

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Tucson, Arizona

Online via WebEx

August 8, 2021

10:00 a.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 10:00 a.m.
3 on August 8, 2021, at Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites, 5151
4 East Grant Road, Tucson, Arizona, and online via WebEx.

5
6 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

7 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
8 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
9 Mr. David Mehle

10 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

11 Ms. Shereen Lerner

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. Eric Spencer, Snell & Wilmer
19 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
20 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
21 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics
22 Corp.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

24 Ms. Janice Budak
25 Ms. Shirley Muney
Ms. Gail Kamaras
Ms. Maria Hidalgo
Ms. Misty Atkins
Mr. Nathan Davis
Mr. John Emery
Ms. Karen Harris
Ms. Dana Offerman
Ms. Constance Aglionel
Ms. Kathy Babcock
Mr. Brian Bickle
Mr. Marion Craner
Ms. Melissa Westbrook
Ms. Mary Lou Sampson

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 Mr. Ted Maxwell
3 Mr. Bob Abel
4 Ms. Adelita Gryalva
5 Ms. Angie Anderson
6 Ms. Barbara Tellman
7 Ms. Christine Ashley
8 Ms. Shelley Kais
9 Ms. Judith Alkire
10 Mr. Tom Chabin
11 Mr. Darren Venters
12 Ms. Katherine Weasel
13 Ms. Dee Maitland
14 Ms. Shana Leonard
15 Mr. Matthew Levitt
16 Ms. Penny Hurley
17 Ms. Faith Ramon
18 Ms. Sandy Ochoa
19 Ms. Kimberly Fitch
20 Ms. Elyse Benson
21 Ms. Margaret Chaney
22 Mr. Lyle Aldridge
23 Mr. Chris King
24 Mr. Patrick Robles
25 Mr. Chris Ackerley
Mr. Benjamin Brookhart
MS. Brenda Simon
Mr. Richard Hernandez
Ms. Brenda Sparrold
Mr. Tom Prezelski
Ms. Priya Sundareshan
Ms. Gabriella Cázares-Kelly
Mr. Jim Hannley
Ms. Dorothy Lew
Mr. Eric Nielsen

* 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, everybody, I think we're
4 going to go ahead and get started.

5 Good morning, everyone. If you all want to come in
6 and take your seats.

7 Okay. Good morning, everybody, if you would all
8 join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance; Please stand,
9 and Mike Aaron is going to lead us in the
10 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much.

14 And now I will turn it over to the Commission to
15 start the meeting.

16 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good morning, everybody.

17 Can everybody hear me?

18 (Chorus of "noes.")

19 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: No? Okay.

20 Okay. Better?

21 I got to enunciate, so.

22 Closer? Closer? Closer? Okay.

23 How's that?

24 So-so. Can you hear me? There we go.

25 Oh. Okay. Okay. I got to get close to the mic

1 here.

2 Good morning, everybody, and welcome to our -- our
3 Independent Redistricting Commission public hearing. And so
4 I am Derrick Watchman, I am the Vice Chair of the
5 Commission; and it's my pleasure to be here.

6 We'll introduce everybody in more specific terms
7 later, but I first would like to call this meeting to order
8 and this is our 14th meeting of our Independent
9 Redistricting Commission; this is our listening tour.

10 I'd like to remind everybody that given COVID-19
11 and its prevalence, I would like to ask you to follow the
12 Arizona Department of Health guidelines; if you're not fully
13 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in public.

14 If you'd like to participate from home, each of the
15 meetings is being broadcast from WebEx, and I'm sure we have
16 quite a few on WebEx and so just a health note there.

17 Please note that if you would like to make a
18 comment you may do so by signing in with staff, as you saw
19 outside, and filling out a public information card.

20 If you haven't done so already, please fill out our
21 community of interest survey, it's on line at [IRC.AZ.gov](https://irc.az.gov)
22 that's available. There's also a QR code on the signs
23 outside at the desk, and so please go to the link and fill
24 that out; and if you have any questions, please feel free to
25 reach out to our staff that's here and out in the front.

1 So we also have an American Sign Language
2 interpreter joining us virtually, and we do have headsets
3 available if you need that -- that interpretation.

4 We also have a transcript -- I'll open my mouth in
5 a minute here. We also have a transcriber who will
6 translating or transcribing every meeting. So please, like
7 I'm trying to do, speak slowly and clearly so we can get
8 your name and your testimony on record. So, thank you.

9 Will the interpreters please -- in attendance,
10 please introduce yourselves please.

11 Yes, up here.

12 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good morning. I'm the
13 interpreter.

14 (Spanish language.)

15 Thank you. Have a nice meeting.

16 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Gracias. Thank you.
17 Ahééhee.

18 So, thank you. I'm Navajo myself, so Ahééhee.
19 Thank you.

20 At this time we will introduce ourselves. Like I
21 said, I'm Derrick Watchman, I come to you from Window Rock,
22 Arizona, and I'm the Democratic appointee to the Commission
23 from Apache County, up north.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hello, everybody. It's
25 wonderful to see many of you again. Thank you for your

1 pa- -- oh. What is -- which one is not working?

2 Okay. Sorry. So hello, everybody. Wonderful to
3 see so many familiar faces; we appreciate your passionate
4 commitment to the Democratic process.

5 My name is Erika Neuberg, and I am the Independent
6 Chairwoman, and I live in Chandler.

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Hello, I'm David Mehl. I was
8 appointed by the Republicans; and I am Pima County; and
9 really welcome all of you today, and we really need and
10 appreciate your input.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: And for those who have been
13 following, some of us have been joining by WebEx, so I'd
14 like to turn it over to Commissioner Lerner.

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Hello, everybody. My name is
16 Shereen Lerner; I'm one of the Democratic appointees for
17 Maricopa County.

18 Sorry I can't be with you today but I look forward
19 to hearing all of your comments. Thank you for being here.

20 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you for joining us,
21 Commissioner Lerner. Appreciate it.

22 At this time we will now move to Agenda
23 Item No. II, and that is a presentation on the process. So
24 first we'll hear from the representatives from our legal
25 team.

1 MR. SPENCER: All right. Good morning, everybody.

2 My name is Eric Spencer from Snell & Wilmer; I
3 serve as outside counsel for the Commission. With me is
4 Shawn Summers from Ballard Spahr. I'm going to give you a
5 little intro on the law and some of the mechanics of the
6 Commission, and then I'll turn it over to our great mapping
7 consultants.

8 The basis for us being here stems from the Federal
9 Constitution, Article 1 Section 2 Clause 3 of the
10 Constitution is the enumeration clause or the census clause,
11 and requires that the population be enumerated every ten
12 years.

13 Of course, left out of that snippet up there is the
14 three-fifths clause. Luckily that was overridden by the
15 14th Amendment, which specified the whole number of persons
16 must be counted.

17 From there Congress layered on a few statutes that
18 governed when the redistricting data was to be provided to
19 the states; it was late this year. By December 31 of last
20 year, the states were supposed to get their apportionment
21 numbers as to which states would lose or gain congressional
22 seats; that didn't come out 'til late March, early April, so
23 three/four months late; and we were supposed to get the
24 redistricting data by March 31st of this year; instead we'll
25 getting it this week on April 12th [sic]. That was

1 primarily due to the Census Bureau's difficulty in
2 collecting the data in the field. They were delayed two or
3 three months in their door-to-door collection efforts; add
4 on top of that wildfires, hurricanes, and the statutes were
5 missed. But that's the runway behind us and we begin in
6 earnest very soon here.

7 I think next slide.

8 So here at the state level we've got our job to do.
9 For most of statehood it was performed like what occurs in
10 other states, the lines were drawn by the legislature. But
11 the constitutional initiative passed Prop 106 in the year
12 2000, creating this Commission.

13 You see the ballot title on your screen over here
14 to my left, your right, that provides preference towards
15 fair maps and -- and balanced and competitive redistricting.
16 We'll go through the criteria in the constitution itself in
17 just one second.

18 We were constituted prior to February 28th, that
19 was the deadline in the constitution, but our legislative
20 leaders got done early, thankfully. We've been up and
21 running for several months now getting our ducks in a row,
22 and we're ready to hit the ground running next week.

23 So five members of the Commission, you've met four
24 today; Commissioner York is our fifth Commissioner. There
25 are requirements in the constitution for political party

1 balance and for geographic balance. You can see the names
2 of our Commissioners over here, what counties they come
3 from; and the four Commissioners elected Chairwoman Neuberg
4 as our great Independent Chairwoman.

5 So here's the most important part, this next screen
6 here. These are the six criteria specified in the Arizona
7 Constitution that the Commission is charged with balancing.

8 First, the constitution and the Voting Rights Act,
9 population equality, we're charged with making -- achieving
10 that goal for both the legislative and the congressional
11 maps. But under the federal constitution, we've got a
12 little less leeway when it comes to the congressional maps,
13 a little more leeway for the legislative maps. Of course,
14 we try to minimize those differences to the degree possible.

15 We've got to make these compact as possible,
16 contiguous. Compactness is the tightness of the lines,
17 reducing the total mileage of the -- of the circumference of
18 the -- of the on the districts we'll create. They've got to
19 be connected; preferably tight connections, not loose ones.

20 And here we're really here to focus today on
21 Item D, which is respecting communities of interest to the
22 extent practicable. As you'll hear in a moment, we want to
23 understand what the communities of interest are. That's --
24 you'll hear a good definition in a moment as well. We -- we
25 can't make that perfect, but our goal is to first gather the

1 information about what communities of interests exist; and
2 then the Commission can do its best to respect those to the
3 degree possible. Probably can't make everybody happy, but
4 the Commissioners are going to do their best.

5 Then we have to use geography boundaries, whether
6 it's manmade or existing geograph -- geography; and then
7 competitiveness is something that must be considered as well
8 as long as it doesn't create a significant detriment to the
9 other goals.

10 So in other words, it's a mandatory consideration;
11 and if I doesn't harm the other five goals, then we have to
12 make it more competitive, if it will harm one of the other
13 five goals, we must refrain from making that district a
14 little more competitive.

15 But overall this is the balancing act, and this is
16 our guide star in Section 14.

17 Our timeline has been set; it's been voted on and I
18 think we're on track. You're here in -- I think this is the
19 penultimate meeting on our communities of interest listening
20 tour. Next Thursday the Census Bureau will announce and
21 provide the redistricting data, we call that the P.L.94-171
22 data, they bumped it up by four days in a press release last
23 week.

24 Our mapping team and their consultants will take a
25 few weeks to crunch all those numbers, so it's not like

1 we're going to be able to put pen to paper on August 13th,
2 so give us a little bit of time.

3 In September, this is where we'll draw our grid
4 map. This is a requirement of the constitution to wipe the
5 existing congressional and legislative lines away and start
6 with a fresh grid maps. It's not going to look like squares
7 and rectangles, but it will have population equality and
8 those 9 congressional districts and 30 legislative districts
9 will also be contiguous; but it's not going to make any
10 point, but that's the starting point that the drafters
11 required us to begin at.

12 September and October is when we will put out some
13 draft maps for your consideration; October/November is when
14 we take the official public comment and our aspiration is to
15 continue the final -- is to -- is to end the map drawing by
16 the end of the year. It potentially could spill into
17 January, but this is our goal to get this done by the end of
18 the calendar year, and your input is critical in all of
19 those steps.

20 You have numerous opportunities to provide that
21 input. First, we meet every Tuesday no matter what;
22 wouldn't surprise me if we -- if we increased the frequency
23 of our normal meetings. You can provide input during those
24 meetings or in between the meetings, and I assure you the
25 Commissioners read and incorporate all of those comments.

1 You're here today in conjunction with the middle
2 premise there, which is to provide input on communities of
3 interest. Doesn't have to end today, but today is an
4 important information gathering session.

5 And then finally when we put the draft maps out,
6 let us know what you think: Show up to our meetings, e-mail
7 us, tweet at us, submit them through the website. We read
8 them all.

9 That's all from my part, and I think Mark or Ivy
10 you're up next -- or, Commissioner Watchman, do you want to
11 kick it over?

12 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Eric.
13 Let's go to Mark and Ivy. So here we go.

14 MR. FLAHAN: Good morning, everyone. You guys hear
15 me in the back?

16 Yes? No? Maybe so?

17 All right. So today we want to talk about some of
18 the tools that we built for you guys.

19 There's three things that we're going to talk
20 about. The first is the socioeconomic report, that is an
21 interactive website on the web today, you can find it at the
22 IRC's website, a link there; and that provides you with 14
23 different demographic points for the entire state of
24 Arizona; and we'll talk about it in a future slide in a
25 second.

1 The second piece that we're going to talk about is
2 community of interest survey, which actually allows you to
3 draw your own community of interest on a map.

4 And then the third tool that we have is our
5 redistricting system. That's currently being spun up right
6 now, but it will allow you to draw and submit proposed map
7 changes. So that's in the future coming.

8 So the first thing that we want to talk about today
9 is the socioeconomic report. Like I said, it's an
10 interactive website. There's a screen capture on the right
11 side of the screen; it gives you 14 different demographic
12 points which are all listed on the screen there right now
13 and, again, it's for the entire state of Arizona.

14 You see an acronym, "CVAP," that is citizen voting
15 age population.

16 Second tool that we mentioned was a community of
17 interest survey. You might have seen a QR code sitting on
18 the desk when you walked in today that would allow you to
19 scan it with your phone and go directly to the site. It is
20 mobile friendly, it is available 24/7, so you can fill it
21 out on your phone. But if you have not filled out a
22 community of interest survey, I encourage you to go home
23 tonight and fill it out.

24 You notice on the right side of the screen there's
25 a community boundary map. So that actually allows you to

1 have drawing tools to give you the exact boundaries of your
2 communities of interest. And drawing your boundaries are --
3 is really important, so that way we can accurately represent
4 your community of interest survey instead of trying to
5 interpret the words that you give us today in your
6 testimony. So I highly encourage you to go ahead and do
7 that.

8 If you have already filled out a community of
9 interest survey and you are going to speak today, let me
10 know when you come up, and I can actually pull up your
11 community of interest boundaries, and we can show it on the
12 screen.

13 Now I'm going to turn it over to Ivy to actually
14 talk about what is a community of interest.

15 MS. SAKANSKY: Good morning.

16 So what is a community of interest?

17 (Inaudible background conversation.)

18 Got it. Thank you.

19 Let's start again. The reason we're here today,
20 the primary reason, is to discuss communities of interest,
21 and I ask: What is a community of interest?

22 It is a geographic area of people who share a
23 common story or connection. That connection can be common
24 social interests, shared demographic characteristics,
25 similar impacts from a legislative and/or congressional

1 issue, or any other connection that leads people in a given
2 area to believe they would benefit from being kept together,
3 united, in one legislative or congressional districts.

4 As you think about your community, think about the
5 various demographic points or factors that Mark has
6 mentioned, which is all in the community -- which is all in
7 the socioeconomic report.

8 And the community survey which Mark also alluded to
9 says: Think about your neighbors. Do you have similar
10 jobs? Do you rely on similar public services? Belong to
11 the same neighborhood associations? Are you impacted by
12 some regional environmental concern? Is your community
13 defined by similar regional land-use issues, transit
14 concerns, languages spoken, celebrations or traditions or
15 other similar issues or characteristics?

16 Any of these characteristics can define a community
17 of interest.

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

22 How do you define your communities of interest?

23 Using the online tools that Mark has described and
24 in your testimony today, we want to hear what brings your
25 community of interest together and what are its geographic

1 boundaries.

2 Remember, the Commissioners incorporate your
3 community into their maps only if you let us know where your
4 community boundaries are on the map.

5 Thank you for being here today. Now I will turn
6 this back over to the Commissioner's staff to begin taking
7 your comments.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The first advisement is
9 this is not a political event, please do not distribute
10 campaign materials or any other politically leaning
11 materials in the hearing room.

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

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

19 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments
20 to approximately three minutes.

21 Additionally, speakers are required to follow
22 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
23 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any
24 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other
25 guidelines may be asked to leave.

