

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Mesa, Arizona

Online via Webex

August 9, 2021

5:00 p.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at
3 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2021, at Mesa Convention Center,
4 263 North Center Street, Mesa, and online
5 via Webex.

6 COMMISSIONER PRESENT:

7 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
8 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
9 Mr. Douglas York, Commissioner
10 Ms. Shereen Lerner, Commissioner (via Webex)
11 Mr. David Mehl, Commissioner (via Webex)

12 STAFF PRESENT:

13 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
14 Mr. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
15 Mr. Eric Spence, Snell & Wilmer
16 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
17 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics Corp.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

19 John Giles
20 Martin Harvier
21 Steve Gallardo
22 Pete Rios
23 Ken Kenegos
24 Suzanne Mead
25 Andrea Varela
William Jennings
Brian Steiner
William Englen
Sandra Fischer
Mike Bertotten
Jennifer Kary
Pinny Sheoran
Charles Schinke
Trudy Miller
Jane Rhodes
Connie Henry
Joanne Johnson
Crystal Carrillo
Ian Murray

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 William Smith
Gary Brennan
3 Mary Gutierrez
Crystal Dohanos
4 Len Westerhausen
Beth Bremer
5 Paul White
Andrea Ginney
6 Marion Weich
Barbara Medal
7 Jennifer Grigsby
Barbara Yates
8 Charmaine Pullman
Paul Schubring
9 Zackery Hernandez
Brandy Reese
10 Joseph Garcia
Thomas Simacek
11 Tatiana Pena
Jim Chastan
12 Nancy Cottle
Suzanne Sharer
13 Amanda Lugo
Evelynne Castillo
14 Nancy Dombrowski
Rhonda Smith
15 Pam Peake
Giselle Garcia
16 Len Hoang
Jennifer Chua
17 Nicole Morales
AJ Kordoglu
18 Patty O'Neill
Brian Eckley
19 Joyce Steiner
Tran Chu
20 Kate Saunders
Jae Chin
21 Javier Ramos
Analise Ortiz
22 Kevin Walsh
Charles Lucking
23 Max White
Ari Bradshaw
24 Edgar Ochoa

25

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. CRANK: Good evening, Commissioner York,
4 Chair Neuberg, and Vice Chair Watchman and those that
5 are listening in the audience here and also listening
6 on Webex. My name is Michelle Crank, and I'm the
7 public information officer for the Independent
8 Redistricting Commission, and this evening I have asked
9 Supervisor Steven Gallegos if he would lead us in the
10 Pledge of Allegiance.

11 MR. GALLEGOS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 Would you please join me in the pledge of
13 allegiance.

14 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

15 COMMISSIONER YORK: Good evening. I would
16 like to call this meeting to order. This is our 15th
17 listening tour meeting as we've traveled the state.
18 We've learned a ton about communities of interest from
19 all over the state. I hope you weathered our initial
20 visit, which was the fire alarm. We've had a power
21 outage, and so the world keeps trying to throw some
22 curve balls, but we're eager to listen to you. So with
23 that I would like to call our meeting to order.

24 We have interpreters here in place, and I
25 would like to introduce the Spanish-speaking

1 interpreter to come introduce yourself.

2 THE INTERPRETER: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Rosa (inaudible).

4 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you. I would also
5 like to introduce our sign language interpreter.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Hello. My name is Tiana.
7 My team tonight is Tiffany Jones. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you.

9 So we would also like to remind you that the
10 COVID protocol is in place for public spaces in Mesa,
11 so if you haven't been vaccinated we request that you
12 wear a mask during a public meeting and so please to
13 try follow those guidelines.

14 So you can also follow these meetings along
15 online. We do these in Webex so if you don't feel
16 comfortable being here we can ask you to do that as
17 well. Please note that the public comments -- if you
18 would like to make a public comment, please --
19 hopefully you filled out a public comment card when you
20 signed in, and we're looking forward to your remarks.
21 If you haven't done so you can also go online and fill
22 out a community of interest survey. If you've done
23 that and you've printed that out you can present those
24 at the time of public comments, or hopefully we can
25 find them online and our mapping consultant can post

1 those as you discuss them with us.

2 As you know, we've introduced our American
3 Sign Language interpreter. She's joining us virtually.
4 We have interpreters and headsets available for those
5 in attendance. We also have a transcriptionist who
6 will also be transcribing every meeting and so please
7 speak slowly when you make your public comments and
8 clearly so that you have a clear record of your input.

9 As you can see at the podium, there is two
10 microphones. The one on the right is for the room.
11 The one on the left is for the Webex communication that
12 we have going to the public.

13 And at this time I would like to ask the
14 Commissioners and the Chairperson to introduce
15 themselves. I'll start with the Chairperson.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hello, there. My name
17 is Erika Neuberg. I'm the Chairwoman of the IRC. I
18 live in Chandler, Arizona, not too far, but I'm a
19 41-year resident of Arizona so I call our entire state
20 our home. And I would like to say that I believe I'm
21 the newcomer to Arizona amongst the Commissioners at
22 41 years, so we have a collective amount of experience
23 and deep commitment to our state.

24 COMMISSIONER WATCHMAN: Good evening,
25 everybody. My name is Derrick Watchman, and I am the

1 Democratic appointee to the Commission from Apache
2 County, and so it's my pleasure to be here. We've had
3 two weeks of wonderful input. And I'm actually born --
4 I was born in Flagstaff, Arizona, and so -- and I am
5 actually from the Navajo reservation. So it's great to
6 be here, and I'm looking forward to all the wonderful
7 comments.

8 And I know that you'll get introduced later,
9 but I want to say hello to our fellow tribal leaders,
10 so thank you for being here. And I look forward to
11 your input, and, of course, the mayor and Supervisor
12 Gallegos, so thank you for being here.

13 COMMISSIONER YORK: Good evening again. My
14 name is Doug York. I'm the Republican representative
15 for Maricopa County. I'm excited to be your
16 Commissioner. I look forward to a robust discussion.

17 So with that I'll turn over the introductions
18 to our two Commissioners that you can see online, so
19 I'll start with Commissioner Lerner.

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Good evening, everybody.
21 Thank you very much for being here. My name is Shereen
22 Lerner. I am a Democratic representative from Maricopa
23 County, and I look forward to hearing from you. Have a
24 good evening.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Good evening, everyone.

1 I'm David Mehl. I'm the Republican appointee from Pima
2 County, and I am in excess of 50 years in Arizona, so
3 thank you for being here tonight.

4 COMMISSIONER YORK: That's the completion of
5 Agenda Item No. 1.

6 Now we move to Agenda Item No. 2, which is
7 where our legal team will explain the IRC and its
8 guidelines and how we operate.

9 MR. SUMMERS: Good evening, everybody. Hear
10 me okay? Great. All right. I'll speak into the mic.
11 How about now? Better? All right.

12 My name is Shawn Summers. I'm from the firm
13 Ballard Spahr. I'm one of the Commission's attorneys,
14 joined tonight by my colleague Eric Spencer from the
15 firm Snell & Wilmer, who is another one of the
16 Commission's counsel.

17 I'm going to talk briefly tonight about what
18 the Commission is, what its work is going to look like,
19 what we're here tonight to talk about, and also what
20 the timeline is going to be for the next six months or
21 so of the Commission's work.

22 So first let's begin with the U.S.
23 Constitution. As you may remember from civics class in
24 middle school or high school, the Constitution requires
25 the government to conduct a census of the whole country

1 every ten years, and the results of that census are
2 used to reapportion state representation in the U.S.
3 House of Representatives. But while the apportionment
4 is done by the federal government, the actual drawing
5 of the district lines for both the federal
6 representation and any state legislature is left to the
7 states themselves.

8 From statehood in 1912 until the year 2000
9 Arizona did what just about every other state did at
10 the time and what most states still do today, and they
11 had the state legislature draw the districts. That
12 changed in the year 2000 when the voters of Arizona
13 passed Proposition 106. Prop 106 amended the Arizona
14 Constitution to establish an Independent Redistricting
15 Commission that would be convened every ten years to
16 redraw both the Congressional and the state legislative
17 maps. The Arizona Constitution requires that this
18 Commission consist of five members, no more than two
19 from any one political party, and of those four
20 partisan members, who elect an independent chair, no
21 more than two can be from the same county. The Arizona
22 Constitution and the Commissioners -- we actually have
23 all five Commissioners tonight, and they've already
24 introduced themselves to you. The Constitution sets
25 out six goals for how the Commission is supposed to

1 redraw both the legislative and the congressional
2 districts. These are the criteria that the Commission
3 will be taking into account as they try to redraw the
4 maps.

5 First, districts must comply with both the
6 U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act.

7 Second, districts should -- both congressional
8 and legislative districts should to the extent
9 practicable have equal population. For congressional
10 districts, federal law requires that the population be
11 pretty close to exactly equal, plus or minus one
12 person. There is a little more wiggle room in the
13 legislative districts, but the Constitution requires
14 that they should be -- have equal population to the
15 extent practicable.

16 Third, districts should be compact and
17 contiguous to the extent practicable.

18 Fourth, districts should respect communities
19 of interest to the extent practicable. And that to a
20 large part is what we're here to talk about tonight, to
21 get input from you, members of the public, about what
22 your communities of interest are and where they are on
23 the map, and we'll talk more about that in just a
24 moment.

25 Fifth, to the extent practicable district

1 lines should follow visible geographic features, city,
2 town, and county boundaries, and undivided census
3 tracts.

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

8 These are the six goals that the Commissioners
9 will be taking into account in redrawing the maps.

10 So what is the rest of this process going to
11 look like? You can see in July and August we're now at
12 the very end. This is the last meeting on the
13 Commission's first listening tour, primarily oriented
14 around feedback on communities of interest. In just a
15 few days, later this week on Thursday, the Census
16 Bureau is going to release population data that will
17 allow the Commission to start its work. We can't
18 redraw the lines until we get the new census data, and
19 that hasn't happened yet, but it will happen, we're
20 told, on Thursday. That's later than usual. Typically
21 that information would already be released, but the
22 Census was delayed this year, as you may remember,
23 because of COVID. But that data will be released this
24 week.

25 Then in September the Commissioners will adopt

1 a grid map. The purpose of the grid map -- which only
2 takes into account two of the six criteria, compactness
3 and equal population. The purpose of the grid map is
4 to wipe away the districts that are there before. So
5 the Commissioners are required to start with a clean
6 slate every ten years. They can't just tweak the
7 district lines that are already there. So the grid map
8 starts from scratch, wipes away the districts that were
9 there before, and then in the September to October
10 period the Commissioners will adjust the grid map,
11 probably adjust it a lot, but they will adjust the grid
12 map to create draft maps that will take into account
13 all six criteria.

14 After the draft map has been officially
15 adopted there is a minimum 30-day public comment period
16 that will take place in October through November.
17 During that period the Commissioners will be, you know,
18 responding to public comments, adjusting the draft map,
19 and then finally the plan is to adopt a final
20 congressional and final legislative map sometime in
21 late September.

22 So there are many ways for you as members of
23 the public to get involved in this process, but there
24 are three that I want to talk about right now.

25 First, Commission meetings are all open to the

1 public, and they're live-streamed online. You can
2 watch our meetings and provide public comment at
3 irc.az.gov/public-meetings.

4 Second, initial input on communities of
5 interest -- sorry. Initial input on communities of
6 interest. That is what we're here tonight largely to
7 talk about, and by being here tonight you are giving us
8 initial input on communities of interest, but we also
9 have some online tools that will enable you to do that
10 that we'll talk about in just a moment.

11 And then, third, comments on maps both before,
12 during and after the draft maps are released. Once we
13 have the data from the census and it's loaded into the
14 system our mapping consultants are working to get a
15 public redistricting tool online that will allow you to
16 submit draft maps, and you'll also be able to comment
17 on the map that the Commission is considering and draft
18 maps throughout the process.

19 And then, finally, once the official draft map
20 has been adopted you'll be able to comment on that map
21 before it becomes the final map.

22 So with that I will pass it over to Mark from
23 Timmons, our mapping consultant, and he'll talk a
24 little bit more about the informational and empowerment
25 tools that we have available for you. Thank you.

1 MR. FLAHAN: Can you hear me? Perfect.

2 My name is Mark Flahan. I'm from Timmons
3 Group, the mapping consultant for the IRC. With me,
4 next to me, is Ivy Beller Sakansky. She's our
5 demographer from NDC.

6 Today I want to talk about three of the tools
7 that we've created to empower you, the residents, to be
8 able to interact with the Commission. The first tool
9 is a socioeconomic report. It's an interactive website
10 that's available 24/7 online. You can get to it by the
11 IRC's website with 14 different --

12 (Technical difficulties.)

13 MS. BELLER SAKANSKY: It is a connection of
14 either social issues, shared demographic
15 characteristics, similar impacts from a legislative
16 and/or congressional district, or any other connection
17 that leads people within a given area to believe they
18 would benefit from being kept together, united in one
19 legislative and/or congressional district.

20 As you think about your community think about
21 the various demographic points and the tools that Mark
22 has already mentioned. In the survey for communities
23 of interest, think about -- we ask that you think about
24 you and your neighbors. Do you have similar jobs? Do
25 you rely on similar public services? Belong to the

1 same neighborhood associations? Are you impacted by
2 some regional environmental concern? Is your community
3 defined by regional land use issues, transit concerns,
4 languages spoken, community celebrations or traditions,
5 or other similar issues or characteristics? Any of
6 these characteristics could define a community of
7 interest.

8 Now it is your turn. As they travel the state
9 on this listening tour the Commissioners want to hear
10 from you. What do you want the Commissioners to
11 consider as they draft -- as they ultimately draft
12 their maps? How do you define your community of
13 interest?

14 Again, using the various tools that Mark has
15 described, along with your testimony today, we want to
16 hear two things. First, what brings your community of
17 interest together? And, secondly, what are the
18 geographic boundaries of your community? Remember, the
19 Commissioners can incorporate your community into their
20 maps only if you let us know where your community is on
21 the map.

22 Thank you for being here today. Now I will
23 turn this back over to Commission staff who will begin
24 to take your comments.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Just so you know

1 we are bringing in more chairs, and we are working on
2 the air, so hopefully it will get cooler here pretty
3 quickly. Okay?

4 So citizens may only speak when recognized by
5 the Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if
6 the Chair is absent or has otherwise delegated hearing
7 administration authority. In compliance with Arizona's
8 open meetings laws, speakers should confine their
9 statements to the issues on the posted agenda which is
10 before the Commission. Speakers are also requested to
11 limit their comments to approximately three minutes.

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

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

1 expressed by the citizens present. As a courtesy,
2 citizens are reminded to address their comments to the
3 Chair and to the Commission and not the audience
4 present. Please show respect for all speakers and
5 avoid personal comments. Remember, the Commission
6 needs to hear all sides in order to make an informed
7 decision.

8 And now I will send it back to Commissioner
9 York to start public comments.

10 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you.

11 Michelle.

12 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Commissioner York.

13 First of all, I would like to bring up Mayor Giles from
14 the City of Mesa to open up the public comment section
15 for us.

16 MAYOR GILES: Thank you very much. I have two
17 agenda items today. The first is to welcome the
18 Independent Redistricting Commission and the folks that
19 are here to participate in democracy today. This
20 really is a beautiful site. Democracy, I think,
21 regardless of our political (inaudible) is something
22 that we all love, and so on behalf of our community I
23 just want to say thank you so much for those on the IRC
24 that are going through this thankless task. Can you
25 imagine? This is their 15th of one of these meetings

1 and their job is just really kind of starting, so you
2 really do deserve our thanks and our gratitude for
3 taking this on.

4 And I also want to thank again the folks that
5 are here to participate. I'm going to assume most of
6 you live in the city of Mesa, because this is a
7 regional meeting. Not all of you, and that's okay.
8 You don't have to live in Mesa. But so that's a
9 community, right, but within the community of Mesa are
10 other communities, and I think that's -- that's the
11 point of what we're here to discuss today.

12 I took advantage of our fire alarm break a
13 moment ago to chat with some of the Commissioners, and
14 I shared with them the fact that I think we're all
15 giving our Arizona pedigrees here. I was born on Main
16 Street in Mesa, Arizona, 61 years ago at the Southside
17 Hospital about a quarter mile from here. I grew up
18 across the street on University, across the street from
19 the Escobedo-Washington Park neighborhood. Now, for
20 those who don't -- haven't lived in Mesa for forever,
21 you might not know that that is a community within our
22 community. Back before Mesa was an integrated
23 community, that was the only place that people of color
24 were allowed to live in the city of Mesa, and the idea
25 that someone would be ignorant to the history of that

1 part of our community and come in and draw political
2 lines is really troublesome.

