

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Glendale, Arizona

Online via WebEx

July 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE  
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 10:00 a.m.  
3 on July 24, 2021, at Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn  
4 Drive, Glendale, Arizona, 85301, and online via WebEx.

5  
6 COMMISSIONER PRESENT:

7 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson  
8 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman  
9 Mr. David Mehle  
10 Ms. Shereen Lerner  
11 Mr. Douglas York

12 STAFF PRESENT:

13 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director  
14 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director  
15 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant  
16 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer  
17 Ms. Jillian Andrews, Ballard Spahr  
18 Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer  
19 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group  
20 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group  
21 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics  
22 Corp.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

24 Mr. Ryan Lee  
25 Ms. Cathy Schwanke  
26 Mr. Gary Saxhaug  
27 Mr. John Parish  
28 Mr. Darrell Bradshaw  
29 Ms. Joyce Baird  
30 Mr. Mike LeVault  
31 Ms. Colleen McNally  
32 Mr. Jim Keller  
33 Ms. Mary Prochaska  
34 Ms. Barbara Wyllie  
35 Mr. Richard Hopkins  
36 Ms. Janet Mohr  
37 Ms. Janis Schmidt  
38 Ms. Elizabeth Boynton  
39 Ms. Cecelia Moreno  
40 Ms. Ana Sanchez-Navarro

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (cont'd):

2 Mr. Kelly "KJ" Kuchta  
3 Mr. Kenneth Love  
4 Mr. Marcus Milam  
5 Ms. Crystal Carrillo  
6 Mr. Sterling Fluharty  
7 Mr. Larry Bollinger  
8 Ms. Bonnie Angster  
9 Ms. MaryLee Madison  
10 Ms. Sandy Ochoa  
11 Ms. Sheila Wickert  
12 Ms. Ruth Lambert  
13 Dr. Nancy Palmer

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 Ms. Tiffany Jones, American Sign Language  
16 Interpreter  
17 Ms. Tiana Sandoval, American Sign Language  
18 Interpreter  
19  
20  
21  
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24  
25

P R O C E E D I N G

1  
2  
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Good morning,  
4 everyone. My name is Lori Van Haren, I'm the Deputy  
5 Director of the Independent Redistricting Commission;  
6 I'm so pleased to have all of you here today.

7 And first we wanted to start with the  
8 Pledge of Allegiance, and Mrs. Smith has agreed to  
9 say that for us if she wants to come up.

10 Can we all stand, please.

11 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is  
12 recited.)  
13

14 MS. VAN HAREN: We also wanted to recognize several  
15 of the elected officials who have attended this meeting  
16 today. We have Mike LeVault, City Mayor of Youngtown;  
17 Martín Quezada from the Arizona Legislature; and then Steve  
18 Gallardo from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. So  
19 we thank you guys for coming.

20 At this time I'll turn it over to the chair -- I'm  
21 sorry -- of this meeting. This is Commissioner Shereen  
22 Lerner.

23 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Good morning, everybody.  
24 Thank you for coming out on a rainy day; we appreciate  
25 seeing you.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: This is a microphone that is  
2 streaming right now (inaudible), so.

3 So for now we'll just be talking until we can fix  
4 it, okay?

5 COMMISSIONER LERNER: All right. Good morning.

6 So welcome to our -- this is our second meeting of  
7 the listening tour of the Independent Redistricting  
8 Commission. Again, we're very happy to see you all here  
9 today; we look forward to hearing from you.

10 Please note that if you would like to make a public  
11 comment you may do so by signing in with the staff and  
12 filling out the public comments card if you have not already  
13 done so.

14 Please also fill out the community interest survey  
15 if you haven't. There is a QR code on signs at the entrance  
16 to this room that will direct you to the link, and you can  
17 see staff if you have any questions.

18 We have an American Sign Language interpreter  
19 joining us virtually and we have interpreters and headsets  
20 available for those in attendance. We also have a  
21 transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting.  
22 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear record of  
23 your input.

24 Will the interpreters in attendance introduce  
25 themselves now?

1 INTERPRETER JONES: Good morning, this is Tiffany  
2 Jones and my team today is Tiana Sandoval.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. Thank you. Thank you,  
4 Tiffany.

5 At this time we're going to introduce ourselves.  
6 I'm going to start with our Chair right here.

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hi, my name is Erika Neuberg.  
8 I live in Chandler representing Maricopa County, and as the  
9 Independent Chairwoman; and it's an honor to be here.

10 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good morning, everybody. My  
11 name is Derrick Watchman and I am the Democratic appointee  
12 to the Commission; and I come to you from Window Rock,  
13 Arizona, Apache County.

14 Good morning.

15 COMMISSIONER YORK: Good morning, everyone. Thank  
16 you for being here. My name is Doug York; I'm the  
17 Republican representative for the Commission, along with my  
18 Commissioner partner David Mehl you can see on the screen  
19 there; I come from Scottsdale and David comes from Tucson.

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you and welcome,  
21 Commissioner Mehl.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you. I'm glad to be  
23 here.

24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.

25 And I am Shereen Lerner, I'm also representing

1 Maricopa County as one of the Democrats on the Commission.

2 Before we move to public comments, staff are going  
3 to read the rules of the meeting.

4 Lori.

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Citizens may only speak when  
6 recognized by the Chair or the presiding officer of the  
7 meeting if the Chair is absent or otherwise has delegated  
8 the hearing administrative authority.

9 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting laws,  
10 speakers should confine their statements to the issue on the  
11 posted agenda which is before the Commission. Speakers are  
12 also requested to limit their comments to approximately  
13 three minutes.

14 Additionally, speakers are required to follow  
15 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language;  
16 foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any  
17 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other  
18 guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the peace  
19 or disruption of the Commission public hearings may be cause  
20 of report to law enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

21 If someone has expressed the same sentiment as you,  
22 you do not need to speak in order to have your comment  
23 recorded. As long as you have filled out the survey, your  
24 input will be received and considered by the Commission.  
25 Everyone is welcome to speak should you choose to do so.

1           Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by citizens  
2 present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to address  
3 their comments to the Chair and Commission and not to the  
4 person speaking or the audience. Please show respect for  
5 all speakers and avoid personal comments.

6           Remember, the Commission must hear all sides of the  
7 Commission to make an informed decision.

8           COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you, Lori.

9           All right. We are now going to begin the public  
10 comment portion, and the staff are going to read the names  
11 of the first speaker and then the person who will following  
12 them.

13           MS. VAN HAREN: The first speaker we have is Ryan  
14 Lee.

15           Oh. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

16           I'm sorry, I'm sorry. The next item on the agenda  
17 is actually the PowerPoint, so if we could have you move to  
18 that item.

19           COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. I apologize. You  
20 know, we're still -- it's only our second meeting, so.  
21 We're still learning as we go.

22           So what we're going to do now is actually have a  
23 presentation by our legal and mapping staff and they're  
24 going to talk a little bit about your constitutional  
25 obligations and how you can actually provide input.



1 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. And right now we'll  
2 introduce Mark [sic], please.

3 Oh. I'm sorry.

4 MR. JOHNSON: I thought I was off the hook. Thank  
5 you all. I wish I was off the hook.

6 Real quick. My name is Brett Johnson, law firm of  
7 Snell & Wilmer, one of the counsel for the Commission. With  
8 me today is Jillian Andrews from Ballard Spahr, also one of  
9 the counsel for the Commission.

10 As way of introduction, a little bit of a civics  
11 lesson, okay, as to what the whole redistricting is about.  
12 So back -- go way back -- our founders determined every ten  
13 years we were going to have a new appropria- -- or  
14 assessment and appropriation of the different districts  
15 around the country because obviously we were a growing  
16 country, okay. So it's founded within the Constitution as  
17 to how that is going to happen every ten years by the census  
18 numbers.

19 Later on during the Civil War, obviously we had the  
20 14th Amendment, which drew a lot of how it was needed to be  
21 done on an equal basis, okay?

22 And don't forget, as the Commission is going  
23 through this, they have to redistrict all the congressional  
24 districts as well as all the legislative districts in  
25 Arizona.

1           That will be the next slide.

2           So from 19- -- 1912 -- February 14th, by the way,  
3           if you-all did not know the founding of Arizona. I see a  
4           lot of heads nodding.

5           1912 to 2000, the Arizona Redistricting Com- -- or  
6           the Arizona redistricting was done by Senator Quezada's  
7           predecessors down at the legislature, okay. Arizona was on  
8           the forefront, very progressive in taking it out of the  
9           hands of the legislature and putting it to an independent  
10          commission; first state in the country to do that.

11          From that perspective we have Proposition 106,  
12          which was passed by the voters to make sure that the voters  
13          had the opportunity to be involved in the redistricting  
14          process.

