

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Payson, Arizona

Globe, Arizona

Online via WebEx

August 1, 2021

10:09 a.m.

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
PO Box 513, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
(P) 623-975-7472 (F) 623-975-7462
www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

Reported By (via WebEx):
Angela Furniss Miller, RPR
Certified Reporter (AZ 50127)

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC

This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please consult the accompanying video for the official record of IRC proceedings.

1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 10:09 a.m.
3 on August 1, 2021, at Quality Inn, 801 North Beeline
4 Highway, Payson, Arizona; with a satellite location at
5 Holiday Inn Express, 1890 East Ash Street, Globe, Arizona;
6 and online via WebEx.

7
8 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

9 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
10 Mr. David Mehle
11 Ms. Shereen Lerner

12 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

13 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
14 Mr. Douglas York

15 STAFF PRESENT:

16 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
17 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
18 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
19 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
20 Mr. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
21 Mr. Ryan Regula, Snell & Wilmer
22 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
23 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
24 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics
25 Corp.

PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

26 Mayor Tom Morrissey, Payson, Arizona
27 Ms. Kris Morrissey, Payson, Arizona
28 Ms. Christine Senko, Payson, Arizona
29 Mr. Jesse Bryant, Globe, Arizona
30 Mr. Peter Moravcsik, Payson, Arizona
31 Ms. Karin Clontz, Payson, Arizona
32 Ms. Priscilla Brewer, Payson, Arizona
33 Ms. Teresa Kelleher, Payson, Arizona
34 Mr. Gary Morris, Payson, Arizona
35 Ms. Pam Derks, Payson, Arizona

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 Ms. Jane Evans, Payson, Arizona
3 Mr. Robert Hershberger, Payson, Arizona
4 Ms. Darla Carlisle, Payson, Arizona
5 Ms. Mireille Green, Payson, Arizona
6 Mr. Andy McKinney, Payson, Arizona

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
* American Sign language interpreters, Navajo, and
Spanish interpreters are also present.

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. NEUMANN: Good morning, everyone. Good
4 morning, everyone. Thank you for coming.

5 We are here live in Payson, Arizona.

6 We are live in Payson, Arizona, and we're also
7 being live streamed on WebEx.

8 We are having difficulties with our Globe location;
9 we do want to recognize that they will be able to at some
10 point come back and go onto our website and view this
11 meeting online. If they do come back online, we'll let
12 everyone know.

13 At this point I'd like to introduce Mayor Tom
14 Morrissey to say the Pledge of Allegiance for the
15 Independent Redistricting Commission.

16 MAYOR MORRISSEY: Everybody join me in saluting the
17 flag in the greatest nation God ever gave us.

18 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)
19

20 MAYOR MORRISSEY: Thank you.

21 MS. NEUMANN: Madam Chair.

22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Actually, Commissioner Mehl.

23 MS. NEUMANN: I'm sorry, Commissioner Mehl.

24 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I now call the -- this meeting
25 of the listening tour of the Independent Redistricting

1 Commission in order.

2 We would like to remind the public that COVID is
3 still prevalent, we ask that you follow the Arizona
4 Department of Health's guidelines; if you're not fully
5 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in a public space.

6 If you'd like to participate through home, each of
7 these meetings is being streamed through WebEx.

8 Please note, if you would like to make a public
9 comment, you can do so by signing in with staff and filling
10 out the public comment card and that would be signing in in
11 the back there.

12 If you haven't already done so, please fill out the
13 community of interest survey. There's a QR code on signs at
14 the sign-in desk and on the public comment cards that will
15 direct you to the link. Please see a member of the staff if
16 you have any questions on that.

17 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
18 joining us virtually and we have interpreters and headsets
19 available for those in attendance; we also have a
20 transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting.

21 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear
22 record of your input.

23 Will the interpreter in attendance introduce
24 themselves now.

25 ASL INTERPRETER: (Technical/audio disruption.)

1 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Blanch Oakland interpreting
2 for Latinos.

3 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And at this time we'll
4 introduce ourselves.

5 I'm David Mehl; I was a Republican appointee for
6 the Redistricting Commission, and I'm from Tucson, Arizona.

7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Good morning, everybody.
8 It's great to see you all here, it's very nice to be back in
9 Payson.

10 My name is Shereen Lerner; I'm one of the Democrat
11 appointees, and I'm from Maricopa County.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hi, everyone. My name is
13 Erika Neuberg, I'm the Independent chair of the Commission
14 and I live in Chandler, from Maricopa County.

15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And our two Commissioners are
16 here virtually, and I'll let them introduce themselves.

17 Derrick.

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yes. Thank you, Commissioner
19 Mehl.

20 And good morning, everyone. I am Derrick Watchman,
21 the Vice Chair of the Commission; I represent Apache County,
22 and I'm the Democratic appointee to the Commission.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER YORK: Good morning, Payson. My name
25 is Doug York; I'm a Republican representative from Maricopa

1 County for the Commission.

2 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And we really appreciate your
3 being here and the feedback that we'll get this morning.
4 It's critical for us in our moving forward and doing our job
5 well.

6 So at this time we'll move to Agenda Item II, a
7 presentation of the process we're embarking on.

8 And first is a representative from our legal team
9 to start that presentation.

10 MR. REGULA: Good morning, everyone.

11 Good morning, everyone. My name is Ryan Regula,
12 I'm from the law firm of Snell & Wilmer; I'm joined by my
13 colleague Shawn Summers the law firm of Ballard Spahr. Our
14 firms represent the Independent Redistricting Commission.

15 Can you guys hear me okay?

16 (Chorus of noes.)

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold it really closely.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold it close to your mouth.

19 MR. REGULA: Oh. Got it.

20 Okay. I'm going to project. My -- I was told that
21 the mic is only for the WebEx, so I'll project.

22 I'll start again. Good morning, everyone. Happy
23 Sunday. My name is Ryan Regula; I'm from the law firm of
24 Snell & Wilmer; I'm joined by my colleague, Shawn Summers of
25 the law firm of Ballard Spahr. Our firms represent the

1 Independent Redistricting Commission.

2 As mentioned, we'll be doing a little bit of a
3 presentation. Point of the presentation is to inform you
4 who the Independent Redistricting Commission is, what they
5 do, and a little bit about the process as well.

6 So good place to start is always the
7 U.S. Constitution. U.S. Constitution requires regular
8 reapportionment of congressional districts but states are
9 responsible for creating their own maps. Every ten years a
10 new redistricting occurs.

11 Historically from 1912 to 2000 -- historically from
12 1912 to 2000, Arizona's legislature controlled
13 redistricting; then based upon an initiative passed by the
14 voters, the Arizona Constitution was amended and control of
15 redistricting was given to an independent commission.

16 Based upon Article IV of the Arizona Constitution,
17 five members are required of the Independent Redistricting
18 Commission; no more than two of those members may be from a
19 specific individual political party, thus there are two
20 Republicans, two Democrats and one Independent. Erika
21 Neuberg who is the Chair and an Independent; and two
22 Democrats, Derrick Watchman and Shereen Lerner; and two
23 Republican, David Mehl and Douglas York, all of whom have
24 introduced themselves to you this morning.

25 According to Article IV of the Arizona

1 Constitution, there are six goals of redistricting. First,
2 districts shall comply with the U.S. Constitution and the
3 U.S. Voting Rights Act.

4 Second, congressional districts shall have equal
5 population to the extent practicable, and state legislative
6 districts shall have equal population to the extent
7 practicable.

8 Third, districts shall be geographically compact
9 and contiguous to the extent practicable.

10 Fourth, district boundaries shall respect communities
11 of interest to the extent practicable.

12 Fifth, to the extent practicable district lines
13 shall use geographical features such as city, town and
14 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

15 Six and finally, to the extent practicable,
16 competitive districts shall be favored where to do so would
17 create no significant detriment to the other goals.

18 Of those six goals we are here this morning to
19 retain your comments regarding that the goal of district
20 boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the
21 extent practicable.

22 Now a little bit about the timeline. From July to
23 August we'll be conducting what we're doing here this
24 morning, which is a listening tour; then in August the
25 census data will be released and processed, currently we do

1 not have that data yet; then in September a grid map will be
2 drawn and adopted.

3 It's important for you to know that each
4 Independent Redistricting Commission starts from scratch.
5 Thus, the old district lines are wiped away and the grid map
6 only reflects two of the six criteria the Commissioners are
7 required to consider: One, equal population; and two,
8 compact and contiguousness.

9 The Commissioners then modify the grid maps to
10 account for the other four criteria I highlighted earlier,
11 including respect for communities of interest. The
12 Commissioners then modify the grid maps to account for those
13 four criteria.

14 Then in September to October, possible map drafts
15 are developed and eventually an official draft map is
16 adopted; from October to November there's a minimum 30-day
17 public comment period on the official draft map; and then
18 finally from December to the project end, there will be
19 revisions to draft maps and the adoption of a final map
20 plan.

21 Regarding public involvement, which is what we're
22 doing here today, there are three specific types of public
23 involvement that you should be aware of.

24 The first is this morning, communities of interest,
25 where we're looking for information -- and that will be

1 discussed more a little later in the presentation -- for
2 what geographic areas or neighborhoods should be considered
3 in drawing a draft map; in other words, we're soliciting
4 your comments.

5 A second way for you to be involved is the
6 Commission meetings which are open to the public. There you
7 can submit public comments at IRC.AZ.gov/public-meetings.

8 And third and finally, input on draft maps, you can
9 submit proposed draft maps and comments on in-progress draft
10 maps prior to the IRC selection of official draft map. You
11 can submit proposed revisions and comments after the IRC
12 selection of an official draft map, and you can submit
13 comments on near-final maps.

14 And, with that, I will pass the baton to Mark.

15 MR. FLAHAN: Good morning, everyone. Can you hear
16 me in the back okay?

17 Perfect. My name is Mark Flahan; I'm with Timmons
18 Group. With me today are my team, I have Ivy Beller
19 Sakansky right next to me, she is our demographer from NDC,
20 and then I also have Parker Bradshaw over there for Timmons
21 Group.

22 Today I want to talk to you guys about a couple of
23 the empowerment tools that we are putting in your hands as
24 citizens.

25 First one is a socioeconomic report. It's an

1 interactive website with geographic and socioeconomic data,
2 and we'll talk about it a little more on the next slide.

3 The next two mapping tools that we have is the
4 community of interest survey. You probably saw a couple of
5 QR codes when you came in today, and if you scan that with
6 your phone that will allow you to bring up the community of
7 interest survey live on your phone; or you can go home today
8 and do it on your computer. It actually allows you to draw
9 your own community of interest on a map and we'll talk that
10 a little later too.

11 The third tool that we have is the redistricting
12 system, it will allow you to draw and submit proposed map
13 changes; and it is currently in progress and getting set up.

14 The first tool that we have is the socioeconomic
15 report. It has 14 different demographic data points for the
16 entire state of Arizona. This is a web app that's available
17 to you 24/7 online, you can get it to from the IRC's
18 website.

19 You see one acronym -- acronym up there, that is
20 "CVAP." That's citizen voting age population.

21 And then on top of that we have some other
22 demographics such as rental housing, other language at home,
23 education, et cetera.

24 The tool that we have that we're using today is our
25 community of interest survey. You can see on the right side

1 is the community boundary map. This allows you to actually
2 go on and draw your own community of interest right on the
3 map, and this is the most accurate way for us to represent
4 your comments that you can get back to us.

5 I'm going to turn it over to Ivy who is actually
6 going to talk to you about what is a community of interest.

7 MS. SAKANSKY: Thank you, Mark.

8 So, what is a community of interest?

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

16 As you think about your community, think about the
17 points, the factors that Mark listed on the community survey
18 which says: Think about you and your neighbors, do you have
19 similar jobs? Do you rely on similar public services?
20 Belong to the same neighborhood associations? Are you
21 impacted by some regional environmental concern? Is your
22 community defined by similar regional land-use issues,
23 transit concerns, languages spoken, community celebrations
24 or traditions or other similar issues or characteristics?

25 Any of these characteristics could define a

1 community of interest.

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

6 How do you define your community of interest?

7 Using the various tools that Mark has described and
8 in your testimony today, we want to hear: What brings your
9 community of interest together?

10 We want to hear from you today with what brings
11 your community of interest together and what are your
12 community's geographic boundaries?

13 Remember, the Commissioners can incorporate your
14 community into their maps only if you let us know where your
15 community is on the map.

16 Thank you for being here today. Now, I will turn
17 this back over to the Commission staff to begin taking your
18 comments.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Before we move on to Agenda III
20 where we will hear your comments, we'll have staff read the
21 rules of the meeting today.

22 MS. NEUMANN: And we also I want to notate, we have
23 Globe online, so they'll be able to hear us and we can see
24 them.

25 So citizens can only speak when recognized by the

1 Chair or presiding officer of the meeting if the Chair is
2 absent or otherwise delegated hearing administration
3 authority.

4 In compliance with Arizona's opening meeting law,
5 speakers should confine their statement to the issue on the
6 posted agenda which is before the Commission. Speakers are
7 also requested to limit their comments to approximately
8 three minutes.

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

14 Any breach of the peace or disruption of the
15 Commission public hearing may be cause of report to law
16 enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

17 If someone has expressed the same sentiment, you do
18 not need to speak in order to have your comment recorded.
19 As long as you have filled out the survey, your input will
20 be received and considered by the Commission.

21 Everybody is welcome to speak should you choose to
22 do so.

23 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
24 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to
25 address their comments to the chair and the Commission and

1 not to the audience present.

2 Please show respect for all speakers and avoid
3 personal comments.

4 Remember, the Commission must hear all sides of an
5 issue to make an informed decision.

6 Back to Commissioner Mehl.

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: We will now begin the public
8 comment portion.

9 And will staff read the names of the first speaker
10 and the next speaker that will be in the queue.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. NEUMANN: Our first speaker is Mayor Tom
13 Morrissey, followed by Kris Morrissey; and immediately
14 following that Christine Senko.

15 MAYOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
16 fellow Commissioners for doing the right thing by traveling
17 the state to listen to the people about redistricting; and
18 I'm certain that you're getting an ear full.

19 Let me say, I'm not used to reading. I usually
20 just spout, but.

21 My name is Tom Morrissey and I am the Mayor of
22 Payson; I lived in Phoenix for 25 years and have been living
23 here in Payson for almost 6 years.

24 I have a clear understanding of the difference
25 between urban and rural living, and the difference is like

1 night and day.

2 Both have challenges that require specific
3 representation and, in my opinion, that can only be driven
4 by areas of common interest and not be political strategy.
5 And I emphasize that.

6 For example, rural areas in many cases depend on
7 mining, ranching, farming, and tourism as their economic
8 foundation. There is a commonality present that does not
9 exist in larger communities such as Phoenix and Tucson.

10 The last time the lines were drawn, it was very
11 clear that in some instances they were drawn to serve
12 political purposes and not community interests.

13 This is -- this is wrong and caused great confusion
14 and inadequate representation of the people of Arizona. Now
15 we have a chance to learn from those mistakes -- what I
16 consider mistakes -- by drawing those lines according to the
17 components of the Arizona regulation governing
18 redistricting.

19 They are: The U.S. Constitution and the Voting
20 Rights Act as has been previously stated, which covers all
21 the people and not a certain political and -- not certain
22 political special -- and special interest.

23 Composed of equal population. Yeah, in a
24 contiguous and compact manner, not a gerrymandered pattern
25 by Congressional District 1, which clearly serves only a

1 political master.

2 It's my opinion.

3 By reflecting communities of interests, not special
4 interest alone.

5 I realize I'm being redundant in certain cases,
6 but.

7 District lines follow natural boundaries that
8 respect school districts and county lines. For example, the
9 Gila County seat should not be separated from the rest of
10 the county; we should keep tribal communities together as
11 stated in federal laws; and we should look at competitive
12 districts only if it is not at the expense of the other five
13 components of the law.

14 This Commission has a responsibility to place the
15 ship of state back on an even keel, and with that
16 responsibility comes an opportunity to return equal power to
17 the people of this state and, by example, possibly to the
18 rest of the nation.

19 I'm almost done.

20 Now, I'm going to pontificate for just a second.
21 Our founders' vision for legislators was for them to come
22 from the community, serve in the legislation, and then
23 return to the community and not make their terms in office a
24 lifetime but rather a short period of their lives. This
25 country belongs to the people, not to the elected.

1 Thank you for allowing me to share my views with
2 you at this time; I greatly appreciate it.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. NEUMANN: Next we have Kris Morrissey, followed
7 by Christine Senko.

8 MS. MORRISSEY: Okay. You probably caught the
9 significance of the same last name, so. Try not to use that
10 against me, if at all possible.

11 Good morning, Madam Chair and the rest of the
12 Commissioners. Thank you for scheduling a listening tour
13 for the rural parts of the state.

14 My name is Kris Morrissey and my personal
15 perspective comes in having lived in Arizona for 26 years, 6
16 here in Payson.

17 I spent the last year and a half in a job that took
18 me from Williams to Window Rock and far south as
19 Miami-Globe. Here's what I learned: Our community
20 interests in northern rural Arizona are primarily focused on
21 forest manager, water resources and rights, and mining.
22 Basically a major forest fire would devastate only living --
23 not only folks living here and vacationing, but also our
24 water resources as well.

25 We have a lifestyle comprised of small communities

1 spread apart by many miles, making our needs regarding
2 public transportation, education, and communication services
3 very different than larger, more urban areas.

4 It was quite a jolt to me to discover that
5 Northern Arizona has poor or no phone or Internet service
6 throughout the area.

7 I think we might have experienced it this morning.

8 This clearly hampers our growth and development.
9 In terms of political representation, I came to realize that
10 this part of our state has been carved into many smaller
11 parts as though we were an afterthought. CD-1, for example,
12 goes from Window Rock to the outskirts of Tucson; no common
13 interest there. You will find parts of CD-4 and then three
14 different LDs in Northern Arizona in a fragmented
15 representation.

16 Our residents see themselves divided by the
17 counties they live in, not legislative districts. People
18 assume if they live in a county that's how they are
19 represented to vote; terribly confusing and complicated to
20 try to explain to people.

21 I'm suggesting that you start with northern rural
22 Arizona in terms of drawing state maps. I did not know I
23 can do this, and I will be happy to do it afterwards online.

24 The area geographically is the largest and the
25 easiest to me to draw because you can draw by whole counties

1 and you can get to the population requirement.

2 When looking at legislative lines, I would include
3 the counties of Coconino, Gila, Navajo, Apache, Graham, and
4 Greenlee. Maybe consider moving Flagstaff to a different
5 district since it's also urban. It's the only urban
6 community that we have in this area.

7 I see an easy split between two LDs: Tribal and
8 nontribal. All those counties can be split pretty easily
9 along that line.

10 Also we need to include the Copper Corridor because
11 part of that is Miami-Globe which is in Gila County and part
12 of it is in Superior and Kearny in Pinal County, but have
13 everything in common with our area our -- our -- they're
14 more of our rural area. They fit the rural community
15 interests and needs even though they're partially in Pinal.

16 For CD-1 the complete counties of: Yavapai,
17 Coconino, Gila, Navajo, Apache, Graham, and Greenlee, and
18 Cochise. So I added Yavapai and Cochise. And also include
19 the Copper Corridor, that gives us the necessary population
20 and keeps contiguous rural communities -- counties with
21 community interests well represented.

22 If we can sum this up, rural Arizona needs to be
23 knit together more closely than it has been for the past ten
24 years; we need a strong cohesive voice at the state level;
25 our public education, infrastructure of roadways and

1 transportation requires unique support and consideration.

2 We also need a strong voice especially at the
3 federal level to receive our fair share of support for
4 forest and water management, mining, and reliable
5 communication services.

6 Thank you, Madam Chair and Commissioners. Have a
7 wonderful day and please enjoy our great slice of heaven up
8 here.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. NEUMANN: Next up is Christine Senko, and then
11 we will pass it over to Globe; they have a speaker there.

12 MS. SENKO: Commissioners, my name is Christine
13 Senko; I've been a Payson resident for eight years. I live
14 here, shop here, take classes at the Gila County Community
15 College, and enjoy the summer concerts in the park.

16 You are charged with creating fair and competitive
17 districts while also protecting the voting power of our
18 communities of color; that is a difficult task, and I hope
19 you can find the balance.

20 I consider my community of interest to be all of
21 the voters of Gila County. Gila County is a rural area; we
22 should be aligned together away from the cities, not part of
23 Maricopa, not part of Flagstaff; we should be balanced in --
24 in our political views.

25 When we have noncompetitive districts, the party in

1 power has no incentive to listen to the minority party.
2 When the numbers are completely lopsided as they are in
3 Congressional District 4, the minority party has no voice
4 and no hope of having a voice. Without competition, the
5 quality of candidates on both sides deteriorates. This does
6 not produce good governance; it is bad for everybody.

7 When districts are competitive, however, elected
8 officials don't see their offices as safe or tenured and
9 they must answer to the voters; there's generally an
10 increase in bipartisan governance.

11 Also, when districts are competitive the minority
12 party knows that the next election cycle will bring new
13 opportunities to get their candidate elected. When
14 districts are competitive, every vote matters. That is the
15 strength of our democracy.

16 Arizona is a purple state, neither party has a huge
17 lead over the other and a full one-third of voters are
18 Independents; this makes our state very competitive at the
19 federal level for presidential and U.S. Senate candidates.

20 Let's make our districts purple too and ensure that
21 every vote truly matters in Gila County.

22 Thank you for your time and consideration.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

25 Can I ask a quick follow-up question?

1 You spoke about a community of interest, a minority
2 interest, people of color here. Along those lines, are
3 there specific fundamental needs that are being denied right
4 now amongst that community of interest? And I'm talking
5 about specific needs for that community.

6 MS. SENKO: I'm asking you to maintain their voting
7 power. We have three reservations, Native tribal lands and
8 I -- they -- they are in one -- they are one basic precinct,
9 and they are part of CD-1, which the Mayor has talked about,
10 along with several other tribal lands across several
11 counties.

12 I can't speak to them; they have to speak for
13 themselves, okay. I -- they have enough voting power to be
14 able to elect one of their own, that is key. That is key.
15 They have to retain that, okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. Thank you very
17 much.

18 MS. NEUMANN: Then we will pass it over to Globe
19 for your speaker.

20 MS. CRANK: Can you hear me?

21 Give me a thumbs up if you can hear me.

22 Pro tem chair Mayor -- I mean, Mehl, and members of
23 Commission and listening audience, my name is Michele Crank
24 and I am the public information officer for the Independent
25 Redistricting Commission, and I have one speaker by the name

1 of Jesse Bryant.

2 MR. BRYANT: Commissioners, welcome to Gila County,
3 you're probably tired and seeing of hearing from me.

4 But I just want to welcome you again to our -- our
5 county and our rural area here, kind of the gateway to rural
6 Arizona.

7 And I want to emphasize to you again as you've
8 toured now much of these five eastern counties, how much,
9 you know, I think you heard pretty -- pretty good chorus of
10 voices talking about how we have our communities of interest
11 here.

12 And to emphasize that, just the struggles that we
13 deal with -- water, infrastructure, and so forth -- because
14 we don't have the resources, so we have to be -- we have to
15 come at them in unique ways to address them. So -- so,
16 like, I just learned today about some good friends that have
17 a home at the foot of the mountains where the fire was, and
18 we had due -- due to the rains they had a mudslide that took
19 out -- out their entire ranch and their homes, so those are
20 some of the issue we deal with.

21 Gila County, population of about 60,000 is 60 --
22 I'm sorry, 90 -- 96.3 percent public or tribal land, that
23 means less than 4 percent is private and half that belongs
24 to the mines. So our -- our economic development, our
25 resources to address our issues have to be very unique;

1 and -- and we share this in common with our five eastern
2 counties as well as the copper Corridor and like the
3 Verde Valley as well.

4 Just, again, wanted to bring that to your attention
5 as you hear from others in Payson here.

6 Again, it's unfortunate that this hearing was at
7 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, I know very many people who
8 would have loved to have been here but had church
9 commitments this morning and could not. I hope we get this
10 opportunity again at a more reasonable time.

11 But, again, thank you for being here.

12 MS. CRANK: That is my one and only speaker from
13 Globe. I'll hand it back over to Payson.

14 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you, Globe. Our next speaker
15 is Jose Medina, followed by Peter Mor-av-is-sik -- sorry
16 about that -- and followed by Karen McMackin.

17 MR. MEDINA: Good morning.

18 My name is Jose Angel Medina, but everybody knows
19 me as "Angel," I'm sure.

20 Mayor.

21 Anyway, I'm here to speak mostly from experience
22 and not so much politically, some economics.

23 I was -- I have been a resident of Gila County for
24 50 of my 70 years. I didn't plan on staying in Gila County;
25 I really like Maricopa, but I ended up staying here 'cause I

1 love Gila County; and because of that, I ended up marrying a
2 local gal, my wife there, Louisa, and I got a job at the
3 copper mine starting at Inspiration, moved on to
4 Phelps-Dodge, Cyprus, and now more recently I retired from
5 Freeport-McMoRan. So I kind of brag about being one of the
6 few that has worked every department, every part of the
7 property there, so I've got a lot of experience as far as
8 how the operation goes.

9 Because of my experiences there, they kind of held
10 me back from taking any kind of special supervisory position
11 because I was out in the field all the time, so they liked
12 that. So I got to talk to just about everybody concerning
13 economics and also security.

14 So I guess I'm kind of speaking for the mining
15 industry in a sense -- not officially. But I also have a
16 lot of friends in the Kearny which is the Ray mines, the
17 smelter, the open pit, which dates back to when it was
18 Kennecott; and, because of that, I mix with those people and
19 we shared experiences. We went through strikes together,
20 we -- we shared experiences, you know, our needs in the
21 copper industry as far as the -- the workers are concerned.

22 Because of that, I got a good, a very good, picture
23 of our needs, which right now we are kind of divided as
24 we've been speaking, I would like to report or -- I was
25 going to borrow a transcript from some people, friends of

1 mine, but I don't want to bore you with that 'cause they've
2 already hit that pretty hard.

3 But, anyway, being divided the way we are, it's
4 more than just a physical division, it's a social division.
5 Our small communities are real close knit. Kearny,
6 Winkelman, Superior, Globe, Miami, and even as far down as
7 Claypool, a small little town. We're divided into smaller
8 communities, and because of this division we really don't
9 express to each other our real concerns, which would go into
10 politics, okay.

11 So also I've got so much to say, I don't know how
12 to say it all at one time.

13 But one of the main concerns was I have always
14 experienced a division with Gila County. Like I said,
15 50 years, I still remember the division that was due to a
16 dirt road. It took a dirt road to get people from Payson to
17 Globe to the county seat and back and -- oh. Is that a time
18 limit? I'm sorry. So, okay. Am I there?

19 MS. NEUMANN: Yes.

20 MR. MEDINA: Okay. So, anyway, I'm sorry I took so
21 much time.

22 Thank you very much. You guys have a good day.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. NEUMANN: Next up is Peter Moraskis -- thank

1 you, I'm so sorry -- and then we have Karin Clontz.

2 MR. MORAVCSIK: So, I'm Peter Moravcsik; I live up
3 in Strawberry; I would consider myself part of the greater
4 Payson area as people in Strawberry and Pine pretty much
5 rely on Payson for goods and services.

6 My concern with regard to redistricting is that
7 rural voices don't get combined with more numerous urban
8 voices and drowned out.

9 I'll be brief because some of the point's kind of
10 already been made.

11 But we have issues and concerns that often clash
12 with those of urban centers. For example, we're all aware
13 of the fire danger after the Backbone Fire. We managed our
14 way into excessive fuel load situation through nearly a
15 century of overactive fire management and now need to
16 aggressively manage our way out of it. And, you know, this
17 viewpoint often clashes with those of urban areas. I mean,
18 we need fuel reduction through controlled burns, clearing,
19 logging, et cetera; and urban dwellers who don't live here
20 and don't understand the issues often prefer an approach
21 that leaves things to nature, which just isn't practical
22 once you've already intervened.

23 As another example, we have health and safety
24 issues which sometimes go ignored. There were two large
25 boulders blocking Forest Road 708 which was delaying rescues

1 to injured and stranded hikers and also jeopardizing our
2 banking and even 911 services, because fiberoptic cables
3 serving the community go through that road. It took us
4 literally years to get past outside objections to us getting
5 the two boulders out of there. And as it has already been
6 stated, we rely heavily on extractive industries for jobs;
7 and those industries are often opposed by urban dwellers.

8 So, in conclusion, I just urge all of you to ensure
9 district boundaries are drawn in such a fashion as to ensure
10 representation of our concerns without our voices being
11 diluted to nothing by those living outside the immediate
12 area.

13 They often have contrary views, but they don't have
14 the knowledge base we do and they don't have any health,
15 safety, or job stake in the outcome of the decisions which
16 affect rural life.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speaker is Karin Clontz,
20 followed by Mireille Green.

21 MS. CLONTZ: And thank you for coming and allowing
22 us to have this meeting, it's very important.

23 Most of the things I was going to say has already
24 been said. However, I just want to emphasize one -- one
25 point.

1 In Payson and a lot of Gila County, it's 75 percent
2 retired people. That means there are some of us who have
3 difficulties getting around to -- to voting, polling places,
4 and even just the restaurants. So the one thing that you
5 could do for our community interest here is to make it
6 easier to get to the polling places by keeping them local.

7 Don't let -- let's don't make it more difficult to
8 vote, let's make it easier to vote.

9 Use our common sense. And you as a committee, I'm
10 sure, you know all -- all of these things that I don't know
11 because I haven't lived in this state long enough to really
12 know all of these boundaries, but I do have common sense and
13 I know that your patriotism and your love of this great
14 country is going to make it better for all of us just make
15 it easier to vote.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speaker is Mireille Green
19 followed by Priscilla Brewer.

20 Mireille? No.

21 Okay. Is Mireille here.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

23 MS. NEUMANN: All right. We will -- Priscilla,
24 you're next. Priscilla Green [sic].

25 MS. BREWER: I appreciate you guys are here and

1 you're paying attention to our concerns.

2 My name is Priscilla Brewer; I am Latino; resident
3 of Gila County.

4 And I would like to -- I would like the Commission,
5 please, to follow the six responsibilities of duty described
6 in the law.

7 Many feel that the last committee fail in that
8 major duties without even population distribution and
9 focusing more about competitive criteria over community
10 interest.

11 Gila County and District 6 are rural areas, a
12 common interest that shouldn't have any urban population in
13 it. I moved from Maricopa County to Gila County, and I
14 personally know it is the rural counties carries more
15 complex issues in so many different aspects as follows:

16 Number one, forest land. Wildfire problems
17 especially in summer. Wildlife population increase and
18 decrease, and recreational or emergency access limitation.
19 National forests do not allow for the county tax base.

20 Number two, water issues. Rural counties people
21 live with septic systems and water wells. Ranchers require
22 water supply for their livestock. This is an issue all year
23 around; it's very different from cities and towns.

24 Number three, mining in the Copper Corrida. Mining
25 copper industries in the Globe area created a copper

1 corridor of small communities to the south into Pinal County
2 creating a common community interest. This issue was divide
3 by the last Commission. This should not happen again.

4 That area has a large Hispanic population with
5 common interest and issues that shouldn't be divided,
6 please.

7 I have seen a proposed model that I would like you
8 to take into consideration in the legislature and
9 congressional district as follows:

10 Legislature District No. 6: Coconino, Gila, South
11 Navajo, South Apache, Graham, Greenlee, and Superior.

12 Congressional, I have Yavapai, Coconino, Apache,
13 Apache Navajo, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Cochise.

14 Thank you very much for your time and God bless
15 all.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speaker is Teresa Keller --
18 Kelleher, followed by Gary Morris.

19 MS. KELLEHER: Good morning.

20 Thank you so much for your work, appreciate your
21 studies and working to maintain a balance. I know that your
22 hearts are in the right place, and I appreciate you're
23 working together.

24 Just like to present a few points. They've been
25 said some but I'll say what I've written since I'm prepared.

1 I would just like you please continue to avoid
2 drawing lines that allow certain districts to be convoluted
3 in order to give one party power and to dilute the voting
4 powers over certain communities. Our maps can't be drawn to
5 favor one group over another.

6 And I think has been helped by the Commission, and
7 I just want that to continue.

8 Our bipartisan solutions I think in Arizona are the
9 best. We are a purple state, and so it would be really
10 wonderful to encourage people to work together in a
11 nonpartisan fashion; you all are modeling that and I
12 appreciate it.

13 I would like the diversity of our citizenry to be
14 reflected; and most importantly that we need to follow the
15 Voting Rights Act, it's the law. We want all people to have
16 their votes protected.

17 We have to keep that as our guiding principle, and
18 I know it's tricky to draw the lines, but we have to make
19 sure that people's needs are met and that all of our
20 citizens are represented.

21 I've lived here for six years, about the same
22 amount of time as our Mayor; I've been visiting Payson for
23 30 years. I'm an active community member; I enjoy
24 adventuring where I live and supporting local businesses. I
25 work here part-time; I value our town and our surrounding

1 areas, and I'd like for everyone who lives here to have a
2 voice and for all in rural Arizona to have a voice.

3 I think you've heard lots of good points being made
4 and appreciate your service and please be as nonpartisan as
5 you can; we have to find common ground.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speaker is Gary Morris,
10 followed by Pam Derks.

11 MR. MORRIS: Madam Chair, Commissioners, thank you
12 very much for the large number of hearings that you've
13 scheduled. I think it's very wise for you to get such a
14 wide input on this important issue.

15 My name is Gary Morris; I've lived in Gila County
16 and Strawberry for -- since 2008. Full disclosure, I'm
17 currently the chairman of the Gila County Republican
18 Committee, and let me state that I wish to -- that
19 Republicans want a fair, honest, and unbiased redistricting
20 process.

21 I participated in the last redistricting meetings a
22 decade ago; I was disappointed in the outcome when the
23 Commission failed to fully adhere to the six duty
24 responsibilities as described earlier; they placed a
25 priority on competitive and not on community interest.

1 I request that the Commission strictly adhere to
2 the defined duties and responsibilities even in the most
3 heated debate, which I'm sure will surely come.

4 Gila County and Legislative District 6 are rural
5 communities. Our law enforcement, fire protection,
6 government structure, tax base and many others are far
7 different than an urban or metropolitan community. We
8 believe that the intrusion of an urban population into
9 legislative or congressional districts will risk overing the
10 needs and interests of rural communities; it's essential
11 that rural communities and districts remain rural.

12 Today in Gila County three different legislative
13 districts dip into the county; we can't have that in the
14 future, it disrupts community interest.

15 Mining and copper are major industries in the Globe
16 area as well as communities south of Globe. Mr. Medina
17 talked a lot about that and that creates a community of
18 interest.

19 Globe, the county seat, nearly got split during the
20 last Commission, but retained its integrity. The Commission
21 then went on to proceed to divide those communities'
22 interests, mining interests south of Globe as was addressed
23 by Mr. Medina.

24 The Copper Corridor is heavily populated by
25 Hispanics as described by Priscilla, creating another

1 community of interest that was split by the previous
2 Commission; that needs to remain intact.

3 As to Congressional District 1, we currently have a
4 significant gerrymandering around Northern Arizona all the
5 way down to the east side to the outskirts of Tucson. We
6 don't want metropolitan population influencing the needs of
7 rural communities.

8 I've reviewed two proposed redistricting
9 models/maps, one for legislative and one for congressional.
10 I won't read those because previous speakers have defined
11 those -- those counties.

12 Got it.

13 So, with that, I'd ask the Commission to seriously
14 consider those proposed models, and I will certainly submit
15 to what I've seen.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speaker is Pam Derks,
19 followed by Jane Evans.

20 MS. DERKS: Hello. Thank you for the opportunity
21 to speak today.

22 My name is Pam Derks and I've lived in Arizona over
23 50 years, four of them here in Payson after we retired.

24 I want to welcome you to Rim Country. I don't know
25 that anybody is welcomed to Rim Country. That is a

1 community of interest.

2 And I'm going to read a little bit here.

3 Mogollon Rim dominates our life both below and on
4 top of the Rim, the first thing you notice is the views of
5 the Rim which are majestic, especially when there's snow.
6 The rim can affect our weather; it attracts many visitors.
7 They come here to visit our rural lifestyle, for the forest,
8 the lakes, the wildlife, hiking, camping, and the quietness:
9 To get away from the metro, the urban's life. This is
10 definitely a community of interest.

11 Living in our rural area has some realities that
12 you may not think of if you live in a metro area, and I'm
13 going to give you a few.

14 You are at least an hour away to any major place:
15 Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff; you must think of medical
16 evacuation by air, that was one of the first wake-up calls
17 for me; living in a forest you're actively aware of wildfire
18 and the threat it poses to you and your family. There are
19 three highways out of Payson, because of fires this last
20 season, two out of those three highways were closed. That
21 was very distressing at that time.

22 Most areas of the country has Internet redundancy,
23 Rim Country does not. Think about that. We call that the
24 dead end of the Internet. Yes, if the one line into our
25 community that somebody else spoke about is cut or broken,

1 we do not have Internet until that line is repaired, it
2 effectively shuts down our commerce. An outage of the one
3 line can lasts hours and hours; days.

4 This includes your mobile phone access. So just
5 think of having no Internet and no mobile phone.

6 As you can see, some of our concerns are not the
7 same as those in a metro area. I ask that you please keep
8 our royal -- rural voice intact.

9 In the last redistricting, Gila County were divided
10 into two congressional and three legislative districts.
11 Counties are a community of interest that predates the
12 founding of our nation and state. For example, 14 of the 15
13 were created before Arizona become a state; the 15th county,
14 La Paz, was created by the demand of the residents to be
15 independent of Yuma County, that speaks of a community of
16 interest to me.

17 So to keep us in a compact district, we belong in a
18 rural district with the Eastern Arizona rural counties.
19 Please do not discount the value of rural counties. Please
20 don't dilute our rural voice by splitting the rural counties
21 in different districts and treating us as a suburb of the
22 larger cities.

23 Thank you so much for listening.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. NEUMANN: The next speaker is Jane Evans,

1 followed by Robert Hershberger.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a -- can I ask a
3 follow-up question?

4 Maybe you'd like to share a little bit more about
5 Rim Country, what -- what those boundaries are, so that we,
6 you know, can -- can make sure we're understanding exactly
7 what you're referring to.

8 MS. DERKS: Payson as they call it -- Payson is the
9 center, and there's a lot of rural communities out, if you
10 get out on the forest roads, they're all below the rim. So
11 when you see the rim, the flat -- the flat peak up here,
12 there's on top of the rim, and I was driving up on the rim
13 last -- yesterday, and I noticed up on top they call it Rim
14 Country up there as well, even though Payson kind of calls
15 it Rim Country down below; and because of the rim, it also
16 affects our weather.

17 But the rim goes all the way to, like, near
18 Show Low. So Rim Country is very wide, it's the
19 Mogollon Rim, and it even -- I've even seen it referred to
20 over near the Verde Valley.

21 Did I get -- was there any -- so it goes all the
22 way from Verde Valley all the way to the eastern part of our
23 state near Show Low.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. So up to the 260?

25 MS. DERKS: Well, the 260 will take you towards

1 Show Low and the 260 will take you over to Camp Verde. So,
2 yeah, it's kind of -- that's the corridor, that highway.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Yeah, first, I would like to thank
5 Erika Neuberg and the rest of the Redistricting Committee
6 for coming up here and scheduling these public hearings.

7 Rural Arizona often feels overpowered by the
8 Maricopa and Pinal and the rest of the urban centers, so we
9 appreciate you coming to listen to us.

10 My name is Jane Evans. I live here -- I'm an
11 Arizona native, I've lived here in Payson for 12 years,
12 before that I lived down in the Valley.

13 Ten years ago, as people have talked about before,
14 our county was split into three legislative districts and
15 two CDs. So when we have a -- an election, we have county
16 candidates, we have LD-6 candidates, we have LD-8
17 candidates, we have CD-1 candidates, and we have CD-4
18 candidates all running in Gila County.

19 It creates confusion, it's very, you know, hard for
20 people to understand, and we really need to get our county
21 back together.

22 The average person is just left scratching their
23 head.

24 Our community of interest is our county and it
25 needs to be put back together. We help each other in time

1 of need. For instance, this last fire season we all helped
2 each other with evacuations in one thing or another; we do
3 have a lot of common interests, and we love our county and
4 we love our rural way of life.

5 In Northeastern Arizona our critical issues are:
6 forestry, water, ranching, tourism, and mining. These are
7 completely different from issues in those urban centers.

8 Right now CD-4 incorporates part of Pinal County,
9 part of Maricopa County, and part of Yuma County as well as
10 some of the northern counties; I see little of community of
11 interest. Certainly, Yuma, a border farming community, does
12 not have a district that has little in common with forest
13 management and the wildfire and issues we have up here in
14 Northern Arizona.

15 Following the natural boundaries and reflecting
16 communities of interest is mandated. Gila County should be
17 aligned with the rural counties of Graham, Greenlee,
18 Southern Navajo, Southern Apache, and Coconino, and the
19 Copper Corridor of Pinal County.

20 I urge you to respect our communities of interest
21 and reunite us.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. NEUMANN: The next speaker is Robert
25 Hershberger, followed by Darla Carlisle.

1 MR. HERSHBERGER: Yes, to the Commission, I really
2 appreciate your community and public service in this regard.

3 Excuse me.

4 I appreciate your community service and public
5 service serving on this Commission; I know it's a tough
6 task, and I support you in every way. So, thank you so
7 much.

8 I would like to echo a little bit what Chris Senko
9 said, one of the first speakers, that it is -- it's
10 important that we don't create districts where candidates
11 select their districts and move to it in order to win an
12 election. It shouldn't be so firmly in one political camp
13 that you end up having outside politicians come in to the
14 district and win in the district against local politicians.

15 I think that's something that you should consider
16 very much in -- in the redistricting process.

17 I think pretty much the rest of the things that
18 have been said.

19 I do consider the Rim Country and all of
20 Gila County and the forestry, the mining, and those -- the
21 cattle interest -- interests are kind of common, they're
22 rural interests, and they should be kept together.

23 So I do appreciate your coming.

24 Thank you so much.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. NEUMANN: And our final three speakers are
2 Darla Carlisle, Mireille Green, and Andy McKinney.

3 MS. CARLISLE: Good morning, Madam Neuberg
4 Chairwoman and Committee members. Thank you for letting me
5 speak regarding this important subject.

6 A key part of our area is tribal communities. I
7 feel the tribal should be contained in the Legislative
8 District 7, this area would be Cochina, Gila, Navajo, and
9 Apache counties. Legislative District 6 would be the
10 nontribal areas, which will be the counties of Coconino,
11 Gila, Southern Apache, Southern Navajo, Graham and Greenlee;
12 it should also include the Copper Corridor of Superior,
13 Kearny, and Globe.

14 Regarding the congressional district, the current
15 area contains most -- the most manipulated part of the
16 state, running from Window Rock to the outskirts of Tucson;
17 the rural areas have been chopped in too many parts.

18 I'm advocating for combining the rural parts of the
19 state running from Cochina, Yavapai, Gila, Navajo, Apache,
20 Greenlee, Graham, and Cochise. All of these counties are
21 similar in issues and in needs: forestry, water,
22 preservation of our land, education, and public
23 transportation.

24 I'm a child advocate; I have taught school for
25 30-plus years in all types of settings. The rural schools

1 need our representation. They have different needs from the
2 curriculum to sports, et cetera. Our children deserve the
3 same education that they can get in a large city. It can be
4 done, it just needs a lot of brainstorming and
5 representation.

6 My granddaughter plays volleyball for a large
7 school in Phoenix; she has several schools across the USA
8 coming for her offering her scholarship; she has wide
9 exposure. A girl in Payson a couple of years ago who is
10 6'3" and a fabulous player did not get any offers; I felt
11 really bad for her.

12 Our schools up here need to be competitive when
13 something like this happens; our students should be equally
14 prepared to go to college as the students are in a large
15 school.

16 We need to keep our county seat of Globe in our
17 district as it is similar to Payson. It is extremely
18 important to keep rural areas together, then we can have
19 equal population, natural boundaries, a community of
20 interest, contiguous and compact districts; it will follow
21 the constitution and Voting Rights Act.

22 In my proposal no county would be divided, we would
23 not be dominated by Phoenix or Tucson which have very little
24 in common with us.

25 I truly love Arizona and the people here. I hope

1 you will consider my request, and we can be the best that we
2 can.

3 Appreciate the opportunity to speak with you,
4 Madam Chair Neumann [sic] and your committee.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. NEUMANN: Next speaker is Mireille Green, and
8 our final speaker will be Andy McKinney.

9 MS. GREEN: I apologize for that.

10 Good morning, Commissioners -- sorry. (Inaudible)
11 sometimes.

12 Madam Chair, appreciate the opportunity to speak
13 here today.

14 This is a very important project, the
15 redistricting, the redistricting the lines and all of that.
16 I understand how difficult this must be for all of you.

17 I've a newcomer to this area, and I heard some
18 folks talk about purple state. Well, I guess I am a purple
19 midget because the podium is as big as I am; and I'm an
20 Independent, so I must be purple.

21 It's not a question of party lines at all. It's
22 not a political issue.

23 I'm a newcomer in the area. I chose Payson because
24 my children and grandchildren live down there in the Valley,
25 but I prefer a more rural area.

1 The first thing -- oh, well, maybe not the first, I
2 think I opened my accounts first. One of the thing I did
3 when I got here was change my voter registration to the
4 district. As an immigrant I think that -- well, not I
5 think, I believe. I strongly believe. That the right to
6 vote was the most important right that was granted when I
7 became a citizen.

8 And, by golly, I am going to defend my vote, and
9 I'm going to defend my voice, and I'm going to be heard as
10 long as I can stand up.

11 But I was very surprised to realize that our rural
12 district is actually not totally representative of our rural
13 area. Living in a rural area is presenting some different
14 challenges than it does when you are living in the city.

15 By the same token the people who are in the more
16 urban area of our district, they deserve to have our votes
17 not impede their needs. We don't have the same need, it's
18 that simple.

19 It's therefore important that the districts be
20 homogeneous, and by that I don't mean we should vote the
21 same, God forbid, it would be so boring; we need to take
22 into consideration the need of the communities first and
23 foremost.

24 A rural district needs to have boundaries as much
25 as it is possible that include counties and towns with

1 similar concerns. Some of the concerns: Forest management,
2 well, I don't know anything about it so I'm not going to
3 school you on that, but I understand this is a major, major
4 problem around here.

5 I know a little bit more about schools. Schools in
6 a rural area we know have a larger number of students or
7 children in low-income households. We also know that few of
8 our students will continue on to college.

9 I'm sorry?

10 MS. NEUMANN: Time.

11 MS. GREEN: It's my time?

12 MS. NEUMANN: Yes.

13 MS. GREEN: Oh, my God.

14 (Laughter.)

15 Well, we need unique solutions -- I will wrap it
16 up.

17 We need unique solutions for problems which are
18 different from theirs. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen,
19 for listening to us, and I hope you will give our concern
20 some considerations.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. NEUMANN: And our final speaker today is Andy
24 McKinney.

25 MR. McKINNEY: Chairman, I would thank you for

1 coming all the way up here to hear us today, as it's very
2 refreshing and in a clear distinction from the previous
3 panel ten years ago. So, thank you very much.

4 I would like speak specifically to the issues of
5 Gila County.

6 We are small in population. There are less --
7 there are less people in Gila County than there are in
8 probably in a two- or three-mile area in Maricopa, there's
9 less than 60,000 of us, so there's not very many of us. And
10 we're also poor. Gila County is the third poorest county in
11 Arizona.

12 When -- when Peter up in Pine or when Angel down in
13 Miami or me in Star Valley needs the assistance of the
14 sheriff, we all call the same sheriff. But the sheriff's
15 revenue base in Gila County is three and a half percent of
16 the surface area of the county, all of the rest is owned
17 either by tribal entities or by the federal government and
18 we're not allowed to tax that.

19 So when we call the sheriff, Peter lives way up in
20 Pine, two -- two and a half miles -- or two and a half hours
21 from Globe; we have people in Young, two hours from Globe,
22 that the -- the county seat; and the sheriff because he
23 doesn't have enough deputies, he doesn't have enough trucks,
24 he doesn't have enough cars, and because our -- our cable
25 system is so defective, who knows when a sheriff is going to

1 be out there to -- to help him.

2 And then the previous board made this even worse,
3 he divided right through -- right kind of at a naval of Gila
4 County. The top half is one in congressional district and
5 one legislative district, the other half of the county down
6 in where the county seat is in a different legislative
7 district and a different congressional district; and to make
8 matters even worse, the previous board saw fit to reach into
9 a specific neighborhood down by the -- down by the Roosevelt
10 Dam and grab that neighborhood, tear it out of Gila County,
11 and put it into a third legislative district.

12 Now where's the community of interest there?

13 When I call the sheriff and I live in that splot
14 that they ripped out -- well, thank you very much.

15 For the record, I am -- I live in Star Valley, town
16 of less than 3,000, I'm the Vice Mayor there, I'm also an
17 official in the local Republican party.

18 So thank you for your time.

19 (Applause.)

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On behalf of all of our -- my
21 fellow Commissioners, we want to thank you today.

22 You don't know how valuable this input is to us; we
23 are listening very closely, the things that you're saying
24 matter to us. They will be taken into account; we will have
25 tradeoffs and not everyone is going to be happy at the end

1 of the day, but we will listen very closely to the testimony
2 we've heard here and at the other places that -- that we're
3 having hearings, so I want to thank you.

4 As you've also heard earlier in the presentation,
5 on our website we have easy-to-use tools for learning about
6 and sharing information about your community of interest.
7 So rather than relying purely on the testimony today, we --
8 we encourage you to go online and you can even go as far as
9 to submit a draft map that you would like to see but -- or
10 you can just submit a map of your own community of interest
11 as you perceive it.

12 This will ensure that we will correctly understand
13 the -- your definition of your own community.

14 So we encourage you and your friends and neighbors,
15 to share your thoughts through these web tools that didn't
16 exist ten years ago, and that we're really trying to take
17 advantage of to get more input from you.

18 So anyone can do this online anytime, there's no
19 requirement to attend one of these meetings to give us
20 feedback and, again, we want to encourage that to occur.

21 So thank you very much for your testimony today;
22 thank you for taking the time and your interest in this
23 really important endeavor.

24 Thank you.

25 And, with this, we will adjourn the meeting.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(Applause.)

(Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 11:23 a.m.)

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 23rd 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 23rd of August, 2021.



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058