

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Sun City, Arizona  
San Carlos, Arizona  
Wickenburg, Arizona  
Online via WebEx  
November 17, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

**Miller Certified Reporting, LLC**  
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Miller Certified Reporting, LLC

1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE  
 2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 6:00 p.m.  
 3 on November 17, 2021, at Sun City Country Club, 9433 North  
 4 107th Avenue, Sun City, Arizona; with satellite locations at  
 5 San Carlos Tribal Council Chambers, Building 3A, San Carlos  
 6 Avenue, San Carlos, Arizona and Town of Wickenburg, 155  
 7 North Tegner Street, Number A, Wickenburg, Arizona; and  
 8 online via WebEx.

9  
 10 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

11 Mr. David Mehl  
 12 Ms. Shereen Lerner  
 13 Mr. Douglas York

14 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

15 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson (San Carlos)  
 16 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman (Wickenburg)

17 STAFF PRESENT:

18 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director  
 19 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director  
 20 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant  
 21 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer  
 22 Ms. Marie Camacho, Community Outreach Coordinator  
 23 Mr. Alex Pena, Community Outreach Coordinator

24 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Rick Gray	Sun City
Linda Busam	Sun City
David Marsh	Sun City
Bonnie Angster	Sun City
Mitch Friedlander	Sun City
Howard Klemmer	Sun City
Roy Jenks	Sun City
Lynn Peters	Sun City

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Sheila Roberts	Sun City
4	Harry Oberg	Wickenburg
5	Nohl Rosen	Wickenburg
6	Joanne Pierce	Wickenburg
7	Kate McKusker	Wickenburg
8	Steve Titla	San Carlos
9	Kodee Goseyun	San Carlos
10	Bernadette Kniffin	San Carlos
11	Anthony Bejarano	San Carlos
12	Clair Van Steenwyk	Sun City
13	Thomas Kieffer	Sun City
14	Richard Newcomer	Sun City
15	Timothy Schwartz	Sun City
16	Frank Rizzo	Sun City
17	Doris Hinton	Sun City
18	Robert Thomas	Sun City
19	Louise Huber	Sun City
20	Linda McNamara	Sun City
21	Cheri Tomlinson	Sun City
22	Carol Ayotte	Sun City
23	James Miller	Sun City
24	Eric Morgan	Sun City
25	Heather Morgan	Sun City
26	Susan Black	Sun City
27	Amber Hilliker	Sun City
28	Nate Mess	Sun City
29	Corinne Haines	Sun City
30	Marylouise Stevens	Sun City
31	Chad Moreland	Sun City
32	Laura Basey	Sun City
33	Barbara Schwisow Johnson	Sun City
34	Mary Ziola	Sun City
35	Chris Judd	Sun City
36	Fleeta Cullins	Sun City
37	Mary Ann Johnston	Sun City
38	Barbara Wyllie	Sun City
39	Mary Banks	Sun City
40	Summer Baker	Sun City
41	Gerard Johnson	Sun City
42	Eva Walecka	Sun City
43	Greg Rucker	Sun City
44	Larry Templeton	Sun City
45	Melissa Karner	Sun City
46	Larry Thomas	Sun City
47	Don Madison	Sun City
48	Tom Berry	Sun City

## 1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 SPEAKER NAME:  
Margaret PoppLOCATION  
Sun City3 \* American Sign language interpreters, Spanish  
4 interpreters, and an Apache interpreter are also  
5 present.  
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P R O C E E D I N G

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2  
3 MS. NEUMANN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.  
4 We're -- we'll go ahead and get the meeting started.

5 I'd like to introduce our Spanish interpreter.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Hi, good evening. My name is  
7 Gabriella Contreras, I am the Spanish interpreter. If you  
8 need assistance, please come see me.

9 (Spanish language.)

10 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you.

11 We'll begin the meeting with the Pledge of  
12 Allegiance. Everybody, if you could please stand.

13 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

14  
15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Good evening. Thank you for  
16 being here. I now call to order the meeting of the  
17 Independent Redistricting Commission.

18 There is a transcriptionist who will be recording  
19 every word. Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a  
20 clear record of your input.

21 At this time we will introduce ourselves.

22 My name is Shereen Lerner. I am one of the  
23 Commissioners from Maricopa County.

24 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I am David Mehl and I'm a  
25 Commissioner from Pima County.

1 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Please stand up when you  
2 introduce yourself.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They need the mics.

4 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Hello, I'm David Mehl; I'm from  
5 Pima County.

6 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And now what we're going to  
7 do is go to San Carlos, have introductions there.

8 MS. CRANK: Commissioner Lerner and Commissioner  
9 Mehl, Chairwoman Neuberg is on her way, she's en route.

10 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. And do we have someone  
11 from Wickenburg? Is Commissioner Watchman...

12 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yes, good evening. This is  
13 Vice Chairman Derrick Watchman and good evening everybody  
14 here in Wickenburg. I represent Apache County from Window  
15 Rock, I'm the Democratic appointee to the Commission. So  
16 good evening, everybody.

17 COMMISSIONER LERNER: We will now move to Agenda  
18 Item II, which is public comments. And staff will read the  
19 rules.

20 MS. NEUMANN: In compliance with Arizona's open  
21 meeting law, speakers should confine their statements to the  
22 issue on the posted agenda which is before the Commission.

23 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments  
24 to approximately two minutes. The two minutes will be  
25 strictly enforced for all speakers.

1           Additionally, speakers are required to follow  
2 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language;  
3 foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated.

4           Any speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any  
5 other guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the  
6 peace or disruption of a Commission public hearing may be  
7 cause of report to law enforcement.

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

11           If you have already spoken at a previous meeting,  
12 your comments were recorded in the public record.

13           Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the  
14 citizens present.

15           As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to address  
16 their comments to the Chair and the Commission and not to  
17 the audience present.

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

21           We will now begin public comment.

22           We'll have our first five speakers line up behind  
23 me. We've got Senator Rick Gray, Linda Busam, David Marsh,  
24 Bonnie Angster.

25           SPEAKER GRAY: Thank you. I am Senator Rick Gray

1 from LD-21, which includes Sun City, the -- the community  
2 that we're in. For clear disclosure, I'm also a Sun City  
3 resident.

4 So first I want to thank the Commission for  
5 maintaining the community of interest. The original maps  
6 had Sun City split in half, which was not good for us at  
7 all; that was brought back together so I want to applaud you  
8 for that.

9 I do want to say, though, when you're looking at  
10 the congressional district, I have deep concerns about our  
11 community of interest when we look at what's in, and my view  
12 is we should move CD-8 farther west because we are now going  
13 to be -- the west side in my district and Surprise is going  
14 to be actually in a rural CD, which I don't think is  
15 appropriate. We're a -- we're a urban community; we also  
16 have dynamics when it comes to -- I've got a -- we put  
17 together a West Valley caucus because we're looking at the  
18 transportation tax and we're -- we're kind of wrestling with  
19 the East Valley. There's -- there's strong communities of  
20 interest over here and when we actually lose part of that  
21 because we're in a different congressional district, it  
22 undermines us.

23 So I think that having CD-8 extended to include  
24 Surprise, that keeps us more as a CD that is an urban CD  
25 rather than just a small part and that's my concern is we --



1 if we're a small part and we've got all this rural area, we  
2 can actually use -- lose our voice and what should be a  
3 priority for us then becomes a -- a lack of -- of focus.

4 And so my -- again, I want to -- I want to thank  
5 you for focusing on the constitutional requirements  
6 highlighted by communities of interest and I would urge you  
7 to look at that in light of the current CDs, too, and  
8 repropotion CD-8 to go farther west and include Surprise.

9 Thank you.

10 SPEAKER BUSAM: Hello, my name is Linda Busam and  
11 I'm a resident of Peoria in ZIP Code 85345 and currently  
12 redistricted into LD-27.

13 Peoria, Sun City, Surprise, El Mirage are my  
14 communities of interest. It's where my family lives, it's  
15 where I shop, receive medical care, socialize and go to  
16 church. I choose to live here because I love my diverse  
17 community, what -- what it has to offer; and I'm  
18 particularly interested in our K through 12 school system,  
19 which are essential to the future of our children.

20 West-MEC offers Dysart and Peoria High School  
21 students a last -- a fast track forward to career in  
22 technical education courses that unifies our schools.

23 The mayors and the city council members of these  
24 towns work together to achieve desired goals and solutions  
25 and we share the same problems and interests.

1           The suburban West Valley has no connection with the  
2 urban city of Phoenix and -- or rural La Paz or Mohave  
3 Counties. Nor does Maricopa County share anything in common  
4 with Arizona's surrounding counties and these boundaries  
5 should never be intermingled.

6           Please draw CD-8 to include Peoria, El Mirage,  
7 Surprise and all of the Sun Cities, as they share Peoria and  
8 Dysart School Districts.

9           Please move the urban Central Phoenix into CD-3  
10 where they're -- where they share commonality and can be  
11 fairly represented.

12           LD-27 should include Sun City because parts of it  
13 are also in the Peoria School District. Currently Peoria  
14 and Surprise are broken up into different districts, where  
15 they should remain intact.

16           Following the Arizona Constitution should be the  
17 Commission's only focus instead of seeking party  
18 competitiveness like they did ten years ago. It was not  
19 fair to the people of Arizona, nor were we fairly  
20 represented.

21           The Arizona Constitution Article IV Part 2 Section  
22 1 states that: One, Arizona must comply with the federal --  
23 okay.

24           Well, thank you very much. Thank you.

25           COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

1           SPEAKER MARSH: My name is David Marsh. My wife  
2           and I are Christian and retired. We lived in LD-15 and CD-8  
3           prior to moving to our current 55-plus community in north  
4           Surprise. We both volunteer at Luke Air Force Base. There  
5           are supposed to be 1,500 homes in our 55-plus community in  
6           seven years. Our linear precinct at the western edge of the  
7           district with a lot of emphasis on the eastern part of the  
8           LD.

9           We've experienced what it's like to have different  
10          common interests and priorities. According to the current  
11          LD-28 precinct map, we regrouped with people from the rural,  
12          western and northern parts of Maricopa County. The needs  
13          and wants in common with these sections of the LD would be  
14          different. We have more in common and shop with those in  
15          LD-29 which includes most of the city of Surprise.

16          The other thing is that the LD meeting may be far  
17          from us. We'd be assigned to Congressional District 9,  
18          which is about seven miles west of District 8. We would  
19          again experience being at the edge of a very mixed district.  
20          The commonalties of us living in suburban Surprise and  
21          concurrently -- or currently in CD-8 are different than  
22          those in the Gladden and surrounding rural areas of Maricopa  
23          County. Similar interests in shopping are done with those  
24          in CD-8. In both cases we are suburban versus rural  
25          dwellers, would like to see the suburban West Valley kept in

1           one congressional district as we have more cohesive  
2           interests than differences.

3                     Thank you.

4                     SPEAKER ANGSTER: Good evening and thank you for  
5           the opportunity.

6                     My name is Bonnie Angster, a resident of Sun City  
7           for 27 years. There seems to be a serious concern for the  
8           boundaries that are proposed for LD-29. It appears that we  
9           would be better off if we moved to 27 -- LD-27, which would  
10          include Sun City.

