

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Prescott Valley, Arizona

Kykotsmovi, Arizona

Online via WebEx

November 20, 2021

10:00 a.m. MST/11:00 a.m. MDT

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
 2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 10:00 a.m.
 3 MST/11:00 a.m. MDT on November 20, 2021, at Prescott Valley
 4 Library, 7401 Skoog Boulevard, Prescott Valley, Arizona;
 5 with a satellite location at Hopi Veterans Memorial Center,
 6 State Highway 264, Mile Marker 375.5, Kykotsmovi Village,
 7 Arizona; and online via WebEx.

8
 9 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

10 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson

11 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

12 Mr. David Mehl

13 STAFF PRESENT:

14 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
 15 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
 16 Mr. Alex Pena, Public Outreach Coordinator
 Ms. Marie Camacho, Public Outreach Coordinator
 17 Mr. Eric Spencer, Snell & Wilmer
 Mr. Daniel Arellano, Ballard Spahr
 18 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group

19 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

20	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
21	Phil Goode	Prescott Valley
	Cathey Rusing	Prescott Valley
22	Harry Oberg	Prescott Valley
	Mike Fogel	Prescott Valley
23	Deb McCasland	Prescott Valley
	Jessica Williamson	Prescott Valley

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Karen Osburn	Prescott Valley
	Herman Honanie	Kykotsmovi
4	Karen Shupla	Kykotsmovi
	Kathleen Clark	Prescott Valley
5	Kelly Boryca	Prescott Valley
	James Stein	Prescott Valley
6	Lauren Newington	Prescott Valley
	Connie Martin	Prescott Valley
7	Matthew Cordua	Prescott Valley
	Selina Bliss	Prescott Valley
8	Lois Fruhwirth	Prescott Valley
	Douglas Kladis	Prescott Valley
9	Diane McQueen	Prescott Valley
	Lorraine Coin	Kykotsmovi
10	Jamescita May Peshlakai	Kykotsmovi
	Glenn Peaches	Kykotsmovi
11	Kathy Kinsella	Prescott Valley
	Carolyn Sherman	Prescott Valley
12	Vivian Perry	Prescott Valley
	Rita Day	Prescott Valley
13	Marlene Barrington	Prescott Valley
	Cindy Wagner	Prescott Valley
14	Linda Thompson	Prescott Valley
	Richard Thompson	Prescott Valley
15	Gail Cook	Prescott Valley
	Deborah Pernice	Prescott Valley
16	Julie Pindzola	Prescott Valley
	Mike Sullivan	Prescott Valley
17	Ruth Edwards	Prescott Valley
	Dwight Kadar	Prescott Valley
18	Andrea Kadar	Prescott Valley
	Pete Asencio	Prescott Valley
19	Geoffrey Parker	Prescott Valley
	Sandy Ritter	Prescott Valley
20	Bill Ritter	Prescott Valley
	Elizabeth Gatley	Prescott Valley
21	Elizabeth Kennedy	Prescott Valley
	Michael Cosentino	Prescott Valley
22	Kittie Harris	Prescott Valley
	Lynn Zonakis	Prescott Valley
23	Craig Swanson	Prescott Valley
	Mark Smith	Prescott Valley
24	Leslie Kirkeidi	Prescott Valley
	John Lutes	Prescott Valley
25	Kristin Baumgartner	Prescott Valley

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Karen Strauch	Prescott Valley
	Ernie Strauch	Prescott Valley
4	Kathleen Sauer	Prescott Valley
	Jeanna Tendall	Prescott Valley
5	Marlene Macek	Prescott Valley
	Ken Bennett	Prescott Valley
6	Linda Conn	Prescott Valley
	Jessica Ebel	Prescott Valley
7	Sandy Griffis	Prescott Valley
	Arlene Rheinfelder	Prescott Valley
8	Larry Gray	Prescott Valley
	Michael Sanders	Prescott Valley
9	Tom Steele	Prescott Valley
	Isabel Cerecedes	Prescott Valley
10	Diane Boman	Prescott Valley
	Sandy Cordova	Prescott Valley
11	Toni Denis	Prescott Valley
	Allison Flannery	Prescott Valley
12	Paul Pavlich	Prescott Valley
	Steve Zipperman	Prescott Valley
13	Sharon Zipperman	Prescott Valley
	Elise DePuydt	Prescott Valley
14	Ann Kelley	Prescott Valley
	Thomas Reiner	Prescott Valley
15	Llama Habern	Prescott Valley
	Peggy Pavlich	Prescott Valley
16	Jaime Manjoros	Prescott Valley
	Christy Magers	Prescott Valley
17	Mike Schroeder	Prescott Valley
	Gail Digate	Prescott Valley
18	Samaira Armstrong	Prescott Valley
	Dieter Knecht	Prescott Valley
19	Sylvia Sepielli	Prescott Valley
	Randy Hayes	Prescott Valley
20	Ann Heitland	Prescott Valley

21 * American Sign language interpreters, a Spanish
 22 interpreter, and Apache interpreter are also
 23 present.

24

25

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. CAMACHO: Hello, everyone. We'll be getting
4 started momentarily.

5 Thank you, everyone. Thank you for having us here
6 in Prescott Valley and for everyone who has come from the
7 town and from the surrounding communities; we appreciate you
8 having us.

9 We will start with asking our interpreters to
10 introduce themselves. So, if they would come up to the mic.

11 (Spanish language.)

12 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good morning. I'm Dr. Jesus
13 Culminaris (phonetic), and I will be the Spanish
14 interpreter. I will be located on the right side -- or left
15 side of the room.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. CAMACHO: And then I believe our interpreter --
18 sign language interpreter will introduce herself or himself.

19 And at this time I don't see them.

20 ALS INTERPRETER: Hello.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: There she is.

22 ALS INTERPRETER: My name is Tiana. I'm one of the
23 ALS interpreters. My team is having technical difficulties,
24 so hopefully she will be here momentarily.

25 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you.

1 ALS INTERPRETER: And her name is
2 (inaudible/multiple speakers).

3 MS. CAMACHO: And we will begin -- thank you.

4 So we will begin the meeting with the Pledge of
5 Allegiance. If everyone would stand, please.

6 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

7
8 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you.

9 And let me introduce you to the Independent
10 Redistricting Chair, Chair Erika Neuberg.

11 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you very much.

12 Welcome, everybody. I now call to order the public
13 hearing for the Arizona Independent Redistricting
14 Commission.

15 There is a transcriptionist who will be recording
16 every word. Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a
17 clear record of your input.

18 At this time we will introduce ourself. My name is
19 Erika Neuberg, I am the Chairwoman; I live in Chandler,
20 representing Maricopa County but really representing the
21 entire state.

22 And we have Commissioner Mehl joining us.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Hi, I'm David Mehl and I live
24 in Pima County; and happy to be here as a Commissioner.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And we have Commissioner York

1 I believe trying to sign on. And if he's not able to be on
2 the panel, he'll take advantage of -- of whatever WebEx is
3 available.

4 So before we move to the main event, public
5 comment, I just want to let everyone in this room know,
6 Prescott will be Number 1, Legislative District Number 1.

7 I also want to let everybody know that if somebody
8 has -- and you're going to hear this from the staff but I'm
9 going to actually mention it before we even read the rules,
10 you do not have to say your entire speech or message. If
11 somebody has literally said the same thing, you can come up
12 and say: I agree with this person a hundred percent and we
13 know the information. If you'd like to say it, that's
14 absolutely fine. But I just want to let you know that it's
15 counted equally whether you say the whole thing or whether
16 you just convey your way of thinking.

17 So now with that, I'm going to turn it over to the
18 staff to read the rules.

19 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you, Chair Neuberg.

20 In compliance with the Arizona open meeting law,
21 speakers should confine their statements to the issue on the
22 posted agenda which is before the Commission. Speakers are
23 also requested to limit their comments to about two minutes.

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

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

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

7 This is a nonpartisan meeting. Please do not
8 distribute political material in the meeting room.

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

13 Please show respect for all speakers and avoid
14 personal comments. Remember, the Commission must hear all
15 sides of an issue to make an informed decision.

16 And I will take it back to Chair Neuberg.

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yeah, no, we'll begin public
18 comment.

19 MS. CAMACHO: Let me get the cards.

20 All right, I will call the first speakers. And in
21 order, number one will be Phil Goode, and that's Prescott
22 City Councilman Phil Goode, Prescott City Council Member
23 Cathey Rusing, Yavapai County Supervisor Harry Oberg, Chino
24 Valley school board district board member Mike Fogel,
25 Yavapai Supervisor Mary Mallory, Sedona City Council Member

1 Jessica Williamson, and followed by Debra Mc- -- I apologize
2 if I get your name wrong -- McCasland, thank you, Yavapai
3 College governing board chair, and then Karen Osburn, City
4 Manager.

5 If you would line up.

6 If you're not able to, that would be fine. Thank
7 you.

8 SPEAKER GOODE: May I begin?

9 Thank you, Madam Chair and members. I'm Prescott
10 city councilman and mayor elect Phil Goode from the city of
11 Prescott; I also am the secretary/treasurer of the Central
12 Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization, the
13 Transportation Planning Organization in Yavapai County.

14 My primary focus on my comments is to keep LD-1 as
15 it currently exists, intact to the maximum amount possible.

16 I've had numerous opportunities to work and
17 consider common interests with town leaders in the
18 Verde Valley over my career in public service and we
19 certainly have very, very many common interests; rural
20 issues that need state and congressional representation for
21 agriculture, cattle, ranching, forestry, and particularly
22 the management of our forest for the impact on wildfires, et
23 cetera, as we're all aware of.

24 I think the most common critical issue is water and
25 the Verde River. Our Prescott active management area relies

1 on the -- includes the headwaters of the Verde River. The
2 Verde River flows all the way through our legislative
3 district and into the Verde Valley. Every one of those
4 surrounding communities are very critically dependent on the
5 perennial flow and the access to the Verde River.

6 Water resource management is so critical for the
7 sustainability and the future economic development of those
8 areas that that has to be considered, and to split off the
9 Verde Valley from Yavapai would be very, very detrimental.

10 So we have educational opportunities that are
11 consistent in Yavapai College and I want to a make sure that
12 veterans' issues are also mentioned being the president of
13 the Northern Arizona Veteran's Advisory Council. There are
14 so many common interests --

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you very much.

16 SPEAKER GOODE: -- that need to be maintained.
17 Thank you.

18 SPEAKER RUSING: Good morning, Commissioners. My
19 name is Cathey Rusing, I'm a Prescott city council member.
20 However, today I am speaking as a voter in Yavapai County.

21 If you want to give all voters an effective voice
22 at the ballot box you need to keep Yavapai County together
23 in one legislative district. For example, there are five
24 county board mem- -- supervisors who represents us. One
25 supervisor represents the Verde Valley, yet this map would

1 separate and isolate her and her district from the rest of
2 the county supervisors and from Prescott, the county seat.

3 Another example is water. Water management and
4 conservation will always be an issue here in Arizona on a
5 local, state, and federal level. The Little Chino Aquifer
6 supplies the headwaters of the Verde River and is in the
7 Prescott active management area, all of which are in Yavapai
8 County. The maps will separate the headwaters and the
9 aquifer from the river creating a future quagmire of
10 jurisdictions concerning ADWR, SRP, water rights, water law,
11 and conservation and water management efforts to name a few.

12 Prescott is the biggest economic driver for all of
13 Yavapai County. We don't compete, but we enhance the
14 Verde Valley through mutually beneficial economic growth and
15 development and education.

16 An example is Prescott's Yavapai College and the
17 innovative Southwest Wine Center in Clarkdale, which has
18 been important to the development of the wine industry in
19 the Verde Valley.

20 The 600-bed county jail is in Camp Verde and the
21 new county justice center is scheduled to open in Prescott
22 next year. Having each facility and the inmates who are
23 transferred back and forth in two different legislative
24 districts sounds like an administrative nightmare for the
25 sheriff's department.

1 In summary, Yavapai County is a checkerboard of
2 private, county, state, federal, and tribal lands. Please
3 unite us, don't divide us.

4 And I want to say thank you to all of you for
5 taking on this monumental task.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER OBERG: Good morning, Madam Chair and
8 Commissioners. My name is Harry Oberg and I'm a Yavapai
9 County supervisor.

10 I would like to respond to both of your current
11 draft maps. I request that you give serious consideration
12 to CD0068 in developing the IRC's final map. Map 68 more
13 properly aligns Yavapai County's communities of interest
14 than your current CD map.

15 Due to concerns with our scarce water resources in
16 north, central, and western Arizona, this community of
17 interest is more closely aligned with the western counties
18 of Mohave, La Paz, Gila, portions of Coconino than with the
19 eastern counties depicted on your map.

20 District boundaries shown in map CD0068 align the
21 eastern counties with their common communities of interest
22 and in their own CD. Combining these eastern counties
23 naturally establishes a minority-majority district that
24 would provide congressional representation specifically
25 attune to unique Native American interests.

1 In reference to your current LD map 10.0, we fully
2 support this map and believe establishing Yavapai County in
3 its own LD is appropriate due to our census numbers. Also,
4 this map supports our a long-standing communities of
5 interest across the county, including our western rural,
6 heritage, cultural and lifestyle and our collective concern
7 in Yavapai County for saving our primary community of
8 interest, the Verde River.

9 To have the greatest hope of saving the longest
10 surviving living river in Arizona, our county must remain
11 whole as its own legislative district. The only proposed
12 changes to your LD map would be to include the entire towns
13 of Sedona and Wickenburg in LD-5 so as not to split these
14 communities between two legislative districts.

15 In closing, map CD0068 and your current LD map will
16 allow us to protect and preserve our interests and the
17 scarce water resources that sustain those interests.

18 Madam Chair and Commissioners, thank you for your
19 time.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER FOGEL: Good morning, my name is Mike
22 Fogel; I'm on the governing board of the Chino Valley School
23 District and I have lived in Chino Valley for 28-plus years.

24 As to today's question, I am opposed to the
25 redistricting maps proposed by this board because they fail

1 to create fair and competitive districts which otherwise
2 would comply with the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights
3 Act of 1965, and Proposition 106 of the Arizona State
4 Constitution.

5 The current failed design has created something
6 called safe districts that sustain a one-party rule in that
7 district. There are 11 safe Democratic districts currently
8 and 13 safe Republican districts and 6 competitive
9 districts.

10 I have to ask: How fair is that? The makeup of
11 the legislature is rigged to the advantage of Republicans.

12 Unfortunately and furthermore, safe districts just
13 foster citizen complacency, apathy, disengagement, and
14 leads to Democratic dysfunction.

15 I prefer a demic -- a dynamic Democratic democracy
16 fostered by competitiveness that would encourage legislators
17 to listen to and respond to all of their citizens whom they
18 represent.

19 I have experienced this dysfunction directly as --
20 in my role as a public education advocate and as my role as
21 a school board member, and the dysfunction works this way:
22 I have sat in many a meeting with my legislators and school
23 officials who have grave concerns about the district and
24 have consistently heard the response, "I believe your
25 concerns are genuine and real, I sympathize, but my hands

1 are tide by party leadership not to act on your behalf."

2 I believe that dysfunction is directly related to
3 why public schools in Yavapai County are inadequately funded
4 and have been relegated to the status of the poorest of the
5 poor in this country.

6 Our families in Yavapai County deserve a lot
7 better. I implore you instead to implement three
8 alternative map proposals: LDF50, LDF51, and CDF10. This
9 will create at least one more competitive district and thus
10 take one small step towards creating the kind of Republic
11 our Founding Fathers envisioned.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 SPEAKER MALLORY: Good morning, Madam Chair and
15 Commissioners.

16 My name is Mary Mallory, I am a Yavapai County
17 supervisor. I'm here to say that I support the current
18 LD-5, 6, 7, and CD 10.0 maps that have come forward by you.

19 The -- according to the Arizona Department of
20 Environment Quality, the Big Chino Basin and the Verde
21 Valley are part of the same watershed. Flagstaff is not
22 part of that watershed, Flagstaff is part of the Little
23 Colorado watershed. Water is a central issue for the future
24 of all of Yavapai County residents.

25 Sedona/Verde Valley are part of the Yavapai library

1 network which is amazing benefit to all of Yavapai County
2 residents.

