and congressional district. Communities  
13 of interest include not only shared values and interest,  
14 but also community outcomes. For example, natural  
15 resources; regenerative, sustainable and robust  
16 economies; infrastructure, such as transportation and  
17 broadband; healthcare systems; education; eco-tourism and  
18 inclusivity by bringing the best qualities to our  
19 communities of interest.

20           As supervising -- supervisor, I encourage our  
21 county to be considered competitive with no partisan  
22 entity having an advantage greater than five percent of  
23 political party-affiliated "registrated" voters as  
24 currently represented by Community Draft Map LD-0013.  
25 The independent spirit of the Verde Valley is best served

1 through competitive districts which empower all of our  
2 rural voices to have agency in selecting our elected  
3 officials.

4 I encourage everyone on the Commission to hear  
5 the importance that this Independent Redistricting  
6 Commission respects and insures communities of interest  
7 remain together.

8 I am deeply concerned that the potential for  
9 partisan politics might prevent rural Arizona residents  
10 from having the best representation possible by  
11 potentially reducing, eliminating candidates from  
12 consideration. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15 And before our next speaker comes up, I just  
16 wanted to announce there's a line out the building of  
17 people who want to come in and be heard. If you have  
18 already spoken and you do not want to remain for the rest  
19 of the meeting, we are streaming it on WebEx and YouTube.  
20 So you are welcome to leave and watch it on YouTube for  
21 the remainder of it so other people can come in. Because  
22 we're at capacity right now. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER REGNER: Thank you, Madam Chairman,  
24 and IRC members. My name is Bill Regner. I'm a member  
25 of the town council in Clarkdale.

1           Our mayor, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, will be  
2 presenting Clarkdale's position. The following words are  
3 my own.

4           The concept of a Yavapai col -- county district  
5 is an attractive idea. That's why we have supervisor  
6 districts. They serve the county very well. District 3,  
7 which we're sitting in right now, five years ago elected  
8 a Republican; one year ago a Democrat. That's a  
9 competitive district. I like that. It reflects who we  
10 are. Every voter is franchised and empowered.

11           The current draft map for this legislative  
12 district gives a 28 and-a-half point advantage to one  
13 party. That size of advantage potentially  
14 disenfranchises about 65 percent of our voters.

15           I ask your efforts to accomplish two  
16 priorities: Keep the Verde Valley whole, including the  
17 portion of Sedona that is Coconino County; and put the  
18 Verde Valley in a competitive district by either  
19 adjusting the current draft legislative district or  
20 adopting one that achieves goals similar to LDF-050.

21           Thank you very much.

22           (Applause.)

23           SPEAKER JABLOW: Good evening, Chair Neuberg,  
24 Members of the Commission. My name is Scott Jablow, and  
25 I'm the vice mayor of the City of Sedona.

1           The City of Sedona has presented testimony at  
2 several public hearings of the IRC. In that testimony,  
3 the City has remained consistent that Sedona should be  
4 kept intact with both a congressional district and a  
5 legislative district and not be split by county lines.

6           The City also requested a district that  
7 maintains the Verde Valley communities together within a  
8 congress -- congressional and legislative districts.  
9 While the congressional district does reflect this  
10 request, the legislative map -- maps do not.

11           The current maps adopted by the IRC split  
12 Sedona and the Verde Valley and splits half of Sedona  
13 from Flagstaff. As a city with a population of less than  
14 10,000, splitting our small community, and splitting us  
15 from our region, makes absolutely no sense.

16           Sedona works with our neighboring communities  
17 and shares common interests on issues such as housing,  
18 economic development, tourism, healthcare, transportation  
19 and education, and many other long-term alliances. The  
20 current maps removes a portion of our city and its  
21 residents from these relationships and bonds.

22           The City of Sedona requests consider --  
23 reconsideration of the proposed legislative district  
24 boundaries and supports the map submitted by Coconino  
25 County, LDF-50 and 51. These maps reflect Sedona's

1 values and meet the constitutional mandates of  
2 communities of interest, equal population, geographical  
3 compactness and competitiveness.

4 We ask that the City of Sedona be kept intact  
5 to ensure our residents can continue to speak with one  
6 voice as a community.

7 We further ask that our city be kept with its  
8 neighboring communities so that our region may have  
9 unified representation in matters before the state.

10 Thank you for the -- thank you for the  
11 opportunity to speak this evening. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER PLOOG: Holli Ploog, elected member of  
14 the Sedona city council.

15 Tonight, I want to talk about the three  
16 northern Arizona districts and competitiveness.

17 Not a single one of these districts are  
18 competitive by the standards set by you. LD-5, 28.5  
19 percent. LD-6, 42.4 percent. And LD-7, 29.8 percent.

20 How can this be justified? Your own adopted  
21 standards to find competitiveness is below seven percent.

22 What is being proposed in northern Arizona are  
23 three safe districts. The outcome will be determined in  
24 the primary. With a disparity of nearly 30 points in  
25 LD-5 and 7, what candidate would be willing to be a

1 sacrificial lamb and run when the outcome is preordained?

2 Further, voices of Independents -- one-third of  
3 our registered voters and who already have an extra step  
4 to vote in a primary -- will be diminished. They will  
5 not have an opportunity to vote in a general election.

6 And members of the minority party would have to  
7 reregister in order to vote in the primary and have any  
8 say in who will represent them in the state legislature.

9 And it doesn't have to be this way. Maps have  
10 been submitted, LDF-50 and 51, which would right this  
11 wrong. LDF-50 would create one of the most competitive  
12 districts in the state: 52 point -- 50.2 percent versus  
13 49.8 percent. Competitive districts foster the best  
14 candidates, campaigns that reach out to all voters,  
15 legislators that are accountable to their constituents,  
16 and the voice of Independents on parity with voters  
17 registered as members of political parties. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER KINSELLA: Thank you, Chair and  
20 Commissioners. I'm Kathy Kinsella, a city councilor for  
21 the City of Sedona.

22 The Sedona city council unanimously supports  
23 the maps LDF-50 and LDF-51. You have previously heard  
24 from numerous residents of Sedona asking you to please  
25 consider these maps as they, one, keep Sedona intact

1 without being split by county lines; two, keep Sedona  
2 with our Verde Valley neighbors, as we truly are a  
3 community of interest; three, keep Sedona in a district  
4 with Flagstaff, with which we share our commerce,  
5 tourism, jobs, housing, our topography and history, our  
6 healthcare systems, network of doctors and hospitals, and  
7 our transportation and transit corridors.

8           What these maps also achieve is meeting the  
9 requirement of Prop. 106 to establish competitive  
10 districts. The current draft maps for northern Arizona  
11 create districts that are so uncompetitive, they would  
12 ensure one party's representation for the next 10 years.  
13 Competition within districts fosters moderation because  
14 candidates must appeal to people with differing views.

15           Sedona is a city of less than 10,000 people.  
16 Splitting us into two districts would dilute our  
17 community voice in the election process and in the  
18 legislative process. County lines have no bearing on the  
19 makeup of legislative and congressional districts. Many  
20 Arizona counties are split among voting districts.

21           There is no reason to treat Yavapai County any  
22 differently. Residents of the county will still pay  
23 their taxes and will still expect to have the same  
24 service relationship with Yavapai County. County lines  
25 are not affected by district mapping. Inflating the two

1 ignores the mandates given to the IRC to draw electoral  
2 districts that preserve communities of interest, achieve  
3 equal population, respect geographical compactness and  
4 foster competitiveness. LDF-50 and LDF-51 meet those  
5 constitutional mandates. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CRANK: We will now turn the time over to  
8 Desert Ridge.

9 MS. NEUMANN: Good evening, Madam Chair and  
10 Commissioners, from Desert Ridge. I'd like to take this  
11 time to introduce our Spanish interpreter.

12 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good evening. I am a  
13 Spanish interpreter if you need me (technical/audio  
14 disruption.)

15 (Spanish language.)

16 MS. NEUMANN: (technical/audio disruption)  
17 The first five (technical/audio disruption) Lynn Walsh,  
18 Elysa Daniels, Suzanne Mead, Alexander Rosado, Geneva  
19 Guzman.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (inaudible) --  
21 redistricting Commissioners, I really appreciate you  
22 allowing -- it's not on?

23 Closer? Okay.

24 I am a 33-year resident of Cave Creek and have  
25 been active in community affairs and environmental



1 education.

2 I've read a lot of national papers that say  
3 that gerrymandering is in a huge uptick across the United  
4 States. Arizona vote -- voters were the first to demand  
5 competitive districts when remapping, and I want your  
6 commission to lead the country in making Arizona  
7 districts more competitive and strengthening our  
8 democracy.

9 Safe districts do not enhance democracy but  
10 lead to extremism and petty legislation that erodes faith  
11 in democracy and bad laws. Competitive districts require  
12 candidates to appeal to a broad section -- sections of  
13 populations and leads to moderation and quality  
14 legislation.

15 Your proposed 10.1 map does not reflect enough  
16 competitiveness. Out of 30 districts, there are only six  
17 that meet your criteria of seven percent vote spread.  
18 The new LD -- LD-3 district is not at all competitive,  
19 with a 40.4 percent in -- advantage to one party, and is  
20 a far cry from the stated goal of seven percent  
21 disparity. This is not acceptable because you are  
22 disenfranchising many citizens.

23 Thank you for moving Cave Creek out of Yavapai  
24 County. Doesn't sound like anybody wants to be with  
25 Prescott. But --

1 (Laughter.)

2 But moving us east to Fountain Hills and  
3 eastern Arizona towards Gila County is no better. We are  
4 geographically cut off from them, and there's no center  
5 of interest or easy access. Please put Cave Creek and  
6 Carefree into district -- (technical/audio disruption).

7 SPEAKER DANIELS: Hello, Commissioners. My  
8 name is Elysa Daniels, and I have lived and voted in  
9 Carefree for 35 years. Thank you for listening to my  
10 concerns today.

11 My comments are on legislative draft map  
12 No. 10. The LD draft map 10 does not fulfill  
13 compactness, competitiveness or communities of  
14 interest -- the three C's -- especially the former LD-1,  
15 and violates natural geographic boundaries, i.e., the  
16 McDowell mountains.

17 This problem has a remedy. My community of  
18 interest runs south towards Phoenix, not west of I-17 or  
19 east of the McDowell Mountains to Lake Roosevelt, which  
20 is a two-hour drive.

21 We propose extending the two sides of current  
22 LD-1 Maricopa County south towards Phoenix along  
23 Tatum/Cave Creek Road corridor. This creates an LD that  
24 fulfills the three C's and geography.

25 Specifically, I would like to see the proposed

1 LD-3 reflect the four to seven percent vote spread  
2 instead of the 20 percent imbalance as currently drawn.  
3 Also, I'd like to see that all 18 to 20 proposed  
4 districts touching or included in Maricopa County be  
5 redrawn to reflect our communities of interest and to  
6 ensure more districts have partisan vote spreads closer  
7 to the Commission-approved four to seven percent.

8           The political extremism we all witness is  
9 exacerbated by unbalanced districts that allow petitions  
10 to cater to only one side of the political spectrum.

11           Balanced districts favor moderate candidates  
12 who must compete for voters from both parties. We want  
13 politicians that can focus on critical issues such as  
14 sustainable water, education, jobs and healthcare.

15           I would like to see the IRC aid in lowering the  
16 highly-partisan temperature and improve the political  
17 discourse in this state. By creating more  
18 politically-balanced districts, this can be your legacy.  
19 Thank you so much for listening.

20           (Applause.)

21           SPEAKER MEAD: My name is Suzanne Mead from  
22 Carefree, a northern suburb of Phoenix. I'm here to  
23 address concerns about the proposed LD-3.

24           Having spent the past week trying to craft maps  
25 respecting all six criteria, I appreciate the difficult

1 task this Commission has in front of it. This said, I  
2 feel that you can do better to represent my interests and  
3 those of my neighbors.

4           Contrary to earlier assessments that LD-3 meets  
5 constitutional criteria, I believe it fails on four  
6 counts. The first and second are compactness and  
7 geography. LD-3 extends into a vast wilderness. Several  
8 mountain chains make it almost impossible to get from  
9 here to there in two hours.

10           Why would I want to go to Sunflower or Tortilla  
11 Flat for my health, retail and entertainment services? I  
12 go there for fun, but not that. Even Fountain Hills is a  
13 45-minute drive from my home.

14           This brings me to my third point. Community of  
15 interest. We are a suburb of Phoenix. Our community  
16 runs south along Cave Creek Road and Tatum Boulevard to  
17 places like Desert Ridge, right here; MIM; Mayo Clinic  
18 and Costco.

19           Last but not least, competitiveness. LD-3 has  
20 a 20 percent vote spread, which exceeds the four to seven  
21 percent standards set by the Commission. Safe districts,  
22 regardless of party, allow candidates to pander to an  
23 extremist base at the expense of others.

24           Politically-balanced districts, on the other  
25 hand, are good for voters. Legislators are more

1 responsive and voters have more moderate choices.

2           This map's 24 (technical/audio disruption)  
3 would deprive over a million voters an opportunity to  
4 elect their own candidates.

5           I strongly urge the Commission to create more  
6 evenly-balanced districts, especially in the increasingly  
7 diverse Maricopa County. Please also move Carefree and  
8 Cave Creek communities out of the eastern portion of LD-3  
9 and connect us with our natural urban setting where we  
10 shop, work and play. Thank you.

11           (Applause.)

12           SPEAKER ROSADO: Hi. Good evening,  
13 Commission. My name is Alexander Rosado, and I currently  
14 live on the intersection of Thomas Road and 48th Street.

15           My area is what's currently called District 4  
16 in the draft maps, and I was right at the southernmost  
17 part of the north side of Thomas. And I'm satisfied with  
18 the new proposed district. I feel it is very reflective  
19 of my community. I, I -- countless times, I'm always at  
20 that Costco, Target. I'm out in the community going to  
21 the Roadrunners, farmers market, going to the Papago  
22 mountains for hiking. I'm always enjoying the area  
23 and -- just like a lot of people have reflected.

24           By keeping the district as extremely  
25 competitive as it is now, as proposed, and it is a way to

1 heal the divisiveness that we have suffered in the  
2 political arena in the last four years, and especially  
3 heat up during the last election cycle, because I believe  
4 the way we can bridge -- bridge those gaps is by actually  
5 talking to one another.

6           Because the more we entrench ourselves in our  
7 own party, in our own bunkers, it will never heal. We'll  
8 never come together and keep pushing this country and the  
9 state of Arizona. Right.

10           We need -- we always think of what happened to  
11 politicians like John McCain. The way the system that  
12 it's running right now, we'll never be able to elect  
13 leaders like that if you don't keep the districts  
14 competitive.

15           Have a wonderful night. Thank you.

16           (Applause.)

17           SPEAKER GUZMAN:     (Speaking Spanish.)

18           SPANISH INTERPRETER:    Good afternoon,  
19 everyone. I'm Genoveva Guzman. I live in Mesa close to  
20 my (indiscernible) center. I've lived there for 25  
21 years. I work at a hotel, and I have a son that he just  
22 started attending high school.

23           I am a leader, and at work we have --

24           Oh. A union leader.

25           I am a union leader in my workplace, and I know

1 the impact of speaking up for myself and my coworkers. I  
2 try to do the same in my community.

3 SPEAKER GUZMAN: (Speaking Spanish.)

4 SPANISH INTERPRETER: I ask you to keep the  
5 Latino community together as much as possible in the  
6 maps. I think that this has been done as well in Mesa.  
7 However, I worry about the divisions in Chandler and  
8 Gilbert.

9 Keeping the Latino communities together is  
10 important because we share many value -- values and  
11 interests. When we are able to unify our voices, it  
12 helps our community be heard by elected leaders.

13 SPEAKER GUZMAN: (Speaking Spanish.)

14 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Please ensure that  
15 cities like Chandler and Gilbert are not divided into so  
16 many districts. This dilutes the voice of the Latino  
17 community living in those areas. Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you.

20 Our next five speakers are Raquel Mamani, Linda  
21 Mighdoll, Daniel Conway, Robert Melikian, Ellen Kozakis.

22 SPEAKER MAMANI: Good evening, Madam  
23 Chairperson and Commissioners. My name is Raquel Mamani.

24 I'm a teacher. I'm a PTO president, public  
25 school advocate, proud Arizona native and mother of

1 13-year-old twins.

2 I've called Phoenix my home for the last 16  
3 years. I subbed in a middle school classroom today and  
4 I'm exhausted, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity  
5 to make my voice heard.

6 I currently live in LD-28. We moved to the  
7 area years ago and made sure we bought a home in the  
8 Madison School District. After I divorced a few years  
9 ago, again, I made sure I bought a home in the Sunnyslope  
10 neighborhood to ensure that my children attend the best  
11 schools possible.

12 As I mentioned, I'm an active member of my  
13 school and community, so I want to make sure that you  
14 keep the Sunnyslope neighborhood in a competitive  
15 district in both the legislative and congressional maps.  
16 I also want to make sure that you do not separate us from  
17 the Phoenix Mountain Preserve community of interest.

18 The Sunnyslope neighborhood is such an integral  
19 part of this community. I wake up every morning and love  
20 to see that North Mountain. This area has nothing in  
21 common with Glendale or Peoria, so we ask that you keep  
22 us with the Phoenix Mountain Preserve community of  
23 interest.

24 My entire life revolves around this community,  
25 so I want to make certain that we can continue to elect



1 people that will advocate for our public schools and  
2 neighborhoods.

3           Thank you so much for the work that you are  
4 doing on this important issue.

5           (Applause.)

6           SPEAKER MIGHDOLL:   Hi.  My name is Linda  
7 Mighdoll.  I live in Cave Creek.

8           My mother came to the United States to escape  
9 Hitler.  As a result of her experience, I know how  
10 precious and fragile a democracy can be.

11           The essence of maintaining our democracy is to  
12 have competitive districts.  When we do, citizens will  
13 know that their vote is important.  If we don't, the  
14 motivation to vote decreases and puts our democracy in  
15 jeopardy.

16           Conclusion.  Our democracy dies.  Neither  
17 communities of interest nor geographical connectiveness  
18 will matter.  I plead with you to place competitiveness  
19 as the top priority in your redistricting.  Thank you.

20           (Applause.)

21           SPEAKER CONWAY:   My name is Daniel Conway.

22           My interest in redistricting began when I was  
23 gerrymandered out of representation in 1971 while a  
24 resident of California.  I'm here this evening in fear  
25 that it could happen again if proposed Legislative

1 District 3 is adopted.

2 I believe that the problem begins with the  
3 adopted legislative district grid map which considers --  
4 which I consider to be a serious violation of the Arizona  
5 Constitution as amended by Proposition 106.

6 The proposition first called for grid-like  
7 maps. Any definition of grid which I can find specifies  
8 horizontal and vertical lines. I expect that "grid-like"  
9 would be the same.

10 The adopted grid maps do have horizontal and  
11 vertical lines, but also have slanted lines, curved  
12 lines, and lines of no shape at all.

13 I believe that the grid map should contribute  
14 to stated redistricting goals such as separating  
15 mountains and deserts, separating urban and rural areas.  
16 I can see no such design criteria, or any design  
17 criteria, in the adopted grid maps.

18 I live in Legislative District 15, which is a  
19 north Phoenix district. This is in District 15. The  
20 adopted grid map has me in District 3, which decreases  
21 the north Phoenix area and adds north Scottsdale. The  
22 draft map further decreases the north Phoenix area, keeps  
23 north Scottsdale, adds Cave Creek, Carefree, Fountain  
24 Hills, Rio Verde, and the Fort McDowell Apache Native  
25 American community. I have no idea of shared community

1 interests with several of these communities.

2           SPEAKER MELIKIAN: Thank you very much, Madam  
3 Chair and members of the Committee, for the wonderful  
4 work you've done creating existing LD-2 and LD-4.  
5 They're both very fair and very competitive, which is  
6 just what we all want. No one wants to be -- feel  
7 hopeless or helpless in their district. And two and four  
8 are drawn properly, so please do not undo them.

9           My name is Robert Melikian, and I've lived  
10 in -- grew up in number four and lived just outside  
11 number two for over 50 years. So though -- both are of  
12 common geography and common problems.

13           Number two is up-and-coming communities that  
14 are tied together, North Mountain, Moon Valley,  
15 Sunnyslope. They have -- with shopping on Bell and 7th  
16 Ave., 7th Street. We have many things that we do  
17 together.

18           We don't want to be -- we don't want to lose  
19 the southern part of number two to Phoenix. We want to  
20 be tied to the same geography and same considerations  
21 that we do to the communities to the north of us.

22           The Washington school -- Elementary School  
23 District should be -- should not be divided also. So  
24 it's much better the way you have it drawn now in both  
25 those communities. They're up-and-coming communities

1 with hard-working, patriotic people that want to by  
2 stick -- stay together.

