

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Safford, Arizona

Clifton, Arizona

Online via WebEx

August 6, 2021

5:00 p.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 5:00 p.m.
3 on August 6, 2021, at Graham County Assembly Room, 921 West
4 Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, Arizona; with a satellite
5 location at Clifton Courthouse, 253 5th Street, Clifton,
6 Arizona; and online via WebEx.

7
8 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

9 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson

10 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

11 Mr. David Mehle

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 Mr. Shawn Summers, 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, NDC

22 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

23 Mr. Kip Kempton, Safford, Arizona
24 Mr. Chandler McElroy, Safford, Arizona
25 Ms. Patricia Cervantez, Safford, Arizona
Ms. Susan Breen, Clifton, Arizona
Ms. Elizabeth Speds, Safford, Arizona
Ms. Kelly Eller, Safford, Arizona
Mr. Paul David, Safford, Arizona
Mr. Anthony Bejarano, Safford, Arizona
Mr. Jesse Bryant, Safford, Arizona
Mr. Matthew Capalby, Safford, Arizona
Ms. Debbie Hargis, Safford, Arizona
Mr. David Morse, Safford, Arizona

* American Sign language interpreters and Spanish interpreters are also present.

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Good evening, everyone. I
4 think we're going to go ahead and get started now.

5 My name is Lori Van Haren, I am the Deputy Director
6 of the Independent Redistricting Commission. Thank you all
7 for being here tonight.

8 At this point we'd like to welcome Gail Griffin, a
9 representative of the Arizona legislature, to come up and
10 lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, if you could all stand.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Please join me in the pledge to our
12 flag.

13 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)
14

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Representative Griffin.
16 Now, I will turn it over to our Chairwoman Erika
17 Neuberg.

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hello, everyone. It is an
19 incredible honor to be with you here tonight. My name is
20 Erika Neuberg, I am the Independent Chair of the
21 Redistricting Commission.

22 And we will dive right in with Agenda Item No. I,
23 and -- and, by the way, this is I believe it's our 12th
24 public hearing in the last two weeks; they've been
25 remarkably informative, and so we're really looking forward

1 to hearing what you have on your minds, and we'll be taking
2 notes.

3 So, with that, I now call to order the next meeting
4 of the listening tour of the Independent Redistricting
5 Commission.

6 We'd like to remind the public that COVID-19 is
7 still prevalent, and we ask that you follow the Arizona
8 Department of Health guidelines. If you are not fully
9 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in a public space.

10 If you'd like to participate in home, each of these
11 meetings is being streamed through WebEx.

12 Please note that if you would like to make a public
13 comment you may do so by signing in with staff and filling
14 out the public comment card.

15 If you haven't already done so, please fill out the
16 community of interest survey. There's a QR code on signs on
17 the sign-in desk and on the public comment cards that will
18 direct you to the link.

19 Please see a member of staff if you have any
20 questions. This is valuable data, and we really appreciate
21 you taking the time to submit it.

22 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
23 joining us virtually and we have interpreters and headsets
24 available for those in attendance; we also have a
25 transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting.

1 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear
2 record of your input.

3 Will the interpreters in attendance introduce
4 themselves now?

5 ASL INTERPRETER: (Inaudible/technical/audio
6 disruption.)

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. Nobody remotely?
8 Yes?

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. We do.

10 INTERPRETER: Howdy, my name is Xavier Sertivant
11 (phonetic); I'm the translator out here in Greenlee County.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. Anybody else?
14 No?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: I believe we have the ASL
16 interpreters too; I see her.

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Would the
18 American Sign Language interpreter like to introduce him or
19 herself?

20 I don't have a visual.

21 ASL INTERPRETER: Sorry, not sure what happened
22 with the sound, but my name is Tiana (inaudible) and my team
23 today is Tiffany Jones.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Thank you very much.

25 At this time we'll introduce the Commission. As I

1 mentioned, my name is Erika Neuberg; I live in Chandler, so
2 I'm representing Maricopa County along with being the
3 Independent as the Chairwoman.

4 I believe we may have Commissioner Mehl on WebEx.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yes. I'm David Mehl; I'm
6 Commissioner Republican appointed by the Republican party;
7 and I'm from Pima County and glad to be here tonight
8 virtually and thank you all for being here.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you, Commissioner Mehl,
10 for joining us.

11 And, with that, we will now move to Agenda Item
12 No. II, a presentation on the process.

13 First is a presentation from Shawn from our legal
14 team.

15 MR. SUMMERS: Good evening, everyone. My name is
16 Shawn Summers; I'm from the firm Ballard Spahr. I'm one of
17 the Commission's attorneys; I'm joined tonight by my
18 colleague, Brett Johnson, from the firm of Snell & Wilmer,
19 another of the Commission's attorneys.

20 So I'm going to give just a brief presentation and
21 introduction tonight about what the IRC is, what it does,
22 and what we're doing here tonight and what the rest of the
23 process is going to look like.

24 So first let's begin with the constitution. The
25 U.S. Constitution, as you may know, requires the government

1 to carry out a census of the whole country every ten years.
2 Congressional representation is changed every ten years
3 based on that census. The federal government apportions
4 representations between the states, but within each state,
5 each state is responsible for drawing the lines from its own
6 congressional districts and legislative districts.

7 From statehood in 1912 until 2000, Arizona did just
8 about what every other state did at the time and what most
9 states do now, and they had the legislature draw the
10 districts. So they would draw their own legislative
11 districts as well as the congressional districts in the U.S.
12 House of Representatives.

13 That changed in the year 2000 when the Arizona
14 voters passed Proposition 106. Prop 106 amended the Arizona
15 Constitution that would establish an Independent
16 Redistricting Commission that would be chosen every ten
17 years and would draw the lines for the next ten years.

18 Two of the Commissioners from this ten-year cycle
19 have just introduced themselves to you; there are three
20 others.

21 The Constitution requires there be five members on
22 the Commission, no more than two can be from any one
23 political party; and of the original four Republicans and
24 Democrats, no more than two can be from the same county.

25 So as I said, you have Chair Neuberg with you

1 tonight David -- Commissioner Mehl virtually, and there are
2 three other Commissioners as well.

3 The constitution also prescribes six goals -- and
4 this is probably the most important slide of anything I'm
5 going to be talking about tonight.

6 The constitution prescribes six goals for how the
7 Commissioners are supposed to re-draw the districts.

8 First, districts must comply with the
9 U.S. Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act, a
10 federal law that protects minority voting rights.

11 Second, to the extent practicable, both
12 congressional districts and legislative districts should be
13 of equal population.

14 Third, districts should be compact and contiguous
15 to the extent -- extent practicable, meaning they should be
16 compact and touching each other, not spread out in sort of
17 different places; non- -- nonconnected.

18 Fourth, to the extent practicable district lines
19 should respect communities of interest. That's a big part
20 of what we're here today to talk about, to find out from you
21 as members of the public what your communities of interests
22 are, and we'll talk a little bit more about that in just a
23 moment.

24 Fifth, to the extent practicable district lines
25 should follow visible geographic features, city, town and

1 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

2 And then, finally, to the extent practicable
3 competitive districts should be favored where to do so would
4 create no significant detriment to the other five goals.

5 Those are the six criteria the Commissioners will
6 be taking into account as they redraw the lines.

7 And here's the timeline over the next six months or
8 so while these lines are drawn.

9 First in July and August, the Commission is going
10 on the listening tour; that's what we're here now about.
11 This is the first listening tour that the Commission is
12 going on before they have the data and before they draw the
13 maps so that they can get input from the public before they
14 even start.

15 Later this month, mid-August, we're hearing
16 August 12th, the Census Bureau will release the census data.
17 That's later than usual, typically the census data from last
18 year would already be released, but the census was delayed
19 this year -- or this cycle because of COVID so it's coming
20 out a little later than it typically would.

21 In September the Commissioners will draw what's
22 called a grid map. The grid map is not a permanent map or
23 even really a draft; the purpose of the grid map just to
24 wipe away whatever the lines are before. So whatever your
25 districts are now, they're going to be gone. They're not

1 just tweaking; they're starting from scratch, and they're
2 required to do that every ten years.

3 Through September to October, the Commissioners
4 will adjust the grid maps in order to develop draft maps.
5 Those draft maps are then subject to a 30-day mandatory
6 comment period.

7 And then, finally, from December to the end of the
8 project, the Commissioners will do their final revisions of
9 the draft maps and adopt final maps in late December
10 hopefully or early January.

11 So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Mark
12 Flahan, a member of our mapping team, who is going to talk a
13 little bit about informational and empowerment tools that
14 they've put together for you.

15 One more?

16 Oh. Public involvement. I totally missed that
17 one, thank you.

18 So three ways that the public can get involved that
19 I want to highlight for you.

20 First you, can submit public comments. All
21 Commission meetings are open to the public; that's required
22 under Arizona's opening meetings law. So you can go to
23 IRC.AZ.gov/public-meetings and you can watch the
24 Commission's -- Commission's meetings there and also submit
25 public comments.

1 Second, we welcome your initial input on
2 communities of interest. As I said, that's really what
3 we're here tonight to talk about, where geographically are
4 your communities of interest and where are they on the maps
5 so that the Commissioners have them.

6 And, third, input on draft maps sort of before,
7 during, and after the mapping process.

8 You can submit -- you'll soon be able to submit
9 your own draft maps; you'll be able to submit comments
10 online on the maps the Commissioners are working on or
11 considering; and, finally, once the draft maps are adopted,
12 the mandatory 30-day comment period that I mentioned
13 earlier, and you'll be able to comment on the maps as they
14 approach the -- the final version. Even after the
15 Commissioners adopted draft maps, they'll collect those
16 comments, and use those to adjust them to the final maps.

17 So, with that -- sorry for missing that last
18 slide -- I'll turn it over to Mark now.

19 MR. FLAHAN: Thanks, Shawn.

20 My name is Mark Flahan; I'm here with our mapping
21 team from Timmons.

22 I have two other people here with me on my team. I
23 have Ivy Beller Sakansky who is our demographer for NDC; and
24 sitting at the far table over there I have Parker Bradshaw
25 who is our coordinator here for the project.

1 What I want to talk to you about today is three
2 empowerment tools that we have created for you guys to be
3 able to use.

4 The first one is the socioeconomic report. It's an
5 interactive website available 24/7; you can get to it from
6 the IRC's website, there is a link there. It has a bunch of
7 demographic data, and we'll talk about it in the next slide.

8 The other two mapping tools that we have today for
9 you is community of interest survey, which is why we're here
10 today to talk about communities of interests; and what we
11 have is a digital survey that will allow you to actually
12 draw your own community of interest on a map to submit to
13 the Commission.

14 The last mapping tool that we have is our
15 redistricting system; it's currently spinning up, and when
16 it comes live it will allow you to actually draw and submit
17 proposed map changes. So putting that -- all power into
18 your hands.

19 So, first, let's talk about the socioeconomic
20 report. On the right there's a screen grab of it of what it
21 looks like. Like I said, it has demographic data for the
22 entire state of Arizona. There's 14 different demographic
23 points on there, and they are all listed on the screen.

24 You see an acronym up there that says "CVAP,"
25 that's citizen voting age population. And, again, you can

1 get to that from the IRC's website.

2 The second piece that we have currently for you
3 today is the community of interest survey. You probably saw
4 a QR code on the desk when you walked in today. If you were
5 to scan that with your phone, it will take you directly to
6 the survey and allow you to fill it out right now.

7 If you haven't filled one of these out, we do
8 encourage you to go home online and fill it out; it is
9 available 24/7 in your hands.

10 On the right side of the screen there you actually
11 see the boundary map, so this will allow you to draw your
12 own community of interest boundary right on the map to
13 submit to the Commission. And doing so is actually really
14 important, by drawing your own map it ensures we accurately
15 understand your area for your community of interest instead
16 of us trying to interpret what you're telling us today, so I
17 highly encourage you guys to do that.

18 If you already filled out a community of interest
19 survey and you want to give public testimony, let me know
20 and I can actually bring up your community of interest
21 survey area, and we can talk about it directly on the
22 screen.

23 With that being said, I'm going to turn it over to
24 Ivy to talk about exactly what a community of interest is.

25 MS. SAKANSKY: Thanks, Mark.

1 Good evening.

2 So what is a community of interest?

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

10 As you think about your community, think about the
11 various demographic points that -- that Mark had mentioned
12 and the survey in general, which says think about your
13 neighbors: Do you have similar jobs? Do you rely on
14 similar public interests? Belong to the same neighborhood
15 associations? Are you impacted by some regional
16 environmental concern? Is your community defined by similar
17 land-use issue, transit concerns, languages spoken,
18 celebrations or traditions with your community, or other
19 similar issues or characteristics?

20 Any of these characteristics can constitute a
21 community of interest.

22 Next slide.

23 Now, it is your turn.

24 As they travel the state on this listening tour,
25 the Commissioners want to hear from you. What do you want

1 the Commissioners to consider as they draft and ultimately
2 adopt their maps?

3 How do you define your community of interest?

4 Using the various tools that Mark has described and
5 in your testimony today, we want to hear two things: First,
6 what brings your community of interest together; and,
7 secondly, what are your community's geographic boundaries?

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

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

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

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

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

22 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments
23 to approximately three minutes.

24 Additionally, speakers are required to follow
25 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.

1 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated.

2 Any speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any
3 other guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the
4 peace or disruption of the Commission public hearing may be
5 the cause to report to law enforcement, arrest, and
6 prosecution.

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

11 Everyone is welcome to speak should you choose to
12 do so.

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

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

19 Remember, the Commission needs to hear all sides in
20 order to make an informed decision.

21 Thank you. I'll turn it back over to Chairwoman --
22 actually, I'm sorry, we're going to start the public comment
23 section now.

24 And our first speaker is Kip Kempton, followed by
25 Chandler McElroy.

1 MR. KEMPTON: Appreciate the opportunity to be
2 here; and I'm always exited to have Gail Griffin around
3 because she's the only politician that I've ever known in my
4 entire life that responds to my e-mail before I send it.
5 She's very -- she's very good.

6 I -- I filled out the map but, quite frankly, I --
7 filled -- don't pull it up because it's really embarrassing
8 because there's one line.

9 (Laughter.)

10 It -- I grew up in Phoenix area; I've been here --
11 had the Chevy dealership, I've been here since '98 or '97, I
12 can't remember when I came here.

13 I've learned to love and appreciate what rural
14 Arizona offers and the friendships that we've developed even
15 at times when we may disagree; and -- and I would suggest
16 and hope that we can keep this as rural as possible.

17 We have a community that is strong in agriculture,
18 strong in ranches, farms, other side of the mountain, Graham
19 Mountain, we have the vineyards and we love it. We have
20 mining and this town has always been a -- this area has
21 always been a strong supporter of the mines, for the most
22 part, and the mines have created good jobs that have allowed
23 people to live in this area.

24 Not far from here, Cochise County, I know we have
25 national defense, military, aerospace, and that's part of

1 our -- our rural stamp that we have.

2 The colleges, we have the VA College and other
3 colleges, and these colleges have been very good for our
4 community, and our kids go to these colleges once they
5 graduate, and it -- it prepares them for the universities.
6 We have satellite campuses from U of A, ASU, and NAU that
7 have been very supportive of our area.

8 Small businesses have been a very strong and
9 important backbone to our communities, and it's clearly
10 where I -- I put my hat, and -- and I'm a very strong
11 supporter of strong businesses, and I'm grateful for the
12 opportunity this community has offered to my brother and I
13 who have the business to grow a successful business in this
14 beautiful area.

15 We've been always strong supporters of law
16 enforcement. I know we have challenges at the border right
17 now, and we have strong opinions on how that should be
18 handled, and our communities come together in support of
19 making immigration as legal as possible.

20 We don't get involved -- we don't have casinos in
21 our area; we don't have gaming.

22 So I request that this committee remains like it
23 has been in LD-14 for years; and beautiful community,
24 beautiful area and very rural. We always want a chance
25 where we have a fair election and a fair chance of winning

1 from a conservative standpoint.

2 So to sum it up: We want it rural; we want -- we
3 want natural resources, mining, agriculture, farming,
4 ranching; and, of course, Chevy dealerships, we like that in
5 our area too.

6 I appreciate you taking the time. Thank you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our speaker is going to
8 be Chandler McElroy, followed by Patricia Cervantez.

9 MR. McELROY: Hi. My name is Chandler McElroy; and
10 I've been a resident of Arizona since 1961. I'm a retired
11 radiologist technologist, and I retired in both Graham and
12 Greenlee County for the last 24 years and lived previously
13 in Cochise County.

14 I've worked for the state and the medical clinic up
15 in Morenci, and over the years I've gotten -- I've met and
16 gotten to know quite a few residents of the area in three
17 counties. In doing so, I've come to recognize the
18 long-standing ties that people have to the area.

19 They have a lot of commonalities that bind them
20 together such as associations in farming, cattle ranching,
21 state workers, and increasing importance of the mining
22 industry. Think of the five Cs in Arizona, we hit a couple
23 of them right there.

24 One of the important ties certainly is the fact
25 that the families in these three communities are quite often

1 largely interrelated; and I can't overemphasize that fact.

2 It's amazing how many people who are of one name
3 are related to another one somewhere around this area.

4 These -- these times definitely include common
5 racial, religious, and cultural ties and economic ties that
6 constitute a community of interest.

7 In conclusion, I hope you would take into
8 consideration a measure of how -- how to reach a fair
9 redistricting map based on communities of interest factored
10 in.