3 Yavapai College main campus is in Prescott with
4 satellite campuses in Clarkdale and Sedona.

5 In closure, many have said that the mountain
6 divides us. I find that as part of God's landscape it does
7 not divide us, it's the beauty of Yavapai County. So please
8 keep us as one.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER McCASLAND: My name is Deb McCasland and
12 thank you very much for letting me speak to you.

13 I'm on the Yavapai College Governing Board
14 currently acting as chair. I'm speaking for myself as a
15 voter and resident of Yavapai County for the last 59 years.

16 I have an interest -- my community of interest is
17 Yavapai County. As a governing board member we set a tax
18 levy for the county and all of our residents that own
19 property in Yavapai County contribute to the running of the
20 college, that's a hefty sum of money to keep the college
21 going. They need to have a voice in many ways.

22 And I support Mary Mallory's comments and others
23 before me: We need to keep Yavapai County whole and keep
24 our center of interest there.

25 Yavapai College specializes in skill training and

1 educating our Yavapai County students and potential
2 students. Let us operate as an entire community, not have a
3 division and -- I support keeping Yavapai County whole.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER WILLIAMSON: I'm Jessica Williamson, I'm on
6 the Sedona City Council.

7 I drove here from Sedona, it took me quite a long
8 time. I had a choice between heading down I-17 and then
9 cutting over and avoiding the mountains or going over the
10 mountains on the twisty mountain road. Despite the glowing
11 picture of the mountains as, like, essentially not being
12 there, they are, in fact, significant geographic features
13 that separates the Verde Valley and Sedona from Prescott.

14 The Verde Valley population is significantly less
15 than the population on the west side of the mountain and the
16 interest of our citizens here in -- or in the Verde Valley,
17 often take a backseat to the interest of those living in
18 Prescott.

19 I'm sure the people from Prescott would disagree
20 with that, but that has been our experience with the college
21 and with other institutions.

22 There is no compelling reason to keep Yavapai
23 County intact as an electoral district. Twelve of the 15
24 counties are divided in the draft maps; they have water
25 issues, they have jails, they have libraries, they have

1 institutions, and they're all handled because that's what
2 happens is that these issues are handled. It's not a reason
3 that anybody argues that they have to be kept intact.

4 I urge you to keep Sedona intact and not split it
5 on county lines, and I urge you to recognize that Sedona has
6 no natural connection to Prescott socially, culturally, or
7 geographically.

8 Yavapai County supervisors who don't represent
9 Sedona don't necessarily know or are representing what's
10 best for Sedona, our interests. Residents of Prescott don't
11 necessarily representing Sedona's interest. Sedona doesn't
12 belong with Prescott despite all of the rhetoric.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER OSBURN: Good morning, Chair Neuberg and
16 members of the Commission.

17 My name is Karen Osburn and I am the Sedona City
18 Manager. My comments are being made on behalf of the Mayor
19 and City Council of Sedona.

20 As you know, the city of Sedona has presented
21 testimony at a number of public hearings of the IRC. In
22 that testimony the City has remained consistent that Sedona
23 should be kept intact in both a congressional district and a
24 legislative district that maintains the Verde Valley
25 communities together within both of those congressional and

1 legislative districts.

2 While the congressional district does reflect this
3 request, the legislative maps do not. The current maps
4 adopted by the IRC split the city of Sedona and Verde Valley
5 and splits half of Sedona from Flagstaff. As a city with a
6 population of less than 10,000, splitting our small
7 community and splitting us from our region just does not
8 make sense.

9 Sedona works with our neighboring communities and
10 shares common interests on issues such as housing, economic
11 development, tourism, healthcare, transportation and
12 education, and many other long-term alliances. The current
13 maps remove a portion of our city and its residents from
14 these relationships and bonds.

15 The city of Sedona requests reconsideration of the
16 proposed legislative district boundaries in support of the
17 maps submitted by Coconino LDF50 and LDF51. These maps
18 reflect Sedona's values and meet the constitutional mandates
19 of community of interest, equal population, geographical
20 compactness, and competitiveness.

21 We ask that the city of Sedona be kept intact to
22 ensure our residents can continue to speak with one voice as
23 a community. We further ask that our city be kept with its
24 neighboring communities so our region may have unified
25 representation in matters before the State.

1 Thank you for the opportunity.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a follow-up question.

3 I'm curious what is more important to you if a
4 choice has to be made, is it more important to be with
5 Verde Valley and the other communities or is it more
6 important to be with Flagstaff?

7 SPEAKER OSBURN: I think the most important thing
8 for us is to maintain our coordination with the Verde Valley
9 communities, that is our primary geographical area for
10 community of interest; but we also believe and the city
11 council has discussed this on multiple of occasions at
12 public meetings and concur that our alignment with the
13 issues involved with the city of Flagstaff are much more
14 prominent and important to us than being aligned with the
15 city of Prescott in which we don't believe we have those
16 same common interests.

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I hear you. Thank you very
18 much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you. And before we go to
21 Kykotsmovi in the Hopi Nation, we have just an announcement
22 to make.

23 We do have people waiting outside. So if you feel
24 you've concluded your speaking to the -- to the Commission
25 and that you are done, if you would be willing to trade

1 places with them so that they can come in and they can speak
2 also. So, thank you.

3 So we will go to Michele at the Hopi Nation. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. CRANK: Good morning, Commissioners and
6 listening audience, Madam Chair. I am in the beautiful
7 lands of the Hopi people, Kykotsmovi.

8 I have two speakers here. Our first speaker is the
9 former Chairman here for the Hopi Nation, Mr. Herman
10 Honanie, he's a council member representing the village of
11 Kykotsmovi.

12 SPEAKER HONANIE: Good morning.

13 I learned about this hearing just yesterday evening
14 and, basically, the only thing that I learned last night was
15 that the others move towards this redistricting and which
16 would put the Hopi reservation under the Prescott area,
17 Prescott district. And as a couple of individuals stated
18 prior just previously, that I firmly do not believe that
19 Prescott does and ever will and can speak on behalf of Hopi.

20 So with the redistricting efforts, Hopi remains
21 totally and who we should be as an indigenous people as a
22 nation of our own, I believe, and could even say that Navajo
23 could say the same thing. So why is there an effort to rob
24 us of any type of a Democratic effort on our part to seek
25 whatever we need?

1 We have a vast, vast number of differences when it
2 comes to life, economics, and even politics. And so for us
3 to be included under Prescott, which would certainly ramrod
4 a lot of ideas politically and otherwise.

5 So I stand opposed to the redistricting that I
6 think I can speak on behalf of our whole tribal council,
7 that the majority of our council people would be opposed to
8 this measure as well as a basic person on the street and off
9 the street and across the reservation.

10 So I thank you for this opportunity. Again, I
11 stand opposed to this effort.

12 (Native language spoken.)

13 MS. CRANK: Our next speaker is Karen Shupla. She
14 is the governor for the village of Bacavi.

15 SPEAKER SHUPLA: Good morning. Thank you for
16 giving us the opportunity to speak on this issue as a member
17 of the Hopi tribe and the Governor of the village of
18 Kykotsmovi. Also, speaking on behalf of the Hopi Chairman
19 Nuvangyaoma, who I had a phone call conversation with this
20 morning. He is on travel, Chairman is on travel, and will
21 be sending his letter on this issue when he returns back to
22 the Hopi reservation.

23 Also looking at it from the perspective of the Hopi
24 tribe as former Chairman Honanie had mentioned, Prescott is
25 not in the best interest for the Hopi Nation.

1 I also oppose that process, which you will be given
2 -- or is trying to be taken in this redistricting. Letter
3 of confirmation from my village also will be forthcoming in
4 the opposition of including Prescott into our district area.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CRANK: And Madam Chair, just as stated
8 earlier, I spoke with the Chairman of the Hopi tribe this
9 morning and he -- he was going to try and call in, but he
10 did state that he will be submitting a letter to the
11 Independent Redistricting Commission. So we can look
12 forward to that.

13 Thank you, and that is all the speakers that I have
14 from Kykotsmovi.

15 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you, Michele.

16 Right now we have about 80 speakers in
17 Prescott Valley, and if there's anyone who just wanted to
18 say that they agreed with the previous speaker or any other
19 speakers and decided not to speak, that's okay, just let us
20 know.

21 So I will call up the first five speakers.
22 Kathleen Clark, Kelly Boryca, James Stein, Lauren Newington,
23 and Connie Martin.

24 And if you could line up, we would appreciate it.

25 Thank you so much.

1 SPEAKER CLARK: Good morning. I'm Kathleen Clark;
2 I live at The Ranch in Prescott. I escaped from the madness
3 in California several years ago; I lived in a small desert
4 community similar to this, for 37 years I was a teacher.

5 My concern isn't about all of the water issues and
6 other things, my concern is what I escaped from. Our small
7 community of several different small towns in the high
8 desert became divided like this over political issues. The
9 mayors of the different towns fought against each other,
10 wouldn't work together to build roads connecting each other,
11 work together to build shopping malls, businesses, et
12 cetera. I don't want to see the same thing happen here.

13 I actually know probably a large number of the
14 people that are in this room right now and would consider
15 them friends. Yavapai County is a united conglomeration of
16 many different types of regions or areas, but they're
17 friends; they work together. I would really love to see
18 this place that I love stay the way it is connected and
19 working together as a community. This is a great community
20 and I hope it stays that way.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER BORYCA: Good morning. My name is Kelly
24 Boryca and I've been lucky enough to call Prescott my home
25 for the last ten years. There are so many impressive things

1 about this state, but one that stands out is this
2 Commission.

3 Arizona recognized the importance of keeping
4 politics out of the redistricting process when they passed
5 Prop 106. Unfortunately, I do not think the current maps
6 are drawn as accomplishing that goal. They're failing to
7 achieve what the voters wanted. We need competitive
8 districts.

9 Competitiveness is not the least of the six
10 criteria, it is actually the most important one.
11 Competitive districts force candidates to listen and respond
12 to all of their constituents: Republicans, Democrats and
13 Independents.

14 Competitive districts encourage participation,
15 engagement, and most importantly in my book moderation.
16 Competitive districts allow the best candidates to emerge.
17 Competitive districts would eliminate extremism as no
18 candidate can be assured re-election regardless of bad
19 behavior.

20 Unlike your draft maps, LDF50, LDF51 and CD-10
21 offer maps that are balanced and competitive. Competitive
22 districts do not favor any party. If you're committed to
23 upholding one person and one vote and want everyone's vote
24 to count, then you will need to redraw these maps to create
25 more competitive districts.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER STEIN: Good morning, Commissioners.

4 My name is James Stein, that's S-T-E-I-N; I reside
5 in Prescott, Arizona.

6 Proposition 106 was designed to create mapping of
7 fair and competitive congressional and legislative
8 districts. Competitive districts encourage civic engagement
9 and moderate political extremism. This is something that
10 appears to be lacking in this state.

11 My reading of the proposed maps of Northern Arizona
12 indicate that none of these districts are considered to be
13 competitive. I would propose CDP010 (verbatim) and LDF050
14 would at least produce one competitive district. It would
15 keep the cities and towns of Flagstaff and Wickenburg whole
16 as a community of interest, which I feel is much more
17 important than keeping Yavapai County whole.

18 There was a reason why these hearings were held on
19 both sides of Mingus Mountain, because it neatly divides the
20 county as a geographical boundary. The quad cities are much
21 more connected to the western part of the state than they
22 are to the Verde Valley both from an economic sense as well
23 as from a cultural one.

24 The Verde Valley is much more of a tourism-base
25 economy. A drive through Jerome or Sedona on any weekend

1 will prove this out.

2 I urge you to adopt CDF010 and the LDF050 districts
3 to produce fair and competitive maps.

4 Thank you for your consideration.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER NEWINGTON: Good morning. My name is
7 Lauren Newington and I'm a Prescott resident.

8 I believe that Yavapai County should be kept as its
9 own LD based on population numbers and communities of
10 interest.

11 The LD should not be changed except to add the
12 portions of Sedona and Wickenburg outside of Yavapai County
13 to LD-5 so as not to split towns. Keep towns whole.
14 Prescott is my community of interest.

15 Water is a central issue for Prescott and Yavapai
16 County. The Big Chino and Verde Valley are part of the same
17 watershed. We need representatives who understand and live
18 with these water issues.

19 Thank you for your time and attention in this
20 matter.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER MARTIN: Good morning. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to speak.

24 My name is Connie Martin and I live in Yavapai
25 County.

1 I very much appreciate the current map that you
2 have drawn for us. I've tried drawing them myself, it's not
3 easy.

4 I'm quite happy with the way they are with the
5 exception of -- a few exceptions. But Verde Valley and
6 Sedona align with our rural retirement communities here in
7 Yavapai from Wickenburg to Black Canyon to Sedona, and the
8 predominance of our senior citizens have nothing in common
9 with the very different needs and concerns that the youthful
10 college town of Flagstaff have.

11 Our AZ Constitution says competitiveness is only a
12 factor if it doesn't divide our community of interest, and I
13 believe that stands true here in Yavapai County.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. CAMACHO: And the next five speakers are
17 Matthew Cordua, Selina Bliss, Douglas Kladis, Lois
18 Fruhwirth, and Diane McQueen.

19 SPEAKER CORDUA: Madam Chair, Commissioners, my
20 name is Matthew Cordua; Prescott, Arizona.

21 I agree with Phil Goode, Councilman Russo,
22 Supervisor Oberg; I'm against this redistricting.

23 Communities and counties should not be separated
24 for the purpose of representation, that's why they were
25 formed by the people with a vision a long time ago for the

1 purpose of defining growth, proper use of resources such as
2 water. We must stay independent of our urban overreach.

3 The next 10, 20 years if this redistricting is
4 successful we will undoubtedly see the usurp and control
5 over our active management areas which very well in backroom
6 deals that send our water elsewhere.

7 Let me tell you a little bit about myself.
8 61 years in a failed state, destroyed by redistricting.
9 Once called the breadbasket of the nation, the San Joaquin
10 Valley, the state of California was recognized. Now because
11 of redistricting and regulations, there's no water, barren
12 land, and no family farm. That's not the breadbasket
13 anymore.

14 I have 34 years' experience in government water
15 sourcing/treatment/distribution, city of Fresno, state of
16 California, and city and county of San Francisco; I've seen
17 my fair share of this stuff.

18 Today in California if you're harvesting and an
19 inspector comes to your land and he sees animal scat,
20 domestic or wild, he can quarantine your crop at your
21 expense, fine you, and you lose your premium price. That's
22 why it failed. That's why it came here. I consider this
23 home. I consider this heaven.

24 I see it happening here.

25 Let me tell you, the battle cry used to be "Don't

1 California my Arizona," don't Maricopa my Yavapai.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER BLISS: Hard act to follow.

5 I'm Dr. Selina Bliss. First and foremost, a big
6 thank you for the time and effort that's gone into the
7 redistricting process up to now.

8 As a resident of Yavapai County since 1971, I want
9 to especially thank you for keeping our county from getting
10 split into two different legislative districts as we truly
11 are a community of interest that shares geographical
12 features, city, town and county boundaries. What is best
13 for our district is to include all of Yavapai County in the
14 district.

15 I say this because I've taught at the Yavapai
16 College nursing program for 26 years, and it is part of the
17 role of faculty to teach on both the Prescott and
18 Verde Valley campuses as well as to hold our clinical
19 rotations in acute care facilities on both sides of Yavapai
20 County. In fact, our brand-new state-of-the-art clinical
21 simulation lab is on our Verde Valley campus. So the
22 commute from the Clarkdale campus on the east side of the
23 county to the Prescott campus on the west side of the
24 county, is one in which students and faculty make weekly.

25 Meetings on our Sedona campus are also conducted as

1 the college as a strong presence across the Verde Valley and
2 into Sedona. I personally enjoy attending college courses,
3 performances, and events on both sides of the county.

4 While you may hear arguments for and against
5 keeping Yavapai County in one district, just working and
6 taking personal interest courses at Yavapai College has made
7 me realize how important it is in keeping our county
8 together in one district.

9 The only unnatural boundary now is that of Sedona,
10 which if we followed the criteria Sedona would be left whole
11 and included in LD-5.