15          One of the other major issues was to try to avoid  
16          the concept of political gerrymandering, okay. On the East  
17          Coast that's still kind of a recognized thing as -- as being  
18          allowed; in Arizona, we have a different type of criteria.

19          We move to the next slide.

20          All right. Before I go to the criteria we'll talk  
21          about the Commissioners. The redistricting -- the  
22          initiative that passed the redistricting was pretty strict;  
23          it had to be five different members, no -- no two members  
24          from the same party and the chair had to be an Independent,  
25          and that is what we have here today and they introduced

1 themselves as -- as the beginning of the presentation.

2 So here are the constitutional provisions, and this  
3 is what we're here to try to understand from the public as  
4 to what's important for -- for you as citizens of the state.

5 The -- the different criteria, there's six  
6 different criteria. The first one, obviously, we're all  
7 United States citizens, we have to comply with the U.S.  
8 Constitution and especially what's called the Voting Rights  
9 Act, okay. So you'll hear about that quite -- quite often  
10 about ensuring that minorities have the opportunity to elect  
11 people of their choice, that's the first criteria under the  
12 Voting Rights Act.

13 And, by the way, the -- the next one is that the  
14 congressional districts shall have equal population to the  
15 extent practicable, okay. What that means is, is that if  
16 there is a hundred people in the state and you have four  
17 districts, 25 in each of those districts as possible, okay.

18 Now, there's maybe a small little nuance there  
19 based off of geography and whatnot; but the reality is,  
20 courts have made it very clear that for congressional  
21 districts it needs to be pretty equal.

22 Legislative districts, though, there can be a  
23 slight little change, especially if you're trying to  
24 incorporate some of these other parameters including what  
25 we're here to talk about today, which are communities of

1 interest.

2 One other issue is that they have to be  
3 geographically compact -- which means making sure that we're  
4 not gerrymandering all around -- and that they have to be  
5 contiguous. What that means is, is that you can't have  
6 little blurps here and here from one end of the state over  
7 to the (technical disruption) state, circles with absolutely  
8 no connection; they have to be connected, okay.

9 And -- and obviously taking into account the  
10 communities of interest, which is what we're here to talk  
11 about primarily today. Obviously, public period, talk about  
12 whatever you want the Commissioners to understand, but  
13 really, it's where the districts are and should be in the  
14 future based off of your understanding and your community's  
15 perspective. Some of those -- and Ivy is going to go over  
16 what communities of interests are in a bit, so I'll leave  
17 that to her.

18 And the last item is, to the extent practicable,  
19 competitive districts should be favored where to do so would  
20 create no significant detriment to the other goals, okay.  
21 And that goes to basically trying to have districts -- so  
22 long as the other areas are not impacted, trying to have as  
23 many competitive districts as possible. Again, so long as  
24 the other factors is not impacted.

25 Here is the projected timeline. Now, you may have

1 heard in the news, U.S. Census Bureau kind of delayed things  
2 a little bit, so our Commission has gone -- although it  
3 started earlier, does not necessarily have the data until  
4 the end of summer to be able to actually start drawing the  
5 maps, okay.

6 But the Commission has adopted this projected  
7 timeline, which is ambitious. They're trying to make this  
8 timeline. And what it is, is July to August, which we're  
9 doing right now, is this listening tour, trying to  
10 understand the communities of interest. That in August the  
11 census data will finally be released, we hope, and that will  
12 be driven over to the mapping consultants who will put  
13 everything together; a grid map will be drawn, and the way  
14 the grid map works is all of the other district lines that  
15 we have had so far for the last ten years, they go away,  
16 they can't be considered as part of the grid maps. The  
17 mapping consultants basically determine with what the  
18 Commission directs them to do is to basically create a  
19 waffle around this state taking into consideration the --  
20 the population factors.

21 Once that is happening, the Commissioners then will  
22 move those lines to address the different factors in the  
23 Constitution as well as comply with the Voting Rights Act,  
24 okay.

25 Then that is done, a map is then passed -- or

1 almost finalized, then the October/November time frame,  
2 there's a 30-day period that's mandated within the  
3 Constitution that the public is to come back and comment on  
4 the final maps.

5 Now, after the grid map to the final maps, the  
6 community still has an opportunity during that process to  
7 present the Commission opportunities as to where they think  
8 the grid maps should be changed, okay.

9 But then there's a 30-day period. Part of that  
10 30-day period, Senator Quezada and his friends down at the  
11 legislature, they get to issue what's called a minority and  
12 majority report, so the legislature still has part of the  
13 impact, at least be able to influence or discuss their  
14 thoughts as to the final maps.

15 Then hopefully the December time frame maps are  
16 adopted and we have new district lines in the state of  
17 Arizona.

18 So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Ivy who  
19 is going to discuss the communities of interest.

20 Oh, I got one more slide. Here is my public  
21 involvement slide.

22 Okay. Everybody who is here today, one of the main  
23 issues this Commission has really put this out there:  
24 Public comment is essential. These are five of your fellow  
25 citizens, they're volunteers, they're not being paid; they

1 obviously have their own experiences, but they really want  
2 to hear from the comments. So as part of that, submitting  
3 public comments, there was forms to fill out before you came  
4 in today; you can go online, there's a web portal where you  
5 can also put information in; during the hearings that have  
6 been virtual so far, they're also -- during that period of  
7 time can make comments virtually, okay. Being part of that  
8 process is important.

9 The initial input on the communities of interest  
10 which Ivy will talk about is what geographic areas or  
11 neighborhoods should be considered when drawing the draft  
12 maps?

13 We had a great hearing yesterday in Pinal County  
14 where it was really interesting as to where the different  
15 individuals who spoke thought that Pinal County should be  
16 split up according to different district lines.

17 As part of this issue, you have the opportunity to  
18 submit maps. Once the data is given to us by the census,  
19 you'll actually even be able to go online -- completely  
20 different from the previous commissions -- be able to go  
21 online and draw your own maps, have your kids draw their own  
22 maps, have your grandkids draw their own maps, make it part  
23 of the family activity; and feel free to submit those maps  
24 so long as you're explaining why those maps should meet one  
25 of those six criteria, okay. Just submitting a map, quite

1 honestly, is not going to do much good to the Commission.  
2 But, of course, if you just want to draw a map and submit  
3 it, the mapping consultants can definitely address that.

4 And, again, when -- during the comment period after  
5 the grid maps and then after the final maps are accepted, we  
6 want to encourage everybody to give public comment on those,  
7 because we have to live with those lines for the next ten  
8 years, okay.

9 All right. Did I do okay Mark? Phew.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Actually, I'm going to --

11 MR. JOHNSON: Good. All right.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: I'm going to take it over and we  
13 just need a two-minute break so that the team can fix the  
14 audio so you guys can have the amplified microphones.

15 (Recess taken at 10:30 a.m.)

16  
17 MR. FLAHAN: Thank you for being with us. My name  
18 is Mark Flahan and I am with Timmons (inaudible).

19 I will introduce a couple people from my team. Ivy  
20 Sakansky, she will be our demographer on the project and she  
21 will be talking about community of interest today.

22 (Inaudible.)

23 So I want to go over a couple of the information  
24 and empowerment tools that the Commission is (inaudible).

25 And the first one is the socioeconomic report, and



1 it is an interactive site that's available 24/7 on the web  
2 page (inaudible citizens can view socioeconomic data and the  
3 next slide right after this will be more about it.

4 And the second thing is that we talked about, we're  
5 here to talk about the community of interest. When you  
6 walked in you probably saw the QR codes for the community  
7 interest survey, and there's some papers copies there; if  
8 you guys filled out the paper, make sure to turn it back at  
9 the close of the meeting; if not (inaudible), it is also on  
10 the IRC website.

11 And the last thing to add is the redistricting tool  
12 where you can actually draw the maps and any of those map  
13 changes.

14 So the first one that I wanted to talk to you about  
15 was the socioeconomic report. You can see the graphic there  
16 on the right-hand screen, that is (inaudible) and it takes  
17 into account over ten different demographic points that you  
18 can then look through the entire state of Arizona.

19 CVAP is Citizen Voting Age Population.

20 The next thing on this report is the community of  
21 interest survey. This is something that's online today and  
22 available, like I said, 24/7 access at the (inaudible) to be  
23 able to pull up the information about the community of  
24 interest survey.

25 You can see on the right-hand side, they give you

1 guys a map that you guys can on your own (inaudible)  
2 communities of interest as you see it (inaudible) back to  
3 the Commission (inaudible) community of interest.

4 MS. SAKANSKY: So, what is a community of interest?

5 It is a geographic area of people who share a  
6 common story or connection. That connection can be common  
7 social interests, shared demographic characteristics,  
8 similar impacts from a legislative or congressional issue,  
9 or any other connection that leads people in a given area to  
10 believe they would benefit from being kept together united  
11 in one legislative and/or congressional district.