11 The people I've talked to, we would like to have a
12 map that's fair and equitable. We like the maps that
13 provide elective districts within a 4 percent competitive
14 margin.

15 Please try to put in Greenlee, Graham, and Cochise
16 County inside the same political boundaries.

17 I thank you very much for your time and efforts
18 regarding this matter for your work on the Independent
19 Redistricting Committee.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker will be Patricia Cervantez, and
23 then we're going to send it over to our Clifton site.

24 MS. CERVANTEZ: My name is Patricia Cervantez.

25 I would like to thank the Commissioners for giving

1 our rural community an opportunity to speak.

2 I was born and raised in Safford; I am 68 years
3 old; and I'm a third-generation family in this community.

4 I worked at the Safford School District for ten
5 years and retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons after
6 20 years of employment. My career with the prison system
7 involved clerical work, staffing, training employees to
8 include management staff, overseeing the religious services
9 for inmates, managing internal and outside audits from the
10 American Correctional Association, bilingual Spanish
11 interpreter for the institution inmate hearings, and
12 institution liaison with the legal department in Washington,
13 D.C.

14 Over the years I have been actively involved in
15 various community activities to include: Members of the
16 planning and zoning board, member of the community
17 committees to bring a Boys & Girls Club to Safford, member
18 of the Gila County Alliance Against Substance Abuse, member
19 of parent groups that started the Gila Valley girls softball
20 association for the youth.

21 I am here to ask the Commission to uphold the fair
22 and competitive maps mandated by law. My want is that the
23 communities of Graham County are given the opportunity to
24 elect officials that have their interests in mind and to be
25 represented at all levels of government.

1 Our community needs to have a diverse
2 representation of those that live here.

3 LD-14 has had the same representation from the same
4 party for years. These individuals to me in my opinion
5 monopolize the elected offices, and when their turns are up
6 they run for office by flip-flopping from Senate to House.
7 This is not moving our community forward nor is it covering
8 the device [sic] interest of this community. Having the
9 same individuals for such long periods of time is hindering
10 our voices being heard and our community moving forward
11 because the same incumbents win handedly and keep pushing
12 their personal agendas, instead of reaching out and hearing
13 all the voices in the community.

14 This has kept our community stagnant and allows for
15 them many times to push extreme agendas that are not for
16 everyone.

17 Please, please, take into consideration when
18 drawing the maps how important the competitiveness is to
19 foster good government for all.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

22 If you don't mind, I have a follow-up question and
23 it could be to you or to the broader group.

24 You mentioned that voices are not being heard right
25 now. Can you share more specifically what needs of the

1 people are not being represented?

2 You know, what specifically if they were able to
3 have better representation would they better be able to, you
4 know, ask for?

5 MS. CERVANTEZ: I think that our communities and
6 (inaudible/away from mic) that are born and raised here
7 (inaudible/away from mic) but there are a lot of voices out
8 there -- oh. I'm sorry.

9 I'm going to go to those, the -- the Hispanic
10 community. People of color.

11 Yes, you know, we're -- we're welcome here, but I
12 just think that we need to have more of our voices whether
13 it's -- I see that other districts have a lot of
14 competitiveness between candidates. Here, it seems like we
15 just can't get ourselves -- and when I say "ourselves"
16 people of color -- just can't go forward. We just keep
17 having the same representation over and over; and it
18 involves our schools, it involves what's happening in our
19 community, businesses, bringing more business into the
20 community and just involving all people.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

23 We'll send it over to our Clifton site to go to our
24 next speaker.

25 MS. CRANK: Good evening, Madam Chair Neuberg and

1 Commissioner Mehl, and the listening audience in Safford and
2 also the listening audience that are listening on the WebEx.
3 We come to you from the beautiful little small community of
4 Clifton with one speaker by the name of Susan Breen.

5 MS. BREEN: Hello. Can you hear me?

6 Do I have this right?

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes.

8 MS. BREEN: Okay. It keeps going down. Don't
9 know.

10 What am I doing wrong here?

11 Okay.

12 All right. Okay. Great. Thank you so much.

13 My name is Susan Breen. And thank you,
14 Commissioners, for giving us in this far-flung rural area
15 the cherished opportunity to speak to you today.

16 I'm a retired school psychologist; I have lived in
17 Clifton for 38 years. I'm on the board representing
18 Greenlee for NAMI Southeast Arizona, the board of the
19 Clifton Community Garden, and I volunteer at the Clifton
20 Visitor Center once a week.

21 Greenlee County is my home.

22 I want to talk about a tale of two districts, our
23 U.S. Congressional District CD-1, and our Arizona
24 Legislative District 14. My stats all come from the Arizona
25 Secretary of State's website.

1 I remember when CD-1 was created ten years ago.
2 There were concerns about its large geographical size which
3 is necessary because of the population in rural areas are so
4 small in order for it to be equal to some of the more urban
5 district, and the fact that it included nearly all
6 reservations in the state, so it was thought this would lead
7 to huge Democratic advantage.

8 In fact, CD-has 1 proven to be one of the most
9 competitive districts in the country. Democrats hold just a
10 4-point advantage over Republicans. In the past five
11 congressional elections, a Republican candidate has never
12 received less than 43 percent of the overall vote, with an
13 average share of 46 percent.

14 The competitiveness of CD-1 means candidates are
15 forced to do their homework and be visible in order to be
16 viable. It also ensures that candidates are more moderate
17 as they work to get votes of those swing or occasional
18 voters who may not be as driven to vote.

19 Perhaps most importantly, it assures that those
20 elected are responsive to constituents as they know they
21 will face a tough re-election race in two years.

22 LD-14 on the other hand is not a competitive
23 district. Republicans hold an 18-point voter registration
24 advantage over Democrats. This means that in the entire
25 decade no Democratic candidates has been able to attain even

1 40 percent of the vote no matter how well-known, qualified,
2 organized and/or hardworking he or she is. It means
3 Democratic challengers in our district have had to work
4 their tails off while incumbents have had to do nothing
5 except on a couple of occasions had to face primary
6 opponents who were defeated because they were not
7 extremists.

8 It means Clean Election debates with no incumbents
9 even bothering to show up for the debate.

10 As the impossibility of winning becomes more
11 apparent with each election, it's not surprising that
12 finding candidates of the nondominate party who are even
13 willing to run is an almost impossible challenge.

14 The result is LD-14 has essentially been
15 represented by the same three people for most of the decade
16 who simply switch from the House to the Senate and vice
17 versa when forced to, making a mockery of the term limits
18 law passed in 1992. This lack of competitiveness has also
19 fostered extremism in the dominant party.

20 Finally, there is no need for incumbents to be
21 responsive to voters when they know their re-election is
22 assured.

23 Commissioners, I hope that when you are drawing
24 your maps you will consider the importance of
25 competitiveness in leading to good and fair governance.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. CRANK: (Technical/audio disruption.)

3 MS. VAN HAREN: I think she sent it back to us. So
4 our next speaker is John Howard, followed by Elizabeth
5 Speds.

6 Okay. Our next speaker is Elizabeth Speds,
7 followed by Kelly Eller.

8 MS. SPEDS: Good evening. I've looked forward to
9 this opportunity to speak.

10 I live up in Greenlee County and I'm a school
11 teacher up there currently; my husband is a hospice chaplain
12 who serves Greenlee, Graham, and Cochise Counties; I'm part
13 of the domestic violence task force, as well as sitting with
14 a number of student activities that cross a wide
15 demographic.

16 My students cover every demographic that was listed
17 up there. I'm blessed to have my students tell me that no
18 matter what they see on my face, I understand them because
19 my heart is with them; and that is how I speak.

20 LD-14 currently covers rural Arizona. I formerly
21 lived in Cochise County where I was serving in the military.
22 Up in Graham County we have the largest per capita number of
23 veterans in America; so the two communities are tied very
24 tightly that way, and to have them separated would not be a
25 service to either one.

1 I do quite a bit with the veterans up in
2 Greenlee County.

3 The education aspect has already been spoken to; we
4 have very good opportunities for our youth both in -- up in
5 Greenlee County about 20 percent of our seniors graduate
6 with their associate's degree before they have their high
7 school diploma because of the way the education is set up up
8 there.

9 I really hope that as you are looking at setting
10 our boundaries that you will continue to keep the rural
11 areas together, the ranches, the farms; we have a common
12 interest in our southern border protecting our citizens as
13 they are.

14 And I appreciate this opportunity to speak.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker is Kelly Eller, followed by Paul
17 David.

18 MS. ELLER: Hello and thank you for being here.

19 My name is Kelly Eller and I grew up in
20 Greenlee County and I currently live in Graham County; I'm a
21 second-generation female miner, and so I have a long 17-plus
22 years of working in the mining industry.

23 I'm here today to give you some information about
24 my community of interest. My community works in the
25 agricultural, ranching, some tourism, mining, and small

1 businesses across the southeastern part of Arizona; and many
2 of the people work in the mines and in the agriculture area.

3 We're a very proud community that support each
4 other; very strong family ties, church communities, local
5 school support communities; we're very strong support of
6 those in need.

7 We gather within the Safford, Thatcher, Pima,
8 Clifton, Morenci, Duncan -- you know, all the rural areas
9 and we support -- we have -- sorry. Lost track of my notes
10 here.

11 We're rural and we use mainly our transportation to
12 get our own transportation to get around; we have outdoor
13 recreation with the lakes and the mountains; our ranching
14 communities are strong; we -- we need to continue to have
15 our rural support that's been mentioned with others here.

16 And we need to continue to develop our districts
17 with other rural areas and continue to be able to support
18 each other with the common aspects of our agriculture, our
19 ranching, our mining, and there's areas that do not support
20 that, and I want to make sure that we aren't tied in
21 communities that are.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24 Our next speaker is Paul David, followed by an
25 Anthony Bejarano.

1 MR. DAVID: Good evening, Chairman Neuberg and
2 Commissioners, and those who are online. Thank you for the
3 opportunity to address you.

4 My name is Paul David; I grew up here in Graham
5 County, I serve as a -- I'm a second-term supervisor with
6 Graham County, and I -- before that I worked in
7 transportation as an engineer, and then my father and I had
8 a small business together.

9 I serve on a number of community organizations in
10 the Safford -- and rural Arizona has a great heritage, a
11 legacy of volunteering and helping. Good case in point is
12 the week and a half ago during the monsoons there was a
13 little girl who was swept away and her body was not
14 recovered for three or four days, and there was a terrific
15 outpouring of -- of volunteers both on the reservation and
16 off, the people were supporting the family, business donated
17 food; that is the nature of our rural area.

18 I have two laments, and then I'll go into the
19 things that are positive. One is I lament the fact that the
20 2020 census was -- it appears that the -- it was not that
21 effective in Arizona. We have not picked up any new
22 congressional districts; and I'm concerned -- even though
23 Graham County spent \$40, \$50,000 along with the different
24 municipalities in trying to augment the efforts of the
25 census, I lament the fact that -- I believe that's going to

1 be very disappointing.

2 And, secondly, my other lament is that this issue
3 of redistricting is so complex that we have to hire
4 consultants. I think every -- every county in Arizona will
5 hire consultants in order to guide us through this because
6 it is no longer something that the counties can do
7 themselves, and that is unfortunate and -- and costly.

8 Next, I would like to advocate for the rural nature
9 of our district and how important it is to have the people
10 who share the same kind of experiences, the same kinds of
11 basic values, rural values; have struggled and -- and -- and
12 the same kinds of -- well, their families, and -- and we
13 have the same kinds of challenges.

14 And so I would advocate that having us because of
15 just -- just statistics or -- or looking at pure numbers, to
16 combine us with more of Tucson or with some other urban area
17 would be -- it would move the center of influence out of the
18 counties. We are already a little unbalanced and there were
19 people who alluded to the fact that the largest city in our
20 area in LD-14 is Sierra Vista; we have two of our
21 representatives from Sierra Vista, they have done a fine
22 job, we used to have someone from our area. But in order to
23 succeed in our district in election at the state level,
24 you're going to have to win votes and win the majority of
25 votes in Sierra Vista in order to succeed.

1 So we realize numerically we are probably going to
2 be tied into Sierra Vista; I'm advocating a change, but if
3 we were to be added to Pinal County or Pima County and --
4 and part of our district shifted there because of numbers,
5 that would put us at a real disadvantage.

6 Our -- our areas, our races are at least for county
7 races they are competitive; and from the CD-1, Ms. Green
8 said -- stated well that it's very competitive; and the
9 rural nature, you know, we just -- people are independent,
10 they love to have space, they like to minimal government and
11 that tends to favor an often lot of people who vote with --
12 in a conservative way.

13 Finally, I would just like to in closing make a
14 good case in point why combining us with a large urban area
15 would be a -- would not be a good idea.

16 Using a transportation perspective. Pima
17 Association of Governments, Maricopa Association of
18 Governments realize there's a big difference. They have
19 their own planning for transportation. They have their own
20 fundraising for transportation, and they have a large amount
21 of influence; and what happens there, the rural counties get
22 the rest of the money and -- and what's left over.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: That was your time.

24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

25 And so using that as a case in point,

1 transportation, we are -- we love the rural nature of our
2 area and we would like to keep it that way.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a comment and a
5 question, if -- you know, please don't go away.

6 My comment is that when you say when you're hiring
7 consultants for the counties, my advice: Come to these
8 meetings, you can have a much more direct impact by
9 articulating your voices right here with the Commissioners.

10 In terms of the -- of the rural communities, is --
11 we've been touring the state; we're learning quite a bit
12 about all the rural areas. We're learning about the five
13 Cs. Is there something unique about this particular rural
14 community; or, do you feel that your needs are more generic
15 and you could be aligned with multiple rural communities?

16 MR. DAVID: Well, we are aligned with multiple
17 rural communities; that is the nature of our district. So I
18 would say I -- if -- if they're spread out even more, it
19 will just make it difficult for people who represent them,
20 political politicians, to -- to make the rounds too.
21 Because CD-1, we go all the way to Sedona, northern part --
22 eastern part of the state all the way to the south, and
23 that's a huge district and makes it very difficult for
24 current legislators to campaign and to touch base with all
25 those people.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

2 MR. DAVID: Thank you.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 Our next speakers are Anthony Bejarano, Jesse
5 Bryant, and then Matthew Capalby.

6 MR. BEJARANO: Hello. Can you hear me? It's hard.
7 I'm very honored to testify in front of you all
8 today. Truly, it's really cool.

9 I guess background of me, I live in Thatcher,
10 graduated Thatcher High School, go to Eastern Arizona
11 College. My father worked in public utilities pretty much
12 the past couple of decades. My mother worked in both the
13 school district and works at one of the thrift stores and
14 food banks here in Safford.

15 So, firstly, I just wanted to say I -- I appreciate
16 how last cycle we had very fair and competitive districts.
17 I'm very happy that in each of the elections that I voted in
18 my congressional district, my vote has counted, especially
19 here in Graham County. It's -- Graham County is very
20 lopsided, but it's also matched with a lot of diversity
21 around the part of the congressional district; so I did
22 appreciate that and I hope the Commissioners keep that
23 tradition alive.

24 I just wanted to more specifically say something
25 with Graham County relationship in place with our immediate

1 neighbors around us.

2 First off, I think everyone can agree that Graham
3 County and Greenlee County DNA are linked entirely and
4 completely. My mother, we do live in Thatcher, she was born
5 in Morenci; my grandmother graduated from Morenci High
6 School before the mine tore it down -- I won't say when she
7 graduated; I won't reveal her age.

8 So we have people who live here, work in the mine
9 in Morenci; we have people who live in Morenci and Clifton
10 and Duncan who come here to live part of their lives; we
11 have a lot of shopping here; a lot of family -- families who
12 share two counties, so that's the most important
13 relationship that I think Graham County has.

14 I also believe our next important relationship is
15 with our neighbors to the north and west, frankly, Gila,
16 Navajo, and Apache Counties.

17 First of all, I want to say that our county is
18 one-fourth to one-third Native American, and I have to I
19 guess comment there's not a lot of Native Americans here
20 right now, but that's a very important community in this
21 county, and Graham County shares the tribal lands with Gila
22 and Navajo and Apaches in those two Apache reservations. So
23 those are just completely linked really strong and that --
24 and the Native American community is very important and very
25 attached to the entire county.

1 If you go to Bashas', the local store here and I
2 say you should, you can get nice ice cream and popcorn
3 there. They have Native writing and as well as Spanish and
4 English writing on the walls saying what they're selling
5 it's -- and one of the banks here there's Native symbols.

6 So it's very intertwined.

7 Furthermore, I'm not a member of the Latter Day
8 Saints -- I'm not a Latter Day Saints myself, I grew up in
9 Thatcher, heavily Mormon, so I understand how important
10 those religious ties are. Graham County is one of the most
11 heavily Mormon counties in the entire state, I think that
12 gives strong ties to the heavily Mormon parts of southern --
13 of Central South Apache and Navajo Counties like
14 Springerville and Snowflake and all that.

15 And then so taken together I think Graham County
16 shares those stronger ties -- yeah, to those counties.

17 I'll -- then I'll just swing down south and I will
18 just say -- no offense to our neighbors to the south --
19 Cochise County, truly, that's where the nearest Popeye's is,
20 it's an hour and a half drive there. It's hour and a half
21 drive, but for me, my family, a lot of people I know, our
22 closest connection to Cochise is honestly driving through it
23 to get to Tucson to Wilcox and Benson. And I don't -- I
24 honestly don't remember the last time I was in Sierra Vista,
25 if I've ever been to Sierra Vista; and I first went to the

1 historic part of Tombstone a couple months ago, it's way out
2 of the way.

3 And, like I said, a nearest Popeye's is hour and a
4 half there round trip. Just to get to just that connection
5 is very tenuous in some cases for some people like me.

6 So -- yes. That's all I have to say.

7 Thank you so much.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is Jesse Bryant, followed by
10 Matthew Capalby.

11 MR. BRYANT: Hello. So good to see you again.

12 I'm Jesse Bryant from -- from Globe. I've kind of
13 become one of your deadheads following you all over Arizona
14 here.

15 So, again, I would like to emphasize to you the
16 common -- the community interest of the five eastern
17 counties as was mentioned, the Graham, Greenlee, Gila,
18 Navajo, and Apache.

19 My family, I have family in this Valley, they
20 migrated back in the '40s from -- into Wilcox from Mexico
21 and later on moved here, and my grandfather into Globe, into
22 Winkelman which is the Copper Corridor.

23 So I think mainly the people here in this valley
24 who shares that -- that we have family throughout Eastern
25 Arizona for the various reasons, occupational and otherwise.

1 And even before the communities were here, this is the old
2 stage route, the Butterfield Stage Route from the Army
3 installation of Camp Verde to Fort Bowie. And so as you go
4 down 60 and 70, you're going through the old stage route
5 which is that is what led to our communities here. So even
6 before the communities were here, we had this -- this tie,
7 if you will.

8 So, once again, the five eastern counties we're --
9 we have our cultural, our familial, our industrial things
10 that tie us together. We'd like strongly for you to
11 consider that, keeping that -- restoring that rural voice to
12 the legislature so that as one person pointed out, whether
13 the -- whether the representative is from -- from Snowflake,
14 from Globe-Miami, from Safford, the issues and the
15 understanding are basically the same. So we -- we all have
16 that common thread going through us there.

17 So, once again, the five eastern counties plus the
18 Verde Valley and the Copper Corridor, we'd like strongly for
19 you to consider that.

20 Thank you so much for spending so much time in
21 Eastern Arizona. We look forward to seeing you again on the
22 second round trip. And hopefully we can avoid in the future
23 Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for church reasons.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Matthew Capalby, followed by
2 Debbie Hargis.

3 MR. CAPALBY: Good evening, Madam Chair and
4 Commissioners. It's indeed a pleasure to be here.

5 My name is Matthew Capalby; I'm a third-generation
6 Arizonan from Kingman, now living in Flagstaff; and Dave
7 Bell who is here can vouch for that, former prominent
8 newsman from Navajo County, and if anybody wants the dirt on
9 Dave here locally, please let me know. I've known him quite
10 a few years. But a great -- a great -- I'm glad to see he's
11 over here, and your community really benefits from having
12 such a good guy handling the news.

13 But as I stated, I currently reside at Flagstaff
14 but I've been watching the recent hearings with some grave
15 concern and why I made the drive tonight from Flagstaff to
16 be here.

17 I've been witnessing a well-coordinated,
18 orchestrated partisan effort to sway the Commission toward
19 partisan interest over the interests that are contrary to
20 rural Arizona.

21 And so -- just to give you an example, we're
22 seeing, you know, a push to tie border communities, they
23 have very distinct interests in, you know, types of
24 communities with areas such as here, Graham and Greenlee,
25 and further north; I believe that to be highly

1 inappropriate.

2 Ten years ago a lot of the rural mayors and
3 supervisors -- and Supervisor Davis, it's good to see you
4 here as well, sir -- they really did get together, and they
5 looked at the census map and they said we have an
6 opportunity here to create two solely rural competitive --
7 or, I'm sorry, two solely rural congressional districts, and
8 we also have enough population to create nine solely rural
9 legislative districts. And, of course, there's been some
10 changes in -- in Pima and Pinal, especially Pinal County,
11 and such which now is considered metropolitan Phoenix and
12 Tucson too, and I think those can probably go into more
13 metropolitan congressional or legislative districts.

14 But I still think that -- that sentiment applies:
15 That we need to stay together to maintain those two solely
16 rural congressional districts and nine solely rural
17 legislative districts.

18 And also to Supervisor David's points, and I also
19 made this point in Flagstaff, the enemy is not the
20 Republicans or the Democrats when it comes to rural Arizona,
21 the enemy is MAG, it's the Maricopa Association of
22 Governments and Pima Association of Governments. They set
23 up all the resources and all the -- all the legislative and
24 congressional representation as well, and those dominate and
25 the rural areas get the leftovers.

1 So we have to have a united front when it comes to
2 representation coming out of the rural areas. Not a
3 partisan united front, but a rural united front when it
4 comes to those issues. I think that's absolutely key.

5 And, you know, if anybody -- you know, me I live up
6 north, drive I-40, you see what the state of Arizona and the
7 federal government has done to that highway, it's a mess;
8 because it's not important to Phoenix or Tucson, so it's not
9 important to anybody else. So just to give that.

10 And then the issue of competitive districts. It is
11 a political reality when you have a competitive district
12 that you get more attention. You're not taken for granted;
13 you don't have recycling legislators and congressional
14 members that never leave or never under threat of leaving.
15 Elections are supposed to be about ideas and not about
16 partisan dominate -- or domination by a particular area or
17 community.

18 So whenever and wherever -- I know it's not
19 possible everywhere, but whenever and wherever possible you
20 can create legislative districts and congressional
21 districts, it benefits rural Arizona most of all because --

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. That's your time.

23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: That's my time.

24 With that, in closing, thank you so much. I do
25 hope you take these points under consideration. They worked

1 a lot -- I think very well for rural Arizona ten years ago,
2 I think you now.

3 So thank you. And if you have any questions --
4 comments or questions, I'm available.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: We are very much hearing, you
7 know, the essence of what the rural communities is
8 expressing to us.

9 Just in your comments and in the maps that you're
10 submitting, keep the reality, you know, in front of you that
11 roughly speaking each congressional district will be about
12 800,000-plus, each legislative district about 242,000-plus,
13 where we're awaiting the Census Bureau data.

14 But it's -- it's also, you know, a system of
15 partnering and -- and coming up with the maps that -- that
16 meet the population requirements.

17 So please keep that data in mind as you're
18 expressing your sentiments.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 The next speaker and the last speaker is Debbie
22 Hargis.

23 MS. HARGIS: My name is Debbie Hargis, and I live
24 here in Safford.

25 My husband and I moved here when our oldest son was

1 a baby to take care of my ailing father-in-law, and we
2 thought we might as well stay and see how it goes.

3 That baby is 19 years old now and he has a younger
4 brother and sister who now attend Safford High School. We
5 put down roots and have been active -- a very active part of
6 this community ever since.

7 My son now attends a university in the east where
8 there are only a handful of other rural kids like himself.
9 When describing his hometown to his classmates -- which also
10 includes Thatcher, Pima, and Solomon, we're all connected
11 here -- he tells them that "It's like those little towns
12 depicted in the movies that are far away from any city where
13 everyone knows everyone, and in spite of any differences,
14 they come together in times of need."

15 Oh my goodness.

16 This is fascinating to his classmates and it has
17 been -- it has reminded me of how privileged I am to live
18 here and have raised my kids here.

19 In Graham County and in Arizona as a whole, it is
20 vital that every group is represented in our community.
21 When the dominant group is constantly in power, the needs of
22 all other groups are not served because those needs are not
23 even seen.

24 In a community where the circumstances of each
25 group are recognized, given value, and approved upon,

1 everyone benefits.

2 And what is important to recognize is that when a
3 group is neglected and is disenfranchised from the
4 democratic process, everyone loses. There are no winners in
5 that scenario, even for the dominate group who seemingly
6 gets everything they want. The community is only as strong
7 as its most neglected and unheard citizen.

8 Also, when any representative can easily be elected
9 with little effort to appeal to all constituents, it is not
10 a true representative democracy. Elections should be
11 competitive, elected officials should always have to reach
12 out to groups outside of their own party; this is
13 particularly important for people of color who are
14 specifically named in the constitution.

15 Also, each district should have equal population
16 density. Cities will have a smaller geographical area while
17 rural areas will have larger swaths of land to be able to
18 have the same number of people; and those swaths of land
19 must be compact, not snaking throughout the state to capture
20 groups that could create voting blocs.

21 Arizona is a competitive state, and its
22 representatives should reflect that. In elections there
23 should be a good chance for either side to win. This
24 protects against extremism of any ideology and promotes
25 moderates who have to answer to every constituent to win

1 votes; most importantly, it promotes bipartisan cooperation
2 and blurs the divides within communities.

3 Thank you for hearing me and for your efforts and
4 time to make Arizona a fairly representative state. It is a
5 heavy burden that you all have taken, and I appreciate all
6 of you for that.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much.

9 We have one more speaker, David Morse.

10 MR. MORSE: Hello. Very much thank you for making
11 the time to hear me and putting me in at the last.

12 I group up in Phoenix, lived for a while in Tucson,
13 and then 15 years ago moved here to Graham County; and can I
14 tell you there's a big difference between what matters to
15 you or what you think about between living in a big city and
16 a small town.

17 I hosted many events where we had candidates coming
18 in to speak, you know, gubernatorial candidates, treasurer,
19 everything; and it's difficult to get the candidates to come
20 to a small town like Safford because you can -- you got
21 maybe 10,000 votes here in this whole county and within a
22 one-mile radius in Tucson you get 10,000 votes.

23 As you're pushing this out, put in the back of your
24 mind perhaps that if you were running for office and you
25 only have so many -- much time and so much money to spend,

1 try to think about putting it so that the people who are
2 running for office would want to go to the various parts of
3 those districts to pick up those votes instead of only being
4 able to focus on one small part. You swallow us in with
5 Tucson, they will only spend time in Tucson, they won't even
6 come out here; it won't be worth their drive.

7 So I want to put that in the back of your mind.

8 Sometimes I wish the votes were based on number of
9 square miles instead of population per mile -- per square
10 district, but that's the way it is.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 That concludes our public comment portion. I'm
14 going to send it over to Chairwoman Neuberg.

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

16 And -- and we are here listening and we're deeply
17 appreciative for, you know, you taking the time to come and
18 -- and share your thoughts. We're -- we're taking note of
19 everything you're saying with seriousness.

20 And, you know, my -- my one comment again is to,
21 you know, dig deeper in your expressions about your needs.
22 If there's something that's not being -- you're
23 communicating well, but some of you if there are needs that
24 are not being met, be specific because we're trying to match
25 needs across many communities, you know, around the state;

1 and the more we understand the specific representation needs
2 you have, the better we are able to put this puzzle
3 together.

4 But -- but we're deeply appreciative for your time.

5 And, with that, as you have seen today and on our
6 website, we have easy-to-use tools for learning about and
7 for sharing information about your community of interest.
8 Rather than relying purely on our interpretation of your
9 comments today, we encourage you to please go online and
10 submit a map to us. This will ensure that we correctly
11 understand the definition of your community.

12 Please encourage your friends and neighbors to
13 share their thoughts too.

14 It really makes a difference more than consultants
15 that you're hiring.

16 Anyone can do this online any time; there's no
17 requirement to attend one of these meetings to be heard.

18 With that, thank you. We'll see you at one of the
19 future events, and we will now adjourn the meeting.

20 And thank you, staff, for your ongoing travels and
21 onward.

22 Have a good evening.

23 (Applause.)

24 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 6:06 p.m.)

25

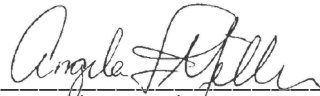
C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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

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

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 24th 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 24th of August, 2021.



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