1 Any breach of the peace or disruption of a
2 Commission public hearing may be the cause of report to law
3 enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

4 If someone you know -- I'm sorry.

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

9 Everyone is welcome to speak should you choose to
10 do so.

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

15 Please show respect for all speakers and avoid
16 personal comments.

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

19 Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, Lori.

21 And now we will begin the public portion. Will
22 staff read the names of the speaker and the folks that are
23 in the queue.

24 Just for everybody's information, we have roughly
25 50 speakers that have signed up, so we look forward to it.

1 So will staff read the names in the queue.

2 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair and all the
3 Commissioners, Chair Neuberg, Mehl and Lerner and the
4 listening audience. I will be reading four names at a time
5 and if I can have you line up to the right side of the wall
6 against the wall or as close to the right side and have a
7 seat; and if you will please have hold off on your applause
8 (inaudible), it does take time away from speakers.

9 So we will begin with the first four names: Janice
10 Budak, Daniel (indiscernible) -- and I do apologize if I
11 mispronounce your name, please say your name for us when you
12 get to the podium -- Shirley Muney, Maria Hidalgo.

13 Those are the four names. Thank you.

14 MS. BUDAK: Okay. Let's check this mic. Are we
15 okay?

16 MS. CRANK: Yes.

17 MS. BUDAK: Okay. Thank you.

18 Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the
19 Independent Redistricting -- okay, say that ten times --
20 Independent Redistricting Commission. Welcome to Pima
21 County, and we're so glad that you coordinated this to have
22 these listening sessions.

23 I am Jan Budak. I live at the Houghton Corridor;
24 ZIP Code 85748. I am the chair for LD-10 Precinct 181.

25 I have taught 45 years and of those 45, 25 in

1 Tucson. I've taught private Catholic, I've taught on
2 Davis-Monthan, I've taught west on Silverbell/Brichta, and
3 I've taught downtown south of Congress on 12th and 6th.

4 I also am advocating for antitrafficking not for
5 profit organizations and those who are currently being
6 rescued and/or in aftercare home.

7 So basically in all of this, as you mentioned on
8 slide four, with the constitutional provisions of Article IV
9 and Part 2 Section 1, there are six constitution goals for
10 redistricting that the Commission is bound to use, and the
11 voting rights is another consideration while determining the
12 boundaries, which then leaves the areas that it changed
13 either by population growth, economic expansion, land
14 development, industry and addition of private and public
15 schools.

16 As I was listening to yesterday's testimonies, it
17 was obvious that the boundaries need to be changed. There
18 were two really good speakers yesterday that stood out in my
19 mind that would be very beneficial for research and
20 reference documents.

21 One of those being from the Pima County Republican
22 Party GOP Chair, and she had the best stats; I can't
23 duplicate those, she has them, I have a copy here, and it's
24 really well worth listening and looking at her information.

25 The other party that spoke yesterday was a lady in

1 white, she had her hair pulled back, and she gave her
2 constituents that she was actually being affected by
3 policies nefarious to her work and goals.

4 To add to that train of thought, I would like to
5 address the policies that effect -- affect public safety,
6 which is part of my community; my community of teaching and
7 my community where I live in that Houghton Corridor.

8 And while I was teaching, I experienced a lockdown
9 because of a shooter in the a neighborhood; we also lost a
10 beautiful second grader because of home invasion. So I
11 really have -- as well as many of my constituents in my
12 community -- have developed a heightened level of public
13 safety.

14 We have a defunding the police, and it is not
15 something that we really in our communities actually need;
16 in fact, we need the opposite. So to change that policy we
17 would have to have our boundary lines changed so that we
18 would have a voice in making determination for our governing
19 body.

20 Also the communities of interest that are
21 contained, I'm going to explain very briefly: The north,
22 they form that backwards "C" and they have -- they go across
23 the top Catalina Foothills and to the Tanque Verde, then the
24 boundary line on the Houghton Corridor down, with Wilmont
25 maybe being the east-west line for LD-10, and then you have

1 Sahuarita and Green Valley and those areas. That makes that
2 backwards "C."

3 Because we don't know what the population is or the
4 census is, it's hard to kind of say what's going to be in
5 that for population; but I do know that in that population,
6 the community that could be totally affected economically
7 would be by anybody coming in with a different --

8 MS. CRANK: Time.

9 MS. BUDAK: Oh. Wow. Really? Holy mackerel.

10 Okay. So thank you. I thought I was talking very
11 quickly.

12 So thank you for being here; I appreciate you
13 listening, and you have a great day.

14 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. MUNNEY: Good morning.

17 My name is Shirley Muney and I live at the northern
18 edge of the city of Central Tucson.

19 Since I was raised just outside of New York and
20 lived in that city for a few years, and then lived just
21 outside of Washington, D.C. for 35 years, Tucson seemed
22 practically rural to me. I visited Tucson for about 10
23 years and then retired here almost 22 years ago, choosing to
24 live in the city rather than further out.

25 What's my community of interest? Well, since I

1 moved here I've been involved in city -- civic activities,
2 mostly nonpartisan, I've worked with people in my
3 development, and in organizations from the central city,
4 east, and west sides, young and old, and we're all of one
5 community and that's voters.

6 Voters want qualified candidates who will represent
7 their interests, whatever they may be. Most of all, they
8 want their votes to be meaningful and not just symbolic.

9 As you know, Arizona is presently divided about
10 one-third Democratic, one-third Republican, and one-third
11 Independent. What turns a voter off? Feeling that his or
12 her vote won't matter because it's from a Republican or
13 Democratic district.

14 So that's why I'm asking that the larger community
15 of interest, voters, be represented not by a jigsaw puzzle
16 of various communities of interest, but rather by a more
17 competitive district -- more and more competitive districts.

18 Every voter for state or federal offices should
19 have a choice of positions and parties and not have their --
20 the election effectively decided in a primary.

21 Competition is the name of the game and
22 redistricting is the path to effective competition.

23 Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. KAMARAS: Good morning.

1 My name is Gail Kamaras; I'm a retired attorney.

2 My husband and I chose to settle in Tucson and Pima
3 County 15 years ago after RV'ing all over the country. We
4 chose it and Southern Arizona because of the combination of
5 rural beauty and urban amenities along with the weather
6 appealed to us.

7 Tucson offered theatre, restaurants, libraries and
8 medical facilities, while the surrounding areas offered
9 hiking and the cool of the mountains. We found the area to
10 be a real community of caring, churches, and local
11 nonprofits that reached out to those in need; neighbors
12 helping neighbors. We gladly became part of that community.

13 A few months ago I received a copy of a report from
14 the Center for the Future of Arizona summarizing a 2020
15 Gallup Arizona survey. It showed a remarkable agreement
16 among Arizonans of the values that they hold that is not
17 reflected in our current political representation.

18 According to the report, some 70 percent or more of
19 Arizonans agree on these values: The need for a highly
20 educated and skilled population; affordable and accessible
21 healthcare, including mental healthcare; good paying jobs
22 and opportunity; sustainable practices to protect our air,
23 land and water; civic engagement that solves problems and
24 democracy that works for all; and fair, just, and equitable
25 treatment of all people.

1 To further these ends, I ask that the Commission be
2 cognizant of the shifting dynamics in Arizona and
3 particularly in Southern Arizona, and work diligently to
4 create maps that create the competitive districts our people
5 want and need, and to comply with both the letter and the
6 spirit of the law that the people created in establishing
7 the Independent Redistricting Commission.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. CRANK: After this -- after this
11 (indiscernible).

12 MS. HIDALGO: Good day, ladies and gentlemen of the
13 IRC.

14 My name is Maria Hidalgo. I relocated from New
15 Mexico to Tucson in 2017. My husband and I chose the
16 resident -- our residence based on the location of the
17 beautiful Catalina Foothills. Our home is near the
18 intersection of Kolb and Sunrise, with access 8 miles east,
19 8 miles west, 8 miles south of all the needs and amenities
20 that have enhanced our life in retirement. Our parish,
21 St. Thomas the Apostle is only 6 miles from our home. Our
22 immediate community has a notable population of folks 55 and
23 older mostly, retirees.

24 Easy access to all of the public lands along the
25 Foothills has allowed us to engage in others who not only

1 respect values and support the needs of conservation of our
2 public lands, but also believe in protecting our precious
3 environment.

4 The thousands of us who live technically in Pima
5 County still use many of the benefits Tucson has to offer.
6 We in the Foothills don't have a university; we don't have
7 an airport or an Air Force base; we don't have hospitals; we
8 don't have our own water, gas, Internet, or cable systems,
9 we don't have our own public library systems. The museums,
10 the performing art centers, the symphony, the opera are in
11 Tucson. All three political parties recognized by the
12 Secretary of State have offices in Tucson.

13 Don't be misinformed, Tucson is an integral part of
14 all the communities of interest in Pima County.

15 Arizona's decision 20 years ago to pass Proposition
16 106 by 12 percent created you folks, the IRC. That is an
17 astounding accomplishment. I've come to know that the
18 essentials to having a healthy democracy is to create
19 electoral maps that are competitive.

20 First and foremost, competition is an American
21 value. Our constitution was designed to allow voters to
22 elect their candidates and not intended for candidates to
23 cherry-pick their constituents. Arizona's maps currently
24 reflects an electoral map that is made up of a third
25 Democrats, a third Independents, and a third Republicans.

1 And, most importantly, competitiveness protects us
2 all from extremism. It compels candidates to appeal to more
3 diverse and inclusive electorate.

4 I appreciate your attention, and most importantly
5 for the work you're going to do to ensure that Arizona's
6 electoral maps reflects not only all of its diverse
7 populations, but most importantly the actual makeup of the
8 voters.

9 I thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. CRANK: Next is (inaudible).

12 MS. ATKINS: Good morning.

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good morning.

14 MS. ATKINS: Thank you for taking the time to
15 listen to us.

16 My name is Misty Atkins and I live in Oro Valley.
17 My husband and I are lucky enough to have landed here only
18 two years ago, so my community of interest is fairly small.

19 Of course the town of Oro Valley is part of my
20 community where I do most of my shopping, dining, and
21 socializing. To the north, Oro Valley Hospital and the
22 medical offices next to it are where I receive healthcare;
23 and I volunteer at the food bank in Catalina, and I play
24 softball at Saddlebrooke. Both of these places are part of
25 my regular week.

1 I spend time shopping and dining along Thornydale
2 to the west. I like to think of the loop bike path as my
3 own, all the way down to Brandi Fenton Park and across the
4 Rita.

5 I share similar environmental concerns, educational
6 ideals, and political views of many of my friends this in
7 this area.

8 My current legislative district already includes
9 most of what I consider my community. What I would like to
10 ask, though, is that my legislative district be more
11 competitive. I believe a district that has a nearly equal
12 chance of electing a candidate from either party could
13 foster more and better candidates who really need to listen
14 to more than just their base in order to be elected.

15 Running for office takes enormous time, energy, and
16 money. So why should someone bother to run if their
17 district consistently goes to the other party?

18 Legislators would be more likely to compromise,
19 finding something that benefits everyone. Candidates will
20 be less extreme.

21 With competitive districts, voters in turn will be
22 more likely to fill out a ballot when they feel like the
23 person they are supporting has a real chance of winning. It
24 gives all voters a real voice. These are things that foster
25 a thriving democracy.

1 My Arizona congressional districts is a good
2 example of how maps can really work. Our rep knows that he
3 must listen to all of his constituents if he is to win
4 re-election, and he cannot take an extreme position without
5 alienating too many of the voters in his district.

6 I understand that not all districts can be
7 competitive, but the vast majority can be and verifying them
8 with a program like PlanScore or something else that we've
9 seen to reliably test whether or not a legislative district
10 is competitive will validate the maps that you build.

11 So I'm requesting that you keep my Oro Valley
12 community intact, and that you combine it in a way to make
13 it and other legislative districts competitive for the good
14 of our greater community, the great state of Arizona.

15 Thank you for your time.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you so much.

18 Before we go to the next speaker and -- and this is
19 up for either a response with the previous speaker or a
20 future one: We're hearing about the importance and value of
21 competitiveness, we're hearing everything that you're
22 saying. I have a follow-up question because we do have
23 constitutional criteria that we're required to follow.

24 Are there specific communities of interest that
25 would be harmed by not having competitive districts? If so,

1 that's important data and information to share with us.

2 Thank you.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

4 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Go ahead. Proceed.

5 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

6 My name is Nathan Davis; I'm an educator and small
7 business owner.

8 Other than a few years when I lived in D.C. for
9 grad school, I'm a born and bred Tucsonan, and I've lived on
10 the northwest side my whole life; my wife, my son, we live
11 in Casas Adobes, an ill-defined area west of the Foothills.

12 Like many residents of the northwest, my wife and I
13 call ourselves Tucsonans, despite not technically living in
14 the city limits. My wife is a teacher at a TUSD school in
15 South Tucson; and my business has showrooms in Marana and
16 Catalina Foothills; my church is in Oro Valley; my gun range
17 is in Catalina. We shop at the Sprouts in Oro Valley near
18 our home, the Food City in the city limits and
19 Flowing Wells, and a Safeway up the road in the county
20 limits.

21 My friends and family live in Oro Valley, Catalina,
22 Dove Mountain, Marana, Tucson, Cat Foot, Tanque Verde, Vail,
23 Green Valley, and Sahuarita.

24 My community of interest is not so much rooted in
25 geography as it is values. I submitted a map which includes

1 Casas Adobes, Catalina Foothills, parts of northern Tucson
2 and Southern Oro Valley. As you see by the socioeconomic
3 data which I've given you, the region is not a monolith as
4 some would make it seem; it is a diverse region, as is Pima
5 County, as is our state.

6 It includes Flowing Wells Unified School District,
7 Tucson Unified School District, Cat Foot and FIUSD, Pima
8 Community College Northwest, Northwest Medical Center,
9 La Encantado, Foothills Mall, and Tucson Mall.

10 We want compact competitive districts like we
11 already have. Currently Pima County is awash in competitive
12 districts. LD-4 recently elected both a Republican and a
13 Democrat to the State House; LD-10 has a Republican
14 representative as recently as 2018. Candidates outside of
15 both groups from both parties poured massive amounts of
16 money into races in LD-9, -10, and -11 last cycle.

17 Yesterday and today you've heard people say they
18 want something called "foothill corridor." I have a map
19 towards the end of what that looks like based on what they
20 said.

21 Additionally, I printed out Texas's 35th and Ohio's
22 4 Congressional Districts. Can anyone honestly say that the
23 proposed Foothills Corridor is any less gerrymandered than
24 those two districts?

25 Tucson, both the city and the metro area, is an

1 amazing and diverse region with wonderful communities.
2 Currently the way it's divided ensures that our elected
3 officials a stake in both the city and outlying region as it
4 should be.

5 I'm here to ask you to follow all six requirements
6 and not ignore the mandate to create competitive districts.
7 Give all voters, not just partisans, primary voters, the
8 opportunity to select individuals that represent their
9 interest.

10 And to speak to what the outside counsel said
11 earlier --

12 MS. CRANK: Time.

13 MR. DAVIS: -- remember -- right.

14 Create no significant detriment. I would really
15 like to emphasize "significant detriment."

16 Thank you very much.

17 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: As the next speaker comes up, I
21 just want to remind everyone of some of the -- of one of the
22 biggest challenges that we have as the Commission, and that
23 is the pure population numbers.

24 And in 2010 a legislative district needed about
25 210,000 people to create a district. What the census

1 estimates, we don't know the exact number yet, each
2 legislative district will need to have over 240,000 people.
3 On the congressional districts in 2010, each congressional
4 districts had about 710,000 people in 2010, and we will now
5 be drawing congressional districts that need to have over
6 800,000 people in a congressional districts.

7 So as you look at your communities of interest, our
8 challenge is: Who do we combine, how do we combine things
9 to create districts that meet these population guidelines.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. EMERY: My name is John Emery. I reside in
12 Quail Creek in a retirement community on the edge of
13 Sahuarita and Green Valley.