12 As you think about your community, think about the  
13 points, the factors that Mark listed on the community  
14 survey, which says: Think about you and your neighbors, do  
15 you have similar jobs, do you rely on similar public  
16 services; belong to the same neighborhood associations; are  
17 you impacted by some regional environmental concern; is your  
18 community defined by similar regional land use issues,  
19 transit concerns, languages spoken, community celebrations  
20 or traditions or other similar characteristics; any of these  
21 characteristics could define a community of interest.

22 Now, it is your turn. As they travel the state on  
23 this listening tour, the Commissioners want to hear from  
24 you. What do you want the Commissioners to consider as they  
25 draft and ultimately adopt their maps?

1           How do you define your community of interest?  
2           Using the various tools that Mark has described and in your  
3           testimony today, we want to hear: What brings your  
4           community of interest together? We want to hear from you  
5           today with what brings your community of interest together  
6           and what are your communities' geographic boundaries.

7           Remember, the Commissioners can incorporate your  
8           community into their maps only if you let us know where your  
9           community is on the map.

10          Thank you for being here today. Now I will turn  
11          this back over to the Commission staff to begin taking your  
12          comments.

13          (STENOGRAPHER'S NOTE: Technical disruptions and  
14          microphone failure causing audio difficulties throughout  
15          remainder of the meeting.)

16          (Technical disruption.)

17          PUBLIC SPEAKER: (Inaudible) I go shopping, it  
18          (inaudible). I go to church on Carefree Highway and  
19          (inaudible) meetings that are very far. We have (inaudible)  
20          Yavapai. Our communities of interest are (inaudible),  
21          Anthem, (inaudible), New River, Chinle Creek and  
22          (inaudible). (Inaudible) and (inaudible) are (inaudible)  
23          and an entirely different part of Arizona and doesn't  
24          concern our daily lives. I ask that (inaudible).

25          Thank you so much for your time.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Do we have a Paul Larson (phonetic)  
2 here?

3 Okay. Our next speaker is Cathy Schwanke, followed  
4 by (inaudible).

5 MS. SCHWANKE: My name is Cathy Schwanke, I live  
6 (inaudible) north of Carefree Highway in the 85086 ZIP Code.  
7 I'm here to testify as previous and adding to (inaudible).

8 I think they use just to population ordinance and  
9 competitiveness (inaudible) our community of interest,  
10 Carefree Highway and southern of I-17, Cave Creek Road in  
11 Scottsdale. We always go east along Carefree Highway to  
12 (inaudible) Scottsdale for shopping or for entertainment; we  
13 go west along the Carefree to Anthem; and we go south along  
14 I-17 or southeast to our church and to the airports.

15 So please do not split Carefree Highway --  
16 neighbors and (inaudible).

17 (Inaudible) constant based on this state there are  
18 political committees (inaudible) the jurisdiction that  
19 empowers (inaudible); the people in (inaudible).

20 (Inaudible) the three congressional, which include  
21 District 4, District 6, District 8, which is a little much.  
22 CD-8 could be improved so it's not such a long stretch from  
23 the northern New Mexico county border (inaudible).

24 CD-4 could be greatly improved so it doesn't  
25 stretch from the southern Arizona border to northern

1 Arizona, from western Arizona to East (inaudible).

2 Please consider my family's community of interest  
3 and put us back where we belong (inaudible) IRC (inaudible).

4 MS. CRANK: My name is Michele Crank and I work  
5 with the Independent Redistrict Commission.

6 Next up is Gary (inaudible); on deck is  
7 (inaudible).

8 MR. SAXHAUG: My name is Gary Saxhaug; 85086.

9 (Inaudible). I'm a (inaudible) with 40-plus years  
10 in (inaudible) medical secretary for 20 years.

11 (Inaudible). Our neighbors, friends (inaudible).

12 Most of the people in our community (inaudible) the  
13 entertainment (inaudible), and feeling that the local area  
14 could be defined including Anthem, Desert Hills,  
15 (inaudible), Cave Creek, and Carefree, basically along the  
16 Carefree Highway corridor; and I-17 from New River down to  
17 Happy Valley Road, this is what I would call our  
18 communities.

19 As we're a part of Arizona Legislative District 1,  
20 I feel the (inaudible) and relatively small portion of the  
21 (inaudible) county into a district that's totally in Yavapai  
22 County.

23 Prescott, we travel there considerable times a  
24 year, we do for our legislators, but they've all been  
25 addressed and they don't have -- firmly have the grasp of

1           our community.

2                       We're also in Congressional District 8; we're okay  
3 with it, we'd like to see (inaudible). How (inaudible) the  
4 Arizona State Constitution requires that the IRC respect  
5 communities of interest when drawing congressional and  
6 legislative district boundaries.

7                       I would urge the Commission to consider these  
8 criteria most important.

9                       (Technical disruption.)

10                      MS. CRANK: Next up we have -- next up we have  
11 Mr. Brian -- or John Parish.

12                      And we do apologize to the listening audience on  
13 the WebEx, we are working on the volume. We understand  
14 there are individuals that cannot hear the meeting that is  
15 transpiring. We are working on that, so if you'll please  
16 just bear with us as we work through these -- these  
17 technical issues. Thank you.

18                      MR. PARISH: I had a feeling they were going to try  
19 to mute me but that's --

20                      Ladies and gentlemen, my name is John Parish, I'm a  
21 retired American Airlines pilot and a U.S. Air Force  
22 veteran. As a veteran I want to thank you for opening this  
23 meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

24                      I live in Desert Hills that has accurately been  
25 defined by my predecessors; seems like about 10 percent of

1 the people in here are from Desert Hills. It's a community  
2 line as part -- as partly defined up in the northern part of  
3 Phoenix, Maricopa County.

4 I have lived there for 20-plus years there at LD-1;  
5 I'm precinct commissioner from LD-1 also. But all my  
6 representatives are from Prescott or Yavapai County. I feel  
7 that I am being underrepresented where I live.

8 Our local problems are still local. I worship, I  
9 shop, I play, I socialize in the north end of Phoenix, not  
10 in Prescott. I've heard the -- earlier you defined  
11 according to the Constitution the precepts which you're  
12 going to follow to draw these boundaries, but I've heard the  
13 catch phrase "competitiveness out of Section 7" bantered  
14 around quite a bit in doing some research for coming up  
15 here.

16 But I want fair representation, so I urge you to  
17 follow all of the steps laid out by the Arizona Constitution  
18 so we will have fair representation in the whole state not  
19 just my community.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. CRANK: Next up we have Darrel Bradshaw and up  
22 on deck is Joyce Baird.

23 Mr. Darrell Bradshaw.

24 MR. BRADSHAW: Good morning. Thank you for giving  
25 me the opportunity to speak.

1 Can you hear me okay?

2 Okay. I'm Darrell Bradshaw and I live in North  
3 Central Maricopa County; and I'm here today to present some  
4 information about my communities of interest.

5 My wife -- my wife Dawn and I live in Sun City West  
6 and we're a community of active adults who travel and  
7 support tourism. We are a community that proudly supports  
8 each other through family, churches, and local volunteer  
9 organizations.

10 Our community is located in the northwest metro  
11 Phoenix area and we shop in Sun City West and Surprise; we  
12 access healthcare at hospitals and clinics in these two  
13 cities; our food banks and other charitable activities are  
14 also in these two cities.

15 And as I understand last time the legislative  
16 districts were drawn, our community was split into two  
17 different districts and that these districts from the  
18 previous commission were not compact and did not have equal  
19 populations. So I love Arrowhead Ranch in Phoenix, but  
20 please don't include us in their legislative districts this  
21 time around. We are our own community of active adults and  
22 we need to be with other West Valley urban communities.

23 So I would just urge you this time around  
24 respectfully to follow the Arizona state Constitution when  
25 redistricting.



1 Thank you. Appreciate your time.

2 MS. BAIRD: Thank you, Madame Chairwoman. And  
3 (inaudible) the WebEx because I'm a public school teacher  
4 and that's been my last (inaudible) years, so I (inaudible).

5 My name is Joyce Baird and I'm in Legislative  
6 District 27. I've only lived in Arizona for eight years and  
7 I moved here to be (inaudible) very cute grandchildren.

8 I teach American Government and economics at  
9 Sunnyslope High School, which is in the (inaudible) School  
10 District. I've taught in the public schools for over  
11 30 years in Idaho where I grew up, in Texas, as well as  
12 Arizona.

13 I'd like to speak today to the importance of  
14 redistricting as it applies to the basic principles of U.S.  
15 Constitution and the rule of a (inaudible). I teach my  
16 students that the legislative branch is the heart of  
17 democracy and I really believe that, where the will of the  
18 people are translated into public policy; and in a republic  
19 people choose the representatives that makes the policy for  
20 them and gives governmental action its direction.

21 We've seen in the past the legislative districts  
22 don't represent or are not drawn (inaudible) parts of the  
23 country and the Arizona voters recognized Prop 106 in 2000.