3           In number four, where I grew up, went to  
4 Arcadia High School, we've always considered to be tied  
5 to Paradise Valley and to the communities to the north  
6 there, going to Mountain Shadows, the Camelback Inn, the  
7 Phoenician. And so please do not undo the very good work  
8 you've done with those two areas.

9           Thank you very much.

10           (Applause.)

11           SPEAKER KOZAKIS: Good evening. My name is  
12 Ellen Kozakis. I live just south of Greenway Boulevard  
13 off of 16th Street. I'm here tonight to speak in support  
14 of the proposed boundaries for LD-2.

15           The Arizona constitutional guidelines call for  
16 the equal distribution of political parties within  
17 legislative districts. The proposed boundaries of LD-2  
18 take that into consideration and thus will result in a  
19 competitive district where the concerns of all residents  
20 will need to be addressed. Thank you.

21           MS. NEUMANN: Now we'll turn it back over to  
22 Cottonwood. Thank you.

23           MS. VAN HAREN: And, once again, I just want  
24 to announce that in Cottonwood and in Phoenix, if you've  
25 already spoken before, because of the capacity limits of

1 each location, it would be appreciated if you would exit  
2 and let more people who are outside come in and be able  
3 to speak. And you can watch it on WebEx and YouTube.  
4 Thank you.

5 MS. CRANK: That's Desert Ridge and also here  
6 in Cottonwood; right? Okay.

7 The next 10 speakers, if you'll all line up.  
8 Please listen. James Gregory. Robyn Bauer. Mandy  
9 Worth. Beverly Hedden. Rose Sperry. Michael Cosentino.  
10 Julie Pindzola, Mack Davis, Jack Williams. Noel  
11 Campbell.

12 James Gregory?

13 SPEAKER GREGORY: Good evening, Commissioners.  
14 And thank you for giving me a time and opportunity to  
15 speak tonight.

16 I do support the current legislative  
17 redistricting map that makes a legislative district,  
18 county district. We've heard all the -- that the wish of  
19 the Verde Valley community is to keep them in the same  
20 district and whole. I agree with that, but in Yavapai  
21 County.

22 I strongly disagree with the Coconino Board of  
23 Supervisors proposal to split the county in half into two  
24 legislative districts. The taxpayers should not be  
25 aligned with another county that will not provide any of

1 their needs. The Verde Valley identifies more with  
2 Prescott area values. We shop there, we have medical  
3 care there, and we closely relate to that community.

4 Flagstaff is a college community that the  
5 median age is 27. The median age here in the Verde  
6 Valley is 50. Sedona is the only community that is split  
7 by county boundaries.

8 I request that we keep the current R -- IRC  
9 proposed draft map but modify it to include the portion  
10 of Sedona to be in the same legislative district as  
11 District 5. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER PRUD'HOMME-BAUER: Good evening.  
14 Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, mayor, Town of Clarkdale.

15 The Town of Clarkdale Common Council reaffirms  
16 its previous statement to the IRC to have the Verde  
17 Valley, including the City of Sedona, remain whole as a  
18 community of interest, and that it is -- desires a  
19 competitive district.

20 The IRC's approved draft legislative map places  
21 the town of Clarkdale in Legislative District 5, which  
22 does not include all locations identified in the Town's  
23 community of interest statement. Adding the Coconino  
24 County section of the City of Sedona to the approved  
25 draft Legislative District 5 would meet the Town's

1 community of interest goal.

2           The approved draft LD-5 does not meet the  
3 Town's goal for competitiveness. The community draft of  
4 LDF-050 is an example of what meets both of the Town's  
5 goals.

6           The Town of Clarkdale Common Council supports  
7 also the IRC's Approved Draft Congressional Map placing  
8 the Town of Clarkdale in Congressional District 2. It  
9 meets the Town's community of interest statement by  
10 keeping the Verde Valley, including the City of Sedona,  
11 whole, as well as ensuring a relatively competitive  
12 district.

13           The Town thanks the IRC for addressing the  
14 Town's goal. Thank you very much.

15           (Applause.)

16           SPEAKER WORTH: Good evening, Madam Chair and  
17 Members of the Commission. My name is Mandy Worth. I'm  
18 the current vice mayor of the Town of Jerome.

19           After discussion in open meeting and with time  
20 for public comment from our constituents, our council has  
21 prepared a statement.

22           Currently, all Verde Valley municipalities, as  
23 well as the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the east portion of  
24 Yavapai County, are in the same Legislative District 5  
25 but not the same congressional district. Our rural area

1 works cooperatively on several levels, including, but not  
2 limited to, public safety, shared educational services,  
3 economic development, transportation and environmental  
4 issues. Additionally, we use our regional voice to  
5 advocate at both the state and federal levels.

6           Therefore, the town of -- the Jerome town  
7 council, as representatives of the constituents of the  
8 Town of Jerome, and with full understanding that we do  
9 not have a population sized to have our own district in  
10 the Verde Valley and are part of a larger whole requests  
11 an outcome that will not only retain the Verde Valley as  
12 being part of the same Legislative District 5, but alter  
13 the congressional districts to be inclusive.

14           We believe this will create competitiveness  
15 because of the diversity of this area. The Jerome town  
16 council appreciates the Commission's work on this project  
17 and the opportunity to make a statement tonight. Thank  
18 you.

19           (Applause.)

20           SPEAKER HEDDEN:    Good evening, Madam Chair and  
21 Commissioners. I am just Beverly Hedden from Cottonwood.

22           Last week, I attended a Zoom meeting with  
23 people from the Hopi Nation concerned about their aquifer  
24 drying up. I regularly interact with people from Sedona,  
25 Clarkdale, Cornville and Camp Verde. This year, I had



1 extensive foot surgery in Flagstaff. I attend the  
2 Navajo, Hopi and Yavapai Nation events at Montezuma's  
3 Castle in Rimrock.

4 Flagstaff, Sedona, Rimrock and Native American  
5 nations are my district. They are my community.

6 Looking at the draft map, I see that I am again  
7 joined with Prescott, although I attended a listening  
8 meeting in Sedona, wrote to the commission, and drew a  
9 map designating Mingus Mountain as a geographic divide --  
10 divide.

11 Northern Arizona districts do not contain one  
12 competitive district, and I believe that was exactly your  
13 job. Creating safe districts is a form of  
14 gerrymandering.

15 Your task, according to Proposition 106, was to  
16 draw district lines using the criteria of  
17 competitiveness, compactness and communities of interest.  
18 You have let northern Arizona down. You have divided  
19 communities such as Sedona. You have drawn the  
20 Legislative District 7 that looks contagious, stretch --  
21 stretching across five counties.

22 But, worst of all, safe districts create  
23 indifferent voters. Why vote if I already know the  
24 outcome? Incompetent people can run for office safely.  
25 Democracy is precious and fragile and depends -- depends

1 completely on diversity.

2           Please, reconsider the maps that you have drawn  
3 for north Arizona. Thank you very much.

4           (Applause.)

5           SPEAKER SPERRY: Hi. My name is Rose Sperry,  
6 and I thank you very much for allowing me to speak here  
7 and give you my thoughts.

8           At the last redistricting 10 years ago, it  
9 appeared that equal numbers of voters were not  
10 represented in all 30 districts. While one party had  
11 overpopulation, the other one did not, and those -- and  
12 it showed in the party structure. So, unfortunately, in  
13 the proposed maps that appear today, it appears to be  
14 almost the same case.

15           We live in a republic under a great  
16 constitution that provides equal treatment of all. Let  
17 us not take that unbalanced path again.

18           For obvious reasons to me, some would have you  
19 believe that we have nothing in common with Flagstaff,  
20 but we most definitely do, whether it is entertainment,  
21 shopping, political ideas, new friends, or just exploring  
22 commonality grew -- due to the redistricting of 10 years  
23 ago. That's how we got common ground. And it is still  
24 flourishing today.

25           I ask that we remain with the Verde Valley,

1 Cottonwood, Cornville, Clarkdale, Camp Verde, Sedona and  
2 Flagstaff. We should be together in the future  
3 non-native LD-7. In the end, what I am asking for is  
4 even numbers among the districts. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER COSENTINO: Good evening. Hello to  
7 the IRC. My name is Michael Cosentino. I've lived in  
8 northern Arizona all my adult life, which is 50 years.

9 My comments address primarily the community of  
10 interest and competitiveness requirement for LDs and CDs.  
11 Although I am politically active, my comments tonight are  
12 personal.

13 I've lived in Flagstaff, Sedona, Cottonwood and  
14 Page. I spent nine years in the military, five years in  
15 the Arizona Army National Guard, which brings me to my  
16 first point.

17 Most of our training was in Flagstaff. It was  
18 during the time when the Navajo Army Depot was becoming  
19 Camp Navajo. My college years were in Sedona. My  
20 education, my work, was centered on Oak Creek Canyon in  
21 Sedona. Cultural and civic events were Sedona and  
22 Flagstaff. As a Cottonwood resident, education and  
23 events would take place in Sedona and Flagstaff.

24 My children were born in Flagstaff and  
25 Cottonwood, and continue to use healthcare in those

1 communities almost exclusively.

2           Finally, to address what I think is an IRC  
3 concern, population balancing might be best served for  
4 first nations by including non-indigenous communities  
5 around them in the same districts since they are in a  
6 position to best understand their issues.

7           Looking at the political districts on these  
8 maps, to make Yavapai County districts for the  
9 convenience of the Yavapai Board of Supervisors seems  
10 like special treatment, in my opinion.

11           I spoke similarly at IRC meetings 10 years ago  
12 in Cottonwood. Let's hope I'll be heard this time.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to have this voice.

14           (Applause.)

15           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello, IRC. I mean no  
16 disrespect, but the draft maps are a bit of a failure.  
17 They grossly ignore the pleas of more and truly  
18 competitive districts in northern, central and southern  
19 Arizona.

20           Focusing on the north, you have taken us from  
21 having two congressional districts in Yavapai County, one  
22 safe and one highly competitive, and reduced us to one  
23 red and safe district. And to what end?

24           Draft CD-9 and CD-2 both badly need to be  
25 reworked. Put central Yavapai County in with CD-9's

1 Mohave County so that like-minded can be together. It  
2 improves the compactness and their COI. Let the Verde  
3 Valley contribute to a competitive district that also  
4 honors the effect the VRA needs of Navajo, Hopi and other  
5 tribes. Use their CDF-10 map and fix this travesty.

6 With competitive districts, we will have a more  
7 engaged citizenry and more responsive and responsible set  
8 of elected officials. And this is what we want, and this  
9 is what you should want.

10 LDs 5, 6, 7 and 30 need to be reworked, as  
11 well. Competitiveness is not a bonus; rather, it is key  
12 to why the IRC was created in the first place. It is not  
13 right to treat this important criteria as an  
14 afterthought.

15 Again, put central Yavapai County in with  
16 LD-30's Mohave County, leaving the Verde Valley with the  
17 competitive LD-7. This makes LD-30 more competitive --  
18 pardon me -- more compact, enhances their COI, and  
19 reduces the need to include west valley populations. And  
20 it helps clean up LD-6 as a result, which is terribly  
21 packed. See LDF-50 and 51 for guidance.

22 Your adherence to Yavapai County LD-5 is  
23 inconsistent with several criteria. It flies in the face  
24 of neighboring COIs, also significant geographic  
25 boundaries, compactness, fairness and competitiveness in

1 the region. We need your help. Thank you for your open  
2 mind.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER DAVIS: Hello, IRC. My name's Mack  
5 Davis. I've been a resident of Arizona for over 40 years  
6 and I live in Cottonwood.

7 I am speaking for a fair redistricting map.  
8 What you are proposing is not fair. It's not  
9 competitive. If you want a, fair competitive map, Verde  
10 Valley area, Sedona area, Flagstaff area should be in the  
11 same district.

12 If the draft maps remain unchanged, one party  
13 will have no represent -- representation in the  
14 legislature for the next 10 years. Sedona will be split  
15 in two legislative districts and will either be  
16 represented by legislators from Prescott or Payson areas  
17 which do not share our values and are not our communities  
18 of interest.

19 In both congressional and legislative  
20 districts, the central talking point is the absurdity of  
21 keeping Yavapai County whole at a clear detriment to  
22 communities of interest, contiguity, and competitiveness.  
23 Thank you for letting me speak.

24 (Applause.)

25 SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Good evening. I hope you

1 guys are well. My name's Jack Williams, and I am a  
2 resident of uptown Sedona.

3           In short, I'm here to ask the Commission to  
4 unite the City of Sedona as one single, unified community  
5 in Draft LD-5. I don't think I need to say much, but I  
6 understand the appeal to keep the counties intact, but  
7 the draft legislative maps adopted by you split the City  
8 of Sedona along county lines, essentially putting the  
9 Coconino County portion of Sedona into draft map LD-7,  
10 while the Yavapai County side of Sedona, with my city  
11 council, my police department and my shopping, et cetera,  
12 are in draft map LD-5.

13           Given that the City of Sedona has been, and is,  
14 one city, one community, and was treated as such by your  
15 predecessors, please do not weaken and/or impair the City  
16 of Sedona by separating it into two separate legislative  
17 districts, thereby forcing us to lobby two sets of  
18 legislators to make our voices heard.

19           I think uniting the entire city in draft LD-5  
20 not only meets the criteria that guide the drawing of our  
21 legislative districts, but uniting Sedona keeps Sedona as  
22 a total community; remarries the uptown Sedona with their  
23 representative government in west Sedona; and most  
24 important to good representative government, a united  
25 Sedona pools the Sedona residents as a single block of

1 constituents to our state legislators.

2           Now, I'll beg to differ with my city council.  
3 Even though I reside in the Coconino side of Sedona, I do  
4 not support, nor do I agree with, the legislative maps  
5 submitted by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

6           I think when I go to the top of the Mingus  
7 mountains, I see the stunning panorama of a huge  
8 community of interest. From the rim from Flagstaff, I  
9 don't see Sedona.

10           Thank you very much.

11           (Applause.)

12           SPEAKER CAMPBELL: Good evening. My name is  
13 Noel Campbell.

14           I'm an Arizona resident for 75 years. I'm a  
15 military veteran. For the last six years, I've been the  
16 state representative for LD-1.

17           And I want to tell you that I support the  
18 proposed map, especially if we could include the City of  
19 Sedona, the whole city, into that redistrict map. It  
20 just makes sense. Cutting that city in half doesn't make  
21 any sense at all. In fact, it may even make the  
22 balancing of political parties even better -- or more  
23 even.

24           Now, I want to tell you why I support this map.  
25 It is because when I first ran for elective office, the



1 county was pretty much LD-1 as it is being proposed  
2 today. And then, 10 years ago, it was redistrict and  
3 LD-1 ended up with Anthem and New River and parts of  
4 Phoenix. It just didn't make any sense from a community  
5 of interest. You know, Prescott, the northern central  
6 Arizona is very rural. Anthem, Phoenix, that area down  
7 there, very urban.

8 But one of the things, when you talk about  
9 commonality of interest -- and this has to do with water.

10 If you look at this map, it incorporates the  
11 Verde River into LD-5. You have no idea how important  
12 that is. Because when L -- when the Verde River area was  
13 not part of LD-1, the issue of water was totally out of  
14 bounds because you had elected officials from another  
15 district arguing with the representatives from LD-1 about  
16 the Upper Verde River and what happens when you tap into  
17 the Big Chino Aquifer. That's the central issue --  
18 water -- that makes this district make sense, because it  
19 forces your representatives to look at both sides of the  
20 issue.

21 And for that, I thank you for keeping us all  
22 together. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. CRANK: We'll turn it back over to Desert  
25 Ridge.

1 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Michele.

2 Our next five speakers are Tom Sinyard, Rhonda  
3 Smith, Nancy Dombrowski, Michael Johnson, and Phyllis  
4 Smith. Please line up behind me.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I've learned a  
6 lot more here tonight than I thought I would, and -- but  
7 I'm very impressed with, with how well people are, are  
8 stating what is important to them. So I've come here  
9 more to listen and learn than I have to suggest what we  
10 should do.

11 My wife and I have lived here in Scottsdale for  
12 some 30 years. I also am a veteran. And I think  
13 tonight, I want -- I found one of the few Coast Guardsmen  
14 also in the entire universe, or at least in the, in the  
15 state of Arizona. So I have learned a lot, and I thank  
16 you for your time.

17 SPEAKER SMITH: Hi. My name is Rhonda Smith,  
18 and I appreciate the Madam Chairwoman and Commissioners  
19 doing all that you're doing.

20 I want to speak to changing LD-2 and LD-4. I  
21 would like them to be more unified and compact. I would  
22 like to remove the Sunnyslope area, go north to include  
23 the Deer Valley Airport, and it should be aligned with  
24 the Deer Valley Village. The North Mountain and Shaw  
25 Butte are natural boundary lines, and they should be

1 used. Paradise Valley and Cave Creek have nothing in  
2 common with Sunnyslope and share no community of  
3 interest.

4           Regarding Legislative District 4, I'd like --  
5 I'd like you to respect the communities of interest  
6 there. The boundary should stop south of Camelback and  
7 continue as far east to, say, Pima Road. McCormick Ranch  
8 should not be part of the reservation. They have nothing  
9 in common with each other. And Desert Ridge should be  
10 included in the north part.

11           Please consider making the following changes in  
12 Legislative District 9 and 10. The southern boundary, I  
13 would like to see on the south of 60 and stay east-west  
14 of, of Val Vista. I would also like to use the  
15 consolidated Gilbert map. I really want this map to be  
16 followed. This map addresses all the problems and should  
17 be used for the East Valley.

18           Last, the retirement communities should stay  
19 together, specifically Leisure World. It should not be  
20 part of Tempe or Gilbert. They really need to stay  
21 together. Thank you so much.

22           MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. And if anybody in  
23 our -- in Cottonwood is still here, if you can take any  
24 conversations outside just so the Commissioners can still  
25 hear the speakers in Desert Ridge, that would be great.

1 Thank you.

2 SPEAKER DOMBRAWSKI: Hi. I'm Nancy  
3 Dombrowski. I'm a retired school principal.

4 And looking at the maps, I've noticed a lack of  
5 compactness and commonality in several districts. Sorry.  
6 I just had eye surgery, so this -- it's blurry.

7 I support the consolidated Gilbert map unifying  
8 Gilbert. South Scottsdale from Camelback Road south is  
9 more in common with Tempe than Scottsdale. Tempe should  
10 not be in the East Valley. Central Phoenix has no  
11 commonality with Scottsdale. Leisure World and the  
12 retirement communities have commonality with Mesa more  
13 than with Tempe.

14 Ahwatukee is in a little area of its own in  
15 South Mountain area. It doesn't really have anything in  
16 common with anybody, but we, we -- we actually have a lot  
17 of students bussed in from the city of Maricopa, so we  
18 actually feel closer to Maricopa on the other side of the  
19 mountain than we do with Tempe, which is what we're being  
20 put with.

21 So we appreciate your thoughts on that. Thank  
22 you.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Michael  
24 Johnson, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to  
25 speak.

1 I've lived at Central and Thunderbird, smack  
2 dab in the middle of LD-2, for about 42 years. I'm  
3 currently a small business owner, and I'm also a retired  
4 senior research fellow from a major company here in the  
5 valley. I mention that because I've led teams of  
6 engineers and skilled laborers on a variety of programs  
7 including those for NASA. We included scientists in  
8 specialists and engineering, physics, electronics and so  
9 forth; people from China Russia, India.

10 Now, this mix of backgrounds meant that our  
11 ideas competed on a broad field. If you're looking at a  
12 cellphone or a laptop tonight, or today, you're looking  
13 at some of the fruits of our inventions. If you drove in  
14 a car with an LCD display in it, you're also looking at  
15 some of the fruits of our teams' inventions. Diversity  
16 in our community at this company was a beautiful and  
17 powerful thing that led to fresh ideas, new approaches.

18 So if we keep LD-2 as proposed, then our  
19 representation will be truer to the many backgrounds I've  
20 observed here in my community. North Mountain Preserve  
21 is 500 steps from my door. I've made many a cheerful  
22 acquaintances on morning hikes there. My doctors are at  
23 John C. Lincoln Medical Center and thereabouts, just a  
24 few blocks south of my home. I dine at restaurants in  
25 the Sunnyslope area.

1           So, yes, let's stay true to the broader  
2 community I've lived in since 1978. I like the proposed  
3 LD-2 boundaries as they have been proposed. Thank you  
4 very much.

5           (Applause.)

6           SPEAKER SMITH: Commissioners, thank you for  
7 this opportunity to speak, and thank you for the work  
8 you're doing on behalf of Arizona.