11                    Focusing on communities, Sun Cityians have a  
12          tendency and prone to do their business in Peoria and the  
13          Arrowhead area. This includes shopping; entertainment;  
14          sporting events; restaurants; and importantly, medical  
15          facilities.

16                    Rather than placing Sun City as far as -- west as  
17          proposed, it would fit the common interest of the district  
18          needs. These are the boundaries that I propose: 67 Avenue  
19          for the east boundary including a majority of Peoria, then  
20          using Northern Avenue for the southern boundary, Dysart Road  
21          for the western border and Lake Pleasant Parkway for the  
22          northern border.

23                    Keeping Sun City and the surrounding areas, suburbs  
24          in a compact district.

25                    Now, concerning CD-8, to be more practical, the

1 district needs to include Peoria, Sun City, Youngtown,  
2 El Mirage, Surprise, Sun City West and the possibility of  
3 all the way to Sun City Festival. Not dividing the Sun  
4 Cities, uniting the West Valley, including the many  
5 retirement communities herein.

6 As the IRC is focused on common interests of  
7 unified communities, these are my recommendations.

8 I thank you for this opportunity.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speakers are Mitch  
11 Friedlander, Howard Klemmer, Lynn Peters, Roy Jenks,  
12 Margaret Popp, and Sheila Roberts.

13 SPEAKER FRIEDLANDER: Hi, my name is Mitch  
14 Friedlander, I live in Sun City Grand which is part of  
15 Surprise. Previously I've submitted written testimony on my  
16 objection to previous maps and I'm still going to talk about  
17 the same changes or lack of changes that you've made.

18 I moved to Arizona in 2010 when -- and I retired in  
19 2015. We moved to a 55-plus community, and when you split  
20 Sun City and you split the other adult communities and took  
21 them away from our district, it made it seem it was -- it  
22 was impossible to be cohesive, to be a unit, for similar  
23 interests and groups. We are retired, we are all -- most of  
24 us on fixed incomes and we in Surprise and in Grand, there  
25 are approximately 9,700 homes and there are about 20,000

1 residents.

2 When you move us into CD-9, we don't have that kind  
3 of population, it's totally rural or farming and we have no  
4 common interests with anything from Mojave, La Paz, Yuma  
5 except for Maricopa County. And, again, if you would move  
6 CD-8 slightly to the west where we used to be and take us  
7 out of CD-9, it would be more appropriate for everybody  
8 living within that community.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER KLEMMER: Hi, my name is Howard Klemmer.

12 I live in Surprise, actually in Sun City Grand.  
13 I've lived there for 16 years. Everybody has said what I  
14 would like to say, so I feel cheated but thank you anyway.  
15 And thank for letting me have an opportunity to say  
16 something.

17 I do believe in the CDs, that's 29 and 27, probably  
18 would be better amalgamated, share our common sense of  
19 interest; and in CD, I agree with my previous speaker Mitch  
20 that moving Surprise and other surrounding communities back  
21 into CD-8 would be a benefit to the people of Surprise.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: We want to -- we want to  
25 acknowledge that many of you might have similar things to

1 say; we don't want to discourage you from speaking on your  
2 own, but if you do, you can do just what we just heard,  
3 which is acknowledge that you agree with previous speakers  
4 on those points instead of -- I know you may have a long  
5 speech, I'm not saying not to do the speech, but if you  
6 choose you can also just tell us that you agree with those  
7 previous comments and we will record that.

8 SPEAKER JENKS: Good evening. Thank you for  
9 letting me speak.

10 I have a raspy voice so I hope that you can  
11 understand what I'm saying.

12 My name is Lieutenant Colonel Roy Jenks, U.S. Army  
13 retired. I live in Sun City West and we've lived there  
14 since 2000. I'm a 25-year military veteran who chose to  
15 retire in Arizona in Sun City West.

16 I've been a member of the American Legion Reserve  
17 Officers -- Reserve Officers Association since my retirement  
18 in 1958. So I figure this is probably the only time I'm  
19 going to get a chance to address a Commission like this  
20 'cause that will make me a little too old I think to make it  
21 to the next one.

22 We decided to retire in Sun City West because of  
23 the close proximity -- one of the reasons -- to Luke Air  
24 Base. We have access to Base pharmacy, medical services;  
25 and some people don't realize, but Arizona is a top location

1 for military retirement in the entire community -- country.

2 In fact, there are five Arizona military retirement  
3 locations in the top hundred cities in the country -- and  
4 this is kind of news to me also -- Scottsdale, Arizona, is  
5 ranked third in the nation as far as preferability.

6 Military veterans like the area around Luke for  
7 employment, both active duty and military, retired military.  
8 The current legislative boundaries have really proven very  
9 worthwhile for the military.

10 And the military families and friends have been  
11 very -- appreciative.

12 MS. NEUMANN: That's time.

13 SPEAKER JENKS: Okay. It would -- I'd be willing  
14 to traverse any boundaries, in my opinion, and military  
15 serve -- retirees have served their country for many years  
16 and would like to feel their selection of Arizona and the  
17 retirement home carefully.

18 Okay. I would just like to thank you and God bless  
19 your work and your decisions that you're going to make.

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER POPP: Hello and thank you, my name is  
24 Margaret Popp. And I live in Sun City West and that is a  
25 55-plus community, and we are surrounded with veterans and a



1 lot of retired folks, so the draw for Luke Air Force Base to  
2 the south and all through the areas in between, all the  
3 adult communities, they should really try to keep them all  
4 together and in CD-8 and it's just a matter of like  
5 interests.

6 I changed up my speech here a little bit, but just  
7 having the opportunity to be able to -- that's why all the  
8 retirees, the snowbirds and everybody moved down here,  
9 because of the atmosphere of the West Valley corridor.

10 So anyway, I do thank you very much and I look  
11 forward to 2022.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER PETERS: Commissioners, thank you for the  
14 opportunity to share my concerns about draft map CD-9; and  
15 yes, I agree with most of the previous comments about CD-9  
16 but I'd like to share mine.

17 My name is Lynn Peters and I have lived in the city  
18 of Surprise for 21 years. During that time I have never had  
19 an Arizona state legislator, representative or federal  
20 congressman that shared my values. Never.

21 My biggest concern with draft map CD-9 is that it  
22 does not meet several of the constitutional requirements.  
23 CD-9 is far from compact; the Maricopa County portion of  
24 CD-9 shoots off from a mostly rectangular shape simply  
25 because the western edge of Arizona does not meet the

1 population requirements of a congressional district.

2 Adding Maricopa communities to CD-9 simply to meet  
3 population requirements for communities of other counties  
4 violates the intent of communities of interest criteria of  
5 Proposition 106.

6 CD-9 is solidly uncompetitive; CD-9 includes four  
7 diverse counties: Mohave, La Paz, Maricopa and Yuma. I  
8 didn't even know there was a La Paz County.

9 CD-9 is geographically mostly rural; while  
10 communities of Surprise, Sun City West, El Mirage and  
11 Litchfield Park are urban and densely populated.

12 Our issues and interests are dramatically different  
13 from rural cities and towns. We do not relate to Lake  
14 Havasu City, Kingman, Bullhead City, Lake Mead or Quartzsite  
15 or the Colorado River Indian Reservation all grouped with  
16 Maricopa County, Metro Phoenix communities.

17 When CD-2 cuts into CD-9 in the north, it is for a  
18 Native American community of interest. When CD-2 cuts into  
19 Pinal County, I agree it is for another Native American  
20 community of interest; however, when CD-9 cuts into Maricopa  
21 County, there is no community of interest, so it -- it's  
22 really very illogical.

23 You spend a great deal of time focusing on southern  
24 Arizona and the Tucson area, I hope that you will take the  
25 same consideration for the northwest Metro Phoenix

1 communities.

2 Commissioners, thank you for your time.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER ROBERTS: Hi, my name is Sheila Roberts. I  
5 live in Glendale, 85308. Since this is my first time  
6 testifying, I simply just wanted to voice my opinion on how  
7 common interests and cohesiveness of my community seems to  
8 be more authentic, inclusive, and has a positive outcome  
9 versus being competitive, which seems to me to be divisive  
10 and kind of self-serving.

11 So thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you. We'll now go to  
14 Wickenburg with Marie and Vice Chair Watchman.

15  
16 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you. Good evening from  
17 Wickenburg.

18 Before we start, I'd like to introduce our Spanish  
19 interpreter, who is available to anybody who may need  
20 assistance.

21 Please come up, Brenda.

22 THE INTERPRETER: Good evening, everyone. My name  
23 is Brenda Lopez. If you need a Spanish interpreter, I am  
24 present here.

25 (Spanish language.)

1 MS. CAMACHO: We have four speakers in Wickenburg  
2 and just to remind the speakers since the video was  
3 interrupted, you have two minutes to speak and I have a  
4 timer.

5 Our first speaker will be Yavapai County Supervisor  
6 Harry Oberg, the second speaker will be Nohl Rosen, the  
7 third speaker will be Joanne Pierce, and then final speaker  
8 will be Kate McKusker.

9 SPEAKER OBERG: Good evening, Madam Chair and  
10 Commissioners. My name is Harry Oberg and I'm a Yavapai  
11 County Supervisor.

12 I would like to provide comments in support of map  
13 CD0068 which revises your draft CD map. Map 68 is superior  
14 in that it seeks to establish rural congressional districts  
15 that are very aligned, are various communities of interest.

16 Your CD map combines Yavapai County with the  
17 eastern counties of Navajo and Apache and portions of the  
18 Pinal and Graham Counties.

19 Yavapai County has long-standing communities of  
20 interest related to our western culture and heritage of  
21 ranching, mining, agriculture and forestry, coupled with our  
22 rural lifestyle and fierce protection of our scarce water  
23 resources. Combining Yavapai County with Apache and Navajo  
24 County would result in diminishing our communities of  
25 interest.

1           Yavapai County has few common interests with the  
2 eastern and southern communities. They don't have the same  
3 water issues that we do in the high desert areas of north  
4 central and western Arizona. The tribal areas of the east  
5 and south have superior water rights in Arizona.

6           Our communities of interest lie more naturally with  
7 the rural counties of Coconino, Gila, Mohave and La Paz,  
8 which have similar scarce water resources. Map 68 provides  
9 that these counties be combined with Yavapai in the one CD  
10 and the entire town of the town of Wickenburg aligned with  
11 CD-2 and LD-5.

12           But map 68 does not fix one area just to break  
13 another, rather this map also proposes that the eastern and  
14 southern counties have common communities of interest that  
15 align better with one another and should comprise their own  
16 CD. Combining these eastern counties naturally establishes  
17 a minority-majority district which would provide  
18 congressional representation specifically attuned to unique  
19 Native American interests.

20           Needless to say, we see water is primary in  
21 redistricting consideration since it is a common and urgent  
22 community of interest in much of Arizona. We hope that you  
23 will take water into consideration in drafting your final  
24 maps.