12 So I'm in favor of the current draft map. Again,
13 much thanks for the work you do. It is much appreciated.

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER FRUHWIRTH: Good morning. My name is Lois
16 Fruhwirth and I'm a citizen of Yavapai County.

17 I want to thank you, Chairwoman Neuberg and
18 Commissioners, for the opportunity to provide final public
19 comments. Thank you for your dedicated service to this
20 extremely important task.

21 I'm here to say you got current LD draft map 10.0
22 right for Yavapai County. You listened to weeks of honest
23 public input across all six constitutional criteria and you
24 got the LD proposal right for both the people and
25 communities of Yavapai County. Well done.

1 But listening to the past two weeks of recent
2 testimony, I'm angered by the obviously partisan ploys by
3 Coconino County supervisors who don't represent the majority
4 of people in Yavapai County, swooping in at the eleventh
5 hour in which I view as an outrageous attempt to break up
6 our Yavapai County and our strong and simply critical
7 communities of interest.

8 People have been testifying who are so on script
9 that some of them don't even understand what they're saying
10 when questioned.

11 Besides being compact, Yavapai County has a rich
12 rural culture and history of ranching, farming, and western
13 values and love of our beautiful vistas. The
14 Mingus Mountain is not the great wall of China as depicted,
15 but rather a vista we love to see from both the north and
16 south views.

17 We share a watershed that spans Mingus Mountain and
18 that uniquely binds us all in a community of interest that
19 is vital to all the people's futures.

20 Much of us have retired here and we enjoy hosting
21 the same tourists that come to both sides of the mountain,
22 as all of us love the great outdoors of Yavapai County and
23 regularly travel the roads across our entire county to enjoy
24 hiking the Red Rocks, hiking the Granite Dells, fishing in
25 the Verde River, and kayaking the lakes of Prescott.

1 Please retain LD-5 as proposed and just include the
2 rest of Sedona and Wickenburg.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER KLADIS: Yeah, my name is Douglas Kladis,
6 I'm from Dewey; and I would like to propose that we make our
7 maps as most competitive as possible.

8 The more competitive the districts are throughout
9 the state, the more voter turnout and more community
10 involvement and the more things that everybody gets.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER McQUEEN: My name is Diane McQueen and I am
14 a 34-year resident of Northern Arizona. I've lived in both
15 Coconino and Yavapai County and I currently reside in Dewey.

16 The ability of voters to select elected officials
17 who they feel represent them starts with fair and
18 competitive maps.

19 When districts are not fair and competitive, when
20 they don't represent all voters in the districts, we have
21 voter suppression at its core.

22 The draft maps that the IRC has proposed for
23 Northern Arizona are not fair and competitive and, as such,
24 not only promote voter suppression but also induce voter
25 suppression.

1 Yavapai County is a growing county and yet our
2 representation will be cut in half by the IRC's proposed
3 maps. That's voter suppression. We deserve the same number
4 of congressional and legislative seats that we have now,
5 even if it means splitting the county among districts.

6 Any justification to keep Yavapai County whole
7 falls flat on its face given that the Commission's proposed
8 maps have already split up over two-thirds of the counties
9 in the state.

10 Keeping counties whole is not part of the State's
11 constitutional requirements for redistricting and the IRS
12 (verbatim) should not be trying to introduce this as a
13 justification.

14 The IRC draft maps for the proposed LDs 5, 6, 7,
15 and proposed CD-2 are wholly uncompetitive and will induce
16 voter suppression. As such, they should be replaced with
17 LDF50, LDF51, and CD-10 because they will promote voter
18 involvement, not voter suppression.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. CAMACHO: And we will go back to Kykotsmovi
22 village.

23 Michele.

24 MS. CRANK: I have three more speakers. The first
25 speaker is Lorraine Coin, Senator Jamescita Peshlakai, Glenn

1 Peaches.

2 SPEAKER COIN: Good morning. My name is Lorraine.
3 My family and I, including my tribal nation, the Hopi tribe,
4 deserve to have our voices heard and to have fair
5 representation in our state and federal governments.

6 I am happy with our current congressman, Tom
7 O'Halleran, CD-1. He understands tribal communities and
8 understands our needs.

9 Our ability as a tribe to elect our candidates of
10 choice had been a hard won process for many years and we
11 can't go backwards.

12 We may have small population numbers, but this
13 should not discount us. Any changes to my congressional
14 district that decreases or severally limits my chances to
15 elect my candidate of choice is wrong. I want to finish of
16 electing a candidate who actually listens to us, follows
17 through on working with tribe and doesn't discount or hurt
18 tribes. I want to be able to elect leaders like Congressman
19 Tom O'Halleran.

20 The idea that a highly Republican district or
21 Republican candidate elect leader being accountable to
22 Native Americans in my district is misleading and deceptive.
23 Especially now that Republicans in Arizona have already
24 passed laws that already make it hard for communities like
25 mine to vote.

1 The IRC cannot a break up tribal voting powers nor
2 try to dilut our voting power. The IRC has to keep my
3 district competitive, that means not including Prescott and
4 Yavapai community -- county.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CRANK: Senator Peshlakai.

8 SPEAKER PESHLAKAI: (Native language spoken.)

9 I am Jamescita May Peshlakai. I am a member of the
10 Navajo Nation and reside in the western agency of the Navajo
11 Nation, and I am the first Native American woman senator in
12 the Arizona State Legislature.

13 I just would like to say and remind the folks in
14 our state and our community that the very first Native
15 American senator in the state of Arizona was Arthur Hubbard,
16 Senior. He was a Navajo Code Talker and he was elected in
17 the early 1970s, and it took 60 years for Arizona to elect
18 somebody from our populations. And during -- since 1972 to
19 this moment in 2021, we have only had eight Native American
20 senators when there have been thousands and thousands of
21 non-Native American senators and legislators.

22 The draft maps that are being considered as a final
23 map would do a great disservice to our populations of
24 interest. As Native Americans we only make up a small
25 percentage of Arizona but that is not our fault, this is our

1 sacred homelands and we have fought to defend it for so
2 long. We need to have our voices heard sent to the Arizona
3 Legislature to create a Native American indigenous people's
4 caucus to keep that with members and then also congressional
5 districts that is competitive.

6 The folks that are here speaking have spoken
7 eloquently about the need for fair and just representation
8 from Northern -- Northeastern Arizona and it is -- we hope
9 that the -- that the IRC is responsive to our voice. We're
10 not a large population but we are vital to the state of
11 Arizona.

12 And we want to thank the -- I want to thank the IRC
13 for all your work. I know this is a volunteer post that you
14 have taken, there's only five of you and you're -- the
15 pressure upon you is immense. But I would like to say as I
16 stand here today on the -- in the Hopi land and I view on
17 the Mesas from here, the longest and continuously inhabited
18 community of over 3,000 years here in North America. And
19 our voices, that of the indigenous people, is critical to
20 the success and the future of not only Arizona but the
21 entire United States.

22 (Native language spoken.)

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER PEACHES: Yá'át'éeéh. My name is Glenn
25 Peaches and first I would like to -- Yá'át'éeéh. My name is

1 Glenn Peaches.

2 First, I would like to acknowledge the hard work
3 and sacrifice of the Independent Redistricting Committee. I
4 and my family thank each and every one of you. I am a
5 resident of western Navajo and I am here to speak for
6 myself, my elders, children, grandchildren that will be
7 impacted by your decision.

8 I ask you to change your draft maps that I consider
9 makes my congressional district noncompetitive. It's a
10 current -- it is currently very competitive. I ask you to
11 give our Native American citizens a fair chance to elect
12 congressional candidates that will listen to us.

13 I ask you to adopt CDF010 map for congressional
14 map. I ask you to accept LDF050 and LDF051 for Legislative
15 District 6 and 7.

16 Respectfully, we cannot go back to 1947.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. CRANK: Madam Chair and Commissioners, that
20 concludes the speakers for Kykotsmovi.

21 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you, Michele.

22 I will call our next speakers for Prescott Valley.
23 We will begin with city council member -- Sedona City
24 Council Member Kathy Kinsella, followed by David Brill, then
25 Carolyn Sherman, Rita Day, Vivian Perry, and Marlene

1 Barrington.

2 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can I make an administrative
3 request, please? That time be kept to two minutes for all
4 participants.

5 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I -- I presume that it was.
7 We have a timer and we will let our staff member know to
8 make sure that it's enforced; that is absolutely our
9 intention.

10 SPEAKER KINSELLA: Thank you, Chair and
11 Commissioners, I am Kathy Kinsella, city council member from
12 Sedona.

13 The Sedona council unanimously adopted support of
14 maps LD050 and LD051. These maps actually help bring
15 communities together, which I believe is the goal of the
16 Independent Redistricting Commission as stated in the
17 constitutional amendment. This keeps communities of
18 interest together, it keeps Sedona whole as one and not
19 split between two which would dilut our voice in the
20 election process and legislative process.

21 We urge that you do please adopt those maps, LD050
22 and LD051. It is important that competitiveness is a word
23 that's been thrown a lot during these hearings, I've been to
24 several of them, I've heard people talk about it, but let's
25 talk about a synonym for competitive, which is fair.

1 Districts that keep people together, neighbors
2 together as a voice for community are fair. They keep
3 communities together with communities of interest, the
4 places with which we share our housing, our commerce, our
5 tourism, our -- all walks of life, our culture, our
6 geography, our history, that's fair.

7 Keeping something together that allows a political
8 voice to come forward that doesn't ensure one-party
9 representation for the next ten years but rather leads to
10 competitiveness and fairness, that's fair.

11 So, again, you cannot please everybody, that is
12 abundantly clear, but you can also displease everybody. So
13 please keep in mind that the communities need to be kept
14 together, keep in mind that Sedona needs to be as one that's
15 a unified voice from all aspects of a community, and please
16 keep us together with our communities of interest of
17 Verde Valley and Flagstaff.

18 Thank you very much for your time. It's
19 appreciated.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER BRILL: Hi, I'm Dr. David Brill. I live in
22 Prescott and I want to thank you for your hard work.

23 I'm speaking for LD050 and LD051 because I want to
24 make the principle of showing respect: For the mountains
25 that divide these two cultures clearly into two separate

1 community of interest, one with winemakers and the other
2 with miners, who don't want to be dominated by the other.
3 And, yes, they share a watershed but the one gets the water
4 that's left over after the other takes it, and they deserve
5 their separate voice on their water rights.

6 Respect for the independent citizens who want fair
7 and competitive districts that don't promote radicals who
8 can't talk to anybody outside of their own party.

9 Respect for the compactness and contiguity of that
10 map, of those two maps.

11 Respect for the public's founders who wanted fair
12 and competitive elections.

13 And especially respect for the citizens of the
14 Verde Valley as has been represented several times by their
15 elected government here.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 SPEAKER SHERMAN: Good morning. My name is Carolyn
19 Sherman and I'm a resident and voter of Yavapai County.

20 In the years I've lived here it is very often that
21 I shop and recreate in the city throughout Yavapai County
22 and local communities including Sedona, Red Rock, Jerome,
23 Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

24 I consider this proposal to transfer the
25 Verde Valley out of Yavapai County to be inappropriate for

1 many reasons since this area is all part of our local
2 community.

3 Given the increasing development going on in
4 Yavapai County, of particular concern is the water supply.

5 My opinion aligns with that of Mary Mallory
6 regarding the watershed. As far as issues of water, in
7 particular moving the Verde Valley communities on the
8 district boundary map out of Yavapai County, would be unfair
9 and deny the residents of these communities the proper
10 representation regarding matters relating to the future of
11 their water supply.

12 There have been many people showing up to recent
13 hearings in support of the transfer of the Verde Valley out
14 of Yavapai County jurisdiction. From their recent testimony
15 I believe their interests are politically and partisan
16 motivated, which should not and must not influence the
17 development of the legislative district maps.

18 I ask that you follow the Arizona Constitution in
19 its entirety and keep the current Yavapai County communities
20 including all of Sedona and Wickenburg in LD-5 together as
21 one.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER PERRY: I'm Vivian Perry. I grew up on
25 ranches in Skull Valley and Mayer. I consider myself a part

1 of the western community of interest that is focused on
2 Prescott and includes the Wickenburg community.

3 There's a separation both by community focus,
4 services, and primarily the divide created by the
5 Mingus Mountains as has been noted that separates western
6 Yavapai County from the folks in Verde Valley, Cottonwood,
7 and Sedona who are more closely aligned with Flagstaff and
8 Northeastern Arizona. Even the IRC Commission finds it
9 necessary to hold hearings on both sides of the
10 Mingus Mountains.

11 The IRC was found -- has found it necessary to
12 split 12 of the 15 counties in Arizona in their draft maps.
13 County lines are not the factor and it does not serve the
14 interest of the people in our part of Arizona to use Yavapai
15 County lines as a basis.

16 I strongly support the LDF50 and LDF51 maps which
17 are more compact than the current legislative draft map and
18 don't split the cities of Sedona, Flagstaff, and Wickenburg.

19 I also support the CDF10 map which was created by
20 the Navajo Nation and honors voting rights.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER DAY: Good morning, Commissioners.

23 My name is Rita Day and I've lived in Arizona for
24 over ten years, with the last five years being in Prescott.

25 I feel that the mapping team has failed miserably

1 in providing Northern Arizona with not even one competitive
2 district. The vote spread of the Northern Arizona district
3 maps range from 28.5 percent for LD-5 to 48.5 percent for
4 LD-30.

5 In contrast, LDF50 submitted by the public has less
6 than 1 percent vote spread. This would be the most
7 competitive LD in the district -- in the state.

8 Furthermore, it keeps Flagstaff and Sedona whole
9 and includes the Verde Valley which residents overwhelmingly
10 prefer based on their testimony at IRC hearings.

11 Also, map CDF10 submitted by the Navajo Nation has
12 a vote spread of 1 percent, so it is far superior to the map
13 drawn by the mapping team. Therefore, this map should be
14 given highest priority.

15 Proposition 106 which created the IRC lists six
16 criteria for creating fair maps. However, competitiveness
17 is the only criteria mentioned in the first sentence of
18 Proposition 106, showing its importance -- showing the
19 importance of competitiveness.

20 Competition within districts encourages moderation,
21 while safe districts represent no -- representatives have no
22 motivation to be accountable to large portions of their
23 constituents. Furthermore, extremism and corruption can
24 spread more easily in safe districts.

25 We have definitely seen a rise in extremism in the

1 last few election cycles, so this is a major concern for our
2 state and country.

3 So please substitute competitive maps LDF50, LDF51,
4 and CDF10 for the maps drawn by the mapping team as they are
5 far superior.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER BARRINGTON: Good morning. My name is
9 Marlene Barrington; I live in the Dewey area.

10 To win a competitive district both parties must put
11 forth their best candidates, those that listen to the voters
12 and respond to innovative ideas and programs and debate them
13 in public; voters become engaged again in the political
14 process, their government, their communities, and their
15 elections; they vote in greater numbers and expect more of
16 their elected officials. All of that leads to more
17 effective and responsive governance, but you only get that
18 when you have districts that are competitive.

19 Prop 106 was passed so Arizona would have fair and
20 competitive maps. The current draft maps drawn by you fall
21 far short of this mandate. Only 4 of the 9 congressional
22 districts are competitive; and of the 30 legislative
23 districts, only 6 are competitive. The other 24 are safe
24 districts: 13 Republican and 11 Democrat. A full
25 80 percent of the legislative districts are dysfunctional,

1 the kind that the old legislators might have drawn.

2 Commissioners, thank you for your service and I ask
3 that you have a big job to do.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you.

6 Our next group of speakers are Cindy Wagner, Linda
7 Thompson, Richard Thompson, Gail Cook, and Lois Case.

8 SPEAKER WAGNER: Good morning, Commissioners.

9 My name is Cindy Wagner and I live in Prescott; I
10 am retired and a volunteer in the community.

11 I am concerned at the direction the IRC is taking
12 with the draft maps for Northern Arizona.

13 The Northern Arizona maps create districts that are
14 noncompetitive and would make them safe for one party. This
15 defies Proposition 106. The northern districts seem to have
16 been gerrymandered out of compliance with several of the
17 constitutional criteria; specifically competitiveness,
18 compactness, and communities of interest.