14 I'm a retired veterinarian, and like many in my
15 community I'm a veteran. I grew up in rural Nebraska and
16 moved to Arizona in 2006 from a rural area in California to
17 escape the rural environment and taxes, that quite frankly
18 were making retirement not a pretty picture for me.

19 I was happy with my relocation until the 2010
20 redistricting. At one time we had representatives that
21 listened to us and voted our interest, that ended with
22 redistricting. We lost all that to Nogales and
23 South Tucson, which now controls our legislative district.

24 I feel our conservative values are being ignored
25 and destroyed in the current Legislative District 2. I'm

1 concerned Arizona will turn into another California if we do
2 not correct the injustices that were done in the 2010
3 redistricting.

4 My community has nothing in common with Nogales and
5 South Tucson. Our values, interests, and needs are very
6 different. We have much more in common with
7 Corona de Tucson, Vail, Marana, Oro Valley, Sonoita, and
8 Benson. These communities would be a much better fit with
9 my community.

10 So I am requesting that we move out of a community
11 that we have nothing in common with to someone -- some
12 community that we do have something in common with.

13 Thank you.

14 And thank you for the job you do.

15 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. HARRIS: Thank you to the Commissioners for
18 having us here to speak today. I can't stress enough how
19 important it is to have an independent and unbiased
20 Commission. Thank you.

21 My name is Karen Harris. My husband and I have
22 lived in Tucson for nearly five years. Before that we lived
23 in North Carolina for 25, so that was a big change for us.

24 Our current community in Casas Adobes is an
25 unincorporated part of Pima County. It's convenient to the

1 mountains, the beautiful parks, Oro Valley, Eastern
2 Foothills, and Downtown Tucson. All of this and its
3 diversity is what attracted us to Tucson.

4 We acknowledge the tremendous importance of
5 supporting our public schools, the value of diversity, the
6 need to protect our fragile environment, and respect for all
7 religions.

8 I vote in CD-2 and LD-9. CD-2 and LD-9 are divided
9 nearly into thirds: Republicans, Democrats, and
10 Independents. I serve as a precinct committee person in my
11 precinct.

12 We are proud of the competitive nature of our
13 district and would like to recommend no changes.

14 In comparison, because I live just two blocks south
15 of LD-11, our neighbors just to the north of us on the other
16 hand are very noncompetitive. And I'm just looking at the
17 map in the far -- at the far reaches of LD-11 map gives us a
18 clue of how difficult it is to have competitive races when
19 one party is being favored over another.

20 Over the last few years we've witnessed the result
21 of highly biased and almost radical policymaking entering
22 our government instead of moderate candidates who are
23 willing to focus on the entirety of their districts: The
24 urban, rural, the cultural, and income differences. These
25 are important considerations and compromises must be made to

1 serve all of our Arizona citizens.

2 More and more we are witnessing representatives in
3 these noncompetitive districts that cut themselves off from
4 their constituents and cater to one specific group of
5 people, religion, or even corporations. I respectfully say
6 we've had enough of the increasing polarization. This is a
7 danger and it's alarming.

8 It's time to consider communities over greed and to
9 consider the equal voting rights of all citizens regardless
10 of color, religion, rural or versus urban residency. This
11 is what our democracy is founded on.

12 I appeal to the IRC to support competitive voting
13 districts as ruled by our Arizona Supreme Court. Our state
14 is to nearly two -- into thirds as mentioned before, and no
15 district should be considered safe --

16 MS. CRANK: Thank you.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: And thank you very much. I
18 appreciate your time.

19 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. OFFERMAN: Good morning. Let me first express
22 my thanks to the Commission for the work that you are doing.
23 It's an invaluable public service that you're performing.

24 I really appreciate the independence of the
25 Commission and how that independence is core to its mission.

1 My name is Dana Offerman; my husband and I have
2 resided in Oro Valley for about ten years. I retired from
3 higher education. I volunteer in my community with Literacy
4 Connects, and with various citizen referendum and
5 initiatives.

6 My community in Oro Valley is very fortunate; we
7 live in the shadows of Catalina State Park; we enjoy and we
8 want to protect our beautiful environment, support our
9 public schools and our public parks, and relish the
10 recreational and cultural activities in our area.

11 I vote in Congressional District 1 and Legislative
12 District 11, so I would like to just speak to the Commission
13 about my experience as a voter in these two districts.

14 I think that CD-1 is a very competitive district,
15 and I really appreciate that. My experience as a voter with
16 a representative that I have in CD-1 is that we have a
17 congressional representative who actively engages with all
18 constituents, who listens to us, and who is responsive to
19 all of us, not just those in his or her party.

20 In a competitive district officeholders must be
21 moderate in their positions and work toward bipartisan
22 solutions and bipartisan legislation. I'm a moderate, I
23 think it's the best way forward for our democracy in
24 permitting the challenges of our country for candidates and
25 officeholders who have to listen and to engage with all

1 constituents. I think competition in districts helps combat
2 polarization and divisiveness in the process.

3 I would like my CD to remain competitive.

4 However, I am also a voter in LD-11, and I don't
5 think it is a very competitive district, and this to me is a
6 stark contrast to my experience as a voter in CD-1.

7 I find that the absence of competitive races in 12
8 years on the legislature results in representatives who do
9 not actively engage in all constituents but only listen to
10 their party faithful. I don't think this is productive, and
11 as a voter I resent that they think that they don't need to
12 listen to me. Instead, they appeal to a small subset of
13 their parties because it is their belief they don't have to
14 listen to moderates or Independents.

15 So my community of interest is around competitive
16 districts. I do not want to have to vote in a district that
17 is safe for either party. I want candidates to appeal to
18 voters across the political spectrum. Moderate and
19 Independents from both parties will benefit from this, and
20 our governmental processes would be healthier, less
21 polarized, and less divisive.

22 Independent voters deserve a voice too; they're
23 nearly a third --

24 MS. CRANK: Time.

25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

1 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible) Aglione, following Kathryn
4 Babcock, following (indiscernible), and Melissa Westbrook.

5 MS. AGLIONE: Thank you, Chairwoman and
6 Commissioners for the opportunity to speak.

7 The community that I have identified would cross
8 county boundaries. I noticed in the last meeting the first
9 grid is going to go by boundaries, but this would be one
10 that would cross boundaries.

11 So specifically I'm interested in including all of
12 Santa Cruz County along with Green Valley and Sahuarita.

13 I've wrote up some lines, but that's okay.

14 So our community is tied together by our very rich
15 environment: The Santa Rita and Patagonia Mountains, the
16 Santa Cruz River Valley, and our dark skies. We are linked
17 by a common aquifer. This unique, biodiverse ecosystem
18 attracts many visitors and residents, and our economy is
19 dependent on it.

20 We need to protect this habitat, including the
21 waters. We are a world-class tourist destination for
22 birders, hikers, astronomers, and those seeking healthful
23 living and natural beauty, which is what brought me.

24 When I first moved to Green Valley where I live, I
25 met my next door neighbor who told us that they had traveled

1 the whole world birding and chose Green Valley for the
2 birding; they could do it from home.

3 There are at least three hiking clubs in Green
4 Valley and Sahuarita with hundreds of members. Right now
5 our community of interest, Santa Cruz County and Green
6 Valley, share Arizona legislative representatives across
7 county lines, but our federal congressional representatives
8 is divided by the county line.

9 I believe our community would be best served by
10 common representation that crosses the county lines.

11 Thank you very much.

12 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. BABCOCK: Good morning.

15 My name is Kathy Babcock and I am living in Green
16 Valley.

17 And I am speaking, as the previous speaker did, of
18 the -- of my interest in going across county lines,
19 Santa Cruz County, the town of Santa Rita, and Green Valley
20 as a community of interest.

21 And when I look at what binds the citizens in this
22 area since moving here in 2005, my sense of community has
23 been enhanced and really clarified by the visitors who've
24 come from across the country to spend time with me in this
25 area, and when I look at what attracts them the bottom line

1 is environment. Science lovers come for the Whipple
2 Observatory and for our dark skies which we are trying to
3 protect; the bird watchers join hundreds of locals to join
4 in the annual bird count and to add to their life list of
5 species that they don't see anywhere else in the world.

6 Interest in our unique wildlife draws others and
7 that includes the -- the kind of wildlife that they don't
8 see anywhere else, javalinas in our neighborhood, in my
9 neighborhood in the morning, bobcats, roadrunners, quail. A
10 lot of my friends are -- this is a magnet for them to visit
11 this unique area for these experiences.

12 Hikers come to experience the high altitude sky
13 islands. The bottom line is the bottom line, and that is
14 that policies that respect our environment as a treasure can
15 bring in tourist dollars to support our economy.

16 The final point I would like to make and it has to
17 do with binding these areas of Santa Cruz County, Green
18 Valley, and Sahuarita is water. The increasing scarcity of
19 water, our need to protect our aquifer which we share, and
20 the -- to unite to and to face the shortages that are
21 looming in the future. I believe these are -- these are two
22 very important things that bind our communities together.

23 Thank you very much.

24 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

2 Please announce your names.

3 MR. BICKLE: Chair Neuberg, Commissioners, staff,
4 my name is Brian Bickle; I live in Catalina Foothills.

5 I've been a resident this time of Pima County since
6 2013, Arizona since 2009, and previously resided here from
7 1970 to 1976.

8 I've seen changes in my absence and my return.
9 Listening to the speakers yesterday and the speakers today,
10 the communities of interest that they feel don't represent
11 them I think are of little concern. My opinion.

12 To address your question, Commissioner Neuberg:
13 What communities of interest would be benefitted or harmed
14 by the presence or lack of competitive district? And I
15 posit that all of them would be harmed by the absence of
16 competitive districts.

17 I would gladly give up my party's representation in
18 my legislative district if it would mean that I was no
19 longer a member of the minority party in the legislature in
20 Phoenix.

21 When we came back to Arizona in 2009, the party of
22 the majority not only had a majority but a super majority in
23 both the House and the Senate; after redistricting in 2010,
24 we still had the same majority, but we currently have a
25 Senate that is 16-14, a House that is 31-29, and a

1 congressional district that is 9 -- or 5 and 4.

2 Balanced, competitive, and the difference in
3 governance with competitive districts and a balanced
4 legislature both at the federal and at the state level has
5 benefitted everybody in the state of Arizona, my community
6 of interest, and more so Southern Arizona.

7 One of the efforts as part of the redistricting
8 process is to try and put a third congressional district on
9 the border. The only way you're going to do that is to run
10 a district up one side of the state or the other, and the
11 last thing you need is somebody trying to represent border
12 districts that lives in the San Tan Valley.

13 I would posit that the two congressional
14 representatives we have now both live within the city of
15 Tucson; and if you don't live on the border, and when I say
16 live on the border, I mean Douglas, Bisbee, Nogales, Yuma,
17 San Luis, you don't understand the border.

18 My wife is a native Arizonan, she's lived on the
19 border all of her life. We lived on the border when we
20 first moved back here, I had immigrant traffic across my
21 property, I know what the border is. You don't understand
22 the border by going to visit it occasionally.

23 To Commissioner Mehl's comments about sheer
24 numbers. If you look at it from a sheer numbers'
25 perspective, 21 of the 30 districts, legislative districts,

1 braced on pure numbers, would be totally within Maricopa,
2 Pinal, and Pima County; the other 9 can fill up the other 12
3 counties. So having somebody that's your representative in
4 your backyard based on population is going to be virtually
5 impossible. Seven and a half of the nine congressional
6 districts would be in those same three majority-populated
7 counties.

8 From 2010 to 2020, Greenlee County lost a thousand
9 people --

10 MS. CRANK: Time.

11 MR. BICKLE: Maricopa County picked up 81,000 in a
12 year.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. CRANER: Good morning. Welcome to my fellow
15 early birds.

16 My name is Marion Craner; I'm a resident of
17 Tucson's east side; 85730.

18 I'm a graduate of the University of Arizona with a
19 double degree in elementary and secondary phys ed and a
20 minor in special ed; master's degree in student personnel
21 services, and I've taught at all levels of the public
22 schools for 35 years.

23 I want to thank those that serve on the
24 redistricting committee. I want to say thank you for this
25 chance to share my heartfelt opinion.

1 As an Independent, I want fair and competitive
2 districts that reflect the natural boundaries of
3 communities. I believe every vote should have equal power
4 and neither party should be able to gerrymander voting
5 districts.

6 Oppressed people need to have movements and signs
7 to say that which should be obvious. Those with power are
8 bent on maintaining it, leaving no room for the historically
9 marginalized. Be for justice. Please, make your decision
10 so that you're on the right side of history, not on those
11 who seek to oppress for their own aggrandizement. I believe
12 redistricting should be fairly determined between all
13 political parties.

14 I will continue to thank my community of Tucson by
15 volunteering for the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona. I
16 want to thank everyone who buys Girl Scout cookies.

17 (Laughter.)

18 I want to thank the Tucson Fire Department, the
19 police department, and all first responders.

20 In conclusion, I believe every vote should have
21 equal power and neither party should be able to get on --
22 get an unfair advantage from manipulating voting districts.

23 Thank you very much.

24 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. WESTBROOK: Good morning.

2 My name is Melissa Westbrook. I am a daughter of
3 (inaudible), I was raised there and I graduated from the
4 University of Arizona, moved away for 40 years and now came
5 back.

6 I'm a public education advocate. While I was in
7 Washington State I had a blog that was the most popular
8 public education blog in the state.

9 In thinking of communities of interest, Douglas is
10 one of them: Isolated, rural. Yet, who -- who speaks for
11 them? Where are their abilities?

12 And I hope you think of this as you make your
13 decisions.

14 We're in a position to unite the division in our
15 country. I was quite shocked when an earlier speakers said
16 they have nothing in common with people in Nogales and
17 South Tucson. I can tell you ten things right now. One
18 thing we have in common: We're American citizens. And we
19 should think about how we unite ourself.

20 Under the constitution we are all equal. Equality
21 is not the same thing as equity. There are people in this
22 room that have lived lives that were not equitable to the
23 rest of us. That's another key value that I hope you bring
24 to your work.

25 I also think that you have a chance to provide a

1 model for other government entities: This is how we unite
2 people, this is the example of fairness. And I hope as you
3 do your work, that you remember that compromise and
4 consensus should be order of the day in order to
5 comprehend -- excuse me, to craft the most comprehensive and
6 competitive districts.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

10 MS. CRANK: The next speaker -- the next four
11 speakers -- we do have 53 speakers. So the next four
12 speakers Lou Sampson, Thomas Campbell, Ted Maxwell, Bob
13 Able.

14 If you'll please announce your names when get up to
15 the podium.

16 MS. SAMPSON: Hi. My name is Mary Lou Sampson and
17 I have lived in the lovely retirement area of Green Valley
18 for over 30 years and I'm retired.

19 I have seen many changes over the years with the
20 growth in our area, especially in Sahuarita. It's now got
21 lots of -- a couple of retirement areas of its own; and we
22 share so much with Sahuarita because we have the Chamber of
23 Commerce we share, shopping, the schools at which many of us
24 volunteer, we enjoy watching our young people in their local
25 sports. We also share parks, recreation, and wonderful

1 restaurants.

2 It's inexplicable to me that one retirement
3 community and other parts of Sahuarita were sliced and diced
4 out of our area during the last redistricting, to be placed
5 in a district north of them which many can't even drive at
6 night or afraid to drive in the traffic, so they can't go to
7 the meetings. It just didn't make sense to most of us. And
8 it's confusing to try to explain to newcomers who are
9 registering to voting exactly where the boundary lines are
10 and how far they are away from their neighbors and people
11 that they know.

12 The past gerrymandering of our districts have made
13 many of our voices irrelevant because we are not represented
14 in any state or federal elections -- and we haven't been for
15 quite a while.

16 It's sad to say many of us no longer have faith or
17 trust in our government to do what's best for us. It seems
18 much of this is done to discourage citizens from actively
19 participating in our form of government. Being a part of my
20 community is huge and many of us want it back.