25           Thank you.

1           SPEAKER ROSEN: Hello, my name is Nohl Rosen. I am  
2 here in the town of Wickenburg, I live here in the town of  
3 Wickenburg, and I've testified before the Commission several  
4 times that Wickenburg as a whole town needs to be in LD-5  
5 and CD-2. We don't have anything in common with -- with any  
6 of the areas that are in LD-28 and the CD-9 maps.

7           We're a western town, so we've got a lot in common  
8 with our neighbors to the north. Now, what people don't  
9 know about Wickenburg is that they're around the area of  
10 Wickenburg Ranch that was annexed into the town of  
11 Wickenburg. This is the reason why we need to all stay  
12 together as one whole town. I realize that we are -- that  
13 we are split by two counties, but the Maricopa County side  
14 of Wickenburg wants to be in LD-5 and CD-2, which is where  
15 we feel we're going to have the best representation.

16           We have a lot in common with Congress, we have a  
17 lot in common with the areas like North Ranch and in -- and  
18 other areas in -- in Yavapai County. We've got roping,  
19 we've got rodeo, we've got the western look and the western  
20 lifestyle, we also have a little bit of mining as well.  
21 This is why it's so important, as I've stated several times,  
22 that we need to be in LD-5 and CD-2.

23           I'm hoping that the Commission will -- more or less  
24 will have the stamp on that, because you focused on other  
25 areas and you've completely left out Wickenburg in the mix

1 of -- of areas of key interest.

2 It's like I said, we don't have anything in common  
3 with -- with the LD-28 and CD-9 maps. We're not properly  
4 represented there. So I hope that the Commission will take  
5 my testimony under consideration; and like I said, as I've  
6 said many times, put us in LD-5 and CD-2.

7 Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

9 SPEAKER PIERCE: Good evening, hi. I'm Joanne  
10 Pierce and I reside here at Wickenburg Ranch. I've  
11 testified twice before, once in Congress and in Scottsdale.

12 As before, I urge you to keep Wickenburg Ranch in  
13 LD-5 as before. I also urge you to unify Wickenburg Town  
14 into Wickenburg Ranch and keep us both in LD-5, Yavapai. We  
15 are clearly small town, no big box, no big population; we  
16 are western in flavor, enjoying all things rodeo and  
17 ranching; we're nothing in common with Phoenix proper,  
18 Maricopa County. We live, work, play, shop locally and  
19 medical here as well.

20 We actively participate in all things cowboy, just  
21 as Prescott and surrounding towns.

22 We are town people not big city folks. For the  
23 third time, I'm urging you to hear me and unify  
24 Wickenburg Ranch and the town of Wickenburg into LD-5 and  
25 CD-2.

1 Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER MCKUSKER: Thank you. I'm Kate McKusker.  
4 And to be honest with you, I'm not exactly sure how these  
5 maps work.

6 You want me to repeat?

7 I'm Kate McKusker and I'll be honest, I'm not  
8 really sure exactly where these lines are drawn on the map.  
9 I'm confused by looking at these four pieces of paper,  
10 however I want to say this.

11 I've lived here for 21 years, have visited the  
12 community since 1992 prior to living here. And I have to  
13 disagree with the Wickenburg Ranch resident who just spoke.

14 Wickenburg is an ex-urban community, we are 30 to  
15 35 miles from Surprise. Yes, we have become a roping  
16 capital; yes, we are a western town; but we have nothing in  
17 common with the far west part of Arizona.

18 So although I don't understand the maps completely,  
19 what I do understand is that the way the lines are currently  
20 drawn where we are represented by a congressman out of  
21 Kingman really does not relate to us at all. We relate yes  
22 to Wickenburg Ranch, a little bit to Prescott, a lot to the  
23 West Valley, and I think it's very important for you to  
24 consider, no matter what these maps say, we don't really fit  
25 with the far western part of the state at all.



1           And this has been a common feeling among residents,  
2           people I've known, people I work with. I've worked for the  
3           town of Wickenburg for the last 20 years.

4           So it would be great if you could do something  
5           about it.

6           Thank you very much.

7           VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

8           MS. CAMACHO: Thank you. That concludes the  
9           speakers from Wickenburg. We will now go to Michele in  
10          San Carlos.

11          MS. CRANK: Give an opportunity to our Chairwoman  
12          to introduce herself.

13          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hello, everyone. It's  
14          wonderful to be here. I am Chairwoman Neuberg. I live in  
15          Chandler, and thank you everybody for participating; and  
16          thank you, colleagues, for joining us this evening as well.

17          MS. CRANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. And then I'd  
18          also like our Apache translator to come up and introduce  
19          himself.

20          THE INTERPRETER: Good evening, ladies and  
21          gentlemen. My name is Bartholomew Sisto, I'm an interpreter  
22          for Apache. Thank you. Good evening.

23          (Apache language spoken.)

24          MS. CRANK: Madam Chair, members of the Commission  
25          and the listening audience, we have four speakers here in

1 San Carlos; and just to remind the speakers, you do have two  
2 minutes and I will be timing.

3 The first speaker is Mr. Steve Titla, next speaker  
4 is Kodee Goseyun, and then Bernadette Kniffin, and Anthony  
5 Bejarano.

6 SPEAKER TITLA: Good evening, Chairwoman and staff.

7 (Apache language spoken.)

8 Good evening, we're here -- I'm sorry, you have to  
9 repeat.

10 THE INTERPRETER: Good evening, ladies and  
11 gentlemen. He says it's good to be here and it's good for  
12 you guys to come and visit our reservation once in a while.

13 SPEAKER TITLA: I have a letter from the chairman,  
14 he couldn't be here and I know two minutes is ticking along  
15 so I'm going to try to read it fast.

16 Chairman Rambler planned on being here but he  
17 was -- had to go to Phoenix on emergency, so this is  
18 San Carlos Apache Tribe which I'll give to you after I read  
19 it. He says: Honorable Dr. Erika Neuberg, the Honorable  
20 Derrick Watchman, Honorable David Mehl, the Honorable  
21 Dr. Shereen Lerner, the Honorable Douglas York, Arizona  
22 Independent Redistricting Commission.

23 Dear Chairman Neuberg, Vice Chairman Watchman and  
24 Commissioners, on behalf of the 17,000 members of the  
25 San Carlos Apache tribe, thank you for the opportunity to

1 host this important event and to provide comments on --  
2 about the draft redistricting maps.

3 In response, please accept this letter as the  
4 Tribe's public comment as it pertains to the community of  
5 interest that makes up the currently proposed Legislative  
6 District 6 and Congressional District 2 as set forth in  
7 legislative test map version 10.0 and congressional test map  
8 version 7.1 respectfully.

9 Briefly, the Tribe believes that any proposed --  
10 any proposal to revise district boundaries from the prior  
11 redistricting cycle by fractionating the existing  
12 communities of interest shared among the seven tribes and  
13 their homelands will have an adverse impact by diluting  
14 their current voting strength.

15 Moreover -- moreover, revising district boundaries  
16 could splinter and dilute the community of interest shared  
17 among tribes and tribal members who live off reservations in  
18 nearby cities and towns. Therefore, it is absolutely  
19 imperative that the Commission maintains a robust Native  
20 American majority-minority legislative district capable of  
21 electing its preferred candidate into office.

22 Recall that the San Carlos Apache tribes  
23 reservations were communities of interest, the San Carlos  
24 Apache tribe is a community of interest with the White  
25 Mountain Apache tribe and the Navajo Nation and other rural

1 tribes in northeastern and northwestern Arizona. We share a  
2 common language with White Mountain Apaches and similar  
3 language to the Navajos.

4 Navajos and Apaches live in nearby border towns  
5 such as the towns along Interstate 40, Show Low, Pinetop and  
6 Springerville, so they should not be excluded from the  
7 proposed Legislative District 6. Moreover, we continue to  
8 have concerns about the inclusion of Flagstaff in the  
9 proposed Legislative District 6 as discussed below.

10 We're okay? Okay.

11 Under the Voting Rights Act, our tribal members are  
12 entitled to a district that gives us the opportunity to  
13 elect candidates of our choice. If the Commission were to  
14 include Flagstaff in Legislative District 6, it could  
15 prevent us from electing candidates of choice into the  
16 legislation -- into legislature.

17 In 2004 Native American voters were unable to elect  
18 their candidate of choice in the only Native American  
19 majority-minority district in the state because Flagstaff  
20 voters mobilized to defeat the Native American  
21 majority-minority district.

22 When the district was redrawn in 2010, LD-7, the  
23 Native American majority-minority district, excluded  
24 Flagstaff. Flagstaff has grown over 18 percent since the  
25 last census, a much higher rate than any of the

1 off-reservation border towns in northern Arizona. This  
2 means that Native Americans will likely lose the majority  
3 during the decade and further be impacted from electing  
4 candidates of choice if the Commission adopts a final  
5 legislative map that includes the city of Flagstaff.

6 Further, Native Americans are the most  
7 underpopulated race in the census. Arizona is ranked number  
8 one in the U.S. with the highest number of American Indians  
9 and Alaska Natives living in hard-to-count census tracts  
10 with 68.1 percent of the state's Native population living in  
11 hard-to-count areas. Poverty, lack of broadband service,  
12 housing insecurity, language barriers and the COVID-19  
13 pandemic further increases the risk of the 2020 census  
14 undercounting Arizona's Native American population.

15 The Voting Rights Act instructs the Independent  
16 Redistricting Commission to use its lawful discretion to  
17 protect the interests of the only Native American  
18 majority-minority legislative district in Arizona. The  
19 Commission should deviate greater from the target population  
20 due to this undercount in order to create a strong Native  
21 American majority-minority district.

22 Finally, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that  
23 total population deviations of 10 percent or less are  
24 presumptively constitutional, and population deviations  
25 greater than 10 percent may be justified by legitimate state

1 interests such as preserving a strong Native American  
2 majority-minority legislative district. The exclusion of  
3 the city of Flagstaff would achieve this legitimate state  
4 interest.

5 As we say in our Apache language (Apache language  
6 spoken) for the opportunity to provide comments for this  
7 public hearing and allowing the tribe to host this important  
8 meeting.

9 Thank you.

10 I am Steve Titla, by the way, for the record.  
11 San Carlos Apache member.

12 SPEAKER GOSEYUN: Hello, thank you for the  
13 opportunity to voice my concerns regarding Congressional  
14 District 2 and Legislative District 6.

15 My name is Kodee Goseyun, proud San Carlos Apache  
16 Tribal member. I would like to agree with Steve Titla and  
17 agree with his previous comments.

18 I would also like to add any change made to the  
19 Congressional District 2 maps lowers and dilutes the voting  
20 strength for Native American communities. We need a strong  
21 Native American majority-minority district for congressional  
22 and legislative voting purposes. Please take this into  
23 consideration.

24 Thank you.

25 SPEAKER KNIFFIN: Good evening. My name is

1 Bernadette Kniffin from San Carlos, Arizona. I'm a tribal  
2 member, born and raised here. I agree with Steve Titla as  
3 well and also Kodee Goseyun with our tribe on honoring the  
4 District 6 map.

5 It would put us with our Native American brothers  
6 and sisters; we have like interests, like goals. I believe  
7 that would really give us an advantage in the future. So  
8 likewise, on behalf of 17,000 tribal members, I agree with  
9 the District 6 map.