19 Elected representatives will have no motivation to
20 be accountable to large sections of their constituents.

21 Our congressional district is being redrawn to
22 dilut progressive votes. Prescott and the quad cities
23 should remain intact and not be paired with communities with
24 which we have nothing in common.

25 All my needs are met in Prescott such as medical

1 care, shopping, recreation, education, and cultural events.
2 I don't go over the mountain for these things.
3 Mingus Mountain separates the quad cities from Verde Valley,
4 Sedona, and Flagstaff.

5 There are desperate needs that cannot be served by
6 a single community college location or a single jail or a
7 single sheriff's office. There are separate ones of each on
8 opposite sides of Mingus Mountain. The Coconino County
9 supervisors alternative maps LD50, 51, and Navajo Nation
10 CDF10 perform much better under all the Commission's
11 requirements.

12 The draft maps remove half of Yavapai County's
13 representation. I urge you to change the maps to be more
14 competitive, best candidates emerge when all voices are
15 heard.

16 I agree with Dr. Brill, Rita Day, Kelly Boryca,
17 Vivian Perry, and Duane -- Diane McQueen.

18 Thank you for your efforts and time.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER THOMPSON: Hello. I'm Linda Thompson; I
21 live in Prescott and happy to be there.

22 I'm going to actually say very little because I
23 would like to say I agree with our future mayor Phil Goode,
24 and Lois Fruhwirth, and Connie Martin; and I don't know who
25 the gentleman was with the cowboy hat but loved what he had

1 to say.

2 I just wanted to say I'm very much in support of
3 the 10.0 draft and completely thrilled that we're still
4 going to be LD-1.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER THOMPSON: Madam Commissioner and --
8 Madam Chair, I'm sorry, and Commissioners, first of all, I
9 would like to commend you for your work. I looked online at
10 your schedule, I don't know how you do it; one or two towns
11 every day, it's amazing.

12 Just I want to say also agree with Phil Goode and
13 many other speakers who made the point that the cities and
14 the Big Chino watershed have so much in common, including
15 Prescott and Camp Verde and Verde Valley. So I think it's
16 important that they stay together and support the 10.0 map.

17 Thank you.

18 Richard Thompson, Prescott.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER COOK: Good morning. Lois Case had to
21 leave and she wanted me to tell you that she agrees with
22 David Brill.

23 My name is Gail Cook and I have lived in Prescott
24 for three years and lived n Chino Valley 13 miles to the
25 north for 23 years. I'm asking for fairness, that's it.

1 The point of Proposition 106 was to take the
2 redistricting duties away from a partisan state legislature
3 and create a bipartisan independent commission to make the
4 redistricting process fair. You have already heard from a
5 thousand voters that the latest redistricting draft map is
6 textbook example of gerrymandering and the constitutional
7 guidelines are not being met.

8 When I moved to Arizona 26 years ago I felt my vote
9 and my opinion mattered and counted, now I feel my vote and
10 opinion mean nothing because the people who are supposed to
11 represent me will get re-elected and celebrated by their
12 party no matter what they say or do or don't do. The
13 elected officials that are supposed to represent me don't
14 need my vote.

15 We need legislative representation that is
16 accountable. Maybe we could again expect behavior and
17 demeanor that from our elected officials that is -- for the
18 most part -- professional, stable, and very least civilized.

19 At this point Yavapai is not a competitive county
20 and would be difficult but not impossible to make it so.
21 Competitive districts benefit everyone because we have a
22 better pool of candidates for all parties. At this point we
23 depend on other competitive districts in Arizona. There are
24 areas in Northern Arizona that can be made more competitive.

25 Please consider again LDF50, LDF51, and CDF10.

1 Please, all I'm asking for is fairness. Isn't that the
2 whole point of redistricting?

3 Thank you for your kind attention and thank you for
4 holding these public hearings.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you.

7 Our next group of speakers will be Deborah Pernice,
8 Julie Pindzola, Mike Sullivan, Ruth Edwards, and Dwight
9 Kadar.

10 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And we will take about a
11 five, you know, plus minute break after this round of
12 speakers for the transcriptionist and for the rest of us as
13 well.

14 SPEAKER PERNICE: Yes, good -- good morning. I
15 guess it's still morning, yes.

16 My name is Deborah Pernice and -- I guess my voter
17 name is Deborah Pernice Neffle (phonetic) as registered.

18 I -- what's the gentleman there with the black hat?
19 I'm like him, I came here from Orange County, California.
20 When I came here three years ago or four years ago and I saw
21 the Downtown Prescott area, it looked like the place that I
22 grew up in. Unfortunately, I'm -- like this gentleman says,
23 I see Prescott and Yavapai County being divided up and it by
24 -- as proposed by these people that want fairness or
25 competitiveness.

1 Well, I spent over 30 years practicing law in
2 Orange County, California, and a good part of that time I
3 was in public service as a city attorney in Anaheim, and I
4 just have to say that I do not want to see Yavapai County
5 split up and become like -- I mean, South Coast Plaza was a
6 bean field when I moved there. Is that what we want? Is
7 that what's called competitiveness?

8 Anyway, my brother came out here to visit with me
9 the other -- a month or so ago and we drove to Sedona, and I
10 don't understand what's this about mountains and dividing
11 line and that? I mean, I thought I moved to this beautiful
12 rural community and that's what I -- I'm with Mayor Goode
13 and the other -- Lois and Councilman Rusing, I concur with
14 them. Let's keep this county together and let's keep it the
15 way it's supposed to be and with a common cultural and
16 natural resources that we've shared.

17 I don't want to go into the similar litany that
18 everybody else has, but water is a huge issue.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER PINDZOLA: Hi, good morning.

22 I'm Julie Pindzola, a retired Prescott planning
23 manager; I graduated from NAU in geography and geology back
24 when Sedona was larger than Prescott Valley.

25 I'm speaking to you again with growing alarm. It

1 becomes difficult not to get pointed because the IRC is not
2 heeding our insistent calls for fairness and
3 competitiveness.

4 We here in Northern Arizona know only too well what
5 overly safe districts can bring on. One feels at the mercy
6 of predetermined elections over and over again. Please
7 reflect on this and find the wisdom of Solomon to pull our
8 state out of the national spotlight of accelerating
9 divisiveness. Arizona can be the gold standard if we can do
10 this right, if we can get more competitive districts and far
11 fewer safe districts.

12 In our part of the state a great many of us want a
13 competitive LD-7, that means including the Verde Valley with
14 Flagstaff. This does not heard (verbatim) the so-called
15 sovereignty of Yavapai County and it does not change how
16 people are taxed, recreate, or receive public service.
17 People are being manipulated by such statements.

18 As many of the other counties are being split,
19 Yavapai County cannot be held sacrosanct. The historic
20 Verde Valley enclave and its legitimate COI, community of
21 interest, could maintain its unique voice particularly with
22 regard to its lower Verde River water user status, which is
23 a real thing, and it is separate from the Prescott AMA. The
24 drought makes this even more critical.

25 Reinstating the lines as they are today means

1 Yavapai County can have double the representation again,
2 just like it has now. Please move the line back to
3 Mingus Mountain and let Central Yavapai County align with
4 it's natural COI, Mohave County. This applies to both the
5 LD and CD districts.

6 Again, please take seriously the Coconino County
7 LDF50 and 51 guide maps, and Navajo Nation's CDF10.

8 Thank you so very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER SULLIVAN: My name is Mike Sullivan and I
11 live in Clarkdale, Arizona.

12 And I wanted to just bring up a couple of points
13 that, first of all, I totally agree with the mayor, Phil
14 Goode, and keeping the legislative district, the draft 10.0,
15 because there's several key issues. And I think -- excuse
16 me, I think the biggest is the water issue and the Big Chino
17 Aquifer, like they talk about, starts the headwaters. And
18 I'm on the side of the mountain where the Verde River is.
19 That's the second longest river in Arizona, too, and we need
20 to protect that. Anyway we look at it, we need to protect
21 it.

22 And I look at Prescott as my extended community,
23 too. I drive over the mountain, I recreate, I do some
24 shopping here, things that we don't have on the other side
25 of the mountain. I think there's too many things that we

1 align together with in the Verde Valley and in addition to
2 Prescott, that it doesn't make sense to try and keep -- keep
3 us apart.

4 I drove -- drive over that mountain twice a week, I
5 play softball over here. It's -- the mountain itself,
6 there's a 158 turns, but nobody seems to worry about it
7 coming over that mountain. It does well for us.

8 And I just wanted to let you know that I'm very
9 supportive of the community colleges working together, too.
10 They -- we have the college over there with the viticulture
11 and there's a lot of commonalities and we're both growth
12 communities.

13 So I think going forward it's in our best interest
14 to keep the plan as it's drafted now at the 10.0.

15 Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER EDWARDS: Hi, I'm Ruth Edwards and I'm from
18 Clarkdale, Arizona.

19 I'm really glad there's a couple of us who actually
20 came from the Verde Valley since everybody seems to be
21 speaking for us. And I'd like to remind the Commissioners
22 that Sedona does not speak for the entire Verde Valley,
23 there are a lot of other communities that --

24 (Applause.)

25 -- and, quite frankly, we never go to Sedona. We

1 don't go to Flagstaff and we don't go to Sedona. In fact,
2 when I first found out these meetings were being held, there
3 was one in Flagstaff at 4:00 p.m. on a weekday, and I got a
4 couple neighbors who would have liked to go; we don't drive
5 to Flagstaff at 4:00 p.m. on a weekday. The traffic is
6 horrible, I-17 is a mess. We don't go to Sedona.

7 We -- we -- I would like to remind the Commission,
8 a couple of people mentioned Jerome and Sedona as part of
9 Verde Valley, there's a Cornville, Cottonwood, Camp Verde,
10 and Clarkdale and a couple of smaller communities out there
11 as well; and they are all rural, they are low income, they
12 are underprivileged and they have no connection to Flagstaff
13 and very little to Sedona. Although I understand why Sedona
14 would want to be kept in the Verde Valley.

15 But it seems to be, listening to the people from
16 the Sedona elected officials, they want to have their cake
17 and eat, too. They want both their community of interest
18 and districts up in Flag.

19 We'd like to stay in Prescott. We think the 10.0
20 is great. We drove over today. I'm going to go pick up my
21 Thanksgiving turkey at Natural Grocers, we'll go to Costco,
22 go visit the son-in-law, go back home. This is our
23 community of interest.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

1 SPEAKER KADAR: Good morning. My name is Dwight
2 Kadar; I live in the Verde Valley and Yavapai County.

3 I want to thank you personally, Chairman Neuberg,
4 for all your hard work and the Commission to redraw these
5 lines.

6 At the public hearings in Flagstaff and Cottonwood
7 and again Friday's virtual meetings, many many residents'
8 testimony continue the drumbeat to adopt Coconino Board of
9 Supervisors' maps. Almost all residents' statements include
10 the rationale it was to make the districts more competitive.
11 This rationale is troubling as the Commission's primary
12 charges are to create districts of nearly equal populations,
13 district lines that strive to unite communities of interest,
14 consider geographic boundaries, and avoid diluting minority
15 voting rights. The least important is competitive
16 districts.

17 There has been little, if any, mention about the
18 adoption of the board maps that would impact other
19 districts. The carveout of Coconino County's city of
20 Flagstaff combined with Yavapai County's Verde Valley would
21 significantly underpopulated District 7 -- excuse me,
22 overpopulate District 7, while underpopulating Districts 5
23 and 6. It would require the Commission to find 30,000
24 residents in Maricopa or Gila Counties to rebalance these
25 districts. These changes destroy district lines and also

1 would dilute the minority voting rights of Native
2 District 6.

3 Both Gila and Navajo County have stated they are
4 satisfied with the current maps. It is clear -- this has
5 clearly been an orchestrated attempt to ambush the
6 independent redistricting process. One can only draw the
7 conclusion that these residents are asking for the adoption
8 of the Coconino County maps do not understand and, frankly,
9 do not care about the impact on the rest of us counties and
10 it's all about gerrymandering districts for a desired
11 result.

12 The Commission has currently drawn the Yavapai
13 County map correctly in my opinion, and I respectfully
14 request that you hold the line and vote for the current map.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CAMACHO: It's about 11:25 p.m. We'll take a
18 five-minute break for the transcriptionist and return at
19 11:30.

20 Thank you.

21 (Recess taken from 11:25 a.m. to 11:32 a.m.)

22
23 MS. CAMACHO: I will call up our next group of
24 speakers. The next speakers will be Andrea Kadar, Patrick
25 Leaper, Peter Asencio, Goffrey -- or, Geoffrey Sandra

1 Ritter, and Bill Ritter.

2 SPEAKER KADAR: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.
3 I'm Andrea Kadar. It's a pleasure to see you again. I've
4 lived in the Verde Valley for ten years and I thank you for
5 your excellent sportsmanship. You truly do have the
6 patience of Job.

7 Let me do this quickly and this is for the record.

8 After attending the Flagstaff and Cottonwood
9 hearings on the maps created for LD-5, 6, and 7, and CD-2, I
10 must simply must ask a rhetorical question. Who is
11 responsible for drawing the legislative and congressional
12 district maps?

13 You are. Not the Coconino Board of Supervisors and
14 not the mayors and city council members of Sedona or
15 Flagstaff.

16 At earlier hearings we did not hear a single
17 resident of either Yuma or Maricopa County refer to maps
18 submitted by their Board of Supervisors. But in the
19 Flagstaff and Cottonwood hearings, they lined up to request
20 that you adopt maps submitted by a partisan county board.
21 This is really important: None of us heard how this would
22 impact or complicate or negatively impact other districts.

23 Word picture: If you squeeze a balloon at one end
24 you're going to distort the other end.

25 It's clear to me that this was an orchestrated

1 effort to rally partisan support for a partisan map.

2 We reasonable Yavapai County residents stand firmly
3 against this process, this attempt to usurp the IRC process
4 from you all. The AZ draft map 10.0 for LD-5, 6, and 7 and
5 CD-2 should stand. Hours of testimony since last summer
6 support this.

7 You, ladies and gentlemen, drew the maps correctly
8 and we greatly, greatly appreciate you for it.

9 Amen.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER ASENCIO: Thank you, Commission. My name
12 is Pete Asencio. I live in the Verde Valley, and I live
13 specifically in Rimrock; I am on a board, a community
14 association board, there.

15 Last Tuesday and Wednesday I came in contact with
16 over 200 people 'cause I help deliver food to these people
17 that need it. A lot of us, we do our shopping in
18 Camp Verde, Cottonwood, and Prescott. I go to Costcos, I go
19 to Sportsman's Warehouse, I go to Joe's -- whatever his name
20 is -- Trader Joe's, thank you.

21 So I agree with Andrea Kadar, what she had to say
22 and that's all I have to say.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 SPEAKER PARKER: I'm Geoffrey Parker, a concerned

1 citizen of Yavapai County and a veteran of 27 years.

2 First, I thank the Commissioners for their
3 dedication to community service, their diligence, and
4 contribution of time and talent to serve us all.

5 Their outcome with maps version 10 reflects very
6 well the criteria they were charged to apply here. The
7 Commissioners have correctly drawn Yavapai County as its own
8 legislative district.

9 When it comes to communities of service -- of
10 interest, it should be of no surprise the political
11 boundaries of a county in a rural area should become a
12 community of interest. While these -- within these
13 boundaries we vote for county representatives, we live under
14 shared governance by consent of the governed, we share in
15 the collection of taxation, expenditure of revenues to meet
16 the needs across the county.

17 Such shared governance include water resources,
18 education, law enforcement, community services, roads,
19 transportation, infrastructure, and integration of policies
20 between Yavapai County cities and much more.

21 No, this is not circular reasoning. It is a design
22 in an intent of such entities of those who framed out our
23 boundaries long ago. We proudly identify, as we should, as
24 American citizens, citizens of Arizona, citizens of
25 Yavapai -- of our county.

1 Those who in 1891 drew those county's boundaries
2 will surely be pleased with the community Yavapai County has
3 become today. As a result Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino
4 Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Rimrock,
5 Jerome, and Sedona communities of interest constituting the
6 community of interest we call Yavapai County.

7 Any outcome other than the shared representation
8 would be unnatural as -- as recognized under criteria that
9 govern the IRC, especially given our population size.

10 Arguments presented for other district boundaries
11 based on being competitive in any partisan sense have no
12 overriding standing under our constitution.

13 I thank you for your time.

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER RITTER: I want to thank the Independent
16 Redistricting Commission, first of all, for the opportunity
17 to speak. My name is Dr. Sandy Ritter, I'm a resident of
18 Yavapai County having moved here just one year ago.

19 I'm very concerned about the redistricting proposal
20 in the county that I now call my home. The Verde Valley has
21 significant ranching and farming economies much like that of
22 Yavapai County. We have a rural environment with western
23 heritage. It is unlike other big cities of Arizona such as
24 Flagstaff. We want to maintain the rural environment, and
25 have much in common with areas such as Clarkdale,

1 Cottonwood, and Sedona.

2 I spent more than 20 years as a university
3 professor and have found the Yavapai Community College to be
4 a very impressive educational institution. It meets the
5 needs of Prescott and the surrounding communities. It's
6 main campus is in Prescott; however, the satellite campuses
7 in Clarkdale and Sedona provide educational opportunities to
8 the graduates of the surrounding three Verde High School
9 campuses.

10 Having a granddaughter that received an education
11 from Yavapai Community College, I can attest to the
12 importance of having a good foundation in preparation for
13 further education.

14 It is important that the culture of these rural
15 communities be maintained and well-connected, and the
16 students of the Yavapai County schools be given the
17 educational opportunities that are provided in a rural
18 environment. We have much in common with other communities
19 in Yavapai County, and our towns and cities must not be
20 divided.

21 So we request that we maintain the rural western
22 community culture as outlined in the current 10.0 LD draft
23 LD map by the Redistricting Commission.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 SPEAKER RITTER: I am Bill Ritter, a concerned
2 citizen of Prescott and Yavapai County.

3 Thank you to members of the Independent
4 Redistricting Commission for allowing me to speak on this
5 subject.

6 Although I have only lived in Arizona for one year,
7 my daughter and son-in-law have been in Arizona for over
8 30 years and I've made many trips to this area.

9 In addition to my involvement in the gem and
10 mineral industry, I spent the last 40 years in Tucson for
11 three weeks every January and February. I wanted to live
12 here in Prescott, Yavapai County, because of the rural
13 western ambiance and the feeling of community.

14 My first question of the chamber of the commerce
15 was regarding the water supply. Water is the life blood of
16 this great area. I've learned that according to the Arizona
17 Department of Environmental Quality and Big Chino Basin and
18 Verde Valley are part of the same watershed; Flagstaff is
19 not. It's the part of the Little Colorado watershed with
20 very little water -- very different water issues than the
21 Verde Valley.

22 Water is a central issue to the future of all
23 Yavapai County residents. We need elected representation
24 who are responsive for owning and working the entire
25 watershed issues for us.

1 Mingus Mountain does not divide our watershed.
2 After reviewing the many different proposed maps, the
3 Commission really got it right with the current 10.0 draft
4 LED map -- LD map. This map adheres to all six criteria and
5 the Arizona Constitution and does not emphasize
6 competitiveness at the expense of the other five great
7 criteria.

8 Yavapai County is compact with a sizable community
9 of interest. Please do not bifurcate this community.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. CAMACHO: Hi, is Patrick Leaper -- he was the
13 next speaker, is he here?

14 Okay. If he's not here, the next group of speakers
15 are Carl Shadle, Elizabeth Gatley, Michael Cosentino,
16 Elizabeth Kennedy and Kittie Harris.

17 Are any of the speakers here?

18 Just, it doesn't matter what order, you can just
19 step up. All right?

20 SPEAKER GATLEY: Good morning, Madam Chair and
21 Commissioners. Thank you for all the really hard work
22 you're doing.

23 I, as well as the other gentleman, came from
24 California. I was involved very heavily 11 years ago with
25 the Redistricting Commission there trying to help the

1 smaller rural communities survive and unfortunately they did
2 not, so I moved here. And I'm hoping to keep this community
3 as it is.

4 I agree with the council member and mayor elect
5 Goode and several others that we need to keep Yavapai County
6 as a complete and whole district for water issues and many
7 other reasons.

8 Thank you so much.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER KENNEDY: Good morning. My name is
11 Elizabeth Kennedy, a concerned citizen from Prescott Valley
12 and Yavapai County; and I want to thank you all for all your
13 hard work that you've been doing since the census.

14 People live here in Yavapai County because of the
15 small-town feel and weather and beautiful surroundings. I
16 totally concur with Supervisor Mary Mallory and Andrea Kadar
17 with their statements.

18 We are better as a whole, not divided. We have
19 common interest on both sides of that beautiful mountain.
20 We want to keep Yavapai County whole including Sedona and
21 Wickenburg.

22 I really appreciate your map 10. No Maricopa
23 County here in Yavapai, please.

24 Why chop us up like Maricopa?

25 I implore you to respect the interest of Yavapai

1 County's residents and its communities.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER COSENTINO: Good morning, IRC.

5 I'm Michael Cosentino. I've lived in the
6 Northern Arizona all my adult life -- that's 50 years -- and
7 Yavapai County for most of them, over 40 years.

8 My comments today address mostly community of
9 interest and competitiveness requirement. I do not support
10 the current proposed maps.

11 Although I am politically active, my comments today
12 are personal.

13 Last Tuesday in the Verde Valley, the vast majority
14 of speakers spoke in favor of keeping Sedona, Cottonwood,
15 Verde Valley, Flagstaff, and I'm going to include the
16 First Nations communities together. Why the Yavapai County
17 Board of Supervisor for the representative of Prescott is
18 speaking and telling the Verde Valley what to do, I don't
19 know. But I do know that that's -- that's part of the
20 problem of a decade's old problem between Prescott and the
21 Verde Valley.

22 I've lived in Flagstaff, Sedona, Cottonwood, and
23 Page; I spent nine years in the military, five of those
24 years in the Arizona Army National Guard, my training was
25 centered in Flagstaff and I believe it's still that way;

1 education was in Flagstaff; work was Sedona; cultural events
2 were Flagstaff and Sedona. As a Cottonwood resident, my
3 children were born in Flagstaff and Cottonwood and continue
4 to use those healthcare facilities almost exclusively.

5 I've, I guess, spoke before this Commission ten
6 years ago on this same point. I wasn't heard then,
7 hopefully all of us will be heard a little clearer now. The
8 radicalization of Mike Cosentino goes directly with the lack
9 of representation I've felt.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 SPEAKER HARRIS: Hello, I am Kittie Harris; I live
13 in Cottonwood but, like today, I come to Prescott
14 frequently.

15 First, the current draft of our LD is simple and
16 well-defined, thank you.

17 I object to those who would destroy this
18 configuration and align the Verde Valley with Flagstaff
19 rather than western Yavapai County.

20 I am retired and very much at home in the Verde
21 Valley. Whether hiking the Mingus Mountain trails or at
22 Red Rock in Sedona, dining on waffles at Violet's in
23 Clarkdale, enjoying the areas' many festivities, serving on
24 a jury in Prescott, solving home maintenance issues with
25 experts in Cottonwood or Prescott, or as an avid reader

1 using the Yavapai library network, everything is within easy
2 reach.

3 Finally, in the past three years I have been to
4 Flagstaff once and Phoenix three times. They are places I
5 visit or travel through but do not consider home.

6 Thank you for letting me put in my two cents' worth
7 and thank you for your hard work.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. CAMACHO: And one last call for Carl Shadle?

10 No?

11 The next group of speakers, and please come up in
12 any order, Nicholas Cilano, Leslie Kirkeide, Lynn Zonakis,
13 Craig Swanson, and Mark Smith.

14 SPEAKER ZONAKIS: Hi, my name is Lynn Zonakis; I
15 live in the city of Sedona.

16 I'm greatly concerned regarding the current maps
17 for LD-5, 6, and 7. I'd written up comments but so many
18 people have spoken about this, that I'll just reference
19 them.

20 I -- I am in full agreement with Councilwoman
21 Jessica Williamson and City Manager Karen Osburn from the
22 city of Sedona that the communities of Sedona, Verde Valley,
23 and Flagstaff stay together as a community of interest. We
24 need our voice and it will be lost if combined with
25 Prescott.

1 As you heard from one of the most recent speakers
2 at the Cottonwood meeting, the vast, vast majority of
3 speakers from our community support the LDF50 and LDF51
4 maps. This isn't just political-elected politicians, but
5 it's the people of these communities that support these
6 maps.

7 I'm even more greatly concerned by the lack of
8 competitiveness in the current maps.

9 Democracy works best when we all have a voice.
10 These new maps are a virtual laryngectomy for the minority
11 party and Independent voters. Competitiveness is at the
12 heart of democracy and ensures we all have a say in the
13 direction our local, state, and national government takes.

14 These maps will promote complacency and don't --
15 when you lose competitive districts, you lose the ability to
16 have the dialogue so necessary to democracy.

17 Please follow the Arizona Constitutional mandates
18 of competitive and communities of interest in this. I ask
19 you to correct these oversights and ensure communities of
20 interest and competitiveness is maintained.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER SWANSON: My name is Craig Swanson; I live
24 in Verde Valley and I represent Keep Sedona Beautiful, an
25 organization that's worked for 50 years to protect the

1 environment of the Verde Valley.

2 We're greatly concerned that our community of
3 interest, the environmental community, is being
4 disadvantaged by the current proposed maps. In the next
5 iteration of your redistricting map you need to keep all of
6 Sedona in a single district as I'm sure you've realized by
7 now.

8 Equally important is to recognize that Sedona and
9 the Verde Valley share interest more strongly with Flag than
10 they do with Prescott and the expansive area west of the
11 Mingus Mountain.

12 Yavapai County was created on November 9th, 1864.
13 It reflected a unified population then, but in the
14 intervening 157 years much has changed. County boundaries
15 are an artifact and they don't define a community of
16 interest.

17 As you adjust the current maps in order to draw
18 truly competitive districts, Keep Sedona Beautiful urges you
19 to revisit proposed maps LD50 and 51 and CDF10 and keep
20 Sedona and the Verde Valley in the same legislative district
21 as Flagstaff as we are now.

22 It's a false dichotomy to ask Sedona to choose
23 between staying whole and linked to the Verde Valley or
24 being linked to Flagstaff.

25 You have one of the most important assignments in

1 our state. Redistricting impacts the very heart and soul of
2 our democracy. You have a duty to reform redistricting in a
3 completely nonpartisan and objective manner. You are the
4 Independent Redistricting Commission.

5 Please use the power you have with the upmost care.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER SMITH: Hello, and thank you, Chairwoman
9 Neuberg and Commissioners, for the opportunity to speak with
10 you today.

11 My name is Mark Smith and I have lived in Arizona
12 since the late 1950s. My wife and I are new two-year
13 residents of Yavapai County, living north of Prescott in the
14 Williamson Valley area, ZIP Code 86305.

15 I grew up in the West Phoenix area Maryvale from
16 the late 1950s to the late 1970s; we lived in Glendale from
17 the late 1970s and moved to Avondale in the mid-1990s.

18 This brief personal history is to demonstrate that
19 I am invested in the state of Arizona in the communities
20 that I reside.

21 When I became of legal age to vote in the mid
22 1970s, I began to see how districts where I lived were not
23 represented by my beliefs and values that aligned with the
24 local community.

25 A true example was the redistricting that took

1 place more than ten years ago that aligned far northeast
2 Avondale with the southern district of Tucson. Avondale
3 should not have been part of the southern district of
4 Tucson. This is my concern with the proposed redistricting
5 maps now presented.

6 I believe all of Yavapai County -- the cities,
7 towns, rural communities and outlying areas -- should remain
8 continuous with Yavapai County and not be fractioned off to
9 other districts. We pay taxes in Yavapai County and support
10 businesses within the county. Severing areas of Yavapai
11 County reduces our ability to tell officials how to spend
12 our tax dollars.

13 Coconino County Board of Supervisors does not
14 represent Yavapai County.

15 Black Canyon City should remain whole with the town
16 of Yavapai County and not split into other counties.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. CAMACHO: And Nicholas Cilang, is he here? Or,
20 Cilano.

21 How about Leslie Kirkive? Kirkeidi? Yes.

22 SPEAKER KIRKEIDE: Yes.

23 I'd just say I'd like to thank you also for your
24 work because I know we appreciate it, and every ten years
25 it's done and lots of very important work is

1 underappreciated.

2 I will be very short.

3 I really agreed with this lovely little lady with
4 the hat who loves interlibrary loan library, because I don't
5 think that's gotten enough play; and in Yavapai when you
6 live there, you can get books for anywhere else in Yavapai
7 County. I'm a voracious reader and I love that feature.

8 I love Yavapai County.

9 The one thing I'm very confused about is so many
10 people today commenting on the complacency, and it's my
11 understanding since I've lived here that Yavapai County
12 votes at a higher rate than any other county in the state of
13 Arizona. Very, very high.

14 (Applause.)

15 Let's keep Yavapai County together.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 Leslie Kirkeidi. I know, it's hard to pronounce.

19 MS. CAMACHO: Our next group of speakers, and
20 please come up in any order, Kristin Baumgartner, John Lutes
21 -- or Lutz, Karen Stauck -- Strauch, Ernie Strauch, and
22 Kathleen Bower or Sauer, I'm not sure.

23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER LUTES: Hello, Commission.

25 My name is John Lutes, I'm a Downtown Prescott

1 businessman and owner who has been on Whiskey Row for
2 40-plus years. A place whose flair for western heritage is
3 matched regionally only by Wickenburg.

4 Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, Yavapai
5 County is growing at an unprecedented rate. We have the
6 highest rate of growth in Northern Arizona. Currently
7 Yavapai County is represented by two congressional
8 districts, two legislative districts; dual representation
9 benefits Yavapai County.

10 The draft maps presented by the IRC cut both our
11 congressional and legislative representation in half.

12 As the most populated county in Northern Arizona
13 and the fastest growing, our interests are better protected
14 if we have more representation, not less. By having two
15 representatives in Congress our access to federal support is
16 doubled; by having six representatives in the state
17 legislature, we have more voices advocating for our rural
18 interests in Phoenix.

19 It's more important for Yavapai County to maintain
20 its high level of representation as we look towards the
21 challenges of the future.

22 Our western heritage of democracy is best served by
23 creating competitive districts.

24 The only two highly competitive district --
25 legislative districts in the current draft map proposals are

1 both in Scottsdale. Northern Arizona also deserves a
2 competitive LD and it's possible to do. The LDF050 map
3 would be the most competitive LD proposed and it better
4 meets the criteria of being compact and contiguous than the
5 current proposed IRC draft map. Plus, it keeps Sedona and
6 Flagstaff whole, which both of those cities want.

7 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER BAUMGARTNER: Hello, my name is Kristin
10 Baumgartner, and I've been a resident of Prescott now for
11 seven years.

12 I'm here today to urge you to make communities of
13 interest your priority rather than so much of the
14 competitiveness that we've heard today.

15 Yavapai County should continue to be kept together
16 as currently proposed in LD-5 and the district map. I thank
17 the Commissioners for recognizing that. Many people ahead
18 of me have already talked about the special areas of
19 community of interests, specifically Supervisor Oberg, Mary
20 Mallory, the gentleman from California in the hat, and
21 Mr. Kadar, so I'm not going to repeat that.

22 But I do want to say that we need to be kept
23 together.

24 Flagstaff is a college town. 19,000 resident
25 students live there. How can their priorities be focused on

1 the Verde Valley, they've got to worry about all those
2 students and the young people that live there.

3 There's also been a lot of talk about
4 gerrymandering and that is a concern that I have and I hope
5 that's not the case. But I do think that you should not be
6 swayed by the people who do not live in Yavapai County when
7 it comes to the citizens here, and that you let us be
8 worried about the decisions made here in our county and not
9 be pulled away.

10 Please keep our county together and thank you for
11 all the hard work that you've done.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER STRAUCH: Good afternoon. My name is Karen
14 Strauch and I live in the Coconino portion of Sedona.

15 I want to thank all of the Commission for their
16 hard work. We've watched online and it's a marathon that
17 you do and then you come and listen to us speak besides. So
18 thank you, thank you.

19 I've heard a number of comments today regarding
20 noncompetitiveness. I'd like to address an associated issue
21 of fairness.

22 I'm actually a pretty decent football fan. I enjoy
23 the strategy, tactics, and mental attitudes that I observe
24 during the game. What would not seem fair to me would be to
25 start a game with one touchdown -- one team, four

1 touchdowns, 28 points ahead of the other. Wouldn't you
2 agree?

3 The draft map for Legislative District 5 has one
4 party over 28 points ahead of the other before an election
5 is even held. To me -- and I hope to you -- that just isn't
6 fair.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER STRAUCH: Commissioners, I'm Ernie Strauch,
10 former Vice Mayor of Sedona.

11 You've heard from me in Sedona, Flagstaff,
12 Cottonwood, now here. It's obvious that I care deeply, but
13 today I want to talk about the elephant in the room.

14 I know you are aware that this whole process is all
15 about partisan party politics. You've heard it agnosia.
16 One party wants things left exactly the way they are, and
17 why wouldn't they with an almost 30 percent electoral
18 advantage? The last thing they would want is a competitive
19 district, so you should put competitiveness at the bottom of
20 your criteria heap.

21 I understand and so do you, they've been very
22 successful so far with 24 of the 30 legislative districts
23 being noncompetitive.

24 The other party does not want our constitutional
25 republic to be autocratically ruled by just one party,

1 either one. Particularly when the autocracy will be in the
2 minority. That is guaranteed because one must add together
3 either major party plus one-third Independents within state
4 elections. And we know how minority autocracy works in
5 China and Russia.

6 One party believes constitutional representative
7 republic operates best when the concept of one-person,
8 one-vote applies. That doesn't hold true in gerrymandered
9 noncompetitive districts.

10 My vote, for instance, as a decorative Vietnam
11 veteran will be totally meaningless. My party would not
12 likely even feel the candidate.

13 Prop 106 hopes for something better.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 SPEAKER SAUER: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Kathleen Sauer and I'm from Prescott. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to address you today.

19 The proposed draft maps have no competitive LDs in
20 Northern Arizona. This is unnecessary as the other five
21 criteria mandated by the Arizona Constitution could be met
22 and competitive districts created by the adoption of LDF50,
23 51, and CDF10. This is important because a healthy
24 democracy requires that all voices be heard.

25 Noncompetitive districts foster extremism and

1 corruption and disregard the voices of Independent
2 nonpartisan voters. Anyone who is not a member of the
3 majority party in a safe district is left feeling like they
4 have no voice; and, in fact, they do not as representatives
5 in such districts cater to their base voters at the
6 exclusion of the population of the rest of the district.

7 Competitive districts create better interest in the
8 Democratic process, better candidates to run for office, and
9 produce a government that is responsive to the interest and
10 viewpoints of all constituents. We all prosper if all ideas
11 are considered on their merits and not through a partisan
12 lens.

13 Finally, the adoption of LDF50, 51, and CDF10 will
14 create more representation for Yavapai, a large and growing
15 county, then the proposed draft maps. County lines for
16 Yavapai were drawn in 1864. 2021 Yavapai encompasses
17 multiple communities of interest not bound by the county
18 lines. These communities are best represented by the
19 implementation of LDF50, 51, and CDF10.

20 Again, I thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. CAMACHO: Our next group of speakers are Jeanna
23 Tendall, Marlene Macek, Ken Bennet, Linda Conn, and Jessica
24 Ebel.

25 SPEAKER TENDALL: Thank you, Madam Chair and

1 Commissioners. I'm Jeanna Tendall, a resident of Yavapai
2 County.

3 I support the IRC's LD draft map with the edition
4 of to LD-5 of the portions of Sedona and Wickenburg that lie
5 outside of Yavapai County so as not to split these into two
6 legislative districts.

7 I would also like to suggest a change to the IRC's
8 CD draft map to allow for better alignment of communities of
9 interest.

10 On the draft map Yavapai County is grouped into the
11 same CD as Navajo, Apache, and parts of Graham and
12 Greenlee Counties. However, there is a major community of
13 interest misalignment in this arrangement. That being water
14 availability in the rural areas.

15 Yavapai County does not have the same abundance of
16 water as in the tribal areas. Our water resources are
17 scarce and require very diligent and continuous management.

18 To improve the CD map alignment, Yavapai County
19 should be grouped in the same CD as other rural counties
20 with similar water scarcity. Those being Mohave, La Paz,
21 Coconino as shown in map reference number CD0068. These
22 counties require congressional and legislative
23 representation that understands and advocates for the rural
24 areas with scarce water resources.

25 Combining Yavapai with the tribal counties will

1 dilut this advocacy, possibly resulting in what California
2 is experiencing where low-water allocation to rural counties
3 has led to fallow farms, rural bankruptcies, and rampant
4 poverty. Not to mention the significant loss of food
5 production in the state. We don't want to go the way of
6 California.

7 Thank you very much for your consideration of map
8 CD0068.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER MACEK: My name is Marlene Macek and I live
11 in the village of Oak Creek, one of the unincorporated
12 Verde Valley communities.

13 I support and agree with the proposed draft maps
14 for LD-5 and for CD-2. Thank you, Commissioners, for
15 listening to our communities of interest and keeping our
16 county together. You got it right.

17 I do ask that the city of Sedona is kept in one
18 district and that is LD District 5. This would keep our
19 Verde Valley communities of interest together.

20 Verde Valley communities are better together with
21 Prescott. It's easy to get to Prescott from the village of
22 Oak Creek. If you live in Sedona or Cottonwood, there are
23 different routes to Prescott, you do not need to go over
24 Mingus Mountain via State Route 89-A. Another option is via
25 260 to Interstate 17 and then 169 to 69. This may be 10

1 miles more in distance, but only a two-minute difference in
2 travel time according to Google maps. This is a great
3 option during the winter months.

4 You don't have any options with regards to
5 Flagstaff, you will climb to roughly 7,800 feet.

6 Please note that the Coconino County Board of
7 Supervisors do not represent the Verde Valley. The
8 promotion of their draft map is nothing short of a PR
9 attempt to impose their will against the interest of the
10 Verde Valley residents. They do not speak for me, and the
11 fact that they drafted and actively promoted a map
12 demonstrates that we should not be aligned with them.

13 Verde Valley community, values, and integrity are
14 best represented by Yavapai County.

15 I sincerely thank the members of this Commission
16 for their efforts in balancing the six criteria as set forth
17 in the Arizona Constitution; and please keep us together
18 with Prescott and Yavapai County.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER BENNETT: Chairwoman Neuberg and members of
22 the Commission, thank you. My name is Ken Bennett; I've
23 lived in Prescott almost my entire life other than three
24 years when I lived in Tucson where my folks were going to
25 the University of Arizona.

1 So our family has been up here -- well, Grandma and
2 Grandpa's phone number was "49" in Prescott. So we've been
3 here a while.

4 I am speaking in support and thanking you for your
5 is efforts, I am in support of the 10.0 draft maps. As you
6 may know, I represented this legislative district in the
7 State Senate for eight years. The first four of those eight
8 years was under the maps drawn in 2001 by the, I think the
9 first IRC, and those maps included Yavapai County mostly
10 kept together.

11 You know, everything is -- is important in Arizona
12 until the faucet doesn't turn on, and one of the most
13 critical issues that we had back then was water. It was
14 very important that both sides of Yavapai county were
15 together, because when it came to very critical votes in the
16 legislature related to water, I, as a representative of all
17 of Yavapai County, had to balance the needs of both sides of
18 the county. I believe we are still benefitted from
19 decisions that were made when people were working together
20 within Yavapai County.

21 We have not had that situation as far as the
22 boundaries for the last decade or so, but I think it would
23 be important to put Yavapai County back together; so I
24 support the current draft maps.

25 I would encourage your favorable consideration of

1 keeping Sedona and Wickenburg together by bringing them into
2 LD-5 -- or, what will be LD-1. But I think it's important
3 to keep Yavapai County together.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER CONN: Well, he's a tough act to follow.

7 I'm Linda Conn and I'm a resident of Prescott; and
8 I'm also an artist. I go to Sedona quite often, I go to
9 Oak Creek, I have many friends there that I do artwork with,
10 I belong to a gallery.

11 I think we should keep Yavapai whole. There -- all
12 this competitiveness, we have competitiveness, we don't need
13 anything more. I can't add anything more other than I agree
14 with Ken Bennett, Andrea Kadar, and Phil Goode, our mayor.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER EBEL: Hi, my name is Jessica Ebel, I'm a
18 teacher with Prescott Unified and my husband just retired
19 from 20 years of service from the U.S. Navy; we've put down
20 roots in Prescott with our two young children.

21 I'm here to voice my concern that these maps do not
22 honor the will of voters, specifically the requirement from
23 Prop 106 for fair and competitive districts.

24 Yavapai County itself is too large to be a
25 community of interest and does not need to be kept whole,

1 especially at the expense of slicing and dicing actual
2 communities such as Sedona and Wickenburg, this makes no
3 sense. As an alternative, maps LDF50 and LDF51 are
4 significantly more compact and competitive.

5 As an Independent voter, I want my vote to count.
6 When districts are too safe, candidates cater to their base
7 and extreme positions. We want more competitive districts
8 in Northern Arizona with better candidates who focus on the
9 issues and must listen to all constituents.

10 I am deeply concerned about the growing influence
11 of extremism, violence, corruption. Look around our state,
12 we already have elected officials who do not respect the
13 boundaries between church and state, openly threaten other
14 members of Congress, publically support vigilante justice,
15 refuse to accept the results of a free and fair election,
16 and help to plan a violent insurrection at our nation's
17 capitol.

18 (Disruption by audience members.)

19 SPEAKER EBEL: Violent extremism is becoming more
20 prevalent --

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Excuse me. Excuse me.

22 Audience, can we please show respect to this
23 speaker and create an atmosphere in which every citizen in
24 Arizona feels comfortable and welcome.

25 Thank you.

1 SPEAKER EBEL: I will finish by saying that violent
2 extremism is becoming more prevalent and when it is -- when
3 it is accepted in our politics it spreads to our
4 communities.

5 In Prescott we have people making threats to the
6 members of our school board about masks, we have people
7 coming to the Square with weapons to intimidate peaceful
8 protestors. We cannot create districts where violent or
9 extreme candidates will be safe and therefore unaccountable.
10 Over time safe maps will make our state and democracy less
11 safe.

12 I agree with all the Navajo and Hopi speakers on
13 CDF10 and asking you to consider maps LDF50 and 51.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. CAMACHO: Our next group of speakers are John
17 Stevens, Robert Thal, Larry Gray, Arlene Rheinfelder, and
18 Sandy Griffis.

19 SPEAKER GRIFFIS: Chair, Commission, good morning.
20 I'm Sandy Griffis, the Executive Director of Yavapai County
21 Contractors Association.

22 My industry, we represent over 4,000 licensed
23 contractors in Yavapai County. We are adamantly opposed to
24 changing the current legislative map moving Camp Verde,
25 Cottonwood, those smaller communities into Coconino County

1 would be devastating to the building code parameters under
2 which we currently operate.

3 There are fire codes, there's wildland urban
4 interface codes, there are building codes that we now work
5 with, manage, and help our community and our citizens of
6 Yavapai County with; no familiar working relationships with
7 Coconino County.

8 So I appreciate your hard work and I ask that you
9 consider keeping the current legislative map as-is for the
10 vitality and viability of our building industry.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER RHEINFELDER: Madam Chair, my name is
14 Arlene Rheinfelder. I want to thank you all, including
15 Commissioner Mehl who I can see, for all your hard work.
16 Man, I've watched you guys, it's been a marathon.

17 I think you guys have done a phenomenal job. I
18 want to tell you, I'm really proud of what you've done
19 because it's important to me.

20 You guys created a VRA tribal district so that our
21 nations, the sovereign nations, can have their own voice.
22 That's very important to me.

23 You did the same thing in Southern Arizona, you
24 created VRA Latino districts so that they could have a
25 voice. Those districts by their nature are not necessarily

1 going to be competitive. That is why that is not the
2 highest criteria in Prop 106, it's at the bottom underneath
3 communities of interest, because communities of interest is
4 more important, and that's why some of our communities of
5 interest are not going to be competitive.

6 Yavapai County, God love us, we love each other.
7 I'm so sorry for that young lady. That was inappropriate.
8 We are better than that.

9 That competitiveness that we've heard rattled on
10 about, competitiveness can be important but not when I know
11 it's going to divide a community. We do need to come
12 together and we need to learn to be civil; and what we've
13 seen, it's just a reflection of what's going on in our
14 country as a whole.

15 I do want to say that I do not support Coconino
16 being the tail wagging the dog here. Coconino Board of
17 Supervisors does not speak for the other four counties that
18 are going to be effected. Yavapai -- at least from what I
19 can see it's going to be Yavapai, Coconino, Gila, and
20 Pima -- I'm sorry, Pinal Counties.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER GRAY: Good afternoon. My name is Larry
24 Gray.

25 I support the current 10.0 legislative district

1 map. That proposal follows the guidelines of the Arizona
2 Constitution performing the six key areas, placing all these
3 criteria on a level field without emphasizing
4 competitiveness above the others. Placing Yavapai County in
5 one legislative district maintains the communities of
6 interest.

7 I've lived in Arizona since 1965 when I joined the
8 Marines; I returned to Phoenix, our Prescott home was
9 completed in July of '05. I was a volunteer with the city
10 of Prescott's Over The Hill Gang building and maintaining
11 hiking trails. Our topography has greater similarities to
12 Sedona and Verde Valley than Flagstaff as one example of
13 equal tourism, hiking in the Red Rocks.

14 The Prescott/Prescott Valley area shares the Big
15 Chino Basin and perform unlike Flagstaff which is part of
16 the Little Colorado River watershed.

17 Why should we split Yavapai Community College
18 system a between two legislative districts? Is not the
19 community college system a community of interest?

20 Flagstaff has a much larger population than Sedona,
21 Verde Valley, Cottonwood, Prescott, Prescott Valley which
22 have smaller populations given very similar legislative
23 concerns.

24 Thank you for considering my comments. Please
25 support the draft 10.0 legislative district.

1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CAMACHO: And one more call for Robert Thal or
4 John Stevens.

5 No?

6 Okay. Our next group of speakers are Michael
7 Sanders, Isabel Cerecedes, Tom Steele, Diane Boman, and
8 Sandy Corova.

9 SPEAKER SANDERS: Hi, I'm Michael Sanders and I'm a
10 40-year-plus resident of Yavapai County and Arizona. During
11 that period of time I've held offices in the -- at the
12 national level, state, county, and local levels including
13 White House Conference on Small Business, multiple
14 congressional small business summits, Washington, D.C.; the
15 Industrial Commissioner, twice; mayor of Chino Valley;
16 member of the Arizona Groundwater Users Council, the
17 Governor's Economic Development Council, and others.

18 I'm here to support that proposition that Yavapai
19 County remain its own legislative district and you just
20 bring in Sedona -- the parts of Sedona and Wickenburg that
21 are in the counties adjacent.

22 I want to point out also that there are -- and I
23 also support -- let me just -- before I -- let me say I
24 support here, Phillip Harry Goode -- excuse me, Harry Oberg,
25 Mary Mallory, Lois Fruhwirth, and Salina Bliss.

1 The sum of the governmental jurisdictional maps for
2 both Coconino and Maricopa support the proposition that we
3 are all taking about. One map I want to talk about and I
4 showed this in Flagstaff last week is a map of the Verde
5 River watershed.

6 Now, I've circled here a small 45 radius economic
7 development area with the Mingus recreational area right in
8 the middle. That's the diamond in the jewel. Anyone that
9 is the least bit forward-thinking will see 89 as a
10 four-lane-to-be.

11 In addition to that -- in addition to that, this is
12 a map drawn up by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors.
13 We've been hearing a lot about those boys drawing maps.
14 They drew this map, and not only does it not include Sedona,
15 it excludes Sedona, and that is the judicial map -- justice
16 map.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER STEELE: Good afternoon. My name is Tom
20 Steele; I have lived in Prescott Valley for over 18 years.
21 And welcome to Prescott Valley, the cool valley.

22 I spoke in the 2011 redistricting meetings and it
23 happened to be in Cottonwood -- where I have a couple of
24 doctors, by the way -- and I was reluctant to say this but
25 that -- that board was a poorly made-up board that was

1 tainted by the makeup of the Commission itself. Today it is
2 different, you make a very balanced district possible and I
3 support map 10.

4 As I noticed the map, I had a question with it and
5 I called a very influential friend to see, what is that
6 fishhook off the left side of the map number 10? Only to
7 find out it is to incorporate a Native American tribe which
8 I think is in keeping in communities of interest which is
9 important to all of us.

10 And I would only add to that that I believe in
11 competitiveness, but let's keep it in our retail and
12 restaurant business.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 SPEAKER CERECEDES: Buenos Tardes. Good afternoon.

16 My name is Isabel Cerecedes, I'm a lifetime Arizona
17 resident and a 13-year resident of Prescott Valley.

18 Prescott, Prescott Valley, and the quad cities are
19 my home community. I'm a retired 35-year government
20 employee. Being Independent is a choice I have made because
21 my preference is to research and make my own determination
22 each election as to who best represents me, my values, and
23 my vision for a better life in a future.

24 I'm a fiscal conservative and I don't like
25 extremism; that has caused a lot of problems in society

1 today. All people have the right to enjoy their life and be
2 in peace where they live. Being able to put food on the
3 table and get a good education in local communities is most
4 important, not counties.

5 Everything I need is here. I never go to
6 Cottonwood, there is nothing there I need. The Verde Valley
7 is as distant to me as Wickenburg.

8 I am concerned that Independent voters are not
9 taken into consideration in your draft maps and that too
10 many districts too strongly favor one party or another.

11 It doesn't seem fair and equitable to Independent
12 voters like me when only 6 of 30 legislative maps are
13 competitive. I would really like it if you took the time to
14 review the maps and create more competitive districts so
15 voters like me have a greater chance for representation.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Thank you
17 for your time and thank you for your work.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER BOMAN: My name is Diane Boman, I'm a
20 resident in Prescott. I've worked for APS my entire career
21 and been in every Northern Arizona community that there is.

22 And I want to make a statement about these Coconino
23 maps. I really don't think that the Coconino Super- --
24 Board of Supervisors were trying to get in our way. What
25 they were trying to show the IRC was that there is a way to

1 make competitive, compact -- all the other five criteria
2 that are there. It is possible. And that's what I'm so
3 concerned about is the lack of competitiveness in 24 out of
4 the 30 districts in this state. Not only here, but the rest
5 of the state.

6 I think all of those maps need to be looked at
7 again and get to a point where at least we're between
8 15 percent. Right now, you know, Yavapai here is at
9 42 percent. That's unacceptable.

10 Yavapai County's two congressional districts will
11 be reduced to one safe red district like it's always been.
12 It's not competitive.

13 Of all the northern counties Yavapai is growing the
14 fastest. We have 40 percent more population than Coconino
15 County and our growth rate is 1.68 percent. We deserve more
16 representation, not less.

17 LD50 keeps Flagstaff and Sedona whole and includes
18 the Verde Valley, it uses the natural boundary of
19 Mingus Mountain to divide Prescott from this area and passes
20 all the integrity test.

21 LDF51 keeps the Native American voting rights
22 district whole.

23 These two maps are more compact than the current
24 draft maps and recognize the \$2 billion tourist economy in
25 those areas.

1 The idea that splitting up counties is a disservice
2 to communities of interest is wrong. There are already 10
3 counties that have been split in your current map.

4 I think the competitiveness of LD-30 is a travesty
5 and must be fixed.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER CORDOVA: Hello, my name is Sandy Cordova.
8 I'm a 22-year resident of Prescott Valley.

9 For many years I've voted as an Independent. For
10 an Independent voter to have an impact in an election, it is
11 important that elections take place in competitive
12 districts. The current IRC draft maps do not provide enough
13 competitive districts for Independent voters.

14 With Arizona as closely divided as it is
15 politically, we should be creating as many competitive
16 districts as possible so that Independent voters are engaged
17 and active in election outcomes.

18 I am thankful for the opportunity to comment and I
19 hope that the IRC takes these comments to heart and works to
20 make more maps with more competitive districts.

21 And thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CAMACHO: Our next group of speakers are Bob
24 Porter, Paul Pavlich, Allison Flannery, Marion Pack, and
25 Toni Dennis -- Denis.

1 SPEAKER DENIS: Hi, my name is Toni Denis and I'm a
2 Prescott resident.

3 I have lived in an uncompetitive district for
4 13 years; and as somebody spoke earlier, we know what that
5 breeds: Extremism. We've had a corrupt congressman, an
6 extremist congressman, an extremist state senator, and I
7 would hate to see it become even more uncompetitive which is
8 what is going to happen if this draft map passes.

9 There are three reasons why I think you should
10 reconsider these maps. First of all, Republicans have a
11 lopsided advantage. Why can't you look at the proposed maps
12 that even this out and make an even playing field?

13 Number two, cutting cities and suburbs apart makes
14 no sense. It's like -- it reminds me of the extreme
15 gerrymandering in Austin, Texas, where it's cut into five
16 districts so a Democrat could never win one.

17 Number three, Yavapai County is the fastest growing
18 county in the state and it needs more representation, not
19 less.

20 These maps give Republicans an unfair advantage,
21 they separate areas of interest from each other, and they
22 don't recognize the new influx of people in our area.

23 It silences the voices of Democrats and
24 Independents.

25 I thank you for your service and I hope you do the

1 right thing.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER FLANNERY: Hi, I'm Allison Flannery. I
5 have lived in Prescott for 10 years and then Prescott Valley
6 for 18 years -- actually, there's another 10 years in there.
7 So for 38 years I've lived in this area and I'm very
8 fortunate to do so.

9 I want to thank you for your efforts because
10 redistricting is a hugely important process.

11 My husband and I have been observing Arizona
12 politics for the last 38 years and we were around when there
13 was the proposition and the decision by the residents of
14 Arizona to vote the proposition so that we would take the
15 redistricting process out of the, quote, bowels of the
16 legislature and into the light of day, and that is where it
17 is right now.

18 And to -- to my mind, the original intent of redist
19 -- redistricting was to avoid politics. It was completely
20 controlled by one party at that time, so the intent was to
21 avoid politics. And I would hate to see it go full circle
22 back to politics now. I feel that's extremely important to
23 avoid, which is why I really support the idea of communities
24 of -- communities of interest and going along with that.

25 Arizona, Prescott area is -- you know, has a great

1 history. We are very involved with so many things in the
2 Verde Valley as well.

3 My husband Mike Flannery is not here today. He's
4 ill, not that bad but couldn't make it, so he asked me to
5 talk about some things that we are both aware of because he
6 was involved in the 2000 and 2010 in the redistricting
7 process. Just want to let you know that the Yavapai County
8 Board of Supervisors at that time was very supportive and
9 put out letters to that effect of keeping the county
10 together.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER PAVLICH: My name is Paul Pavlich, village
14 of Oak Creek; I'm a second generation Native Arizonan and an
15 educator of 40 years.

16 Thank you for your work, Commission. It's a lot of
17 work and sometimes thankless.

18 I lived in Flagstaff 30 years and I now live in the
19 Verde Valley in the village of Oak Creek. I understand the
20 needs of the Flagstaff area and the above-the-rim
21 communities, but they're very different from those of the
22 Verde Valley and the Prescott areas.

23 Flag has snow removal needs, a university, and
24 industries like Gore. Sedona, Verde Valley, and surrounding
25 areas are more agricultural and rural. I respectfully ask

1 the Commission not to split up Sedona, village of Oak Creek
2 or Oak Creek Canyon into two districts, it makes no sense
3 and does not serve its constituents, and would not cater to
4 the political interest out of Flagstaff.

5 Please keep all of our Verde Valley communities
6 with the district in Yavapai County and fairly represent us
7 to better serve our needs.

8 I agree with Andrea Kadar in that you guys get to
9 draw the maps, not the Coconino County board and not the
10 Sedona -- the political groups like Keep Sedona Beautiful.

11 Thank you for doing your jobs and I appreciate all
12 your work.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. CAMACHO: And last call for Marion Pack.

15 She's gone?

16 The next group of speakers are Katherine Schulte,
17 Sharon Zipperman, Steve Zipperman, Elise DePuydt, and Allen
18 Kelley.

19 I'm sorry, that's probably Ann Kelley.

20 SPEAKER ZIPPERMAN: Madam Chair, members of the
21 Commission, my name is Steve Zipperman; I'm a veteran and
22 I'm a resident of Yavapai County very concerned about
23 redistricting.

24 Testimony at many of these hearings has focused on
25 redistricting factor six, competitiveness; but the Arizona

1 Constitution provides that, quote, "competitive districts
2 are favored only if competitive districts do not
3 significantly harm the other goals listed."

4 Arguments regarding competitiveness amount to an
5 effort to gerrymander these district lines for political
6 purposes; they should not be listened to. Competitiveness
7 is one of the six criteria that the Arizona Constitution
8 directs the Commission to use when drawing these new maps,
9 but the caveat is that it should only favor competitiveness
10 and I quote the Arizona Constitution, "where to do so would
11 create no significant detriment to the other goals."

12 Removing Cottonwood and Verde Valley from Yavapai
13 County would conflict with several of the constitution goals
14 that this Commission is sworn to implement. Therefore,
15 competitiveness should not be considered by the Commission
16 and the Verde Valley and Cottonwood should remain as part of
17 District 5 as shown on the current map version 10.

18 In general I agree that the current maps are
19 acceptable, except in two areas where minor changes should
20 be implemented: Sedona and Wickenburg.

21 The community of Sedona is split with a vertical
22 line at the Coconino and Yavapai County border. They have
23 one community of interest, they are aligned very closely to
24 Yavapai County.

25 The second area that needs attention is Wickenburg

1 where US60 divides north and south Wickenburg. That entire
2 community should be part of Yavapai County for purpose of
3 these legislative maps. There's an area of southern
4 District 5 in Maricopa County that should not be included,
5 and that's an area where the populations can be adjusted and
6 balanced.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER ZIPPERMAN: Hello, my name is Sharon
10 Zipperman and I'm here as a concerned citizen of Prescott
11 and Yavapai County.

12 While I have prepared statements, I've listened to
13 a number of very articulate and eloquent speakers.
14 Subsequently, I've continued to shorten my statement and add
15 to the list of people I support.

16 First of all, two points: I approve of the current
17 map with the exception of -- which does keep Yavapai County
18 united with the exception of separating Wickenburg and
19 Sedona, which should both remain with Yavapai County.

20 And -- let's see. I'll keep it short and simply
21 say that per your earlier request, the people that I
22 absolutely agree with are mayor elect Phil Goode, Supervisor
23 Harry Oberg, Connie Martin, Lois Fruhwirth, Selina Brith --
24 Bliss, Dwight Kadar, Andrea Kadar, Jeff Parker, and Steve
25 Zipperman.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER DePUYDT: Good afternoon. My name is Elise
4 DePuydt and I'm a resident of Prescott.

5 While I appreciate that this is an independent
6 commission, it's also true that the purpose of your task is
7 a political one; you can't deny that it isn't.

8 And from what I understand, the criteria are all to
9 be weighed equally. So people who are concerned about
10 competitive districts, I think it's a legitimate concern.
11 If you have a district that weighs 20, 24 percent to one
12 political party than the other, then that's obviously not
13 competitive. And I -- I think -- or one of my primary goals
14 would be to have a competitive district.

15 So instead of saying that we've got so many
16 Republican-leaning districts and then we have a few
17 Democrat-leaning districts throughout the state thinking
18 that's balanced, that's -- that's not what the -- that's not
19 what's helpful in politics, it's each district needs to be
20 competitive so -- so candidates from all parties have a
21 chance.

22 And so I do not support the current draft maps.

23 Thank you for your service.

24 (Applause.)

25 SPEAKER KELLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Ann

1 Kelley and I'm from Sedona.

2 So, yes, this morning I drove over here from
3 Sedona. And I have to laugh a little because I moved here
4 from Texas, and my commute every day to work was longer than
5 driving from Sedona over here.

6 I come to Prescott at least once a month for
7 appointments and shopping and it is part of my community.

8 I also want to point out, people keep saying
9 Yavapai County is not competitive. How is that so if we
10 elected Donna Michaels a Democrat to be our supervisor on
11 the Board of Supervisors?

12 So I know you've worked endless hours in this
13 effort -- better you than me, I'll say. You gathered the
14 data and the information, you analyzed it against the six
15 criteria, and you've developed the LD-5 draft 10, and I
16 think you got it right.

17 And I support the work you've done, I support the
18 comments that have been made in honor of that, and I
19 encourage you to stick with your design.

20 Thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. CAMACHO: Our next group of speaker are Thomas
23 Reiner, Peggy Pavlich, Darlas Wawa- -- and I believe she's
24 gone, I'm sorry about that, Demitra Manjoros, and Llama or
25 Wilma Habern.

1 SPEAKER REINER: Good afternoon. My name is Thomas
2 Reiner. I, too, am a refugee from California. I'm a
3 concerned citizen of Yavapai County and Prescott.

4 In California I was -- had a 30- -- I enjoyed a
5 37-year career as a computer chip designer, I did security
6 chip. So my chip is probably in everybody's pocket in this
7 room, by the way.

8 So I came -- we're here. I really am grateful to
9 this Commission as you're doing this incredible experiment
10 in participatory democracy and I know you have some really
11 super hard work to do.

12 I think you're aware of you have a tiger by the
13 tail in Maricopa County, which is probably a much larger
14 puzzle to solve than Yavapai County, but today is Yavapai
15 County; and you're also aware of Andrea Kadar's balloon
16 model, press one end, it pops out somewhere else.

17 Anyhow, I am concerned -- I enthusiastically
18 support keeping Yavapai County whole with the inclusion of
19 both Sedona and Wickenburg.

20 To make my -- my speech short -- oops, it's not
21 going to be so short.

22 I like the woman from Oak Creek giving us the
23 geography lesson. Mingus Mountain is not an insurmountable
24 obstacle. If one goes down 169, which I did two days ago,
25 not breaking any speed limits, I went from Prescott Valley

1 to Camp Verde in 30 minutes.

2 Almost my entire house is decorated with stuff from
3 Cottonwood and Jerome and -- I forgot what my last point was
4 but -- oh, yeah.

5 Oh. That's it, I'm out of time.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER HABERN: Hi, my name is Llama Habern. I'm
9 from Cornville, Arizona.

10 I drove all the way from the Verde Valley to make
11 it clear that those of us in the Verde Valley feel a much
12 greater affinity to Flagstaff. Prescott has its own needs
13 and issues and those are different from the Verde Valley.
14 Coming from the other side of Mingus Mountain means going
15 from 260 to I-17 to 169 to 69 just to get here, instead of
16 just going directly 89A up to Flagstaff which is much
17 easier. And it's where I go to find my medical needs and
18 family doctors and such.

19 Flagstaff is our city. We would much rather be
20 included in Flagstaff in legislative district like LDF050
21 rather than have Prescott speak for us as it so often does.

22 Additionally, I recommend the IRC adopt the map
23 CDF010 proposed by the Navajo Nation's Human Rights
24 Commission. We should listen to and respect Native
25 Americans' desire for their district; and this map offers a

1 district where the congressional race would be competitive,
2 meaning more participation in elections, a larger variety of
3 candidates, and every single vote mattering.

4 CDF010 allows Native American voices and all our
5 voice to be heard.

6 The current IRC CD-2 map is outside the IRC's own
7 definition of competitiveness. The district proposed by the
8 Navajo Nation is competitive with less than a 1 percent
9 advantage to either party; and it is more compact and
10 contiguous than the IRC's CD-2 map. This fulfills all the
11 requirements of Prop 106, which was passed by Arizona
12 voters. It is possible to create a district that fulfills
13 the letter and the spirit of Prop 106.

14 Please adopt map CDF010 and show voters that the
15 IRC will -- sorry, will fulfill the requirements of Prop
16 106.

17 Thank you for your time and consideration.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER PAVLICH: Hi. My name is Peggy Pavlich. I
20 spent my life in Arizona, and I'm here to support the map,
21 the 10.0 map, with the addition of Sedona and Wickenburg.

22 I live in the village of Oak Creek and I've -- I've
23 been a property owner for 12 years and lived there full-time
24 for seven years. However, previously I lived and worked in
25 Flagstaff for 30 years where I was also a business owner. I

1 know well the stark, stark differences between the two.

2 Flagstaff, the seat of Coconino County, has evolved
3 into a relative metropolis that casts a long, progressive
4 and every lengthening shadow across Northern Arizona.
5 Flagstaff's skyline and public interests are dominated by
6 densely populated multistory buildings filled with the
7 transitory voting bloc of college students and professors.
8 I assure you, this is not -- is not -- the profile of the
9 village of Oak Creek where I live or the other communities
10 of the Verde Valley including Sedona.

11 Our demographics, cultural histories, social
12 tradition, lifestyles, and public interests are more
13 moderate, traditional, and decidedly rural. These would be
14 best served, and I would say represented not competed
15 against, by inclusion in LD-5 with the Prescott region, not
16 with Flagstaff and Coconino County in LD-7.

17 Finally, even in an age of technology weather
18 really matters. It dominates the use of public funds,
19 information and public policy. Weather effects how we bus
20 our children to school, how our roads are maintained, how
21 public safety and emergency services are delivered, and how
22 our water supply is protected. These interests are best
23 served by keeping the village of Oak Creek and other
24 Verde Valley communities, including Sedona, in LD-5.

25 Please put the VOC and Verde Valley communities in

1 LD-5 where they should be.

2 Thank you and thank you for your hard work.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER MANJOROS: Hello, I'm Dr. Jaime Manjoros.
5 I've a seven-year resident of Yavapai County.

6 I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity
7 to comment and also the work that you all have been doing
8 through this process.

9 I am here to urge you to keep LD-5 and our
10 community intact and not remove Verde Valley from the
11 legislative district.

12 Much of the public comment has demonstrated perhaps
13 too much interest in politically motivated desires to alter
14 the electorate based on partisan lines. The uniformity of
15 arguments for dividing our community make it clear that the
16 motivation is political in nature and is not reflective of a
17 desire to do what is in the interest of our community.

18 The Verde Valley has far more in common with and
19 more closely aligned with Yavapai County than Flagstaff in
20 many obvious ways. We shop, work, recreate in the Verde,
21 and the Verde Valley does the same in our community; in many
22 ways we are one community.

23 Many in Prescott and Prescott Valley commute daily
24 to work in the Verde Valley and contribute to their local
25 economy. Likewise, many in the Verde Valley come to

1 Prescott and the Prescott Valley to participate and work in
2 our economy. And anyone that has made this daily commute,
3 myself included for a period of time, can testify to how
4 closely linked our communities are, right down to those
5 local economies. And I did go over Mingus, it's actually
6 not an impassable mountain, it's actually a rather pleasant
7 drive. And, yes, about half hour to 40 minutes depending on
8 where you are going from.

9 I would like to reenforce for argument regarding
10 the rural ranching and economies being quite different than
11 that of Flagstaff and larger cities in Arizona. When we in
12 these rural farming and ranching communities are taken into
13 these other districts and our counties are broken up, we
14 very quickly lose our voice, and even fundamental issues
15 like water are at risk.

16 So I would urge you to please not succumb to
17 politically motivated and coordinated efforts to undermine
18 the unity of our community, and please keep Yavapai intact.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. CAMACHO: We have about ten speakers left I'll
21 call the next five. Christy Mager or Mayor, Michael
22 Schroeder, Catherine Ransom, Gail Digate, and Samaire
23 Armstrong.

24 SPEAKER MAGERS: Okay. I'm Christy Magers, I'm a
25 Yavapai County resident.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning
2 and I commend the Commission for the current 10.0 draft map
3 and appreciate your hours of deliberation that made it
4 possible.

5 I understand that there are existing groups as the
6 Princeton Gerrymandering Project who indicate they are
7 committed to eliminating partisan gerrymandering at a
8 state-by-state level. However, what an outside group
9 decides is appropriate for the state of Arizona is of no
10 consequence if it doesn't align with our State's
11 constitutional provisions regarding redistricting.

12 Those constitution redistricting directives -- I'm
13 sure you know about this -- are as follows: One, compliance
14 with the U.S. Constitution and United States Voting Rights
15 Act; two, equality of population in each district; three,
16 compactness; four, communities of interest. The next two
17 criteria are provisional and conditional: Five, to the
18 extent practicable use visible geographic features and
19 borders, such as Mingus Mountain; six, to the extent
20 practicable competitive districts -- competitive districts
21 -- should be favored where to do so would create no
22 significant detriment to the other four goals.

23 I contend that the first four goals must be adhered
24 to first before considering the last two goals.

25 Yavapai County and Coconino County are not

1 communities of interest nor are the areas to be considered
2 compact because of the distance and difficulty of the access
3 between the two areas.

4 Thank you for your consideration of my comments
5 today and for your hard work.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER SCHROEDER: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Mike Schroeder from Sedona, Arizona, addressing this
9 board -- this hardworking board hopefully for the last time.

10 I have spoken to you about our tax responsibilities
11 going to Prescott, the Sedona ties of the Verde Valley,
12 economic development plans, and the interaction of county
13 services that are unique to all our rural communities and to
14 Prescott. I will not rehash what you have already heard.

15 This has been an exasperating experience for all of
16 us over the past many months, but what is frustrating is
17 that this Commission did its job as outlined in points A
18 through F under paragraph 14 of the Arizona Constitution
19 which defines requirements of the redistricting process.

20 You came up with a map version 10.0 that was in
21 compliance with A through F. Now we have the city of Sedona
22 City Council, none of which received more than 22 percent of
23 the vote of the population of Sedona, coming and stating
24 that Sedona council unanimously supports a district map
25 which was created by Coconino County.

1 As individuals they have every right to any opinion
2 they want, whether aligned the constitution guidelines or
3 not, but they do not speak for 10,000 residents or the
4 Verde Valley.

5 In addition, it would seem that the Coconino County
6 Board of Supervisors have enough on their plate managing a
7 county bigger than many states, but they are trying to
8 extend their reach down into the Verde Valley where they
9 have no jurisdiction.

10 Subpoints A through F under Item 14 were followed
11 by this Commission. Item F, competitive districts only
12 apply, only if A through E are met, and that's in the
13 constitution.

14 The Commission, you guys did your job. Please
15 leave version 10.0 in place for LD-5, 6, 7, and CD-2.

16 Thank you very much for your hard work.

17 (Applause.)

18 SPEAKER DIGATE: Good afternoon. My name is Gail
19 Digate. Thank you for your patience and sustained attention
20 this afternoon.

21 I'm a concerned citizen of the Verde Valley. I
22 live in the Coconino portion of the city of Sedona, and I'm
23 here today to strongly affirm the following: Number one,
24 keep the city of Sedona whole. Splitting legislative
25 districts within the city is unacceptable.

1 Number two, keep the Verde Valley together and in
2 alignment with Flagstaff as which -- which has been in the
3 past. These communities of interest among the cities and
4 towns of the Verde Valley are best served by this
5 configuration. I've lived in the Verde Valley for 17 years
6 and I firmly believe this.

7 And finally, I ask you to review and pay closer
8 attention to fair and competitive districts, legislative
9 districts.

10 And it is to this third point that I address the
11 balance of my remarks to you today.

12 A recent editorial in the Red Rock News
13 November 17th entitled in -- "Bipartisanship, Officials and
14 The Public Both Win" speaks succinctly and eloquently to
15 this concern. And I quote, "Americans are moderate by
16 nature, and when elections are decided by a 52 to 48 margin
17 we should not expect our elected leaders to govern from the
18 far right or the far left, but rather as near to the middle
19 and near to the electorate as possible. That's what could
20 get them elected over and over, rather than simply appealing
21 to the base on the fringes," close quote.

22 Competitiveness in both legislative and
23 congressional districts is the precursor to, quote,
24 governing from the middle and near to electorate as
25 possible, close quote.

1 The general standard is 7 to 10 percent deviation
2 among registered voters from any party.

3 In the case of the map for LD-5, there is
4 approximately a 30-point difference between parties. That
5 is significant and that is not fair.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER ARMSTRONG: Hello. My name is Samaire
9 Armstrong. I recently moved back to Arizona from California
10 after 20 years. I went to high school out here in the '90s;
11 I live with my family who's been here for 30 years; I -- I
12 moved out here to raise my son, and we are very happy
13 members of the community in Yavapai County, and I wanted to
14 thank you for the current map, I believe the Commissioners
15 got it right.

16 We also, we would like that Sedona be kept with its
17 own one legislative district, District 5. We -- I'd like to
18 also be thankful for the -- the map 10 -- Callan, please.

19 The point being is that we moved out of Los Angeles
20 to find the community that best sought -- fit our
21 sensibilities; and while Flagstaff is medium age range of
22 the average age range is 25 and Sedona is 65, it still lends
23 more to the family values and vibes that we are seeking.

24 So I thank you so much for doing all your hard work
25 and coming out on this Saturday and hearing us.

1 MINOR CHILD: Hi. Hi.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hi there.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CAMACHO: And Catherine Ransom, is she here?

5 No?

6 I will call our last group of speakers then.

7 Dieter Knecht, Sylvia Sepielli, Don Corcio (phonetic), Diane
8 (phonetic) Bindley, Stacy Bonomi and Ann Heitland and Randy
9 Hayes.

10 SPEAKER KNECHT: Hi. Madam Commissioners and
11 especially to all the survivors that are here, thank you.

12 I'm Dr. Dieter Knecht. Today I traveled over the
13 beautiful Mingus Mountain and I love mountains. We moved
14 from -- we left the Grand Tetons in -- from the view from
15 Idaho to live near our grandchildren in Flagstaff, who then
16 decided they wanted to move to California. So I would like
17 to borrow a kid to be one of my grandkids to stand with me.

18 And also I'm a proud geriatric member of Sedona
19 who -- who is way above the median age.

20 So, but I don't see my city of Sedona as part of
21 Prescott and Wickenburg. I support Yavapai County staying
22 whole, they're -- well, I'm a minority voice there, but they
23 have the county government, they cover all the issues people
24 are concerned about.

25 But what you're doing is the legislative district

1 for the -- for the state of Arizona. In other words, people
2 think maybe having competitive district isn't -- isn't
3 important. Well, in my case I put it another way: If I
4 don't have a vote, it is important.

5 So thank you for your work and please accept I
6 tried to make things more competitive.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER SEPIELLI: First of all, thank you each and
9 every one of you for the work you're doing. The patience
10 you have, thank you to support staff who has been excellent
11 while my grandson has been hoping and asking when we're
12 going to be up yet.

13 I'd also like to thank Callan for your patience.
14 We've been here since 10:00 this morning and I think he's
15 learned two valuable -- I hope two valuable lessons: One,
16 that speaking up and participating in our communities is
17 important; and two, that sometimes it's very boring. For a
18 nine-year-old.

19 Would he like to introduce himself the audience?

20 MINOR CHILD: Hi, I'm Callan.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And how old are you?

22 MINOR CHILD: I'm nine -- eight, but I'm turning
23 nine.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And -- and do you know where
25 you live? Do you know what county?

1 MINOR CHILD: I live in Yavapai.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Thank you.

3 SPEAKER SEPIELLI: It's been so interesting
4 listening to, you know, everybody today.

5 I came -- I came away with a couple of things that
6 I thought of as, you know, I was listening to everybody.
7 One is that with Arizona's incredible growth, especially
8 this past year of outsiders coming and deciding to live in
9 our wonderful state, the idea of kind of trying to force
10 some sort of districting as -- into -- based on what we have
11 right now, so we've heard there's a lot of Republicans in
12 one district and it's mixed in another, we don't know. And
13 especially Prescott and Yavapai -- Yavapai County, it's
14 changing. So to me that, we don't know even a year from now
15 what it's going to look like.

16 The second thing is that Sedona didn't have the
17 high school until 1994 and Red Rock High School was built.
18 And since that -- especially since that time we've even been
19 more closely aligned with Yavapai; we've got the college.
20 There's always been support from the -- from the Yavapai
21 County side that we relate to.

22 We -- there's nothing we can -- oh. Shoot.

23 I support 10.0. Anyway, and the councilors do not
24 speak for all of us in Sedona.

25 MS. CAMACHO: Your name?

1 SPEAKER SEPIELLI: I'm so sorry, Sylvia Sepielli.

2 MINOR CHILD: Bye.

3 SPEAKER SEPIELLI: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER HAYES: Yeah, let's here it for Cal, huh.

6 Hello. My name is Randy Hayes. I'm a 65-year
7 resident of Arizona, and I remember Prescott Valley when
8 there was nothing here when I was five years old but a real
9 estate shack on the left side of the road.

10 So for many years I've voted Independent and
11 Independent voters have an impact on elections, it's
12 important that elections take place in competitive
13 districts.

14 The current IRC drafts to me did not quite provide
15 the competitive districts that we need for Independent
16 voters. We should have competitive districts so it's
17 possible so that the Independent voters are engaged and
18 active in elections outcomes. I think that's very
19 important.

20 And the landmass here is greater than Rhode Island
21 and Connecticut combined. Most -- it's the most populace
22 county in Northern Arizona as Yavapai is a growing county
23 with a growth rate of 1.68 percent.

24 So currently we've -- we've got two congressional
25 districts and two legislative districts and six -- six

1 legislators. Yavapai needs two congressional and two
2 legislative district. How you go about doing that is your
3 business, you know it better than I do, and I think it's
4 important that we do consider --

5 42 seconds left. Okay.

6 Yuma -- Coconino and many other counties could
7 benefit from having these multiple districts.

8 So I want to thank you for doing the job you are
9 doing. I know it's a thankless job in many cases. So
10 please take these competitive arguments to heart and make
11 the maps work to be more competitive.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 SPEAKER HEITLAND: Good afternoon. My name is Ann
15 Heitland. I drove down here from the far side of Flagstaff
16 this morning. That's not unusual, before retired I drove to
17 Prescott frequently for federal court appearances; after
18 retiring, I play golf in Yavapai County, they've got some
19 great golf courses down here.

20 But that's not my community of interest and I
21 really didn't come intending to speak today, but I have a
22 lot of friends on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors
23 and I just wanted to stand up and say that I don't think
24 their motivation is to try to invade or take over Yavapai
25 County, they don't want Yavapai County's taxes, they don't

1 want to run their community college, they're not interested
2 in changing the building codes for the county. Instead,
3 they looked at a community of interest that runs along the
4 I-17 corridor that involves public safety, a \$2 billion
5 tourism economy and said: There's a way to create a
6 competitive district out of that community of interest, and
7 without that we will have no competitive districts among the
8 four districts that stretch across Northern Arizona, that's
9 wrong. They offered you an alternative pursuant to the
10 process you've set up of doing draft map community citizen
11 input.

12 Yesterday in the virtual town hall I heard a
13 speaker from Snowflake say she supports the draft map but
14 she never goes to Flagstaff. Yet, Snowflake would be with
15 Williams, which is 40 miles further for her to go. So that
16 District 7 is not competitive or compact. It could be both.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. CAMACHO: And then one last call for Stacy
19 Bonomi, Diane Bindley, and Don Cocio -- Coso.

20 If not, then that concludes our speakers.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Wonderful. Thank you,
23 everyone, for your remarkable engagement. I hope everyone
24 has a wonderful Thanksgiving. I'm most grateful I live in
25 Arizona and we have a remarkably civil and great public.

1 We have other hearings coming up but we are taking
2 the week of Thanksgiving off, so I hope everybody gets some
3 rest; and then look for additional hearings starting up
4 again November 30th, Mapping Monday with Mark on the 29th if
5 anybody needs help navigating the mapping system.

6 And with that, we will adjourn and I will see
7 everybody another time. Have a great day.

8 (Applause.)

9 (Whereupon the meeting concludes at 1:13 p.m.).

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

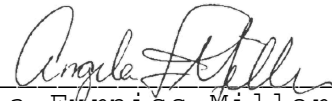
C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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

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

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 15th of December, 2021.



Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 15th of December, 2021.



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058