21 Thank you for holding these hearings so we can
22 publicly express our views.

23 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello. I really appreciate

1 the opportunity to come and talk. I'm not going to repeat
2 everything that people said about competitiveness.

3 I'm a retired attorney and school teacher; I
4 practiced law for 20 years and taught overseas international
5 schools for 18, living in Egypt and Saudi Arabia and
6 Bangladesh and Laos and Shanghai and Istanbul and then
7 finally in Taiwan. I have learned to appreciate by
8 observation the importance it is for us to have a fair
9 system. A fair system. 'Cause many places do not.

10 Now, when we talk about communities of interest, I
11 want to share with you the joy that I experienced when we
12 moved to Tucson a year and a half ago. We were welcomed
13 into the Fort Lowell Historical Neighborhood. Tucson is
14 divided up in a whole bunch of neighborhoods we found out.
15 I don't know how many of those have associations that are
16 active as the one that I'm in, but we clean up the
17 Alamo Wash; we go work on the park, Fort Lowell Park; we
18 have a group that helps old people be able to live at
19 home -- a live-at-home program, you know. So there is this
20 idea of neighborhood throughout Tucson. So when you're
21 chopping up Tucson which you're going to have to do just
22 think about those neighborhoods.

23 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. MAXWELL: Madam Chair, Commissioners, good

1 morning.

2 I'm Major General Retired Ted Maxwell, former
3 commander of the Arizona International Guard and currently
4 the president and CEO of the Southern Arizona Leadership
5 Council.

6 SALC is an nonpartisan public policy organization
7 with over 140 CEOs, business, and community leaders. We
8 believe that in 2011 the redistricting negatively impacted
9 the representation of the citizens of Pima County at large.
10 Pima County is the second largest county in the state which
11 contains numerous communities of interest as you have heard.
12 Politically the region is nearly divided in thirds, yet Pima
13 County does not have a true representative at the state
14 legislature from both parties. This has impacted the
15 region's ability to engage at the state level.

16 SALC works with members from both parties. Yet,
17 when we have legislative bills of interest we have been
18 forced to go outside of Pima County to find sponsors to
19 carry our bills in -- of the majority party.

20 As a region as large as Pima County with more than
21 one million citizens, we should have geographic districts
22 solely within Pima County representing both parties.

23 Yesterday you heard about the possibility of a
24 northern and eastern district. One will look closely with
25 the military connection that I have, exists on the south

1 side of Tucson, and that's the Southern Arizona Defense
2 Sector. Along the -- in the south of Pima County you have
3 Raytheon missile systems, the 152 International Guard Wing,
4 my former Wing which is one of the largest Wings in the
5 nation, and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

6 Most of the men and women who serve and work at
7 these organizations are voters and are Arizona citizens.
8 Many of the employees and service members, men and women,
9 live in communities such Sahuarita, Rita Ranch,
10 Corona de Tucson. These communities when combined with
11 Green Valley which has a large military retiree presence,
12 would make for a district of like-minded people looking for
13 representation at the state level which they currently don't
14 have.

15 The possibility of the two districts you've heard
16 about when paired with the predominate Democratic districts
17 which will continue to exist from the west side of Pima
18 County as well as the city of Tucson, this will give our
19 region representation from both parties at the state level.
20 A true picture of the emogany of Pima County and the
21 diversity that we truly do have, much like prior to 2011.

22 So considerations of communities of interest when
23 combined with geographic boundaries to me are the best and
24 most important representation of Pima County you can get.

25 Congressional maps should also form that

1 regionality of communities of interest.

2 The ultimate goal is to provide maps that not only
3 meet your statutory requirements, but also result in the
4 majority of the citizens of Arizona feeling like they truly
5 and logically have their interest represented by their
6 elected officials. It's not an easy task, and I want to
7 thank you all for your service on this critical piece of
8 this process.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. CRANK: Next four speakers is Bob Abel, is
12 Adelita Gryalva -- I'm sorry for that -- Angie Anderson,
13 Barbara Tellman.

14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And before we move to the
15 next speaker, that last gentleman, I want to make sure that
16 he submitted a map. We have not heard that much substantive
17 feedback about our military bases as it relates to
18 congressional districts, legislative districts, and
19 empowering these communities, and so some of that
20 substantive information -- and it doesn't have to be right
21 now, but it's incredibly helpful information, and I
22 encourage you to continue forwarding what we need to learn
23 and think about.

24 MR. ABEL: Hi. My name is Bob Abel; and I want
25 thank you for giving us this opportunity to participate in

1 this process.

2 I moved to Tucson in 1973 from Oklahoma. The
3 population of Tucson was about 260,000, and it still had a
4 genuine sense of place. From the moment I got here I felt
5 like I belonged in the beautiful Sonoran desert; I've never
6 been a fan of city life and politics, so soon after I
7 married my wife, Virginia, we moved out of town. We've
8 lived in Rancho del Cerro subdivision for 35 years.

9 Most of the amenities that support our lifestyle
10 are in Marana and Oro Valley, not the city of Tucson.

11 Everything we need is between Silver Bell Road and
12 Oracle Road west to east, and between Flowing Wells Road and
13 Ina Road south to north.

14 Our property borders the Sweetwater Preserve, so we
15 have easy access to hiking and biking trails; we enjoy an
16 abundant wildlife and plant species in our subdivision. It
17 is a very safe, peaceful, environmentally friendly place to
18 live; lack of street lights enhances our ability to view the
19 night sky with clarity, and our single-acre lots have septic
20 systems, we pay for our own trash removal, the County takes
21 care of our roads; however, Tucson Water supplies our
22 drinking water.

23 About the only time we go through Tucson is to take
24 I-10 to the airport.

25 My wife and I were school teachers in Marana and

1 Flowing Wells. Unfortunately, families in our community
2 have to bus their kids to TUSD schools. We would prefer to
3 have our property taxes going to Marana and Flowing Wells.

4 In my opinion, the last redistricting map violated
5 the Voting Rights Act by not respecting communities of
6 interest. Our neighborhood is not equitably represented
7 with dissimilar communities in LD-3.

8 The previous Commission seemed to be too focused on
9 competitiveness. When districts are too competitive nearly
10 half of the population is bound to feel underrepresented.
11 Furthermore, the previous maps that were drawn did not have
12 equal population. This inequality must be rectified.

13 In conclusion, because we are outside the city
14 limits we cannot vote on initiatives and candidates that are
15 supposed to be representing our community. This is another
16 violation of the Voting Rights Act. We cannot even get our
17 candidate on the ballot to oppose an 18-year incumbent that
18 cares more about the inner city and South Tucson than
19 communities to the north and east.

20 Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Buenas Tardes.

24 My name is Adelita Gryalva; and I live in
25 Congressional District 3, Pima County supervisory

1 District 5, Legislative District 3; and a third generation
2 Arizona native. I also live in unincorporated Pima County
3 with both Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham Nations very close
4 by.

5 I am here as a representative of the Ari- --
6 Southern Arizona Latino Coalition to speak to the Voting
7 Rights Act and the Latino community representation in
8 Southern Arizona.

9 The Latino Coalition of Southern Arizona was led at
10 the last redistricting by our friend Richard Morales
11 (phonetic) who has sadly passed away; I'm proud to continue
12 this advocacy for our community today.

13 Yesterday was the 56th anniversary of the Voting
14 Rights Act, and at a time when participation in our national
15 and local elections have never been more critical, the
16 Southern Arizona Latino Coalition continues to be committed
17 to inclusion and representation for the Latino community and
18 other protected classes.

19 The coalition is a collective of local Latino
20 leaders, inclusive of community, neighborhoods, business,
21 crafters, activists with decades of service to our
22 community. We have joined together again and seek to engage
23 the Commission for the interest of Pima County and Southern
24 Arizona Latino -- Latino communities.

25 I'm here to speak for the legal need under the

1 Voting Rights Act to protect both of Arizona's Justice
2 Department approved and designated Hispanic voting rights
3 district. One voting right district is located in Phoenix,
4 in the Phoenix area, Maricopa County, and one is currently
5 divided between all of Santa Cruz County and parts of Pima,
6 Yuma, and Maricopa Counties.

7 It is the second district that I'm primarily
8 referencing today. The majority of the Southern Arizona
9 district comes from the west, south, and central areas of
10 Tucson and west and south of rural areas of Pima County and
11 all of Santa Cruz County.

12 The Southern Arizona district includes Pascua Yaqui
13 and Tohono O'odham Nations in Pima County. This districts
14 includes portions of the Tucson Mountain and Ironwood
15 Forest. The border of this voting rights district goes west
16 to include the communities of San Louis, Somerton, the
17 southern portion of Yuma, all representing overwhelmingly
18 the Latino population.

19 As a member of the Tucson Unified School District
20 Governing Board and the Pima County Supervisor, I proudly
21 represent the school districts of both Sunnyside and Tucson
22 Unified. There's no rationale to splitting this district
23 and communities because we're tied together through social,
24 economic, physical proximity, and cultural connections.

25 The Latino population in Southern Arizona is a

1 historic reality beginning with the inclusion of Southern
2 Arizona in the Arizona Territory on December 30, 1853,
3 through the Gadsden Purchase. The Latino population has
4 grown significantly from the last census. As we await
5 current data from the U.S. Census Bureau, which I understand
6 might be delayed and is delayed again, complicates this
7 process the Commission is -- is undertaking, and I
8 appreciate that that is complicated.

9 We want to begin to make our case for this assigned
10 voting rights district population to come from Southern
11 Arizona. There are numerous ways to increase the Tucson
12 Pima County portion of the Latino population in this --

13 MS. CRANK: Time.

14 MS. GRYALVA: Thank you so much for your time. I
15 appreciate it.

16 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Excuse me. Could we give you
19 another minute?

20 Yeah, please come back. My fellow Commissioners
21 would like you to finish your statement. So, please.

22 MS. GRYALVA: Thank you. I appreciate the
23 opportunity.

24 Let's see. We want to begin to make our case for
25 this Hispanic voting rights district population to come from

1 Southern Arizona. There are numerous ways to increase the
2 Tucson/Pima County portion of the Latino population in this
3 district while maintaining the competitiveness of the
4 crosstown and southern eastern Arizona district.

5 We have a sister relationship with
6 Santa Cruz County with shared values, language, family
7 connections, and the connection with Yuma's Latino
8 population is a commonality of our borderlands region.

9 In addition to shared languages and extending --
10 extended our families, the public lands are unique, shared
11 attributes of this region.

12 The coalition would appreciate the opportunity and
13 commitment from the Commission through its Chair to work
14 with our Latino coalition to reaffirm Southern Arizona's
15 Latino population and other protected populations, and the
16 ability to elect a person of their choice from their
17 community from Southern Arizona and its borderlands.

18 In drafting maps it must be understood that the
19 voting rights district must be protected to ensure Latino
20 communities in Maricopa and Southern Arizona are able to
21 continue to have real opportunity to elect a person of their
22 choice.

23 Southern Arizona should have a minimum of two
24 districts with a majority population for both districts
25 coming from our southern region and particularly from Pima

1 County and Santa Cruz County, thus protecting the voting
2 rights district in Southern Arizona.

3 As the coalition will be submitting an online map
4 reflecting the points articulated by the Commission's survey
5 deadline.

6 The coalition thanks the Commission for your time
7 and attention during these hearings. We do have concerns,
8 at this point the concerns focus on outreach and full public
9 input; we are prepared to work with this Commission on
10 future outreach efforts within the geographic area that I
11 have spoken of today.

12 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I'd like -- I actually have a
13 specific question.

14 MS. GRYALVA: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: If we need to increase
16 population in your district, where would you suggest we go
17 to find additional population?

18 MS. GRYALVA: Well, and I think that some of that
19 would come -- helpful information would come from the map,
20 but I actually think it's difficult to really pinpoint that
21 without the accurate census data.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Okay.

23 MS. GRYALVA: That -- that needs to know. That
24 makes your job very difficult.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yeah, but we do look forward to

1 your input on that so we would appreciate that.

2 MS. GRYALVA: Absolutely.

3 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you for your time.

4 MS. GRYALVA: Thank you.

5 And with the importance of the voting -- of voting
6 never been more critical representation of all sectors of
7 our state are urgent, the coalition is committed to Latino
8 representation and the participation with Latino
9 representatives.

10 Thank you so much.

11 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. ANDERSON: Good morning. Madam Chair, Vice
14 Chair, and Commissioners, thank you for holding these
15 hearings.

16 My name is Angie Anderson. I am here to give you
17 information about my communities of interest.

18 I urge you to use the criteria laid out in the
19 Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, and encourage you to
20 honor the Voting Rights Act to keep minority-majority
21 districts together.

22 Districts drawn in 2011 were not compact and were
23 weighted too much on competitiveness. I live in Green
24 Valley, ZIP Code 85614, and a middle to upper-middle income
25 retirement community.

1 My community has been without representation for
2 ten years because my community of interest was unlawfully,
3 dishonestly, and deliberately excluded to include minority
4 communities in South Tucson and Nogales not in our community
5 of interest.

6 I would like to see my legislative district include
7 Green Valley, and moving north and east to Sahuarita, sweep
8 to Davis-Monthan, Vail, Corona de Tucson, and parts of
9 Cochise County to include Fort Huachuca Military, aviation,
10 law enforcement community.

11 The veteran community of Sahuarita was carved out
12 in 2011 into two congressional districts, one of which is a
13 retirement subdivision known as Rancho Resort. Parts of
14 Tucson were also carved out in the middle of cosmopolitan
15 areas such as the University of Arizona.

16 I want to see the new congressional districts as a
17 sweep going east and north to include Green Valley,
18 Corona de Tucson, Vail, Tanque Verde Valley, rounded up to
19 Oro Valley and Saddlebrooke, north to Pinal County.

20 As a taxpayer and citizen, I urge you all to work
21 together for the best outcome as your decisions will have
22 impact the next ten years.

23 In God we trust. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

1 MS. CRANK: Next speaker Barbara Tellman, Christine
2 Ashley, and Shelley Kais, and then we will take a break
3 after.

4 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Break. Yes, we will.

5 MS. TELLMAN: I'm Barbara Tellman. I'm a long-time
6 resident of LD-3 and formerly LD-27. Same general area.
7 And this is a minority-majority district.

8 While I know you can't start with existing maps,
9 please take into consideration that the fine -- it's fine
10 for the most part, but there are some real problems with the
11 current configuration.

12 And I have submitted quite a few maps. Two of my
13 maps show six precincts in the LD-3 region that were placed
14 in LD-4 the last time around. Two of these precincts are
15 wedged between LD-3 and the Oregon Nation, these people then
16 are represented by someone in Yuma and not Tucson; and then
17 there are four urban precincts just north of the Nation and
18 they are surrounded by LD-3 on three sides. These people
19 are all represented by somebody in the Yuma area and these
20 people probably have never even been to Yuma. They
21 certainly have all their associations with Pima County.

22 Candidates seldom bother to campaign in these
23 isolated precincts. So, in general, not only am I
24 interested with these, but do not make districts that leave
25 isolated precincts where people have to travel -- in this

1 case four hours -- to get to the main part of their
2 precinct. Please make precincts much more succinct. And
3 I've done this on the map.

4 I also mapped the University of Arizona area, it's
5 a center of community of interest, student and faculty
6 housing on all sides of the university; currently this area
7 is in LD-10, LD-9, and LD-3.

8 Finally, I am concerned that we are only being
9 asked to concentrate on communities of interest. We can't
10 submit anything online as a comment that deals with
11 something that we can't map.

12 I want to know when are we going to be given the
13 opportunity on comment on ethnic representation,
14 compactness, competitiveness, and the other criteria that
15 are supposed to be roughly equally important as communities
16 of interest?