10 Thank you. Have a good day.

11 SPEAKER BEJARANO: Hello. My name is Anthony  
12 Bejarano, I'm from Safford.

13 I spoke at the previous Safford meeting, this is  
14 the closest one, so I -- I'm just here to just give concerns  
15 about what I believe my proposed congressional and  
16 legislative districts are, which would be 6 and 19  
17 respectively. Especially because -- well, I will just use  
18 the little arm that's -- looks like it's coming from, like,  
19 Congressional District 6 that looks like pretty much a -- a  
20 travel plan to Phoenix through Tucson which is a -- I'll  
21 just say that's -- specifically that's a trip I've never  
22 gone on before, as opposed to here, San Carlos, my family --  
23 well, I've only been on that trip once in my 25 years.

24 My family comes through Bylas and San Carlos,  
25 Globe, all the way to Phoenix multiple times a year; and, in

1 fact, we -- my family made this trip a chance to go visit  
2 the casino.

3 So this is -- so I believe that -- and I live in  
4 Thatcher and Safford, so I believe that's an example of the  
5 stronger community ties that -- where I live and this area  
6 and in the areas surrounding here versus Sierra Vista versus  
7 the many very -- I don't want to say "very" because it's  
8 a -- everyone lives in a lovely place, but that route down  
9 there and all the way down to the border which I've only  
10 been once on school trips where they show us places that we  
11 don't normally see. We don't normally see this border,  
12 which is why I don't believe it's that strong a community of  
13 interest.

14 The same things apply almost to the legislative  
15 district stretching into Santa Cruz County; again, I've only  
16 been there on school trips and -- yeah.

17 I didn't really have prepared remarks but thank you  
18 so much.

19 MS. CRANK: That concludes our speakers for  
20 San Carlos. I'll send it back over to Sun City.

21 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Michele.

22 Our next five speakers are Clair Van Steenwyk --  
23 sorry about that. Thomas Kieffer, Richard Newcomer, Frank  
24 Rizzo and Timothy Schwartz.

25 Sorry.



1                   SPEAKER VAN STEENWYK: Oh, that's all right.  
2                   They've been doing it to me for years ever since I was a  
3                   child.

4                   It's gotten worse.

5                   Anyway, good evening. My name's Clair Van  
6                   Steenwyk.

7                   First of all, I want to thank the Commission for  
8                   listening to the people from the Surprise meeting when we  
9                   came and pleaded with you to unify Sun City once again.

10                  Secondly, the statement about following the  
11                  U.S. Constitution and the Voters Rights Acts, I don't know  
12                  how many people are aware of it but many parts of all the  
13                  Voters Rights Act have been challenged in the Supreme Court  
14                  and many parts of them have been ruled unconstitutional, so  
15                  I'd really like a definition on what parts you do follow so  
16                  I can understand how it works.

17                  LD-25 will not serve the West Valley at all. CD-8  
18                  properly right now goes all over this and that's another  
19                  part of this whole discussion. CD-8 from 67, say north of  
20                  -- to the north of where it is now, as long as it's west to  
21                  the 17 would be nice; and all the way down to the 10, not  
22                  past it, as the representative we presently have has gone to  
23                  a good deal of trouble to set up a West Valley office so  
24                  that the seniors and the veterans and others can go visit it  
25                  very easily.

1 I live in Sun City Festival. After the last  
2 departure from reality and I never saw the representative  
3 from Kingman and I know Paul and had invited him out there  
4 to speak at different meetings, they never had the time to  
5 come there and I can understand why when you look at a road  
6 map.

7 Professionally I used to handle logistics and  
8 demographics for food companies in California and across the  
9 country and this one makes no sense at all; if you were a  
10 UPS driver, you would probably quit.

11 Secondly, I'd like to see LD-29 stay the way it is  
12 right now with the exception of possibly getting back the --  
13 the districts just -- I guess northeast off Grand Avenue at  
14 163rd.

15 MS. NEUMANN: That's time.

16 SPEAKER VAN STEENWYK: Oh boy. That's time up  
17 already.

18 MS. NEUMANN: It is.

19 SPEAKER VAN STEENWYK: Anyway, that's what I hope  
20 you do. I'd like to see CD-8 retained a little more of what  
21 it has. Don't go below the 10, don't go beyond where it is  
22 east or west, but please don't put us out in the desert.  
23 It's hot enough.

24 (Applause.)

25 SPEAKER KIEFFER: Good evening, everybody. My name

1 is Thomas Kieffer. I live in LD-30 and I've lived there  
2 since 1967.

3 Anyways, I was just hoping that maybe when you do  
4 redistricting that you'll form the boundaries in a little  
5 more rational way 'cause right now the boundaries go from  
6 19th Avenue over to 27th Avenue and so when you're walking a  
7 precinct, walking down the streets, you get to the freeway  
8 and then you have to walk all the way down to Bethany and  
9 around for a little strip on the other side of the freeway,  
10 from the freeway to 27th Avenue just to -- it's not hardly  
11 worth doing. But anyways it would make more sense for that  
12 strip to be part of the larger district to the west of the  
13 freeway.

14 So anyways, I don't know why they split that off  
15 just to get with the LD on the other side of the freeway, it  
16 doesn't make sense. But anyways it would be much more  
17 practical to do it that way.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Can you say again what  
20 district?

21 SPEAKER KIEFFER: LD-30.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: 30.

23 COMMISSIONER LERNER: That's the old district,  
24 right?

25 SPEAKER KIEFFER: Okay, I currently live on -- near

1 27th Avenue and Bethany. If you look at the district,  
2 there's boundaries on 27th Avenue, so between 27th Avenue  
3 and the freeway there's just a little strip. There's mostly  
4 like a Food City, there's apartments, Saints Simon and Judge  
5 Cathedral. So it's just like a small strip, it doesn't make  
6 sense to --

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

8 SPEAKER KIEFFER: -- attach it to the other side of  
9 the freeway.

10 Thank you.

11 SPEAKER NEWCOMER: Hi, I'm Richard Newcomer. I  
12 live in Goodyear. I live in the area called Estrella  
13 Mountain Ranch.

14 We're part of Goodyear, our interests are with the  
15 city of Goodyear, but our LD-4 is spread out between Yuma  
16 and -- and Tucson, which it doesn't make any sense at all.  
17 We're like the little finger area up between parts of  
18 Goodyear and -- and Buckeye on our west and whatnot.

19 But it -- it really needs to draw the lines so that  
20 our interests are protected. And don't pull us out and put  
21 us in with remote areas that have no connection to us other  
22 than the fact that they live in Arizona like we do, you  
23 know. I mean, it just -- it's absolutely ridiculous. And  
24 even then our -- our congressional district that you did  
25 that so poorly that they have a -- one party has a

1           stronghold and we got nothing.

2                   And -- and then the other way in Yuma, they joined  
3 with Tucson somehow and I don't know how they do that, but  
4 we're two hours away from Yuma and we're another two hours  
5 away from Tucson. And that's driving pretty good, too, like  
6 75, 80 miles an hour. I mean, come on, it just doesn't --  
7 it doesn't make practical sense.

8                   Thank you for the time to speak.

9                   (Applause.)

10                   SPEAKER SCHWARTZ: Good evening. I live inside the  
11 area currently known as LD-30 which will become LD-26.  
12 Thank you for all the work that's been done on the maps. I  
13 see a vast improvement.

14                   There is, however, one area that I believe still  
15 needs attention. Several of the precincts in LD-30 are  
16 split in half by the I-17 freeway. That's always been a  
17 sore spot and that's not been corrected with the new maps.

18                   The Black Canyon freeway is a natural boundary.  
19 Our new legislative district should be west of the freeway,  
20 and the little small strip that's on the east side of the  
21 freeway should be included in the other district that's east  
22 of the freeway. Once again, the freeway is a natural  
23 boundary and truly divides. I believe communities of  
24 interest have been affected by this boundary and should not  
25 be forced -- those people should not be forced to ask why

1           they are separated from the larger group which is on the  
2           west side of the boundary.

3                       Finally, CD-3 needs to include Glendale and the  
4           areas of Alhambra and Encanto.  These are Central Phoenix  
5           neighborhoods and they belong in the Central Phoenix  
6           district, they do not belong with north Phoenix or  
7           Scottsdale.

8                       Thank you for addressing these two very important  
9           issues.

10                      (Applause.)

11                      MS. NEUMANN:  Frank Rizzo.

12                      SPEAKER RIZZO:  Yeah, that's me.

13                      MS NEUMANN:  Oh, I'm sorry, that was Timothy  
14           Schwartz.

15                      SPEAKER RIZZO:  Right.

16                      Good evening.  My name is Frank Rizzo and I live  
17           currently in LD-22 which will be LD-29 and Congressional  
18           District 8 which will be Congressional District 9, and I'm  
19           really disappointed.

20                      I've lived in Arizona three times in my long life  
21           and I've lived here in areas of interest at my time of life.  
22           Since 1995 I've lived here these last 25 years in four  
23           locations:  I was in Ahwatukee with children, in Carefree  
24           as -- as a middle class executive, up in Anthem nearing my  
25           senior years, and then moved to Surprise in 2014 to retire.

1 And by doing this now, we're splitting us apart.

2 The Sun Cities need to be at least cohesive and  
3 there's many veterans in Sun City Grand, Sun City West and  
4 Sun City who have a lot in common with the Luke Air Force  
5 Base. So we've -- we're being torn apart there and then  
6 we've stuck Festival out to the left and they're -- they're  
7 part of Buckeye, but their common interest is also included  
8 in Sun City Grand and Surprise. They have to come into town  
9 to shop and to -- to worship, to eat because there's not  
10 much as far as amenities out there. But now they're forced  
11 to be going down to Buckeye; in fact, that's where their  
12 hospitalization is.

13 My medical needs with chronic diseases that I have  
14 are tied to Sun City West with the -- with the medical  
15 facilities here, so I believe that we need to stay intact  
16 with the Sun Cities and with the south of Surprise with the  
17 communities -- surrounding communities, and CD-8 needs to be  
18 pushed out to the east -- to the west.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. NEUMANN: Folks, when you come up to the  
23 podium, please make sure you state your name for the  
24 transcriptionist. Thank you.

25 Our next five speakers are Doris Hinton, Robert

1 Thomas, Louise Huber, Cheri Tomlinson and Linda McNamara.

2 SPEAKER HINTON: My name is Doris Hinton and I'm a  
3 retired active adult who recently moved to the rapidly  
4 growing southwest corner of Surprise in proposed LD-29. We  
5 moved from nearby Vistancia to be much closer to where we  
6 play at the Surprise pickle ball courts, rec facilities and  
7 the White Tank Mountain Park. It is also much closer to  
8 shopping, restaurants and the Sun City West medical  
9 facilities that we frequent.

10 As you know, this area is a robust mixture of  
11 retired seniors, snowbirds and young families who all seem  
12 to thrive together along the Bell Road corridor. I believe  
13 that we all moved here because of the suburban way of life  
14 plus the proximity to Phoenix and Scottsdale culture as well  
15 as nearby recreation and an outdoor lifestyle. We did not  
16 move here because of the way that our neighbors might vote,  
17 and so moving district lines to change the outcome of  
18 legislative voting districts in the name of competitiveness  
19 would create false barriers in what would otherwise be a  
20 natural order.