24 And I really appreciate the process and appreciate  
25 you being part of that process.

1           It's also important that we have competitive  
2 districts because legislative bodies that are drawn with  
3 competitive districts tend to be more moderate and the  
4 policies that result from that represent the broader  
5 constituents rather than just a narrow group of folks.

6           Obviously as a teacher I would like to see more --  
7 more bipartisan cooperation in areas of education as in  
8 other policy areas; and I realize that creating fair  
9 districts as well as competitive districts is no easy task  
10 and appreciate you taking this into consideration and taking  
11 on this responsibility.

12           I urge you to focus on true representation for the  
13 people in our nation as well as the state of Arizona,  
14 because I truly believe good policy comes from listening to  
15 many voices.

16           Thank you for being (inaudible) representation in  
17 Arizona for our future, because I think my beautiful  
18 grandchildren are going to be here for a long time.

19           Thank you.

20           MS. CRANK: Just going to change out the mic here.

21           I apologize for that.

22           The next speaker is Mike LeVault, and then up on  
23 deck is Martín Quezada.

24           MAYOR LEVAULT: Good morning.

25           My name is Mike LeVault, I'm the mayor of

1 Youngtown.

2 First of all, let me thank you, Commissioners, for  
3 doing this; this is such an important part of our  
4 representative republic that we continue to have a strong  
5 voice in citizens. Thank you for doing this.

6 My town is a small, compact community. Just to  
7 give you an idea of where we're located, our northern  
8 boundary is Grand Avenue, southern boundary is Olive Avenue,  
9 western boundary is Agua Fria River, and eastern boundary is  
10 111th Avenue. We are just across the street from Sun City,  
11 just west of Sun City, and Sun City and Youngtown are almost  
12 literally joined at the hip.

13 I can tell you we're a small compact community, so  
14 I would ask you first of all to keep us intact with whatever  
15 the redistricting turns out to be, I think it's important  
16 that my town stay intact as a community of interest.

17 Secondly, I think it's important that we remain in  
18 the same district with Sun City. Youngtown was the original  
19 retirement community incepted back in 1954; and even though  
20 the town lost its age overlay in 1998, we still have a very  
21 significant -- very significant population of what I call  
22 seasoned citizens. And I'm one by the way, you can see the  
23 gray here at the temples.

24 But, anyway, I would ask two things: Keep  
25 Youngtown intact as we are a community of interest and keep

1 us in the same district with our neighbors to the east, Sun  
2 City.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Colleen McNally,  
5 Colleen McNally; and then up on deck is Jim Keller, Jim  
6 Keller.

7 Mr. Quezada said he wasn't going to speak, so.

8 MS. MCNALLY: Good morning. My name is Colleen  
9 McNally.

10 Sure, I'll do my best. I feel very important.

11 All right. I'm Colleen McNally, I retired as a  
12 Superior Court judge as 2017; I'm here as a Glendale citizen  
13 and neighbor.

14 I really want to say I appreciate the work of this  
15 Commission and the staff and lawyers that are involved here,  
16 and we have a lot of neighbors here that are speaking up  
17 because it's incredibly important, as has been said.

18 I live in the LD-22 and it's in North Glendale, and  
19 I am going to underline what some of my friends in Sun City  
20 West and Youngtown said in that our last redistricting we  
21 were grouped together on that side, and that's really not a  
22 community of interest from what I've observed in our  
23 neighborhood.

24 We've lived there for 30 years. We were the young  
25 family on our street, now we're the old family on our street

1 and the (inaudible) children. And the school -- the school  
2 was an issue, have been incredible important (inaudible)  
3 among my friends and the people that we know, and we don't  
4 always have common interest with the retirement community.

5 So I would urge you to -- I love the concept of  
6 community of interest and how it can mean different things,  
7 but I would urge you to really look at how school issues,  
8 school districts, and other issues that affect young people,  
9 including employment opportunities and other issues of the  
10 legislative address really (inaudible) around those issues  
11 in certain neighborhoods.

12 So thank you again for your work. Appreciate it.  
13 (Inaudible).

14 MS. CRANK: Mr. Jim Keller.

15 MR. KELLER: Thank you, Commission, for (inaudible)  
16 for us.

17 My name is Jim Keller; I live in Peoria, Arizona;  
18 I'm a precinct committee member of Legislative District 22  
19 and Congressional (inaudible).

20 Several offers there have been (inaudible) the  
21 general to communities (inaudible), the retirement  
22 community. The district that about we have basically is in  
23 Northern Peoria, west of Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise,  
24 and -- and it's not.

25 And so other area is primarily age retirement

1 community. And my interest is -- is in that area and the  
2 (inaudible) we have medical support, community difficulties  
3 support (inaudible) for the (inaudible). It is a very  
4 active area community for retired population.

5 And very important to consider to (inaudible). So  
6 we, the areas the (inaudible) district all the -- all the  
7 (inaudible).

8 MS. CRANK: The next speaker we have is Mary  
9 Prochaska.

10 Up on deck is Barbara Wyllie.

11 MS. PROCHASKA: Thank you.

12 I'm Mary Prochaska, I've lived and raised my kids  
13 in the same neighborhood since 1966, (inaudible) the public  
14 school from kindergarten to high school. I attended  
15 (inaudible) and although one chose graduate school outside  
16 of Arizona, the other one chose (inaudible).

17 MS. CRANK: I do believe that we're going to take a  
18 little pause right here. Commissioner Lerner has a  
19 follow-up question?

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: (Inaudible). Sun City, which  
21 towns?

22 MS. PROCHASKA: This map that Judge, Judge  
23 (inaudible).

24 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible).

25 MS. WYLLIE: (Inaudible).

1           (Inaudible) Scottsdale, Paradise Valley,  
2           Deer Valley, Northwest Valley for 15 years and it's 10 years  
3           ago in the job that I'm here today because I care about one  
4           thing and would like to see the lines drawn logical,  
5           sensible. Listening to all these people is great, but I  
6           think there's one district that goes from Wickenburg  
7           (inaudible); that's crazy.

8           I know these people have two meetings every other  
9           month in different locations, so I speak for them.

10          I do have one question. Who draws the district  
11          lines?

12          Precinct? Okay, you got (inaudible) seeing the  
13          legislative lines and then you got the precinct lines. Who  
14          draws the precincts?

15          The supervisors? Okay.

16          Because the only reason I'm saying that is because  
17          I've been out knocking on doors doing some (inaudible).  
18          It's not real accurate.

19          (Inaudible) throw it out there.

20          Thank you so much.

21          MS. CRANK: Put the mic on this stand here. Both  
22          of them.

23          MR. HOPKINS: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for  
24          allowing me the opportunity to speak, and thank you  
25          everybody behind me for showing up.

1           My name is Richard Hopkins, I live in Buckeye, and  
2 I'm the Legislative District 4 Republican Committee  
3 Chairman.

4           LD-4 was without representation in our state  
5 legislature for the first eight years as a result of the  
6 last effort not following any of the constitutional  
7 requirements. The most glaring violation concerns  
8 communities of interest.

9           Buckeye and Goodyear share much and as such we are  
10 communities of interest. We are West Valley agriculture  
11 area becoming larger cities.

12           We have nothing in common with the border towns of  
13 San Luis and Summerton located 150 miles or so away. We  
14 also have nothing in common with the entire Tohono O'odham  
15 Indian Reservation or the southwest parts of Tucson.

16           Approximately 255 miles of the 378 miles of Mexican  
17 border are within LD-4, which are not related to any of us  
18 here in the county.

19           You must follow the Constitution and statutes this  
20 year and insist that the legislative districts meet all six  
21 of the criteria. LD-4 has already submitted a draft map for  
22 consideration; the new map fits all six criteria to the "T":  
23 The southern part of Goodyear, all of Buckeye, the southwest  
24 and northwest parts of Maricopa County west of the 303 are  
25 all communities that share the same interests.



1 Safe communities, good schools, agricultural  
2 heritage, open areas for recreation, hardworking people that  
3 love our freedoms granted by our Creator and guaranteed by  
4 our Constitutions. I respectfully urge you to ensure that  
5 all six criteria are followed and that communities of  
6 interest and geographically compact receive their due  
7 considerations.

8 Again, thank you for being here and thank you for  
9 allowing me to speak.

10 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Janet Mohr, and  
11 then up on deck is Yudidt Monty, and then the next speaker  
12 is Janis Schmidt.

13 MS. MOHR: Hi. My name is Janet Mohr. I'm -- I  
14 appreciate your time that you're taking to redraw these  
15 maps.

16 I think you have a big job on your hands because I  
17 really feel that they were done so poorly the last time.

18 I am a precinct captain for Cave Creek Precinct and  
19 I'm also a real estate broker, so I feel that I really share  
20 a lot of knowledge in communities of interest.