17 And, finally, I think you have sent a fairly clear
18 message about the value of the south and west side of town.
19 By locating your for -- first hearing in the most affluent,
20 least diverse part of our community, far northeast; and the
21 second hearing is slightly better, it's farther east but a
22 few miles farther south. There were lots of hotels and
23 campuses west of Campbell Avenue, including the entire
24 Downtown area where you could have chosen a place there; and
25 you initially had planned to have a satellite meeting in

1 Sells and that was eliminated. So I think you are not
2 getting a representative sampling from our community.

3 And just one last comment. The web link yesterday
4 did not work so you could not participate in the hearing
5 yesterday from your home.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

9 MS. ASHLEY: I'm Christine Ashley. I've done this
10 before so I'm going to take a stab.

11 I have a disability. Can you tell? I'm disabled.
12 Can you tell? I have disabilities, but I'm here to tell you
13 I'm a registered nurse, and I have a master's in nursing.

14 Just to let you know because a lot of us don't know
15 about disabilities.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

17 MS. ASHLEY: A lot of us don't know about
18 disabilities, and I feel that we're not represented because,
19 you know, some people don't know, some people do know.

20 So I just want you all to know I do have
21 disabilities. I don't look like it, but I do.

22 Anyway, my area is LD-9; and I arrived in Tucson in
23 2013, but I lived most of my life here in Arizona.

24 I came from Phoenix, that's a long ways to Tucson.
25 Joke. It's only a hundred miles.

1 Anyway, a lot of my friends are from LD-11, which
2 is north, you know, like Picture Rock, Oro Valley, those
3 places up there.

4 I was kind of wondering, I don't know the language,
5 but you guys were talking about competitive, competitive,
6 not competitive. Well, my friends, you know, they come from
7 those areas over to my shopping area, my worship area, where
8 I work. So I was just kind of wondering why Casa Grande is
9 in with, like, LD-11. You're going to get plenty of
10 population with the open borders, we all know that. Census
11 is going to change.

12 So I just thought I'll bring it up. You can
13 redistribute it when we get a proper census.

14 But I guess that's all I know how to say. I didn't
15 make a map but I thought it was very interesting being my
16 first time.

17 That's all I got to say.

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. KAIS: Good morning, Madam Chair and members of
21 the Commission. Welcome to Pima County and thank you for
22 conducting this sessions.

23 My name is Shelley Kais and I'm a resident of
24 Quail Creek, Congressional District 2, Legislative
25 District 2, and a Republican candidate for Legislative

1 District 2 in 2016 and 2018.

2 (Spanish language.)

3 That is the question that was posed to me at a 2018
4 forum hosted by the Green Valley News and the Nogales
5 International. You see, they knew that the communities of
6 interest in LD-2 were not only diverse with mining,
7 ranching, agriculture, aerospace, military bases,
8 internationally renowned tourism, international border,
9 produce companies, logistics and supply chain organizations,
10 major ports of entry for commerce and foot traffic, wine
11 growers, retirement communities, and suburban communities.
12 This LD was diverse in its people, the needs of their
13 community, and the needs of industry.

14 The result of this map of communities from South
15 Nogales, Southern Tucson, down the I-19 corridor to all of
16 Santa Cruz County to include the border communities of
17 Nogales and Sasabe, left an economic void of representation
18 in Arizona.

19 Except for Representative Chris Ackerley in 2014
20 and 2016, this area was left to reach out to other
21 representatives in Phoenix to carry their concerns and
22 legislate on their behalf; all these industries suffered
23 and, most importantly, Arizona suffered.

24 I would ask the Commission to consider the
25 importances of each of those industries in Arizona and map

1 accordingly.

2 When we talk about communities of interest and we
3 consider where people church, shop, entertain, we must also
4 consider where people work, their areas of professional
5 expertise, the programs our schools should considering
6 offering, and the future industry trends of the area.

7 As a resident of Quail Creek, it is not appropriate
8 to align LD-2. Please consider Sahuarita, Corona de Tucson,
9 Vail as communities of interest more aligned with
10 Quail Creek and Madera Highlands.

11 Unfortunately, LD-2 has been left with little or no
12 representation in Phoenix or Washington and with only one of
13 our Phoenix representatives who speak Spanish.

14 (Spanish language.)

15 And because I can communicate with my constituents
16 in Santa Cruz and South Tucson, I would ask that you provide
17 them with representation to meet their needs.

18 LD-2 needs to change. It must change not just for
19 the people of the district but for the economic prosperity
20 of Arizona.

21 Madam Chair, LD-2 --

22 MS. CRANK: Time.

23 MS. KAIS: -- is one of the districts that has been
24 harmed as a result of the current maps.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you so far for all the
3 testimony.

4 We will take a ten-minute break so that we can get
5 refresher. So we will get back here at 11:45. All right.
6 10 minutes.

7 (Recess taken from 11:37 a.m. to 11:46 a.m.)

8
9 MS. ALKIRE: Good morning, Commissioner Neuberg,
10 and members -- (technical/audio disruption).

11 All right. I'll start again.

12 My name is Judith Alkire. I live in Green Valley,
13 Arizona. I completed the online survey yesterday and drew a
14 map; which I found it a bit difficult, so I give you lots of
15 kudos on your job ahead of you.

16 Green Valley is a retirement community that has --
17 offers activities and wellness, enjoyment, and the small
18 town rural atmosphere with little traffic.

19 I worship in a church in Green Valley and one of
20 the missions of that church is to supply volunteer tutors
21 and other helpers for the Continental School District and
22 Sahuarita School District. Now that we have a hospital in
23 Green Valley and also one in Sahuarita, nearly all of my
24 medical needs can be close to home. I shop in both Green
25 Valley and Sahuarita and enjoy dining in local restaurants.

1 Since Green Valley is a seasonal community, the
2 population nearly doubles in the winter months; the
3 businesses are well supported at that time of year.
4 However, the other half of the year the other businesses
5 need a population that can support them with good-paying
6 jobs. On my street alone, there are two people who are
7 employed by Raytheon, and one that is employed by
8 Fort Huachuca.

9 Many neighbors are Air Force veterans and they rely
10 on Davis-Monthan for their pharmacy needs as well as their
11 shopping. The two local mines supply good-paying jobs that
12 are an integral part of the community.

13 It is vital that Green Valley and Sahuarita be in
14 the same district. Along with similar communities to the
15 east of Sahuarita such as Rita Ranch, Corona de Tucson, and
16 Vail. These are all very similar, and our economic, our
17 educational, and in the fact that they are of semirural and
18 adult populations.

19 Our legislative district is what I drew on my map.
20 It could -- it could include areas in Cochise County that
21 would go down to Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista since we
22 have things in common with that area.

23 It was more difficult to draw the congressional
24 districts because, of course, the population would be four
25 times what the legislative district could be.

1 We are currently in Congressional District 2, which
2 goes all the way to the New Mexico border and includes a lot
3 of the farm and smaller communities in the eastern part of
4 the state. It probably would be more of a community of
5 interest if we wrapped around the east side of Tucson and
6 went up the Houghton Corridor up to include the Tanque Verde
7 Valley, and possibly swinging west to include Oro Valley and
8 even north to include poor Saddlerack -- Saddlebrooke which
9 is up there all by itself.

10 In the last redistricting 10 years ago I spoke at
11 that also and in the --

12 MS. CRANK: Time.

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

16 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Tom Chabin.

17 MR. CHABIN: Madam Chair, members of the
18 Commission, first of all, I'd like to thank you for your
19 service; you're uncompensated and you're taking on a very
20 controversial issue that will have a major impact on your
21 state for a decade. I thank you.

22 Madam Chair, I'm going to try to answer your
23 question: How do you establish a community of interest?

24 Take one issue. Let's define it: Water. How does
25 the water issues draining the aquifers in Benson affect that

1 community?

2 How does a contaminated well in Tucson impact our
3 community?

4 How does the lack of water in Oro Valley that will
5 limit growth there because of lack of water, how is it going
6 to impact that community?

7 And then what is that issue -- that issue as it
8 applies to those -- to those communities?

9 And who can represent and how?

10 So how do you bring this to the forefront? So the
11 example I would give, would be the A10 aircraft that the Air
12 Force has been trying to retire for 20 years. The last
13 Commission established a competitive district represented by
14 Giffords, Barber, McSally, and Kirkpatrick. When serving in
15 this district, none of them radical, and all of them saved
16 the A10. All of them. All of them served our interests.

17 So you ask: What do we lack if a community's
18 interest can't be -- can't be served if there isn't
19 competitiveness? It can only be conser- -- served if the
20 districts are competitive.

21 It's the only way our interests can be served.

22 To your question about expanding the geographical
23 boundaries of our districts because an increase in
24 population. I know Mr. Watchman, yá'át'ééh. I was an
25 Arizona legislator, served the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe,

1 Havasupai, and the city of Flagstaff for five years. It
2 took me six hours to drive from Flagstaff to -- and I can't
3 remember the community that borders New Mexico, one of the
4 chapters on the Navajo Nation. Six hours to drive there.
5 These districts you're going to draw in rural Arizona --

6 MS. CRANK: Time.

7 MR. CHABIN: May I continue just for a moment?

8 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: One moment. Go ahead.

9 MR. CHABIN: All right.

10 -- are going to be larger and the communities of
11 interests is going to be lost. I hope you might recommend
12 that our House districts be separate districts to the
13 legislature for a constitutional amendment. It's impossible
14 for a legislator to serve and it's harder, very difficult,
15 for you to live up to your constitutional requirements with
16 just 30 legislative districts.

17 (Navajo language.)

18 Thank you very much.

19 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Darren, after Darren is
22 Katherine Weasel, Dee Maitland, (inaudible).

23 Please give us your name when you approach the
24 podium.

25 MR. VENTERS: Madam Chair, members of the

1 Commission, my name is Darren Venters; I live in Green
2 Valley-Sahuarita, 85629.

3 I'm here today to tell you a bit about my
4 communities of interest. My communities of interest include
5 Green Valley, Sahuarita, Rita Ranch, Corona de Tucson, Vail,
6 Benson, Sonoita, and Sierra Vista; we have retirees,
7 veterans, many military retirees, and mixed with young and
8 old folks in the communities.

9 Our friends and neighbors are employed by Raytheon,
10 the defense industries, aviation industries, Davis-Monthan
11 Air Force Base, Fort Huachuca, and others are on active
12 military duty.

13 We also have many that are in the Air and Army
14 National Guards, working in law enforcement, ranching,
15 mining, and we see each other at social occasions and at
16 church.

17 Redistricting in 2010 lumped us into a
18 noncompetitive district. We have nothing in common with
19 the -- with the West and South Tucson. We've not had
20 representation interested in our point of view since 2010.

21 Equal population of legislative districts and
22 congressional districts is essential to have one person, one
23 vote.

24 In 2010, the redistricting populations were not
25 equal. I believe the Green Valley, Sahuarita, Rita Ranch,

1 Corona de Tucson, Vail, Sonoita, Sierra Vista, and
2 Cochise County would have approximately the right number of
3 voters to create that legislative district.

4 For a congressional district you could add eastern
5 Pima area north of the Rialto River, Saddlebrooke and
6 Marana, and fill it out with Graham, Greenlee, and
7 Santa Cruz to balance the population.

8 We share the common interest in mining, ranching,
9 agriculture, the defense industries, and particularly in law
10 enforcement. These areas are reasonably compact and
11 contiguous; the boundaries are generally natural rivers, the
12 freeways, and county lines.

13 Please make your priority for the redistricting to
14 maintain the communities of interest where people of like
15 interest meet, work, and play.

16 We deserve representation that thinks the same as
17 we do. Please do not add us to the Tucson legislative
18 district. Let Tucson be a majority-minority district.

19 We thank you for having these meetings and
20 appreciate the time and effort you put into this.

21 Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. CRANK: Katherine (inaudible). Next speaker is
25 Dee Maitland, after Dee Maitland is (inaudible).

1 Is Katherine here?

2 MS. WEASEL: Right here.

3 MS. CRANK: After Katherine is Dee Maitland.

4 MS. WEASEL: Can everybody hear me?

5 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Proceed. Yes, we hear you.

6 MS. WEASEL: All right. Thank you.

7 I want to thank you for taking your time to be here
8 in Pima County, city of Tucson; we really need some help.

9 So my name is Katherine Weasel. I reside at 1992
10 West Merlin Road, my ZIP Code is 85713; I purchased the
11 property there back in 2000.

12 I have been with the west side, Tucson Mountain
13 Park, "A" mountain, the barrios. I'm also neighbors with
14 South Tucson, I actually reside on the west side; and I have
15 monthly meetings, I have been secretary, treasurer, vice
16 president, now I'm president and I've been president for the
17 past ten years, and I would like to bring up some things.

18 So everything I'm saying to you is true. I have
19 brought all of my documentation. I have a full box back
20 there if you have any questions. I can document everything
21 I'm saying here. I just want to make sure that point is
22 clear, 'cause I'm very sure you'll have some questions.

23 This is my neighborhood, Enchanted Hills
24 Neighborhood. When it started in 1960, it was a \$25 million
25 community.

1 This is a census paper that was passed to me for
2 Ward 1 meeting. We -- they wanted to put in 170 houses in
3 my neighborhood. West side, me -- Enchanted Hills, not me,
4 Enchanted Hills -- all the sides, barrios, we had so many
5 people, we had over 200 people show up at Fred Archer
6 Community Center to say "no." And we said no with a firm
7 voice, and we said no with reason, and we said no clearly.

8 Just like we said no to sanctuary cities but, yet,
9 the cities are using city vehicles to transport illegals to
10 their destinations.

11 Just like I know for a fact that the city of Tucson
12 has violated my voting rights; I have absolutely no
13 representation, I have absolutely no backup. I have, in the
14 last three years, been, like, sanctioned, boycotted. I have
15 all my work orders; I have all my pictures right here. I
16 have everything. Whatever questions you have, please feel
17 free to ask me.

18 So, what has been going on?

19 So, the city of Tucson has done a historical
20 preservation video with the help of the state of Arizona to
21 conduct their historical preservation on their own level,
22 which is a use of infrastructure money as a disguise for
23 eminent domain, to steal barrios and neighborhoods in 85713.
24 I have proof that they are trying to change the barrios'
25 names; they are trying to change the lifestyle, the culture,

1 the people --

2 MS. CRANK: Time.

3 MS. WEASEL: How convenient.

4 I have questions and -- and documents and
5 everything, I also have post cards, I have everything. If
6 you have any questions, please feel free.

7 Contact me, katherineweasel@yahoo.com. I have a
8 history of over 20 years dealing --

9 MS. CRANK: Time.

10 MS. WEASEL: Oh. Sorry.

11 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. CRANK: Next speaker Dee Maitland, Shana
14 (inaudible).

15 MS. MAITLAND: I can't believe you're doing this 15
16 times. I really thank you.

17 (Laughter.)

18 They're obviously paying you a lot.

19 I'm Dee Maitland. I lived in Marana for 15 years,
20 watched it grow where I was the last street up the hill and
21 now it goes up to a Ritz Carlton.

22 My biggest concern is my legislative district is
23 LD-11, which is a favored Republican district, but the
24 biggest problem with LD-11 is it goes primarily into Pinal
25 County. And so even though those of us who are not

1 Republican or "proud boys," represent 60 percent of LD-11 in
2 Pima County, we are always outvoted. Even with strong
3 candidates, we cannot get anyone elected.

4 The other one I'm worried about is Congressional
5 District 1, which goes from Marana and Oro Valley all the
6 way up to the left border, and I've looked at what you have
7 to deal with, it's really going to be tough on the
8 population.

9 Fortunately we've have a representative who has
10 been concerned because Marana and Oro Valley which are
11 alongside to Pima County in Congressional District 1, and we
12 only represent 15 percent of the voters in Congressional
13 District 1. We have a fair representative at this time, but
14 what if we don't next time?

15 The next thing is I want you to know is that
16 Marana, which has grown amazingly, almost 50 percent since
17 2010, should not be part of a legislative district that is
18 mainly Pinal County. We're suburban, we get our news, we
19 get our cultural entertainment, our newspaper, all of our
20 information and connections are with Tucson.

21 We're right straddling I-10, I can go from
22 Dove Mountain down to Tucson within 30 minutes for all
23 the -- the things, and get -- in about 35-40 minutes get to
24 the U of A where most of our -- our students will go, and
25 where I go to take classes because they're very generous.