21 I do echo the comments that so many have made prior  
22 to me about the congressional districts. Surprise is one of  
23 the biggest and fastest growing areas of the entire state,  
24 and to put it into Congressional District 9 which is largely  
25 rural would be a mistake for our area of interest and our



1 representation.

2 It would be much more appropriate if the current  
3 Congressional District 8 boundaries, which incorporates  
4 Surprise, Sun City Festival, out west on Bell Road and the  
5 newer communities down towards the Air Force base are  
6 incorporated still in District 8.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER THOMAS: My name is Robert Thomas. I'm a  
10 precinct committeeman in LD-30, and in the interest of  
11 brevity I would like to just say I agree with the previous  
12 members from LD-30, that I-17 absolutely should be a  
13 boundary and not split.

14 It's -- that's basically all I need to say. Thank  
15 you.

16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: The current -- the new LD-29,  
17 correct?

18 SPEAKER THOMAS: Exactly.

19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. Just checking.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER HUBER: Good evening. My name is Louise  
22 Huber. I'm from LD-30 as well and just would like to echo  
23 the comments of Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Thomas that those  
24 precincts should not be split up, it's very awkward.

25 Also that the north Central Phoenix area be

1 included with south Glendale because they have very common  
2 interests.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER McNAMARA: Hello, my name is Linda McNamara  
6 and I am from Sun City and I agree with speaker Lynn Peters.

7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Can you -- I'm sorry, ma'am.  
8 Can you just at least give, like, one sentence or two  
9 sentences so -- we've heard a lot of speakers and I don't  
10 know Lynn Peters, so just one or two sentences to remind us.

11 SPEAKER McNAMARA: Put Maricopa County  
12 Metro Phoenix with other Maricopa counties, don't put us  
13 with those rural cities.

14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Got it.

15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

16 SPEAKER McNAMARA: Tucson is in everybody.

17 SPEAKER TOMLINSON: Good evening, my name is Cheri  
18 Tomlinson, I reside in the city of Peoria and I currently  
19 reside in Legislative District 22. With the proposed maps,  
20 I would be moving to Legislative District 28.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to provide public  
22 comment tonight. I want to thank the Commissioners for  
23 sharing the Princeton gerrymandering project report for  
24 Arizona. My five comments and recommendations will be  
25 addressing how we can improve Arizona's grade C in

1 geographic features and competitiveness.

2 Please consider making the following changes: One,  
3 move Wickenburg out of District 28 because the travel  
4 corridor for business is more aligned with Highway 60 than  
5 Highway 74.

6 Two, keep Westbrook Village, the retirement  
7 community, in one district. I urge the Commissioner to  
8 place Westbrook and Rimrock precincts and census tracts in  
9 one district.

10 Three, combine the city of El Mirage, Youngtown and  
11 Surprise in one district.

12 My concerns regarding competitiveness are as  
13 follows: Currently LD-22 is not competitive at 26 percent  
14 voter spread which is based on the 2020 election data. If  
15 the current draft maps are adopted as-is, LD-28 would be at  
16 30.1 percent voter spread, even less competitive than the  
17 current voter spread. In addition, LD-27 and 29 would be at  
18 13.1 percent and 17.3 percent respectively. Obviously not  
19 competitive.

20 The last point is as for the new congressional  
21 districts, four of the nine CDs are competitive, with two  
22 leaning Democrat and two leaning Republican. Five of the  
23 nine congressional districts are not competitive, with three  
24 congressional districts favoring Republicans and two  
25 favoring Democrats.

1           Based on my understanding of the draft maps, the  
2 majority of the districts are not competitive, effectively  
3 guaranteeing victories to members of only one party in many  
4 districts. I would urge the Commission to continue to work  
5 on improving Arizona's competitiveness and align geographic  
6 features to ensure fair maps.

7           Thank you.

8           (Applause.)

9           MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Carol  
10 Ayotte, James Miller, Eric Morgan, Heather Morgan and Susan  
11 Black.

12           SPEAKER AYOTTE: Good evening, my name is Carol  
13 Ayotte, and I've been a resident of Maricopa County for the  
14 last 34 years and I want districts which represent  
15 communities of interest so they may be effectively  
16 represented by our elected officials.

17           Many of us at this meeting are retired and use the  
18 services such as medical, worship, entertainment, shopping  
19 in a 10-to-15-mile radius of our community.

20 Arrowhead Ranch, Arrowhead Lakes, Sun City, Sun City West,  
21 Surprise and Peoria, specifically Peoria above Northern  
22 Avenue should be in Congressional District 8. Downtown  
23 Glendale should be moved back to Congressional District 3.  
24 The boundary line for Congressional District 8 should be  
25 moved back to I-17.

1           And I should have stated that I'm currently in  
2           LD-22, with the new maps I'll be moved to LD-27.

3           Earlier Bonnie -- I think her last name was  
4           Angster, she was the fifth speaker -- she was very specific  
5           in the details for LD-27 and CD-8 with -- with the  
6           boundaries and I just want to state that I'm in agreement  
7           with those.

8           And my last statement is that I would like to  
9           request that you please draw your maps for our congressional  
10          districts and our legislative districts compactly and always  
11          keep our communities' best interest at heart.

12          Thank you.

13          (Applause.)

14          SPEAKER MILLER: Yeah, so I'm afraid I'm going to  
15          plow through some of the same ground we've already done but  
16          I think at this point it's largely unavoidable to have to do  
17          that.

18          My name is James Miller; I live in Peoria, Maricopa  
19          County; I'm currently in Legislative District 22. And I'm  
20          here today to give some information about the communities of  
21          interest which are important to me and to -- and to my  
22          family.

23          I live in Trilogy at Vistancia, so far I think I'm  
24          the sole representative for that community, hopefully not  
25          the only. It's an age-restricted community made up of

1 mostly retired but still quite active people. And Trilogy  
2 is very similar with other communities in the general area  
3 such as Corte Bella, Sun City West, Sun City, Surprise,  
4 Sun City Grand and so on. We usually gather -- we gather  
5 much to support local restaurants, arts and entertainment  
6 venues, as well as many clubs and groups focusing on a  
7 variety of things.

8 In Trilogy we very often avail ourselves of  
9 opportunities and interests in the other age-restricted  
10 communities near ours. Our interests and activities and  
11 general attitudes are often quite similar because we chose  
12 places like these to live for a reason and we would like for  
13 them to remain to the extent possible as when we moved  
14 there.

15 Please keep our retirement communities in the  
16 Northwest Valley in a single congressional district. I  
17 understand --

18 (Applause.)

19 I understand the constitutional requirements for  
20 redistricting and how difficult your jobs must be to satisfy  
21 them, if it's even possible to do so. I would ask that as  
22 much weight be given to satisfying geographic compactness,  
23 contiguousness, respecting of communities of interest and  
24 the use of visible features and boundaries to -- as much as  
25 to equal population and certainly district competitiveness.

1           These two latter requirements will eventually  
2 satisfy themselves anyway with the natural in-and-out  
3 movements within the district anyway.

4           Thank you for your time today and for your efforts  
5 in this once-in-a-decade exercise.

6           Thank you.

7           (Applause.)

8           SPEAKER MORGAN: Hi, my name is Eric Morgan, I'm an  
9 engineer in -- at Intel Corporation in Chandler but I live  
10 in north Glendale. I've attended a couple hearings now and  
11 I hear a lot of people talking about competitive districts.  
12 I mean, why not, we've grown up believing that 50/50 is  
13 fair, right? But when you're talking representation, 50/50  
14 is not fair. 50/50 is the way you guarantee that the most  
15 number of people dislike any given decision.

16           (Applause.)

17           Many people are calling for competitive districts  
18 to have someone fight for their school funding and other  
19 specific things, but competitive districts don't do that.  
20 The representatives can never take a stand, they can never  
21 fight for anyone, they always have to take a weak middle of  
22 the ground -- middle-of-the-road position that they think  
23 won't upset anyone and in the end neither constituency is  
24 ever happy with their decisions. Either that or they have  
25 to choose between the interests of two differing parties and

1 that's not really fair to anyone.

2 When we were shopping for our homes, we check our  
3 schools, our businesses, churches, how many kids are around,  
4 even interview neighbors to choose a spot that fits us.  
5 Splitting us up and dividing our representation on purpose  
6 is not fair.

7 I'm in District 27 and quite simply it's just too  
8 far east. There are two distinct communities in this  
9 district: A younger crew east of 59th Avenue interested in  
10 fighting for our schools; while the west, the retirement  
11 community, is worried about living on a fixed income. They  
12 hold opposite positions on property taxes for example. How  
13 is a representative supposed to deal with that?

14 Instead of pitting us against each other in the  
15 same districts, give us two separate representatives who  
16 understand us and whose job it is to work out these  
17 differences.

18 Sliding 27 to the west to encompass parts of  
19 Sun City accomplishes that. Incorporating Surprise and the  
20 surrounding areas into CD-8 has the similar effects for  
21 congressional districts. You cannot force a district to be  
22 competitive without being political and that's not really  
23 fair to the Commission to be put in a position to have to  
24 make political calls like that. By selecting districts  
25 based on the interests of the citizens who have already



1 chosen where they want to live, it's all about people and  
2 not politics. I humbly ask you to put people in front of  
3 politics.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER MORGAN: Good evening. First, I'd like to  
7 thank each of you for the work you're doing on this  
8 Commission and an opportunity for myself and others to  
9 address the Commission on behalf of our communities.

10 My name is Heather Morgan, I've been a resident of  
11 my community from 1994. In that time we've watched our  
12 community age and three children and neighborhood friends  
13 leave to start their own lives.

14 These days we have much more in common with the  
15 neighborhood just west of us, Sun City. Our concerns and  
16 goals are much more aligned. We have reached that point in  
17 our life where we are concerned with things like living on a  
18 fixed income, not having outrageous taxes to pay for things  
19 we don't need nor will we use, and also medical care geared  
20 to the issues of growing older.

21 Already we spend more of our time west of us, even  
22 all the way out to Surprise, and never really do anything in  
23 the communities to our east except go around them on the  
24 101. The community just to our east is inhabited by a much  
25 younger generation who are in earlier stages of their lives,

1 many starting families and careers. The concerns of this  
2 younger generation is at odds with our concerns, as their  
3 concerns will be more centered on schools, parks, activities  
4 for children, and job opportunities for example.

5 I would also like to point out that Surprise has  
6 nothing in common with the far west side of rural Arizona  
7 and is an urban community much more in line with the area  
8 south of it -- I guess a suburban community. I put that  
9 wrong.

10 Given those differences I would ask that our  
11 community be shifted into the same district as Sun City and  
12 Surprise and be shifted into the district south of it. It  
13 just makes more sense and aligns better those communities  
14 with common interests, thus allowing all those communities  
15 to be better represented by the elected officials.

16 The goal should be to make sure that the most  
17 people we can are represented as best we can in the most  
18 compact districts possible so that they can best work  
19 together for the good of their community.

20 I thank you for taking my testimony into  
21 consideration in deciding the outcome of the maps.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER BLACK: My name is Susan Black and I want  
25 to thank the Commission here for all of your hard work and

1 diligence.

2 I'm a 12-year-old -- 12-year resident and business  
3 owner in the Sun City area. I'm also a Realtor and see  
4 various demographics throughout the West Valley and the  
5 Metro Valley areas and also the rural communities. I'm a  
6 precinct committeeman in LD-22 currently. I'm committed to  
7 impart and create strong communities.

8 It is important to recognize the differences in the  
9 retirement communities and the metro suburban family  
10 communities versus rural communities. Our legislative  
11 districts are where our retired folks live, play, worship,  
12 entertain, and receive medical attention. We receive the  
13 majority of our services within a ten-mile radius.

14 We have different needs, struggles and concerns  
15 than rural areas in Mohave County and La Paz County or other  
16 highly populated urban Central Phoenix areas. Also,  
17 Maricopa County does not share anything in common with  
18 Arizona surrounding counties, and those boundaries should  
19 never be intertwined.

20 Please draw our maps with close proximity to where  
21 we live, work and play. I believe this is very important  
22 and it's important that the -- follow the Arizona  
23 Constitution should be Commission's only focus instead of  
24 seeking party competitiveness like they have in the past.

25 We -- we want fair representation. It's

1 entirely -- that's what we would like.

2 Thank you for hearing me and good luck in your  
3 decisions.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Mary G,  
6 Amber Hilliker, Corinne Haines, Nathan and his last name  
7 starts with an M, Marylouise Stevens.

8 Mary?

9 SPEAKER HILLIKER: No, Amber.

10 MS. NEUMANN: Mary here?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, she's gone.

12 MS. NEUMANN: Okay Amber, you're up. Go ahead.

13 SPEAKER HILLIKER: Hello, my name is Amber  
14 Hilliker. I'm a wife and mother of two, my husband works  
15 for Maricopa County, I'm an independent agent that helps  
16 people with sustainable tax and retirement; and I can work  
17 anywhere in the state of Arizona.

18 My children attend a private school in Glendale; I  
19 do not like the direction the public schools have taken, so  
20 I've chosen the school that offers good curriculum. We live  
21 off of 75th Avenue and Cactus in Peoria. I don't remember  
22 the new district number but it's been 21 for the last ten  
23 years, Senator Gray is my senator.

24 My church -- and I liked what you had to say,  
25 Senator.

1           My church that I attend is in Glendale and my  
2           school that my children attend are in Glendale. Our  
3           children have played sports with the Peoria city sports and  
4           Christ Church of the Valley sports teams. Currently our  
5           daughters participate in cross country with her (verbatim)  
6           school. All my children's sports teams have either been in  
7           Peoria or Glendale -- and when I mention Glendale, I'm  
8           speaking of Glendale north of Northern Avenue.

9           We typically support businesses off 83rd Avenue  
10          south of Bell Road; sometimes we support businesses at  
11          Westgate and Glendale. We go occasionally to Avondale but  
12          we typically stay around our home and we never travel south  
13          of the I-10 to support businesses. The I-10 -- south of the  
14          I-10 is high in crime, and it's extremely different than the  
15          part of town that I live in.

16          I would like to see that the boundaries of  
17          Congressional District 8 -- Sun City, Surprise, Peoria --  
18          are kept together. I believe the eastern boundary --  
19          boundary, like everybody else, should end around I-17.

20          And when we're speaking about the legislative  
21          district, again I think Sun City, Peoria should be kept in  
22          the same district and the eastern boundary should end about  
23          67th Avenue.

24          The lines that were drawn about ten years ago were  
25          not equal in population. Some districts have upwards of

1 10 percent and more -- or more in populations than other  
2 districts; districts should accurately represent communities  
3 of interest. I think you've heard that.

4 So I want to thank you for your time today  
5 listening to us.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER MESS: Hi, my name is Nate Mess. I live in  
8 85387.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Closer to the mic.

10 MS. NEUMANN: Into the mic, please.

11 SPEAKER MESS: Can you hear me?

12 My name is Nate Mess. I live in 85387. I live  
13 in -- and I agree with much of what's been said here today  
14 but a little bit of a different perspective, okay?

15 I live in an unincorporated area of Maricopa County  
16 northwest of Surprise, and I work in northwest Phoenix and  
17 North Central Phoenix. I spend my free time working on my  
18 property; I do a lot of hunting and fishing, camping and  
19 hiking. I enjoy going to the mountains but I also spend a  
20 lot of time in the desert around my home.

21 My community is largely made up of service, health,  
22 and construction workers as well as retired folks who enjoy  
23 the rural life. Many of us in the community have livestock,  
24 horses, chickens and other interests. Most of us have  
25 boats, campers, motor homes, off-road vehicles. We're able

1 to pursue our interests because we keep these things right  
2 on our property. For instance, if I want to go fishing, I  
3 hook up the boat and I go, I don't have to go to a storage  
4 lot before and after the trip.

5 The hour-long commute to where I work passes  
6 through many densely populated areas. When I see a lot of  
7 homelessness, bus lines, speed bumps, traffic lights, HOAs  
8 with their rules and regulations -- and did I mention  
9 traffic lights?

10 People are not permitted to have chickens or  
11 campers on their property even if they wanted to. People in  
12 my community choose to live where we do for the openness,  
13 the peacefulness and the rural lifestyle, free from these  
14 restrictions. I'm asking you to respect that and I'm asking  
15 for representation.

16 I have a lot more in common with Wickenburg than I  
17 do with -- I agree that these lines need to be brought west,  
18 28 and 9 are the ones I'm talking about.

19 I hear a lot about competitive districting.

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

21 SPEAKER MESS: But I only got halfway. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. NEUMANN: I'll take that.

24 SPEAKER MESS: There you go. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER HAINES: Hello, my name is Corinne Haines.

1 I live in Maricopa County and I'm here today to give you  
2 information about my community of interest.

3 I live off of El Mirage and Vistancia Boulevard  
4 just north of the 303 and Happy Valley Road in Peoria. My  
5 community is made up of families and retirees. Because of  
6 the proximity of the 303, the 101 and the I-17 families can  
7 work close to home but also have easy access to work in  
8 neighboring towns.

9 My community offers many activities in which both  
10 families and retirees can interact and enhance our quality  
11 of life.

12 In my community we play together, we work together;  
13 we attend neighborhood churches and our kids attend schools  
14 in like districts. Many Friday nights families gather  
15 together at CCV where their children compete in sports  
16 events. On these evenings we encounter all kinds of friends  
17 that we've grown up with, gone to school with and share  
18 common values and goals. It's like living in a small town  
19 within a big city. We choose to live here because we share  
20 so much in common with those in our community and it's  
21 important that we have representation who understands and  
22 shares our values.

23 During the last redistricting our community was  
24 literally split right down the middle. If you lived on one  
25 side of the street, you were in a different congressional



1 district than the other side of the street. It was  
2 confusing and didn't make sense.

3 The West Valley needs to be whole again. In the  
4 draft map --

5 (Applause.)

6 -- Congressional District 8 has been split but  
7 there can be -- it can be corrected simply by moving some of  
8 the boundary lines to the left or west uniting Surprise,  
9 Sun City West, Sun City, Peoria and Autumn Ridge into the  
10 same district. South Glendale and urban Glendale are  
11 totally different communities of interest and would be  
12 better served by being a part of Central Phoenix or CD-3  
13 where they share similar interests.

14 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give  
15 input and hopefully we can correct the mistakes made ten  
16 years ago and making it fair for all Arizonans.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER STEVENS: My name is Marylouise Stevens, I  
20 live in Sun City.

21 I've lived in other parts of the county and I can  
22 attest that each community, each area, is very unique. I  
23 can't imagine that we have anything in common with the  
24 proposed extension into the west part of the state of  
25 Arizona. One of our big fears I think -- I've picked up on,

1 is that our representative in the new congressional  
2 districts will not represent our interests. Perhaps the  
3 presumption is that that representative will be from the  
4 western part of the state.

5 If we were successful and we had a representative  
6 elected from the eastern part, which would be our  
7 communities, then I would feel sorry for the people living  
8 in the western part of the state, they're in the same  
9 congressional districts and they wouldn't have informed  
10 representation simply based on the distance and how spread  
11 out -- physically spread out the communities are, much less  
12 to talk about the different interests.

13 One of the gentlemen talked about -- in Yavapai  
14 talked about water being a huge issue. Well, I can see that  
15 our interests in water and our communities will be quite a  
16 bit different and extremely important to us, just as they  
17 will be for the people living in the western part of the  
18 state that would now be in the same congressional district  
19 and I don't believe that it serves anyone well.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Chad  
23 Moreland, Laura Basey, Barbara Schis- -- Schwisow, Chris  
24 Judd, Fleeta Cullins, and Mary Ziola.

25 SPEAKER MORELAND: Hello, my name is Chad Moreland

1 and I live in LD-22 and Congressional District 8. I've been  
2 in Arizona and Glendale for just over six years and I  
3 encompass what a lot of the communities are in those areas  
4 in that I'm former Air Force, so I have ties to Luke Air  
5 Force Base.

6 I was a caregiver for my mom and I brought her here  
7 and she lived over in Sun City West, so it's important; and  
8 there's a lot of folks that I know that have ties to that  
9 area that would like to remain tied through the -- their  
10 congressional districts to that area.

11 And I'm also a cyber security specialist so --  
12 and as part of LD-22, my church, a lot of my coworkers live  
13 in the what's going to be LD-28; and as the Taiwan  
14 semiconductor community comes in, that's going to expand  
15 even more and I believe that it's important that LD-22,  
16 instead of decreasing and being split into three different  
17 districts that -- that it -- it remains a part of the -- the  
18 northern part of that LD-28 below 303.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER BASEY: Hi there, my name is Laura Basey  
22 and I appreciate the opportunity to address you.

23 Seventeen years ago next week my husband and I came  
24 here to visit and ended up buying a house. We moved here  
25 from California and we stayed with friends in Surprise and

1 ended up moving into northern Peoria. All of our friends  
2 live in those areas and cross those boundaries, and the way  
3 the districts are being split up doesn't make sense to us.

4 We came here to retire eventually -- which will  
5 happen soon. And all -- a lot of our friends are already  
6 retired, they live in Vistancia, they live in Surprise, they  
7 live in Sun City West, Sun City Grand, and we just see the  
8 value of the representation of one district in those areas.

9 So I just want to let you know that we really are  
10 unhappy with having to split these up and would like to keep  
11 it the same. And so it would -- I also agree with Carol  
12 Ayotte and Rick Morgan and Heather Morgan, I thought their  
13 points were very good, so.

14 Thank you for the opportunity.

15 (Applause.)

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I agree with Eric and Mr. Van  
17 Steenwyk.

18 Anyway, my name is Barbara Schwisow Johnson, I live  
19 in Maricopa County, Sun City West. I live on Heritage Drive  
20 near Grand Avenue and the 303 freeway.

21 We are retired, older, fixed-income citizens  
22 interested in representation that recognizes our  
23 demographics and like interests and activities. I find it  
24 unfair to link -- link us to values and interests that do  
25 not reflect our population-based values. It is much more

1 just to have representation that reflects us as a  
2 community -- I'm not a public speaker.

3 I'm 68 years old, semiretired registered nurse. I  
4 have just moved here from Washington state and own a home  
5 here in Sun City West. I share community values with Sun  
6 City, El Mirage, Sun City Grand, and my home in  
7 Sun City West. I am connected to areas like Luke Air Force  
8 Base. My ZIP Code is 85375.

9 I have interests with residents of my community,  
10 we're retired on a fixed income, church active, community  
11 active and interested in a peaceful community. We're  
12 basically not commuters and have no bus, train, or commuter  
13 needs. We feel it is unfair to put our population with  
14 areas of interest in conflict with our values and lifestyle.  
15 We enjoy aquatic, golf, theater, dance, Eagles and American  
16 Legion clubs, singing groups, and especially our church  
17 activities. We're independent in our thinking, evaluating  
18 each issue for its pros and cons. We prefer representation  
19 that understands our community needs. We ask to be best  
20 stratified with like population.

21 As a community we're not taxed under school systems  
22 as our population is not school-involved. We do have close  
23 to 20 grandchildren involved in school systems from  
24 Washington state to Florida. We have definite values  
25 involving the management of our school system.

1           Our free time includes churches, friendship, golf,  
2           singing, theater, military connections to Eagles and  
3           American Legion Club. It's best and most fair to not form  
4           disconnected and chaotic districts but like-minded  
5           communities who represent and support our value systems and  
6           independent thinking.

7           My husband is Norwegian -- and I'm very nervous --  
8           and I am Dutch. My parents lived through Hitler's  
9           atrocities, my country represents the hiding place of Anne  
10          Frank, my parents and myriad of aunts and uncles seared into  
11          my memory the atrocities of that time.

12          I ask you to follow the six criteria, know that  
13          competitiveness does not mean conflict -- add conflict,  
14          adhere to population numbers and do not link communities of  
15          conflicting values and lifestyles.

16          Thank you.

17          (Applause.)

18          SPEAKER ZIOLA: My name is Mary Ziola and I'm a  
19          retired citizen of Surprise, Arizona, living in a retirement  
20          community. I do most of my social and healthcare activities  
21          in Surprise, Arizona. I feel Surprise should be included  
22          with the common interests of Congressional District 8 with  
23          the Sun City, Sun City West, and Sun City Grand and should  
24          be kept together.

25          Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 SPEAKER JUDD: Good evening, Commissioners. My  
3 name is Chris Judd. I live in Surprise. I serve on the  
4 Surprise City Council and I would like to echo the comments  
5 made by Senator Rick Gray. I thought he made some great  
6 points.

7 Specifically my concern is with the congressional  
8 district. City of Surprise is a very urban area, northern  
9 and western Arizona is a very rural area, and we would not  
10 have very good representation if we had -- if we had an  
11 elected official from Surprise trying to represent them or  
12 them trying to represent us. So if you can, move CD-8 out  
13 to include Surprise.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 SPEAKER CULLINS: My name is Fleeta Cullins. I  
17 live in 85383, the address is Peoria but it is up in  
18 Vistancia. That is an active adult community, family  
19 community; we live, work, shop in Surprise, Peoria. We are  
20 more aligned with the Sun Cities, including  
21 Sun City Festival which I'm moving to, so I don't want to  
22 leave my area really, but it -- it -- I do not understand  
23 why we would be moved to some place so far away to the west  
24 that I didn't even know exists and whoever represents that  
25 area cannot possibly represent the people that live in

1 Surprise, northern Peoria --

2 (Applause.)

3 -- northern Glendale and the northern part of  
4 Peoria. So, please, just keep us together.

5 Okay.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. NEUMANN: We're now going to take a five-minute  
8 break and give our transcriptionist a little rest and we  
9 will continue back at 7:34 promptly.

10 (Recess taken from 7:30 p.m. to 7:37 p.m.)

11

12 MS. NEUMANN: Okay. Folks, we're going to get  
13 started.

14 If everyone can be seated, we're going to get  
15 started again.

16 Our next five speakers are Mary Ann Johnston,  
17 Barbara Wyllie, Summer Baker, Merri Banks, and Gerard  
18 Johnson.

19 Mary Ann?

20 SPEAKER JOHNSTON: Good evening. My name is Mary  
21 Ann Johnston. Not only do I live in Maricopa County but  
22 both my husband and I were born and raised in Maricopa  
23 County, 60 years native.

24 (Applause.)

25 We have lived west of I-17 between Peoria and



1 Cactus off of 31st Avenue since 2005. We spend several  
2 evenings a month supporting our friend's restaurant,  
3 attending car shows along 67th Avenue and Bell. Since we  
4 moved to the area in '05, we've always shopped at the  
5 Albertson's on 51st Avenue and Cactus, Sprouts at 51st and  
6 Peoria until they recently moved to 33rd and Thunderbird.  
7 Our interests, activities and shopping are primarily west  
8 and/or northwest of I-17, even though we're still hanging in  
9 there and trying to support the businesses along the  
10 now-demised Metro Center.

11 Districts should represent those who have chosen to  
12 live in a specific area based on accessibility of their  
13 interests and I do not belong in the Sunnyslope district  
14 which is a densely populated area and caters to more of a  
15 Hispanic community. I've always been a part of the West  
16 Valley community and I'd like to stay that way, therefore I  
17 feel LD-2 needs to stay west from I-17 to 67th Avenue and  
18 Congressional 8 should be I-17 west and to include Peoria  
19 and Surprise and not east of I-17.

20 Thank you for your time in considering my concerns  
21 and as you move to adhere to all six of the criteria laid  
22 out in the Constitution.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 SPEAKER WYLLIE: Hi, I'm Barbara Wyllie. I have

1 lived in the Northwest Valley for 51 years. I'm on the  
2 West-MEC school board and have been for seven or  
3 eight years. I belong to the Catholic church in  
4 Sun City West and most of my family and friends live in the  
5 Northwest Valley.

6 On the West-MEC board I represent -- it's a huge  
7 area that I represent, it goes from Wickenburg to Tonopah to  
8 Buckeye, so I get out into those communities. It's a  
9 fantastic program, it's -- it's great and it is primarily in  
10 the West Valley.

11 During the last redistricting, Vistancia community  
12 was split right down the middle. If you lived on one side  
13 of the street, you were in a different congressional  
14 district than the other side of the street. This never made  
15 any sense.

16 Congressional District 8 has been split but this  
17 can be corrected by moving the boundary lines to the left --  
18 or west -- to unite Surprise, Sun City West, Sun City, and  
19 Peoria into the same district.

20 South Glendale and urban Glendale are totally  
21 different communities of interest and would be better served  
22 by being a part of Central Phoenix, CD-3, where they have  
23 similar interests.

24 The people I share my life with have the same  
25 values, morals and interests; please keep us together,

1 intact and compact.

2 Thanks for what you're doing and call me if I can  
3 help. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER BANKS: Good evening, my name is Mary  
6 Banks. I live in Surprise, I've lived there about six  
7 years; I've lived in Arizona about 27 years.

8 I'm not going to try to address legislative  
9 districts but my concern is the Congressional District 9 and  
10 that's where I would be and the concern is what -- I agree  
11 with everybody has said about keeping the Northwest Valley  
12 together, but I have a little bit different solution. I  
13 appreciate that whatever you do is going to make a lot of  
14 people mad and you're not going to satisfy everybody and you  
15 are constrained to keep the population of the congressional  
16 districts fairly equal.

17 So you can't just add 200,000 people to CD-8, you  
18 have to change something else. So you have two  
19 congressional districts in Arizona that are wildly  
20 uncompetitive and they happen to abut, it's CD-3 and CD-9.  
21 So my suggestion would be that CD-3 be extended up what is  
22 really the main artery of the whole Northwest Valley, U.S.  
23 60 Grand Avenue, and include those communities that really  
24 center on that avenue. I don't know if you can make it out  
25 to Wickenburg, but out that way -- and then you give CD-9

1 areas of CD-3 which are south of I-10, which are more rural.

2 Just for your consideration. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER BAKER: Hello, my name is -- hello, my name  
5 is Summer Baker. I'm a PC in the current LD-26 and I spoke  
6 last night and I just want to reiterate what I had said.

7 I want to stress the importance of compact  
8 geographic areas, areas of interest and the respect to city  
9 and town boundaries which are three of the six requirements  
10 this Commission must follow when redrawing the districts.

11 I live off of Baseline Road and Mill Avenue and my  
12 community is made up of middle class single-family homes.  
13 We have many people that travel to Ahwatukee, south Tempe,  
14 and west Chandler for school and work. We share similar  
15 priorities, interests and values amongst ourselves. We  
16 support local businesses, restaurants in those areas and we  
17 hardly travel into north Tempe, the college area or into  
18 Mesa for any activity.

19 The city of Tempe is very different above and below  
20 the Broadway Road and east and west of Price Road. Last  
21 time around, my community was grouped into an LD that had  
22 other parts of the metro area whose communities did not  
23 frequently participate in what I would consider on the other  
24 side of town.

25 A large part of the previous district was the

1 Salt River Indian Reservation who mostly do their daily  
2 activities in parts of Mesa and southeast Scottsdale. Your  
3 current LD-8 draft map version 10 has my community grouped  
4 in such a way again.

5 I propose that specific -- that that specific LD-8  
6 be broken up to best serve the points I stressed in the  
7 beginning. Include the reservation into LD-9 and 10, draft  
8 map version 10, and include south of the U.S. 60 into LD-12  
9 of the draft map version 10. I ask that you exclude the  
10 panhandle of the LD-12 and draw the boundary at the Price  
11 101 freeway.

12 Furthermore the districts -- the districts the  
13 previous Commission drew were not compact, did not have  
14 equal population, and were too focused on competitiveness.  
15 I do not want this to happen to us again. Competitive  
16 districts should be considered as long as the other five  
17 requirements are prioritized first.

18 Please follow the Arizona Constitution when you are  
19 redrawing the districts this time.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: My name is Gerard Johnson, I'm a  
23 resident of Sun City West and I'll admit I'm a recent  
24 arrival in Arizona, I've only lived here as a permanent  
25 resident for three or four years. However, I lived in a

1 state where there was terrific gerrymandering and I thought  
2 I had left it behind.

3 And I'm not going to be -- take a stand one way or  
4 the other on gerrymandering, what I am concerned is that  
5 the -- what -- it's a difficult task, it's very Solomonesque  
6 that you have to do, but I do join with all my friends and  
7 neighbors here who oppose putting Congressional District 8  
8 in Congressional District 9.

9 I've lived here and visited here long enough to  
10 know that I have very little in common with the people in  
11 Lake Havasu. They're fine people; the same with the people  
12 in Quartzsite and Yuma and all along the western border.  
13 However, as a community of interest, I think it's more  
14 important to keep the Sun Cities together with Surprise with  
15 the areas that are now currently in Congressional  
16 District 8.

17 I support what Lynn Peters --

18 (Applause.)

19 I support what Lynn Peters and others have said,  
20 really please don't join parts of Congressional District 8  
21 with Congressional District 9, and I really do sincerely --  
22 I know it's difficult but I really hope you do listen to us  
23 and take what we say to heart.

24 I -- I can't repeat everything that everybody else  
25 has said, I -- I think I have time or it's not clicking,

1 somebody didn't turn it on.

2 MS. NEUMANN: I gotcha. I gotcha.

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So what, I have how many seconds?

4 MS. NEUMANN: You've got 20 seconds left.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you for listening to me, I  
6 appreciate it.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. NEUMANN: Our next five speakers are Eva  
9 Walecka, Anj Patterson, Greg Rucker, Larry Templeton, and  
10 Melissa Karner.

11 SPEAKER WALECKA: Good evening. My name is Eva  
12 Walecka, I have been a resident of Maricopa County for over  
13 30 years. I live in current Legislative District 22 and  
14 proposed LD-27 in Glendale.

15 My neighborhood is made up of retirees as well as  
16 families with young children who attend schools in either  
17 Deer Valley or Peoria school districts. My community of  
18 interest, east-west boundaries are 67th Avenue to 99th  
19 Avenue on both sides of Bell Road. North boundary is Lake  
20 Pleasant and Happy Valley Road to 67th Avenue where my kids  
21 go to school. We seldom travel below Thunderbird Road or  
22 east of 67th Avenue.

23 I think that districts should be compact to  
24 accurately represent communities of interest and people who  
25 live and work there. I chose to live in my community

1           because it was safe, clean, and included like-minded people  
2           who enjoy family -- quiet family time as well as quick  
3           access to local hospitals and shops.

4                     I think that the western boundary of proposed LD-27  
5           should move west to El Mirage Road as it will better unite  
6           Peoria and Sun City. It makes sense that the retirement  
7           communities should be in the same congressional district,  
8           CD-8.

9                     We need to put north Glendale, Peoria, Surprise,  
10          Sun City West, Sun City Grand in the same district. The  
11          I-17 ideally should be the eastern boundary of proposed  
12          Congressional District 8 and Northern should be kept the  
13          southern border of District 8, as we do not have much in  
14          common with Downtown Glendale.

15                    Thank you very much for your time.

16                    (Applause.)

17                    MS. NEUMANN: Anj Patterson?

18                    No? Okay.

19                    Greg Rucker.

20                    SPEAKER RUCKER: My -- this is my first time  
21          testifying. So my name is Greg Rucker. I live in the north  
22          end of Glendale in the Arrowhead Lakes community in the  
23          Beardsley precinct. My primary concern is the West Valley  
24          as a community.

25                    It is common to hear people speak in terms of the



1 East Valley, Phoenix, or again the West Valley. The grid  
2 maps had me and my neighbors in LD-28 and the latest  
3 versions appear to show us in LD-27; in either case, there's  
4 a single string of Phoenix precincts included along the  
5 eastern border of those legislative districts. In my humble  
6 opinion, LD-28 and LD-27 should be moved west or north and  
7 those city of Phoenix precincts included with the Phoenix  
8 legislative district.

9 Why? For example, the area below Bell Road west of  
10 51st Avenue is entirely in the Peoria Unified School  
11 District. One of my neighbors -- we're north of there. But  
12 one of my neighbors two houses down runs the library in Zuni  
13 Hills Elementary of PUSD north of here on 107th Avenue. My  
14 immediate -- immediate neighbor in the same direction is  
15 administrator of another school in PUSD. I, myself, am soon  
16 to be assisting with a science program at Heritage  
17 Elementary, again in PUSD. How -- I'd like to also caution  
18 that much of my neighborhood as it's been described can be  
19 described as a retirement community and I'm getting there  
20 myself, so I -- that's an add-in.

21 Talking about congressional districts, the church I  
22 attend is not far north of here, the church building is in  
23 the proposed congressional district that runs all the way to  
24 Lake Havasu City. The pastor lives in a proposed  
25 congressional district that runs into Phoenix.

1                   So would you please consider creating a compact  
2 congressional district that covers the West Valley as a  
3 community.

4                   Thank you.

5                   (Applause.)

6                   MS. NEUMANN: Is Larry Templeton here?

7                   Okay. Thank you.

8                   SPEAKER TEMPLETON: Hello, I'm Larry Templeton. I  
9 live in Surprise. I used to live in the Chicago area where  
10 I worked before I came to Surprise. I do not want to be  
11 part of Phoenix, please do not move our lines down toward  
12 Phoenix.

13                   Second, I'm retired now, I would like for  
14 retirement districts like Festival, Sun City,  
15 Sun City Grand, areas like that to be together, it makes  
16 sense.

17                   They should be as compact as they possibly can.  
18 Now, think of the -- the map that tries to take us out to  
19 California, that -- that's no good. We need to stay in  
20 Congressional District 8, and we need Legislative District 8  
21 not to go south. Okay?

22                   Please do consider our areas of interest. Please  
23 consider the community we chose to live in and want to  
24 continue to live in. I do not want to live in Chicago; I  
25 don't want to have my representative from Phoenix. Okay?

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. NEUMANN: Melissa.

4 SPEAKER KARNER: Hi, my name is Melissa Karner. I  
5 live in Surprise, Arizona. I have lived in Surprise for  
6 17 years. I have three children which are all attending  
7 either high school or community college. One is attending  
8 Shadow Ridge in the Dysart School District and the other is  
9 attending Estrella Community College in Avondale.

10 Surprise has been an inner-connected city with Sun  
11 City, El Mirage, Waddell, Sun City West, Sun City Grand. We  
12 all hold a common interest. We are a large part of the West  
13 Valley, we work together, drive together, shop together,  
14 live and share similar values with other West Valley  
15 families.

16 With that said, as I have reviewed the draft maps,  
17 I request District 9 be compacted to remove Lake Havasu,  
18 Peach Springs, Kingman, Colorado City. These cities are way  
19 too far west and north to have anything in common with our  
20 community. We need to have D-9 much smaller and only  
21 include the cities I mentioned -- West Valley, Maricopa  
22 County.

23 Our districts should be compact to accurately  
24 represent communities of interest who live and work  
25 together. For example, what common interests do we have

1 with the city of Dolan Springs or Peach Springs? Not a lot,  
2 and I'm sure they're beautiful. These small town  
3 communities function totally different than our  
4 inner-connected West Valley cities of Maricopa County.

5 In conclusion, please consider making these maps  
6 smaller as to not break up like communities and add  
7 communities that are too far to have anything in common with  
8 like-minded communities.

9 Thank you and I appreciate your time.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. NEUMANN: Our last three speakers are Larry  
12 Thomas, Donald Madison, and Tom Berry.

13 Larry?

14 SPEAKER THOMAS: That's me.

15 Hi, I'm Larry Thomas. I've resided in Arizona  
16 since 2008 (verbatim). After taking a job with the public  
17 works department in the city of Surprise in 2003, I moved to  
18 the West Valley. Later I worked for the State and retired  
19 from public service in 2017.

20 I want to speak about CD-9. To create the new  
21 ninth congressional district, the draft map peels off part  
22 of highly urbanized Metro Phoenix and dumps its residents to  
23 a far-flung geographic entity and this has already been  
24 spoken of on several occasions.

25 This sprawling CD-9 encompasses vast deserts and

1 range lands, agriculture areas, Native American tribes and  
2 hundreds of miles along the Colorado River. This  
3 contradicts the requirement for creating compact districts.

4 The new district includes almost the entire  
5 Colorado River area from north to south but it excludes the  
6 city of Yuma. The driving distance from Wellton at the  
7 southernmost boundary of this district up to Saint George,  
8 Utah, at the northern boundary is approximately 400 miles,  
9 which is a seven-hour drive one way.

10 Furthermore the current analysis by the IRC shows  
11 new CD-9 is outside of the competitiveness range, they say  
12 it leans towards one political party. It would be more  
13 correct to say that the new CD-9 is completely dominated by  
14 one party and will remain so for the foreseeable future.  
15 Any candidate running on the ticket of the dominant party  
16 will have zero incentive to address the needs and desires of  
17 those Arizonans supporting a different party. As a  
18 registered Independent, this total lack of political  
19 competitiveness is deeply unsettling.

20 MS. NEUMANN: That's time, sir. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER MADISON: My name is Don Madison. I'm not  
23 a native of Arizona, I was -- moved here in 1946 when I was  
24 three years old.

25 I've lived in Maricopa County for approximately

1           60 years, sometimes in California in the military. I live  
2           currently in Surprise, in Sun City Grand, we've been there  
3           since 2004.

4                     I strongly believe that we need to maintain things  
5           as they have been, like many people have said tonight. I  
6           know you have a thankless task, it's very difficult to do  
7           this in a way that's going to satisfy everyone, but I  
8           believe you should consider the fact that all of us that are  
9           retired, living on fixed incomes, live our little  
10          communities in a very compact and sort of nice way.

11                    And so God bless you all, I hope you do well and  
12          thank you for letting me speak.

13                    (Applause.)

14                    SPEAKER BERRY: Good evening, my name is Tom Berry  
15          and I live in Trilogy in Vistancia, which is a 55-plus  
16          community that's been talked about a lot this evening and  
17          I'm very glad to hear my neighbors and friends standing up  
18          and trying to give you the message about our retirement  
19          communities.

20                    I'm actually glad I'm the last speaker because I  
21          want to leave you with an analogy that you will probably  
22          remember and I hope it helps you remember us.

23                    The retirement communities of Sun City Grand, Sun  
24          City, Sun City Festival, Sun City West, Vistancia,  
25          Corte Bella and so on, we're like a beehive. When the sun

1 comes up, we leave the hive and go out into community; when  
2 the sun goes down, we're back in the hive and most of us  
3 should be there right now.

4 Please, please don't throw us out in the desert  
5 with the mosquitoes and the stagnant water. Please don't  
6 put us in the anthill with the red and black ants, let them  
7 figure that out.

8 And by all means, please don't put any of us in the  
9 bat cave because none of us will make it.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: That was a great way to end a  
12 great meeting.

13 So we want to thank you all for all of your  
14 testimony, participating in the process. We appreciate all  
15 of your comments and that you came out to provide us with  
16 your input.

17 We remind you that you will be able to also, if you  
18 want to continue to put input we have our website, you  
19 can -- if you receive the documents, please go ahead and  
20 submit those online. We'll be continuing to work for the  
21 next month or so.

22 And with that, we are adjourned. Thank you all.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25

1 (Whereupon the meeting concluded at 8:01 p.m.).

2

3 **"This transcript represents an unofficial record.**  
4 **Please consult the accompanying video for the official**  
5 **record of IRC proceedings."**

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 STATE OF ARIZONA )  
4 ) ss.  
5 COUNTY OF MARICOPA )  
6

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


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

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

14   
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR  
16 CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

17 \* \* \*

18 I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has  
19 complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and  
20 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 7th of  
December, 2021.

21   
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
Miller Certified Reporting, LLC  
23 Arizona RRF No. R1058  
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