9           My name is Phyllis Smith. I live in LD-3  
10 presented as it is now on the adopted draft map, but I  
11 want to speak about the LDs as a whole.

12           The legislative districts reflected on the  
13 adopted draft LD map do not meet the mandates prescribed  
14 in Proposition 106. Here's why. 24 LDs have vote  
15 spreads greater than seven percent. Seven percent is the  
16 spread adopted by the Commission.

17           These are safe districts. Safe districts are  
18 non-competitive. And no matter who the majority party  
19 is, their candidate is assured of being elected, giving  
20 the outnumbered party, or minority party, no chance to  
21 elect their own candidate for the next 10 years. It  
22 means the outnumbered party voters, their votes are  
23 ineffective. They're meaningless.

24           Many of these LDs as drawn on the draft map are  
25 so packed and the spread so large that reducing their

1 spread would have a positive effect on adjacent LDs and  
2 accommodate fair and balanced rendering of  
3 competitiveness while considering communities of  
4 interest. We, the citizens of Arizona -- Republicans,  
5 Democrats, Independents -- voted for Proposition 106.

6 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Anna  
7 Arnold, Brendan Walsh, Roger Strasbourg, Heather Turley  
8 and April Smith.

9 SPEAKER ARNOLD: Good evening, Madam Chair and  
10 Commissioners. My name is Anna Arnold. I've lived in  
11 Cave Creek for 34 years.

12 And I wanted to first thank you for splitting  
13 us from Yavapai County because we really felt that we  
14 didn't have a lot in common with them. However, you've  
15 now, by putting us in the proposed LD-3, you've put us --  
16 thrown us from the frying pan into the fire.

17 LD-1 is basic -- I mean LD-3 is basically a  
18 rugged wilderness area and we're an urbanized rural area  
19 within north Phoenix. We have absolutely no shared  
20 community interests with the bulk of LD-3.

21 The bottom line is that LD-3 is not compact and  
22 contiguous as it has many geographic barriers between us  
23 and the rest of LD-3. It's totally uncompetitive.  
24 There's a 20 percent spread between the number of  
25 Republican and Democratic voters, and it ignores our

1 communities of interest south along Cave Creek and Tatum  
2 where we did our shopping and medical care.

3           It brings us to the broader point that to make  
4 24 out of 30 safe districts, you defeat the letter and  
5 spirit of the charter. In all of these 24 districts, the  
6 practical effect is to deprive every single minority  
7 voter of a meaningful vote.

8           In conclusion, I request that you include Cave  
9 Creek and Carefree in a district that runs north and  
10 south, making us part of the North Phoenix community and  
11 keeping in mind our community of interest, and that you  
12 change your overall strategy to increase competitiveness.  
13 Thank you.

14           (Applause.)

15           SPEAKER WALSH: Hello. My name is Brendan  
16 Walsh. I live in the area of Phoenix, 35th Avenue and  
17 Thunderbird, adjacent to Metrocenter and also to ASU  
18 West. And I would just like to speak -- thanks for  
19 putting up the map. I would just like to speak to  
20 Districts 2 and 4 -- I think it's 2 -- where we are now.

21           This is a -- I think Mike talked about this  
22 before. It's an incredibly diverse area. Right now, the  
23 boundaries include the North Mountain Preserve in its  
24 entirety, and it also includes -- pretty much it, it  
25 conforms with the Glendale Union High School District and



1 the Washington Elementary School District where my kids  
2 attend school. And it is sort of a cohesive community,  
3 but it's also diverse. And it's somewhat competitive.  
4 So we really would appreciate it if you would keep those  
5 maps the way they are.

6 I would also just make a community about  
7 District 4, which is -- it's really the only toss-up  
8 district that we have. Everything else leans one way or  
9 the other. And it is also is an interesting district  
10 that includes north -- both, both the north and the south  
11 of Paradise Valley. They -- it's, it's a particularly --  
12 particular kind of -- I think upper middle class, but  
13 certainly similar communities. But, it's also a toss-up  
14 district. We have very few of them. I really think it  
15 would be terrible if you were to break it up in such a  
16 way to suck -- either lose some of the southern or  
17 northern areas that area, of that district, or to bring  
18 in parts of Scottsdale that would no longer have it be  
19 competitive.

20 So thank you very much for your time. I  
21 appreciate the opportunity to speak.

22 SPEAKER TURLEY: Thank you, madam speaker, for  
23 the opportunity to speak.

24 My name is Heather Turley, and I'm here because  
25 I am concerned about some of the way the legislative

1 districts and congressional lines are drawn. Here are my  
2 concerns.

3           For the congressional districts, you have  
4 separated the retirement communities in Mesa -- to be  
5 specific, Leisure World -- and added them into Tempe,  
6 which is a lot more of a college town and a lot less of a  
7 retirement community. They should be included in the  
8 other East Valley retirement communities. That would be  
9 more common in with them.

10           Next to the legislative districts. Part of the  
11 redistricting is keeping like needs together. Gilbert  
12 should stay more together like the Gilbert maps that you  
13 had proposed, and what we should do is take District 9  
14 and 10, and they should have -- they should be separated  
15 from Gilbert and keep them in Mesa and stop at the 60 or  
16 even Baseline, and keep 9 and 10 at that. And because  
17 you'd be changing that, you should change the district  
18 line in 9 and 10 to Val Vista and separate those two  
19 there.

20           To -- next are Legislative Districts 2 and 4.  
21 Districts should be unified and compact. To accomplish  
22 this, "Sunnyside slope" needs to be removed from  
23 District 2. It should go north and should include Deer  
24 Valley Airport and should also be aligned with Deer  
25 Valley Village. North Mountain and Shaw Butte are

1 natural boundary lines between these districts and should  
2 be used as such.

3 Paradise Valley and Cave Creek have nothing in  
4 common. They should not be together. They share no  
5 community of interest. To respect community of interest,  
6 the boundary of 4 should stop south of Camelback to where  
7 District 8 should be continued far east as at least Pima  
8 Road.

9 Also McCormick rock -- McCormick Ranch should  
10 not be included in the reservation. Again, because they  
11 have nothing common. But, Desert Ridge should be  
12 included to the north.

13 I know it's difficult to balance out all these  
14 needs, but we need to keep the community and the natural  
15 boundaries that the Constitutional requirement instructs.  
16 Also, I support the -- okay.

17 SPEAKER SMITH: Hello. I am April Smith, and  
18 I am a native of Arizona. I take pride in this state and  
19 I'm grateful to have a voice in various state policies.

20 When researching the Constitutional criteria  
21 required and the maps involving the redistricting, there  
22 is essential criteria that should be weighed heavily.

23 In regards to the East Valley and legislative  
24 districts, the consolidated Gilbert map is an excellent  
25 visual to glean from. The 60 Superstition Freeway is a

1 practical southern border of the Mesa Districts 9 and 10,  
2 which also allows for more of Gilbert to remain together.  
3 Val Vista is a sensible dividing line to create the east  
4 and west boundary between these districts. This also  
5 assists in the maintaining of communities of interest and  
6 keeps Mesa separated out into fewer districts.

7           Furthermore, in regards to the Congressional  
8 Districts 4 and 5 and the retirement communities, they  
9 should be kept together as they have many similarities.  
10 In particular, Leisure World should not be placed in a  
11 district with Tempe or Gilbert but should be kept with  
12 the East Valley.

13           Where communities of interest are maintained to  
14 the most practicality, the representatives are able to  
15 focus and work on the matters that are of high importance  
16 to those communities versus a multitude of expectations  
17 where vast differences among the population occur.

18           In response to some who have mentioned the  
19 Verde Valley, my aunt and uncle lived in Camp Verde the  
20 majority of their lives, and died there. Prescott and  
21 Camp Verde are similar. Flagstaff is more urban and has  
22 age disparity. It should also be taken into account.

23           And it must be reiterated that competitiveness  
24 is the least of the required criteria. When the  
25 essential criteria of communities of interest,

1 compactness are achieved while following the Constitution  
2 and allotting a similar population within each district,  
3 the highest priorities will be better achieved. Thank  
4 you.

5 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you. We'll now take a  
6 10-minute break for our transcriptionist, and we will  
7 resume back at 7:34 sharp. Thank you.

8 (Recess taken from 7:25 to 7:34 p.m.)

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay, if everybody wants to  
10 take their seats, we're going to go ahead and get started  
11 again. Michele is going to announce the next 10  
12 speakers.

13 And then, again, in Cottonwood and in Phoenix,  
14 if you have already spoken and can make room for the next  
15 speakers, that would be wonderful. Thank you so much.

16 MS. CRANK: If I can please have your  
17 attention for the next 10 speakers. Please listen.

18 Thomasene Cardona, Dwight Kadar, Andrea Kadar,  
19 Cindy Farmer, Joe Farmer, Craig Swanson, Lynn Zonakis,  
20 Elaine Bokamp -- Bomkamp, Gloria Brown, Llama Habern.

21 Please line up against this wall. Tomasina?

22 SPEAKER: Thomasene?

23 MS. CRANK: Yes.

24 SPEAKER CARDONA: Good evening, Madam Chair,  
25 Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

1 Hello, my name is Thomasene Cardona. I am a  
2 citizen of the Yavapai-Apache Nation and a current Camp  
3 Verde school board member. The Yavapai-Apache Nation's  
4 five communities and the other communities of interest  
5 here in the Verde Valley have strong ties to one another.  
6 This means Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Sedona, Flagstaff and  
7 the other tribal communities which make for a competitive  
8 district.

9 I believe it is this competitiveness that is  
10 missing from your priority list as the Commission.  
11 Therefore, I request for the Commission to consider how  
12 the LD maps have not accommodated the competitive goal  
13 while taking into account whether greater competitiveness  
14 would cause significant detriment to other goals.

15 Additionally, they do not currently meet the  
16 Constitutional standard, which all of the northern  
17 districts are outside of the Commission's own range of  
18 competitiveness by very wide margins. Alternative maps  
19 have been submitted which shows that it is not necessary.

20 The maps submitted by the Coconino County Board  
21 of Supervisors are one example. LDF-50 and LDF-51 show  
22 that at least one competitive district is possible in  
23 northern Arizona. It is this interest of the people who  
24 reside -- it is in this interest of the people who reside  
25 in these areas that the Commission is accountable to.

1 Honnii guhm. Thank you for this opportunity.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER KADAR: Good evening. My name is  
4 Dwight Kadar, and I've lived in the Verde Valley and  
5 Yavapai County for almost 10 years. And I'd like to make  
6 it clear I am not an elected official from any city. I  
7 am a resident.

8 I'd like to thank Commissioner Neuberg and the,  
9 and the Commission for its work to redraw the lines. I  
10 know it's a very difficult task. According to the  
11 Commission's own glossary, you are guided by six criteria  
12 when drawing lines. For those in attendance, I will  
13 quickly review them.

14 It's equal population; compactness; compliance  
15 with the U.S. Constitution and voting rights; respect for  
16 community interests; incorporation of visible geographic  
17 features; and, lastly, the creation of competitive  
18 districts where there is no significant detriment to the  
19 other five goals.

20 I attended the Flagstaff public hearing last  
21 week in reference to maps legislative Districts 5, 6 and  
22 7 and Congressional District 2. For four Sedona city  
23 councilmen and at least three Flagstaff city councilmen,  
24 as well as a Coconino County supervisor, all refer to the  
25 creation of "their maps" which were unanimously approved.

1           They continuously referred to creation of  
2 competitive districts but failed to mention -- and again  
3 I quote -- with no significant detriment to the other  
4 goals.

5           These, these people are making statements of  
6 noncompetitive districts. They do not speak for the  
7 valley -- Verde Valley residents in Yavapai County.  
8 Therefore, I request that the Commission unanimously  
9 adopt the legislative Districts 5, 6 and 7, and  
10 Congressional District 2 with the addition of Sedona, the  
11 Sedona piece that is in Coconino County.

12           And I thank the Commission for their resolve to  
13 balance these six goals as set forth in the Arizona  
14 Constitution.

15           (Applause.)

16           SPEAKER A. KADAR: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm  
17 Andrea Kadar. I live in the Verde Valley. I'm not an  
18 elected official. It's so good to see you again. Thank  
19 you for coming to Yavapai County.

20           You know, after we saw you in Flagstaff, I  
21 talked to a lot of neighbors and friends and church  
22 members, and they are all for AZ Draft 10.0 maps for LDs  
23 5, 6, 7 and CD-2. They agree that the 10.0 map meets all  
24 the criteria described in the Arizona Constitution. And  
25 this is especially true when it comes to equal population



1 creating communities of interest, incorporating county  
2 boundaries into the maps.

3           So I assure you, your work is not a failure.  
4 Last week at the Flagstaff hearing we heard the mayors of  
5 Sedona, Flagstaff, members of the Coconino County Board  
6 of Supervisors refer to a map they had drawn, they  
7 unanimously supported, and they submitted to the  
8 Commission that would include all of us in the Verde  
9 Valley.

10           But, they don't represent us. This action  
11 appears to be highly partisan. An attempt to create a  
12 partisan district violates redistricting goals. A  
13 competitive district may be created if there is no  
14 significant detriment to the other five goals. However,  
15 their recommended map, in my opinion, creates a detriment  
16 to the 10.0 map for District 5.

17           Ladies and gentlemen, with all the public  
18 comment since July, my Verde Valley, Sedona, neighbors  
19 and I feel like you have correctly drawn Yavapai County  
20 as its own LD, and your 10.0 map is totally appropriate  
21 based on our population numbers in our community.

22           Let me be perfectly clear. We're Yavapai  
23 County. We want to be with Prescott. Thank you so much.  
24 It's great it to see you again.

25           (Applause.)

1           SPEAKER C. FARMER:    Good evening.  I'd like to  
2 say a big thank you to the Commission for all the hard  
3 work that they have done and for the latest draft maps of  
4 CD-2 and LD-5.

5           My first name is C.  And my last name is F.  
6 And I live in VV.

7           What?  Well, above is just a quick analogy of  
8 why the whole picture of all the parts -- or letters --  
9 are necessary and essential for accurate and effective  
10 communication for myself and for to address a community  
11 issue.

12          So I am Cindy Farmer, a Verde Valley resident  
13 and a Sedona property owner, here to emphasize the  
14 importance of keeping all of Sedona together.

15          Sedona has been split in two for over 10 years.  
16 That should not -- that should be corrected by having all  
17 Sedona combined with LD-5.  The city needs to have its  
18 parts or proper cohesiveness -- for proper cohesiveness,  
19 accurate and consistent representation for all Sedona  
20 represent -- residents.

21          Sedona, the Verde Valley, Prescott, Prescott  
22 Valley, are very much connected as communities of  
23 interest in our taxes, families, medical and care  
24 facilities, recreation, education, businesses, utility  
25 and water issues, and easy, clear, year-round,

1 non-wintery transportation routes.

2           Please, I sincerely ask to have all of Sedona  
3 placed as a whole city with LD-5 in Yavapai County. We  
4 do not want to be with Flag. Do not allow Sedona to be  
5 ripped apart any more. Thank you so much and keep all  
6 the letters together.

7           (Applause.)

8           SPEAKER J. FARMER:    Good evening, Madam Chair,  
9 members of the Commission. My name is Joseph Farmer, and  
10 I'm privileged to be married to your previous speaker  
11 who -- she's dynamite. I'm not sure I can follow that.  
12 But, I do want to agree with the previous speakers. I'm  
13 a resident, also, of Camp Verde. I've been here since  
14 1955 in Arizona.

15           And I want to commend the Commission staff --  
16 all of you -- and the Commissioners for developing the  
17 current CD-2 and LD-5 maps. I appreciate the difficult,  
18 challenging work by the Commissions and their staff in  
19 carrying out this often intense process of creating new  
20 redistricting maps.

21           I particularly like the draft maps produced for  
22 my congressional and legislative districts, CD-2 and  
23 LD-5, and recommend it be adopted, with one change: The  
24 communities of interest legislative services are very  
25 compatible to those of the entire City of Sedona, which

1 should be kept fully within District 5 and Yavapai  
2 County, not in LD-7 in part of Coconino County.

3 Elected representatives' constituent services  
4 to Sedona should not be split between LD-5 and LD-7. The  
5 Yavapai County Board of Supervisors and other relevant  
6 agencies are most closely aligned and positioned to  
7 represent all Sedona citizens and businesses.

8 Coconino County resources are not as accessible  
9 or relevant to east Sedona residents, particularly with  
10 the county seat of Flagstaff being in LD-6.

11 Again, I thank you for appropriately  
12 considering all of the designated criteria for developing  
13 redistricting boundaries, specifically CD-2 and LD-5, and  
14 I urge the Commission to incorporate all of the City of  
15 Sedona with the LD-5 Yavapai County in the final  
16 legislative maps. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 SPEAKER SWANSON: My name is Craig Swanson. I  
19 live in Sedona, and I represent Keep Sedona Beautiful.

20 Much has been said in this meeting about  
21 communities of interest and the importance of keeping  
22 them whole as districts are redrawn.

23 The environment of the Verde Valley defines an  
24 important community of interest. Residents share common  
25 concerns about protecting our natural resources:

1 Groundwater, surface water, open spaces, dark skies and  
2 public land.

3           Sedona and the Verde Valley share these  
4 concerns much more strongly with Flagstaff to the north  
5 than with Prescott to the west. We need the ability to  
6 have a voice in the Arizona legislature that represents  
7 those concerns. The boundaries that have been proposed  
8 dilute that voice significantly by splitting Sedona on  
9 county lines; separating all of Sedona from Flagstaff;  
10 combining uptown Sedona instead with Payson, Show Low and  
11 Florence; combining the rest of Sedona and the Verde  
12 Valley with a vast area west of the Mingus Mountains.

13           As it was recently noted in an editorial in the  
14 Red Rock News, the currently proposed maps do something  
15 technically logical but practically stupid. They are  
16 fundamentally built on the county lines, and thus split  
17 the City of Sedona. Those county lines came into being  
18 before Sedona was incorporated, and they've historically  
19 split Sedona in a completely unnatural way.

20           Keep Sedona Beautiful strongly supports the  
21 legislative District Maps LDF-50 and 51. We urge the  
22 Commission to keep Sedona and the Verde Valley in the  
23 same legislative district and for that competitive  
24 district to include Flagstaff.

25           Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 SPEAKER ZONAKIS: Hi. My name is Lynn  
3 Zonakis. I live in the City of Sedona. I'm president of  
4 the League of Women Voters Northern Arizona, and I'm  
5 speaking out on behalf of our organization.

6 The League of Women Voters Northern Arizona  
7 represents members in the Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff  
8 and northern Arizona. We're greatly concerned regarding  
9 the current maps for our community. The City of Sedona  
10 has been split into two legislative districts. Neither  
11 part of the city is linked to Flagstaff district. The  
12 towns of the Verde Valley have been joined into a  
13 district with Prescott and Prescott Valley. The City of  
14 Flagstaff has been split as well.

15 We believe in the crosstown community links  
16 within the Verde Valley and Flagstaff and the need to  
17 retain this area as a community of interest within a  
18 single district. It is essential the Commission follow  
19 the Arizona Constitutional mandates of competitiveness,  
20 communities of interest, equal population, geographical  
21 compactness and keeping cities whole.

22 A review of the current maps shows these  
23 Constitutional mandates are not being followed.  
24 Communities of interest have been broken apart.  
25 Competitiveness, which is at the heart of democracy, has

1 been removed from our area.

2           As concerned citizens, we ask the IRC to  
3 correct these oversights and ensure true communities of  
4 interest are maintained and our ability to have our vote  
5 count by creating competitive districts is maintained.

6 Thank you.

7           (Applause.)

8           SPEAKER BOMKAMP: My name is Elaine Bomkamp.  
9 I live in Cornville in the Verde Valley.

10           The Independent Redistricting Commission was  
11 the result -- result of voters wanting fair and  
12 competitive districts in Arizona. With the proposed  
13 maps, only two out of 30 legislative districts are highly  
14 competitive, and only four out of 30 districts are  
15 somewhat competitive, defying Proposition 106 and the  
16 voices of the Arizona voters.

17           Northern Arizona does not have a single  
18 competitive district. There is a 28.5 percent -- percent  
19 difference in the proposed map for LD-5; a 42.4 percent  
20 difference in the map for LD-6; and a 29.8 percent  
21 difference in the map for LD-7. All favoring Republicans  
22 over Democrats.

23           How, I ask you, is this competitive and fair?  
24 Arizona's northern districts have been gerrymandered to  
25 not meet the Constitutional criteria of competitiveness,

1 compactness and communities of interest.

2           There is a fair alternative. If you use the  
3 maps submitted by the Coconino Board of Supervisors,  
4 which are LDF-50 and 51, these show at least one  
5 competitive district in northern Arizona.