21 I think that one of the things that the attorney  
22 mentioned in the beginning that was a big part that was  
23 overlooked was connecting the communities. If you look at  
24 the town of Cave Creek, to our northern border there's about  
25 80 miles of Tonto National Forest land, and somehow 600

1 voters in the northern part of Cave Creek are in  
2 Representative Gosar's district, which is 80 miles north of  
3 wasteland, there is nothing in between there; that is not  
4 connection, there is nothing connecting that.

5 I think if you -- when you do your mapping, if you  
6 click on the little satellite button, it will probably be  
7 very helpful to see where those lines can be.

8 Also, if you follow the whole northern line, the  
9 boundary, and you go to the east, there's areas over near  
10 the Tonto Hills subdivision, there are some -- some  
11 districts there that also do not fall into any community at  
12 all. In fact, if they were to go with their communities  
13 that they are districted in, they would have to drive  
14 probably 45 minutes to I-17, however long of a drive that  
15 is, or a half an hour and then head north through 80 miles  
16 of Tonto National Forest.

17 I don't mean to say it's wasteland. It's beautiful  
18 land, it's beautiful, but there's no population.

19 So it just doesn't make any sense at all.

20 Ten years ago I didn't -- I tried to go to some of  
21 the meetings and I didn't really have a good handle of  
22 really what could go wrong, I didn't think it would be --  
23 you know, there should be some common sense when you're  
24 drafting these maps and certainly there was no thought of  
25 that connection and that community of interest because

1           there's just no connection between us and -- and Yavapai  
2           County and Prescott. It's a great people but...

3                     Thank you.

4           MS. CRANK: The next speaker, and I do apologize if  
5           I didn't pronounce your name correctly, it's Y-U-D-I-T, if  
6           I'm even -- and then the last name it looks like M or  
7           N-O-N-T-L-E.

8                     Well, I guess -- okay. Janis Schmidt.

9           MS. SCHMIDT: Hi. Thanks.

10           My name is Janis Schmidt; I live in Glendale, just  
11           three and a half miles north of here, and in LD-20 and CD-8.

12           My community is a stable mixture -- mixture of  
13           middle- to lower-class citizens, single-family homes and  
14           apartments; I'm retired but there are many families with  
15           young children in my neighborhood; I've been in that same  
16           neighborhood for 27 years.

17           My personal communities of interest are the church  
18           and the arts. I often attend events and shop in Downtown  
19           Glendale, the Glendale library, Saguaro Ranch Park, Downtown  
20           Peoria, and the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts,  
21           Arrowhead Towne Center, Glendale Community College, the  
22           stadium and arena at Westgate, Arizona Broadway Theatre, and  
23           Spotlight Youth Theater. I'm actively involved in several  
24           different churches in the area as well as Copperwood  
25           Elementary and Ironwood High School through the Good News

1 Clubs and Moms in Prayer International.

2 Although my communities of interest cross city  
3 borders, as a newly appointed precinct committee person, I  
4 hope that you will set boundaries that do not cross city  
5 borders, which make it confusing for voters and difficult to  
6 collect signatures and support candidates.

7 I hope that you will follow the guidelines set  
8 forth in our state Constitution and form districts that are  
9 geographically compact and as equal as possible in  
10 populations with sensible boundaries.

11 This is currently not the case in LD-20, which is  
12 too spread out over three different cities; that combines  
13 communities that don't have much in common. Here in  
14 Downtown Glendale, we don't have a lot in common with those  
15 over by Paradise Valley.

16 I realize that Glendale is a weird shape and it's  
17 spread out, but I would rather have a district that is a  
18 weird shape and all within the same city than a more compact  
19 one that crosses tax bases, because that's really important  
20 with legislation.

21 I also hope that party affiliation will not come  
22 into play as this process should not be a competition and  
23 should just create districts according to community  
24 interests and not political affiliation.

25 Thank you for your time.

1 MS. CRANK: The next speaker -- the next speaker is  
2 Elizabeth Boynton; up on deck is Cecelia Moreno; and then  
3 after Cecilia Moreno is Ana Sanchez-Navarro.

4 MS. BOYNTON: Good morning Commission Chair and  
5 members, my name is Elizabeth Boynton.

6 Thank you for serving the public in this capacity  
7 and for the opportunity to give input into the ongoing  
8 redistricting effort.

9 I live in North Central Phoenix in ZIP Code 85022,  
10 LD-20 and CD-6. I grocery shop, my nieces are homeschooled  
11 and play soccer, and I attend church all in the same general  
12 area, but this also includes ZIP Codes 85053, 85260, 85028,  
13 and 85058.

14 My community should remain whole. CD-6 generally  
15 makes sense; however, with regard to LD-20, I would agree  
16 that the (inaudible), I rarely spend much time west of I-17  
17 and south of Thunderbird.

18 The current map, particularly Maricopa County, has  
19 districts reaching around other districts to form little  
20 pockets and zigzags. The Constitution requires to the  
21 extent practicable district lines shall use visible  
22 geographic features, cities, towns, and county boundaries  
23 and undivided census tracks. It also requires districts  
24 geographically compact and contiguous to the extent  
25 practicable.

1           So I would just encourage this IRC to insist on  
2           keeping communities in whole districts and not allow the map  
3           to go into contortions to achieve any particular political  
4           or social objective.

5           Thank you for listening to and considering my  
6           comments this morning.

7           MS. CRANK: Moreno.

8           MS. MORENO: Good morning. I'm Cecilia Moreno.  
9           I'm a resident of LD-29; a precinct committee person also.

10          I was born in Glendale, like, one mile away. At  
11          the present time I live in Maryvale area and have lived in  
12          the West Valley my entire life. I taught in Glendale  
13          Elementary for 13 years and 17 years at Trevor Brown High  
14          School in the Phoenix Union District.

15          As members of LD-29, I believe right now we are  
16          sitting in LD-30, but if you go over two streets you will be  
17          in LD-29. So we are urging that you com- -- compromise all  
18          of these districts into keeping the downtown area  
19          represented by one senator and two representatives.

20          We wish to represent the following communities of  
21          interest for your consideration before we begin the map  
22          drawing process.

23          I will describe two separate communities of  
24          interest that I believe should be unified in a single  
25          district instead of split between multiple districts in your

1 maps.

2 Maryvale is the first community of interest, which  
3 is a community in West Phoenix community more commonly  
4 referred to as Maryvale. This community is tied together in  
5 a number of ways: We are a working class, multilingual  
6 community of color that is unified in cultural tradition;  
7 the nature of our housing, our youth government services,  
8 our social services and civic networks and our strong  
9 religious community and neighborhood associations.

10 We are also served by school districts whose  
11 demographics are also very similar and should be included as  
12 part of the community of interest, specifically the  
13 Cartwright District, Isaac, Alahambra, and Pendergast School  
14 Districts.

15 We've proposed the boundaries of Maryvale community  
16 of interest be Camelback Road on the north, I-17 freeway on  
17 the east, I-10 freeway on the south, and City of Phoenix  
18 boundaries to the west.

19 The next community of interest is Glendale. I'd  
20 like to speak to the -- to its -- I'd like to speak to this  
21 as South and West Glendale. This community mirrors the  
22 demographics and similarities of Maryvale community of  
23 interest, with only major difference being the fact that  
24 this community is part of the City of Glendale rather than  
25 the City of Phoenix.

1           The last IRC wisely drew up most of the Maryvale  
2 community into one legislative district with South and West  
3 Glendale. We propose that all South and West Glendale be  
4 identified as a community of interest and be combined with  
5 the Maryvale community of interest to the greatest extent  
6 possible.

7           The second district that represents Glendale  
8 includes Pendergast, Glendale, and Alhambra Elementary  
9 School Districts. The boundaries of this community of  
10 interest can mostly be defined by the City of Glendale city  
11 limits, including the entire city west of Grand Avenue.

12           Each of these communities of interest are in need  
13 of stronger political representation precisely because of  
14 our demographic makeup, our business climate, and our need  
15 for social services; yet, each of these communities have  
16 been denied that voice after being fractured into multiple  
17 districts by the past two commissions.

18           I urge you to consider the education of our  
19 children. As a retired teacher, keeping school districts in  
20 one legislative district would allow elected officials to  
21 better serve communities and schools of similar  
22 demographics.

23           Thank you.

24           MS. CRANK: Ana Navarro.

25           MS. SANCHEZ-NAVARRO: Good morning, everyone.



1 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

2 My name is Ana Sanchez-Navarro and I live in North  
3 Phoenix; my boundaries are north of Union Hills and west of  
4 32nd Street, and my ZIP Code is 85050.

5 My community church is across the street from where  
6 I live on the east side of 32nd Street. All my friends from  
7 church and I want to do outreach in the community; however,  
8 those who are on the south side of Union Hills belong to  
9 LD-28, whereas those on the north side of Union Hills belong  
10 to LD-15.