1 So my -- my concern is is that right now my whole
2 community of interest will go to Oro Valley because of
3 interchanges. It's easier to go to the library and Safeway
4 and that in Oro Valley; but also we are a bedroom community
5 of Tucson, and all the vibrance, all the cultural things are
6 part of Tucson and part of Marana. So please don't put us
7 with a county that's really primarily ag and mining, when
8 we're really part of the city of Tucson.

9 Thank you very much.

10 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. LEONARD: Wait. Which one? This one?

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Both. Use both, please.

14 MS. LEONARD: Oh my God.

15 Hi. Thank you, Chair Neuberg and the Commission,
16 my name is Shana Leonard.

17 I've grown up here in Tucson since 1964, still
18 growing up, and I went to Rita High School right down
19 Arcadia; I was confirmed at Temple Emanu-El right nearby on
20 Country Club; and I was married nearby in my brother's
21 backyard; my son played jazz band right here at the
22 Sheraton. And I have friends on the far east side, the west
23 side and the south side and Foothills.

24 My community of interest is Tucson. And I believe
25 that democracy only works when we all talk to each other.

1 Dividing people into like-minded bubbles encourages
2 extremism. I've heard people today say we have nothing in
3 common with others here in Southern Arizona.

4 Really? Maybe you need to talk to more people.

5 I believe that even though we have political
6 opponents, we don't have enemies. In 2020, I cofounded a
7 volunteer group called Tucson Vote Riders to take people to
8 the polls for free. We did it because we wanted to do
9 something as an antidote to this new extremism in politics.
10 We didn't ask if people were Republican, Independent, or
11 Democrats; we just asked where they lived and when they
12 wanted to be picked up. We wanted to help them vote. It
13 was a blast. And we even had 15 minutes of fame on KGUN.

14 There's something wonderful about helping everyone
15 no matter who they are to get a voice to vote. Most things
16 aren't fair in life, but in our country we have this ideal
17 that we are all created equal, that we are equal before God
18 and in the voting booth. But polarization and extremism is
19 taking us away from this in Arizona.

20 Last year in Science magazine they had an article
21 about the rise in extremist political speech. This isn't
22 arguing about how much tax to pay, it's about people with
23 hatred for other members of another party as if we have
24 nothing in common, as people have said. It's as if other
25 Americans are not quite human. This is what really bothers

1 me.

2 I think it's wrong and it's toxic to our mental
3 health and physical health, and it threatens our nations and
4 our democracy.

5 Many Arizonans don't like these trends and, in
6 fact, in Pima County they have left political parties.

7 In 20 -- in 2000, Pima County had 19 percent
8 Independent or "others," and in 2020 there was over
9 31 percent of voters not registered as Democrats or
10 Republicans. These Independent voter want less divisiveness
11 and more choice.

12 That's why I'm glad we have a balanced IRC with
13 Dr. Neuberg as an Independent. You get to be part of the
14 solution to this problem to reduce extremism by creating
15 fair and competitive districts. I suspect candidates look
16 at other parties' voters more kindly and humanly when they
17 need their votes.

18 Thanks again for your volunteering and your service
19 to Arizona.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is (inaudible), Matthew
22 Levitt, Faith Ramon.

23 (Indiscernible.)

24 Please announce your name when you get to the
25 podium.

1 The next four speakers are Penny Hurley, Matthew
2 Levy, Faith Ramon, and Sandy Ochoa.

3 MR. LEVITT: My name is Matthew Levitt; and, yes, I
4 did fill out the survey.

5 Let me begin. Ladies and gentlemen of the
6 Independent Redistricting Commission, I am here today to
7 speak on behalf of Corona de Tucson, my home for the past
8 17 years. This veteran community nestled at the base of the
9 Santa Rita Mountains currently hosts somewhere between 10-
10 and 20,000 souls depending upon the seasons. It can trace
11 its roots to both the mining town of Helvetia and the
12 Alta Ranch, both of which are from the latter half of the
13 19th Century.

14 Today Rosemont Copper Company draws copper ore from
15 the old veins of Helvetia, and the Alta Ranch continues to
16 raise beef. The suburban neighborhood began as a military
17 retirement community in 1963 and has since flourished into
18 hundreds of houses, parks, a fire department, and three
19 schools, and a few small businesses. It is a community made
20 up of policeman, military service families, teachers,
21 correction officers, healthcare workers, Raytheon engineers,
22 small business owners, contractors, miners, and retirees.

23 We are very much a suburban community of interest
24 that has close ties to Vail, Rita Ranch, New Tucson,
25 Littleton, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Sonoita, Patagonia, and

1 the whole of Cochise County due to our heritages of mining
2 and ranching, coupled with our roots in Davis-Monthan Air
3 Force Base. We do not share common interests nor goals with
4 the ever-growing Tucson metroplex who is currently seeking
5 to annex us along with Vail, New Tucson, and Littleton
6 through coercive means relating to utilities.

7 In the most recent edition of the Vail Voice
8 newspaper, our county district supervisor Steve Christy
9 unveils new efforts to incorporate both Vail and
10 Corona de Tucson in an effort to stop Tucson's increasing
11 encroachment upon our sovereignty. For you see,
12 Corona de Tucson's voice has been nullified by the total
13 gerrymandering of our region thanks to the 2010
14 Redistricting Commission that saw the Vail school district
15 divide between three legislative districts and two
16 congressional districts. That is a districting map that is
17 akin to broken glass that follows city of Tucson boundaries
18 rather than highways and other physical barriers.

19 We want to remain independent of Tucson and desire
20 representation that is separate for we are not one and the
21 same and never will be.

22 In summation, Legislative District 14 should
23 encompass the whole of Cochise County, Vail, Rita Ranch,
24 Corona de Tucson, Littleton, New Tucson, Davis-Monthan Air
25 Force Base, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Sonoita, and Patagonia;

1 Congressional District 2 should be encompassing these areas
2 along with more rural communities looping around the eastern
3 edge of Tucson metroplex moving north so that Southeastern
4 Arizona may once again have its voice.

5 Thank you for your time and consideration.

6 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. CRANK: Next speaker, the last name is Hurley.

9 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Penny.

10 MS. CRANK: Penny.

11 MS. HURLEY: I'm a little nervous, I don't do this
12 every day of the week.

13 But thank you for your time and effort, and we
14 appreciate you doing this on behalf of Pima County and the
15 state of Arizona.

16 We currently live in Precinct 178 north of
17 Tanque Verde in east of Bear Canyon; our precinct spans to
18 Houghton Road. We live in Pima County, not the city of
19 Tucson.

20 When we first moved here we lived in Legislative
21 District 30 in 2002; we had consistent representation for
22 many years. Our area is more rural with larger lots and
23 LD-30 included the east side where we have more conservative
24 values. For instance, we love our sheriff's department and
25 we definitely do not want their funds cut. We are protected

1 by the Recon District Office and we want them supported and
2 respected.

3 In fact, we had an irregularity in our security
4 system and the sheriff's department showed up out of concern
5 before the actual alarm went off that we could hear. We
6 love and trust our sheriff department. Plus, we were not
7 charged for a false alarm like we did -- like we would be in
8 the city of Tucson.

9 As you heard from the first woman that spoke, there
10 are some very serious concerns about public safety on the
11 east side and all of Tucson.

12 Plus many people on the east side of Pima County
13 share the same values. Plus we register our house with the
14 sheriff's department while we're gone for any great length
15 of time because we trust them.

16 After the 2010 redistricting, LD-30 was targeted
17 and to be redrawn to include Midtown Tucson which is
18 contrary to our conservative values. Thus,
19 Tanque Verde Valley has lacked representation that we wanted
20 for ten years. Many people have become disfranchised,
21 discouraged by local lack of present representation, and
22 many of us feel invisible.

23 I would like to see our area maintain the
24 conservative values we enjoyed with LD-30 generally from our
25 area spanning along the Houghton Corridor.

1 LD-10 is not competitive or representative of our
2 values. As a legislative district which is entirely in Pima
3 County, we need a stronger voice in Phoenix.

4 Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CRANK: Faith Ramon. Sandy Ochoa is next.

8 MS. RAMON: Hello.

9 My name is Faith Ramon. A little bit about myself,
10 I was born and raised in Keatoya (phonetic) in the Gu Achi
11 District on the Tohono O'odham Nation. I reside in
12 Legislative District 5.

13 As an indigenous woman native to the O'odham land,
14 I'm also a community organizer, I fight for injustice with
15 LUCHA, I'm also an active member of the Native American
16 Church of Southern Arizona as the water protectors. I
17 preserve and I carry the values of my humidack (phonetic),
18 my faith -- my faith, my community of interest are those
19 that look like me who share the same economic struggles.

20 My geographic boundary would include the Tohono
21 O'odham Nation, San Xavier, Pascua Yaqui Reservation, South
22 Side Barrios, as well as other communities within the graph.

23 So many has -- so many things have happened over
24 the past ten years -- sorry -- my communities are losing
25 loved ones, our schools are underfunded, our elders cannot

1 afford healthcare, and we're experiencing a water drought
2 affecting all communities; but most importantly the
3 population has grown, the population of communities of color
4 has grown in particular.

5 My ask is that the Commission needs to maintain the
6 same number of districts where communities of color have the
7 ability to elect a candidate of their own choosing, which is
8 protected by the Voting Rights Act and the Commission must
9 uphold this protection in the draft for the next ten years
10 of Arizona's elected representation.

11 My community of Tucson, my home, the Tohono O'odham
12 Nation, my neighbors the Pascua Yaqui, as well as South Side
13 Barrios, we deserve the minority-majority district.

14 Thank you so much for your time.

15 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CRANK: Sandy Ochoa.

18 The next four speakers: Kimberly Fitch, Elyse
19 Benson, Margaret Chaney, Lyle Aldridge.

20 MS. OCHOA: Good afternoon, Madam Chair and
21 Commission. Nice to be here seeing you all again; it's
22 always a pleasure.

23 My name is Sandy Ochoa, as I said. I am Arizona
24 State Deputy Director for Mi Familia Vota. I'm here to
25 testify about the importance of making the 2021

1 redistricting process a fair and transparent process. The
2 work I do every day reminds me about the importance of
3 having an opportunity to decide who would best represent me
4 and my community at the local and state and federal level.

5 I know that the work starts with a redistricting
6 process, how districts are drawn affects every political
7 issue from education to immigration and voting rights. In
8 addition, paired with the census, redistricting plays a
9 critical part on the type, amount -- and amount of resources
10 my local community receives for the next ten years.

11 Providing communities like the one I grew up in and
12 now living in with the opportunity to shape the future, my
13 and my family's future is what is at stake. As the
14 Commission looks at the incoming data from the census and
15 considers the shape of our community's representation, I ask
16 that you center the communities of interest and that you
17 define and shape these communities that you will affect with
18 the process, that you provide them with a voice and a chance
19 in the political process.

20 Thank you for taking the time to listen to my
21 testimony, and I wish you all the best in this very
22 important process for all of us in Arizona.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

1 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Kimberly Fitch,
2 (indiscernible) Elyse Benson.

3 MS. FITCH: Good afternoon.

4 My name is Kimberly Fitch and I have lived in Pima
5 County for almost 40 years. I live in Congressional
6 District No. 4 and Legislative District No. 9.

7 I own a property management company in Tucson that
8 employs 107 individuals with almost 4,000 multifamily units
9 in Tucson, Casa Grande, and Sierra Vista.

10 My husband and I raised two children who were
11 educated and graduated from the Amphi Public Schools here in
12 Tucson.

13 The boundaries of the Amphi School District are the
14 boundaries that I would like to suggest for my community of
15 interest. This school district has a diverse population
16 with 56 percent minority enrollments, and the interest -- my
17 community's interest are providing the best education as
18 possible while each person is allowed to live, prosper, and
19 grow.

20 My children's lifelong friends that made at Amphi
21 are a group with multicultural and ethnic backgrounds with a
22 variety of lifestyles, and the various voices of this
23 community should be represented at all levels of the
24 government.

25 Partisan -- bipartisan participation in governing

1 our country is necessary so no segments of the population
2 are left out. My requests of you today is that you do not
3 decrease the number of representatives whose constituents
4 reside in Pima County at a federal level, and that you work
5 to ensure that every vote is counted including those of
6 minorities as this is a cornerstone of democracy.

7 Thank you for taking on this important role, and I
8 trust that you will support the voting rights of all
9 individuals.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. BENSON: Hello. I live in the Avondale
13 neighborhood, I bought my house online, never seen it, never
14 been there, but I couldn't be happier.

15 My name is Elyse Benson, but I answer to "Crazy
16 Aging Hippy Chick." Anybody else? Yeah.

17 (Laughing.)

18 I'm 75 years old, and I clearly remember my
19 fifth-grade teacher railing against the gerrymandering and
20 railing against the electoral college, so Mrs. Russell this
21 is for you.

22 (Laughter.)

23 The ordinary model for negotiating different things
24 is: Okay, here's the middle, you want to end up over here,
25 and you want to end up over here. So when you're going to

1 negotiate, the one thing you're going to do is you know
2 you're going to have give up some stuff, so you start over
3 here so you can give up some stuff that you didn't really
4 care about and kind of end up where you want to, and your
5 opponent is going to do the same. They're going to ask for
6 more than that they really want and give up stuff. So you
7 never really get anywhere with that model.

8 I worked in Oregon with a conflict resolution model
9 that I would like to suggest as maybe a former -- a future
10 resolution. How that works was the two sides, usually it
11 was resource area managements, but the two sides would come
12 together and we would say -- would say: You want this and
13 you want this; we're going to admit you have to agree out of
14 the gate we're going to have an independent, unbiased panel
15 make a decision, you write your plan, you write your plan,
16 and we'll make the decision.

17 Okay. How that works is then that drives both
18 sides right back to the middle because they don't want to be
19 seen as an outlier, they want to be picked. So this is a
20 good model.

21 I would like to suggest that we set up a
22 redistricting as a high school competition, give them the
23 pertinent data, the physical, cultural, natural boundaries
24 that may exist, give them the criteria they need, give them
25 a cash prize for doing it. And look at the benefit; you

1 have somebody else to blame.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CRANK: Next speaker Margaret Chaney, Lyle
5 Aldridge, Chris King.

6 MS. CHANEY: Thank you.

7 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is
8 Margaret Chaney; I've lived in Tucson since 1991. I'm a
9 teacher for over 20 years, and I'm the precinct captain for
10 Precinct 100; I'm also the president of the Tucson Education
11 Association.

12 I'm here to ask the Commission to use its wisdom
13 and experience when determining the districts this year.
14 Gerrymandering is a practice intended to establish an unfair
15 political advantage for a political power. This is done
16 also to take away the voices of the underrepresented.

17 The fact that during the introduction you stated
18 that it was good of you to see so many of you again signaled
19 to me that -- that some in the audience are here to pack the
20 decisions has to do with how the districts are drawn.

21 As a history teacher, I recall lessons on Jim Crow
22 after the 14th Amendment was enacted. I think how easy it
23 is to take away the voice of the people who have
24 historically and presently are underrepresented. I look
25 around the room and I can see that I am underrepresented

1 ethnically but that doesn't mean we have to have anything in
2 common.

3 "My community has nothing in common with
4 minoritized communities," is the same logic segregationists
5 have used for decades.

6 This Commission needs to took -- needs to look at
7 how the redistricting will serve the common good, how will a
8 community -- how will communities' economic and natural
9 resources be impacted.

10 My community of interest is large. I am a public
11 school teacher of TUSD which also includes the Davis-Monthan
12 Air Force Base, I'm a parent, a woman, a homeowner, a person
13 of color, and almost ready to retire. I am certain my
14 viewpoint is not the minority.

15 (Foreign language.)

16 No doubt I have much in common with many in the
17 audience and no doubt we disagree on many things as well,
18 but one thing we cannot and must not disagree on is the
19 state and federal constitution and the rights of the people.

20 One of the best things about Arizona is the
21 practice of proposition and referendums. It is in these
22 actions that you hear the real voice of a diverse people.
23 It is varied and authentic. Let's keep that voice loud and
24 clear. Keep it diverse. Keep it authentic. Keep it
25 competitive.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Lyle Aldridge.