6           These maps have been endorsed by the city or  
7 town councils of Clarkdale, Flagstaff and Sedona, along  
8 with the mayor of Jerome. Deference needs to be given to  
9 these officials, as well as to the citizens of the Verde  
10 Valley.

11           LD-6's current map has worked well for us. It  
12 is competitive, compact and fulfills the communities of  
13 interest criteria.

14           (Applause.)

15           SPEAKER BROWN: Good evening. I'm Gloria  
16 Brown, and I live in the Village of Oak Creek. And I  
17 share my personal shopping needs, medical care, dining  
18 out places in the following cities, towns and villages:  
19 Flagstaff, Sedona, VOC, Jerome, Cottonwood and Camp  
20 Verde.

21           All of these names are part of the Verde  
22 Valley, Sedona and Flagstaff area of commerce related to  
23 our nature and environmental concerns for the  
24 conservation of Oak Creek and the Verde River.

25           Notice that I do not shop or seek services in



1 Prescott and its surrounding communities.

2           Part of the purpose of creating voting  
3 districts is to keep contiguous communities that share  
4 the same concerns and values together. Healthcare in  
5 Cottonwood and Flagstaff are used by our local residents.  
6 Prescott communities do not share healthcare, shopping,  
7 education or environmental needs with the communities  
8 east of the Mingus Mountains.

9           We share our goals as stewards of the red  
10 rocks, Verde River, Coconino National Forest as a  
11 contiguous group with similar concerns. In order to keep  
12 Yavapai County as a whole district should not take  
13 precedence over separating parts of Sedona and parts of  
14 Flagstaff into different districts.

15           Our communities have local issues that require  
16 legislative support of leaders from these communities.  
17 The division of these communities also divides a  
18 two-party system, resulting in a one-sided party system  
19 in which voters and independents of the opposing party  
20 will realize that their votes will not count in a  
21 meaningful way. That will result in fewer active voters,  
22 a privilege that American citizens should be able to do  
23 with pride in our democracy.

24           We have seen the rise of extremism in politics  
25 which can favor one party, and I certainly do not want to

1 be represented by an extremist politician.

2           At Northern Arizona University, the Martin  
3 Springer Institute teaches respect, tolerance and  
4 acceptance of all people. And that is in Flagstaff, and  
5 we should all go there and take their lessons.

6           (Applause.)

7           SPEAKER HABERN: Hi. My name is Llama Habern.  
8 I'm a resident of the Verde Valley.

9           I believe that the current IRC proposed maps  
10 are unfair and would negatively impact the Verde Valley  
11 specifically. The Verde Valley should be grouped with  
12 Flagstaff, with whom we share geographical, educational  
13 and cultural ties, rather than with Prescott.

14           County lines do not represent the real  
15 experiences of those of us living here, and we deserve to  
16 have congressional and legislative representatives that  
17 speak to our needs specifically. Needs that are  
18 different from Prescott and the rest of Yavapai County.

19           Additionally, the proposed districts are not at  
20 all competitive despite that being a requirement of Prop  
21 106 which was passed by Arizona voters.

22           Competitive districts would benefit everyone.  
23 It would ensure more participation in elections and would  
24 mean that Independents, and really all of us, would have  
25 our voices heard, which the current proposed maps from

1 the IRC do not do.

2 For that reason, the Committee should adopt  
3 LDF-050 and 051, proposed by the Coconino County Board of  
4 Supervisors, and CDF one oh -- sorry -- 0110 proposed by  
5 the Navajo Nation's Human Rights Commission.

6 Please show Verde Valley residents that our  
7 right to a voice in elections is a right and not a  
8 privilege.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. CRANK: We'll turn it back over to Desert  
11 Ridge.

12 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Michele.

13 Our next five speakers are Catherine Tunget,  
14 Diane Niemann, Ana Sanchez, Pat VanMaanen, Michele  
15 Stephens.

16 SPEAKER TUNGET: Hi. My name is Catherine  
17 Tunget, and I live in Maricopa County.

18 It's very important to me that the maps are  
19 drawn according to criteria put forth in our Arizona  
20 Constitution.

21 Legislative District 2 needs to unify and be  
22 compacted. The Sunnyslope area needs to be removed and  
23 the boundary north needs to include the Deer Valley  
24 Airport and be aligned with Deer Valley Village.

25 Sunnyslope has nothing in common with Paradise

1 Valley and Cave Creek, sharing no community of interest.  
2 North Mountain and Shaw Butte are natural barriers  
3 between District 2 and 4.

4 Legislative District 4 needs to respect  
5 communities of interest. The south boundary needs to be  
6 Camelback where District 8 should be. The eastern  
7 boundary should continue as far as Pima Road. McCormick  
8 Ranch should not be part of the reservation. Desert  
9 Ridge to the north should absolutely be included as a  
10 community of interest with -- with District 4.

11 Regarding District 9 and 10, the consolidated  
12 Gilbert map makes complete sense for the East Valley. It  
13 maintains the community of interest criteria very well.  
14 This map addresses all of the current problems.  
15 Retirement communities should stay together. Leisure  
16 World should not be in Tempe or Gilbert. The southern  
17 boundaries should be south of the 60 and stay east-west  
18 of Val Vista.

19 And a comment on CD-1. Phoenix has absolutely  
20 nothing in common with Scottsdale. No one living in  
21 Scottsdale travels to central Phoenix for shopping,  
22 church services, school, or everyday living activities.

23 I appreciate your time and attention. Thank  
24 you.

25 SPEAKER NIEMANN: Hello. My name is Diane

1 Niemann. I want to thank you for this opportunity to  
2 speak here today.

3 I'm looking at the congressional district draft  
4 map of CD-1, which is my district. I'm focusing on the  
5 southwestern panhandle area.

6 In that area, the lower third includes East  
7 Camelback, Encanto and Alhambra neighborhoods. These  
8 neighborhoods are highly dense, urban, and Hispanic, and  
9 they're not a community similar with the suburban areas  
10 of north Phoenix, north Scottsdale and Cave Creek.

11 These neighborhoods should be annexed to CD-3,  
12 which is highly Hispanic as well. And this would be in  
13 line with the voters act -- the Voters Rights Act. And  
14 the voting age population in CD-3 has been shrunk to  
15 447,000, compared to 584,000 in CD-1. So please correct  
16 this disparity.

17 I also want to suggest in the same -- southwest  
18 area of CD-1 the addition of the area west of Cave Creek  
19 Road to be moved to I-17 to compensate for moving the  
20 lower area -- one-third area to CD-3. This makes CD-1  
21 more compact both geographically and community-linked.

22 I thank you for your consideration of this.  
23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER SANCHEZ: Hi. My name is Ana Sanchez,  
25 and I'm here to focus your attention on something that no

1 one has talked about, which is levels of population.

2           The Arizona Constitution says that all LDs need  
3 to have similar or equal levels of population. And when  
4 I look at the stats below your LD draft map, I see that  
5 the average is about 235,000 per LD. However, LD-2 and  
6 LD-4 are way out of that average. LD-2 is right now at  
7 249,000. And the contiguous district below it, which is  
8 LD-8, is very lower at 229,000.

9           So there is a very wide gap between these two  
10 contiguous LDs, and that deviates materially from what  
11 the Arizona Constitution says.

12           In order to correct this, I am proposing that  
13 you move the southern part of LD-4 into LD-8. Take  
14 10,000 people from the southern part of LD-4 and put it  
15 into LD-8 to achieve two things. Number one, equalize  
16 the population between LD-4 and LD-8. LD-4 would then go  
17 down to 239,000 and LD-8 would go up to 239,000, making  
18 them equal.

19           And, then, another thing is to ensure the  
20 communities of interest. Because the southern part of  
21 LD-4 right now is Arcadia, which is millennials. And  
22 they have more in common with Tempe millennials than with  
23 the northern part of LD-4, which is suburban families  
24 from Paradise Valley.

25           So I fear that if you keep them together,

1 neither one of these communities are going to be  
2 well-represented.

3           So I want to thank you again for considering  
4 this proposal while at the same time remind the board  
5 that the purpose of the IRC is to ensure that the AZ  
6 constitution is followed when drawing maps and not to  
7 pursue a political goal benefiting a particular party.

8           Thank you.

9           (Applause.)

10           SPEAKER VANMAANEN:    Good evening.  My name is  
11 Pat VanMaanen, and I currently live in LD-15.

12           I'd like to thank the Commissioners for their  
13 dedication efforts to lead Arizona through the  
14 redistricting process.  I know the steps to new maps take  
15 a great deal of your time, and I would like to  
16 acknowledge your commitment to this important work.

17           I will be a voter in LD-4 if the draft maps  
18 stand as currently drawn.  In the 20-plus years I have  
19 lived in Arizona, I have never been in a competitive  
20 district.  I'm actually excited that this is possible.  
21 This excitement brings with it opportunities to see more  
22 voters engage and an opportunity to see better and more  
23 qualified candidates returning for office as a result of  
24 this new district.

25           Communities thrive when we have engaged and

1 involved citizens. This starts when they have a reason  
2 to be involved, and it often begins with voting.

3           Without competitive districts, it is much  
4 harder to motivate voters. If you're in the majority,  
5 why do you bother voting, because your candidate will  
6 likely win anyway? On the flip side, if you're in the  
7 minority, why do I bother voting when my candidate  
8 doesn't have a chance?

9           Indifference and disengagement can happen when  
10 representation is diminished or not valued. Having only  
11 six competitive LDs out of 30 in Arizona means that only  
12 one in five current voters in Arizona will be in a  
13 competitive district. That's 20 percent.

14           For these reasons, I ask the Commission to  
15 increase the competitiveness of districts for as many  
16 voters as possible. Thank you.

17           (Applause.)

18           SPEAKER STEPHENS: Hello. My name is Michele  
19 Stephens, and I live in Scottsdale. I want to thank you,  
20 first, for the opportunity to speak tonight and for all  
21 of the hours that you are putting into this  
22 redistricting.

23           I'm a first generation American, and I was  
24 taught the importance of having a voice in our democracy  
25 since our -- my parents were persecuted. And in



1 reviewing the latest draft map, I was very concerned to  
2 see that LD-23 includes Desert Ridge and areas all the  
3 way to I-17 in the West Valley.

4 This is a very geographically large area, and  
5 it doesn't represent the places where I shop, work or  
6 recreate. So it doesn't put together a community of  
7 interest.

8 In the past 12 months, I have not gone to  
9 Desert Ridge, nor have I gone to the western valley.  
10 Instead, I spend my time in Fountain Hills, south-central  
11 or north Scottsdale.

12 I ask that you please move the boundary of LD-3  
13 to Scottsdale Road. And, also, for CD-1, Phoenix is more  
14 of an urban area and it has nothing in common with  
15 Scottsdale, so that that could be relooked at as well.

16 If the current maps are finalized, I feel like  
17 you will remove my ability to be represented and my voice  
18 to be heard. Thank you for taking on this difficult  
19 task.

20 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Nancy  
21 Ordowski, Cynthia Board, Rachel Sulkes. Someone with the  
22 last name of Larra, L-a-r-r-a. Sorry, I can't read the  
23 first name. Don Ameden.

24 SPEAKER ORDOWSKI: Good evening. And I want  
25 to thank the Commission for the work that they're doing.

1 It's a difficult, long, enduring task.

2           My name is Nancy Ordowski, and I've lived in  
3 Fountain Hills for 23 years. But my neighborhood is  
4 Fountain Hills and Scottsdale, and mainly Scottsdale to  
5 Scottsdale Road.

6           I encourage you to consider moving District 2  
7 north to include Anthem and Deer Valley; and to move  
8 District 4 north to Desert Ridge, and maybe even Cave  
9 Creek and Carefree.

10           District 3 has no community of interest with  
11 the Anthem and Desert Ridge areas. The traffic in this  
12 area makes it very time-consuming to travel from one --  
13 the direction of 17 over to Fort McDowell. This can take  
14 anywhere between an hour and-a-half and two hours. This  
15 then effects our legislative representation in a negative  
16 way.

17           District 3 should include Fountain Hills, Rio  
18 Verde, Scottsdale to the west, the border of Scottsdale  
19 Road, and the southern border of either Camelback or  
20 Indian Bend, and north to the borders that may include  
21 Cave Creek or care -- and Carefree. This is where I  
22 shop, receive medical care, attend church and often meet  
23 with friends. I'm in the Scottsdale area -- even though  
24 I live in Fountain Hills -- two or three times, sometimes  
25 in one day, but at least three or four or five times a

1 week.

2           These are our communities of interest. Please  
3 look at making these changes to your current maps. And  
4 thank you, again.

5           SPEAKER SULKES: Hi. Good evening. My name  
6 is Rachel Sulkes, and I want to thank you for this  
7 opportunity to speak out.

8           I live in what is going to be I guess  
9 Legislative District 2, and I wanted to speak about it.

10           I'm very excited, actually, about the way that  
11 it's currently drawn. I do not feel that Deer Valley is  
12 a part of my community of interest. I've never been to  
13 that airport. But, I actually spend a lot of time at the  
14 preserve that's in that community, and my children attend  
15 Thunderbird High School, which is in the Glendale High  
16 School District. They attended Washington School  
17 District schools. And it's a great system. I think that  
18 that is a community of interest.

19           So, I want you to please consider leaving the  
20 map as it is currently drawn.

21           I'm also very interested in the congressional  
22 district that has been drawn. I think it's going to be  
23 8. I feel that it's much more closely aligned with my  
24 community of interest, more in the West Valley. We  
25 were -- before, we had a piece of Scottsdale. I was

1 represented by somebody that lived over on this side, and  
2 did not feel that that was representation.

3           So, thank you again for your hard work.

4           SPEAKER KATIE:   Hello.  My name is Katie, and  
5 I live at the corner of Central and Union Hills.  I am in  
6 the new LD-2.  I have lived in Arizona all of my life,  
7 all 61 years of my life, and most of the time I've spent  
8 around the North Mountain Preserves.

9           I am here because I believe that it is  
10 extremely important to keep the North Mountain Preserve  
11 community intact as it is now.  On the maps, I was really  
12 excited when I saw that the maps did draw up to the --  
13 would not be dividing Sunnyslope from the rest of the  
14 North Mountain Preserve.

15           When you divide communities, you are not able  
16 to advocate effectively for things they need.  Sunnyslope  
17 is part of the North Mountain Preserve community and also  
18 ensures that the district remains competitive.  I -- it  
19 makes geographical sense to keep this district the way it  
20 is and also represents natural boundaries that the IRC  
21 should follow.  We all enjoy the same beautiful hiking  
22 trails, the refreshing views, and all of our one  
23 community who have settled around the base of the  
24 mountain.

25           Please keep this area together.  It makes no

1 sense to divide it.

2           SPEAKER DON:   Esteemed council, good evening.  
3 My name is Don. I live at the corner of Greenway Road  
4 and Greenway Parkway.

5           I've lived in north Phoenix for nine years.  
6 One of the reasons I like legislative District 2 and the  
7 way it's been drawn is -- drawn up is because it creates  
8 a diversity of connected community.

9           I like diversity. I think diversity is  
10 important because I'm from New York. I grew up in  
11 New York during a time that it was the most diverse city  
12 in the country. Diversity makes people aware of others'  
13 opinions and views, and I believe -- sorry. This is one  
14 of my first times doing this.

15           When they have a commonality like a  
16 neighborhood, things go better for residents and they  
17 learn how to see each others' views and understand their  
18 opinions.

19           I go up in to do -- down to the Sunnyslope  
20 area. I use the Lincoln medical -- John C. Lincoln  
21 Medical Center and shopping, so I'm glad that you chose  
22 not to divide the North Mountain community and keep  
23 Sunnyslope in District 2.

24           I also think the way the lines are drawn just  
25 makes sense geographically as well. It, it would not

1 make sense to separate and divide the North Mountain  
2 community by putting Sunnyslope in any other district.  
3 Thank you.

4 MS. NEUMANN: Back to Cottonwood. Thank you.

5 MS. CRANK: The next 10 speakers, Michael  
6 Mathews, Margie Hardy, Leah Donell, Stephen Hanks,  
7 Claudia Clark, Kristen Pantone, KG Deem, Betsy Houlihan,  
8 Jeannine Reno. Tenth speaker, Lily Schultz.

9 Michael Mathews.

10 SPEAKER MATHEWS: Good evening. My name is  
11 Michael Mathews. I'm a Cottonwood city council member.  
12 While I do not represent any opinion from the city  
13 council, I do represent many constituents.

14 And myself and these constituents believe that  
15 the Verde Valley communities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale,  
16 Camp Verde, Cornville and Sedona should be incorporated  
17 with the communities of rural and suburban communities of  
18 Flagstaff into a non-native district, legislative  
19 District 7. So we believe this would also create the  
20 population equity that, that you're trying to achieve.  
21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER DONELL: Good evening. My name is  
24 Leah Donell, and I'm an Independent voter and a resident  
25 of the Verde Valley, which is a place that really feels

1 like home to me. But, the last couple of years have  
2 fueled extremist activities that threaten the peace of  
3 the community that I call home.

4 I think the legislative and congressional  
5 district maps are a crucial tool in reducing hostility  
6 locally and throughout the state.

7 The purpose of the IRC is to help Arizona  
8 achieve a healthy democracy where all feel served and  
9 where the voters are empowered. And when done properly,  
10 these maps help our neighbors find common ground. The  
11 view -- the beauty of having opposing viewpoints is that  
12 when governed well, the outcome allows communities to  
13 thrive and for everyone to feel that their voice has been  
14 represented.

15 Without competitive maps, the prudent checks  
16 and balances of our systems are overwhelmed by extremist  
17 viewpoints that are a toxic threat to our democracy.

18 The draft maps proposed by the IRC fail to make  
19 competitive legislative and congressional districts for  
20 the people of the Verde Valley. But, I do believe that  
21 the LDF-050 and 051 legislative maps proposed by Coconino  
22 County Board of Supervisors and the CDF-010 congressional  
23 map proposed by the Navajo Nation remedy these failures  
24 and provide the Verde Valley with competitive districts  
25 that allow independent voters to impact moderate -- to

1 impact and moderate our democracy.

2 I ask that the Commission adopt these maps as  
3 they provide the competitive political environment that  
4 will help unite Arizonans by encouraging compromise and  
5 diplomacy.

6 Thank you to the Commission for all the hard  
7 work that you've done. I imagine drawing these maps is  
8 difficult.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER HANKS: Good evening. My name is  
11 Stephen Hanks, and I'm speaking as a new resident of  
12 Arizona having moved to Sedona three months ago. And I  
13 really appreciate that there is an Independent  
14 Redistricting Commission.

15 When I came in today, I picked up the agenda,  
16 and I noticed under the call for public comment this is  
17 what's written:

18 This is the time for consideration and  
19 discussion of input from the public with respect to  
20 communities of interest and other redistricting criteria  
21 to be used by the Commission in the development of draft  
22 congressional and legislative district maps.

23 Now, as an editor by trade, I would add two  
24 words to the beginning of that sentence: Very serious  
25 consideration.



1           With all due respect to all of you on the  
2 Commission, I'm hoping -- I'm really hoping -- that all  
3 of these meetings that you have to attend, or you are  
4 attending to listen to the citizens of the community,  
5 you're doing it because you want to and need to, not  
6 because you have to.

7           We need very serious consideration. And while  
8 I've been sitting here tonight, I've heard the majority  
9 of people that live in the Verde Valley and the Sedona  
10 area push and promote the idea that Sedona should be kept  
11 together. When you have that kind of support for an  
12 issue, I think that needs very serious consideration.

13           When I visited Sedona over the 20 years before  
14 I decided to move here, we flew into Flagstaff. Not into  
15 Prescott. When I had to buy supplies for my new home in  
16 VOC, I went to the Home Depot in Cottonwood.

17           These are the communities of interest, and  
18 that's why we need to keep this together. Thank you.

19           (Applause.)

20           SPEAKER CLARK: Good evening. I am Claudia  
21 Clark, living in Clarkdale and a native of Arizona.

22           My ancestors first came to Arizona in the  
23 1750s. I love the Verde Valley red rocks region and want  
24 to be heard by my government. I'm concerned that it  
25 won't be because the draft maps that include the Verde

1 Valley are not competitive.

2           How can draft LD-5, that only includes 28.5  
3 percent Democrats, be considered competitive while the  
4 Commission has many ways to draw lines that would make a  
5 northern Arizona legislative district competitive while  
6 following the other five criteria?

7           These draft maps pack Democrats into one  
8 district and Republicans into two others. Draft CD-2  
9 would give Republicans a 7.6 advantage. We currently  
10 have some extreme representatives that do not have to  
11 listen to all their constituents because they have safe  
12 districts.