11 We are of the same mind and we want to support the  
12 same groups and centers. There is a vacant commercial  
13 building on the northwest corner of Union Hills at 42nd  
14 Street where a new (inaudible) wants to open a business, but  
15 because of the current district lines there is fighting  
16 going on and disagreements on what type of business the  
17 community will accept.

18 I shop between Desert Ridge on the north and  
19 Paradise Valley area on the south, and Lincoln Hospital on  
20 the west and Mayo Clinic on the east.

21 I work in the (inaudible) bordering Scottsdale and  
22 the home is located near my work to avoid long commutes.

23 The districts that the previous commission drew did  
24 not have equal population. Some districts had 12 percent  
25 more population than others and were too focused; some

1 communities of interest were not (inaudible). Districts  
2 should be compact.

3 I do not believe CD-6 -- and that is a compact  
4 district and (inaudible) so I would like that to (inaudible)  
5 split.

6 However, LD (inaudible) is not district (inaudible)  
7 at present.

8 So I respectfully ask that you follow the six  
9 guidelines outlining the Arizona Constitution when you are  
10 drawing districts this time; that my community of interest  
11 not be split but remains whole; and that the new districts  
12 are compact with equitable population distribution.

13 Thank you for your time and partnership.

14 MS. CRANK: The next -- the next speaker is Kelly  
15 Kuchta; and up on deck is Kenneth Love; and after Kenneth  
16 Love is Marcus Milam.

17 And I -- I do recommend if I, you know, not  
18 pronounce your name correctly to please pronounce your name  
19 at the start of your speaking engagement.

20 MR. KUCHTA: Thank you for allowing us to be here.  
21 My name is Kelly Kuchta, most people refer to me as KJ.

22 My wife and I are going -- have three children and  
23 live in Anthem, Arizona, and LD-2 in Maricopa County -- or  
24 LD-1, excuse me.

25 I'm not going to go over the boundaries of this.

1 My oldest child just graduated NAU, she's now living at home  
2 to save money and working in Scottsdale; my middle child is  
3 currently a student at NAU; and my youngest is a  
4 senior-to-be at Anthem Prep in Anthem, Arizona. We own a  
5 business in Peoria called Digital Acuity, which is a  
6 computer forensic company which analyzes digital evidence  
7 and information in a legal context; our customers are  
8 primarily located in the metropolitan area of Maricopa  
9 County.

10 We -- when people in the community of Anthem and  
11 sometimes the surrounding areas of Black Canyon City,  
12 New River, Cave Creek, et cetera, need to purchase goods,  
13 look for recreation and entertainment, we shop locally or  
14 drive into Phoenix or into Peoria, Glendale, and North  
15 Phoenix area. This is the same area we support our  
16 community services, such as food banks, the  
17 St. Vincent de Paul Society, et cetera, and attend religious  
18 services, because these are the entities that support our  
19 community in Anthem.

20 I know of no one in our community that drives 90 --  
21 70 miles north into Yavapai County for any of these  
22 services. Also, I know quite a few people in my community  
23 and I know of nobody that works in Prescott or Yavapai  
24 County; we all work in Phoenix or locally in Anthem or  
25 whatever.

1           Our current legislative district was determined ten  
2 years ago and added -- been added to our community of  
3 Yavapai County and Prescott; one senator and two  
4 representatives live in the Prescott area while we live in  
5 North Phoenix.

6           While these representatives are fine leaders, the  
7 communities of interest in our area are different and most  
8 citizens that they represent and we do not have the same  
9 local access to these -- this representation.

10           Our community is in the northernmost region of  
11 Maricopa County, includes the City of Phoenix, the County of  
12 Phoenix, which includes Anthem, New River, and Desert Hills,  
13 the towns of Cave Creek and Carefree -- Carefree, excuse me,  
14 but should include areas to the south of us in Maricopa  
15 County, not north of Yavapai.

16           Thank you for your time today.

17           MS. CRANK: Kenneth Love.

18           MR. LOVE: Good morning, Chairman and members of  
19 the Commission.

20           My name is Kenneth Love. I am a -- have been an  
21 Arizona resident for -- since 1983, first in Tucson and  
22 later in Phoenix. I lived in Phoenix in the north central  
23 area for the last 24 years; and my last employment, at least  
24 full-time employment, was as an attorney at the Arizona  
25 Attorney General's Office where I litigated complex matters

1 involving property taxation, which gives me some insights  
2 into the remarks I'm going to make.

3 I realize that when you start talking about  
4 property taxation and values, it's one of the surest ways to  
5 put people to sleep, so I'll try to be brief on that aspect.

6 Diverging from that for a second, though. I --  
7 the -- I realize and I certainly hope the Commission will do  
8 what is best to congressionally create districts that are  
9 competitive with no significant detriment to the other goals  
10 of -- of the -- that you're bound by.

11 Competitive is, in my estimation, a -- kind of a  
12 changing target these days, when we see that at least  
13 one-third of all voters today are registered or -- as  
14 Independents. Of course, there is no Independent party, but  
15 you do have Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. So  
16 the issue of competitiveness or being competitive is  
17 something that I think needs to take into consideration  
18 Independents along with the other considerations.

19 More -- more locally in terms of what is done in  
20 the LDs, it would be my recommendation that there be no  
21 split among school districts and that school districts be --  
22 be thought of as a major component of communities of  
23 interest. Again, harking back to my experience as an  
24 attorney and my -- my reference point with respect to  
25 taxation.

1           I think that if there is a grouping of school  
2 districts they should be school districts that have  
3 relatively the same full cash values within their  
4 communities so that their -- so that the ability of the  
5 school districts which are part of the community of interest  
6 is somewhat equal in terms of raising revenues and -- and  
7 meeting levies that will keep the school districts whole.

8           Again, my appreciation to the Commission for  
9 allowing me this opportunity to testify today and I wish you  
10 the best in terms of the journey ahead.

11           Thank you.

12           MS. CRANK: Marcus Milam.

13           MR. MILAM: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
14 Madame Chair, members of the Commission, thank you for this  
15 opportunity.

16           I -- my name is Marcus Milam. I have been a  
17 teacher, a pastor, and in my current work for Maricopa  
18 County, so you could say I have worked my entire adult life  
19 in the West Valley.

20           As a former Legislative District 20 Republican  
21 chairman, I have had the opportunity to see the various  
22 communities of interest, and I want to highlight for you  
23 just a couple of examples of areas of inequity, because I  
24 believe that ten years ago the commission erred in  
25 approaching competitiveness from a purely partisan

1           viewpoint, because as the previous speaker noted, the  
2           breakdown of voters in the state of Arizona, if the target  
3           is competitiveness, is now one-third Democrats, one-third  
4           Republicans, and one-third Independents.

5                        So we should focus less on party and more on  
6           creating the kind of common connection points that will  
7           improve the quality of the representation that we get at  
8           every level of the government.

9                        So right now in Legislative District 20, on the  
10          western edge you have retirement communities, whereas  
11          Arrowhead Ranch, which is a planned community that is not  
12          segregated by age, is housed in Legislative District 21,  
13          which means that the retirement communities which would  
14          share far more in common with Sun City and the Arrowhead  
15          Ranch where their residents are going to be concerned with  
16          things like mass transit, they're going to be concerned with  
17          the quality of education, those share more in common  
18          demographically with Legislative District 20.

19                       If you go just to the west in District 21, Sun City  
20          is in the same legislative district as El Mirage. I don't  
21          think I need to explain that there's not a lot of points of  
22          commonality between a retirement community like Sun City and  
23          El Mirage, which is a primarily working-class community.

24                       My recommendation would be not only to keep the --  
25          to keep those communities intact but also to focus on the

1 common points of connection. The voters in Legislative  
2 District 20, for example, are people in the Deer Valley  
3 Unified School District, they're going to have common points  
4 of connection as families with young children.

5 So my recommendation to the committee would be to  
6 focus on those common connection points and compact those  
7 districts -- compact the districts so that way there is a  
8 greater commonality of connection points in the districts  
9 that we are going to have to live with for the next ten  
10 years.

11 Thank you all very much.

12 MS. CRANK: Next three speakers: Crystal Carrillo,  
13 Mike Garland, Sterling Fluharty.

14 Crystal?

15 MS. CARRILLO: Hello. My name is Crystal Carrillo,  
16 and I thank the Chair and the Commission for giving me the  
17 opportunity to speak this morning.

18 I'm an 11-year resident of Arizona and I've lived  
19 in my community for over a year now. I live in the Melrose  
20 Estates/Westwood neighborhood. If you're not sure where  
21 this is, it is wedged in between Camelback and Indian  
22 School, between the 17 freeway and 19th Avenue.