3 So there are other communities of interest
4 here in our downtown area. Downtown Mesa has undergone
5 quite a reinvigoration in recent years, and the folks
6 that live in this part of west Mesa really do have a
7 lot in common, and it would make no political sense
8 to -- for someone who was not knowledgeable of the
9 details of our community to come in and somehow sever
10 those people from one another. So those are -- these
11 are very critically important issues.

12 So thank you for being here and being a part
13 of this process. This is how we're going to decide our
14 legislative and congressional boundaries. Now, there
15 is a process pretty much identical to this one going on
16 within the City of Mesa government as well, because as
17 you might know in the City of Mesa we break our city
18 government into six districts, and we are under the
19 same mandate to redraw those lines.

20 So thank you for participating tonight.
21 Please also participate in the City of Mesa
22 redistricting process because we want to hear what you
23 have to say. We want to make sure that, again, we
24 protect the communities of interest that are within our
25 community.

1 So I know there is a lot going on tonight.
2 I'll stop talking so we can get down to business, but,
3 again, on behalf of our community, on behalf of all the
4 citizens of our community, thank you for participating
5 in democracy. We're all better for it. And I want to
6 again thank you for making Mesa -- putting Mesa on your
7 road trip list. You're very much welcome and very much
8 appreciated here. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you, Mayor Giles.

10 MS. CRANK: Next the president of the Salt
11 River Pima-Maricopa Indian community, president Martin
12 Harvier.

13 PRESIDENT HARVIER: Good evening, members of
14 the Commission. As mentioned, my name is Martin
15 Harvier. I'm the current president of the Salt River
16 Pima-Maricopa County Indian community. I would also
17 like to recognize the vice-president of our community,
18 Vice-President Ricardo Leonard, who has joined me this
19 evening. Also, members of our legislative staff that
20 are here with me, also.

21 Our community has a long history in the
22 Phoenix metro area and are a vital partner here in the
23 East Valley. We have participated in this process
24 since the Commission was created in 2000. First I want
25 to thank you for the work that you are doing to hear

1 from the public as you begin to draw the state's
2 legislative and congressional district. I know that it
3 will be a daunting effort, but I am hopeful you will
4 consider the recommendations of our community. Tonight
5 I would like to share with you five recommendations.

6 First recommendation: I would ask the
7 Commission to keep our entire community in a single
8 legislative and congressional district. As a unique
9 community of interest, a tribal community that is
10 located in only one census tract, I believe this should
11 not be a problem for the Commission to consider.

12 Recommendation number two: Referring back to
13 my comment of the community's active participation in
14 the East Valley, I ask the Commission to place the
15 community in an urban legislative and congressional
16 district and not in any large rural district.

17 Recommendation number three: Our community
18 and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation share a common
19 border, and we support being located in the same
20 congressional district.

21 Recommendation number four: The community
22 also shares a common border with the city of Scottsdale
23 where we have similar transportation, public safety,
24 solid waste issues, to name a few, and as such we
25 support being located in the same congressional

1 district.

2 Recommendation number five: Similar to the
3 previous recommendation, we also share a common border
4 with the city of Tempe and the city of Mesa. Again,
5 there exists a number of mutually beneficial activities
6 that we have with each of these cities. One example is
7 a large number of our community member youth attend
8 school in the city of Mesa, and we work closely with
9 the Mesa Public School District on education matters.
10 As a result, we support being located in the same
11 legislative district such as the current legislative
12 district we are in, Number 26. Members of the
13 Commission, I believe all of the recommendations meet
14 the criteria you must consider in this process.

15 In closing, we look forward to working with
16 you in this process and welcome the Commission to host
17 a hearing in the Salt River in the next go-around of
18 hearings. Following my comments, we will be submitting
19 a written statement for the record. Thank you for your
20 time.

21 MS. CRANK: I am going to be naming four
22 speakers at a time, and if speakers would please line
23 up against this wall over here and be prepared to
24 speak. We do have 69 speakers tonight so we do have to
25 function fairly quickly.

1 So the next speaker I would like bring up is
2 the supervisor, and then after the supervisor, Pete
3 Rios. After Pete Rios, Ken Kenegos. I'm sorry if I
4 mispronounce your name. Please make sure you state
5 your name when you come up to the microphone. Suzanne
6 Mead, Andrea Varela.

7 Supervisor.

8 MR. GALLARDO: Thank you. Real quickly,
9 Commissioners, Madam Chair, Commissioners, my name is
10 Steve Gallardo. I'm the Maricopa County Supervisor
11 representing District 5, which is the southwest portion
12 of Maricopa County. My supervisory district is
13 considered in the world of redistricting a minority
14 majority supervisory district. Several years ago a
15 group of Latino citizens came together and worked in
16 the 2020 -- or 2000 redistricting in 2010, and we come
17 back now here in 2021 asking and offering to work with
18 the Commission when it comes to minority majority
19 districts.

20 One of the things that we really hold true in
21 our hearts is the importance of voters being able to
22 elect candidates of their choice. In my supervisory
23 district there are six legislative districts that are
24 considered minority majority districts that were drawn
25 in the 2020 -- or 2010, I'm sorry, I'm getting confused

1 now -- redistricting. We look forward to not only
2 protecting those districts, but also looking to expand
3 the number of minority majority districts.

4 Earlier today a letter was delivered to the
5 offices. Each one of you were given a letter. I'm not
6 sure if you received it. It was just earlier today.
7 But if you have it it is a letter requesting that
8 additional hearings be held in minority majority
9 districts for minority majority communities in Phoenix,
10 Arizona, one in particular, Maryville, which is a large
11 Latino district which I was born and raised in. We
12 have also South Phoenix, which is a large African
13 American and Latino community as well. And then the
14 new community -- not new, but growing community of
15 Laveen is another area which is a large African
16 American and Latino population. We ask that we hold
17 hearings in those particular communities, allow
18 citizens from these large areas to be able to come and
19 address the Commission on communities of interest.

20 The Latino Coalition will be presenting
21 illustrations of communities of commonality when it
22 comes to these particular areas. We'll also be
23 presenting a map of proposed lines to the Commission as
24 well.

25 But I know this is a long process. You have a

1 lot of work ahead of you and a lot of hard decisions,
2 but we do look forward to working with every one of
3 you, and whatever we can help do to drive the process
4 and identify our community of interest we're willing to
5 sit down and chat. So thank you so much for allowing
6 me to have an opportunity to speak.

7 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you, Supervisor.

8 MS. CRANK: As the next speaker -- as the next
9 speaker makes his way up here, we are going to change
10 to two minutes instead of three minutes so everybody
11 can have a chance to speak, so two minutes.

12 MR. RIOS: Thank you. That means I got to
13 speak fast.

14 Again, thank you for your service. We
15 sincerely appreciate it. I did address this briefly in
16 Florence, Arizona. I'm Pete Rios, LD8, legislative CD1
17 congressional. And then I spoke to you about keeping
18 LD8 -- it used to be an influence minority majority
19 district. It's not any longer. So I have proposed
20 maybe asking the San Carlos Indian tribe to come into
21 LD8. And on the southern end we have a retirement
22 community known as Saddlebrook Ranch that has nothing
23 in common with the eastern end of Pinal County, which
24 is primarily a mining community, so maybe they could go
25 to LD11.

1 But at the end of the day what we're looking
2 for is to ensure that minority districts can elect
3 candidates of their choice. It may not be electing an
4 African American or a Native American. It could be a
5 white person. But at the end of the day it's a person
6 they elected, a candidate of their choice.

7 In addition to that, I wanted to ask the
8 Commission to consider additional public hearings.
9 There are no hearings that were held in Maricopa
10 County, South Phoenix, at the west end. You had one in
11 Glendale, but I'm talking about Maryville. So I think
12 we need additional public hearings, and also in the
13 Tucson area.

14 And one of the other areas that I wanted to
15 say, since I only got two minutes, is to remember that
16 when we set up minority majority districts it doesn't
17 have to be one man, one vote to the person like
18 congressional districts do. There is a standard
19 deviation there where you can fluctuate from eight to
20 ten percent to try to ensure that we don't pack
21 minorities in minority districts and leave some
22 minorities available where we could have some other
23 competitive districts as well.

24 And with that, again, I thank you for your
25 time.

1 MS. CRANK: Again, as the next speaker makes
2 his way up here, I want to remind everybody to go
3 online and also submit their public comments as well
4 and also your community of interest surveys. Those
5 surveys are due by August 10th. You will need to get
6 them to us as soon as possible.

7 MR. KENEGOS: Hello. My name is Ken Kenegos.
8 I want to thank you, the Commission, for this
9 opportunity to speak. I haven't done this before. I
10 define the boundaries of my community as I-17 on the
11 east, 35th Avenue on the west, Glendale Road on the
12 north, and Bethany Home Road on the south. I think I
13 got those right. But this is a community that is, you
14 know, largely residential with some commercial interest
15 around the outside at the major intersection, but there
16 are many communities that I find are very similar to
17 that community that are adjacent to it and maybe should
18 be considered as a larger community of interest.

19 So I'm a relatively recent Arizonan. I've
20 been here in the community for five years. And the
21 languages in the community are predominantly English
22 and Spanish, but not exclusively by any means. Many,
23 many languages are spoken. We have people from all
24 points of the globe in that community. And I think
25 that common experience, even among the long-time

1 residents which are largely Anglo, is this common
2 experience of being immigrants. We are all immigrants,
3 and it has shaped values in that community that should
4 not be disrupted. I learned more about this when I
5 participated in an exercise in getting --

6 MS. CLARK: Time.

7 MR. KENEGOS: All right. Anyway, people
8 really came together because the common value was to
9 protect the children (inaudible) people in that
10 community. Thank you.

11 MS. MEAD: Thank you, Madam Chair and
12 Commissioners. My name is Suzanne Mead. I live on the
13 Cave Creek side of Carefree in LD1 at the other end of
14 Maricopa County. District 5 is not my community, but
15 that is the beautiful desert foothills of North Valley.
16 I have lived there for over ten years and have
17 developed a wonderful community of (inaudible) from all
18 over the Valley, especially in northern Maricopa
19 County. My roles of healthcare, shopping, dining,
20 entertainment extends from Carefree southward along
21 Scottsdale, Tatum, Cave Creek Road corridor, and also
22 all the way down to Shea and over to 17. I also enjoy
23 sightseeing in the parks surrounding Cave Creek,
24 Carefree, Scottsdale, and northern Phoenix.

25 The common interests I share with my neighbors

1 are the simple pleasures of the natural landscape and
2 dining in family-owned restaurants. Our concerns
3 revolve around sustainable resources, especially water
4 and suburban sprawl. We also share a concern for
5 wildfires at this time of drought.

6 Living in an area where the population looks
7 like me, I look forward to extending our district south
8 and slightly west to gain more diversity and age and
9 ethnicity. Having lived in New York City and areas of
10 Pennsylvania, I have learned the value that cultural
11 diversity can bring to my life.

12 My community of interest does not extend north
13 into Yavapai County or Prescott, which currently serves
14 as the political center of power in our district. I do
15 not feel represented by our lawmakers. Rather than
16 addressing my concerns about the natural environment,
17 sustainable development and quality schools, they cater
18 to the most discrete elements of our constituency.

19 The message that I have heard at other
20 meetings is that the IRC should ignore the Constitution
21 and mandates for competitive districts. I would
22 encourage that that is not helpful and that for the
23 foreseeable future our candidates -- it's to find
24 candidates (inaudible). In conclusion, in addition to
25 recommending a district that runs south rather than

1 north (inaudible).

2 MS. CRANK: After Andrea, next four speakers,
3 William Jennings, Brian Steiner, William Englen, Sandra
4 Fischer.

5 MS. VARELA: Good evening, Commission, and
6 thank you for allowing me to speak. Today I'm here to
7 testify on behalf of the Latinx communities of interest
8 that were not represented during this first round of
9 public hearings. There has not been a significant
10 effort to provide outreach to more diverse audiences at
11 these public hearings. Arizona boasts a large Latinx
12 population with communities across the state. These
13 Latinx communities have the right to choose who
14 represents them. The limited outreach to these and
15 other communities of color excludes us from the process
16 and does not allow significant engagement and advocacy
17 on behalf of all communities of interest, especially
18 those that are often underrepresented.

19 One major example of the importance of
20 protecting communities of color are the currently
21 enacted majority minority districts in the state. When
22 new lines are drawn those communities still need to be
23 protected. The right for communities of color to elect
24 representation that will be responsive to their needs
25 is protected in the Voting Rights Act, and the

1 Commission must uphold those protections as they draft
2 the maps for the next 10 years of Arizona electoral
3 representation. That voting should not be diluted.

4 Lack of accessibility at these hearings has
5 also impeded the engagement for Latinx communities.
6 These hearings were only announced via media alerts and
7 on the IRC website. There was no sufficient effort in
8 ensuring Spanish language media outreach. A community
9 outreach coordinator has not been hired, and there
10 doesn't seem to be attempts to increase public
11 engagement by alerting other community organizations or
12 community outlets to mobilize communities of color to
13 be able to testify at these hearings.

14 All of this being considered, I respectfully
15 request that you extend the deadlines in the community
16 of interest survey. The survey allows for more of the
17 public to participate, even when mobilization and
18 accessibility are an issue. The more opportunities the
19 Commission can provide for public input the better.
20 Thank you and have a great night.

21 MR. JENNINGS: Good afternoon. My name is
22 William Jennings. My comments today will deal with the
23 city of Goodyear, in particular the need to place
24 Goodyear in the same congressional and legislative
25 districts as the other suburban cities along the I-10.

1 My wife and I reside in Goodyear at the southern end of
2 Estrella Parkway in the Estrella Foothills master
3 development. We are both retirement professionals.
4 Myself, I was an attorney. My wife was a purchaser for
5 various corporations.

6 When you're looking at West Valley I think
7 it's important to realize that they're built
8 differently than East Valley cities. The West Valley
9 cities are largely developed toward the I-10 and the
10 I-17, so the city of Goodyear is itself suburban in
11 nature, from Camelback on the north to Estrella
12 Foothills on the south. Between Camelback and Van
13 Buren is a ten-block strip of commercial center on the
14 I-10. South Estrella Foothills is largely rural, but
15 the city's 2024 general plan expects the rest of
16 Goodyear to be residentially developed in the near
17 future. In fact, several projects in that area have
18 already received city approval and other projects are
19 in the approval process right now.

20 Those who live in Estrella Foothills such as
21 myself drive the commercialized zone along the I-10 to
22 do our daily shopping, eating out, movies, hiring local
23 contractors. Most residents of other cities along the
24 I-10 also conduct their daily activities in that zone,
25 and those who will come soon to live within driving

1 distance of the I-10 will likewise make use of that
2 narrow zone.

3 The residents of Goodyear and the other cities
4 bordering the I-10 share a single community of
5 interest, namely, the shopping, recreational, and
6 entertainment resources located along that freeway. As
7 a result Goodyear and those other cities should be
8 placed together in the same CD and LD. It makes no
9 sense for Goodyear to be included in the same CD and LD
10 as Yuma and Tucson hundreds of miles away and separated
11 by hundreds of miles of road.

12 Those are my comments. Thank you very much
13 for listening.

14 MR. STEINER: Hi. I'm Brian Steiner. I come
15 from east Gila Bend, so probably the furthest one away,
16 about an hour and a half to get here. I do landscaping
17 for a living as well officiate volleyball and coach
18 volleyball in the Valley. I grew up in Yuma. When I
19 moved into way east of Gila Bend, I found out I'm still
20 attached to Yuma. That's crazy.

21 You know, LD4 is probably one of the craziest
22 districts. I don't know. Maybe it's just me. But
23 it's like I know what Yuma is like. I know what
24 Buckeye is like. I know what my area is like. It's
25 like I probably have nothing to do with either one of

1 those communities. But I know that Buckeye and Yuma
2 have nothing to do with each other, being in both,
3 either in coaching or officiating or in landscaping in
4 that area versus I have folks and family that are in
5 Yuma, and frankly there are people in Yuma that just
6 don't match. Marines and older people? That don't go.

7 So, anyways, I look at the LD4 and I go
8 through the Constitution on how it reads. It's like it
9 doesn't fit a gridlock pattern. It's not compact
10 geographically. The county boundaries go through many
11 counties, you know, same as CD3, many counties. And
12 really it's like the last goal is supposed to be
13 competitiveness, and being a coach, like I welcome the
14 competitiveness, but then I actually find that the
15 competitiveness actually hurts us in LD3 -- or LD4 and
16 CD3. Trying to get a representative to respond to you,
17 even in your own same party, is hard. We have too many
18 people in the one party, and I get that. But for me
19 it's like it needs to be we're being represented by
20 people in our community or like-minded, or not so much
21 focus on the competitiveness, because it's not supposed
22 to be a detriment to the other categories. It's
23 supposed to be the least of the others. And that
24 competitiveness hurts us.