13           I want competitive districts because they  
14 engage voters. Elected representatives have no  
15 motivation to be accountable if they are in safe seats.  
16 Competitions within districts fosters moderation because  
17 candidates must appeal to people with differing views.

18           The draft plans for legislative districts in  
19 northern Arizona will foster extremism and further  
20 polarization, and I am -- I urge the Commission to revise  
21 them. Competitive districts would benefit everyone and  
22 really all of us have our voices heard which the current  
23 draft maps do not do.

24           For that reason, the committee should adopt  
25 LDF-50 and 51 and CDF-10. Thank you for your

1 consideration.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER PANTONE: Good evening. My name's  
4 Kristen Pantone, and I live in the Verde Valley. I am  
5 here speaking in regards to the future LD-7.

6 I would like to see Cottonwood, Cornville,  
7 Clarkdale, Camp Verde, and all of Sedona, as well as the  
8 suburban, rural and outer lying parts of Flagstaff all  
9 included in the non-native future LD-7.

10 We would also -- we don't want -- or I would  
11 not like Pinal County in, in this district because  
12 they're not a northern Arizona community of interest. I  
13 would like to see even -- even numbers among the  
14 districts. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COMMISSIONER NEUBERG: Excuse me. I have a  
17 follow-up question. I want to make sure we're hearing  
18 correctly because I think somebody -- are you saying you  
19 want these communities together in a non-native -- you're  
20 saying not with the Native Americans? I'm not -- I'm not  
21 sure what you're getting at there.

22 SPEAKER PANTONE: Just in the future LD-7.  
23 I'm not -- I -- yeah, I'm not sure.

24 COMMISSIONER NEUBERG: Okay. So you're not  
25 sure with the words that you read. But I've heard the

1 same words now about keeping these communities together  
2 in a non-native district. I'm hearing not in Yavapai,  
3 non-native, and I don't understand exactly what that  
4 means.

5 So if somebody in the future is going to read  
6 those words, I'd like to understand it. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: You're going to be  
8 speaking at some point?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER LERNER: When you come up and  
11 speak, if you could address that when you come up, that  
12 would be great. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER DEEM: Hey, everybody. My name is KG  
14 Deem. I was born here in the Verde Valley 36 years ago.  
15 I'm a third generation here in the Valley. My mother was  
16 raised here as was my grandmother back when this was a  
17 one-lane town with just a single stoplight.

18 First and foremost, I would like to say that I  
19 have no desire to be living in Prescott's shadow.  
20 Prescott is a totally different community and does not  
21 represent the Verde Valley.

22 As far as -- as far as different communities  
23 are concerned, I would like to see primarily blue  
24 Flagstaff take -- I would like to see blue Flagstaff be  
25 its own district in legislative District 6, and I would

1 like to see my community, the Verde Valley -- that's  
2 Clarkdale, Camp Verde, Cottonwood -- brought together in  
3 LD-7. And that's what I have to say. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER HOULIHAN: Hello. My name is Betsy  
6 Houlihan, and I'm a 35-year resident of the Verde Valley.

7 I'm here tonight to express my concerns that  
8 each of the three maps that have been supplied by the  
9 council will be devastating to the Verde Valley. To even  
10 suggest that the proportions within the competitive lane  
11 should come about is a slap in the face of the  
12 requirement for competitive districts.

13 There should be a separate district for the  
14 Verde Valley reaching north to include all of Flagstaff.  
15 Living in the Verde Valley is totally different from  
16 residing in Prescott or Black Canyon City or Bagdad. The  
17 Verde River is a natural link to northern Arizona through  
18 its tributaries, and the preservation of the Verde River  
19 water system is crucial to the existence of the Verde  
20 Valley, contributing to both its economic and cultural  
21 viability. That includes all the Sedona, reaching north  
22 through Oak Creek to Flagstaff.

23 In 2017, the Center for Biological Diversity in  
24 Washington, D.C. made a study of the impact on the Verde  
25 by the bumping of water from the Big Chino Aquifer to

1 service development in Prescott and Prescott Valley, and  
2 then reported it may destroy the Upper Verde.

3           The northern section of our state that supports  
4 the creeks with the tributaries of the Verde needs to be  
5 represented by a person directly related to the Verde  
6 Valley. A single congressional representative supported  
7 by Prescott is likely to side with that city's  
8 uncontrolled water needs.

9           I support CDF-10 from Flagstaff Board of  
10 Supervisors. Splitting Yavapai County makes sense along  
11 the Mingus Mountain line. Thank you.

12           (Applause.)

13           SPEAKER RENO: Good evening. My name is  
14 Jeannine Reno. I'm a resident of Sedona in the Village  
15 of Oak Creek, and I'm here to emphasize that the  
16 Sedona/Verde Valley/Flagstaff area are a social and  
17 economic community of interest, and I would like them to  
18 stay together.

19           This area has been divided into uncompetitive  
20 districts, and we need to have districts where all points  
21 of view can have a voice.

22           The current draft maps move the Sedona Verde  
23 Valley with Prescott which we have little in common, and  
24 we are separated by a mountain range which was ignored in  
25 the draft maps. I attended the Listening Tour satellite

1 meeting in Sedona on July 27th. And of 24 people who  
2 spoke about the current configuration of LD-6, 75 percent  
3 of them expressed -- supported the existing configuration  
4 of the Verde Valley/Sedona/Flagstaff area.

5 And I also listened to the virtual Town Hall on  
6 November 6th, and the people of northern Arizona  
7 overwhelmingly testified that they do not think the draft  
8 maps are competitive.

9 The Arizona Office of Tourism commissions an  
10 annual study to examine the economic impact of the travel  
11 industry in the state and presents the updated data at  
12 the Annual Governor's Conference on Tourism.

13 Their 2020 study documented the spending,  
14 earnings, employment and tax revenue of all 30  
15 legislative districts. The current LD-6 district had a  
16 2.1 billion dollar impact on the state of Arizona in  
17 2019. It is the second largest tourism economy in the  
18 state of Arizona. The Arizona Office of Tourism -- thank  
19 you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER SCHULTZ: Hi. My name is Lily  
22 Schultz, and I live in Cottonwood.

23 I am a native Arizonan and I know how important  
24 water is. I've been taught that all my life. With that  
25 in my mind, I would say that I want to be with Verde

1 Valley, Cottonwood, Cornville, Clarkdale, Camp Verde and  
2 Sedona and Flagstaff in the future LD-7.

3 I like Prescott. I like shopping there and  
4 visiting there, but I'm very afraid that if we get  
5 grouped with them, we will lose our voice. And we might  
6 even lose our water.

7 I've been very disappointed in how they've  
8 decided to do education, as well, taking all the classes  
9 across the mountain. I have young children who are  
10 getting into college age, and it would be quite a  
11 hardship -- especially when it gets very snowy -- for  
12 them to drive 65 miles to go to college.

13 So I would hope that we would follow the  
14 district map of LD-7. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. CRANK: We will now go back to Desert  
17 Ridge.

18 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are  
19 Georgetta Pierson, Bruce Linker, Don Scalera, Doug Menkes  
20 and Phyllis Lerner.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank  
22 you for this time to speak to you, Commissioners.

23 I'm looking at the stats for the legislative  
24 districts draft map, and in particular LD-2. I noticed  
25 that the population is at 250,000, the highest of any



1 other LD and outside of the Constitutional guidance of  
2 equal populations of each LD.

3 I have a position to fix -- a proposition to  
4 fix LD-2 and correct the disproportionate population  
5 load, while at the same time supporting the Voters Rights  
6 Act as well as the previous communities of interest  
7 comments that have been made.

8 My proposition is that you move Sunnyslope into  
9 LD-1. This move will achieve three things: Support the  
10 Voters Act, a very important federal law designed to  
11 allow minorities the opportunity to elect the candidate  
12 of their choice. Sunnyslope is a community of  
13 minorities, mainly Hispanic. And right now, the Hispanic  
14 advantage in LD-2 is only 19 percent as compared to LD-1,  
15 which is 27 percent. This will ensure that LD-1 becomes  
16 a VRA district and Hispanic voices are represented  
17 properly.

18 Number two, equalize the 10,000 population  
19 overage from LD-2 into LD-1. LD-2 would go from 250K to  
20 240K, while LD-1 would go from 231K to 241K. This is  
21 a -- this is in line with the Arizona Constitution.

22 Number three, assure communities of interest  
23 are correctly represented. As I have stated before, the  
24 Sunnyslope community is very different from the northern  
25 communities of LD-2, and I fear neither would be properly

1 represented.

2 I want to thank you again for considering this  
3 proposal while at the same time, please, remember, you as  
4 the board, your role is to ensure that the Arizona  
5 Constitution is followed when drawing maps.

6 SPEAKER LINKER: Hi. I am Bruce Linker,  
7 residing and voting in Scottsdale for over 25 years. I'm  
8 a retiree, a former University of Phoenix instructor, and  
9 a technologies project manager. My wife is a retired  
10 school teacher.

11 We left the big city to move to a suburban  
12 environment to enjoy our retirement years. All of our  
13 daily activities are in Scottsdale and Fountain Hills.  
14 Fountain Hills and Scottsdale have similar interests,  
15 concerns and needs as those living in Scottsdale north of  
16 Camelback Road up through Cave Creek, Carefree and Desert  
17 Mountain. We should be in the same legislative district.  
18 We almost never go east of Fountain Hills or west of  
19 Tatum Road.

20 That's our recommendation for the boundaries of  
21 LD-4.

22 With all respect, I must comment that it is  
23 completely wrong to include Scottsdale in a congressional  
24 district with central Phoenix. The last time we were in  
25 central Phoenix was in 2018 for a D-Backs game. After

1 the game, we went back to Scottsdale for a bite to eat  
2 and a walk.

3           Scottsdale and Fountain Hills are our community  
4 for friendship, worship, daily activities like doctors,  
5 shopping and dining. Our sales tax dollars stay in our  
6 community to fund Scottsdale city services and personnel,  
7 maintenance, infrastructure, decorative artwork along the  
8 roadways to enhance and maintain the suburban feel of  
9 Scottsdale.

10           Central Phoenix is urban. It is not fair to  
11 Sunnyslope or Phoenix to be included with Scottsdale  
12 politically. Thank you.

13           SPEAKER SCALERA: Good evening to the  
14 Commission, and thanks for hanging in there.

15           My name is Don Scalera. I've lived in Arizona  
16 for about 41 years, the last 20 years as a resident, and  
17 homeowner now will be 28.

18           One of the changes I had heard about proposed  
19 is the possible splitting of the new LD-4 north and  
20 south, and I'm speaking against it and for keeping the  
21 district as drawn currently.

22           The LD-4, of course, is PV, Arcadia, Camelback.  
23 That corridor. And the community -- community is  
24 connected by many things, including transportation: The  
25 51, Tatum Boulevard, Scottsdale Road to the east. I shop

1 and have friends and do business throughout this entire  
2 corridor and feel that it's one -- it meets the community  
3 of interest description.

4           It's also among the most competitive districts  
5 in the state, which is -- you know, congratulations for  
6 the Commission to that. And I'd like to see that kept.  
7 If we don't have competitive districts, then, obviously,  
8 things can become skewed. Politicians aren't obligated  
9 to answer to the needs of all the constituents if things  
10 are skewed in that respect.

11           So I would ask, again, that you keep the  
12 district in the shape that it is currently proposed.  
13 Thank you very much.

14           SPEAKER MENKES:     Good evening. I'm Doug  
15 Menkes, a retired resident in Desert Ridge for over six  
16 years.

17           We live very close to the Scottsdale-Phoenix  
18 line, so much of what we do occurs in Desert Ridge and on  
19 Scottsdale Road. We don't often get involved east, east  
20 of Scottsdale Road.

21           The current LD-15 boundaries make sense to me,  
22 as well as many of my neighbors. The proposed LD-3 would  
23 include Desert Ridge, as well as Rio Verde, Fountain  
24 Hills; would extend as far west as route 17. This is  
25 clearly not a homogenous district, and I doubt that all

1 of those people have common interests including shopping,  
2 recreation, dining out and worshiping.

3           While no redistricting solution is perfect, it  
4 would make the most sense to me to leave LD-15 pretty  
5 much the way it is, and particularly make sure that the  
6 eastern boundary continues to be Scottsdale Road.

7           And I'd like to thank the Commission for the  
8 opportunity to let -- letting me present my opinion.

9           SPEAKER LERNER: I will be referring to the  
10 CD-1 and LD-3 maps. Thank you.

11           My name is Phyllis Lerner. I'm a long-term  
12 resident of Desert Mountain speaking on my own behalf. I  
13 live just north -- northeast of Carefree near the Tonto  
14 National Forest.

15           With reference to the CD-1 map, where we live  
16 and work, this map does not reflect our community of  
17 interest. If you look at the far southwestern portion of  
18 this map, the central Phoenix area should not be part of  
19 CD-1; specifically, the southwesternmost neighborhoods of  
20 Alhambra, Encanto and Camelback East should be removed.

21           In our community, we frequently use the areas  
22 north of the 101 freeway; do not go to the southwestern  
23 portions of the proposed CD-1 as such. These areas don't  
24 have much in common with our community of interest.

25           I realize this removal would require

1 replacement of population in CD-1. As such, the western  
2 boundary of CD-1 can be extended west to the I --  
3 Interstate 17 to compensate the proposed change. It's a  
4 logical landmark forming a western boundary that  
5 encompasses community of interest like those in the areas  
6 of CD-1 north of the freeway.

7 I'm happy with the current LD-3 design because  
8 it includes Desert Mountain.

9 To close, I ask the Commission to closely  
10 adhere to all six of the redistricting criteria as set  
11 forth in Arizona law. The makeup of these districts  
12 should reflect communities of common interest so they can  
13 be represented fairly and accurately. Thank you for this  
14 opportunity to speak.

15 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are  
16 Christine Carmona, Charmaine Roth, Michael Joiner, I  
17 believe that is, James Roth and Marla Neely.

18 SPEAKER CARMONA: Good evening, ladies and  
19 gentlemen. My name's Christine Carmona. I'm a PC of  
20 LD-30.

21 I saw on the proposed new district --  
22 districting map that the area bound by 19th Avenue on the  
23 east, Dunlap on the north -- and that includes SR17 on  
24 the west -- and Glendale Avenue on the south has a whole  
25 new number. The number 2-6. It used to be LD-30. LD-26

1 has been located somewhere in the East Valley for the  
2 last ten years. Why are you renumbering my area 26?  
3 That's the wrong number for that area.

4 I suggest the IRC include the area between  
5 SR-17 and 19th Avenue and between Glendale Avenue and  
6 Dunlap into LD-2, the area north of Dunlap. Because I  
7 feel the people who live in my area are just like those  
8 living north of Dunlap while still west of 19th Avenue.

9 However, if you disagree with my suggestion, I  
10 don't mind, but I really hope that you give my residence  
11 area a different number like number 29 -- LD-29, LD-30,  
12 like it is now. Or LD-24. Anything other than LD-26.

13 Thank you.

14 SPEAKER C. ROTH: My name is Charmaine Roth.  
15 And I initially came here this evening to speak about a  
16 draft map of LD-3. But since I've been here and listened  
17 to several meetings prior to this, I am very disturbed by  
18 the incessant drumbeat regarding competitiveness, as if  
19 it was the only guideline when drafting maps.

20 Competitiveness is being used to the detriment of the  
21 other guidelines.

22 Additionally, when speaking regarding  
23 competitiveness, the speakers have ignored Independents,  
24 Libertarians and party-not-declared when they're speaking  
25 with their percentages. And these voters also need to

1 have their own voice, and they're not given any voice  
2 here at all. But, they have the opportunity to make  
3 their choices when voting time comes.

4           Let's see. I am very disturbed, and I believe  
5 that these competitiveness drumbeat is disingenuous. The  
6 emphasis is on this one guideline to the detriment of the  
7 others. I agree with the other speaker that said we need  
8 to look at all six of them.

9           Please have a balanced view when drawing these  
10 maps. Not becoming swayed by the -- this overemphasis  
11 expressed here and at the other meetings. It is very  
12 disturbing to me. Competitiveness is not the most  
13 important issue. It is one of six. Thank you very much.

14           (Applause.)

15           SPEAKER JOINER:   Wow, she stole my story  
16 without me even knowing.

17           My name is Michael Joiner, and I am an elected  
18 official for Maricopa County. So I travel all over the  
19 county, and I hear the concerns of everyone. But,  
20 specifically, I'm here to speak about LD-3.

21           LD-3 encompasses most of Scottsdale. And the  
22 last map I saw, it was taking the western border all the  
23 way over to I-17, all the way east to Fountain Hills, all  
24 the way north to Desert Mountain, but it cut off at Shea.

25           And I'm here to tell you that as a native



1 res -- a native Arizonan -- I was born and raised here.  
2 I've lived in Scottsdale for 21 years. My husband and I  
3 hardly ever go west of Scottsdale Road unless it's for  
4 work. We, we shop at desert -- at, at Scottsdale Fashion  
5 Square. We eat in Scottsdale in the north and south  
6 corridor. We have everything in common with those people  
7 that we live with, although we have friends in all the  
8 districts.

9           But, I urge you to not listen to some -- I, I  
10 don't want to say that. I urge you to realize that the  
11 word competitive has been -- what they're really saying  
12 is their political party. And that is not part of what  
13 we should be looking at. We need to be looking at common  
14 interests, where we work, where we play, where we worship  
15 and where we shop.

16           And my suggestion on the map is that you move  
17 our western boundary for CD -- for LD-3 over to  
18 Scottsdale Road, take it south down to Osborn, keep  
19 Fountain Hills where it is, and all the way up to Desert  
20 Mountain. I believe the math would work that way, and I  
21 know that the common interests of lifestyle would work  
22 that way. Thank you.

23           SPEAKER J. ROTH: Good evening. My name is  
24 James Roth. I live in Rio Verde.

25           And I think that Rio Verde, Fountain Hills and

1 Scottsdale should continue to be in the same legislative  
2 district because this area shares the -- a community --  
3 community interests. So this is the area where my  
4 neighbors and I live, we do business, we shop, go to  
5 church, participate in other community activities.

6           The current district, which includes Rio Verde,  
7 Fountain Hills and all of Scottsdale, accurately  
8 represents a community of interest of citizens who live  
9 and work together. The proposed inclusion of Desert  
10 Ridge and Anthem out to I-17 with Rio Verde and Fountain  
11 Hills does not reflect an actual community of interest  
12 since neither most of my neighbors and myself, we never  
13 go there. We don't shop there, we don't do business  
14 there and -- or participate in activities in those  
15 communities.

16           So the western boundary, as I think a few of  
17 the other speakers have mentioned, should be Scottsdale  
18 Road as you go south to maybe like downtown Scottsdale,  
19 Osborn and Thomas Road.

20           And, also, I'd like to -- final -- my final  
21 comment is I think that the board should not sacrifice  
22 the primary factors of compactness and the communities of  
23 interest to the support criteria of competitiveness.  
24 Thank you.

25           SPEAKER NEELY: Hello. My name is Marla

1 Neely. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here  
2 today.

3 I'm looking at the congressional district maps,  
4 draft map, and particularly CD-1, my district. I'm not  
5 in agreement with this propose -- proposed map. I am  
6 disappointed and greatly troubled to hear the  
7 Commissioners talk about political balance or  
8 proportionality. That's putting politics into  
9 redistricting, not taking it out, contrary to the  
10 proposition of created this Commission.

11 I am proposing the following change. The  
12 neighborhoods of Alhambra, Encanto and Camelback East  
13 should be moved out of CD-1 and into CD-3 for the  
14 following reasons. One, these neighborhoods are urban  
15 and densely populated and do not share the common  
16 community interest as a -- suburban north Phoenix and  
17 Scottsdale. Hence, the community interest rule is not  
18 being adhered to.

19 Number two. The neighborhoods of Alhambra,  
20 Encanto and East Camelback are highly Hispanic and should  
21 be part of CD-3, which is also highly Hispanic. This is  
22 in line with the Voting Rights Act and would ensure the  
23 voice for this minority group as intended by this Act.

24 In order to compensate for the population loss  
25 of CD-1, based on my proposition, I recommend that the

1 western boundary of CD-1 move back from I-17 from Cave  
2 Creek to respect the natural west-east valley split.

3 I want to thank you again for considering this  
4 proposal, while at the same time I want to remind the  
5 board that your role is not to use redistricting as a  
6 political arm, but to ensure that the Arizona  
7 Constitution is followed. This is why the Commission was  
8 formed. Otherwise, we can go back to having our  
9 legislators draw the maps. Commissioners are not elected  
10 officials, and they do not need to follow party lines.  
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. NEUMANN: Back to Cottonwood.

14 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you, Val.

