

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

AFTERNOON SESSION

Phoenix, Arizona

October 5, 2021

12:34 p.m.

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1 PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT  
2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, resumed at 12:34 p.m. on  
3 October 5, 2021, at Phoenix City Council Chambers, 200 West  
4 Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the  
5 following Commissioners:

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

11 OTHERS PRESENT:

12 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director  
13 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director  
14 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant  
15 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer  
16 Ms. Marie Chapple Camacho, Outreach Coordinator  
17 Mr. Alex Pena, Outreach Coordinator  
18 Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr  
19 Mr. Daniel Arellano, Ballard Spahr  
20 Mr. Eric Spencer, Snell & Wilmer  
21 Mr. Brett Johnson, Snell & Wilmer  
22 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group  
23 Mr. Douglas Johnson, National Demographics Corp.  
24 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics,  
25 Corp.  
Mr. Brian Kingery, Timmons Group  
Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group  
Mr. Brody Helton, Timmons Group  
Mr. Colby Chafin, Timmons Group  
Mr. Ken Chawkins, National Demographics Corp.

P R O C E E D I N G

1  
2  
3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I'm going to reconvene the  
4 meeting and turn it over to Doug again to help us do a deep  
5 dive into the legislative map, and it was Legislative Map  
6 1.0.

7 MR. D. JOHNSON: So -- thank you. So we gave you a  
8 little introduction before the lunch break to the map and  
9 happy to see the Commission reviewing and voting on those  
10 big picture issues that they kind of key principles that we  
11 incorporated in this map. So it's now ready for the next  
12 step, which is let's dive into any thoughts in the more  
13 rural areas that this map has triggered; and then in  
14 particular where we haven't had a lot of decisions and  
15 discussions yet in the Tucson and Phoenix areas.

16 Welcome any -- of course, welcome any comments and  
17 direction you have.

18 And to the degree that, you know, it's kind of the  
19 same issues in communities that we discussed for the  
20 congressional map; and, of course, we can just repeat that  
21 if that's -- that's your desire.

22 I don't know if we want to start -- maybe start  
23 with Tucson?

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yeah, and I know, you know,  
25 if my colleagues would like to maybe just, you know, kind of

1 run through, the five of us, and -- and maybe share some  
2 feedback and work. We can certainly start with the outer  
3 parts of the state and work in; I think either is -- is an  
4 appropriate starting point.

5 Any preferences, Colleagues?

6 What would you suggest, Doug? Do you suggest that  
7 we work from the outer in with more of the communities of  
8 interest, minority districts, Native American, Latino,  
9 et cetera?

10 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, I think we -- we've captured  
11 quite a bit of that in that first set directions, that was  
12 largely an outer -- an outer circle provision map as you  
13 talked about it; and similar what we talked about when we  
14 were presenting it, we really just rotated around Tucson and  
15 the three seats in Tucson haven't been touched, they're  
16 still the grid seats, so.

17 And same thing in Phoenix. Like, the core of  
18 Phoenix we've only touched for population balancing; and  
19 most of the districts in the middle there we haven't  
20 touched, they are still the grid districts.

21 So -- so unless they're -- there's some concerns on  
22 the outer edge that haven't been raised before this, I would  
23 say let's jump into Tucson and into Phoenix.

24 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Tucson works.

25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Could I just -- the one --

1 the only thing I'll mention is that one area in Yuma, which  
2 I said right before break that I said maybe we can come back  
3 and take another look at Yuma, San Luis.

4 It's grouped into one now; and I'm looking at it  
5 from last time, they did have two. A little bit weird  
6 configuration, but maybe just something to think about. And  
7 then just move to Tucson, I'm happy to do that, but I just  
8 wanted to mention that 'cause we said -- I -- I mentioned it  
9 briefly right before the break.

10 MR. D. JOHNSON: We can certainly, yeah, take a  
11 look at what we can do there and where we're going.

12 I don't know if our -- if you've had a chance to  
13 look at -- at the lines of Tucson -- yeah, Brian has got  
14 them up there, if you can zoom in a little bit more.

15 You can see there's a lot of jagged lines along  
16 edges, that's all that perfect population balancing that the  
17 grid involved. Where -- where it's taking a block off the  
18 main road just north and south and all of that, that's just  
19 getting the numbers to exactly zero, those aren't  
20 communities of interest or other considerations taken into  
21 account there.

22 I know there had been a question earlier about the  
23 University of Arizona and whether that made sense where it  
24 is or that neighborhood should be moved.

25 Or, if you're happy with the map.

1                   COMMISSIONER MEHL: Well, we can promise you we're  
2 not happy with the map.

3                   It's better than the grid map -- sorta, yeah.

4                   I suggest we -- we start with Southern Arizona  
5 looking at what are probably going to need to be three  
6 majority-minority districts. There are three today, so I'm  
7 assuming there's likely going to need to be three ongoing.

8                   And -- and starting on the south, you know, having  
9 Santa Cruz County be the -- the keystone for one of those  
10 districts; and then it needs to move up north and pick in at  
11 least a little bit of the southern part of the metro part of  
12 Tucson, I think.

13                   But it can move going up on the -- on the out -- it  
14 can skirt around Green Valley and move up west and get into  
15 Tucson; and, exactly how, I don't have any idea.

16                   And then there needs to be a legislative district  
17 that really is South Tucson and -- and the southern corridor  
18 of Tucson. It probably needs to be different than what any  
19 of the districts you're showing right now are.

20                   And then district that would -- that would take  
21 into some of the western Hispanic areas of Tucson and then  
22 go out all the way to Yuma and take that in that southern  
23 half of Yuma. Frankly, more similar to what the current  
24 district does today.

25                   CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Is it possible to pull up the

1 Latino overlay on this map in the Tucson area to see where  
2 the population is? Because I'm struggling a little bit in  
3 legislative districts to know where everybody lives.

4 I'm not from Tucson, so.

5 MR. KINGERY: You want to look at total Hispanic  
6 count or citizen voting age?

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Citizen voting age, please.

8 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And on the northern side of  
9 Tucson, we really need two districts. One that would take  
10 in all of Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke and -- and likely  
11 then go up into Pinal; and the other that would take in the  
12 main Foothills area and then swing out to the east side and  
13 take in the Houghton Corridor similar to what a little piece  
14 of that congressional district did.

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Commissioner Mehl, could you  
16 just mention of the numbers of the districts that you're  
17 talking about as well? It would help me just in terms of  
18 what you're talking about.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I'm not sure how to quite do  
20 that; it's part of my problem with the map.

21 But I'll give it a try.

22 So the --

23 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Are you north of District 17?

24 COMMISSIONER MEHL: District 16 should come --  
25 should go west of the freeway and Marana; and District 17

1           should get rid of everything south of the river, but swing  
2           out to the east side of town and pick up the Houghton  
3           Corridor, which is the north-south corridor which is on the  
4           Eastern -- right now it would be shown probably in the -- a  
5           little bit of 18 and a little of 19, but it's out in that  
6           general area.

7                        COMMISSIONER LERNER:   That helps.   Thank you.

8                        CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG:   And what are your thoughts,  
9           Commissioner Mehl, with District 17 with Catalina Foothills,  
10          Tanque Verde, some of those communities that express some --  
11          some common interest?

12                       COMMISSIONER MEHL:   That -- that's where with  
13          District 17, I was saying get rid of the piece south of the  
14          river but extend it to the east and pick up the  
15          Houghton Corridor instead.   And it may have to pick up a  
16          little -- little bit of the west all the way to the freeway,  
17          too.

18                       There's no reason to -- there's no reason to cut  
19          that prior to the freeway through that stretch; but to get  
20          enough population, it will be have to pick up population on  
21          that east side.

22                       COMMISSIONER LERNER:   Just looking at the 17, just  
23          for clarity for me because, again, I don't know Tucson as  
24          well, are you -- are you thinking that the north-south  
25          boundary -- that the southern boundary is okay?   The border?

1                   COMMISSIONER MEHL: No, the river should -- the  
2                   river -- the big river that goes through there which you  
3                   sort of see the squiggly line, should be its southern  
4                   boundary which --

5                   COMMISSIONER LERNER: Oh.

6                   COMMISSIONER MEHL: -- and then it will pick up  
7                   part of District 18. So 18 would come up into there, but  
8                   District 17 also should go at least all the way to the  
9                   freeway north of the river, which picks up a small chunk but  
10                  a decent population.

11                  And then that District 18 would shed some of what  
12                  it has on the east side; and then even the Davis-Monthan Air  
13                  Force Base really makes more sense to connect into District  
14                  19 with that aerospace corridor-defense corridor.

15                  These legislative districts are going to take more  
16                  than one -- it's going to take multiple rounds to work our  
17                  way through there.

18                  It -- it's hard to -- you know, we have a long way  
19                  to go, so we're going to have to chunk our way to victory.

20                  COMMISSIONER LERNER: No, and I do think what --  
21                  what you're talking about in some of the northern districts,  
22                  they were asking for some of those areas to be connected  
23                  with Marana and Oro Valley and places like that. That's  
24                  what you're trying to do there, right?

25                  COMMISSIONER MEHL: I don't think -- on the

1 congressional it was Marana and Oro Valley and that northern  
2 Foothills district.

3 I don't think, legislatively, that that will work  
4 as one district; I think it needs to be broken in two. But  
5 the -- but the northern district, District 16, should  
6 include all of Marana and not have the freeway as an  
7 artificial break, because Marana goes on both sides of the  
8 freeway there.

9 And District 17 will have to slide around to that  
10 east side to pick up enough population once it sheds that  
11 central Tucson population.

12 And you'll have a much more cohesive community of  
13 interest both for District 17 and for District 18 then.  
14 Right now, District 18 it cuts right through the -- the  
15 entire university area is straddling 17 and 18. The  
16 university itself is barely in 18, but that's a big  
17 community of interest there that's being cut by the way that  
18 this map is.

19 So when you take all of that area south of District  
20 17 into 18, you've got a much more coherent community of  
21 interest and -- and then just take that east side of 18 and  
22 some of 19 over there to get the population needed for  
23 District 17.

24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: What do you think those moves  
25 do for majority-minority districts in those -- 'cause right

1 now 18 -- I'm just looking.

2 Well, I guess I don't know enough to be able to  
3 speak to what they're doing, so I'm curious about your  
4 thoughts.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I think that your district --  
6 well, that's why I was saying my first comment was to take  
7 District 21 and do it quite a bit different with La Paz  
8 County and then an arm coming up into the southern part of  
9 Tucson as a -- as a district; and then having a separate  
10 majority-minority district that would sort of be a  
11 reconfigured District 20 then.

12 And then 21 would be a majority-minority district,  
13 but it would go out to Yuma, which sheds some of this  
14 northern stuff it has near Marana; really shedding all of  
15 that and -- and getting out to Yuma.

16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So that would be part of what  
17 we've been talking about, potentially taking a piece of Yuma  
18 and put it in there?

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And -- and I know we've wiped  
20 out the old maps, but the old Districts 2, 3, and 4, should  
21 at least be looked at when you're looking at how to  
22 reconfigure this.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: So -- so to be clear,  
24 Commissioner Mehl, so -- so U of A would remain, once it's  
25 altered, entirely in District 18; is that what you're

1 suggesting?

2 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yes.

3 And it would really -- really be a big part of the  
4 central area of Tucson would be in District 18.

5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And -- and would the -- the  
6 stronger Latino districts in South Tucson, would that then  
7 be in District 18 or 20?

8 COMMISSIONER MEHL: It would be, I believe, more in  
9 District 21 and -- and La Paz district, whatever number that  
10 ends up being.

11 I don't if I'm creating an extra district in here  
12 or just if you have to reconfigure.

13 MR. D. JOHNSON: Commissioner Mehl?

14 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yeah.

15 MR. D. JOHNSON: You mentioned La Paz district, do  
16 you mean Yuma district or...

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: La Paz County -- or San -- not  
18 La Paz, Santa Cruz County.

19 MR. D. JOHNSON: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yeah, I'm sorry.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I want to be sensitive as  
22 we're discussing these Tucson districts, to be sensitive to  
23 the Latino community in South Tucson. Obviously, as it  
24 relates to the majority-minority district, but also just,  
25 you know, city politics and representation.

1           COMMISSIONER MEHL: And that's why I refer back to  
2           the old map, because the -- the Santa Cruz district,  
3           District 2, and the South Tucson district, District 3 -- the  
4           old District 3, and the District 4 that went out to Yuma, I  
5           think all have some merit that we can learn from as we try  
6           to meet the majority-minority requirements in -- in this  
7           whole southern part of Tucson.

8           COMMISSIONER LERNER: So those would be what we now  
9           see as just 19, 21, and 23 -- I actually pulled up the old  
10          map so I could look at what you were talking about --  
11          compared to 2, 4 -- and what was the other one you  
12          mentioned?

13          COMMISSIONER MEHL: And, actually, 19 needs to stay  
14          pretty intact.

15          So it really is taking 21, 23, and -- let's see the  
16          map -- it's taking 20, 21, and 23 and maybe a piece of 19  
17          and reconfiguring it. Very western piece.

18          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: All right.

19          COMMISSIONER MEHL: This will take more than one  
20          go-round to get it right, but at least trying to give at  
21          least some guidance.

22          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And I'm curious -- and we  
23          don't need, you know, a specific date, I'm curious how  
24          competitive these districts are. I'm just curious what the  
25          composition is.

1 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yes, actually, as you're  
2 discussing it I have the same question in my mind.

3 So I pulled up the numbers and the 17, 18, 19, 20,  
4 21 and -- actually, I guess it's 16 through 21, are not very  
5 competitive.

6 So 16 and 21 are currently 45 percent to 55 percent  
7 seats, so they're 9 and a half to 10 and a half percent  
8 swings. The others are all much larger.

9 So the 9, I think, the others are all, roughly  
10 speaking, 60/40 or 70/30. So -- so as you're talking about  
11 changes, we're not disrupting anything that's currently  
12 competitive. As these changes evolve, hopefully we'll...

13 COMMISSIONER MEHL: My comments can't make it any  
14 worse, it sounds like.

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, Commissioner Mehl,  
16 I think that's an important point. You know, the  
17 legislative districts, when you look at competitive analyses  
18 and things like that, you know, they -- they tend to be more  
19 extreme. There aren't as many, you know, competitive  
20 legislative districts; and, you know, it's going to be  
21 complicated looking at communities of interest and balancing  
22 that.

23 But that's something that I think we all want to,  
24 you know, take a look at to ensure those -- those different  
25 minority groups. You know, it's one thing, we may have

1 differences of opinion about what a competitive spread is;  
2 you know, there's competitive, and then there's, you know,  
3 such a huge discrepancy that the minority group is going to  
4 be marginalized, and -- and there's a lot of room in  
5 between.

6 So even if we can't get all of the legislative  
7 districts, you know, as competitive as possible, I think  
8 more competitive than what they've been is something that's  
9 good to aspire to.

10 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I would add to that, I think we  
11 need to get more equal population than what we've seen in  
12 the past.

13 We have a swing in legislative districts of almost  
14 19,000 people from the largest to the smallest of the  
15 current districts when they were first created, you go back  
16 and look at the last Commission's data; and that -- and we  
17 should be way under that, way tighter. I heard the  
18 5 percent plus and minus, for these first couple of  
19 go-rounds, that may make sense, but as we get closer to a  
20 final map, these legislative districts shouldn't be more  
21 than a few percentage points off.

22 We're not going to get them to one person like a  
23 congressional, but it should be way closer to equal  
24 population, and -- and we shouldn't be setting a target of a  
25 big percentage variation.

1 MR. D. JOHNSON: And I think that is -- I think  
2 that is really our goal, and this is a good example to look  
3 at. If you can zoom in on the Tucson seats.

4 Our goal is to get as close to zero as we can  
5 without doing things like you see on the border of 17, 18,  
6 and 20 right now. Which is the -- yeah.

7 So -- so you can see all those jigs and jags.  
8 That's what it takes to go from about half a percent to  
9 zero, so without going through that kind of extreme, the  
10 goal is to get it is a close to zero as you can with all the  
11 other directions and decisions without zigging and zagging  
12 quite like that.

13 That make sense for Tucson? If there's no other  
14 feedback, of course, we welcome it. I think Commissioner  
15 Mehl's dead on which is this is going to take a couple of  
16 rounds.

17 Because as you said -- as you just pointed -- just  
18 discussed, none of these seats are in our competitive ranges  
19 -- only one -- only one of these six districts we're looking  
20 at that we're talking about right now are majority-minority;  
21 and -- and so we've got -- we've got a lot of steps to take  
22 during this process in Tucson.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And when --

24 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: If can I go add.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Go ahead, please.

1           VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Back to the Tucson area, I  
2 think I recall some comments about the legislative district  
3 and including the two districts -- or the two tribes, Pascua  
4 Yaqui and Tohono O'odham. I see Pascua Yaqui is in a  
5 separate district than TO, if you will. So I think that's  
6 -- 20 has Pascua Yaqui, and 19 has predominantly the Tohono  
7 O'odham Nation, so.

8           MR. D. JOHNSON: 20 and 21. Exactly right.

9           VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yeah, 21? Okay. 20, 21,  
10 okay, yeah.

11           And so but I recall there was some representatives  
12 from the community, I think from both tribes, in fact, so.  
13 But they're -- they're in different districts right now.

14           CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Doug, if I understood you  
15 correctly, just based on the synthesis of our feedback, it  
16 sounds like what we're imagining, it would not at all come  
17 close to honoring our responsibility as it relates to  
18 majority-minority districts on the legislative front.

19           Is that -- does it make sense for us to, before we,  
20 you know, convene today in this particular area to go back  
21 and study more where the minority populations are and -- and  
22 to tweak it? Or, are those adjustments that you feel you  
23 have enough data and those will be tweaks that will not be  
24 that difficult down the road?

25           I'm a little confused.

1           MR. D. JOHNSON: I think -- I think down in Tucson  
2 Commissioner Mehl has kind of captured why the grid is so  
3 different than the current lines and some of those, and  
4 changes that were more into the grid districts to match  
5 those communities.

6           And then up in Phoenix, it's very similar to the  
7 issues we discussed earlier today, except instead of moving  
8 one district into that area bordered by Tempe and South  
9 Mountain, there will be multiple districts in that area just  
10 given the relative size of the different districts.

11           So, you're right, we have not redrawn this map yet  
12 to try to reach those Voting Right Act compliance goals, but  
13 it's a pretty clear path to get there.

14           CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. I just want to  
15 make sure that we're moving in -- in a direction that is not  
16 productive and we're not going to have to backtrack.

17           Thank you.

18           COMMISSIONER MEHL: And that's why I referenced the  
19 old maps because I think, again, we have things to learn  
20 from those even though we're not using those as -- as a  
21 base.

22           VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: And if I could add, again  
23 back to Tohono O'odham and the Sahuarita area south of  
24 Tucson where the casino resides, I'm not sure how much of  
25 that is tribal trust land, but it does parallel the freeway

1           there and I don't -- I don't think it's included in -- well,  
2           it's 19. And I guess the question is, should it be  
3           considered in 21?

4                    COMMISSIONER MEHL: If you create a Santa Cruz  
5           County district that then comes up north, that can take in  
6           that whole Tohono O'odham Nation and keep that all in -- in  
7           a very coherent legislative district that then we'll  
8           probably need a little more population, and you can pop into  
9           the South Tucson slightly with it.

10                   But if you can combine Santa Cruz County with the  
11           Tohono O'odham Nation, that's a real good start for a  
12           legislative district.

13                   COMMISSIONER LERNER: So in following your lead and  
14           just looking at the -- the last times just for points of  
15           comparison, so last time they were actually in a district  
16           very similar to the one that's been drawn, right?

17                   They were in District 4, so it's kind of similar to  
18           that.

19                   So I think there's lots of ways to move around  
20           these -- these lines to try to accomplish what you're  
21           talking about.

22                   MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, and actually one of the  
23           things you'll highlight and this goes to the point of this  
24           is going to be multiple rounds of getting this right, is  
25           in -- in the current map extension -- because it looks like

1           Tohono O'odham are in a Tucson seat because the  
2           Tohono O'odham are so close to it, but that seat really has  
3           no Tucson population; it's just the Tohono O'odham Nation.  
4           It's not the Pascua Yaqui. The current map actually divides  
5           it, too.

6                     It's really Tohono O'odham with Yuma. So the  
7           questions that have been raised about how do we tie Yuma and  
8           Tohono O'odham and Tucson together, I think, will be one of  
9           the big questions we'll have for you when we come back with  
10          a new map, about how do you think this worked out; should  
11          this is revised.

12                    Hard to predict how -- how those moving pieces come  
13          together with the other elements.

14                    So I think that's not a -- fine tuning that is  
15          something that we can't do at this point, because there's  
16          too many moving pieces in Tucson right now; but certainly  
17          can come back to that and ask for guidance in the next  
18          round, which is only slightly over a week away.

19                    CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Other thoughts on this  
20          Tucson-centric conversation?

21                    Should we move to Maricopa County?

22                    COMMISSIONER YORK: I think maybe we move to the  
23          northern part of the state and go in a circle.

24                    CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay.

25                    Is there feedback, Doug, that you would like from

1 us as it relates to the northern part of the state in  
2 particular?

3 MR. D. JOHNSON: I think the main question up here  
4 is -- pending in our minds is District 7. Obviously, we put  
5 the Verde Valley with Flagstaff. The -- the kind of fine --  
6 the next fine-tuning step here -- you may be ready for the  
7 fine tuning if you're ready -- is where exactly to draw the  
8 District 5-District 7 border.

9 Here we've got it definitely close to Mayer and the  
10 cities along the 17 corridor. Is that too far over? Is it  
11 -- certainly not going to be too far west.

12 Did we go over too far, or is that the right  
13 boundary to follow there?

14 The weird -- for those of you that don't know the  
15 area really well, that weird foot on the bottom of  
16 District 7 is the weird foot on Yavapai County. That's not  
17 capturing community or there's -- I don't even know if  
18 there's any people there; but it's just simply following the  
19 county border between Yavapai and -- and Gila County.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Doug, you have -- if you put  
21 Flagstaff in with the Verde Valley, but that's taking it out  
22 of District -- District 6; and because of that, you've then  
23 taken District 6 way down south and picked up the whole  
24 Copper Corridor and rural areas that don't want to be part  
25 of that northern district.

1                   And -- and I thought Mr. -- or I thought  
2                   Commissioner -- or Vice Chair Watchman had encouraged  
3                   Flagstaff to be part of the Navajo Nation district, that  
4                   that was more compatible than going down south. So I just  
5                   wanted to ask -- ask that question.

6                   VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yeah, I think that's what I  
7                   heard from some in Flagstaff. So if you consider putting  
8                   Flagstaff back in District 6, I think there were questions,  
9                   like, around Winslow; and then up -- let's see, of course,  
10                  but Snowflake, Show Low, Pinetop.

11                  Yeah, I think first and foremost, I think there's a  
12                  lot of, what I heard, Coconino County and city of Flagstaff  
13                  share a lot of common interests with the Navajo Nation and  
14                  -- and Hopi, too.

15                  But I'm trying to recall the feedback that I heard  
16                  from the southern part of the district, which I think  
17                  included areas south of Holbrook down to Snowflake and Show  
18                  Low, Pinetop.

19                  COMMISSIONER MEHL: I think to do that, you'll need  
20                  a thinner edge on that eastern side --

21                  VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yeah, uh-huh.

22                  COMMISSIONER MEHL: -- in order to get into the  
23                  Apache area.

24                  And I do realize it poses an issue with  
25                  Verde Valley; but Verde Valley, we heard very vocal opinions

1 both ways, on being a part of Flagstaff and not being a part  
2 of Flagstaff, and I -- I don't think we can solve every one  
3 of those issues.

4 But I think the Navajo Nation combining with  
5 Flagstaff is an important start with this area and it is  
6 better having than that Navajo Nation district go way south  
7 into -- into the areas that don't want to be a part of it.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I -- I agree about some  
9 of what you're saying, but I do recall and just looking at  
10 my notes, the Verde Valley folks were pretty firm on feeling  
11 -- the majority of them seemed to feel more connected to  
12 Sedona and to Flagstaff.

13 I think their big concern was just not being  
14 connected -- they're basically, just don't put us in with  
15 Prescott because we aren't connected to them. So I don't  
16 know how we work that.

17 But I -- and I realize we can't do everything, but  
18 I remember that was a pretty strong point that we heard from  
19 a lot of folks and in the submission, the community of  
20 interest submissions as well.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I agree we heard it. I think  
22 we heard the opposite of it, also.

23 But, again, if you can figure out a finger that  
24 would make it work, I would like to see it.

25 But I really think the District 6 going this far

1 south is a real mistake; and I think not combining Flagstaff  
2 with the Navajo Nation is a real mistake.

3 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: I agree. I think the west  
4 border of District 7 -- you mentioned, Doug -- Mayer, you  
5 know, and kind of what line do you take north of Mayer to  
6 draw that line, and so I was hearing the -- there was a big  
7 mountain range in between the Verde Valley and Prescott, to  
8 making that as the dividing line.

9 But that could be Mayer straight north. I think  
10 that's what we did, that's what this map shows here, with  
11 the highway.

12 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So just as another question  
13 to go with how we -- I mean, I certainly think -- I mean,  
14 the whole thing with Flagstaff I think it's something we  
15 have to look more closely at.

16 And maybe, Doug, you have -- Dr. Handley had looked  
17 at that some of that with the -- in her data analysis, I'd  
18 have to go back and take a look and see if I could figure it  
19 out -- but you'll be much faster than I, what was the --  
20 when she took a look at the Navajo Nation, how would if we  
21 put all of Flagstaff in versus East Flagstaff -- because I  
22 know East Flagstaff, I remember Commissioner Watchman had  
23 said that many Navajos live in the eastern part.

24 How would putting all of Flagstaff impact the  
25 Navajo, for example, being able to elect their own

1           representatives if we moved all of that?

2                   MR. D. JOHNSON:  Definitely significant impact.

3                   Brian, I think when we were looking at this last  
4           night, I think we found that if Flagstaff with the Navajo  
5           then the Apache can't be.

6                   MR. KINGERY:  Correct.

7                   MR. D. JOHNSON:  Yeah, correct.  So.

8                   COMMISSIONER YORK:  That's what I was thinking.  
9           The Apache part of District 19, isn't the Cochise and Graham  
10          -- or Greenlee and Graham up into Apache Counties?

11                   MR. D. JOHNSON:  Yeah, so the Southern Apache are  
12          largely in Graham, but they're also in Navajo and  
13          Apache Counties and Gila County.

14                   But it's those two reservations down there.

15                   If you put Flagstaff in, you can't get them and  
16          that's where your -- Flagstaff has a large Native American  
17          population obviously, but not nearly as large as the Apache  
18          reservations do, so you're going to impact Dr. Handley's  
19          numbers.

20                   COMMISSIONER MEHL:  Are you saying that because of  
21          total population?  They have too many total people?

22                   MR. D. JOHNSON:  Right, as a -- as a share of the  
23          population, obviously.

24                   COMMISSIONER MEHL:  But you're shedding the -- if  
25          you shed the southern part, you're shedding non-Native

1 voters -- and, frankly, you're shedding Republican voters --  
2 and you're gaining a more Democratic Flagstaff that's more  
3 likely to vote for the minority candidate.

4 So I think you're going to improve your VRA  
5 analysis. I don't know what the total population -- if the  
6 total numbers are a problem.

7 MR. D. JOHNSON: No, you're exactly right; if you  
8 -- losing the northern part of Graham, losing Greenlee  
9 certainly would improve on that front.

10 The end result is, is that if you -- if the Apache  
11 are with the Navajo and you want to get Flagstaff in, then  
12 we're going to have to split Flagstaff, part of it would be  
13 in and part of it would not be. But I don't know if that --

14 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Because of total population?

15 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, because Flagstaff is so big.

16 MR. KINGERY: That's part of what I was looking at  
17 right here along the -- the east District 7.

18 Right now we have this strip connecting Apache and  
19 Navajo Nation, so if we end that and add District 19; come  
20 up and grab the -- the nonreservation area, I mean, that  
21 would give us additional -- the ability to add portions of  
22 Flagstaff, but I -- I don't think we can have all three in  
23 one without splitting.

24 MR. D. JOHNSON: And -- and to Brian's point,  
25 essentially what you will be doing is going, the -- the line

1           between 6 and 7 would be east of St. Johns. St. Johns would  
2           be 7 would just be picking up what is east of St. Johns in  
3           that corridor.

4                    COMMISSIONER MEHL: And splitting Flagstaff may be  
5           a better solution; so I -- I would encourage us to at least  
6           look at that. And maybe you can solve the Verde Valley  
7           problem because they can be part of Flagstaff and, yet,  
8           create a district that's a better majority-minority district  
9           for the Navajos with part of Flagstaff and shedding the  
10          Copper Corridor.

11                   So I -- I would encourage taking a look at that.

12                   VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yeah, I agree with that.  
13          Like I said earlier, the east part of the Flagstaff does  
14          have a large population of Navajo. So you can get that part  
15          of Flagstaff and then cut -- cut the district southern line,  
16          move it closer to the Arizona-Mexico border and bring it up  
17          6, they have enough people.

18                   MR. D. JOHNSON: And if we split Flagstaff, then we  
19          can do it in a way that let's us keep --

20                   VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yeah.

21                   MR. D. JOHNSON: -- the I-89 corridor --

22                   VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Isn't it split right now?

23                   MR. D. JOHNSON: Pardon me?

24                   VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Doesn't it split right now?

25          Loot at the -- I don't have the map in front of me.

1           MR. D. JOHNSON: I don't believe so, I think it's  
2 very carefully carved around.

3           VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Okay.

4           CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Part of what I really like  
5 about this conversation is I find Flagstaff to be  
6 perplexing. You know, in some ways it can fit nicely in the  
7 rural Native American areas, and in some ways there's  
8 pockets that are quite urban around the university; and --  
9 and if there are natural marks in which it could be split,  
10 you know, with different communities of interest, I think  
11 that's actually a really good idea to explore, provided that  
12 the communities of Flagstaff can, in fact, be divided into  
13 logical, you know, groups with like-minded people.

14           But I -- I think that's something to really, really  
15 explore.

16           COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I will agree with that as  
17 well. I think this concept of splitting it might work.  
18 Putting Flagstaff with -- this allows potentially to put  
19 Flagstaff or parts of it with Sedona, Oak Creek, the  
20 Verde Valley that we heard that was there interest; and then  
21 have the Navajo Nation with -- I'm looking at my notes --  
22 with the Hualapai, Havasupai, Kaibab, Paiute, San Carlos,  
23 White Mountain, Apache and have a district in that area as  
24 well.

25           So you have -- and then that might include East

1 Flagstaff like we're saying, which would be logical. So  
2 there's definitely some playing around that could be done,  
3 could help that.

4 And I'm trying not to pack too much into one also.  
5 I mean, I don't want to have -- trying not to pack -- I  
6 mean, I know we're saying it will be more Democratic or more  
7 Republican, but I still rather see is -- if depending on  
8 balance, depending on everything else, if we cannot be  
9 having districts that have huge numbers on either side.

10 Can't always happen, but we can try.

11 MR. D. JOHNSON: And just for perspective just so  
12 folks know, one of the reasons this is just a wrestling with  
13 the challenge is that the current district the Navajo Nation  
14 is in is -- I was just looking at my numbers -- is short by  
15 20 percent. Short by 19 percent.

16 So that's a challenge you have to figure out, is  
17 how do we get that population in there without diluting --

18 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Give -- give them more of  
19 Flagstaff.

20 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER LERNER: That's your answer for all of  
22 it.

23 MR. D. JOHNSON: And the other piece too, I mean,  
24 if we're splitting Flagstaff, then we may not need that  
25 District 7 to have the eastern arm. You know, it could be

1 all of -- all of Navajo and Apache County could go into that  
2 district.

3 Take a look at that.

4 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I'd be careful with that 'cause  
5 that whole White Mountain area does not want to be a part of  
6 that district, so.

7 MR. D. JOHNSON: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: But it may be really  
9 difficult because you've got the Apache, and there's going  
10 to have to be a way to make that contiguous. So, I --

11 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yeah, there's got to be a  
12 connection there somewhere.

13 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yeah. So I understand -- so  
14 I understand, but something is going to have to fall in  
15 there.

16 And, actually, if you look at the boundary on  
17 District 7 right now on this map, it does a pretty good job  
18 of getting most of those in a different location. But not  
19 once you move it around; once you start moving the  
20 boundaries, it will change again.

21 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, just so folks know, the --  
22 the east edge of District 7 is the county line; and then --  
23 and then the reason it kind of jogs around in there with  
24 jigs and jags is it's following the reservation borders.

25 That's the nonreservation part of the county is

1 going into 7, and the reservation is at the north and south  
2 ends of the county 6.

3 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: There's also, Doug, a small  
4 community, small community reservation right south of  
5 Payson, the Tonto Apache. It's a tiny, tiny reservation  
6 geographically.

7 So but we're talking reservations, there is a Tonto  
8 Apache right -- right adjacent to Payson. So got to add one  
9 more -- one more reservation; although, I think the  
10 population is relatively small.

11 COMMISSIONER YORK: For clarification on our  
12 suggestions, what did we end up suggesting for Graham and  
13 Cochise? Or Greenlee County?

14 MR. D. JOHNSON: So at this point, I believe the  
15 goal is to take the nonreservation portions -- portion of  
16 Graham and Greenlee out of 6.

17 I don't know we have direction in terms of trying  
18 to put it with 19 or with 16.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I would like to put it with 19;  
20 and then you're going to be playing with 16 a bunch, anyway.

21 MR. KINGERY: So putting both those counties into  
22 19, that's 48,000 people that we could then look to over  
23 here and play around with Flagstaff.

24 MR. D. JOHNSON: That's a nice big project for us  
25 to take on, try to sort out those -- those places; and we'll

1 certainly happy do that and we'll come back to you.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And nobody discussed reaching  
3 in at all to Mohave and the western part -- western part of  
4 the state. I'm just curious if my colleagues in District  
5 30, as it's carved out right now, I'm presuming it's an  
6 extremely biased district on the R side; and maybe, I mean,  
7 that's a huge community of interest, and it's something we  
8 ought to be thinking about in terms of keeping communities  
9 of interest together, although weighing the fact that some  
10 of them may be extremely biased with -- with registration.

11 And I'm not saying I'm opposed to that. I mean,  
12 you know, when we're balancing communities of interest and  
13 in a state like ours, where, you know, the population is so  
14 bifurcated, you know, that -- that may be necessary and  
15 appropriate; but I'm just bringing it up.

16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Based on the numbers that I'm  
17 looking at, you're -- you're correct. District 30 would be  
18 the most biased and District -- at least the numbers I'm  
19 looking at -- 29 -- oh, I'm sorry -- 5 would be the next  
20 one.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And again --

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Those two.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: -- I want to say I'm not  
24 opposed in and of itself when it's respecting communities of  
25 interest. What I think we do need to study, though, within

1           that District 30 is if there are specific communities that  
2           will be disenfranchised because of that; and if those  
3           communities rise to a population level, that that  
4           significant enough group is not going to be represented.  
5           And that is something, you know, I know it's complicated,  
6           but we need to look into.

7                    COMMISSIONER YORK: So as far as the community of  
8           interest as far as district, you have the Yuma air base and  
9           the Luke air base, you could basically -- that goes along  
10          the boundary of 30 and 23, could create another district  
11          along there that would be like-mindedness as far as those  
12          two communities.

13                   For me, I think I would still make the argument  
14          that 23 goes too far north into Maricopa.

15                   MR. D. JOHNSON: And I think that's part of  
16          instructions we have which is to look at instead of 23 going  
17          up into Maricopa, look at bringing it east in to Pima County  
18          and perhaps the Tohono O'odham Nation. So that -- that  
19          would address the Yuma into Maricopa piece of that.

20                   CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Just out of curiosity, 'cause  
21          we're -- we're focusing right now on one district that's  
22          very unbalanced, are there any other districts here that are  
23          extremely unbalanced on the left?

24                   COMMISSIONER LERNER: There are some. Looking  
25          at -- at least from the numbers I'm looking at, and I may be

1 wrong in what I'm looking at, so please correct me; but I  
2 see District 24.

3 There's -- there's three or four on -- on the left  
4 and three or four on the right basically is what I'm seeing  
5 where we're in the 30 to 40 percent range of that.

6 And so District 8 is unbalanced on the left; then  
7 District 10 on the right -- well, correct me if I'm wrong --  
8 District 14 and 15 on the right; District 24 on the left;  
9 District 29 and 30 on the right. Those are the most  
10 unbalanced.

11 There are others that are in the 60 percent. I was  
12 sort of hitting 70/30s, I think are really imbalanced.

13 MR. KINGERY: And if you currently look at the  
14 target deviation percentage column to left of that, because  
15 this is a such a work in progress, 29 is 13 percentage  
16 points under.

17 So, you know, a target of trying to get within 2  
18 percent total -- one over, one under -- that's going to  
19 shift.

20 And then you have 22, which is 26 percentage  
21 points; people need to come out of there.

22 14 is 32 percent under.

23 So those are the three main districts that still  
24 need to be balanced population-wise; and then the ripple  
25 effect from that balance.

1           MR. D. JOHNSON: And adding to that, earlier we  
2 were talking about that District 29, 22, and then as  
3 Commissioner Lerner was mentioning 8 and 24 to mostly  
4 Democrat seats, that's the whole South Phoenix area that I  
5 presume the Commission is going to have the same goals that  
6 we discussed at the congressional level.

7           So 8 and 24 and 22 are going to be fairly radically  
8 redrawn.

9           COMMISSIONER YORK: Well, 11 also, right? I  
10 mean...

11          MR. D. JOHNSON: Yes.

12          COMMISSIONER YORK: On the south part?

13          MR. D. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you. Yes, 11. Yes, on  
14 the south part of that.

15          That whole circle of districts that are unbalanced  
16 now will be redrawn for community of interest first then  
17 probably still be fairly unbalanced; but we can take a look  
18 the and see if you can fine tune without losing those  
19 community of interest goals.

20          But at this point, trying to look at taking 8 and  
21 24 that are over and blend them into on the Republican  
22 seats, wouldn't get us very far because we are going to  
23 redraw those seats.

24          COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yeah, as a Commission, we  
25 shouldn't be surprised that with 9 congressional districts

1 and 30 legislative, that it's going to be three times as  
2 hard to get the legislative right.

3 And we should do the best we can today to move it  
4 forward, but it's just going to -- it's going to take a  
5 bunch of work and a bunch of iterations going forward.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes, but also the  
7 philosophical discussion and debate amongst the  
8 Commissioners about how to balance those gross discrepancies  
9 with registration with protecting communities of interest,  
10 is a valuable conversation 'cause it's going to be something  
11 that we're going to come back to for weeks, you know.

12 It's this balancing of, you know, as discrepant as  
13 the numbers become, more and more minority communities --  
14 and I don't mean minority ethnically, I just mean minority  
15 as in outvoted, they are going to be disenfranchised; and  
16 it's just a huge balancing act.

17 And -- and, again, I don't presume they're going to  
18 be disenfranchised, maybe they're comfortable because  
19 they're living in those communities and they have huge  
20 commonalities, you know, with their neighbors; but it's  
21 something we're going to have to continue, you know, to --  
22 to kind of struggle with.

23 And -- and it's something we're going -- you know,  
24 the conversation in my mind is, even though we may not be  
25 moving a line right now, it's still a productive

1 conversation for us to conceptually, you know, get to  
2 agreement about what our ultimate goal is.

3 MR. D. JOHNSON: I do have one specific question  
4 for the Commission in the Phoenix area.

5 If you can zoom in on District 4.

6 Just the way that the grid ended up, if you look at  
7 District 4, this is Anthem, New River, and then it goes out  
8 into the hills and then comes back in to get Fountain Hills,  
9 Paradise Valley, and Arcadia.

10 It -- like I said, this was a grid creation.

11 My presumption that I'd be curious from you, at a  
12 minimum, is to take -- either move District 3 north or  
13 south, so that instead of wrapping around District 3, we  
14 divide it into two pieces.

15 And related to that is Fountain Hills in a  
16 different district than Scottsdale -- its an unusual  
17 approach.

18 So I -- so I don't know. This doesn't -- this  
19 won't be very impacted by the South Phoenix pieces which is  
20 why I bring it up now; but rather than having a C-shape,  
21 want to see if the Commission shares that concern and would  
22 prefer -- it's an easy 3 versus 4 swap. Just push them  
23 north or south, but I want to see if that is something that  
24 makes sense how the Commission viewed.

25 COMMISSIONER YORK: So 3 goes as far north as

1           where?

2                   MR. D. JOHNSON:   So you just push 3 all the way up  
3           to the county border.

4                   COMMISSIONER YORK:   Right.   Okay, so that takes in  
5           Anthem and Carefree and Cave Creek; is that correct?

6                   MR. D. JOHNSON:   Exactly, yeah.   It is --

7                   COMMISSIONER YORK:   That's the way I would do it.

8                   COMMISSIONER LERNER:   Yeah, I agree.   I was -- I  
9           was just looking at that one when you said here's a  
10          question.   Because I was also looking at the fact that at  
11          the southern end, we want to be working with  
12          South Scottsdale, Salt River --

13                   COMMISSIONER YORK:   And Tempe.

14                   COMMISSIONER LERNER:   -- and Tempe as well, and  
15          taking in all of those.

16                   So I think that definitely things can be moved  
17          around in that area as well.

18                   And -- and the Cave Creek-Carefree folks have been  
19          pretty clear as well as the New River folks about where they  
20          would probably be in terms of those connections with -- I'm  
21          sorry, not New River -- Anthem, so.

22                   MR. D. JOHNSON:   Yeah.   As -- as it stands now on  
23          the grid approach it does achieve what they asked for, they  
24          are with Maricopa County and with Phoenix; but they're  
25          actually not with North Scottsdale, but they are with

1 South Scottsdale. Just the way the grid falls out  
2 sometimes, but it's very odd.

3 And that -- and the reason that I bring that up now  
4 is it is essentially independent of the much larger changes  
5 we're going to do down in the South Phoenix area so we can  
6 do them all -- we can do them both to some degree at the  
7 same time.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I know we already looked  
9 at the overlay, the Latino voting population, did we want to  
10 take another look at that again to see for the west side?

11 Because we -- I think we did it for the  
12 congressional, but might be interesting for us to look and  
13 see how that works with the legislative configuration that  
14 we have with the grid.

15 MR. KINGERY: You want to see further west?

16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: No, I'm just thinking we need  
17 maybe a close-up if we're looking for majority-minority  
18 districts, and we've talked about them on the west side to  
19 some extent. Because we've talked about some in Tucson and  
20 some on the -- in the Phoenix area, not only on the west  
21 side but throughout, it might be good to kind of take a look  
22 at and see where that falls.

23 COMMISSIONER YORK: So on that map number 2 is  
24 South Mountain Park. So just on that map.

25 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, and just to give you some of

1 the city references we're a talking about before, so -- let  
2 me make sure I'm getting this right.

3 So the southeastern part of District 26 I believe  
4 is Glendale, and then continuing west -- continuing east, of  
5 course.

6 So we're really looking at --

7 COMMISSIONER YORK: 24.

8 MR. D. JOHNSON: 24, 2- -- probably part of 26.

9 See where that border is.

10 Oh, Bethany Road is roughly the top of 24.

11 So really looking at D-11 -- District 11, 8, 22;  
12 part of 1 -- part of 1, 24; and then probably up into 26 and  
13 25 as well.

14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I'm sorry, Doug, can you go  
15 through those again --

16 MR. D. JOHNSON: Okay. Sure.

17 COMMISSIONER LERNER: -- please?

18 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, so starting from South  
19 Mountain you got --

20 COMMISSIONER YORK: So, South Mountain, the actual  
21 park there at .03? Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yeah, I just wanted the  
23 numbers -- the numbers that he read off, I was just  
24 wondering if you don't mind repeating those.

25 MR. D. JOHNSON: Sure. So starting from South

1 Mountain it's 11, 8, 22, some -- a little bit of 1, 24, 26,  
2 and 25.

3 And -- and the current map, you know, no surprise  
4 again, this is the grid at work, kind of does just what you  
5 want to avoid, which is it's a whole bunch of districts each  
6 taking a piece of the concentrated area we were just looking  
7 at on the screen, and then blending them with areas outside  
8 of the concentrated areas, which is everything the Voting  
9 Rights Act is against.

10 So -- so that's why we need to essentially  
11 wholesale overhaul this whole section.

12 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And we had already talked  
13 about District 11, that north of South Mountain and the  
14 south are different communities?

15 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER YORK: Well, and the people in  
17 District 11 wanted to be part of Maricopa. Remember?

18 Ahwatukee wanted to be included with Maricopa, they  
19 felt more rural. Maricopa, the town of Maricopa.

20 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's a --

21 COMMISSIONER YORK: It's across the Indian  
22 reservation.

23 MR. D. JOHNSON: Exactly. It's an interesting  
24 challenge, definitely.

25 I think that once we come back with this redraw and

1 take a look at whether that --

2 COMMISSIONER YORK: Yeah.

3 MR. D. JOHNSON: In part because --

4 COMMISSIONER YORK: Well, I don't think we can have  
5 -- do that on congressional; but maybe there's some way to  
6 do it, at least including the Kyrene School District with  
7 the -- in the legislative.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Well, that's -- I think that  
9 would be part of the challenge because the Ahwatukee folks  
10 are in the Tempe Union High School District and Kyrene,  
11 which is not going to be connected to Maricopa.

12 So it may not work.

13 COMMISSIONER YORK: The Maricopa kids -- but don't  
14 the Maricopa kids go up to Kyrene.

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Some of them do.

16 COMMISSIONER YORK: Because of the fact that  
17 they're allowed?

18 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yeah, I think they go --  
19 yeah, they're allowed, right. It's not their school  
20 district, but some go up to -- I think more often the high  
21 school, I think they go up in there.

22 But I think it would be tough to break off -- I  
23 mean it's a -- we'll play it around of course, but --

24 COMMISSIONER YORK: No, I don't --

25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: It would be tough to break

1 off Ahwatukee.

2 COMMISSIONER YORK: Yeah, I don't see how you --  
3 yeah, I'm with ya; I see a dilemma.

4 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, I sympathize with the  
5 requests of folks to put the two together; but at the same  
6 time, you would then be taking the Gila River reservation  
7 and putting it with Ahwatukee, which is about as far from  
8 being rural as you can get.

9 So -- so it will be a trade-off. But it's  
10 definitely something that I would suggest we wait until we  
11 see how 11 and 8 and all these are redrawn.

12 COMMISSIONER YORK: Oh, yeah. I agree, yes.

13 MR. D. JOHNSON: Do any -- the other area we  
14 haven't really talked about, and partially because it is  
15 going to be massively impacted by things to the east and the  
16 west of it, is the West Valley and the Glendale area; that  
17 whole West Valley region.

18 As was mentioned -- as Brian mentioned, the current  
19 District 29 and current District 22 are significantly off  
20 from population balance, so it's not a good guide to -- to  
21 work from; but if you do have thoughts, they're -- 25 and 28  
22 are still the grid maps as is -- as is 27.

23 So if there is a specific guidance or specific  
24 things you remember from testimony in the West Valley people  
25 wanting out in that area, happy to incorporate that as much

1 as we can.

2 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I don't actually have  
3 anything on the West Valley; but we might hear some more  
4 Thursday from folks.

5 But a question on the District 14, I know we talked  
6 about we're going to extend the boundary over there. Are we  
7 going to try to pull in the rest of Queen Creek into that  
8 rather than be in -- because part of it now is more of a  
9 rural; and then, you know, I think part of I think is part  
10 of also the Copper Corridor area?

11 We talked about that already; I just am  
12 double-checking to see if that's -- is that part of your  
13 reconfiguration is where District 14 ends?

14 MR. D. JOHNSON: District -- well, District 14 is  
15 certainly not going to be able to get to the Copper  
16 Corridor...

17 COMMISSIONER LERNER: No, I didn't mean for it to  
18 go the Copper Corridor, I --

19 MR. D. JOHNSON: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: -- meant for the actual  
21 boundary -- I don't know where the actual boundary -- is  
22 that the boundary of Queen Creek that's laid out there?

23 MR. D. JOHNSON: No, Queen Creek is actually a  
24 cross-county city.

25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. Right.

1 MR. JOHNSON: So part of it is in Maricopa and part  
2 in Pinal, so we're -- we're cutting it at the county line.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. That's right, I  
4 remember you saying that. Sorry.

5 COMMISSIONER YORK: The 14 should include, should  
6 it not include Queen Creek?

7 The other question I had was, you know, in my head  
8 23 needs to drop down below -- at least the population moves  
9 down south into Tolleson and into that below the I-10  
10 corridor there.

11 You said you were going to move 23 east to pick up  
12 population?

13 MR. D. JOHNSON: Exactly, yeah. The goal is to --  
14 well.

15 The task that we've been asked to draw is instead  
16 of coming up in to Buckeye, to take 23 over towards Tohono  
17 O'odham and -- and that. So that will take that area out of  
18 there.

19 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Are there general other areas  
20 that would be helpful for us to give feedback? Are you  
21 wanting any feedback on the East Valley?

22 You know, we've talked about the north a little  
23 bit...

24 MR. D. JOHNSON: The East Valley is very similar to  
25 the morning discussion about the congressional maps. Just

1 more district -- the one twist to having more districts in  
2 the East Valley brings is that instead of really focusing on  
3 the north and south division between two congressional  
4 districts, now I think we have good guidance on how to  
5 decide north/south division; but, we'll also have  
6 east-to-west divisions because there's four or five,  
7 possibly even six, districts impacting that area.

8 So if there is -- if you do have guidance at this  
9 point on what makes a logical east/west border between those  
10 districts, we welcome that; or, we just see where the  
11 numbers fall out as we sort the other things and get your  
12 reactions at that point.

13 Does the Commission -- there was some touching on  
14 the legislative districts this morning when we're talking  
15 about congressional about Chandler and Gilbert being  
16 separate, which is possible to do legislatively to a degree  
17 -- or, congressionally. So we do have some thoughts now,  
18 some direction.

19 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Can I ask a question? We've  
20 talked -- one of the things that we've heard about from a  
21 lot of folks was about retirement communities. I was just  
22 going through my notes from our traveling tour.

23 District 28, is that Sun City -- I'm calling it  
24 that right now, but is that a Sun City district? I mean, I  
25 know that they were talking -- because that's what we heard

1 about from some of the different communities like  
2 Saddlebrooke and Sun City, some of those saying "we would  
3 like to be with other retirement communities."

4 MR. D. JOHNSON: So, it's part of it.

5 So the three Sun City communities, there's --what  
6 is it? -- Sun City West, Sun City, and Sun City Grand. So  
7 West is -- Sun City West is in District 29 at the top, top  
8 green kind of half bubble, 29; and then as you go through --  
9 you're correct, as you go into 28, you get into the others.

10 COMMISSIONER YORK: You incorporated those three  
11 Sun Cities together and pulled down 28 towards the I-10,  
12 would that give you some population balance?

13 I'm sorry, 29 closer to I-10.

14 MR. D. JOHNSON: You know, it's a good question.  
15 It's certainly something we can look at when trying to put  
16 the three Sun Cities together or two of them.

17 I don't know what the numbers are.

18 COMMISSIONER YORK: There's three, you're right. I  
19 was surprised you nailed it.

20 MR. D. JOHNSON: Okay. The numbers -- I don't know  
21 the number of people in each one, but we can look at that.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: It might just be moving them  
23 around a little, but between 28 and 29, that's where you got  
24 the majority of those folks?

25 COMMISSIONER YORK: Right.

1                   COMMISSIONER LERNER: That kinds of seems to make  
2 sense because that's part of what they were...

3                   MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's an interesting take  
4 because historically the Sun City Grand, you know, it's part  
5 of Sur- --- or, Sun City West is part of Surprise and the  
6 together with the nature of Surprise, the character and  
7 types of neighborhoods in Surprise have changed so much --

8                   COMMISSIONER YORK: Right.

9                   MR. D. JOHNSON: -- over the last few decades, that  
10 what people thought were the communities of interest out  
11 there 10 or 20 years ago is likely radically changed today.

12                   So we can certainly take a look at that and see how  
13 they react.

14                   COMMISSIONER LERNER: So basically this map is  
15 going to be completely different the next time we see it.

16                   MR. D. JOHNSON: Yep.

17                   Yeah, I mean, probably the biggest change over the  
18 last ten years just in the nature of communities out  
19 there -- and I have no idea how they feel, and I don't think  
20 we heard much about this is, is, you know, North Buckeye now  
21 is essentially one community of interest to some degree with  
22 Western Surprise, so that is different than 20 years ago.

23                   COMMISSIONER YORK: There's a Verrado development  
24 out there also.

25                   COMMISSIONER MEHL: I think we had heard something

1 about Old Town Scottsdale being combined with Tempe, the ASU  
2 area. And that's not the way it currently is here, but I  
3 don't know if that's possible or not; but I thought we had  
4 heard testimony of that.

5 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I think we were looking at  
6 South Scottsdale, that would be part of taking that D-4  
7 edge, I think, which includes Salt River and then  
8 South Scottsdale with that, yeah.

9 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, I think all those general  
10 economic, cultural, and social connections that they were  
11 discussed about that South Scottsdale, Tempe, Salt River  
12 area in the congressional, we will certainly keeps those in  
13 mind as we're doing the legislative as well.

14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I don't know where Luke Air  
15 Force Base has been in the past in terms of legislative  
16 representation; I see it's now in District 5, and it seems  
17 to be a main point within that district. I'm curious how  
18 that works for that group. Does that maximize their  
19 representation or not?

20 I'll do research.

21 MR. D. JOHNSON: If I had to guess, I would guess  
22 they would be pretty happy, just because right now what  
23 we're --

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: They're a district.

25 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, when we're looking at the

1 congressional map, the congressional grid where Luke is cut  
2 off from the rest of Glendale, is in this map, too, so --  
3 oh. No. I'm sorry, is in the current districts, the map  
4 they adopted. So Luke Air Force base is actually in the  
5 Yuma seat.

6 COMMISSIONER YORK: I wonder if that has to do with  
7 the Yuma Air Force, the naval base there. The naval base.

8 MR. D. JOHNSON: Interestingly, it's not -- it's  
9 not the Barry Goldwater Base Yuma seat, it's the other one.

10 COMMISSIONER YORK: Oh, geez.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: The Yuma Proving Ground,  
12 right? That's part of --

13 MR. D. JOHNSON: That's exactly right.

14 I think it just got picked up -- I think they got  
15 picked up as they went along and just hit the number in.

16 But I suspect they're likely happy, but would be  
17 good to hear from them directly.

18 And it's also likely, too, that the Air Force base  
19 will get more of the -- entertainment/new growth West  
20 Glendale pieces put with it as we redraw 26 and 24 and  
21 everything else, that South Phoenix reason.

22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I would like to be cognizant  
23 of where the military bases are, where the defense industry  
24 is, and make sure we protect those communities of interest  
25 in Arizona that I think has been a big part of our state.

1                   In Tucson area with -- with Raytheon.

2                   MR. D. JOHNSON: Check with Brian, I think we have  
3 pretty good directions.

4                   Any questions?

5                   Parker?

6                   MR. BRADSHAW: (Inaudible.)

7                   MR. D. JOHNSON: It's hard to hear through the  
8 mask, but he said he's got a lot of notes; so we got a lot  
9 -- a lot of to-dos.

10                  CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: If you feel that you have  
11 enough marching orders -- I mean, I think the five of us  
12 could probably sit here for hours and just debate every  
13 little specific area of the state, and it would be fun; and  
14 maybe productive, maybe not, I don't know.

15                  But I want to be respectful of everybody's time,  
16 and -- and if this is the juncture that you feel that you  
17 have the right amount of information to come back and  
18 provide meaningful maps, we, you know, want to do -- we  
19 don't want to go overboard; we want to hit the sweet spot  
20 here.

21                  So what -- what are your thoughts on that front?

22                  MR. D. JOHNSON: I think from yesterday to the map  
23 we voted on this morning, we made a ton of progress, and I  
24 think we're going to have directions for another ton of  
25 progress. So I think we're good to go.

1           And as with the congressional maps, we'll try to  
2           get maps out in plenty of time so that the Commissioners and  
3           the public have a chance to react and comment to them prior  
4           to -- prior to next week -- next Dec- -- December, I'm  
5           already jumping to December -- to the October 15th meeting.

6           COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yeah, I was going to ask that  
7           question. Do you think we could get it a few days in  
8           advance, then? Because it would be easier if we were able  
9           to really dive into it before we came with some of that.

10          MR. D. JOHNSON: Yes.

11          COMMISSIONER LERNER: So if we could get it two or  
12          three days at least, three days in advance, you think?

13          MR. D. JOHNSON: Certainly our goal.

14          COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay.

15          MR. D. JOHNSON: And I think, we should be able to.  
16          Never say never with any of this stuff, but...

17          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yeah, and if you could give  
18          us just instruction for the next step?

19                 This is was so incredibly helpful to get the  
20                 invitation to share these maps that you're providing, and so  
21                 sounds like next steps are going to be that you're going to  
22                 adjust these maps, then come back and share with the  
23                 Commission and the public; when will we know when the maps  
24                 are ready?

25                 And it sounds like the process is to access it the

1 same way we just did today, through this shared maps section  
2 of this redistricting hub; is that correct?

3 MR. KINGERY: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: So will staff alert the  
5 Commissioners as to when that's done or what -- what --  
6 just, I mean, so we're not constantly going online checking,  
7 it would be nice to have a sense of what to expect.

8 MR. D. JOHNSON: Certainly, we'll work with staff  
9 to get the word out -- to the public as well, so we may do a  
10 press release or clear message, I don't know. Now I'm  
11 getting into things I don't -- but, certainly get the word  
12 out both to the Commissioners and to the public at large and  
13 look forward to their comments.

14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And do we have access to --  
15 you've been keeping track of all the changes on the  
16 spreadsheet. Do we have access to that is or is that just  
17 something -- because it's hard -- I mean, just to look at,  
18 read only. I'm not looking at, you know, trying to -- I was  
19 just wondering in terms of that.

20 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, so -- so my suggestion is --  
21 and Legal weight in or Brian jump in, for each of the maps  
22 that the Commission votes on -- you voted on the legislative  
23 and congressional map today -- we'll publish a list of  
24 changes involved from the grid to that point.

25 Kind of our working list is very much kind of a

1 working mess in progress and I think it would be more  
2 confusing than anything else.

3 But, yes, each time we can give you summary of  
4 changes that's probably not the detailed list. But  
5 certainly when you vote, and we'll take the maps that you  
6 vote on and publish those as voting maps, of course; and  
7 then give you whatever guidance we can.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So basically what we'll  
9 receive before the next meeting will be the -- the revised  
10 maps based on your changes, one or two versions of each; we  
11 probably will get a couple of versions, right?

12 And we would also get a summary of the changes?

13 MR. D. JOHNSON: Yeah, it will be something in some  
14 form. We'll work out a form makes sense.

15 MR. KINGERY: Right, so today legislative version  
16 1.0 and congressional version 1.1 were approved; so the list  
17 of ongoing changes that we haven't add to for approval,  
18 these will be shared and the congressional 1.1 needs to be  
19 shared.

20 So you can see the steps we took to go from grid  
21 map to being approved for each these next round that you  
22 have.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: A point of clarification.

24 So when these prospective maps are published for  
25 our review, I think we -- we need to be clear with the

1 public that these are not approved maps.

2 I mean, that's just slightly concerning for me that  
3 we are publishing or we're advertising maps that are really  
4 your creation just based on, you know, very valuable  
5 feedback. So I want to make sure legally we're -- that this  
6 is sound as long as -- provided that we're making very clear  
7 to public that these are not approved maps.

8 MR. HERRERA: I can weigh in on that, Madam Chair.

9 I think we'll just have to be very clear in the  
10 wording where we're posting this about what the maps  
11 actually are. You know, maps based on suggestions that  
12 you've made during this meeting, but not adopted or approved  
13 maps.

14 MR. D. JOHNSON: I'll add to that too -- and,  
15 Brian, correct me if I say any of this wrong.

16 There is a difference between the two types of  
17 maps. On the redistricting hub are published maps, so those  
18 are all of the maps that residents have submitted that have  
19 passed the checklist and are population balanced and all  
20 that; these -- these the maps as we're working on them,  
21 because they're not population balanced, they don't get  
22 submitted and published on that page, these are simply kind  
23 of the interim steps.

24 But they don't appear on the published map because  
25 they're not population balanced yet, they're just the

1 interim steps.

2 Did I state that correctly?

3 Some -- some maps, residents will actually have to  
4 go into the redistricting to see or we might have to post a  
5 PDF, but they won't be able to get into all those fancy  
6 interactive tools we have for those maps.

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Excellent.

8 We -- we look forward to -- to those maps when you  
9 have them. I know the Commissioners would love, you know,  
10 where we have, I think, is it nine days before our next  
11 deliberation meeting, and so that's valuable time for us to  
12 be able to study communities of interest, study the public  
13 comments that are coming in, study the suggested map; and I  
14 think, you know, we're going to have a real substantive  
15 dialogue.

16 Is there any other discussion on this Agenda  
17 Item No. VI related to this deliberation on moving lines  
18 with -- with these maps?

19 Okay. Thank you very much, mapping team.

20 With that, we'll move to Agenda Item No. VII. Next  
21 meeting date is next Tuesday, October 12th.

22 The Commission would actually like to meet at  
23 9:00 a.m.; it was initially scheduled for 8:00 a.m. And so  
24 we are going to propose 9:00 a.m. Let's plan for it; and we  
25 expect it to be a two-hour explicit business meeting. We

1 are looking forward to a presentation on Latino political  
2 history, maybe some migration patterns with that; and we can  
3 spend time on just some -- some basic business issues; and  
4 then we can reconvene a week from Thursday with our efforts  
5 with the map deliberation.

6 And if there's no other comment? I'm sorry,  
7 what -- what day is it?

8 Please clarify.

9 COMMISSIONER YORK: Monday. We reconvene on  
10 Monday.

11 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Oh, we're reconvening on  
12 Monday?

13 COMMISSIONER YORK: No, no our meeting next week is  
14 on Tuesday, but the following week is on Monday.

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: No, we reconvene on the 15th,  
16 Friday.

17 COMMISSIONER YORK: Friday, yes.

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: The 13th.

19 MR. D. JOHNSON: So I can summarize for you, you  
20 have a grid map hearing on the 7th; your business meeting on  
21 the 12th; and then your next decision grid map decision  
22 meeting on the 15th; followed then by the weekend off; and  
23 then grid map resumes on the 18th.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: The meeting on the 7th is a  
25 hearing; we will be in the West Valley in Surprise taking

1 public testimony.

2 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: That's satellite?

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes.

4 All right. Thank you very much.

5 With that, we will move to Agenda Item No. VIII,  
6 closing of public comment.

7 Please note we are now closing public comment.

8 Members of the Commission may not discuss items that are not  
9 specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant  
10 to A.R.S. 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public  
11 comment will be limited to directing staff to study the  
12 matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the  
13 matter for further consideration or decision at a later  
14 date.

15 With that, we'll move to Agenda Item No. IX,  
16 adjournment.

17 I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

18 COMMISSIONER YORK: Commissioner York. I so move  
19 to adjourn.

20 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Vice Chair Watchman seconds.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I will take a quick vote.

22 Vice Chair Watchman.

23 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Mehl.

25 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.

2 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner York.

4 COMMISSIONER YORK: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Neuberg is an  
6 aye.

7 With that, we will adjourn.

8 Thank you, everybody, for an outstanding meeting.

9 I look forward to seeing everybody in the West Valley  
10 Thursday, 4:00 p.m. We will be there for several hours, you  
11 can come after work; it's going to go on a long time.  
12 Please attend.

13 Thank you.

14 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 1:57 p.m.).

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20 ***"This transcript represents an unofficial record. Please***  
21 ***consult the accompanying video for the official record of***  
22 ***IRC proceedings."***

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STATE OF ARIZONA )  
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COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

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

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