23 I chose this neighborhood to set down roots because  
24 it reminds me of where I grew up. I'm also in Legislative  
25 District 30 and Congressional District 7. I'm the chair of



1 my local legislative district group along with being a  
2 volunteer at Lucha (phonetic), being a member of my church,  
3 St. Gregory, and being a school board member at  
4 (indiscernible).

5 I would like you to keep my community together in  
6 Legislative District 30 because we are working families who  
7 support one another and care about people-first policy. We  
8 like well-lit streets, clean parks, quality public schools  
9 and well-paved roads. We have a small park and community  
10 center near my home called Kids Street Park that is a pillar  
11 in my neighborhood. Every day when I go for my runs I see  
12 families, kids, pets and athletes utilizing the local park  
13 to exercise and meet up for a game of soccer or even  
14 basketball.

15 We also use the canal that runs through Indian  
16 School and goes all the way across the city -- actually, I  
17 think it goes to Tempe. It is a way for us to have a safe  
18 exercising experience away from busy streets.

19 We also have a wealth of culture with many Latinx  
20 like myself choosing to make LD-30 and CD-7 our home.  
21 Congressional District 7 is a majority-minority district  
22 with many families multilingual. My districts are filled  
23 with generations of families who have been in Arizona for  
24 many years and have set down roots here. My neighbors are  
25 teachers, small business owners, organizers, healthcare

1 workers, students, parents, and seniors. We really care  
2 about our community and making changes to better our  
3 district and our neighborhood.

4 Although neglected by the city and higher  
5 government, we have seen organizations and neighborhood  
6 groups pushing for policy changes and improvements to local  
7 issues like homelessness, affordable housing, sidewalks,  
8 parks, food access, public transit, education, COVID relief,  
9 and even more. These issues impact our area in a way that  
10 other districts may not understand.

11 Today I ask that you don't divide my community so  
12 that we can continue being neighbors and that you draw  
13 districts following the six guidelines.

14 Thank you so much for your time and your service.

15 MS. CRANK: Mike Garland. Mike Garland.

16 Okay. Sterling Fluharty. I can't pronounce your  
17 name.

18 MR. FLUHARTY: So my name is Sterling Fluharty,  
19 sorry about the difficulty, and I'm a resident of Maricopa  
20 County.

21 I appreciate the Arizona Independent Redistricting  
22 Commission putting together this listening tour. I would  
23 like to recommend a rubric for redistricting. You might  
24 remember the use of rubrics when you were assigned to write  
25 an essay in school. For instance, there might be 25 points

1 possible in each of four criteria: Organization, clarity,  
2 argument, and grammar, for a total of a hundred points  
3 possible on the assignment.

4 Ideally also a rubric explains the performance  
5 level of each criterion with descriptions of what counts as  
6 excellent, competent, and needs work.

7 An earlier presentation mentions that Arizona law  
8 has six criteria. These criteria could provide the  
9 foundation for a redistricting rubric; the Commission could  
10 then set up a scoring system and possible point for each  
11 criteria.

12 As an example, the scoring system could adopt a  
13 proposed map and award full points for equal population,  
14 high points for protecting communities of interests, and  
15 partial points for preserving cities, towns, and county  
16 boundaries.

17 Some additional reasons for using rubrics are that  
18 they can promote objectivity, transparency, and  
19 accountability.

20 When it comes to redistricting, the rubric could  
21 equally balance the six criteria and minimize scenarios  
22 where certain criteria received more attention or emphasis  
23 than others.

24 The use of a rubric could also help assure the  
25 public that the Commission's decision-making processes are

1 out in the open.

2 The Commission could even sponsor a friendly  
3 competition by ranking the maps submitted to its website  
4 according to the rubric scores. This could increase the  
5 chance that the best possible maps will emerge and be  
6 officially adopted by the Commission.

7 My last reason for a rubric is that it could better  
8 equip the Commission for the possible scenario that  
9 thousands of maps will be submitted for its review. For  
10 example, in just the last few months the public has drawn  
11 268 maps for Arizona at DavesRedistricting.org. Many more  
12 maps will be submitted once the Commission launches a map  
13 drawing system on its own website. A well-defined rubric  
14 could streamline and automate the scoring on these maps,  
15 then the Commission could focus its attention on the maps  
16 that receive the highest scores across the six criteria.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. CRANK: Next three speakers are Larry  
19 Bollinger, Bonnie Angster, MaryLee Madison.

20 Sandy Ochoa.

21 MR. BOLLINGER: Good morning. I want to thank you  
22 for the job that you all have undertaken. It's a very  
23 serious and honest, very impactful task that you have before  
24 you and God Speed for the decisions that you make.

25 My name is Larry Bollinger, I am a precinct

1 committee member from LD-20; I'm a Realtor, I've been in the  
2 Valley for over 40 years; I live in Glendale.

3 And LD-20, as you've already heard, is a very long,  
4 diverse district. It goes as far as Sun City on the West,  
5 75th Avenue; on the east it goes out to 36th Street. That's  
6 a pretty good stretch, right?

7 It goes from on -- the I-17 is the middle of our  
8 district. On the west side of I-17 down to Bell (technical  
9 disruption) up to the (inaudible) on the east side we have  
10 Paradise Valley. Those are two different areas with not a  
11 lot in common, okay.

12 And so on the east side it goes as far as  
13 there's -- that's a very large area, and in the ten years  
14 since this has been built, the influx -- all the new growth  
15 in this area has changed the demographics clearly, and so  
16 LD-20 definitely needs to be redistricted; it needs to be  
17 condensed so it represents communities.

18 And as you heard before, there's at least three  
19 different school districts in our area.

20 So take that into consideration, make it compact,  
21 make it represent Glendale, make it represent the  
22 communities; and just like someone else said, I-17 is a  
23 barrier, we don't go east of I-17, the lady before says she  
24 doesn't go west of I-17 and we're in the same LD-20.

25 Thank you very much. Good luck to you.

1 MS. ANGSTER: Good morning, Committee. Appreciate  
2 your work very much; this is a difficult decision to make.

3 I represent Sun City; I'm a precinct chairman, also  
4 I train precinct committee people as well.

5 Now, I do remember that we used to be LD-9 and at  
6 that time when we changed to 21 there was a consideration to  
7 split Sun City at Grand Avenue; we protested that greatly.  
8 There was no way that we want to have a retirement community  
9 split in two.

10 So I also want to agree with Michael LeVault, who  
11 is the mayor of Youngtown; we are very contiguous, we're  
12 very much in the same mode of wanting to stay together as  
13 well. So I hope you have that consideration to keep Sun  
14 City together as well as keeping us with Youngtown.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. CRANK: MaryLee Madison.

17 MS. MADISON: Good morning, Madame Chair and  
18 Commissioners.

19 I'm really glad to be here and I really appreciate  
20 you being here. You have a heck of a job in front of you  
21 and with many competing demands, and I just appreciate what  
22 you're -- the decisions you're going to make over the next  
23 few months.

24 My name is MaryLee Madison; I live in LD-22. I  
25 live in the home that my folks bought in 1973 when they

1 moved to Arizona. They had considered living in Sun City,  
2 but at the time my dad, who was working for the Bureau of  
3 Indian Affairs, looked at Sun City and felt that some of the  
4 guests he might be having, the American Indians visiting  
5 him, might not feel as comfortable there as they did in what  
6 was then rural Glendale, which is just -- now it's a half --  
7 half a block off of Arrowhead Ranch; and at the time my mom  
8 commuted from there to Gila River Indian Reservation  
9 where -- on Bell Road where it was a two-lane highway and  
10 practically no stoplights. Couldn't do that today.

11 I moved to -- after my dad died, I moved to  
12 Glendale and lived -- in 1985 -- came in 1985, to take care  
13 of my mom, and she actually took good care of me during that  
14 time, and she lived to the young age of 99, and I was just  
15 so glad to be able to care for her.

16 During that time I worked for 17 years for Maricopa  
17 County commuting every day to the Maricopa County building  
18 in Downtown Phoenix, 3rd Avenue and Jefferson. The -- at  
19 the same time I was volunteering -- so I related to Downtown  
20 Phoenix in the east for -- for years. That -- for  
21 employment and for -- for sports, inaugural season ticket  
22 holder for the Diamondbacks for over six years; and also for  
23 cultural events, I was a season ticket holder for Arizona --  
24 or, excuse me, Phoenix -- Phoenix -- the theatre company of  
25 Phoenix, that's not quite the right word, until they

1           disbanded in 2014.

2                   For -- I volunteered in civic -- civic duty. I  
3           have worked, volunteered with the -- the Greater Phoenix  
4           Boys & Girls Club for 25 years; culturally I have worked  
5           with the -- now I'm a docent for the Phoenix Arts -- excuse  
6           me, for the Phoenix Heard Museum; and ultimately I have --  
7           for recreation, for years a group of friends and I would  
8           hike Piestewa Peak every -- one -- one night a week after  
9           work. We continue to meet today; although we aren't hiking,  
10          we do continue to meet with this friendship.