25 So with that, you know, since I still have

1 some more time, if people read their Constitution,
2 their Arizona state Constitution, we wouldn't fight as
3 much. Thank you.

4 MS. CRANK: The next speaker -- the next
5 speaker is William Englen, ENGLLEN.

6 MR. ENGLLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair, fellow
7 Commissioners.

8 My name is Bill Englen. I was very involved
9 in districting ten years ago. At that point Anthem was
10 in LD6, and I was the Independent chair at that time.
11 Then our district ran north and south basically from
12 the Maricopa County line south to the midpoint being
13 I-17. And after redistricting -- and I went to most of
14 the meetings, and I watched the maps being drawn and
15 redrawn. We were not gerrymandered out of district
16 until the very last map. They put us in LD1, which was
17 centered in Prescott, which is a rural district,
18 Yavapai County, and just a little sliver of Maricopa
19 County. Myself and the lady that spoke earlier, our
20 community interest of basically runs south of that
21 area. We are not a rural area. We are on the fringes
22 of the Valley and the metro area.

23 Back then, even though it's not a competitive
24 district, I don't think you can make it a competitive
25 district based on our population, we had three of our

1 representatives at one time, and at the end two, work
2 from Anthem. After redistricting those representatives
3 didn't run for reelection. They all lost in the
4 Republican primary. Since then we've been represented
5 strictly by people from Prescott. They may be good
6 people, but they certainly don't represent my interests
7 in the urban area. It's completely different, and I
8 urge you to take another look at that and keep those of
9 us in Anthem, Carefree, and south of the northern
10 border of Maricopa County together with an urban
11 district. Thank you so much.

12 MS. CRANK: As Sandra makes her way up here I
13 would like to let everybody know you need to speak into
14 both microphones. One microphone is for the Webex that
15 is live, and the other microphone is for those that are
16 here listening. And make sure that you do follow
17 proper decorum. If you don't follow the proper
18 protocol and decorum you will be asked to leave. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. FISCHER: I'm Sandra Fischer. I have been
21 a resident of Mesa for 25 years in the community of
22 Marlborough Mesa, which borders the western canal, Alma
23 School, Guadalupe, and Extension. And we are a very
24 active community. I request that we really be kept
25 with more Mesa districts because there are about five

1 different communities there, and we do a lot with the
2 city of Mesa, but we're just such a small area that I
3 think we lose something when we're not a part of that.
4 And ten years ago we became part of the Legislative
5 District 18, which is Chandler, Tempe, and Ahwatukee.

6 Okay. Is that better? Okay.

7 So I request that we be part more of Mesa and
8 so that we can better participate in all the things
9 that we do with the city of Mesa, as well as even our
10 border cities of Tempe, Chandler, and Gilbert. We're
11 in a very small section that goes south. And like I
12 said, I'm a mile from Tempe and Gilbert. I'm just over
13 the canal from Chandler.

14 You know, we all know the districts are going
15 to have -- there are going to be some that will be
16 primarily voting one party or another. As fair as you
17 can make it where it's more purple than red or blue, I
18 really recommend that, because then everybody is heard
19 and people have a better chance of having a person
20 represent their district.

21 All neighborhoods have quality, you know, and
22 character and are different, and Marlborough Mesa is no
23 exception. Because of the two community events that it
24 holds every year, an Easter egg hunt and Christmas toy
25 run where we support charities in Mesa, those kind of

1 things need to be really looked at when looking at the
2 character of the various communities.

3 And, again, I trust the system, provided we
4 put in fair boundaries and not listen to one party or
5 the other, to really look at what makes a difference
6 for that community. Thank you.

7 MS. CRANK: Again, just a reminder, don't
8 touch the microphones, I guess.

9 The next five speakers, Mike -- and I do
10 apologize if I mispronounce your name -- BER --
11 Bertoli, Jennifer Kary, Pinny Sheoran, Charles Schinke,
12 Trudy Miller, Jane Rhodes.

13 MR. BERTOTTEN: My name is Mike Bertotten.
14 I'm an Arizona resident from Hawaii. I've lived in my
15 present house for 43 years. I want to thank all of
16 you, because I'm here for one particular reason. Last
17 redistricting our district was either gerrymandered or
18 somebody was on drugs. It's from Chandler to Tempe to
19 Mesa, all the way across Phoenix, with a little tiny
20 path until you get all the way to the west side. I'm
21 going to say there are areas of my district I've never
22 even stepped in.

23 So what I would like to see -- and this can be
24 very difficult because you have Republicans,
25 Democrats -- and most of all you're going to have --

1 Chairman Neuberg, you're going to have all the
2 decisions dumped on you, I'm sure. But I would like to
3 see, like one of the other ladies said, if we could get
4 something in between. I've been a cop for 27 years.
5 Got right out of the military, became a cop, started a
6 forensic business. So I've been in the same area.
7 I've worked out of my house. I've worked out of
8 offices. Everything I like about an area, such as what
9 I'm thinking, south of the 60, east of 101.

10 And the reason I first moved there, and I've
11 been there for the rest of my life, is it was a new
12 area that was the growing. The freeway was being put
13 in. All of the buildings kept going out. Most
14 everybody that moved in -- these weren't real, real
15 expensive houses. They weren't real poor houses. They
16 were middle-class working people. There was every kind
17 of race, every kind of nationality, religion, whatever
18 was there.

19 But we moved at a pace right out -- all the
20 way out through part of Pinal County now. And you can
21 go to any place out there and you will find -- and it's
22 unusual because we all went to the same high school.
23 Then when I got out of high school their kids went to
24 the next high school, and their kids went to the next
25 high school. I can go all the way out into the East

1 Valley, Queen Creek, whatever, and there are kids of
2 people that used to be my neighbors that are on the
3 same soccer teams, on football teams. We all still go
4 to a lot of places. We meet in restaurants,
5 veterinarian. I took my dog down to emergency
6 veterinarian, and here was a guy --

7 MS. CRANK: Time.

8 MR. BERTOTTEN: -- I knew 14 years ago.

9 Anyway, thank you. I appreciate the work
10 you're doing, and I know it's not always given credit
11 for.

12 MS. KARY: Hello. My name is Jennifer Kary,
13 but everyone calls me Gwen. I'm a stay-at-home mom.
14 My husband and I are raising our two girls in Mesa.
15 They were all born in this area. My girls will try out
16 for the downtown Mesa metropolitan youth facility this
17 month. I have a (inaudible). We are currently working
18 for our neighborhood church, and I take active roles in
19 our local home school group. My family enjoys building
20 Legos, going to museums, raising guinea pigs, and doing
21 different projects. We recently discovered Alice
22 Cooper's The Rock Teen Center near downtown Mesa. Our
23 older daughter, who also plays guitar, will be joining
24 a rock band there this fall. These are my communities
25 of interest, my neighbors raising families and using

1 the public and private resources available to us in our
2 neighborhood.

3 We moved to Mesa this spring but have lived in
4 Phoenix metro for the past 40 years. At the time of
5 the last redistricting we were homeowners in Ahwatukee.
6 Our district changed to include both sides of South
7 Mountain. While both side of this large natural
8 barrier are considered Phoenix metro, they are very
9 different. South Phoenix is more urban, as it is a
10 very short drive away from downtown Phoenix with its
11 tall skyscrapers and underground parking. Ahwatukee is
12 a sleepy little community of people who are happy to
13 use the large mountain and major freeway to cut off
14 from the hustle and bustle of city life. We didn't
15 even have city bus coverage for a very long time.

16 Generally, it is also frustrating that the
17 last districts drawn, some had 12 percent more
18 population than others, and I feel that watered down
19 the strength of the vote in those two districts. Our
20 family loves our new home in Mesa. We love our
21 communities, the culture, shopping, local business, and
22 opportunities for our children. Currently LD25 is
23 compact and centered on Mesa, and I want it to stay
24 that way. I want to have voting power with like-minded
25 neighbors who love this little community like I do. I

1 don't want a district drawn that doesn't represent the
2 majority of people who live here. Thank you.

3 MS. SHEORAN: Good evening, Commissioners.
4 Thank you for doing this (inaudible) job for Arizona's
5 citizens. Appreciate it.

6 Am I at the right level for the mic? I just
7 want to make sure.

8 My name is Pinny Sheoran. I'm the
9 president-elect of The League of Women Voters of
10 Arizona and speaking on their behalf. Thank you for
11 giving the League this opportunity. We have been
12 listening along at every one of these public hearings,
13 and we have the following observations and comments,
14 and we hope you will consider these as constructive to
15 the work that you have in front of you.

16 There are six mapping criteria, and the IRC
17 needs to provide opportunities for public input and
18 encourage input on all of the criteria. While the
19 community of interest input is valuable for the IRC, it
20 is in fact the AIRC job to oversee the mapping of fair
21 and competitive districts. That's the specific
22 language that voters read when they passed Proposition
23 106 in 2000.

24 The League, as a nonpartisan organization,
25 values balanced moderation and working across the

1 aisle. It's important that the IRC consider that in
2 Arizona we have approximately a one-third split in
3 voter registrations between two major political parties
4 and those who wish not to affiliate with any of the
5 political parties. Having balanced competitive
6 districts ensures all voters have choices as to who
7 represents them.

8 Within any geographic area, communities of
9 interest are layered. I think our Councilman Giles
10 really illustrated that point as to the layering of
11 communities of interest in downtown Mesa. I used to
12 work here for 30 years, even though I live in a
13 different location.

14 MS. CRANK: Time.

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Can we please finish?

16 MS. SHEORAN: Within any geographic area the
17 COIs are layered, and they represent divergent
18 interests. Regardless of whatever testimonies you have
19 heard, there are likely to be other people you're not
20 hearing from who might have different communities of
21 interest within roughly the same geographic area.

22 We ask you as the Commission to address the
23 issue of groups you're not hearing from, and we have a
24 couple of recommendations. The first is there is room
25 for improvement when it comes to public outreach. We

1 are especially concerned about the many communities
2 you're not hearing from, so we ask and we urge that you
3 have more public hearings to expand your effort to
4 public service announcements or paid ads to inform the
5 public. You have an obligation to go beyond waiting
6 for earned media. You might wait for a long time
7 before you get that, and so we ask that you provide
8 public service announcements so that the public is
9 aware of these hearings.

10 We also ask that you devise a more aggressive
11 approach, and the way we would like to recommend that
12 you do that is there are many community organizations
13 present here today, and rather than using traditional
14 media we encourage you to consider working in reaching
15 out to the community organizations to bring people here
16 to speak at these public hearings.

17 We know you have a very difficult task. You
18 are volunteers, and you are devoting many hours. We
19 thank you so much.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I would like just to
21 make a comment before we move on.

22 Thank you, Pinny. We hear very much the
23 public comment about what we're hearing and what we're
24 not hearing. We will do diligent study to ensure that
25 the redistricting process reflects the entire state of

1 Arizona. Submit your public comments. We're reading
2 them, we're studying them, and we're adjusting. And
3 with that, thank you very much.

4 MR. SCHINKE: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen,
5 for your service. It's thankless many times, and you
6 get criticized unfairly, but we appreciate your
7 willingness to do your job. I'm Charlie Schinke. I'm
8 a Chandler resident for 13 years.

9 When I read the Constitution of the United --
10 of the state of Arizona, I see that it sets forth in
11 order things that you should look at. I encourage
12 you -- I encourage you to do that as -- consider them
13 in the order that they were written.

14 As a resident of Chandler, I appreciate the
15 fact that Chandler has a diverse population. It has an
16 economic base that is fairly dissimilar to other cities
17 nearby. If you are considering splitting up Chandler,
18 however, you can consider merging it with some of the
19 people in Gilbert, which has a similar economic
20 background, social background. But if you consider
21 keeping Chandler together, which on a population basis
22 you would be wise to do, Chandler offers its citizens a
23 very -- a very -- a situation where people are willing
24 to -- as opposed to like, for example, right now the
25 city of Chandler has five Republicans, two Democrats,

1 so there is diversity there. It is not just a one size
2 fits all.

3 And, again, thank you for doing your job.

4 MS. MILLER: Good evening, Madam Chairwoman
5 and Commissioners. My name is Trudy Miller. I live in
6 Carefree, Arizona. Thank you -- thank you for
7 providing this opportunity for voters in Maricopa
8 County -- Maricopa County to have our voices heard on
9 this very important redistricting.

10 I'm aware that you've been juggling several
11 factors as you work to draw the legislative district
12 boundaries. Like probably everyone here, I have strong
13 opinions about each factor and the weight it should
14 carry. Ultimately, though, your mandate is to the
15 degree practicable to achieve an outcome that fulfills
16 the concept of one person, one vote. I have lived in
17 Maricopa County for -- I have lived in Maricopa County
18 for a cumulative more than 25 years. With some notable
19 exception, I have not felt represented by my elected
20 officials to make every vote valuable. I believe that
21 the single most critical factor is competitiveness.
22 With that, candidates will not be shoe-ins for one
23 party or the other, but rather candidates will be
24 willing to -- will be obliged to appeal to each voter
25 for their support, and once elected they will be

1 accountable to the voters. I believe districts such as
2 this would discourage extremism and encourage
3 responsiveness and accessibility.

4 Please give serious attention to weight and
5 importance of competitiveness. Thank you again.

6 MS. CRANK: As Jane Rhodes makes her way up
7 here, the next five speakers, Connie Henry, Joanne
8 Johnson, Crystal Carrillo, Ian Murray, William Smith,
9 Gary Brennan.

10 MS. RHODES: Good evening, Madam Chair and
11 Commissioners. My name is Jane Rhodes. My husband and
12 I live in Cave Creek in the current Clay Mine precinct.
13 While we identify with the sister towns of Cave Creek
14 and Carefree, these towns are largely tourist
15 destinations. That means that everybody that lives up
16 our way goes south or southwest for 95 percent of our
17 shopping, our services, and our social activities. So
18 my COI reflects where I actually live day to day, which
19 is south of our towns, which is where most of our
20 doctors, veterinarians, and health care services are.
21 It's where many of our friends live. Most people in my
22 COI live here because we have access to urban amenities
23 down in Phoenix if we need them, yet we're able to live
24 a more private and semi-rural lifestyle. This also
25 means we share a deep concern for water and especially

1 wildfire. We have a vast network of horse lovers who
2 help each other evacuate animals as needed.
3 Unfortunately, it happens more than we like.

4 You have inherited basically two problems that
5 we're looking for you to help solve for us. The first
6 one is what I would call past failure to recognize us
7 as a community of interest. These precincts in the
8 north -- Clay Mine, Carefree, and Cave Creek -- are in
9 CD6 and LD1, and as part of LD1 we're grouped with
10 Anthem and Yavapai County, with whom we share zero
11 common interests, economic and culture. This is true
12 regardless of party. We do share much with the COI
13 (inaudible).

14 The second and to me most important criteria
15 is competitiveness, and I'm sorry to see it listed last
16 in your criteria because the northern half or many more
17 of this COI is so noncompetitive that I as a Democrat
18 have had literally no chance of representation in the
19 entire 17 years I've lived there. That's demoralizing,
20 and it feels grossly unfair, and it makes me wonder why
21 I should even bother to vote.

22 MS. CRANK: Time.

23 MS. RHODES: So, lastly, competitiveness is a
24 Constitutional mandate for the Commission, and we
25 absolutely need you to consider that as a priority with

1 respect to us. Thank you.

2 MS. HENRY: Thank you, Madam Chair and
3 Commissioners. My name is Connie Campbell Henry. My
4 husband and teenage son and I moved to Anthem in 1999.
5 We were one of the first 100 families who moved there.
6 We moved here to Arizona from out of state for our
7 jobs, which were in Phoenix. In the 22 years since
8 then hundreds of thousands of people have moved to the
9 North Valley along that I-17 corridor. We are neither
10 East Valley or West Valley. We are what I would call
11 the North Valley, but we seem to be constantly lumped
12 with either the North Valley -- I mean with either the
13 East Valley or the West Valley, or completely
14 forgotten. We would really appreciate a meeting of
15 this Commission and a lot of other commissions in the
16 state in the North Valley.

17 It was frustrating to me when the 2000
18 election cycle rolled around that Anthem was lumped
19 into LD1 and represented by three people from Prescott,
20 more than an hour away, and in basically a rural
21 community and county. We have nothing in common with
22 Yavapai County or Prescott. I've only gone there twice
23 in 22 years as a tourist, to a quaint little town now
24 trending an older retirement age population. The
25 average age in Anthem is 43 years old. We moved to

1 Anthem to ensure that we would be around all ages as we
2 grew older. Now the majority of my suburban COI is
3 mainly working families based along the I-17 corridor
4 from Anthem to Bell Road, east to Cave Creek, west to
5 43rd Avenue. Our school district is Deer Valley
6 Unified School District. And as these hundreds of
7 thousands of people moved here in the last two decades,
8 they are very --

9 MS. CRANK: Time.

10 MS. HENRY: -- they are very diverse in age,
11 religion, background, and they're from all over the
12 country. We shop and eat out and have health resources
13 in our area. The North Valley is growing by leaps and
14 bounds, and we're soon going to have a new
15 semiconductor building there, business there. So we
16 are a purple state divided in thirds by Democrats,
17 Republicans, and Independents. I believe my COI falls
18 into that category, and I hope that you consider that
19 when you are redistricting. Thank you very much.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. Thank you for --
21 first of all, thank you for volunteering. I know
22 you've listened to how many of these meetings, 15?

23 My name is Joanne Johnson, and I have been a
24 resident of Arizona for 37 years. My husband and I
25 moved here and still live in the same house, actually,

1 this house we bought, and my children were born and
2 raised here. Ten years ago the Redistricting
3 Commission, in my opinion, created a map based on
4 politics. They gerrymandered the map to ridiculous
5 ends, as you are hearing from everybody here. My
6 husband and I, we followed the Commission ten years
7 ago, and my husband has faithfully followed every
8 single meeting on Zoom this year also. Ten years ago
9 we spoke online our opinion at a redistricting meeting
10 just like I'm doing today, but our voices were pretty
11 much ignored. I'm just asking please, please consider
12 communities of interest as a primary directive in
13 redistricting our state. Thank you.

14 MS. CARRILLO: Hello. My name is Crystal
15 Carrillo. I actually spoke at the Glendale Commission
16 meeting, so I'm actually speaking on behalf of one of
17 my neighbors, Alison Meadows. She says, "Thank you,
18 Commission, for hearing our concerns. I'm Alison
19 Meadows, a 46-year resident of LD30. The district is
20 about seven miles north to south and five to six miles
21 east to west with I-17 running through. The district
22 has changed a lot over the 46 years from fairly
23 homogenous Anglo middle class to widely diverse
24 ethnicities and economics.

25 Since retiring I've become more active in the

1 governing of my local area. What I have found is an
2 active and dedicated group of citizens. I'm enthused
3 and impressed with the young Latinos who take an active
4 interest in improving the lives of all our citizens in
5 the district. Our LD30 citizens are all ethnicities
6 and professions: teachers, nurses, public servants,
7 school board members, and blue collar workers, who have
8 come together to create visions and goals for our
9 district. It is a solid group of people working
10 together to help each other.

11 I would ask that you strictly follow the six
12 guidelines as you work through this process. In
13 particular, please keep competitive. Not doing so will
14 harm our district as well as other districts. We need
15 to be able to have representatives who represent the
16 citizens who reside within that. I would also request
17 that you extend the public forums to allow more citizen
18 input and venues and times that are easy and convenient
19 for the citizens you are working for.

20 Thank you for listening to us, the public, and
21 for this critical and very important role you have
22 volunteered for." Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I would like to make a
24 comment before the next speaker. We're hearing some
25 comments about competitiveness. Yes, it is an equal

1 Constitutional criteria. We're giving it tremendous
2 thought and attention because it's complicated. As
3 you're speaking about competitiveness understand that
4 it comes as the last Constitutional criteria, and we
5 consider it as long as it does not cause detriment to
6 the other Constitutional criteria.

7 Why am I mentioning this? If you are speaking
8 about competitiveness and you feel that a community of
9 interest will be harmed or your community of interest
10 needs a voice, please speak to it from that
11 Constitutional criteria of your community of interest.
12 We're collecting all of the data, but all of this just
13 helps provide more data for us to collectively put
14 these pieces together. Thank you.

15 MR. MURRAY: Good evening. My name is Ian
16 Murray. I'm the Republican chairman of Legislative
17 District 25. I'm a fourth generation Arizonan. I was
18 born in Superior. So I've been around for a little
19 while.

20 One of the things I think that we ought to
21 take into account as we look at criteria is the Native
22 American nations need to be up there at least at the
23 same level as the counties, because to me over the
24 years I've seen how they've been kind of forgotten and
25 left off, and they need to be, you know, taken into

1 account.

2 In 2000 we saw the Hopi Nation and the Navajo
3 Nation split into two different congressional
4 districts. I thought that was a really good idea
5 because it allowed the Hopi to have their own
6 congressman as well as the Navajo to have their own
7 congressman. I thought that was really good. As we
8 moved down here, as a legislative chairman I've seen
9 issues that have been caused when legislative districts
10 cross multiple county boundaries and we have to elect a
11 legislator out of those districts, and that has to be
12 appointed by the board of supervisors, because in some
13 cases what happens is that the county that the person
14 resided in that resigned or was removed from office can
15 only be replaced by somebody from that county, even
16 though as we heard from other people a legislative
17 district might stretch all the way from Goodyear down
18 to Yuma.

19 So I ask you very carefully to take the --
20 basically first to take the Native -- the Native
21 nations into account, then the counties, then the
22 cities, and then basically get down to that level
23 before you actually do it, and try to put everyone in
24 as few congressional districts and LDs as possible.

25 In LD25 I have like seven precincts that

1 reside in CD9 and the rest reside in CD5, so these
2 people in our district get very little attention from
3 the first -- from CD9. In LD26 they've got three
4 different congressional districts that cross into LD26.
5 I think Yavapai County was divided into three different
6 if not legislative districts, congressional districts
7 than the last election.

8 So I'm just asking you to try and keep
9 everything together as much as possible, and please,
10 please put the Native American tribes at the highest
11 level that you can with the counties because every one
12 of those has their own culture and heritage that needs
13 to be respected. Thank you.

14 MR. SMITH: Madam Chair, Commissioners, my
15 name is William Smith. I live in northern Paradise
16 Park. Paradise Park is the northern most precinct of
17 LD28. And I am a victim of competitiveness. In the
18 last -- in the last redistricting, we're the one there
19 way up there at the top. I'm sure we're brought in
20 because we are pretty closely balanced between
21 Democrats and Republicans in our area.

22 My wife and I chose to live there because it
23 is a mixed community. It has senior citizens and young
24 people having kids. We have Hispanics. Not too many
25 Blacks up there. But it's a mixed community. We chose

1 to live there. We have professionals and we have
2 (inaudible).

3 I have nothing in common with the people that
4 run LD28 that are from Paradise Valley, the
5 community -- the township of Paradise Valley. When I
6 got redistricted into 28, they stole my political
7 voice. I'm very active in the city of Phoenix. They
8 have absolutely zero interest in what happens to the
9 city of Phoenix. In my old LD7, most of the people in
10 it were also in Phoenix. We were able to work in city
11 council elections.

12 And so one of the things I ask you to do is
13 emulate Iowa as much as you can. We are not a
14 sectional state. We have boundary areas, and we have
15 reservations that we have to do, but they work hard to
16 balance the people between the cities, period, with no
17 overruns, period. They've been as close as 50, maximum
18 of 50 difference between LDs, and as close as three, so
19 they know how to do it. They absolutely have no regard
20 for where the damn incumbents live, and I'm asking you
21 to completely disavow any incumbents --

22 MS. CRANK: Time.

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you. I appreciate your
24 time. Thank you.

25 MS. CRANK: The next five speakers before the

1 next speaker comes up is Mary Gutierrez, Crystal
2 Doheno, Len Westerhausen, Beth Bremer, Paul White.

3 MR. BRENNAN: Good evening, Commissioners.
4 Gary Brennan. I live in Tempe, Arizona. Been there
5 for 60 years. I live in a district that would be
6 bordered by Chandler. I want to move it west at 48th
7 Street, want to move north to McDowell Road, even
8 though it has a little bit of Scottsdale in it, and
9 east of Dobson Road. That's where my community of
10 interest resides. Why? Because we have some major
11 economic contingents in that area. We have Arizona
12 State University. We have Maricopa County Community
13 College, Mesa. We have Rio Salado Community College
14 District. Those are (inaudible) that need to be
15 preserved.

16 We have the interests of being literally
17 bracketed by four layers of freeway. That impacts our
18 air quality. That impacts our transportation. That
19 impacts our ability to bicycle through the community
20 safely. So now there is a whole lot of work being done
21 on the Broadway curve. We folks that are in central
22 Tempe have a whole lot of interest in making sure that
23 works right. We then have very easy access to the
24 Phoenix municipal airport, the metropolitan area. We
25 want to preserve that.

1 Why am I mentioning those? I need a
2 Congresswoman or man or who will represent my needs and
3 what I need economically for all of us to keep
4 thriving. I need to have a state legislator who will
5 make that impact continue.

6 And, finally, another community of interest of
7 mine is my property up in Pine, Arizona. We're
8 represented in Congress by a congressperson who really
9 speaks more to Mohave County and La Paz County but has
10 absolutely nothing to do with what we're doing in Gila
11 County. The only thing we share across that wide swath
12 is a congressional district and wildfires. So take a
13 look at that, please.

14 MS. GUTIERREZ: Hello. My name is Mary
15 Gutierrez. My husband and I live in Mesa, in Maricopa
16 County, and I'm here to give you information about my
17 communities of interest. I work a couple of blocks
18 from our home in Mesa. I shop at the stores just a few
19 miles from us on Signal Butte as well as Porter Road in
20 nearby Gilbert. We regularly frequent the restaurants
21 in Mesa and Gilbert and just started using the Mesa
22 library, which has been beautifully remodeled. We
23 enjoy walking our dog at the riparian preserve and
24 checking out the wildlife. We've done some hiking,
25 looking out over the Valley. So we just -- we really

1 enjoy the community that we're living in. We receive
2 medical care. And we've also noticed now that they're
3 doing a lot of building in the East Valley. There is
4 going to be a Mountainside Fitness and a large court
5 facility that's going to be built.

6 So I believe that it is important for the
7 Commission to follow the Constitution by adhering to
8 all the specific criteria for designation boundaries
9 like we've all talked about. I believe the previous
10 Commission focused on competitiveness, resulting in
11 nearly half of the population bound to be feel
12 unrepresented. The previous maps that were drawn did
13 not have equal population, where some districts had
14 12 percent more population than others, and I believe
15 that districts should be compact to adequately
16 represent the communities of interest who live and work
17 together.

18 LD16 currently includes parts of Gold Canyon,
19 Apache Junction, San Tan Valley, Queen Creek, and Mesa.
20 I believe the boundaries should be drawn more compactly
21 by city. Congressional District 5 splits the city of
22 Chandler, and I believe it should be kept whole and in
23 a different district altogether, and also that we
24 should include all of Apache Junction instead of only
25 parts.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 MS. DOHANOS: My name is Crystal Dohanos, and
3 I live in east Mesa in LD16. I'm here today to give
4 you information about my community interest. So I'm a
5 stay-at-home mom, which means that I rarely get to stay
6 at home. Instead, I spend most of time driving around
7 the area for activities that my children participate
8 in. My children attend a local charter school. They
9 enjoy local activities like movies, and we go to
10 Superstition, Queen Creek, San Tan mall area. We play
11 sports and travel around the area for all of their
12 games. We have family in Gilbert near Power Road and
13 Mesa. We spend a copious amount of time with our
14 family, and not to mention all the amazing friends that
15 we have connected with within our community. Our
16 oldest works off of Signal Butte and Baseline.

17 Over the years our community has done a great
18 job bringing everyone together, and I would like to
19 continue to see our community stay connected, and I
20 worry that our district is going to be divided up
21 unfairly. I believe the previous Commission was too
22 focused on competitiveness, resulting in nearly half
23 the population feeling unfairly represented. I spend a
24 lot of my free time talking to others, and it's a sad
25 state to be in when others feel that their voices are

1 not being heard.

2 I also believe that it's important for the
3 Commission to follow the Constitution by adhering to
4 all six criteria for the design boundaries. The
5 previous maps that were drawn did not have equal
6 population, and some districts had 12 percent more
7 population than others. I believe districts should be
8 compact, accurately representing the interests of those
9 who live and work together.

10 LD16, as mentioned, currently includes Gold
11 Canyon, Apache Junction, San Tan Valley, Queen Creek,
12 and Mesa, and I believe that the boundaries should be
13 drawn more compactly by cities. Congressional CD5
14 splits the city of Chandler, and I believe it should be
15 kept whole or in a different district altogether. We
16 should also include Apache Junction instead of only
17 part of Apache Junction.

18 MR. WESTERHAUSEN: My name is Len. My wife
19 and I live -- plus two children live in the sprawling
20 area of Mesa, Maricopa County, where the old GM proving
21 grounds once existed, ZIP code 85212.

22 I'm here today to give you information about
23 my communities of interest. I work full time from home
24 in Mesa as a network operations technician. My wife is
25 a teacher in Queen Creek. One child of mine attends

1 school walking distance from my home, and the other
2 attends school in Gilbert. We shop at stores just
3 north of State Route 60 in Signal Butte in Mesa, as
4 well as those on Power Road and Ray in nearby Gilbert.
5 We regularly frequent restaurants in Queen Creek
6 marketplace on Ellsworth and Rittenhouse. My family
7 and I attend church in Gilbert. My family and I enjoy
8 walking desert trails in the Superstition and San Tan
9 mountain area. We welcome the indoor sport complex
10 being erected on Ellsworth Road.

11 LD16 currently includes parts of Gold Canyon,
12 Apache Junction, San Tan Valley, Queen Creek, and Mesa.
13 I believe the boundaries should be drawn more compactly
14 by city. Congressional District 5 splits the city of
15 Chandler. I believe it should be kept whole and part
16 of a different district altogether. Also, we should
17 include all of Apache Junction instead of only part.

18 I believe it's important for this Commission
19 to follow the Constitution by adhering to all six of
20 its criteria for designation boundaries. It seems as
21 though nearly half of the population are
22 disenfranchised and feeling unrepresented. This is
23 most likely due to the previous Commission being
24 focused on competitiveness. These previous maps that
25 were drawn did not have equal population, which

1 resulted in unbalanced districts. I believe districts
2 should be more compact so they more accurately
3 represent communities of interest who share lifestyle
4 commonalities. Thank you.

5 MS. CRANK: As the next speaker makes her way
6 up here we will take a break after this speaker for ten
7 minutes, and then I'm lining up the next five speakers:
8 Andrea Ginney, Marian Weich, Gregg Waters, Barbara
9 Medal, and Charles Schinke.

10 COMMISSIONER YORK: Charles already spoke.

11 MS. CRANK: Oh, he already spoke?

12 COMMISSIONER YORK: He did.

13 MS. CRANK: The next speakers will be after
14 the break. Go ahead.

15 MS. BREMER: Thank you, Madam Chair and
16 Commissioners. My name is Beth Bremer, and I've lived
17 in the East Valley since I was five. The economic
18 corridor along the Loop 101 in the East Valley is an
19 area where people tend to live, play, and work, with
20 similar professional workplaces, school districts,
21 academic qualities, suburban communities which are
22 dependent on the 101 for transportation and have
23 similar tourism appeal for economic benefits, such as
24 golf courses, malls, resorts, activities such as water
25 parks. These aspects are reflected in having similar

1 goals about funding of education, clean water
2 availability, clean electricity sources, accessible and
3 non-polluting transportation options, and overall
4 climate concerns being in the desert.

5 Where I grew up and where I live and mostly go
6 to see friends and family and work and shop is the east
7 arm of the 101. Also, since moving to the heart of
8 Chandler in LD18 and CD9, I discovered the strong
9 community that has developed from this LD and CD
10 framework and would like to continue to be part of that
11 LD. I appreciate that it has allowed my vote to make a
12 difference, and I feel represented. If the LD were to
13 expand, I would expect it to include the north part of
14 Tempe up to Tempe Town Lake and include some more to
15 the east to expand to more of Mesa and Chandler. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. CRANK: At this time we will take a ten
18 minute break. We will be back at 7:13.

19 (Brief recess taken.)

20 MR. WHITE: Madam Chair and Commissioners,
21 thank you very much. I've appreciated watching your
22 meeting so far.

23 It seems to me that the rubber is about to hit
24 the road. The main decisions that you've made in the
25 past several months, they're in the past, and some

1 people are happy, some people are not, but with the
2 draft maps to come in the near future with the census
3 data to come this week and the rest of the process, you
4 have the chance to show that this is a nonpartisan
5 exercise. After all, in Arizona we're leaders in this
6 area.

7 The community of interest that I'm most
8 interested in tonight is the Kyrene School District.
9 It makes up the Ahwatukee area, portions of Tempe,
10 Chandler. It's not only an educational community of
11 interest, but it's also an economic community of
12 interest. It's an employment community of interest.
13 We have major employers, Intel, et cetera, in the area.
14 A lot of people that work there are in that area as
15 well. And a plus is that it is a competitive district.
16 I'm not one to say that people are victims of
17 competitiveness, either, in the last redistricting or
18 the redistricting that you're going to be doing,
19 because having fair and competitive districts is a very
20 important Constitutional requirement that you guys are
21 going to be taking into account.

22 And so you all are used to community services
23 and the thanklessness of community service. I think
24 you've taken on the most thankless community service
25 task of all by volunteering to be Commissioners, and I

1 am confident that you guys are going to do the
2 Constitutional duties that you've sworn to do in making
3 good maps for Arizona, fair and competitive maps for
4 Arizona. Thank you.

5 MS. CRANK: Gregg Waters.

6 MS. GINNEY: My name is Andrea Ginney. I've
7 lived in west Chandler for 24 years. And I had a big
8 long thing, but I'm just chopping it all up because
9 I've heard very many people speak very eloquently on
10 many of my concerns.

11 I live in LD18. Before I understood your
12 process I thought I was just going to be able to say,
13 Please preserve the boundaries of LD18, but obviously
14 you guys don't get a cheat sheet to know what that is,
15 so I'll be going online drawing the boundaries.

16 But the community of interest that I represent
17 is Kyrene School District, and so that you really
18 understand it, Kyrene School District is not just
19 Chandler. It includes Chandler. It includes Tempe.
20 It includes South Phoenix, which is Ahwatukee, a little
21 snip of Mesa. We have students from Gila River Indian
22 community. And when you're in the Kyrene School
23 District, you can open enroll, so I, as a west Chandler
24 resident, if I think my kids would do better in an
25 environment at one of the Kyrene schools that's across

1 I-10 in South Phoenix, I can petition to open enroll.
2 So I can have my children going there. I can have my
3 children attending the Kyrene School District in Tempe,
4 not in Chandler. So when I hear people say all of
5 Chandler should be one large legislative district, I
6 absolutely disagree with that because what I have in
7 common with east Chandler, close by Gilbert, we don't
8 share a community of interest. Almost everyone I know
9 moved into in our area to be in the Kyrene School
10 District, and the Kyrene School District I guess is a
11 unique animal that includes students from all different
12 cities, and as such we can move among those schools and
13 we become attached to all those different communities.

14 So you guys have to really thread the needle.
15 You couldn't pay me a million dollars to do what you
16 guys are going to have to do, and I just want to put
17 that light on the Kyrene School District and how that
18 really is our community of interest. Thank you very
19 much.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you so much for
21 that comment, and I would like to say the feedback on
22 school districts, they're extremely helpful to us.
23 They're meaningful data points, and so the more people
24 who want to comment about their school districts and
25 how it relates to what we're doing, it's an informative

1 data point.

2 COMMISSIONER YORK: To echo that, if you
3 missed that in your comment you can go online and post
4 a public comment as well.

5 MS. WEICH: Hello. I am confident that this
6 Commission will do as good -- good a job as in 2011
7 predecessor, emphasizing fair and competitive districts
8 statewide. It would be very disappointing if Arizona
9 reverted to pre-Commission ways, trying to avoid
10 competitive districts by packing minorities into a
11 couple of districts and diluting groups among multiple
12 districts. Arizona has a sordid history when it comes
13 to redistricting and Native Americans, for example. It
14 is up to this Commission to make sure that it will
15 overcome political pressure and ensure that its mapping
16 experts produce the most fair and competitive maps.

17 Kyrene School District is diverse and has been
18 a district for a number of years. It should be deemed
19 a community of interest. Legislative district lines
20 should be based on that. We all hold and want
21 competitive and fair districts, fair for all those
22 between Democrats, Republicans, so I would urge you
23 boundaries the 101, South Mountain, Guadalupe Road, and
24 the 202.

25 MS. CRANK: Third call for Gregg Waters.

1 MS. MEDAL: I would like to thank you,
2 Commissioners, for what you're doing. I know it's not
3 easy. My name is Barbara Medal. I'm a Tempe, Maricopa
4 County resident for 43 years. I worked in local
5 hospitals until I retired. All my children went to the
6 same school. Our church is in a different district.
7 Two of my children also reside in Tempe with their
8 families. One lives in precinct LD18, mere blocks
9 away, and the other is south of Southern, while we
10 still reside on the north side in LD26. (Inaudible)
11 precinct, the only Tempe precinct, is in LD27, which is
12 a Phoenix district. They are the only Tempe one, which
13 I didn't have in here, but what I heard today some
14 gentleman talking from the reservation was also in
15 District 26. We also have a (inaudible) precinct,
16 which is from the reservation. We never see them.
17 There is no interest in 26 for these on the
18 reservation. They do indeed need to be together. We
19 have one Phoenix precinct that was switched out with
20 the one in Tempe precinct that went over in 27. So,
21 again, the town, the schools, the school boards, all of
22 the this is so critical to our common interests, and
23 yet we have been so divided.

24 Before retirement my husband actually worked
25 locally in the recent years in an office in Tempe where

1 the local businesses are comprised of local resident
2 owners who also share our common interest. The
3 previous Commission, too, focused on competitiveness
4 (inaudible). When districts are competitive, the
5 population is unrepresented, and state legislators have
6 to deal with issues of more than one city, which can be
7 detrimental and create divisiveness. Many of our
8 towns --

9 MS. CRANK: Time.

10 MS. MEDAL: Thank you.

11 MS. CRANK: The next five speakers: Jennifer
12 Grigsby, Barbara Yates, Charmaine Pullman, Darryl
13 Covert, Sherri Petrie. Next speaker, Jennifer Grigsby.

14 MS. GRIGSBY: Thank you for listening. I'm
15 going to just address the 9th Congressional District
16 where I'm at, and it's like a U shape. It goes across
17 Phoenix. It's got Mesa, most of Tempe. It's got south
18 of South Mountain, so we got Ahwatukee. And that I
19 find problematic in that my Congressman, who is a great
20 Congressman, he has so many things to be concerned
21 about. He's got ASU. He's got a regional airport to
22 go on. He's got rural rural areas, rural residential
23 areas. He's got a lot of scientific stuff. He's
24 got -- he's got so much, a little bit of the Indian
25 reservation. He's got all that, so where he sits on

1 committees and where he's going to be (inaudible) or
2 trying to get money to come back into the State as we
3 pay all those taxes to the federal government. His
4 job, to listen to all these folks about what is
5 important and where that money goes, it's too much.
6 It's way too much. I would like to see it a lot more
7 compacted so that our Congressman can concentrate and
8 focus on a smaller community of interest and number.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. YATES: Hello. My name is Barbara Yates.
11 Both my husband and I are Arizona natives. We met in
12 high school on Mesa High School's senior trip to
13 Disneyland, and we were married two years later now for
14 almost 41 years. In 1985 my husband was commissioned
15 in the Air Force, and we spent 22 years living all over
16 the world. Our two sons were born in Germany shortly
17 before the Berlin Wall fell. My husband retired from
18 the Air Force in (inaudible) as Lieutenant Colonel. We
19 returned home to Gilbert. Our two sons received
20 scholarships from ASU in engineering degrees. Our
21 oldest lives in Gilbert, works for APS, and is married
22 (inaudible). Our youngest is third generation Air
23 Force, and is stationed in Japan. We are very proud of
24 our family and the history of service (inaudible).

25 A year and a half ago my husband and I built a

1 beautiful new home in Queen Creek. Queen Creek has
2 (inaudible). On more than one occasion I have seen a
3 person walking their cat down the road on a leash. I
4 love the openness, the trucks that fly the American
5 flag, Friday night food trucks, but also the nearby
6 convenient shopping. Mostly I love the kind and
7 friendly people with shared values (inaudible). I
8 believe north and northwest Gilbert have more in common
9 with LD17 and LD25. They share the same community
10 needs and transportation infrastructure, housing, and
11 demographics. South and central Gilbert, Queen Creek,
12 and the western part of San Tan Valley (inaudible). We
13 share similar community needs in transportation,
14 infrastructure, housing, and demographics. Here we
15 live the same and work the same.

16 And I will end by saying thanking you for your
17 time on this Commission.

18 MS. PULLMAN: Good evening. My name is
19 Charmaine Pullman, and I'm a native of Arizona for
20 61 years. I have lived in Maricopa County my entire
21 life. I attended Phoenix Elementary School and then
22 finished junior high and high school in Mesa. I'm
23 married, and our four children attended elementary
24 through high school in east Mesa. I now live in
25 southeast Mesa, LD16.

1 We built our home near Signal Butte and
2 Guadalupe. We built our home in that area because of
3 like-minded ideas of the people. The ideas include
4 school choice. There are public and charter schools in
5 my area. Religious: Several church buildings within a
6 three-mile radius. My family attends weekly church
7 meetings. Low crime: The police actively participate
8 in our neighborhood events. They assist in our
9 Neighborhood Watch program. The police are aware of
10 the mishaps that occur and respond quickly. Retail and
11 small businesses are very close to our home. Being
12 semiretired, we are close enough to walk to the stores,
13 which is really nice.

14 I am in CD5 district. It incorporates
15 Chandler city, which is a long distance away. My CD
16 should be compact, whole, not cut in half. It does not
17 make sense to have Chandler divided into two districts
18 or more, each with its own separate set of issues.
19 There are no common communities of interest being from
20 east Mesa on out.

21 This is personal. My district should be
22 smaller because of so much housing development, like
23 east markets going up in many of the other south parts
24 of San Tan Valley. This all increases the population
25 of the housing developments.

1 LD16 is part of Apache Junction, Mesa,
2 Gilbert, and San Tan Valley. San Tan Valley is split
3 into LD8, LD12, and LD16.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 MS. CRANK: Second call for Darryl Covert and
6 Sherri Petri.

7 I'm calling the next four speakers Lena Hatch,
8 Paul Schubring, Zackery Hernandez, Brandy Reese.
9 Darryl Covert? Sherri? Lena Hatch? Paul Schubring?

10 MR. SCHUBRING: Good evening. My name is Paul
11 Schubring. I'm a resident of Gilbert, Arizona.

12 I would like to begin by thanking the
13 Commission for your willingness to be part of our
14 state's redistricting process. I realize this process
15 is a difficult and challenging one.

16 While the redistricting effort is no way an
17 easy task, I believe it can be a simple one. Our
18 Constitution provides a roadmap and framework to be
19 used as a guide during this process. Although there
20 may be criticisms -- although there may be criticism
21 that arise during the process, if you execute your duty
22 by following and adhering to all six of the criteria
23 listed, then most criticism will be considered
24 baseless. I would like to encourage the Commission to
25 ensure that the district populations are balanced,

1 sizes are efficient, and that communities of interest
2 are truly communities of interest.

3 As mentioned, I am a resident of Gilbert. I
4 believe that it is important to maintain and follow
5 communities of interest for social, educational, and
6 economic reasons. From a social perspective, the only
7 thing greater in Gilbert -- the families in Gilbert
8 than our love for family and nation is our love for
9 God. A very high percentage of our community regularly
10 attends church and invests time serving others. We
11 value honesty, integrity, and service in our community.

12 In terms of education, we are part of Gilbert.
13 We also have Higley and even Chandler School District.
14 We have several charter schools such as Great Heart,
15 Basis, Heritage Academies, Ben Franklin, and many
16 others that operate in Gilbert as well, and the vast
17 majority of these interests are well aligned to the
18 needs of the families that are represented.

19 From an economic perspective, the best way to
20 represent the economic livelihood is to maintain our
21 current community of interest. I am the president of
22 two technology companies in Gilbert. The companies
23 that I run develop new products for the technology
24 industry. Many of my fellow residents in Gilbert
25 derive their livelihood from tech and those related

1 companies, and as such it's important to have an
2 elected representative that understands the needs of
3 our community as it relates to economic and social
4 policies for these companies, and even me as a small
5 business executive.

6 Once again, I would like to thank you for your
7 willingness to be part of this process. I would like
8 to thank you in advance for your integrity in making
9 decisions that follow our Constitution and for your
10 commitment to maintaining communities of interest so
11 that the needs of each community are adequately
12 addressed. Thank you.

13 MS. CRANK: Zackery Hernandez. Brandy --
14 Zackery.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: I imagine that Commissioners
16 receive a lot of input, and I think that's an
17 understatement. Is that unanimous? And that input is
18 more than any one of you can handle. But,
19 Commissioners, you have the benefit of talking to each
20 other, and your decisions are a lot better because of
21 everything that helps facilitate that communication
22 between you. One thing that helps all Commissioners
23 (inaudible) just one Commission.

24 Now, as voters, we have a hard time getting
25 together with our communities of interest because we're

1 on so dang many different commissions, or as we
2 officially call them, districts. The reason I know
3 this is because I tried to find out which of my
4 neighbors vote on the same choices that I vote on, that
5 is people that are in the same boundaries as me for
6 everything, because I want to get together with these
7 communities of interest that I keep hearing about.
8 Sounds nice. So I went on Google Maps, and I imported
9 all the state and federal district boundaries, and I
10 added my city council district, and I looked to see
11 which of my neighbors I'm making decisions with. I
12 call this neighborhood my democracy block because all
13 our democracy decisions are made together.

14 And tonight we keep talking about what a
15 community of interest is. (Audio distortion.) Well, it
16 helps that your community is not lit up into a bunch of
17 different partially overlapping groups, but I am. All
18 us voters are. There is exactly one rule that helps us
19 out with this. It doesn't help just one community of
20 interest; it helps all voters. And this beautiful
21 guideline is the nesting of districts in our state
22 legislature. Nobody complains about that, right? Same
23 senators, same representatives, the whole boundary.
24 People like this and nobody complains. People like
25 this and nobody complains because (inaudible). You

1 will not have any chance to say that. So my
2 (inaudible) and that's state legislative districts
3 inside the Congressional districts. Don't cut our
4 communities up into factions of state and national
5 boundaries because there is already city and county
6 stuff you can't even control. Keep us together with
7 what you can control. That's the best thing you can do
8 for democracy. It will help us (inaudible), and we
9 will be just fine forming our own communities of
10 interest.

11 Thanks for listening. I'm glad we can do
12 this.

13 MS. REESE: Good evening. My name is Brandy
14 Reese. Thank you for listening to us this evening. I
15 live in south Gilbert near Chandler Heights Road and
16 west of Power Road. My family and I moved here four
17 years ago for my husband's work. His job site is in
18 Mesa, but we specifically chose Gilbert, which is in
19 LD12 and CD5 because of Chandler Unified School
20 District and public schools and the depth and breadth
21 of educational offerings. My community of interest
22 includes families of school-age children that includes
23 and values education, specifically our neighborhood
24 schools. At present my elected officials in LD12 and
25 CD5 do not represent my values and interests in

1 education, specifically in public schools. I would
2 like my new LD and CD to include a geographic location
3 to the west of me in and around Chandler that values
4 and includes our neighborhood schools and understands
5 that they are the anchor of neighborhoods providing
6 continuity of friendships for our kids as they move
7 through the public school system. These schools are
8 the glue that hold our neighborhood and our society
9 together, from our after-school activities, sporting
10 events, and more.

11 My community of interest also includes family
12 household (inaudible). It does not include
13 unincorporated rural or county islands that are more
14 agricultural, such as the area to the east of me in
15 Queen Creek, which is currently (inaudible). I
16 respectfully ask as well that the period of admission
17 of COI, communities of interest, mapping tools be
18 extended until the grid maps are released next month.

19 MS. CRANK: Next four speakers, John Luker,
20 Joe (audio distortion).

21 MR. GARCIA: Good evening. I'm Joseph Garcia.
22 Vice-president for public policy for Chicanos Por La
23 Causa, also executive director of CPLC.

24 One-quarter of eligible voters in Arizona are
25 Latino and growing. About a third of our population

1 are Latino and growing, and yet there is no Latino
2 representation on the Commission. There is none on the
3 Commission. There is none on the Redistricting
4 Commission. If there were no White representation on
5 the Commission, I imagine you would hear complaints
6 about that as well. If there has been a general theme
7 among Latino speakers it's been that Latino voters
8 (inaudible). There has not been any public hearing
9 from the Commission on racially polarized voting where
10 one group, say Latinos, is pitted against somebody
11 else, but their vote is diluted because it's less.
12 There has no special hearings on the Commission of
13 Latino minority districts. There have been for Native
14 American voters, but none for Latino minority
15 districts. So we heard about no Latino representation
16 or hearing in South Phoenix, Laveen, also in Maryville.
17 No hearings for Latinos there.

18 We also know about the digital divide. Many
19 Latinos don't have access to websites or information on
20 social media. And so we implore you to hold additional
21 hearings on racially polarized voting and also Latino
22 minority districts and also attending Latino voting
23 districts to get the feel and understanding of what
24 Latinos are and what we think about. That's important,
25 and I think that this Commission has a long way to

1 prove that they are interested in hearing about Latino
2 voters and about communities of interest. Thank you.

3 MR. SIMACEK: Good evening. My name is Thomas
4 Simacek. I've live for 15 years in Ahwatukee
5 Foothills -- closer, okay.

6 I am Thomas Simacek. I live for 15 years in
7 Ahwatukee Foothills, which is the area of Phoenix south
8 of South Mountain and west of I-10. This is a very
9 tight community. We really have a hard time even
10 driving anywhere else. South Mountain is kind of a big
11 break in the freeway, the 202. So we would really like
12 to have -- I would like to have community together.

13 On the other hand, the Congressional District
14 9, as was just mentioned several times, belong to some
15 areas I've never been to in Phoenix. It's still in
16 Phoenix, but north Phoenix, so I think it would be nice
17 if we could get some of the communities south of us.

18 MS. PENA: Good evening. My name is Tatiana
19 Pena. I'm a first generation American born Latina from
20 immigrant Central American parents. I am married and a
21 mother of four girls in South Phoenix. I'm in LD27,
22 and I have youngest with me here. It can be done.

23 I was born, raised, and educated in South
24 Phoenix. My children go to school in South Phoenix as
25 well. I go to church and serve in many of my community

1 groups. My husband and I are very involved in the
2 church as well in South Phoenix. We actually are
3 leaders of one of our congregations there.

4 I'm here to share my insights about
5 Legislative District 27. I do not know how this
6 district will change, if it does at all. I'm here to
7 ask that South Phoenix and Laveen remain together. I
8 also ask that the Elwood precinct, which is not in our
9 district, it's in LD25, but it actually is a part of
10 South Phoenix, be returned to South Phoenix in the same
11 district. We share a lot of the same cultural and
12 understanding. Our communities have been side by side
13 for decades. The majority of Arizona's Black community
14 resides within South Phoenix and Laveen.

15 For many decades Arizona's strongest Black
16 community was in the same district and the city council
17 district, legislative district, and congressional
18 district. Last time we went through redistricting the
19 community was divided into two different city council
20 districts. This weakened the voice of the Black
21 community in Arizona. This is wrong. We must unite
22 them and no longer divide their voice.

23 Many, many Latino immigrant families live in
24 our region as well, as you heard from many others who
25 shared today. The area has grown considerably, and we

1 have even more diversity than before, and it is
2 wonderful. We have so much in common.

3 I ask you to please consider that and please
4 follow the Constitution when making these decisions.
5 Thank you so much.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a follow-up
7 question. I would just like to thank you for your
8 voices, and to say we have not heard much from the
9 African American community. We are just starting our
10 listening tour, and so if there are additional
11 perspectives please reach out to our Commission so we
12 know who we're not hearing from.

13 MS. PENA: Thank you. I think we agree a lot
14 on South Phoenix (inaudible).

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Submit your data.

16 MS. PENA: I will.

17 MS. CRANK: The next four speakers: Travis
18 Heth, Jim Chastan, Nancy Carlos, Suzanne Sherer.
19 Travis Heth? Not here. Jim Chastan.

20 COMMISSIONER YORK: He's coming.

21 MR. CHASTAN: Thank you, Commissioners. My
22 name is Jim Chastan. I've lived in Arizona for
23 35 years. However, you know, it's been on three
24 different stints. I've lived in Mesa, Tempe, Chandler,
25 Maricopa, and I now reside in Ahwatukee. I'm a CPA.

1 I'm a business owner. While we lived in Maricopa I
2 served on the Maricopa Unified School District.

3 I -- the community of interest that I live in
4 is that -- excuse me -- is Ahwatukee, which is a very
5 suburban area. And we have retirees. We have
6 families. And Dobson Ranch in Tempe and Chandler do
7 not closely -- are not communities of interest for me
8 and the people that I work with, that I serve. We are
9 much more closely aligned with Maricopa and those
10 communities to the south of us that also have
11 retirement communities, have families with children
12 that they're raising. (Audio distortion.)

13 Ahwatukee has now the 202 that goes around.
14 However, there has always been transportation issues to
15 get out of there similar to Maricopa. They understand
16 those same transportation issues, and those are the
17 community -- my community of interest that I would like
18 you to recognize and consider. Thank you very much.

19 MS. COTTLE: Good evening, Commissioners. My
20 name is Nancy Cottle, and I'm a resident of East Mesa.
21 I live between Power Road and Usery Pass.

22 McDowell McKellips is known as the desert
23 upland. It's in a very unique area, the upper Sonoran
24 Desert, and very beautiful for a long time. Our home
25 is on an elevated lot surrounded by cactus desert

1 foliage. And when we moved to Mesa 35 years ago we
2 enjoyed traveling on dirt roads and the beautiful views
3 that we had up to Phoenix.

4 My district is LD25, and it's one of the
5 largest in the county, and their zip code is 85207. I
6 serve as an elected state committeeman. We reside in a
7 beautiful county island, and we are served by Rural
8 Metro, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, and
9 others in private sector.

10 The changes that have taken place over the
11 years in this particular area of Mesa have encouraged
12 well-planned development and growth. Schools in Mesa,
13 in particular the East Valley, are some of the finest.
14 As a retired Boeing executive, I have enjoyed
15 volunteering in the neighborhood schools and even
16 substitute teaching from time to time in the Mesa
17 public district, which is one of the largest in the
18 state. That is one of my favorite communities of
19 interest, also at Falcon Field that supports the
20 aviation growth that we have seen in the East Valley.
21 We enjoy the restaurants, the parks, sporting events,
22 shopping, attending church, and come to know our
23 neighbors as well as many others throughout all of Mesa
24 proper. We are minutes away from beautiful hiking
25 areas, Saguaro Lake, golf courses, and the Rio Salado

1 gun club.

2 I would urge the IRC to be mindful to keep our
3 area intact versus including my neighborhood with
4 communities further east of us or to the south of us,
5 and to adhere, please, to the goals set forth in the
6 Arizona Constitution.

7 I thank you all for serving, and I thank you
8 for the opportunity to speak.

9 MS. CRANK: As Suzanne makes her way up here,
10 the next speakers -- next four speakers: Amanda Lugo,
11 Evelynne Castillo, Nancy Dombrowski, Rhonda Smith.

12 MS. SHARER: Thank you.

13 Good evening, Commissioners. My name is
14 Suzanne Sharer, and I'm an Arizona native. I reserve
15 to say how many years that might equal, but I'm also --

16 COMMISSIONER YORK: Just talk in this one and
17 Webex will pick it up.

18 MS. SHARER: Okay. Thank you. And I'm short.
19 Thank you very much.

20 I'm a realtor, a small business owner, a
21 mother, and a grandmother. I have worked and raised a
22 family and lived in LD18 since its inception in the
23 last redistricting and beyond. I'm also a Commissioner
24 for the City of Phoenix, Ahwatukee (inaudible) and I
25 ran for LD state senate in 2020. That was quite a

1 ride. Having unique opportunities to serve and be
2 involved in my community, it has allowed me the ability
3 to hear directly from citizens from district area LD18
4 and what has been to important to them, and what I have
5 been hearing is that we do indeed have a district of
6 varying interests, goals, and ideals.

7 Ahwatukee is a community that's very suburban
8 in nature, from growing families to folks (inaudible).
9 I believe we share that commonality with the towns
10 south of us, such as Maricopa, rather than Tempe and
11 the city of Phoenix, who are much more urbanized and
12 transient in nature. Chandler and Mesa are following
13 suit with the building up of their downtowns. We are
14 somehow included with all of this. While both our
15 indicators have been healthy growing states, we are
16 quite different from one another. We have not -- we
17 have almost no commonality with these areas, and that
18 factor is growing more each day.

19 Also, the previous maps did not have equal
20 population in districts, some with 12 percent more
21 population than others. I respectfully ask the
22 Commission to follow all six of the criteria laid out
23 in the Arizona Constitution. We all appreciate how
24 difficult this job is, but I'm asking you to consider
25 bringing Ahwatukee Foothills west to the I-10 and to

1 the south, and not in Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa or Chandler.
2 And thank you again for this opportunity to speak
3 tonight.

4 MS. LUGO: Good evening. My name is Amanda
5 Lugo. I live in Scottsdale, Arizona, in Legislative
6 District 24, Congressional District 6. I serve as the
7 democracy director at the Arizona Center For
8 Empowerment.

9 I want to thank the IRC for holding this
10 meeting. I'm here on behalf of the ACE to request that
11 the four minority majority legislative districts in
12 Phoenix be upheld and protected. These legislative
13 districts are 19, 27, 29, 30, and have a large Latinx
14 population, particularly in the West Valley that have
15 the right to choose who represents them in the
16 legislature. The rights of communities of color to
17 elect a member of their own choosing is protected by
18 the Voting Rights Act, and the Commission must hold
19 those protections in the map that they draft for the
20 next decade of Arizona electoral representation. The
21 Latinx community deserves the right to elect leaders we
22 can hold accountable to our communities, calling on
23 them to specifically represent regional interests and
24 the interests of our communities at the legislature
25 where our voices must be heard.

1 I would also like to request that the IRC
2 extend the communities of interest survey deadline in
3 order to make this a more inclusive process and to hear
4 from the communities that are not here presently this
5 evening.

6 Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your
7 service.

8 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Can you please just
9 reiterate the LDs that you mentioned.

10 MS. LUGO: Legislative District 19, 27, 29,
11 and 30.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER YORK: You're from CD6 and LD --

14 MS. LUGO: CD6, LD4, and I'm the democracy
15 director at the Arizona Center for Empowerment.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

17 MS. CASTILLO: Good evening. My name Evelynne
18 Castillo, and I was born and raised here in Mesa,
19 Arizona. I'm the East Valley community organizer for
20 LUCA and ACE, Arizona Center for Empowerment, and I'm
21 here representing my community and my family.

22 My family still resides in Mesa on Alma School
23 and Broadway, which is part of LD26 in the 9th
24 Congressional District. I am part of a mixed status
25 family, and growing up we lived in more homes than I

1 can remember. My mom worked two different jobs and
2 cared for three kids alone. We jumped from home to
3 home, thinking the instability we were facing was
4 normal. I didn't realize it then, but my whole life
5 has been and continues to be political. We didn't have
6 the privilege of having heat during the winter or warm
7 water to level out cold showers. We didn't have the
8 privilege of choosing where we can go to school. We
9 didn't have the privilege of having health insurance so
10 that we can attend to our community needs. We didn't
11 have the privilege of electing local officials that
12 would create policy with our communities experiences
13 and struggles at the forefront of their decisions, and
14 it shows. It shows because it's still the case, not
15 just for my family but countless other others that I
16 know go through the same. We're continuing to see our
17 people facing the same instability and insecurity.
18 Just this past year we saw a tax on communities of
19 color through voter suppression bills, through a tax on
20 education from the state budget, and through families
21 losing their jobs in a pandemic because of the lack of
22 support and leadership. I cannot imagine the next ten
23 years if others continue to speak for me and my family.

24 Communities of color have a voice, and we need
25 to maintain our rights to choose, and so that's why I'm

1 here. I'm here because representation matters. Our
2 stories and experiences as Latinx voters and community
3 members matter. That is why the Commission needs to
4 maintain the number of districts where the communities
5 of color have the ability to elect candidates of our
6 own choosing, which is protected in the Voting Rights
7 Act, as mentioned. So I'm here to emphasize that it is
8 the job of the Commission to uphold this protection in
9 the map that you all draft for the next ten years.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. DOMBROWSKI: Hi. Good evening. Thank you
12 Madam Chair and Commission for letting us speak
13 tonight. I'm Nancy Dombrowski, and I live in the
14 Ahwatukee Foothills area. The zip code is 85044. I
15 think of this area as the hidden gem of the Phoenix
16 area. It is a very quiet, diverse area with small
17 shops and businesses. I spend most of my time in
18 Ahwatukee area for shopping, services, and attend
19 church there as well.

20 I respectfully ask the Commission to follow
21 all sets of the criteria in the Arizona Constitution.
22 I believe the previous Commission focused on
23 competitiveness, which has left the Ahwatukee Foothills
24 area with very little commonality of interest. We have
25 almost no commonality with Tempe, Mesa, Chandler or

1 Phoenix. These are all cities that have different
2 concerns than my area. The previous maps did not have
3 equal population, with some districts having 12 percent
4 more than others.

5 CD9, our Congressional district, is not
6 compact, has no communities of interest, and includes
7 way too many cities. Ahwatukee Foothills has more
8 commonalities with areas such as Maricopa and areas
9 west of the I-10 and south. We have a rural suburb
10 feeling, even though we are in Phoenix. The towns
11 south of us also have small shops and businesses in
12 their community. We all have mountain areas that we
13 want to keep in environmentally good shape. We are all
14 concerned about maintaining the fast growth in our
15 areas to keep the small town feeling and liveability.
16 Safety, good schools, and affordability are important
17 to all of our areas. We share students with Maricopa
18 and have a good relationship with them. I appreciate
19 how difficult your job is, but I would ask you if you'd
20 consider putting Ahwatukee Foothills area west of the
21 I-10 to the south and not in Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa or
22 Chandler. Thank you.

23 MS. CRANK: As Rhonda makes her way up here,
24 the next speakers are Pam Peake, Giselle Garcia, Lan
25 Hoang, Jennifer Chua.

1 MS. SMITH: Hi. Thank you, Madam Chair and
2 the Commission, for having this meeting.

3 My name is Rhonda Smith, and I am a homeowner
4 and have lived in Ahwatukee Foothills for ten years.
5 Ahwatukee Foothills holds a very special place in my
6 heart because this is where I have raised my family and
7 built close relationships with neighbors and friends in
8 the area. My daughter went to school here, and she
9 started in preschool and now she's in college. I work,
10 shop, frequent the local restaurants, and attend church
11 in our small community. What I love most about
12 Ahwatukee Foothills is the small town feeling that it
13 gives, and I would like to keep it that way. To
14 accomplish this I think Ahwatukee should be kept
15 separate from Phoenix and Tempe. We don't have a lot
16 in common with these cities. They're urban; we're
17 suburban. They have high tech and large business. We
18 have more family friendly or family-owned businesses.
19 I feel Ahwatukee has more in common with the city of
20 Maricopa, especially with their students sharing our
21 schools. Ahwatukee is a small suburb community, and
22 it's not like the city of Phoenix and Tempe in size or
23 feel. I suggest the boundaries for Ahwatukee stay west
24 of I-10, along the South Mountain, and continue south
25 towards the city of Maricopa, where we have the most

1 commonality.

2 In 2011 the Commission failed to take any of
3 this into consideration and did not follow the Arizona
4 Constitution. I respectfully ask the Commission to
5 follow the criteria outlined in our state Constitution
6 to maintain equal population, communities of interest,
7 and fairness. Thank you and God bless.

8 MS. PEAKE: Hi. I'm Pamela Peake, and I'm a
9 resident of Phoenix in the Ahwatukee area, zip code
10 80544. I'm short, too. I am a current resident of
11 Legislative District 18 and Congressional District 9.
12 Thank you, Madam Chair and the panel, for allowing us
13 this opportunity to voice our concerns. We feel that
14 adhering to the six areas of the Constitution that have
15 been mentioned are of the utmost importance in handling
16 this redistricting process.

17 I've lived in the area for six years and love
18 the quaint small town feel of our community and shop
19 locally to support all of the small businesses. The
20 high tech and urban feel of Tempe, Phoenix, Mesa, and
21 Chandler really doesn't match our concerns as a small
22 suburb. This makes CD9 spread out with many
23 commonalities of interest -- without many commonalities
24 of interest. I feel Ahwatukee has more in common with
25 these areas like cities -- city of Maricopa, as well as

1 area west of Interstate 10, south of South Mountain
2 geographically, and we have a lot of students from the
3 city of Maricopa that share our schools, so both of
4 those areas blend well, and both areas also have a
5 diverse population, including the Gila reservation on
6 our south border, which we highly respect.

7 I appreciate the difficult task that you've
8 undertaken, and I ask you that consider that Ahwatukee
9 and Ahwatukee Foothills west of Interstate 10 will be
10 better suited with the city of Maricopa and its
11 surrounding areas, not with Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa or
12 Chandler.

13 Thank you for listening to my concerns.

14 MS. GARCIA: Hello. My name is Giselle
15 Garcia, and I'm the 2021 --

16 COMMISSIONER YORK: Can you take your mask
17 off? We can't hear you. Can you take your mask off?

18 MS. GARCIA: Hello. My name is Giselle, and
19 I'm testifying on why the 2021 redistricting process
20 needs to be fair and transparent. I currently reside
21 in LD27 and Congressional District 27. How districts
22 are drawn is like every political issue from the
23 economy to healthcare to public education. When
24 politicians or political interests manipulate the maps
25 for personal political gain, it prevents residents like

1 me from having our voices heard on all these policies
2 that affect us. Because of the timing of the census
3 data and when the Commission meets, unfortunately the
4 public has very limited time to view, understand, and
5 comment on the proposed maps. The redistricting
6 process already is an inherently confusing and
7 complicated process for many community members. The
8 need to ensure all members of our community understand
9 and participate is vital. In order for our democracy
10 to function the public needs to have a voice in the
11 process.

12 Therefore, I'm asking this Commission to
13 commit to continue outreach in our community, creating
14 it accessible, and ensure you center our voices as you
15 decide our political representation for the next ten
16 years. Thank you for your time, and thank you for
17 listening to me today. Thank you.

18 MS. HOANG: Good evening, Madam Chair and
19 Commissioners. My name is Lan Hoang. I was raised
20 here in Central Phoenix, Arizona, almost my entire
21 life. I attended elementary school and high school
22 here. I graduated from ASU with a business degree and
23 a master's in public administration from NAU. I worked
24 in higher education for 17 years until I changed my
25 career path. I've traveled many places and states, but

1 I always come back here because this is my home base.

2 I'm a mother of three now, and I want to make
3 sure that the new district lines reflect the shifting
4 demographics in our state so that my children see
5 themselves fairly represented in the future. This
6 leaves me to point out that there has not been no
7 significant outreach to communities of color for input.
8 How effective are your efforts if not everyone is
9 invited to the table? The Asian American population is
10 the fastest growing population in the state, but we're
11 often neglected and/or ignored when it comes to making
12 decisions that affect our lives. I would like to ask
13 the Commissioners to think about that as you draw the
14 new Congressional and legislative district lines.

15 It's important that you engage in meaningful
16 community outreach that brings in the Asian American
17 community to your work. This means working with local
18 community organizations, media outlets, and ensuring
19 that the materials you provide are accessible in both
20 languages.

21 Lastly, I ask that you create fair and
22 competitive districts. They can ensure better
23 representation for our community and results in
24 candidates that know our community and can effectively
25 advocate for us.

1 So thank you for your time, and I wish you
2 well in making your decision. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you so much, and
4 before we move to the next speaker just there is a
5 consistent comment or theme about our accessibility and
6 outreach to minorities of community of interest. We
7 are interested in meeting with everybody, and if there
8 is anybody that feels that they are not represented
9 reach out to us irc.az.gov, G-O-V, and we will listen
10 to anybody that feels they're not being heard, and we
11 will meet with you. So with that, onward.

12 MS. CRANK: As Jennifer makes her way up here,
13 I'm going to read the next four names: Nicole Morales,
14 AJ K-C-I-R-D-O-G-L-U, not even going to try that one,
15 Natasha Chavez, Patty O'Neill, and Brian Eckerly.

16 MS. CHAU: Good evening, Madam Chair and
17 Commissioners. My name is Jennifer Chau. I'm the
18 director of Arizona Asian American, Native Hawaiian,
19 and Pacific Islander for Equity which was founded in
20 2019. We're a coalition of nine AANHPI organizations
21 working together on issues that impact the communities.
22 The communities include Chinese, Filipino, Korean,
23 Indian, Japanese, Marshallese, Samoan, Tokelauan,
24 Native Hawaiian, Cambodian, and there is many more. In
25 2020 the coalition mobilized the AANHPI communities to

1 get counted in the census and get out the vote, which
2 saw an increase in voter turnout by 46 percent from the
3 2016 election. Outreach does make a difference.

4 I'm a resident and an owner of a bakery in
5 Tempe, and I'm a mother of a one-year-old daughter. I
6 have seen a rise in the Asian Pacific Islander
7 businesses and residents in the East Valley. I
8 frequent the Mesa Asian district, which is in Dobson
9 Road and Main Street area, where there are various
10 Asian groceries stores and restaurants and stores.

11 I'd like to note an observation. Yesterday I
12 attended the IRC public hearing in Tucson, and it was
13 packed, I would say 200 to 300 people, but I only saw a
14 handful of people of color. It leaves me to wonder
15 what are the outreach efforts being made to the
16 communities of color pertaining to redistricting. The
17 Asian Pacific Islander community is the fastest growing
18 population in Arizona, and it's important to have our
19 community members participate and understand the
20 redistricting process to ensure our representation in
21 the maps that will be impacting us for next decade.

22 The Commission has space to improve their
23 public outreach. We ask that you take a more proactive
24 approach in educating the public so that you are
25 hearing from all of our communities in the state,

1 especially communities of color. We ask that you do
2 more outreach to community organizations who are
3 already in the community, present and tied to the local
4 communities. We ask that you provide materials in
5 language other than English and that you reach out to
6 the media outlets in communities.

7 Thank you for your service.

8 MS. MORALES: (Speaking in foreign language).
9 Madam Chair and Commission, my name is Nicole Morales.
10 I am a resident of Legislative District 24 and former
11 resident of Legislative District 19, where I grew up,
12 where my parents, (speaking in foreign language)
13 currently reside. I am here today to bring their
14 voices.

15 I will begin by pointing out how inaccessible
16 this process has been for the community in Maryville
17 and other minority communities across the state.
18 Although I recognize spaces like this and also the
19 communities of interest survey, I am far from home,
20 just as many other speakers tonight. My first
21 recommendation as a resident of Arizona is for more
22 spaces for our community to have present because we
23 have a right to be represented.

24 Secondly, as I took a look around -- as I look
25 around I am aware that I am not in my community nor in

1 a very inviting space due to the lack of translation
2 and language accessibility. This is a space where I'm
3 unable to bring my mother or my father to be able
4 provide their public input because they would have to
5 use their native language, and I'm unsure if there was
6 a translation right now at this moment for people to be
7 able to provide their comments. Also (inaudible)
8 outreach for communities where they can understand the
9 importance of their voices as well, as working families
10 in general just being able to being able to have
11 accessibility to that information. I think it was said
12 earlier about just more outreach in order to ensure the
13 importance of the space in just their native language.

14 I hope you extend hearings in our community.
15 I hope that also you consider expanding the deadline
16 for community of interest survey. It does not make
17 sense in general that you recognize that there is not
18 enough input for Black communities and Latino
19 communities and other minorities and put a deadline to
20 the survey as of now.

21 Thank you very much for your time.

22 COMMISSIONER YORK: So just real quick I would
23 like to go on record that we have provided translation
24 for the Latino community.

25 MR. KURDOGLU: Good evening, Madam Chair

1 Commissioners. My name is Ajlan Kurdoglu. You can
2 call me AJ. And I'm a Chandler resident for 15 years,
3 a family man, and a small business owner in the city as
4 well. Chandler is where I built my life as a first
5 generation American. This city is where I live, where
6 I work, and most importantly where I serve my
7 community. In every sense of the word Chandler is my
8 community of interest.

9 Chandler, this city with its diverse
10 population, with its strong economic base from
11 different industries, and its big population, deserves
12 to be a sole, single legislative district. Currently
13 our city is divided between LD18 and 17. Chandler has
14 six state legislators. They can call the city or part
15 of it their constituency, but unfortunately the
16 legislature from LD18 has three other cities they have
17 to take care of: Phoenix, Mesa, and Tempe. The ones
18 from LD17, they have to take care of two more
19 communities, Gilbert and Sun Lakes. Chandler needs her
20 own special legislators who can and will pay
21 100 percent of their time to this important city. This
22 will also solve the hard issues, like, for example,
23 where I live I have one set group of legislators.

24 Where I work in five minutes, I have a
25 different set of legislators. And most of the high

1 tech employees are in the same situation. They are
2 home in one district. Their work is another. And
3 another great point for you Commissioners, mappers, for
4 you, when you make Chandler one district you will have
5 a contiguous, compact district, respect the city
6 boundary, while being a competitive one.

7 So I want to thank you for your hard work,
8 allowing me to speak. Have a wonderful evening, and
9 let's make Chandler a single district. Thank you.

10 MS. CHAVEZ: Hi. My name is Natasha Chavez.
11 I work for the council as an organizer for the
12 council -- sorry. Public speaking makes me nervous so
13 I'll make it quick because we have two minutes.

14 First, thank you for your time. My main
15 priority is making sure that non-White voices, Black,
16 Latino, Muslims, just to make sure that they're
17 represented in the different districts, that we just
18 continue to either expand or maintain the majority
19 minority districts currently we have. Thank you.

20 MS. O'NEILL: Hello. My name is Patty
21 O'Neill. I know I don't look Irish. Thank you, Madam
22 Chair. Thank you, IRC panel. I appreciate what you're
23 doing.

24 I live in North Scottsdale where the 101 and
25 Frank Lloyd Wright meet. My area, or better said, my

1 community, is a mix of single family homes, apartments,
2 and businesses. Year around you can see families,
3 young couples and children enjoying many activities,
4 like walking paths in the beautiful parks that we have
5 there. There is a pristine hiking trail a stone's
6 throw away from my home. We also enjoy annual events
7 like the auto auction, professional golfing events,
8 horse shows.

9 Unlike the rest of our legislative district my
10 community represents a well balance of Republicans,
11 Independents, and Democrats. This is exactly what the
12 rest of my legislative district should look like.
13 Unfortunately, my legislative district has a 20-point
14 advantage for one party. I believe my small community
15 with its well balance of diverse voters is a snapshot
16 of what all legislative districts should look like.

17 I ask this committee to create a fair and
18 competitive district reflective -- that reflects my
19 community, and with that I would like to make a
20 suggestion to the IRC. With respect to LD23, when
21 looking at redrawing that district look at keeping
22 Scottsdale Unified School District in one LD. A simple
23 modification of extending our district to the south and
24 a bit to the east would move an entire school district
25 into one legislative district, and you will find that

1 small modification would make LD23 more competitive.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. CRANK: As Brian makes his way up here,
4 the next speaker are Bonnie Jamison, Joyce Steiner,
5 Tram Chu, Kate Saunders.

6 MR. ECKLEY: Commission, thank you for hearing
7 me tonight. My name is Brian Eckley, and I live in
8 East Mesa. The cross streets are McDowell and Power.
9 I'm married with two children. I work at the Phoenix
10 International Airport. My oldest child works in Mesa
11 at a local Albertsons and a bank right across the
12 street. My youngest child attends Grand Canyon
13 University, which is off of 17 and Camelback. Our
14 family spends time going to the local movie theatres
15 and restaurants. We also enjoy the local state parks
16 for hiking and activities on the Salt River, which is
17 about 15 minutes east of where we live. My wife and I
18 love floating the Salt River all the time.

19 I'm here today to talk a little bit about my
20 community of interest. My community works in aviation,
21 tech, retail, and small businesses across the city.
22 Many people work in aviation because Boeing is a large
23 employer in my community. As stated earlier, I work
24 out at the Phoenix International Airport. I work
25 there, but I don't spend a lot of time there other than

1 with work. We also have Mesa Gateway airport, which is
2 to the south. We use that ourselves to get to our
3 family up in Washington State. Falcon Field, which is
4 five minutes from my home to the west, has been a base
5 for firefighting helicopters and serves as a major
6 flight instructing location for students from all over
7 the community and the world. My family and I enjoy a
8 wonderful restaurant that's located on Falcon Field, so
9 we enjoy eating dinner and watching the airplanes take
10 off and land with a great view of Red Mountain.

11 We are a proud middle income community which
12 supports each others families, churches, and other
13 local resources. My community has a food truck Friday
14 where members of the community gather to socialize and
15 get to know one another. We also gather in our local
16 churches and schools. We also gather with other
17 churches in the community. Our children are involved
18 heavily in our church youth program, which is involved
19 in outreach within my local community. My CD -- my
20 district is 5 and LD25, and I am quite happy with those
21 districts as they are drawn currently.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 MS. CRANK: Bonnie Jameson. Not here? Joyce
24 Steiner.

25 MS. STEINER: Good evening. I'm glad to be

1 here, and I'm glad I have this opportunity. I am from
2 Legislative District 12. It is a district that is not
3 competitive. I have lived in that district for nine
4 years, and it's been very difficult not having a
5 competitive district where I feel there is a greater
6 likelihood that I can have input into who gets elected.
7 In general, I feel like we need to have districts that
8 are more equal in population. I would like to see that
9 there are more of these meetings in geographical areas
10 of the county that have not had meetings. I also think
11 there needs to be a greater variety of communication.
12 There are people -- now, I have a computer, but there
13 are people who don't have computers or are not computer
14 savvy, and so other ways of getting the word out would
15 be helpful. Thank you.

16 MS. CRANK: Tran.

17 MS. CHU: Good evening, Commissioner. My name
18 is Tran Chu. My family and I -- I'm the first
19 generation came to the United States (inaudible) and I
20 involved with my Vietnamese community. I've been
21 helping my Vietnamese community in town, and I'm here
22 to represent my community, because my background in
23 real estate more, locally I involved with a lot of
24 (inaudible) and I see my community there are -- old
25 generation there is language barrier. That's why we

1 don't see them attend a lot of meetings involved with
2 the outside, just go to work and go home. So they come
3 to me as a result. I involved with other community.
4 Eighteen to nineteen Asian American community in
5 Arizona, so it's very big community, and in this
6 community we have two times a year that we can meet
7 together, for Chinese New Area and Moon celebration.
8 That's how I get involved. So I talk to my community
9 and I meet them, and that's how we get the result. And
10 they call me something for real estate, so I be
11 helpful.

12 I'm here to see the Asian community divide
13 into two districts, so we need to our voice heard
14 because Asian Americans spend over about 6.1 billion a
15 year, so we here to make sure that you hear us. It
16 mean a lot that you hear the community and our children
17 so they know what goes on. But for us (inaudible) all
18 the generations. We feel comfortable with that. Thank
19 you. And we need some help to provide some information
20 and some brochure.

21 MR. YORK: Question: You said you were
22 divided into two districts. Can you tell us what those
23 are?

24 MS. CHU: Actually, there is common in
25 Chandler and Mesa, so we need more representing from

1 us. Right now we don't have any minority people in our
2 district. And I live in Glendale.

3 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Submit a map. And there
5 is language barriers, but only extra responsibility on
6 you to be able to share the information and the data
7 that we can use to represent the people that you
8 want --

9 MS. CHU: I help them in the census, you know,
10 survey, and I volunteer. I sat at the table the whole
11 day and help them, and I feel helpful for my community.

12 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

14 MS. CRANK: The next speaker -- next four
15 speakers: Daniel Ortega, Jae Chin, Javier Ramos, and
16 Analise Ortiz.

17 MS. SAUNDERS: Good evening. Three hours, and
18 we have yet to talk about LGBTQ people, so I'm going to
19 do that. My name is Kaitlyn Saunders, and I live in
20 downtown Phoenix in LD24 and Congressional District 7.
21 A little bit about me, I just recently graduated with a
22 master's of science from Arizona State University and I
23 currently work at Equality Arizona, which is a
24 statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization, and I'm also a
25 committed member of my community, and -- of my LGBTQ

1 community, my queer home. And we enjoy doing things
2 together like hiking South Mountain, going to art
3 shows, performances with our friends, sharing childcare
4 resources, helping one another with rides to clinics
5 and vaccine appointments, and helping put each other
6 through school and getting groceries and being there
7 for one another in times of need like going through the
8 pandemic. And so I'm here to uplift how urgently LGBTQ
9 people should be considered a community of interest and
10 a subset so that real efforts can be made to make sure
11 that our community where LGBTQ people are
12 geographically connected are taken care of and
13 accounted for. We have common policy concerns and
14 needs, and we would benefit from being united in
15 legislative and congressional districts. Context and
16 research the (inaudible) advancement will show that you
17 (inaudible) is really low on the equality score, and
18 that means we have a lot of work to do for equality to
19 ensure that LGBTQ folks have the same rights,
20 opportunities and responsibilities.

21 From a broader skill and some data points, we
22 also share, unfortunately, unique circumstances of
23 violence and discrimination and socioeconomic
24 (inaudible). More than one in three LGBQ Americans
25 have faced discrimination in the past year, and that

1 three in five are transgender Americans have faced
2 discrimination. And that discrimination adversely
3 affects our mental health, economic, and well-being.
4 Transgender individuals face unique obstacles for
5 accessing healthcare. And overall LGBTQ Americans,
6 especially LGBTQ Americans and other people of color who
7 are queer and indigenous people who are queer have
8 significant mental health issues related to the
9 COVID-19 pandemic.

10 So the point is this: Under these conditions,
11 which are not going away and that continue to impact
12 our lives, alongside limited protections, we find
13 safety in our networks and our neighborhoods, and so
14 it's vital that our neighborhoods and what we
15 gayborhoods often, like the Melrose District in
16 downtown Phoenix is one of them -- and this is
17 statewide, because us queer folks, we're everywhere.
18 And so also 4th Avenue in Tucson, these are the areas
19 where we come together and that -- please do not cut
20 those areas into multiple districts, which will
21 minimize our voting power.

22 So, finally, to help us live full and healthy
23 lives, please consider LGBTQ people a community of
24 interest when redistricting.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, I have a

1 question, and this is fascinating. How is it that you
2 break this down into contiguous compact geographic
3 areas of equal population given that it transcends all
4 of our entire state population? And I don't mean to
5 ask this right now. You can respond, but as a
6 community of interest how do we translate this into the
7 Constitutional criteria? That's valuable information.

8 MS. SAUNDERS: Definitely, and I appreciate
9 that. We're going to be submitting more data points
10 for our responses throughout tomorrow, and to help
11 identify some of those areas like the Melrose District,
12 like 4th Avenue in Tucson, and help space that out
13 where we're a geographic pocket. Because even though
14 you can't account for us -- you know, we're every
15 aware.

16 COMMISSIONER YORK: Would you make your pocket
17 small and contiguous multiple times? Give us some
18 insight.

19 MS. SAUNDERS: Great, yes. We will be
20 submitting that information. Thanks for your time.

21 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you.

22 MS. CRANK: Daniel Ortega. No Daniel Ortega.

23 MR. CHIN: Good evening, Madam Chair and the
24 Commission. My name is Jae Chin, and I live in Queen
25 Creek (inaudible) since 2000. Since the year 2000 I

1 live in Arizona population increase. (Inaudible) so
2 east and west from -- so I want to propose district
3 from Mesa and Chandler and Gilbert, so that Dobson Road
4 is business open, and the starting point more Asian
5 business that compete. We don't know yet. But Asian
6 people like to shop Dobson Road I'm pretty sure, so I
7 like to propose Commission put a future location
8 congressional district to the east of Dobson and
9 possible legislative district. Thank you.

10 MR. RAMOS: Good evening, Madam Chair, members
11 of the Independent Redistricting Commission. My name
12 is Javier Ramos. I was born and raised here in
13 Arizona.

14 I want to talk about the Latino community of
15 interest in Congressional District 5. I live in Queen
16 Creek (inaudible). I want to talk about the problems
17 with Congressional District 5 and the Latino community
18 and solutions as I see it. The community of interest
19 belong to Queen Creek. We have 15.8 percent Hispanic
20 population. Gilbert is 17.1 percent Hispanic
21 population. Gilbert -- Chandler is 20.8 percent
22 Hispanic population. And Mesa is 27.7 population.
23 Congressional District 5 has both Gilbert and Queen
24 Creek as one unit, one city in Congressional District
25 5. The current Congressional District 5 divides Mesa

1 and Chandler down the Hispanic line. In Mesa the
2 dividing line is Stapley. For example, Stapley and
3 Congressional District 5, Reed Park is 67 percent
4 Hispanic. Lyn Rae neighborhood is 65 percent Hispanic.
5 Summer Place Village in Congressional District 5 is 29
6 percent Hispanic. North Center Street is 56 percent
7 Hispanic. Stapley Greens is 36 percent Hispanic.
8 That's in Congressional District 5. Stapley divides it
9 up. West of that in Congressional District 9 you have
10 communities (inaudible). Escobedo Historic District is
11 53 percent Hispanic. Norsa Neighborhood is 79 percent
12 Hispanic. Power Estates, 63 percent Hispanic. Fiesta
13 Park, 54 Hispanic. Candu, 70 percent Hispanic. The
14 same thing happens in Chandler. As you heard earlier,
15 it's divided down basically to Queen. Divides up the
16 Hispanic population in two. You have basically -- or
17 the Independent Redistricting Commission back in 2010
18 has basically diluted the Hispanic vote in
19 Congressional District 5.

20 My solution to this is you can move
21 Congressional District 5 to the west to 101, which
22 would incorporate what you heard today, all of Chandler
23 and all of Mesa and all of Gilbert and Queen Creek.
24 You could also move -- some people have said that they
25 want to move Apache Junction to Congressional District

1 5. That is a fallacy. Apache Junction is in Pinal
2 County. You should move Ellsworth as the dividing
3 line, and that would give you a contiguous square with
4 the Hispanic population not being diluted.

5 And I would be happy to answer any questions
6 that you have. Thank you.

7 MS. ORTIZ: Hello. My name is Analise Ortiz,
8 and I spoke before you all at the Phoenix Convention
9 Center a few weeks ago so I'll keep this very short.

10 I want to let you know that I echo what
11 everybody said about there needing to be more meetings
12 in the Latino community, specifically in South Phoenix,
13 Laveen, and Maryville, especially in South Phoenix,
14 which is an area with a very large Black population as
15 well.

16 I also understand the importance of being able
17 to address the Commission in person. I know that
18 people can go online, but along with the barriers to
19 online access it is also so much more powerful for you
20 to be seeing my face and hearing my voice, and I know
21 there are so many folks in these areas of South
22 Phoenix, Laveen, and Maryville who need to share their
23 stories with you, so I ask you to please consider that.

24 Along with that, I understand that there is
25 Spanish interpretation, as you said, but at the last

1 meeting somebody came up and said in English, "Does
2 anyone need Spanish translation," and that message
3 should have been in Spanish. And at this meeting I
4 didn't hear an announcement at all. So what real
5 language justice looks like is those announcements
6 being made it in the proper language at the top of
7 meeting, perhaps a screen with the translation of what
8 I'm saying so if there were monolingual speakers in
9 audience they can see in realtime what I'm saying. So
10 I would just appreciate that, and I know other folks
11 would, too.

12 Thank you for the hard work you've been doing.
13 Appreciate it.

14 MS. CRANK: Final four speakers: Kevin Walsh,
15 Charles Liking, Max White, and Ari Bradshaw.

16 MR. WELCH: Good evening, Commissioners. My
17 name is Kevin Walsh. I appreciate you allowing me to
18 speak to.

19 I have two kids in the Kyrene School District.
20 I'm also the president of the Kyrene School Board
21 speaking here in my individual capacity. Kyrene School
22 District has 26 schools, nearly 16,000 students. Every
23 single one of those schools is in LD18. We pick up
24 south Tempe, west Chandler, Ahwatukee, including
25 Ahwatukee Foothills. What unites us is that school

1 community, and I can tell you that it's so important to
2 keep the Kyrene School District community together as a
3 community of interest.

4 These last 18 months have demonstrated more
5 than ever how important it is for our elected officials
6 to advocate for our public school districts, especially
7 knowing the needs of their local school districts.

8 Funding, safety, COVID, all of these things our elected
9 officials know because they represent all 26 schools of
10 the Kyrene School District. They know our needs, and
11 they advocate for us. If you break up the Kyrene
12 School District, you not only break up the communities
13 of interest but you undermine the voice of that school
14 community and its families, so I implore you to please
15 keep the Kyrene School District together as a community
16 of interest.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 MR. LUCKING: Committee Chair and members, my
19 name is Charles Lucking. I'm a (inaudible) generation
20 Arizonan and a citizen of LD28. My community if
21 interest lies between east of 24th Street, north of
22 Campbell. We're a tight neighborhood, ethnically,
23 culturally, and economically diverse. Our kids play in
24 the same parks and go to the same schools.

25 And we have one thing I would like to discuss,

1 and it has been mentioned before, but in the title of
2 Proposition 106 that passed by the people of Arizona
3 which created this Commission the entire text of the
4 title mentioned exactly one of your criteria that
5 you're mandated to consider. Can you guess which one
6 it is? Fortunately it's right here in our agenda
7 tonight, and I'll read it: "Creating an independent
8 commission of balanced appointments to oversee the
9 mapping of fair and competitive congressional and
10 legislative districts." That's it, just the one
11 criteria, competitive. Does that seem like it should
12 carry the least weight? I don't think so, either.

13 The only other thing I would like to say is I
14 would like to echo and voice my strong support for
15 proactive outreach by the IRC to communities of color
16 and for extending the deadline for input.

17 Thank you for your service to our beautiful
18 state and for adhering to your mandate by the people of
19 Arizona. Thank you.

20 MS. CRANK: Last two. Max White.

21 MS. WHITE: Commissioners, my name is Max
22 White. I currently live in LD19 and Congressional
23 District 3. As I come to you this evening I'm remiss
24 to say that there are only 19 other folks in Arizona
25 who would be able to stand before you say I'm equally

1 as qualified, knowing that the Democratic party did
2 consider me as appointee for Maricopa County, so I'm
3 remiss that Commissioner Lerner isn't here with us.
4 This is her town, and this is where we are.

5 So taking that into consideration, I am
6 speaking of the community of interest in the LD19 area.
7 What do we have in common? We have family, we have
8 faith, we have fitness, and we have fun. It's like the
9 wild wild west out there. I live and have owned a home
10 in the (inaudible) for 13 years. I retired from Bank
11 of America after 20 years of service. I'm currently a
12 homemaker, a charter member of the Arizona West Valley
13 Delta Sigma Beta Sorority, Incorporated, that serves
14 Black women in Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale,
15 Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Laveen, Maryville, New
16 River, Peoria, Surprise, Tolleson, and we also have
17 sisters in Tempe, Tucson, and Phoenix. I drink
18 Starbucks, and I'm not here speaking on behalf of any
19 of the brands or organizations that I'm affiliated
20 with. I'm here speaking out on behalf of what you just
21 asked for, somebody from my community who would come
22 and let you know where we think our boundaries are.

23 So I'm sorry if there is a bit of a shake in
24 my voice, but we as Black women in America, we feel
25 hunted, and I grieve today severely with all of my

1 brothers and sisters from (inaudible) because having
2 spent my entire adult career there and led an executive
3 role, I'm brokenhearted. Black women are not cared
4 for. And so I have to think about what's most
5 important and why did I retire? My kids. Well, my
6 kids attend the Littleton Elementary School District as
7 well as Tolleson Union High School, but in Avondale we
8 have the beauty of having access to Western Maricopa
9 Education Center, Litchfield Elementary School
10 District, as well as Avondale Elementary School
11 District.

12 When we think of what we want our community to
13 look like, I ask the people in my LD, okay, guys, this
14 is a really neat place to live. We like our
15 boundaries. But when we think about it, we want the
16 city of Avondale to be kept whole, close to Goodyear,
17 Litchfield Park, Tolleson, west Phoenix. We want to be
18 in the same congressional district west of Maricopa.
19 Yeah, we don't mind stretching all the way down to
20 Yuma, some of La Paz, some of Pima, because we're close
21 to north Sonoran Mexico and possibly some of Pinal. If
22 you would like to think about the actual boundaries or
23 the geographic boundaries on top of I-10 from 51st
24 Avenue, now 202, north to Thomas Road, possibly to
25 Camelback, where it makes sense. The south border

1 would be along the 202 going down to Pecos Road, west
2 to as far as 303, include the entire Estrella Mountain
3 Park region (inaudible) native lands together, and
4 engage folks as necessary with Bridgeline. Also not
5 having events where people who are not privileged can
6 attend during work hours. We're working people.

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: If you feel that your
8 community is not being heard, please reach out to our
9 Commission (inaudible). Please extend that invitation
10 to our staff and we will absolutely consider all
11 (inaudible). Thank you.

12 MS. CRANK: We have two more speakers, Ari
13 Bradshaw and Edgar Ochoa.

14 MR. BRADSHAW: Hello, Commission and fellow
15 Arizonans. First, we ought to add the Navajo language
16 to all redistricting documents in addition to English
17 and Spanish. My district is a quarter Navajo, and they
18 need to be respected.

19 I'm Ari Daniel Bradshaw. I was born and
20 raised in Phoenix area and now currently live between
21 Yavapai and Maricopa County in both the Village of Oak
22 Creek and Phoenix, LD6. I graduated from Vanderbilt
23 University in Nashville, Tennessee, and moved back to
24 Phoenix where I own two companies that I built from
25 scratch and worked with contractors and clients all

1 across the state. I grew up with a mother on welfare
2 and a dead father in this state. My late father's
3 family has been in Arizona for generations. My mother
4 immigrated from the Middle East when she was ten years
5 old. I am 23, and I love my state. I'm sure you do,
6 too. None of us want to see the things that have made
7 our state so great fade away, nor do we want our
8 national representation to reflect the values of
9 non-Arizonans or special interests.

10 For the sake of this speech, I'll focus on the
11 first Congressional district primarily with one switch
12 in the 34. The change I would like to bring to your
13 attention first is on behalf of my friend Jeremy
14 (inaudible), who cannot be here today due to a family
15 emergency, from Globe. It is beyond rationality as to
16 why Summit precincts, including the town of Top of the
17 World, is not included with this micropolitan area of
18 Globe. Instead its voters are included in the 4th
19 Congressional District, whose nearest population center
20 is 20 miles away in Queen Valley or 25 miles away in
21 Gold Canyon, a place that has far more in common with
22 the Phoenix suburbs than Arizona's first.

23 Furthermore, the Commission ought to recognize
24 that North Canyon Creek, north of the Havasupai Nation,
25 and consisting of Colorado City, has much more in

1 common with the nearby Fredonia precinct than with the
2 4th in its focus on rural Maricopa and eastern Arizona
3 issues. The people of Colorado City have far more in
4 common with the great citizens of Clifton and Saffron
5 than they do with those in beautiful Prescott or rural
6 Maricopa. We have an obligation and a duty to treat
7 the people of North Canyon with respect.

8 Yuma's interests share about as much in common
9 with the 4th as they do the 3rd. We ought to look at
10 three things that should be given to the 4th district
11 from the 3rd while the 4th gives Kingman or Payson to
12 the 1st in order to balance the population, from Tonto
13 Basin to (inaudible) in Payson area, by the way,
14 precinct wise.

15 In Payson's case one must find it absurd as to
16 why the micropolitan area is not included in the same
17 district as its sister micropolitan areas of Show Low
18 and Globe in order to compensate for --

19 MS. CRANK: Time.

20 MR. BRADSHAW: I have a lot more (inaudible)
21 before you all. You guys have it in there. That's why
22 I gave you that. Thank you so much. I appreciate your
23 work. Thank you.

24 MS. CRANK: Final speaker.

25 MR. OCHOA: Thank you so much guys for your

1 patience and your diligence in listening to everybody's
2 input. So my name is Edgar Ochoa. I'm a native
3 Arizonan, specifically a long-life resident of the
4 Phoenix metro area. I just come to echo the remarks of
5 so many already about the idea of preserving and
6 perhaps giving greater power to minority majority
7 districts and making sure that that fairness really
8 shows the reflection of our state and its diversity in
9 our actual electorate.

10 As a child growing up here it always seemed
11 like a pipe dream where we always might have had some
12 cultural power, but never really political power and
13 never really seeing people that were going to reflect
14 or look like me in the past. Now, thankfully that's
15 been changing more and more as our power has been
16 increasing, and I just want to make sure that you guys
17 take that into account when making those -- when
18 redistricting to make sure that, again, our electorates
19 ought to reflect what the entire population looks like.

20 Thank you for your time, guys.

21 COMMISSIONER YORK: Thank you. Thank you for
22 still being here. We've had a robust discussion.
23 We're pushing four hours. Thank you very much.

24 As we've mentioned numerous times, there are
25 some tools on our website. We believe they're easy to

1 use. We will make sure that the Latino and other
2 languages -- hopefully we'll help find a way to use
3 them. If you cannot, please email our Commission and
4 we will work towards correcting that for you.

5 And, please, go make maps. Have your friends
6 make maps. Submit them.

7 Thank you for your time. Take care. Now we
8 adjourn the meeting.

9 (Meeting concluded at 8:48 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 125 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 27th day of August, 2021.

Deborah L. Wilks

Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50849

* * *

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 27th day of August, 2021.

MCR

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058