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

5 Before we move to the next speaker, I just want to
6 reassure our public who is listening, you know, this is --
7 this is our first take on a listening tour; we're learning a
8 tremendous amount. Everybody who is showing up, your data
9 is being collected, and it is deeply valued.

10 We're also taking note of who we're not hearing
11 from and we also care deeply about those communities as
12 well. So please understand that all of this data matters on
13 multiple levels.

14 And, with that, thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. ALDRIDGE: Chairman and members of the
17 Commission, thank you for the opportunity to address you.

18 My name is Lyle Aldridge. I have resided in Pima
19 County for 58 years. For the last 29 I've been living in
20 the Tanque Verde Valley, which you heard quite a bit about
21 yesterday and a little bit more about today. At the risk of
22 boring you a little bit, I'll go through some of the things
23 that we have in common as a community of interest.

24 We are mostly single-family homes owned by the
25 people who live in them; we tend to live on larger lots.

1 Unlike people in the city of Tucson, we don't tend to live
2 10 feet from our neighbors, and I think that makes us a lot
3 less interested in controlling what our neighbors do.

4 Most of our children go to non-TUSD schools in the
5 Tanque Verde District, some in the Vail District, some in
6 the one TUSD school in the area, Sobino High School,
7 which -- whose attendance area happens to be currently split
8 by the boundaries between Legislative District 9 and
9 Legislative District 10.

10 We have a lot in common with the people in the
11 Foothills. We don't rely on the city services except for
12 one thing, which I'll get to. We rely on the sheriff for
13 our law enforcement. We get our fire protection and our
14 emergency medical services from the private contractors; we
15 get our waste disposal from private contractors. We live
16 semirural lifestyles in -- in many of our neighborhoods; we
17 have kids in the 4-H; we have animals, goats, horses. And
18 one that's important to me, a lot of us used to have wells.

19 The 2010 redistricting carefully sliced up the
20 community of interest around the outskirts of Tucson so that
21 every district included large segments of the city of Tucson
22 and its densely populated area of people with whom we do
23 have a lot in common, but we have a lot of conflicts of
24 interest.

25 As a result of that redistricting as it currently

1 is, our state legislators in particular feel no need to
2 campaign in our area. I used to see, for instance, Democrat
3 candidates walking the streets even in the Tanque Verde
4 district. I met Gabriel Giffords on my own front porch.

5 Since 2010, I haven't seen a Democrat candidate
6 anywhere around. And one way you ask how this harms our
7 district is: One, next to my driveway my wife and I have a
8 deep, dry hole that used to be a well that served our
9 neighborhood -- our house and our neighbors had wells just
10 like it. The city of Tucson has pumped all the water out of
11 our wells and now they've proposed to charge us 40 or
12 50 percent more to deliver water to us than they do to the
13 city of Tucson.

14 But people in the city of Tucson I'm sure are glad
15 to have us subsidizing their water rates, but if I want to
16 talk to a state legislator about this, my legislator
17 represents those people and primarily represents those
18 people --

19 MS. CRANK: Time.

20 MR. ALDRIDGE: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

23 MS. CRANK: Chris Kind and then Patrick

24 (inaudible).

25 MR. KING: Good morning, members of redistricting

1 commission. Welcome to Pima County and thank you for the
2 job you're doing.

3 My name is Chris King, live in Congressional
4 District 2, Legislative District 10, Precinct 2018. I'm an
5 elected Republican precinct and state committeeman. I have
6 lived in my home, my current home, for 17 and a half years.

7 I'm retired from the United States Air Force where
8 I served over 20 years to include three combat tours in Iraq
9 and Afghanistan, and stationed or worked at three of the
10 major military organizations here in Arizona.

11 I'm a member of the Vail School District Governing
12 Board. My children graduated from the Vail School District;
13 and my daughter, her husband, and my grandchildren live in
14 the same legislative district but different school district.

15 We purchased our home due to that school district
16 and the large veteran and professional population on the
17 Southeast side of Tucson/Pima County area.

18 Congressional District 2 spans four of the
19 Arizona's 15 counties and is a mix of rural, suburban,
20 border town, and big cities. This doesn't fall under the
21 community of -- communities of interest model by any stretch
22 of the imagination.

23 Currently Legislative District 10 doesn't fit the
24 communities of interest model either as defined by the
25 Arizona Constitution. The far east side is conservative and

1 professional, the center of District 10 is Independent and
2 blue collar workers, the west side is located near the
3 University of Arizona, and it's hyperinflated Democrats and
4 densely populated.

5 LD-10 in the last 10 years has had only one state
6 representative from the Republican party, which could be
7 considered an anomaly, and currently does not have any party
8 representation at the state level.

9 Prior to the last Redistricting Commission, Pima
10 County had a strong voice in Phoenix and at the state
11 legislature. The last Commission squelched our voices.

12 My communities of interests include veterans from
13 David-Monthan Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca, law
14 enforcement, Border Patrol, retirees, and professionals from
15 the major defense contractors located here along the
16 Houghton Corridor, Corona de Tucson, Sierra Vista,
17 Quail Creek, Sahuarita, Green Valley, and Vail.

18 I'm aware of the requirements you have as an
19 Independent Redistricting Commission. Your statutory
20 requirements to follow the Voting Rights Act, keeping
21 districts equally populated, compact and contiguous,
22 respecting communities of interest, utilizing geographic
23 features, and lastly competitive districts when there isn't
24 a significant detriment to the aforementioned goals.
25 Unfortunately, this didn't occur the last time district

1 boundaries were drawn.

2 I've heard many times this morning where
3 competitive districts -- competitiveness was posited as an
4 opinion. Yet, the city of Tucson neglects to allow this
5 position within its own boundaries due to rejecting to
6 board-only voting and general election specific council
7 members.

8 In closing, I implore you to bring the boundaries
9 of our school district, the Vail School District, under only
10 one legislative district instead of three. That would be
11 10, 11 -- or, 10, 14, and 2.

12 The time has come to bring communities of interest
13 back instead of competitiveness.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. ROBLES: Buenas Tardes, everybody.

17 My name is Patrick Robles, and I'm a precinct
18 committee member in Precinct 155 in LD-2; and I'm also a
19 student at the U of A and active community member.

20 Precinct 155 is five minutes south of Tucson. The
21 majority of the folks who live in that precinct go to the
22 south side of Tucson to get the services and care that they
23 need to live a life, quite frankly.

24 LD-2 also shares the south side of Tucson with
25 Green Valley and Sahuarita. I believe that Pima Mine Road

1 should be the dividing line between a legislative district
2 that differs between the south side of Tucson and
3 Green Valley. I think Green Valley and Sahuarita should
4 have their own district.

5 You know, it's a work -- a strong community, a
6 community of working class folks, a young community with
7 families who attend public schools. It's a community where
8 the Sunnyside School District also resides; the Sunnyside
9 School Districts have two legislative districts, you have
10 LD-3 and LD-2. I believe the Sunnyside School District
11 should only be in one legislative district.

12 I strongly believe that our barrios should be
13 together. I believe our neighborhoods in the south side of
14 Tucson should be together because we share many
15 commonalties. You have community members who attend the
16 same high school as their grandparents. You know, that's
17 the tight-knit community that the south side of Tucson is.

18 Sure, I may be represented, but we may not have --
19 but that does not mean that the representation is responsive
20 to the diverse needs of the community of south side of
21 Tucson.

22 I just want to reiterate: Let's keep our barrios
23 together.

24 Thank you very much for holding this hearing.
25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Next Speaker is Chris Ackerley, Ben
4 (indiscernible), Brenda Simon, Richard Hernandez.

5 MR. ACKERLEY. Good afternoon, Madam Chair,
6 Commissioners. Thank you again for holding these hearings
7 and thank you for serving -- serving in this process.

8 I am Chris Ackerley. During the week I am a high
9 school math teacher and resident of West Tucson; over the
10 weekends I am a recovering politician.

11 In the 52nd Legislature I had the privilege of
12 serving Legislative District 2 in the Arizona House of
13 Representatives, therefore, my party affiliation is no
14 secret. But to mention this: Of the 25 legislators that
15 have been elected from Pima County, I am one of only four
16 who has had the opportunity to serve in the majority. It
17 has been mentioned here earlier today and I can speak at
18 length how that has disadvantaged Pima County when it comes
19 to public policy and budget negotiation issues at the -- at
20 the Capitol, but we're here talking about community of --
21 communities of interest.

22 And so I would like to submit to you that the
23 failure of the 2010 Commission to fully consider communities
24 of interest has had a detrimental effect on the body
25 politics, and I'd also like to try to convince you to maybe

1 view competitiveness in new light.

2 The current Legislative District 2 was constructed
3 of three very divergent communities to be safe seats for
4 Democrats; my election was never supposed to happen.

5 Yesterday a gentleman spoke suggesting that the
6 result of combining such divergent districts resulted in
7 legislators being elected that would be focused on local
8 concerns and be more prone to compromise. While I
9 appreciate the comment, first, I don't think he read my best
10 statement, it's a two-to-one voting registration edge had
11 been flipped the other way; and, second of all, I can tell
12 you that the reality is very much the opposite.

13 The residents of Sahuarita and Green Valley did not
14 care that I fixed an issue regarding flood control plains in
15 southern -- or in eastern Santa Cruz County, any more than
16 the residents of Nogales cared whether I worked on taxation
17 issues for the city of South Tucson, nor did the residents
18 of Southern Tucson care that I fixed an issue -- governance
19 issue for Green Valley Recreational.

20 The facts that the communities had no common
21 interests meant that in the end success in the general
22 election was based almost primarily on national -- on
23 partisan politics.

24 It left Santa Cruz completely marginalized, and it
25 means that almost by necessity that the representative is

1 either going to be a progressive from the Green
2 Valley-Sahuarita area or someone who is totally immersed in
3 the internal Democrat politics of Southern Tucson.

4 So I would further submit to you that there is good
5 reason that that sixth criteria about competitiveness is
6 accompanied by a clause that refers to the other ones
7 because I believe competitiveness is imbedded in those.

8 If we construct districts based upon communities of
9 interest, maybe competitiveness will be about who can best
10 represent the area rather than partisan affiliation.

11 Again, thank you for your time. I'd be happy to
12 answer any questions.

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Brenda Simon
16 (inaudible).

17 MR. BROOKHART: Greetings to the Chair -- to the
18 Madam Chair and Vice Chair and all members and staff of the
19 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, AIRC.

20 My name is Benjamin Brookhart, and I live in
21 Congressional Districts 3, Legislative District 11,
22 Supervisory District 3, and School District 6 which is
23 Marana Unified School District; and I graduated from there
24 in 1996.

25 I do not live in the Tucson city limits but I have

1 a Tucson address. I live in Picture Rocks community and I'm
2 assigned to Precinct 70 in Pima County.

3 My residence is west of I-10 along the Saguaro
4 National Monument, but my communities of like interest is
5 east of I-10. I work, shop, socialize, and worship with
6 citizens of Marana, Oro Valley, Casas Adobes, and the
7 northern end of Tucson.

8 I work east of Tucson -- or, I work in Tucson east
9 of the freeway; I worship along with members of Desert Son
10 Community Church on Cortaro Road, Church of Christ on Ina
11 Road, and Faith Community Church on Orange Grove Road
12 frequently within the last 10 years of all -- all are east
13 of I-10 in LD-9.

14 I shop and socialize with many friends of like
15 interest in LD-9 and LD-10; yet I live in LD-11.

16 I want you to kind of picture this for a second.
17 So ten years ago I was connected with everybody that's in
18 the north end of LD-9, right, as a single LD; and yet I
19 never or rarely travel up to Casa Grande in a course of a
20 year, and yet that's my LD. Just to give you a sense of
21 that how they have been cracking and packing these LDs.

22 Furthermore, I also want to emphasize after using
23 districtrebuild- -- districtbuilder.com redistricting tool,
24 it is very possible to draw three southern border districts.
25 Because there's no way of getting around it, Tucson and Pima

1 County is going to get bifurcated because it's larger than a
2 million people.

3 So what I would suggest is kind of a half moon
4 shape where the northern rural area of -- of the county
5 sweeps all the way around to Cochise County,
6 Santa Cruz County, Greenlee, Graham, Pinal County on the
7 congressional district keeping it compact. So it would be
8 compact, contiguous, equal population, and you would have
9 your minority-majority district in Mid-South Tucson
10 district.

11 So what you're seeing here is that there is a lot
12 of conflict between the rural areas and the municipal areas
13 or the inner cities.

14 And, also, I want to emphasize that as much as
15 people talk about polarization, competitiveness also breeds
16 polarization. So make -- make sure that we're paying
17 attention to that as well.

18 The last time around my communities of like
19 interest were split into two different legislative
20 districts, the Pima County portion of LD-11 was connected to
21 LD-9 as one district. The previous AIRC drew districts that
22 were not compact, that did not have equal population in
23 number, and were focused on competitiveness.

24 I do not want this to happen again, please follow
25 the Arizona Constitution as you draw district lines this

1 time.

2 Last thing that I would say is that I would like
3 you all if you could practice moderation moderately.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CRANK: Brenda Simon, Richard Hernandez.

7 MS. SIMON: Hello.

8 My name is Brenda Simon, I'm a Pima County
9 resident. My husband and I are self-employed; I work as a
10 committee member of my HOA.

11 And it seems that the last Redistricting Commission
12 did not adhere to the U.S. Constitution and Voting Rights
13 Act as directed by the Arizona Constitution. It's critical
14 to adhere to the six criteria laid out in the constitution
15 to avoid extreme competitiveness which seems to have been
16 the focus of the last commission.

17 The Arizona Constitution requires that both
18 congressional and state legislative district be contiguous,
19 geographically compact, and respect communities of interest
20 all to -- to the extent practical.

21 It's a community of interest that we're here
22 discussing today and, of course, that's critical because we
23 choose where we live based on economics, based on the people
24 that we see in the communities. It's just how -- how it
25 works. That's how we adhere as a community; it's what makes

1 a community.

2 It's concerning in Southern Arizona where we see
3 districts which could be contiguous but representing
4 communities of interest, but are currently deeply divided
5 districts and not wholly representative of communities of
6 interests leaving nearly half our population feeling
7 nonrepresented.

8 As one of those who added to the growth of the
9 population in Arizona, the numbers and the districts need to
10 correct the previous maps to be drawn as closely as possible
11 to contain equal population instead of some of the districts
12 having 12 percent more population than other currently.

13 As an unincorporated area massively expanding in
14 our -- in our new housing area, community, economically
15 we're all similar. It doesn't matter about what -- what our
16 racial differences may or may not be, we're -- we're a
17 community based on so many different things. We live in a
18 rural area, it's where we choose to live, we own our own
19 transportation for work and shopping, our neighbors are
20 families with -- with children, people work at Raytheon,
21 government jobs, self-employed, retired veterans.

22 And so that's what I ask that you keep -- keep in
23 mind most of all when you're trying to do the community of
24 interest that matter.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Richard Hernandez
4 (inaudible).

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Buenas dias.

6 As Commissioners you have a daunting challenge.
7 Mostly you're obligated by law to do what you have to do.
8 Given that is your primary directive, yet you have to appear
9 like you're listening, that you care, that you're
10 compassionate, that you're thoughtful of all the Arizona
11 residents, that's one tall order to fill.

12 Thank you for doing what you do, but that's the
13 challenge that you have.

14 My name is Richard Hernandez. I'm not here to talk
15 about my college education, my religious preference, my
16 economic status, the fact that I'm retired, the fact that
17 I'm gay, the fact that I'm Hispanic, the fact that where I
18 live I speak different languages, I'm here to talk to you
19 about voting. Elections.

20 You have the power, Commissioners, to make a huge
21 change. The narrative today from elected folks is it's my
22 way or the highway; I'm right, you're wrong. That's what we
23 have today. But you, Commissioners, have the power to
24 change that given all the circumstances you have.