11                   I share that with you to let you know over the  
12          years my relationships, my orientation, has been to the  
13          east, to Downtown Phoenix; and as you are -- as -- whenever  
14          I go -- travel internationally, people say, "Where are you  
15          from?", and I say "Phoenix, Arizona."

16                   And I share that with you to let you know those  
17          reasons are the reasons I tell people I am from Arizona --  
18          from Phoenix; and at the same time that's why I ask as you  
19          think about redistricting, think about con- -- orienting  
20          LD-22 to the east.

21                   Appreciate what you're doing. Thanks for being  
22          here.

23                   MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

24                   MS. OCHOA: First, thank you, Madame Chair and to  
25          the Commission.



1           My name is an Sandy Ochoa; I am with  
2           (indiscernible) Ropa, and I am testifying as why the 2021  
3           redistricting process needs to be fair and transparent.

4           How districts are drawn affects every political  
5           issue from the economy to healthcare to public education.  
6           If politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect  
7           the population, you end up with situations where politicians  
8           support policies that the vast majority of people oppose, or  
9           they won't support policies the vast majority of people  
10          support. When politicians or political interests manipulate  
11          maps for personal or political gains, it prevents residents  
12          like me from having our voices heard on all of the policies  
13          that affect us.

14          I want to make sure that the Commission understands  
15          that breaking up communities takes away the community's  
16          ability to come together and advocate for important issues.  
17          When maps are unfairly rigged, you end up seeing districts  
18          that represent special interests and politicians instead of  
19          representing the people.

20          Because of the line -- the timing of the census  
21          data and when the Commission meets, unfortunately the public  
22          has very limited time to view, understand, and comment on  
23          prosper maps. The redistricting process, already an  
24          inherently confusing and complicated process for many  
25          community members. The need to ensure all members of our

1 communities understand and participate is vital.

2 In -- in order for our democracy to function, the  
3 public needs to have a voice in the process. Therefore, I  
4 am asking that this Commission commit to continue outreach  
5 to our communities and ensuring you center our voices as you  
6 decide our political representation for the next ten years.

7 Again, thank you for taking the time to listen to  
8 me today.

9 MS. CRANK: The next three speakers: Sheila  
10 Wickert, Gayle Parish, Ruth Lambert, and the last speaker is  
11 Nancy Palmer.

12 Sheila.

13 MS. WICKERT: Hi. I'm Sheila Wickert; I live in  
14 Glendale in LD-20 and I really appreciate being able to come  
15 here and learn about redistricting.

16 I agree with the goals, the common interest of  
17 keeping the communities the same, and I will be following  
18 the lines that are being drawn.

19 I appreciate the representation that I have in my  
20 LD-20 at this time.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. CRANK: Ruth Lambert.

23 MS. LAMBERT: Oh, I can say good afternoon, I  
24 guess.

25 My name is Ruth Lambert and I did not intend to

1 speak today, but I would really like to reinforce but not  
2 repeat what some of my neighbors have said from northern  
3 Maricopa.

4 I am also from Anthem, I am also a precinct  
5 committee person but I don't go to their meetings. But I am  
6 here because the commonality that we share in northern  
7 Maricopa, being represented by people from Yavapai County  
8 just doesn't work. We're an area that has many, many, many  
9 mixed jurisdictions. To add to that or to maintain the  
10 jurisdiction of legislative district keeping northern  
11 Maricopa with Yavapai is just untenable for residents there.

12 It's within your power to do your best to put our  
13 puzzle piece with areas that would truly show our  
14 commonality.

15 I think there are purple pigs flying around the  
16 building right now because I truly applaud everything that  
17 my neighbors have said here today.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. CRANK: Palmer.

20 DR. PALMER: Hello. I'm Dr. Nancy Palmer; I live  
21 and work in CD-8 with my senior parents in the growing  
22 section of northwest Maricopa County in the city of  
23 Surprise; and I live in 85387.

24 We're kind of a developing area in the sense that  
25 out beyond the 303 loop and out the 60 is a huge growth area

1 right now. They've built about 1,500 of the homes that are  
2 going to be about a 5,000 area group. So this -- what you  
3 guys are going to be able to do for the next ten years is  
4 going to determine -- it's going to incorporate all of these  
5 new people, the families, the new schools that are being  
6 built out there. The fact that it's being split between  
7 Dysart and Attiburg (phonetic).

8 There's a lot going on. I know the people of  
9 Surprise voted down a school extension on the money, which  
10 meant that we're not going to be able to build right away  
11 some of the schools that they actually have land set aside  
12 in these communities to actually build the schools. So  
13 that's going to be a financial and community of interest  
14 issue as those of us who work out there, live out there, all  
15 the kids in our neighborhood, the parks being built, the  
16 fact that we have very little, I'll say, retail for lack of  
17 a better word; but we don't have a lot of support services  
18 out that way; grocery stores, places to shop. They are  
19 building things like churches.

20 And we all kind of go back to the east. We stretch  
21 all the way from New River, which I totally agree we think  
22 we should give up the northwest end of -- of our CD-8  
23 section because I think it fits better with those who are to  
24 the east of us than to the north; and we go all the way  
25 south to Litchfield Park below the 10. That's a huge

1 corridor and it's going to be expanding well out to the west  
2 toward Waddell and Wickenburg as this all gets built out.  
3 The construction out there is just immensely overwhelming.

4 We include everything from agriculture, ranching,  
5 small and large businesses, civic centers and schools,  
6 construction and development, churches, park and recreation  
7 in the north and west; healthcare is one of the largest  
8 employers, as are schools, colleges, community colleges,  
9 government entities, among them Luke Air Force Base. We  
10 have Luke Elementary School in Dysart that we have a lot of  
11 the kids who live around there from people who work at the  
12 Base.

13 My family and friends, we go back to the east as  
14 far as Bell Road and the 83rd corridor for shopping, dining,  
15 recreation, spring training events around the Arrowhead mall  
16 and Paradise shopping area, mostly because we don't really  
17 have anything developed to that extent out in the Surprise  
18 area. There's some little spots out to the west and south  
19 of there that are being developed, but they have a long way  
20 to go to become those kinds of places.

21 When the redistricting last occurred, I think we  
22 were spread way too -- as everybody is kind of talking about  
23 this whole being spread-out thing, you know, LD-22 is -- is  
24 a huge strip that goes all the way out to Surprise. The  
25 people out in Surprise don't really have much in common with

1 the established communities that go from, say, the 303 or  
2 101 out to the I-17, which parts of that are LD-22, and  
3 south here into Glendale as I'm hearing. You know, there's  
4 not a lot of commonality there and we're spread quite a ways  
5 out.

6 So we really would like to have the ability to be  
7 more generous and cohesive within our district. We support  
8 each other; we have, you know, food banks and we do drives  
9 for -- for the people that need things. We like to take  
10 care of those in need within our churches, schools, and  
11 distinctive housing developments, but we've really been  
12 stretched beyond our effectiveness with the design of the  
13 last district maps. So we're looking forward to helping you  
14 all come up with some better things to do.

15 Thank you.

16 (Inaudible.)

17 DR. PALMER: It is.

18 I have a lot of kids in my school that I -- that's  
19 maybe ten miles from my house that I happen to work in an  
20 elementary school in Dysart and I have kids and families  
21 that are from the Base. So maybe not the entire Base but  
22 certainly those who live within our communities rent houses  
23 in our neighborhoods and we teach their kids.

24 (Technical disruption.)

25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you very much.

1           First of all, the Commissioners, we all want to  
2 thank you all for being here and providing us with great  
3 input and insight into your communities.

4           It's important for us to hear directly from you as  
5 we move forward.

6           I just want to make a quick comment on our mapping  
7 tools to make sure, somebody commented that there was a lot  
8 on DavesRedistricting but we also have an opportunity at our  
9 own website for you, and we ask you to go to our website if  
10 you have not already and start looking at that and  
11 potentially drawing your own communities of interest.

12           We've been seeing on our screen, our website, it  
13 has easy-to-use tools for learning and a way for you to  
14 share directly your information about your community of  
15 interest. So rather than relying purely on our  
16 interpretations of your comments today, we encourage you to  
17 go online and submit a map to us, that will ensure we  
18 correctly understand the definition of your community.

19           Please encourage your friends and neighbors to also  
20 share their thoughts. They did not have to attend this  
21 meeting to provide us with input. We want to encourage  
22 people even if they're not attending to give us that  
23 information.

24           Anyone can do that online at any time, there's no  
25 requirements for attending this committee to be heard.

1                   And, with that, I again want to thank you very much  
2 for participating and we will adjourn our meeting.

3                   (Applause.)

4                   (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 12:06 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

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

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

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 6th of August, 2021.

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

\* \* \*

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 6th of August, 2021.

  
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