15 Our next 10 speakers are -- Wayne Schultz is  
16 first, followed by Angela LeFevre, followed by -- the  
17 third speaker, David Osborn. The fourth speaker is  
18 Patricia Kopitke. The fifth speaker is Peter Asencio.  
19 The sixth speaker is Charlotte Hosseini. The seventh  
20 speaker is Robin Low, followed by Sylvia Wilson and then  
21 Brandi Bateman.

22 SPEAKER SCHULTZ: Hi. My name is Wayne  
23 Schultz, and I vote and live in Cottonwood. I've been in  
24 Cottonwood for about 15 years with my wife and family.

25 I want to be -- I want the Verde Valley -- I

1 want to be with the Verde Valley, which is Cottonwood,  
2 Cornville, Clarkdale, Camp Verde, Sedona and Flagstaff.  
3 We should be together in the future and -- so we can be  
4 fairly represented. Thanks.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER LEFEVRE: Good evening. Thank you so  
7 much to all of you giving all your time to this very,  
8 very critical role that you play.

9 My name is Angela Lefevre. I have lived in  
10 Sedona for now for over 20 years. And I've been very  
11 active in that community. I've been on city council.  
12 I've done a lot of volunteer work and -- I volunteer with  
13 the forest services. I'm a docent. I'm on the board of  
14 the Red Rock State Park, and I've also volunteer with the  
15 Verde Valley Caregivers to take little old ladies around  
16 town.

17 And I also know -- got to know this place and  
18 the people in it and the area. I really, strongly,  
19 believe in keeping Sedona in one voting district and not  
20 splitting it up. I do believe in competitive districts  
21 and hope -- it does help encourage participation. Safe  
22 districts are not good for democracy or accountability.  
23 In safe districts, elections are decided in the  
24 primaries, and I don't think that's a good thing.

25 I believe that there have been other

1 submissions. Coconino County Board of Supervisors has,  
2 has submitted a second option. It would result in a 50.2  
3 percent Republican, 49.8 percent Democratic split. It  
4 has been endorsed by the cities of Flagstaff and Sedona,  
5 and I think it's definitely worth looking at and  
6 considering.

7           The name of it is LDF-050, and I hope that has  
8 your attention. Thank you again for all you do and for  
9 your time and for giving me the chance to give my  
10 contribution this evening. Thank you.

11           (Applause.)

12           MS. CAMACHO: Is Dieter Knecht here? Would  
13 you like to speak?

14           SPEAKER KNECHT: I'm so sorry. I didn't hear  
15 my name. Thank you.

16           I'm Dieter Knecht, and I appreciate your hard  
17 work on this Commission. But, I'm sorry to say that so  
18 far, it's resulted in draft maps that, to me, are  
19 failures. And, mainly, they don't meet competitiveness.

20           I just heard a lot of things -- lot of comments  
21 saying, gee, competitiveness is bad. I don't understand  
22 that. Because non-competitive districts essentially y  
23 pack one party or the other. So maybe if you're the main  
24 party, it's great, but it's not overall.

25           For the 23 of the 30 majority districts in

1 them -- in the approved map are packed to be  
2 non-competitive, super majorities; eleven democratic  
3 districts, 12 for the Republicans.

4           For these 11 Democratic districts, the average  
5 difference between Democratic and Republican voters is a  
6 whopping 34 percent. This is for all of the districts.  
7 For the 12 Republican majority districts, it's 22  
8 percent. These are -- could be interpreted to say that  
9 there's one and-a-half stuffed Democrat for every stuffed  
10 Republican in their district.

11           Why can't we achieve voters' goals of  
12 competitiveness? This is in -- this is what the, the  
13 voters initially approved to form independent  
14 commissions. They want a fair and competitive district.  
15 Well, CDF-50 and 51 do meet that, so you -- it can be  
16 done. Thank you very much.

17           (Applause.)

18           SPEAKER OSBORN: Good evening. David Osborn.  
19 I live in Rimrock, which is in the Verde Valley.

20           I'm satisfied with the current map for CD-2.  
21 I'm satisfied with the current map for LD-5, with two  
22 exceptions. I would like to see all of the city of  
23 Sedona and all the city of Wickenburg included in LD-5.

24           Thank you.

25           (Applause.)

1           SPEAKER KOPITKE:   Hello.  My name is Patricia  
2 Kopitke, and I live in the Village of Oak Creek.

3           My husband and I moved to Arizona after  
4 retiring in between 2013.  The 2014 elections were the  
5 first in which we participated in Arizona.  The following  
6 year, I attended an event sponsored by the non-partisan  
7 League of Women Voters in our community, which included  
8 an explanation of Arizona's Independent Redistricting  
9 Commission.

10           I've long been aware of the practice of  
11 gerrymandering in many states and agree that voters and  
12 communities should choose their representatives and not  
13 the other way around.  I was encouraged to learn that the  
14 Arizona state Constitution had been amended based on the  
15 decision of the voters to keep politics out of  
16 determining legislative districts and that specific  
17 criteria such as competitiveness, compactness and  
18 communities of interest were to be followed to draw fair  
19 and competitive districts for our state.

20           I was disappointed to learn of the plan to  
21 redraw congressional and legislative district lines that  
22 would split the Sedona and Verde Valley community,  
23 effectively dividing those voters between the larger  
24 communities of Prescott and Payson, to whom we have  
25 little in common.



1           The obvious motivation would seem to be divide  
2 and conquer, with the purpose of one political party  
3 increasing their control over the entire region. I find  
4 this strategy nothing short of appalling. Thank you very  
5 much.

6           (Applause.)

7           SPEAKER ASECIO: My name is Pete Asencio. I  
8 live in the Verde Valley. I've owned property here  
9 since -- for about 13 years now.

10           I am on the community association where I live  
11 at. I am very involved with all of our neighbors -- not  
12 just a certain group, but all of them -- that we help  
13 with -- try to, with all their needs.

14           I believe that the Verde Valley should stay  
15 intact and not divide it up. I think Wickenburg should  
16 be part of it. And I spend -- and a lot of people that  
17 know that I deal with every day spend a lot of time in  
18 Prescott. And I don't go to Flagstaff, but I do go to  
19 Sedona, and I agree with some of these people that Sedona  
20 should be whole and kept with the Verde Valley.

21           That's all I have to say.

22           (Applause.)

23           MS. CAMACHO: And is Charlotte Hosseini here?  
24 No? Robin Low? Sylvia Wilson? Brandi Bateman?

25           Okay. I'll call the next four people to round

1 out our 10 speakers. Thomas Reiner, Bob Porter, Marilyn  
2 Bernhardt and Ernie Strauch?

3 SPEAKER BERNHARDT: Good evening. I'm Marilyn  
4 Bernhardt. Most of the points that I intended to make  
5 have already been addressed, so I'll try to be brief.

6 I'm a little bit concerned by people  
7 downplaying the importance of competitiveness. I  
8 recognize that we have six criteria to deal with, but of  
9 those six, the one that has the propensity to do the most  
10 damage to a fair vote is competitiveness. And I think we  
11 need to recognize that. Although it's one of six, it's a  
12 big one of six.

13 Second, there is nothing holy about keeping  
14 Yavapai County in one piece, especially when the  
15 Commission has already divided three-quarters of the  
16 counties in the state into pieces. And Yavapai County is  
17 the largest -- or one of the longest.

18 I, I live in Sedona, and I can't remember the  
19 last time -- yes, I can. I went to Prescott -- it's been  
20 well over a year ago. I spend -- go a couple of times a  
21 month to Flagstaff for various things; to get my car  
22 fixed, to hike, for medical treatment, for all sorts of  
23 things, but I hardly ever go the other direction over the  
24 hill, as Jessica Williamson said.

25 So I'm in favor of leaning toward including the

1 Verde Valley with Flagstaff. But, most importantly --  
2 and I'm coming back to it -- is the idea of the  
3 competitiveness. It's so important, because -- and  
4 I'm -- forgive my cynicism if I imagine that those who  
5 play it down are members of the majority parties in the  
6 districts in which they live.

7 I think that it's -- not only does it deprive a  
8 lot of people of an effective vote, but it also  
9 contributes to the polarization and to the extremism  
10 that's tearing our country apart right now, and we just  
11 can't afford to do that. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER STRAUCH: I'm Ernie Strauch, a former  
14 mayor of -- vice mayor, rather, of Sedona.

15 And I think there's no doubt that what you have  
16 heard today is one overwhelming theme of this meeting --  
17 and I'm sure it's not lost on you -- and that's the term  
18 competitiveness.

19 For the last 24 years, I have lived in a  
20 separate part of Sedona from many of my Sedona  
21 colleagues. I live in Coconino County. Half a mile from  
22 Yavapai County. However, we are in the same school  
23 district, the same fire district, and we operate under  
24 the same health, safety, welfare and zoning codes. On  
25 what ridiculous basis are we separated from each other?

1 Actually, it's a county line that only a surveyor could  
2 find.

3           If you leave the draft maps the way they are,  
4 you will continue this ridiculous distinction in the  
5 political sphere for another 10 years. I've previously  
6 told you of many, many connections to Flagstaff in daily  
7 life -- and many people have mentioned them -- the health  
8 services, public and private, our national forests, the  
9 fire services, and the myriad of tourist-based businesses  
10 as well as the educational opportunities at NAU. All of  
11 Sedona and the Verde Valley belongs with Flagstaff, not  
12 carved out and apart in three different districts.

13           And on that subject, you are aware that the  
14 three draft northern Arizona Districts, 5, 6 and 7, are  
15 all totally non-competitive by almost 30 percentage  
16 points or more. This will not stand, legally,  
17 particularly since the maps we support, LDF-050 and 51,  
18 are competitive.

19           We strongly suggest you significantly improve  
20 our competitiveness at the same time you address our  
21 communities of interest. Thank you.

22           Now, on that non -- non-native statement, if I  
23 could bring that -- I, I believe, as I interpreted what  
24 people were saying that they were talking -- or use that  
25 term only to allow the Native Americans their own

1 potential for representation. I certainly hope that none  
2 of the comments were in any way racially motivated.

3 But, I think -- you know, currently, District 7  
4 has been drawn essentially for Native American  
5 representation, to make sure that they, they had some,  
6 and I think that's what was meant. If anyone wants to  
7 disagree with that, they can.

8 SPEAKER: I disagree with it.

9 MS. CAMACHO: And let me call again.

10 Bob Porter or Thomas Reiner? Are either of  
11 them here? If not, we will send it back to Phoenix.

12 Thank you. Should I do two more?

13 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Paul  
14 Schween, Vianey DeAnda, Yvonne Cahill, William Smith and  
15 Shawn Rohr.

16 SPEAKER SCHWEEN: Thanks to the committee,  
17 thanks for the time. My name is Paul Schween, District  
18 LD-12. And I'm not an elected official.

19 If you would be so kind. My wife and I truly  
20 love where we live in Gilbert. We like to tell our  
21 family and friends that we live in our own little bubble.  
22 We seem to think we've sequestered ourselves from much of  
23 the craziness we see revolving about. And, yes, we're  
24 delightfully delusional about it, and we don't need any  
25 therapy over it; thank you.

1           We've worked hard to create this environment  
2 and wish to preserve it at all costs. We reared our two  
3 kids and our 12 grandkids in this wonderful community.  
4 My wife has served on numerous boards throughout her  
5 career, not least of which produced the Chandler  
6 Performing Arts Theatre, the riparian preserve at Walker  
7 Ranch, and Freestone Park.

8           I'd like to remind the committee it was, it was  
9 over 2,000 years ago that Aristotle once said that the  
10 best political community is formed by citizens of the  
11 middle class.

12           I truly believe that's true today. We love our  
13 community and wish to be affiliated with like-minded,  
14 middle class residents who share the same values, the  
15 same vision, and that will defend our freedom to choose  
16 how we live and nurture our community interest.

17           Dividing LD-12 into not one, not two, not  
18 three -- wait for it -- not four, but five different  
19 factions, in my humble opinion and layman's  
20 perspective -- I mean, that's in complete opposition to  
21 what the redistricting guidelines were put forth for.

22           I think the consolidated Gilbert map takes a  
23 lot of those issues into consideration and really does a  
24 good job. I mean, if you look at the map and you look at  
25 the finger that -- it comes out and carves the heart

1 right out of Gilbert, attaches it to Ahwatukee. I, I  
2 just -- I don't get it.

3 And if you divide us, slice us up and break us  
4 down, it's divisive. It's harmful to our fragile culture  
5 that we've been able to develop. And I'm just asking --  
6 no, I'm begging that you please divide Gilbert up as  
7 little as possible. Respect those who have worked to  
8 build this community.

9 I appreciate the time and respectfully say  
10 that, you know, these divisions (inaudible). Thank you.

11 SPEAKER DEANDA: Good evening. My name is  
12 Vianey DeAnda. Thank you, Commissioners, for the  
13 opportunity to speak.

14 I recently moved from central Phoenix to 19th  
15 Ave and Greenway. I'm a long-time viewer of these  
16 hearings but a first-time public speaker.

17 I am glad that the Sunnyslope area will be in  
18 legislative district -- proposed Legislative District 2  
19 within the rest of the North Mountain community. This  
20 area is known for its wonderful diversity. It's  
21 definitely its strong suit, which brings me to my point.

22 District lines should be drawn to empower  
23 communities, encourage competition that lead to an  
24 overall, statewide change that will bring an outcome that  
25 reflects our great, diverse and ever-changing Grand

1 Canyon state.

2           The Northern Mountain Preserve is a single  
3 community of interest. Sunnyslope is more connected to  
4 northern Phoenix. It makes no sense, and it does not  
5 benefit the communities residing in Sunnyslope, to shift  
6 it down and pack it up into proposed District 1. And I  
7 say that as a former District 1 resident.

8           Having a competitive district allows voters to  
9 pick their elected officials. Elected officials should  
10 never be in a position where they are picking their  
11 voters. This process, our redistricting process, should  
12 not cause voters to lose their ability to make meaningful  
13 choices in who represents us. There's no doubt that some  
14 part of the state's currently prefer one party over  
15 another. We must have maps that allow or voters to hold  
16 elected officials accountable and to properly represent  
17 our communities.

18           My district is fairly competitive as it stands,  
19 and it should be kept that way. Perhaps competitiveness  
20 is not one of the -- it's not the only criteria, but it  
21 is an essential one. We need elected officials that will  
22 fight for us from the beginning. And that starts with  
23 having a competitive district.

24           If there are changes that need to be done, then  
25 those efforts should be going into creating a fifth



1 majority-minority Latino state district within Maricopa  
2 given the increase of the Latino population. But not  
3 packing it. Thank you for your time.

4           SPEAKER CAHILL: Hello. Thank you to the  
5 Commission. My name's Yvonne Cahill. I'm a Realtor in  
6 Scottsdale. I'm a former registered nurse, and I was  
7 also a hearing officer in small claims court for Maricopa  
8 County Superior Court. I'm also an immigrant. I took my  
9 vote very seriously.

10           I live in McCormick Ranch, and I have to say  
11 I'm very, very disappointed that the Commission took  
12 Scottsdale and blew it up into three separate sections.  
13 The fact that this has been done shows that you have  
14 totally ignored the Arizona Constitution, Article 4,  
15 Part 2, Section 114. You totally ignored A, B, C and D  
16 and E by blowing up Scottsdale, and went directly to F,  
17 which is the last priority: To extend practical,  
18 competitive districts should be favored where to do so  
19 would create no significant detriment to the other goals.

20           It would make sense -- Scottsdale is a city of  
21 260,000 people. It would make sense to take Osborn  
22 south, put that with Tempe. Keep Scottsdale by itself.  
23 Go north. And don't make the cutoff Scottsdale Road. If  
24 you do that, you cut off several communities in north  
25 Scottsdale.

1 I really question your alternative motives.  
2 Everybody that lives in Scottsdale shops in Scottsdale.  
3 Scottsdale's a western town. I don't know what you're  
4 thinking putting it with Arcadia. When is the last time  
5 you saw a horse downtown Arcadia? I mean, come on,  
6 people.

7 Also, our congressional district, I'm very  
8 disappointed that you would put us with central Phoenix.  
9 Again, what are you thinking? Scottsdale is rural. We  
10 have a western town. We do not belong with urban  
11 Phoenix. We really belong, maybe, in north -- north  
12 Phoenix area. Thank you for your time.

13 SPEAKER SMITH: Good evening, Commissioners.  
14 My name's is William Smith. I live in Paradise Park,  
15 which will be in the center of the new LD-4.

16 I -- Paradise Park was on the northern end of  
17 the old LD-28, and I can feel the pain of someone that  
18 feels isolated from the rest of their LD. And I'm real  
19 concerned what has happened to the people in the southern  
20 end of LD-4, because I would be willing to bet that very  
21 few of them have been north of the natural boundary of  
22 the mountains.

23 And I know where I live, at basically the  
24 intersection of Bell and the 51, that in the suburbs up  
25 north, we live east to west, not north to south. I

1 hardly ever, ever go south of Shea other than to the  
2 airport to pick someone up or something.

3           So I think that the people in the -- have  
4 been -- in the south end of your proposed LD-4 have been  
5 dealt a great disservice of being put with people miles  
6 and miles from them. And this is in a city setting and  
7 not a rural setting. So I think you need to reconsider.  
8 Move the southern boundary of your 4, north. There's  
9 already several people -- the other thing that I want you  
10 to please address, I'm real disappointed in the disparity  
11 of the populations. The fact that there's so much swing  
12 between some of these LDs.

13           And with that, I thank you for your service and  
14 I thank you for your time. And remember this: The  
15 primary stakeholders of these elections are we citizens  
16 that vote. They are not for the politicians. They're  
17 not for the state of Arizona. The elections are for the  
18 benefit of the citizens. We are the primary stakeholders  
19 in our rights to a representative government. Thank you  
20 for your time.

21           (Applause.)

22           SPEAKER ROHR: My name's Shawn Rohr. I'm  
23 currently -- I'm an HOA president, and I've come here to  
24 speak about -- I actually came to speak about LD-3. But,  
25 it's been beat up pretty good already, and I realize --

1 I'm on the west side of Scottsdale, and I didn't  
2 understand all these other people from Fountain Hills  
3 because I'm not part of that community.

4 My community is west of there. So, maybe I  
5 should be talking about LD-28, which I believe LD --  
6 LD-15, where I came from, used to go from 67th Avenue to  
7 Scottsdale Road. Now I'm looking at LD-3 that goes clear  
8 out to -- includes Fountain Hills. I'm, like, I got  
9 friends in Fountain Hills, but I don't share in that  
10 community.

11 So maybe I want to say that LD-28 should move  
12 over to Scottsdale Road, which would be consistent with  
13 what all the people from LD-3 are saying. They want to  
14 stop at Scottsdale Road. And I don't think LD-28 should  
15 go all the way out to La Paz County. It should stop at  
16 the -- at the -- I forget the -- the draw out there. But  
17 the 303 -- no further than the 303.

18 That's all I really have to say. Thank you.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: We're going to take a  
20 five-minute break for the transcriptionist and we will  
21 resume at 9:15 sharp. I'm sorry. 9:18.

22 (Recess taken from 9:13 to 9:18 p.m.)

23 MS. NEUMANN: It is 9:18. We're going to  
24 resume in north Phoenix.

25 Our first speaker will be Summer Baker, then

1 Connor Owen, Catherine Hopkins, John Hassett, and Makuach  
2 Chol.

3 SPEAKER BAKER: Summer Baker. Born and raised  
4 and currently living in Tempe -- in the Tempe area. I  
5 live off of Baseline Road and Mill Avenue.

6 My community is made up of single-family homes  
7 with various age groups from preschoolers to  
8 high-schoolers.

9 We have many people that commute to Ahwatukee,  
10 south Tempe and west Chandler for work. We support local  
11 restaurants and businesses in those areas and we hardly  
12 travel into north Tempe, the college area, or into Mesa.

13 The City of Tempe is very different above  
14 versus below Broadway Road, and very different between  
15 east and west of Price Road. Last time around, my  
16 community was grouped into an LD that included other  
17 communities that those areas south of the US-60 that did  
18 not frequently travel to or participate in.

19 A large part of the previous district consisted  
20 of the Salt River Indian reservation but does not  
21 participate in our portion of the community on a regular  
22 basis. South of the US-60 is a single urban community  
23 with shared interests and values, and it should be kept  
24 whole and not divided.

25 The current LD-8 draft map version 10 has a

1 community again -- has my community again grouped with  
2 the Salt River Indian reservation. And this is not --  
3 this is not racially driven as I am Native American  
4 myself.

5           Currently, the interactive map located at the  
6 bottom of the grid map page of the IRC website has a  
7 proposed LD-11 (inaudible). This is the closest  
8 rendition of the area of my community.

9           I ask that you redraw these districts to  
10 include the area south of the US-60. Furthermore, the  
11 district -- the districts the previous Commission drew  
12 were not compact, did not have equal population, and were  
13 too focused on competitiveness. They were drawn  
14 disregarding the other constitutional requirements, and I  
15 do not want this to happen again.

16           Competitive districts should be considered as  
17 long as the other five requirements are prioritized  
18 first. Please consider the Arizona Constitution when  
19 you're redrawing the districts this time. Thank you.

20           SPEAKER OWEN: Hello. My name is Connor Owen.

21           Thank you. My name is Connor Owen. I'm a  
22 lifelong resident of north Scottsdale, which would be  
23 LD-3 on this map.

24           Basically, what I'm here to say is I think you  
25 guys did a really good job with the Maricopa County

1 portion of the legislative map. No one got everything,  
2 but everyone got something, and I think that's a great  
3 compromise we can work around.

4           In terms of the congressional map, I think that  
5 the draft version of District 1 that spans from  
6 Scottsdale down to central Phoenix, I think that's  
7 incredibly appropriate, and I think it actually benefits  
8 when we share community of interest.

9           I went to school in central Phoenix. I work  
10 currently in central Phoenix, and I'll tell you tens of  
11 thousands of people drive that same route every day down  
12 the 51 corridor. That is a community of interest. We  
13 care about their roads, we support businesses down there,  
14 and we have a vested interest in making sure that that  
15 area has equal representation.

16           I also support keeping Alhambra and Encanto in  
17 the area. Typically, when people from north Scottsdale  
18 and Desert Ridge speak about Alhambra, they've never been  
19 there. They don't know that community of interest.

20           I say go ask the people there and see what  
21 district they want to be in. There's not necessarily a  
22 reason to pack them all into a southwest Phoenix  
23 district, especially when District 1 is already  
24 competitive.

25           I also think LD-17 in Tucson is an ethical

1 disaster. A commissioner shouldn't have unequal  
2 opportunity to present something, especially when they  
3 have an interest with a person proposing the map.

4           It's not compact. It's not competitive. Those  
5 aren't communities of interest. Just because they're the  
6 same political party does not mean they share anything  
7 else in common. I think we can make that much more  
8 competitive. I ask that we definitely retake a look so  
9 we're not packing Latinos into our southern districts.

10           Thank you for your time.

11           SPEAKER HOPKINS: Thank you. My name is  
12 Catherine Hopkins. I'm a retired software solutions  
13 engineer. I want to thank you for your service to our  
14 community.

15           I've been watching the Commission meetings from  
16 the first one, and it's been very educational. And  
17 Commission Neuberg runs a great, organized meeting. So I  
18 really thank you all for your time and service.

19           What I was disappointed in one day was hearing  
20 a commissioner say a business interest was drawing a map.  
21 My jaw dropped. It is the Commissioners' job to make  
22 sure the maps are balanced and not a particular business  
23 interest. Researching the business interest, I found he  
24 was a party operative.

25           These things will never stay secret for those



1 of us who question and do research. Our community is  
2 watching. We see special interests' needs being placed  
3 above the fairness of the maps.

4 Citizens I speak to want ideas and to know how  
5 a candidate will work for them, not just pick a party  
6 name. If candidates cannot put great ideas to citizens,  
7 they do not deserve to be elected.

8 I would like to see balance in all the LDs.  
9 Then, candidates must have ideas, not an ideology, to win  
10 our votes. We are thirsty for ideas and sickened by  
11 ideology. The way for citizens to hear ideas is fair and  
12 balanced districts.

13 Thank you again for your time and service.

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER HASSETT: Hi. I'm John Hassett. I  
16 grew up in Tempe. I live in Phoenix. I've lived my  
17 entire adult life up here. Right now, I'm around 40th  
18 and Bell.

19 This is the first time I've been to anything  
20 like this. I wasn't, honestly, much aware of how this  
21 happened until recently, and it's -- I've been very  
22 impressed with (inaudible).

23 I've learned two very important things: If you  
24 want to get to bed at a reasonable hour, you need to get  
25 there much sooner to sign up to speak. And the, the

1 other thing is that there's a lot of people that know a  
2 lot of good stuff. There's been a lot of good input this  
3 evening. And I envy you guys the task of trying to  
4 observe the Constitution and put that all together.

5           Currently, I live in CD-6, LD-15, that is going  
6 to turn into LD-4 and CD-1 on the proposed maps for 10.

7           The things I'd like to say about that is that I  
8 currently think that LD-4 goes too far south. It's, it's  
9 not representative. It should go further north, probably  
10 to Lone Mountain, and group us with like-minded  
11 individuals. We don't often go south. We spend our time  
12 more going north, Desert Ridge, and a little further to  
13 live, eat and shop.

14           And as far as CD-1 goes, I say exactly the same  
15 thing. Central Phoenix is not an area where we spend  
16 much of our time, and I bet the people from central  
17 Phoenix don't come up here too much often, either. I  
18 think it goes a little too far down, and it's too far  
19 east. And I think that it should come a little bit and  
20 just bring more of north Phoenix into it.

21           Thank you very much and good luck with all of  
22 this.

23           SPEAKER CHOL: My name is Makuach Chol, and I  
24 live in 12th Avenue and Peoria between (inaudible) Villa  
25 East (inaudible). I am president of the Villa East

1 community and I want to thank the Commission of  
2 (inaudible) keeping District 2 the way that it is because  
3 (inaudible) keep our community along the mountains and  
4 present it altogether at once.

5 (Technical/audio disruption.)

6 So it's community need between the education  
7 system for ELL classes grow the community. A lot of us  
8 over the years have needed for success in this country,  
9 the culture, language successful and community need close  
10 to the community.

11 MS. NEUMANN: We will finish up with our last  
12 four speakers. Gregory Wodynski, Chris Jivan, Jan  
13 Dubauskas and Judy Robbins.

14 SPEAKER WODYNSKI: Hello, and thank you for  
15 hearing me tonight. I want to thank the Commission for  
16 their hard work.

17 My name's Greg Wodynski, and I live in Fountain  
18 Hills. I've been a resident of Maricopa County and  
19 Fountain Hills for 28 years. I'm an IT professional and  
20 engineer, and I've raised my family.

21 I work, shop, go to church, make medical visits  
22 and partake in recreation primarily in Fountain Hills and  
23 Scottsdale.

24 What I'd like to make sure that I stress  
25 tonight is that I would ask the Commission to adhere to

1 following the Constitution. I want to -- that we are --  
2 you are -- stress that we're following all six criteria.  
3 I feel that the past Commission and the current  
4 Commission with the current redistricting maps is too  
5 focused on competitiveness, and we should be focused more  
6 on communities of interest.

7           Also, I'm noticing from the mapping that we are  
8 lacking compactness. LD-23 going to LD-1 is a great  
9 example of that. For example, it has a far western  
10 border over 35 miles wide and does not go far enough  
11 south into what is now a fragmented, three-district  
12 Scottsdale.

13           As other people have noted tonight, we feel  
14 that that western border should be pulled closer to  
15 Scottsdale Road, and the southern border should go  
16 further down into Scottsdale into areas around Indian  
17 School, and even possibly down to Osborn.

18           I've worked and lived in Fountain Hills but  
19 commuted to the Old Town area. I've worked in all parts  
20 of this county. I've worked in downtown Phoenix. And I  
21 can tell you right now the way LD-1 and Congressional  
22 District 6 are currently mapped, we are way too broad and  
23 it does not represent what I would consider reasonable  
24 communities of interest.

25           So I ask the Commission to take that into

1 further consideration. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER JIVAN: Jivan. So I just want to  
3 thank you for this. It's my first time coming to this.  
4 Waited to speak. I wasn't going to speak, but I just  
5 heard a lot of people talking so I thought I'd give my  
6 two cents.

7 So I moved from California. I went to school  
8 in Arizona, but I came out here from California a while  
9 back because I love Arizona, want to be part of Arizona.  
10 But, I definitely don't want to see what's happening in  
11 California come to Arizona.

12 I'm concerned about everybody, especially --  
13 I'm just going to say it -- the Democrats speaking  
14 tonight talking about competitiveness.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Too bad.

16 SPEAKER JIVAN: I see them going out to Pima  
17 and talking about that. They just seem to want to do it  
18 in conservative or independent districts and swing the  
19 vote their way. That's traditionally gerrymandering.

20 And I'm concerned when they, when they talk  
21 about competitiveness, given the -- what happened the  
22 last election, I have concerns, obviously. I'm in  
23 LD-15 --

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Please be quiet. Please be  
25 quiet and allow him to speak.

1 SPEAKER JIVAN: -- and I don't want to see it  
2 go further south. I purposely moved to that community to  
3 have that sense of community, and for it to bring in Pima  
4 will radically alter that community.

5 I want to be part of, you know, that -- that  
6 community that I moved to, and I don't want it to  
7 suddenly change and be something else.

8 And I'm also concerned because I really like my  
9 representative, Debbie Lesko. And to take District 8 and  
10 put it into 3 is going to put her at risk. And she's  
11 been great for us, and I don't think that's a fair way to  
12 do this, is just to, like, throw another district  
13 together just to get rid of her.

14 Yeah. And, and everybody tonight talking from  
15 the left about competitiveness like it's the only issue,  
16 there's five other issues. And it just really concerns  
17 me when they just keep bringing up competitiveness. And  
18 I think everybody knows what that means. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER DUBAUSKAS: Hi. My name is Jan  
21 Dubauskas. I'm a resident of north Scottsdale. Thank  
22 you for listening to my testimony tonight.

23 I've been living in Scottsdale for about 10  
24 years now. Scottsdale is a very homogenous area. We  
25 live, we work, we play. I live north of the 101. I go

1 to church south of the 101. My children go to school in  
2 north Scottsdale. My husband works in central  
3 Scottsdale. Scottsdale is a city that is among itself.  
4 I'm very disturbed to see it split into three parts that  
5 won't represent our community, that won't represent our  
6 interests.

7           When I originally saw this map, I was actually  
8 in disbelief. I didn't believe that north Scottsdale  
9 would be in a district that spans 35 miles wide; that  
10 the -- that the actual interests of the citizens of  
11 Scottsdale would be so completely disregarded.

12           But, not only that, what about the interests of  
13 those in the Deer Valley Airpark? Do they really share a  
14 community of interest with people in Fountain Hills and  
15 Rio Verde? None of us believe that they do. That's just  
16 not facts.

17           So, what I'd like to propose is that we alter  
18 the lines and have a western boundary for Scottsdale of  
19 the city of Scottsdale. It's actually a well-thought-out  
20 boundary that we have today. It works very well for our  
21 community and represents us in a way that we feel  
22 comfortable with.

23           You've heard over and over tonight that we're  
24 not happy with the representation; that we would like  
25 Scottsdale city limits to be our western boundary. We'd

1 like the southern boundary to be Camelback to include  
2 Fountain Hills, Rio Verde, Cave Creek and Carefree.

3           With regard to our congressional district, we  
4 don't go to central Phoenix from Scottsdale. We just  
5 don't. You know, you might go once a year to see the  
6 Nutcracker. You might go once every two years to see the  
7 Suns. That is just not part of our area.

8           We are a western town, we are a western  
9 district, and we do not live in high-rises and in that  
10 kind of an urban area.

11           We ask you to reconsider including central  
12 Phoenix in CD-1. Thank you.

13           SPEAKER ROBBINS: Good evening. My name is  
14 Judy Robbins. I'm a resident of the Shaw Butte area near  
15 I-17, and I'm here to speak about the jewel of central  
16 Phoenix.

17           It's north and central Phoenix Mountain  
18 Preserves. Its community of interest isn't completely  
19 linked as it once had been, yet the proposed LD-1, 2 and  
20 4 were fairly thoughtfully outlined and mapped out, and I  
21 believe they should be frozen as designed because I  
22 believe that competitiveness is important.

23           Yet, the congressional district that divides  
24 CD-1 and CD-8 with I -- the I-51 should be reconsidered.  
25 The mountain preserve should be completely connected and



1 become one congressional district as CD-1.

2           The central Phoenix Mountain Preserve has much  
3 more in common than that of the Peoria area. Our  
4 congressional district should be linked through shared  
5 concerns and public works.

6           One recent public works project brought our  
7 community together when a recent proposed water pipeline  
8 was to be installed. The community worked together to  
9 consider the environmental impact, and I suggest that  
10 this common interest is a better way to map this area  
11 than what was drafted.

12           The central mountain preserve is always a very  
13 special place when I drive through it or recreate in it,  
14 and it should be represented by one congressional member.

15           Thank you for your time and consideration. And  
16 I am sure everyone is tired, and thank you for all of the  
17 people, including the sign language interpreters and the  
18 transcribers. Have a good night.

19           (Applause.)

20           MS. NEUMANN: Thank you. That concludes all  
21 of our speakers here in Phoenix. We'll go back to  
22 Cottonwood.

23           MS. CAMACHO: Thank you. So we have -- our  
24 next 10 speakers will be -- the first will be Connie  
25 Levinson, followed by Ellen Ferreira. Then the third

1 speaker will be Linda Johnson. Fourth speaker, Anne  
2 Emerson. The fifth speaker will be Pat Corrington --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's gone.

4 MS. CAMACHO: -- followed by Toby Friedman.  
5 Then the following -- followed by Nancy Robb, then Sue  
6 Gould, Angelica Cosentino and then Marlene Macek.

7 SPEAKER LEVINSON: Hello, again. This is the  
8 fifth of these hearings that I've participated in for  
9 in-person and one last Saturday. I think Councilwoman  
10 Holli Ploog has said everything I need to say. I  
11 strongly urge you to adopt 50 and 51.

12 What I would like to do with my few remaining  
13 minutes is rebut some of what you've heard.

14 Those advocating the inclusion of western  
15 Yavapai frankly don't care about western Yavapai or the  
16 quad cities. They are Republicans, and they want to keep  
17 their 30-point majority.

18 Nobody wants Sedona split. I think that's  
19 become very obvious. If it hasn't, we are failing. If  
20 competition isn't the purpose of an election, what is? I  
21 understand that there are six points that should be  
22 reached and met to comply with 106, but it seems to me  
23 that elections, if held fairly, are competitive entities.  
24 I think that's pretty important. If they're not, why  
25 bother? Right now, if the districts were to remain as

1 drawn, we can vote in the primaries, but unless it's  
2 statewide or federal, we have no voice.

3           And in terms of Flagstaff being too young for  
4 everybody else, there are almost 30,000 students at NAU.  
5 That's going to skew anything, and I'm sure ASU and the  
6 University of Arizona skew those figures as well.

7           I know this hasn't been easy. I know you're  
8 very, very tired. We appreciate that. We are, also. I  
9 just hope we're being heard. What frightens me is the  
10 thought of this not being changed and inheriting a  
11 situation with a Congressperson we have no respect for.  
12 His own family dislikes him. They take out ads against  
13 him.

14           We want to be with Flagstaff and the Verde  
15 Valley because that is our community of interest. That's  
16 where we go. That's where they care for us and we care  
17 for them. So, please -- map drawing was for everybody.  
18 As I recall, anyone who wanted --

19           That is enough to scare you.

20           (Applause.)

21           SPEAKER FERREIRA: Hi. My name is Ellen  
22 Ferreira. I'm a resident of Sedona. Are you familiar  
23 with Sisyphus? Sisyphus is a Greek myth -- in Greek  
24 mythology. He received a punishment of eternally rolling  
25 a boulder up a hill, never to reach the top.

1           That is what the proposed maps for LD-5 and  
2 LD-7 represent to the minority parties. A lost cause.  
3 Why should people vote when their leaders are  
4 preordained, not elected?

5           Prop 106 says to the extent practicable,  
6 competitive districts should be favored.

7           By whose definition would a nearly 30 percent  
8 to 50 percent point advantage by one party be deemed  
9 competitive? It's not a fair fight. The lopsided  
10 advantage results in a one-party system where a minority  
11 party has difficulty even fielding candidates.

12           Why would somebody spend years of their lives  
13 campaigning across a giant district, knowing that the  
14 cards were so stacked against them, knowing that their  
15 opponent would probably glide to victory, with little or  
16 no effort; that their opponent has little to no incentive  
17 to listen to opposing viewpoints because subsequent  
18 victories are virtually assured; little or no incentive  
19 to seek moderation because they have unbridled power to  
20 do what they want with little or no consequences?

21           Communities of interest can be debated.  
22 Competitiveness cannot. The this -- you were right. The  
23 thesaurus has several synonyms for words -- the word  
24 unfair: Arbitrary, biased, cruel, discriminatory,  
25 dishonest, unprincipled, one-sided, partisan, unsporting,

1 crooked, wrong. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Linda  
3 Johnson, and I live in the Village of Oak Creek.

4 I support the maps proposed by the Coconino  
5 County Board of Supervisors submitted on 10-26, LDF-050  
6 and 051, and endorsed by the city council -- the Sedona  
7 city council in their letter of October 27.

8 When I moved to Arizona, I was very impressed  
9 by the permanent early voting law, the PEVL. It said to  
10 me, as a new resident, welcome, and we want you to vote.  
11 Made it very clear.

12 Democracies require an engaged voting public to  
13 be successful. This Commission has a huge impact on  
14 voter engagement. Again, Arizona has been so smart in  
15 creating this process in which we are currently engaged,  
16 but I fear your map reeks of partisanship. I urge you to  
17 please reconsider the current proposed design.

18 When I look at the proposed map, the first  
19 thing I notice is that you've split Sedona into two  
20 separate districts. Everybody's talked about it tonight.  
21 I cannot help but wonder why you would divide a town of  
22 10,000 people, highly-educated, highly-engaged voters  
23 into two separate districts. What's the point? You're  
24 driving a wedge into the community.

25 Gerrymandering destroys voter engagement. I

1 saw it where I lived before. I feel very strongly about  
2 this. I lived it. It drives corruption.

3 Four out of the last seven governors in my  
4 former state went to prison, and I cannot even begin to  
5 count the number of crooked legislators. It destroyed an  
6 entire political party. Voter turnout was low.

7 In a fast-growing state like Arizona,  
8 gerrymandered districts are an invitation to corruption  
9 and malfeasance. They encourage political extremism. We  
10 cannot have it here. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 SPEAKER EMERSON: Hi. Anne Emerson, Sedona,  
13 Arizona.

14 I'm going to just echo a lot of what you've  
15 heard tonight, probably a majority of the voices.

16 I've lived in Sedona since 1986. In 1988, I  
17 was part of the majority that voted to incorporate Sedona  
18 so that we could operate as a unified community.

19 The map that's being proposed at this juncture  
20 splits Sedona along county lines, once again creating a  
21 divided entity. The residents didn't want this in 1988,  
22 and we certainly don't want it now. We want to be  
23 aligned with our communities of interest, which is the  
24 Verde Valley and Flagstaff, as you've heard over and over  
25 and over again.

1           The one thing I want to say is Arizona is now a  
2 competitive state on the federal level. Our state  
3 governance and legislatures should reflect that as well.

4           The one thing I'd like to say is please, in the  
5 spirit of independence, support the competitive needs in  
6 our state. And, hopefully, you haven't made up your  
7 minds and truly listen to us. The citizens -- to -- our  
8 needs as citizens to protect our fragile democracy.  
9 Because what we're doing right now, all of us in this  
10 room, is democracy at work. It's mind-numbing and  
11 exciting. And God bless us all for staying here this  
12 late. Thank you.

13           (Applause.)

14           SPEAKER IMMERSO: Good evening. My name is  
15 Sandy Immerso. I am speaking for Pat Corrington, who,  
16 unfortunately, is not feeling well and could not make it.

17           Because of the decisions you're about to make  
18 will impact our lives for many years to come, we who live  
19 in the northern section of Sedona feel our hearts have  
20 been broken.

21           My husband and I live in what is casually  
22 called uptown in Sedona. This refers to the area which  
23 is first encountered when coming down Oak Creek Canyon  
24 from Flagstaff. We live in the area where Sedona was  
25 first settled and the town developed.

1           Now, with the redist -- redistricting, our part  
2 of Sedona, the original Sedona, is being ripped away from  
3 the rest of our community, being placed with communities  
4 with whom we have nothing in common. Our friends, our  
5 clubs and organizations, our places of worship, are all  
6 part of the entire Sedona, and we will no longer be a  
7 part of that community.

8           Issues at the state level that affect our  
9 community will not be viable points of discussion and  
10 voting. As a tourist community, our needs and concerns  
11 are different from those of other rural districts.

12           Our identity is with Sedona. We will have no  
13 voice in the governance of the area in which we live.  
14 Please consider our unique situation and move us back  
15 with the rest of our community.

16           The map recommended by the Coconino Board of  
17 Supervisors, LDF-50 and L -- and 51 would be our  
18 preference and would be more fair to these  
19 disenfranchised members of the Sedona community. Thank  
20 you.

21           (Applause.)

22           SPEAKER FRIEDMAN: Hi. My name is Toby  
23 Friedman, and I have been a resident of Sedona for over  
24 20 years.

25           I live in Yavapai County LD-6, CD-1 in northern



1 Arizona. I'm also a precinct captain. The reason I  
2 mention that I'm a precinct captain is because being one  
3 meant that I did not qualify to apply for the 2021  
4 Independent Redistricting Commission. Otherwise, I might  
5 have been chosen and serving with you.

6 I wanted to be on the Commission because I'm a  
7 hard worker and I'm always interested in supporting the  
8 people of Arizona. I would have worked hard to make sure  
9 that our new legislative districts were chosen as  
10 communities of interest. I would have worked hard to  
11 make sure that they were not gerrymandered. I would have  
12 worked hard to make sure that they met the standards of  
13 the Voting Rights Act.

14 But, most of all, I would have worked hard to  
15 make sure that each district met the standard of  
16 competitiveness so that every citizen's voice would have  
17 been heard at the ballot.

18 If I were on the Commission, I would have not  
19 voted for your LD-5 and LD-7 maps. They're not  
20 competitive. You may have noticed that.

21 A legislative district is supposed to be  
22 between four and seven percent competitive. Those maps  
23 are 23 percent competitive. One side is always going to  
24 win an election. The other side is never going to win an  
25 election. And that will happen for the next 10 years.

1           There are some alternative maps,  
2 LDF-050/LDF-051, which aren't exactly as I would have  
3 drawn them, but at least they are competitive.

4           I could not apply to join your Commission, so  
5 I'm asking that you represent me and the people of  
6 Sedona, the Verde Valley, and Flagstaff with competitive  
7 maps. Thank you for hearing our voices.

8           (Applause.)

9           SPEAKER DUNST: Good evening, IRC members. I  
10 want to thank you for seeing us and for listening  
11 tonight. I know that we're all tired here. I -- my name  
12 is Nancy Robb Dunst. I live in Sedona, Arizona. I've  
13 lived here for 27 years. And I'm an artist, an activist  
14 and an educator, and I have lived in Arizona for more  
15 than 60 years.

16           I am against the district map that you are  
17 designing. Currently, you have created three  
18 non-competitive districts in northern Arizona. You can't  
19 stay non-competitive -- as non-competitive districts  
20 because it's not legal.

21           So our -- our preference is to keep the Verde  
22 Valley and Sedona aligned with Flagstaff, and here's why.

23           In regard to community interests, we Sedonans  
24 don't go to Prescott. We either shop in Flagstaff or  
25 Cottonwood, but not Prescott. For education, we go to

1 Clarkdale, Sedona or Flagstaff, but not Prescott. For  
2 medical, we go to Cottonwood, Sedona or Flagstaff, but  
3 not Prescott. Most of us shop, eat, attend and share  
4 cultural events and medical issues in Flagstaff, not  
5 Prescott.

6 In my 27 years that I have lived here in  
7 Sedona, would you like to guess how many times I've been  
8 to Prescott? Twice. That's it. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER GOULD: I'm Sue Gould.

11 I respectfully submit that the Commissioners  
12 have failed to create competitive legislative districts  
13 in northern Arizona, as you've been hearing all night.  
14 Instead, the proposed maps for LD-5, 6 and 7 have created  
15 two districts, with a nearly 30 percent advantage to one  
16 party, and one district with a 42 percent advantage to  
17 one party.

18 These are safe districts where voters of the  
19 disadvantaged party hardly have any incentive to put  
20 forth a candidate guaranteed to lose an election, or any  
21 incentive to vote in an election when there is nobody  
22 running whom these voters can support.

23 In addition, as a 23-year resident of Sedona,  
24 I'm horrified to see our small community of about 10,000  
25 residents split into two legislative districts with whom

1 we share little to no communities of interest.

2 I live in the Coconino part of Sedona, yet  
3 hardly know, as I drive around town, whether I'm in  
4 Coconino or Yavapai County, which is true for about 99  
5 percent of the people who live in Sedona, I would guess.  
6 Yet, we are under a single city government and city  
7 council dealing with our mutual concerns about traffic  
8 problems, the lack of affordable housing for our service  
9 employees, and many, many other issues.

10 The proposed LD-5 and LD-7 district maps  
11 connect us to communities hundreds of miles away from the  
12 issues of Sedona. We don't shop in those areas. We  
13 don't recreate there. Our hospital and medical  
14 professionals aren't located there, among many other  
15 dissimilarities. There is zero chance that any  
16 legislator representing us in those proposed legislative  
17 districts will have any reason to care about the needs of  
18 a piece of Sedona with about 2,400 residents.

19 I urge the Commissioners to reconsider their  
20 very unfair proposed maps, reject their lack of  
21 communities of interest -- thank you.

22 SPEAKER COSENTINO: My name is Angelica  
23 Cosentino. I live in Cottonwood, Arizona.

24 I also am in favor of LD-050 and 051. I was  
25 born in Cottonwood, and I've lived in the Verde Valley

1 most of my life. I attended school in Sedona, high  
2 school, as well as in Cottonwood. I graduated in 2001.

3           The years I attended both schools, I had  
4 countless classmates at each school who were not only  
5 close friends, but we participated in community events  
6 together such as team forums where we made our voices  
7 heard in our community.

8           In middle school and high school, our sports  
9 teams played primarily with the Coconino county schools.  
10 I attended Yavapai College in Clarkdale and, as well as  
11 the classes that that college holds at a Sedona campus  
12 and the high school in Cottonwood. And, of course,  
13 countless classmates of mine went on to Flagstaff to  
14 attend the closest state university, NAU.

15           The communities of Flagstaff, Sedona and  
16 Cottonwood all -- we do share a rich history. The Verde  
17 Valley has always had a community of interest independent  
18 of Prescott and Prescott Valley.

19           Yavapai County has a growing population, the  
20 largest growth rate in northern Arizona. With a county  
21 that large, we need more representation, not less.  
22 Something we would not get with the current proposed maps  
23 that would cut our representation in half.

24           County lines do not represent communities of  
25 interest. We need competitive districts that encourage

1 participation, civic engagement from voters, and where  
2 independent voters will have more impact. A competitive  
3 district will also ensure legislators listen and respond  
4 to all its constituents. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER MACEK: Good evening. My name is  
7 Marlene Macek, and I live in the Village of Oak Creek,  
8 one of the unincorporated Verde Valley communities.

9 I am thankful for the proposed draft maps for  
10 LD-5 and CD-2. The Commissioners listened to our  
11 communities of interest, and they got it right.

12 My only ask is that the City of Sedona is kept  
13 in one district, and that is LD District 5. This would  
14 keep our Verde Valley communities of interest together.

15 Counties should be kept together whenever  
16 possible. Prescott is the center of Yavapai County  
17 government. County government provides unincorporated  
18 communities, like the Village of Oak Creek, with road  
19 maintenance, law enforcement, planning and zoning, and  
20 other authoritative needs. Dividing the county on these  
21 issues at the legislative level will dilute any  
22 reasonable solutions to problems requiring the need of a  
23 state response.

24 The Verde Valley communities are better  
25 together with Prescott. The median age in the Village of

1 Oak Creek is 63 years, and in Sedona it's 61. In  
2 Prescott, the median age is 58 years.

3 Compare that with Flagstaff, where the median  
4 age is 25 years. That is a huge difference. In  
5 addition, 42.2 percent of the population of the Village  
6 of Oak Creek is over 65 years old. In Sedona, it's 42.  
7 in Prescott, that percentage is 37.3. But in Flagstaff,  
8 it is only 8.4 percent. Again, a huge difference.

9 Whatever way you look at it, we are better  
10 together with Prescott.

11 I sincerely thank the members of this  
12 Commission for their efforts in maintaining our  
13 communities of interest and respecting our county  
14 boundaries, which are two elements of the redistricting  
15 criteria in the Arizona Constitution. Your -- thank you.

16 MS. CAMACHO: And we have the next group of  
17 speakers. And this may be the final group of speakers.  
18 If you don't hear your name called at this point, please  
19 come see me. And if you hadn't filled out a card or you  
20 thought you did, we can take care of that.

21 The first speaker will be Mary Kokula, followed  
22 by Margaret Connery. Then the third speaker is Diane  
23 Lenz. Fourth speaker is Howell Usher. The fifth speaker  
24 is Bill Feldmeier. Sixth speaker is Peggy Chaikin.  
25 Seventh speaker is James Warren. Eighth speaker is Jerry

1 Martin. Ninth speaker is James Aerdole, and then the  
2 final speaker is John Mitchell.

3 SPEAKER KOKULA: I am Mary Kokula, and I am  
4 reading a letter on behalf of Jack Fine of Sedona.

5 I moved to Arizona in 1971 and have lived and  
6 worked throughout the state since that time. Getting  
7 acquainted with the demographics, social and political  
8 forces, economics, workforce and employment and physical  
9 influences have been important elements of my work.

10 My wife and I purchased our home in Sedona in  
11 2013 and retired here in 2016. Although changing  
12 somewhat over time, most similar influence for the city  
13 remain within the Verde Valley, including the Village of  
14 Oak Creek.

15 Under the presumption that the Commission is in  
16 fact independent, I am shocked that our property would be  
17 included within the legislative district that also  
18 includes Payson. Meanwhile, west Sedona and the Village  
19 of Oak Creek would fall within the legislative boundaries  
20 of -- with the City of Prescott.

21 Dividing our city and including the  
22 (indiscernible) with cities that share few, if any,  
23 similar influence seem not only partisan but also  
24 punitive. Since 2018, the state has taken away our home  
25 rule. Our neighborhoods have been wrecked by the Senate



1 Bill thirty -- 1350, and now the AIRC is recommending  
2 splitting us between two separate legislative districts.

3           For the sake of the full-time residents of  
4 Sedona, please consider a revision that keeps Sedona all  
5 together, along with our Verde Valley influences. Thank  
6 you.

7           (Applause.)

8           SPEAKER CONNERY:    Good evening. My name is  
9 Margaret Connery, and I live in the Village of Oak Creek.

10           But, you know, when I get my mail at my house,  
11 it has a Sedona address. My driver's license has a  
12 Sedona address on it. I identify with the city of  
13 Sedona. The Village of Oak Creek, Sedona, west Sedona,  
14 we are a community. We are a community of interests.  
15 And we share interests related to development,  
16 self-government, preserving our natural resources, caring  
17 for our climate and maintaining an economy that's based  
18 on tourism.

19           Not Prescott. Prescott does not share these  
20 interests with us. Yet, you propose to put the Village  
21 of Oak Creek in west Sedona in a district with Prescott.  
22 A district that has a 30-point majority of one party.  
23 Any -- any vote from a Democrat or Independent or any  
24 other minority party will be washed out. Invalidated.  
25 People from not-the-majority party in Prescott will be

1 basically disenfranchised. Basically, no need to vote  
2 for the next 10 years.

3           What we need is competitive districts.  
4 Districts that work toward that five percent guideline  
5 that you have set.

6           I urge you to adopt LDF Maps 50 and 51 as  
7 endorsed by the Sedona city council and Flagstaff, and  
8 many of the elected officials that you've heard here  
9 today. Preserve our competitive -- maintain a  
10 competitive district, preserve our community interests,  
11 and make my vote count. Thank you.

12           (Applause.)

13           SPEAKER LENZ: My name is Diane Lenz. I'm a  
14 resident of Clarkdale. And I thank the Commission for  
15 coming to the Verde Valley.

16           My economic, employment, medical, cultural, and  
17 cultural community of interest includes the Verde Valley,  
18 Sedona, Flagstaff, and the tribal nations of northern  
19 Arizona where I've worked my whole career.

20           My request right up front is that the  
21 Commission adopt the proposed Navajo Nation Congressional  
22 District Map CDF-10 and the proposed Coconino County  
23 Supervisors maps of the Legislative District Maps LDF-50  
24 and 51.

25           Yavapai County has the largest growth rate in

1 northern Arizona. The current  
2 keep-Yavapai-County-together maps have a negative impact  
3 on my declared community of interest and, more  
4 importantly, they actually cut in half governmental  
5 representation for all Yavapai County. They cut from --  
6 we lose two federal representatives and -- or we have  
7 currently two federal representatives and six state  
8 legislators that represent the county as a whole.

9           What we would end up with is one congressional  
10 representative and three state legislators to represent,  
11 again, all of Yavapai County.

12           More representation results in more opportunity  
13 for more issues to be heard from more different  
14 perspectives. As established by Proposition 106, the  
15 Independent Redistricting Commission is mandated to adopt  
16 fair, competitive congressional and legislative districts  
17 that respect communities of interest. The current  
18 proposed maps for the Verde Valley do not fulfill either  
19 the intent or the spirit of the proposition. Thank you.

20           (Applause.)

21           SPEAKER USHER: You folks have a daunting task  
22 without possibility of pleasing everyone. Thank you for  
23 your service, and good luck.

24           I am a Democrat but have voted Republican based  
25 on the candidate -- candidates' views in the past. My

1 name is Howie Usher. I have been a resident of the Verde  
2 Valley since 1988. And as of 1992, my wife and I have  
3 been residents, homeowners, and voters in Clarkdale here  
4 in the Verde Valley.

5 I came here to teach science at Mingus Union  
6 High School, which I did for 25 years. I'm here tonight  
7 to support fair and competitive districting, particularly  
8 LDF Maps 50 and 51, and CDF Map 10.

9 One of your guidelines, competitiveness, does  
10 not mean partisan. Quite the contrary. As established  
11 by Prop 106, the IRC is mandated to adopt fair and  
12 competitive legislative districts. Alas, a significant  
13 number of the IRC proposed maps are neither.

14 I support Maps LDF-50 and 51, as well as Maps  
15 CDF-10 for three reasons: They are fair and competitive;  
16 they encourage candidates to pay attention to all of  
17 their constituents of all parties; they also encourage  
18 voters of all parties to participate in the democratic  
19 process.

20 A significant number of the IRC maps are  
21 neither fair nor competitive and, therefore, fail to  
22 succeed in any of the above. I urge competitive --  
23 competitiveness and fairness in redistricting as mandated  
24 by Prop 106. Please support and adopt Maps LDF-50 and  
25 51, as well as CDF-10, all fair and competitive

1 districts. Thank you for your service.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER FELDMEIER: Usually, when you say good  
4 night, you go to bed. So I'll say it's not good night  
5 yet, but good evening still.

6 My name is Bill Feldmeier, and I'm from Camp  
7 Verde. I've been here all evening, like you have, and I  
8 want -- wanted you to know that I am completely -- I came  
9 here completely comfortable with your -- your District 5  
10 configuration that you have put forth.

11 But -- because there's always a but somewhere  
12 along the line, with commas -- after listening to the  
13 numerous folks from Sedona about their bifurcation, I  
14 think they've got a point. I really feel like -- that  
15 they ought to be combined.

16 The other part of the but is that if, if they  
17 feel so compelled to, to be together and to move into the  
18 Flagstaff area district, I say let them have at it.  
19 But -- and, and you -- if you can, try and accommodate  
20 that wish of theirs.

21 But, I don't want them speaking for me in Camp  
22 Verde, or the folks that I know in Camp Verde. We want  
23 to stay rural. And we're certainly comfortable in  
24 District 5, as, as you have -- you have indicated today.  
25 And with that, I'll say good night.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank  
2 you for staying with us tonight, and I hope you have a  
3 good trip back wherever you're going. I appreciate all  
4 your diligence with this. I know you can't please  
5 everyone.

6 I am a long-term resident of the Verde Valley  
7 region. I've lived in Cottonwood, I've lived in  
8 Clarkdale. I taught in Camp Verde. I've lived in  
9 Flagstaff, and now I live in Sedona. Over the last 50  
10 years.

11 My community of interest is the community that  
12 is working towards solutions for the climate and housing  
13 problems that are pressing on our residents and workforce  
14 in the Verde Valley-Flagstaff region. We need  
15 representation that will reflect the values of  
16 conservation with great respect for land and vital  
17 resources.

18 The competitiveness of our present district as  
19 drawn on these maps has given us no -- no balance. What  
20 we have right now with our representative is a moderate  
21 public servant who is responsive to these needs for a  
22 full range of the constituents.

23 The draft maps which splits Sedona and  
24 gerrymander our district of northern Arizona do not  
25 fulfill the mandate of Proposition 106. They are way out

1 of range of competitiveness.

2           You must be tired of hearing that word. But,  
3 it might take you to court if you don't get in alignment  
4 with it.

5           Please respect the needs of the people in our  
6 area so that the leaders will be responsive to community  
7 needs and not spend their time perpetuating party  
8 divides. Flagstaff, Sedona and the Verde Valley share a  
9 common interest in the issue of water conservation.  
10 While Flagstaff, Sedona and the Verde Valley workers and  
11 residents are forced by their legislature --

12           SPEAKER WARREN: Good evening. It's almost  
13 over.

14           I'm James Warren. I live here in Cottonwood.  
15 We've been residents here now for almost 12 years.  
16 Started coming here nearly 20 years ago. I'm a veteran,  
17 and on November 11th, I celebrated with many other  
18 veterans by taking our classic car with my wife to  
19 Prescott and participating in the parade.

20           We're in Prescott very often. I'm a member of  
21 an organization over there; and we go over there  
22 sometimes to dine, but certainly to shop.

23           I feel somewhat bad for the people of Sedona  
24 who have never been in a Costco or never been in a Lowes,  
25 because you've got to go over to Prescott to get in one

1 of those stores. But, maybe they'll find their way at  
2 some point.

3           On the, the issue of Flagstaff. My grandson  
4 graduated high school a couple years ago. He's now a  
5 senior in college. Going up to Flagstaff is reminiscent  
6 of the party that my daughter threw for him with his high  
7 school roommates -- or classmates, I should say. It's a  
8 totally -- totally alien society from what we have here  
9 in Verde Valley. And I'm very comfortable here with my  
10 peer group.

11           I was a different person when I went in the  
12 service. I was a different person when I was a young  
13 parent, and I was a different person when I was a vice  
14 president in a corporate environment. And when I  
15 finished my career running IT at a community college, I  
16 was a mature person. Hopefully, that's what I am now,  
17 although my wife might dispute that.

18           But, I like this community. I'm very  
19 comfortable in this community. And I'm comfortable in  
20 Sedona or, or Prescott. Thank you.

21           SPEAKER MARTIN: We always -- hello. We  
22 always save the best for last; is that not right?

23           And to your question, I don't think it was  
24 anything to do with Native Americans. And, certainly, I  
25 didn't take it that way. But what I do think the meaning



1 was, the transplants that have been invading Arizona.

2 That's my opinion.

3           Now, first of all, my name is Jerry Geronimo  
4 Martin. I am the great-great-grandson of the legendary  
5 Geronimo of Arizona. I live in Camp Verde, as opposed to  
6 in the San Carlos reservation, by choice, and I am here  
7 to say that what is going on with this new districting  
8 should -- it's already been done 10 years ago. Why are  
9 we trying to reinvent the wheel?

10           Well, I can tell you why. Because this is not  
11 only going on here in Arizona, it's going on in Ohio.  
12 It's going on in Indiana. It's going on in Virginia.

13           We are aware of what's going on, and this talk  
14 of a competitiveness, if Arizona didn't have a  
15 competitiveness, how did we move from Trump to Biden? It  
16 doesn't make any sense. And having your neighbor be in  
17 one party and the other party, no matter how many people  
18 you put in a tent, when they come out and vote, the  
19 number's going to be the same whether they're in one tent  
20 or another, because it all goes into the big pot. Okay?  
21 You know?

22           So, the next thing I got to say is that, number  
23 one, most important, especially to myself, my ancestry.  
24 Sedona is the Apache holy grounds. Just like to the  
25 Israelites, Mt. Sinai is their holy ground. Don't divide

1 it.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you. Thank you. Right  
4 now, that concludes our speakers. Is there anyone that  
5 put in a card to speak that we have not called?

6 That concludes the speakers in Cottonwood.  
7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I want to thank you all  
9 for being here. This was a great example of democracy in  
10 action. Please keep engaged. And with that, we will  
11 adjourn.

12 (Whereupon the meeting concludes at 10:17 p.m.)

13 *\*This transcript represents an unofficial*  
14 *record. Please consult the accompanying video for the*  
15 *official record of IRC proceedings.*

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARIZONA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF YAVAPAI )

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Annette Satterlee, RPR, Arizona Certified Reporter, No. 50179, 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.

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

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206.

DATED this 3rd day of December 2021, at Camp Verde, Arizona.

  
Annette Satterlee, RPR, CRR  
Certified Reporter #50179

\* \* \*

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 5th day of December 2021.

  
Miller Certified Reporting, LLC  
Arizona RRF No. R1058