25 Let me draw this to your attention. We just had a

1 city of Tucson election, city council, less than 20 percent
2 people voted depending on what ward you are. So let me tell
3 you, Commissioners, what I think that says. What I think it
4 says. You hear that? 80 percent of the people are not
5 voting, they're giving you direction. 80 percent of this
6 community is not voting.

7 Your job, if you can, is to bring them back. Let
8 them be part of the collective. Let them vote. Let them
9 care.

10 People are very passionate up here. I listened to
11 them. Mostly because everybody has some kind of
12 self-interest. I'm not here about self-interest. I'm
13 saying as a greater community, we need to bring back that
14 80 percent in the city of Tucson that didn't vote.

15 Can you do that?

16 How will you do that?

17 Are you listening to these 80 percent?

18 We have a room full, but you realize how many more
19 people that means that are not here?

20 That's your challenge. I wish you the best.

21 And it is time for change, whatever you decide to
22 do. God bless.

23 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

1 MS. SPARROLD: Hello, Madam and Commission.

2 My name is Brenda Sparrold. I'm a longtime
3 resident of the Tanque Verde Valley; I attended Tanque Verde
4 schools, I worked and played all over Tucson; I'm now
5 raising four children who are attending Tanque Verde
6 Schools; and after having worked all over Tucson, I have a
7 private practice on the east side that supports my family.

8 My district is LD-10 which has a history of being
9 politically competitive, despite what others have said. I
10 have been politically active, I've canvassed for my
11 representatives who represent me well I feel.

12 I want to advocate for districts that sensibly
13 represent my communities' interest rather than artificially
14 creating competition based only on political parties. My
15 community is united around providing the best possible
16 education for our children, which is a common value, I
17 think, but also for a community around balancing our high
18 need for good transportation infrastructure with the
19 delicate balance of the riparian and green environment that
20 we live in.

21 Nearly all of us work outside of the community, all
22 of us need to shop in the city of Tucson which we're so
23 close to. We have a great deal more in common with our
24 close neighbors in the city of Tucson than with suburbanites
25 on the different corners of Tucson who have different

1 infrastructure needs, who have different communities that
2 they're living in, who have different environments that
3 they're living in.

4 The proposal that a district that includes
5 Tanque Verde intentionally avoids the city that's an
6 absolute integral part of our daily lives, doesn't best
7 serve the interest of the Tanque Verde community.

8 Thank you very much for your time.

9 (Applause.)

10 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

11 MS. CRANK: Next speaker Tom Prezelski. Tom?

12 MR. PREZELSKI: Thank you for letting me speak to
13 the Commission.

14 My name is Tom Prezelski. I am a former member of
15 the Arizona State House. I represented the south side for
16 six years between 2003 and 2009; it was a very different
17 district.

18 Right now I still live on the south side. I live
19 within about a ten-minute walk of the house where my
20 grandmother grew up, which was recently sold by Diane Keaton
21 for \$2.5 million; my grandfather is buried in Vail. I'm
22 saying this not to brag, but just to say that there are
23 people in this community who have very deep roots in this
24 community, folks who did not move here from other places,
25 and I think we need to respect that when we draw districts.

1 I agree with some of the previous speakers that
2 Green Valley does not belong in a district with the south
3 side of Tucson, and I am not saying that for the same
4 reasons they may have said. It's just that on the south
5 side of Tucson, we -- we are from families that have been
6 there for a long time, a lot of Mexican-Americans, a very
7 significant Native American and African American population
8 as well that are well established. We have common issues,
9 common problems, issues with infrastructure, issues with how
10 our neighborhoods are developing that go back for decades.

11 Most importantly, there is a leadership on the
12 south side of Tucson that has been well established for
13 years, people who have been working in the community for a
14 very long time. And contrary to what some previous speakers
15 have said, we're currently represented by an individual from
16 Sahuarita and an individual from Green Valley, and I don't
17 have any problem with them as representatives, except that
18 they need to be educated about these big problems that we
19 have on the south side. It's harder to do that when they
20 don't come from our community.

21 The other issue is, it's kind of subtle but I would
22 argue that by doing that, we've kind of diminished the
23 influence of this well-established leadership that we have
24 on the south side of Tucson.

25 You know, people like, you know, when I was in the

1 legislature, we had people like Victor Sotero who had been
2 in the community for decades who had been a city councilman
3 in South Tucson; prior to that we had people like Ramon
4 Valdez who had been born in the district and raised in the
5 district; people like Carmen Cajero who is -- who is the
6 widow of a man who cut hair in the district.

7 So, you know, this -- this is the kind of
8 representation we should be seeing, and it's difficult to do
9 that --

10 MS. CRANK: Time.

11 MR. PREZELSKI: -- when you don't draw the
12 districts in such a way to make sure that those communities
13 are represented.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is (inaudible).

18 MS. SUNDARESHAN: Hey.

19 My name is Priya Sundareshan. I am a Tucson --
20 Tucsonan, born and raised in Catalina Foothills, an
21 environmental attorney, teacher, and voter protection
22 advocate.

23 I want to thank you, Commissioners, for being here
24 and hearing from our communities of interest here in Pima
25 County. It's certainly not an easy job that you're not

1 getting paid for to balance all the criteria that you need
2 to. I think there's going to be -- there's going to be some
3 difficult decisions, obviously, in the process.

4 I think my main point today is that we need to hear
5 from arguably Arizona's most important communities of
6 interest, which are our Native Nations. And I know that we
7 had the opportunity to hear from some in Pima County with
8 the possible Sells location that we were going to have,
9 which ultimate -- which unfortunately got canceled.

10 So in order to hear from those folks, I urge that
11 we make sure that any additional future hearings are -- are
12 located in those communities so it's easier for those
13 community members to be able to show up and voice -- voice
14 their concerns and provide that community of interest
15 testimony that you're looking for.

16 And to the Chair's question, it is very possible
17 that some of those communities of interest do need to be
18 kept together. I refer to some of the excellent testimony
19 we heard earlier from Mr. Halgon (phonetic), the general,
20 et cetera, about which of those communities should be kept
21 together; and, again, urge that those additional hearings be
22 held in those communities so that we can hear specifically
23 from those groups.

24 I also recognize, I understand that many commenters
25 asked for specific suburban or rural districts to be drawn

1 excluding the cities like Tucson. I appreciate those
2 concerns that some of the rural issues or suburban issues
3 are many -- are very different from city issues, but on the
4 other hand there are -- as many have mentioned -- there's a
5 lot of commonalities within our Southern Arizona communities
6 in general.

7 And we have to keep in mind that you certainly
8 do -- that Arizona population growth has occurred mainly in
9 and around our cities, so we will have to account for that.

10 Please watch out for maps and lines that would pack
11 or crack our city dwellers thereby diluting their votes. We
12 heard testimony earlier from Ms. Tellman about certain
13 precincts that have been kept out and kept in other
14 districts that don't seem to make much sense.

15 Change in population increase has occurred in
16 Arizona. Whether we like it or not, it has happened, and we
17 need to fairly and accurately account for it in the maps
18 that you draw.

19 All of the criteria are important. Competitiveness
20 is important so that the representatives will listen to
21 their constituents, compactness is important so that
22 representatives are physically available to their
23 constituents. All of these are important and that, again,
24 feeds into the tough job you have ahead of you.

25 I also want to specifically respond to one of the

1 arguments that I was hearing earlier that Pima County may be
2 at a disadvantage because our legislators have always served
3 in minority in the legislature --

4 MS. CRANK: Time.

5 MS. SUNDARESHAN: I'll just wrap up by saying i
6 think it's a little disingenuous; it doesn't mean we create
7 safe districts for any particular party.

8 And, again, thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is (inaudible), after her
12 is (indiscernible), Jim Hannley, Dorothy Lew; the last
13 speaker will beer Eric Nielsen.

14 MS. Cázares-Kelly: (Navajo language.)

15 Good day and welcome to the ancestral homelands of
16 the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. I'm
17 from the community of Bismal (phonetic) and Cuk (phonetic),
18 which are located on the Tohono O'odham Nation most of which
19 is in District 3; and I currently live in Tucson on the
20 northwest side, I am Legislative District 9 and Legis- --
21 Congressional District 2.

22 I am a community organizer and former educator and
23 most recently an elected official who serves all of Pima
24 County.

25 I think this is significant because I am the first

1 Native American to hold an elected county-wide seat and have
2 spent the last eight months or so dispelling stereotypes and
3 addressing misinformation and disinformation about Native
4 American communities, Latino communities, low-income working
5 class communities, and our immigrant population.

6 When earlier there had been a question about how --
7 how people are being harmed by not having representation in
8 the districts, and I think it's really important to
9 recognize that that's already happening. We are already
10 talking about communities who are targeted for
11 militarization and, you know, we are seeing the very real
12 disparity within health access and Internet infrastructure
13 and continuation and on and on and on.

14 I primarily focus most of my community outreach
15 efforts on voting, and have had to listen to 125 different
16 bills that have been specifically targeted to -- to take
17 away the votes from Latino, Native American, and low-income
18 disabled voters, and on and on and on. And so I -- I do
19 want to please ask that you do hold a session in the Sells
20 community.

21 Again, I've worked there and lived there, I'm from
22 there, I'm very much connected to that community. And here
23 in Tucson, I think there's some kind of misconception that
24 only Natives are on the reservations and not recognizing
25 that you're in Tucson, Tó oosts'a', which comes from our

1 language, in the state of Arizona, Arshont (phonetic), which
2 comes from our language.

3 Our representation is here, just not in any type of
4 leadership; and when we talk about the decisions that you're
5 making for our constituencies, you have to recognize: We
6 are -- we've always been here, we're still here, we're going
7 to continue to be here. And so when we're talking about
8 these, you know -- this lack of representation for certain
9 values, you're talking about opinions, but what we're
10 talking about is human rights and whether or not those human
11 rights are being addressed because these communities are
12 very much in harm's way.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Michele (inaudible),
17 Jim Hannley, Dorothy Lew, and the last speaker is Eric
18 Nielsen.

19 Michele.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She had to leave.

21 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Jim Hannley and up next
22 is Dorothy Lew.

23 MR. HANNLEY: Good afternoon, members of the
24 Commission. So nice to see you here, and I want to tell you
25 how much we appreciate the work that you do.

1 It's a very difficult task, everyone recognizes
2 that, I think. The issue of fairness in elections is --
3 is -- is probably the hottest topic in the country today.

4 In fact, that issue caused a bill to be prepared,
5 which has very wide ranging reform of elections, and one of
6 the most important reforms in the "For the People Act" is to
7 do what we can to avoid gerrymandering.

8 It's widely recognized that when states have
9 redistricting drawn by the majority party of the
10 legislature, that gerrymandering happens. And so with the
11 creation of the Independent Redistricting Commission in
12 Arizona, we really made a lot of headway towards creating
13 more fairness in representation of the state.

14 So I want to talk about competitiveness because
15 if -- if you -- if you work to see that the -- the
16 legislative district and the congressional districts are
17 drawn in such a way that the two parties have very equal
18 representation, we're going to have the competitiveness that
19 we seek in which these parties have to win the votes of the
20 people in their districts.

21 This idea of communities of interest goes -- does
22 not go in that direction. We've heard people talk about
23 wanting to have the same types of people represented, not a
24 diverse number of people represented; and I think that that
25 is going in the wrong direction.

1 So if we have this -- this competitiveness by
2 party, we will have better ideas coming forth, the -- the
3 parties are going -- as I said, they're going to have to win
4 those votes by appealing to the interest of the voters in
5 those communities.

6 We're also going to see a lot of competition for
7 registration in those districts, and so we will -- we will
8 increase the number of registered voters, and that's what we
9 want in this democracy.

10 So I want to, again, commend you for the volunteer
11 time that you have been putting into this and also to be
12 holding these hearings. Somebody said that you had 15 of
13 these, and to hear so many people speaking today -- I think
14 I might be dead last -- it is really remarkable that you
15 would -- that you would endure this. And I hope that you --
16 I hope that you'll have some wisdom imported, and I know
17 that you'll make a better decision --

18 MS. CRANK: Time.

19 MR. HANNLEY: -- from hearing us.

20 Thank you very much.

21 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CRANK: Dorothy Lew and Eric Nielson.

24 Dorothy Lew.

25 MS. LEW: Good afternoon, members of the

1 Commission.

2 I am Dorothy Lew, a member of the Pima County since
3 birth. I'm a retired educator and a representative and
4 volunteer executive director for Pan Asian Community
5 Alliance Program Coordinator.

6 A representative not only of the Pan Asian, of the
7 Asian Pacific Islander community, but a concerned Pima
8 County, Arizona, resident; and also that I want all of our
9 communities to understand what's going on and to be able to
10 represent themselves.

11 I ask that you continue with the support of the
12 three multi minority and majority districts in Pima County.
13 These competitive districts provide community candidates for
14 the elections and whatnot.

15 In addition to the need for more language
16 translation interpreters because of the minority API
17 population that is among the fastest growing in Arizona,
18 this would improve our community outreach of color for the
19 communities.

20 We ask that you extend the CIO survey deadline and
21 the ability to be able to upload hearing recordings and
22 minutes in a timely manner.

23 We really appreciate all the work that you guys are
24 going to be doing. I know it's hard, and we hope that we
25 can get a better representation for the state of Arizona.

1 (Applause.)

2 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

3 MR. NIELSEN: I'm last.

4 Good afternoon. I'll make this brief. My name is
5 Eric Nielsen, I'm a 28-year resident of Tucson. I live at
6 Broadway and Albernon, those of you not familiar with
7 Tucson, that's right smack in the middle of the city: AZ-2
8 is my congressional district, CD-10 is the legislative.

9 I want to thank you for your ten-year commitment to
10 the IRC, my guess is that you're in for a long and winding
11 road.

12 My community of interest is with those of speaking
13 in favor of competitive districts. I'm happy to live in a
14 congressional district that's flipped repeatedly in its
15 history, as you all know it has, and it's going -- and it
16 may very well again in a year.

17 I know others may disagree, but I -- but I believe
18 the competitive districts encourage constructive and
19 moderate dialogue, and I believe our country needs more of
20 that, not less.

21 The Arizona Supreme Court ruled that all criteria
22 be given equal weight, so competitive is -- competitiveness
23 is no less important than the others. I'm encouraging you
24 to draw districts that are both competitive and reflective
25 of communities of interest, and I know how difficult that's

1 going to be.

2 Figuring out congressional districts that get close
3 to 800,000 people in a state where 68 percent of the people
4 that are living in Maricopa County and a third of the voters
5 are nonaffiliated is a tall order, but I thank you for what
6 you're doing and I guess that -- that wraps it up.

7 Good afternoon.

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Well, it looks like we heard
10 our last speaker, so thank you on behalf of the Commission.
11 We really, really appreciate your spending time with us on
12 this Sunday. It's been very, very enlightening. We had
13 50-plus speakers, and so we appreciate everybody --
14 everybody joining us.

15 As you saw today, we do have our website that's
16 available and so please take a look at -- there's
17 easy-to-use tools that will be there. Soon we'll have the
18 U.S. census data included in that, so you'll have
19 opportunities to learn about the roles that we're doing,
20 you'll have opportunities to refine and submit your maps
21 reflecting your communities of interest. And so we
22 encourage you, again, to go online and to use our maps.

23 We also encourage you as -- as has been pointed
24 out, to encourage your friends and your -- your fellow folks
25 in your area to go on to the website and to encourage them

1 to -- you know, to look at what we're trying to do today.
2 It's very, very important.

3 Anyone can look online and get the information.
4 All of the proceedings are available, our records, our
5 information, so if you do have questions, it is available
6 online for records. So we encourage you to do that.

7 This meeting is hereby adjourned.

8 We will have one more meeting tomorrow. Our -- our
9 final meeting will be in Mesa, and that will conclude this
10 round of our listening tours, and so we appreciate the
11 public for being here and being on WebEx.

12 And so this meeting is hereby adjourned. We thank
13 you. Safe travels and be safe.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 1:13 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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

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

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 30th 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 30th of August, 2021.



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC