

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at
Phoenix Union High School District Board Room in Phoenix, AZ: August 25, 2001**

1. Mary Rose Wilcox: "On the Congressional maps, the Minority Coalition for Fair Redistricting supports the Congressional and Legislative maps, as drawn, particularly the two majority-minority districts, which have several commonalities. It is our understanding that Congressman Ed Pastor will be requesting that the Biltmore area currently within District D be interchanged with South Glendale, as it has been acknowledged in our submission that these areas have more similarities.... In Maricopa County, we are pleased that communities of interest have been grouped together, with one exception. We believe El Mirage and Old Surprise should be tied in with District M, by including them along the Agua Fria River. Otherwise, the dilution will cause voters in El Mirage and Old Surprise to have no voice."

2. Mary Rose Wilcox: "In conjunction with the Chicano Consortium for Public Issues in Tucson, we are supportive of the Southern Arizona Districts with the exception of District W. As the Commission has also stated dissatisfaction with this district, we have requested that you change it, the border towns from Douglas to Nogales be included together. We also believe when making modifications to Southern Arizona, Pinal County and the southern portions of Gila County would be more cohesive together and share communities of interest that could justify one district."

3. Paul Eckstein: "You started off talking about the Voting Rights Act, and certainly that takes precedence over state law. But the Voting Rights Act is not a guarantee of a particular result. It is a guarantee of fair process under the Voting Rights Act. You don't look at a particular number. You look at the totality of circumstances. Once it passes the Gingles test, it has been satisfied.... Arizona is under Section Five, as you well know, which prohibits retrogression. The key points on retrogression which you need to take into account, number one, are maximization of minority districts are not required under the retrogression principle. Under the Abrams vs. Johnson case, newly created districts do not necessarily have to be majority-minority. The Democratic Party supports majority-minority districts, lest there be any question. Section Five does not require it. It does not require it under Section. It's only the opportunity, that's the key, only the opportunity to elect their candidate.... The second point under dilution, packing can, as your consultant pointed out at the very beginning of these proceedings, impermissibly sacrifice the voting power of minorities in non majority-minority districts by diluting their vote. This is a representation of what your consultant did at the very outset. And we believe that the way the Congressional Districts are configured at this point results in some packing, just exactly what your consultant said is prohibited under the Voting Rights Act and under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Minorities can often influence districts without being a majority in that district. In that case, the court found there was no evidence, and I don't think there's been any presented here, I doubt any exists, that whites vote as a majority block to defeat minority candidates with consistency. In that case, they specifically found a 44.7 percent Hispanic minority voting age was sufficient to create a majority-minority district."

4. Paul Eckstein: "At the Congressional level, as I said, I do think that you can create a competitive district and still comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and move some of the voters from D to B and create at least a more competitive, how competitive depends on how many you move, at least a more competitive district. And I think the moving people from Tempe and that southern part of District B is the logical place to move some. And another logical place is at the northern end of D."

5. Paul Eckstein: "And what you have in E is 44 percent Democrat. I'm rounding it off, 55 percent Republican are in K, 43 percent Democrat, 56 percent Republican in H, 56 percent Democrat, 39 percent in J, 62 percent and 37 percent Republican. Those four districts can, they are next to one another, are districts which you can achieve competitiveness if you move the lines and still maintain all the other goals."

6. Representative Richard Miranda: "So with that in mind, here is our suggestions from the group of people that I've been working with, Murphy School District, and there's a member from Murphy School District here today to further make that point. It has been divided. It's being included in the area, we're talking from 35th Avenue and Van Buren. That community is going to have to identify with the community of 44th Street to Bethany Home Road. That -- I don't see the connection, and neither do the parents and the teachers and the superintendent and school board members of Murphy School Board District. We're asking that be put back in the area of District M. I will congratulate you, that's on including the lower half of Avondale with M."

7. Representative Richard Miranda: "If we had any movement on lines, I'd consider the northern part of District M being stopped at essentially Indian School and bring back those areas that included Isaac and Murphy and Riverside School District."

8. Evelyn Shapiro: "I'm with Isaac School District. Madam Chairperson has a map I gave to you before the board meeting. I want to thank you all for putting us in one district except for one little, bitty box that is all that is left of our district for putting it into another district. Could we please be all together? We're a minority group, mostly Hispanic, bilingual teachers, teachers working with minority kids. We have them working together as a family. We're all a big family working together. We need to stay together. Please reconsider, just go to Van Buren, bring us all together so we can all be a big family as we have been in the past."

9. Glenn Holmgren: "The reason I bring it up, as the map is laid out, the district map, we've been -- it put us in District N, I believe, what you have here. You have the westernmost boundary at 19th Avenue. And keep in mind, I'm talking about our neighborhood being two blocks north of Thomas. It runs from Thomas up to Indian School, from 19th Avenue to 23rd. Avenue. Very seldom do I find myself or any of my neighbors finding a reason to travel west. Most of our involvement is east. We consider ourselves part of central and downtown Phoenix. We are currently identified as the Westwood Village Neighborhood. It was developed three years ago. We're involved, currently part of the Encanto Village Planning Committee. As the district is drawn out, if you move us over into, like most of us consider, a significantly different, like

community if you will. Most of the building, or activity, if you will, or zoning, all up and down Black Canyon, except apartments, is commercial. As you move a little west, there's a triangle formed, a triangle, it even becomes industrial. It's significantly different. That is a very heavily industrial, commercial area."

10. John Mills: "The Congressional District of what is, you've been calling District D, I believe, which is the South Phoenix District, I would have to agree with Supervisor Wilcox. When it comes to the area she talked about, the Biltmore area, this is roughly bounded between 24th and 32nd Street, from Camelback on up on the north until it moves into the other district, District B, this district is quite a bit different than what most of that district that you are -- that that district would represent. So I would ask that that district, that that area be moved into District B. As I'm well aware, the population of these districts have to be very uniform. The Congressional District has to be down to a single individual. So to balance that out, I would suggest that there is an area roughly around 36th Street, that could be moved into that area. And the populations would be pretty close to being equal."

11. John Mills: "Another thing I noticed, I'm sure you are aware of, there's a portion of Carefree split between, actually the City of Carefree is split between two Congressional Districts. If the little arm of Carefree currently in District E was moved back into District B, as in Baker, then that would again change the population. And down in the same area I just described, the small area between Thomas and Oak between roughly 36th Street and 40th Street, that again would balance that population out."

12. John Mills: "I spoke originally about the area of Arcadia. And as luck would have it, the Arcadia area is split between District B and E. My road is on it. My road is on one side. If I throw a rock it is on the other side. This area is bounded by 50th Place to 50th Street, Indian School Road and Thomas Road. That area, if it were again moved -- that's roughly 1,200 people that live in that area. If that were moved into District 2 -- I'm sorry District B, and use the population down in the area I previously described to make everything balance."

13. John Mills: "Now we come to the Legislative Districts. And because I live in the southern portion of my Legislative District, there's kind of three areas I would like to talk about. The first portion is an area that starts at Spur Cross Road and the Arizona Canal, goes east until it hits the Crosscut Canal, then goes south, and the Crosscut Canal goes into the 64th Street alignment. It then comes to Oak at 64th and Oak, goes west on Oak to 56th Street, and then back up to Thomas Road where it runs through another canal and continues on up to Spur Cross. This area is, as far as school districts go, is in the Balsz School District. In fact, most of the students, almost all families, send their students to the Scottsdale School District. These people actually have a choice on where they are sending them. They've chosen the Scottsdale School District. With the alignment you've given them in District Q, as in Quebec, this has moved them into a Tempe type district. I've heard from numerous people they'd like to be moved into the same district, District K. To do this, of course, we have to balance population again. There is a portion of District K which is Thomas Road to Oak and from 48th Street to 56th Street. There is a

huge difference in communities below Thomas and above Thomas. And that area would much -- we would be much similar to the homes in the original area that I described than we would be with those, with that community. So it would be a nice switch between one and the other, and pretty much population would hold. There would also have to be a little more population given. And that population could be found by an area roughly from 51st Street and Oak, and taking in the northern Park Avenue Parkway area down to portions of the Grand Canal. If this area was moved in, we would again have a little bit of population deviation. The final area that we could use to be picked up is an area roughly bounded by, and I'm reading this off the maps, so give me a moment, Indian School and 36 -- actually 40th Street to Clarendon to 36th Street. So it would be 36th Street to 40th Street and Indian School to Clarendon. That area is much similar to the homes in the community in and around my area."

14. Lynn Anderson: "I'm also a resident of Westwood Village Estates. I object to the draft Legislative boundary between the map sections O and N as in Nancy, and request the west boundary be I-17. I'd like to be part of O. It still maintains a geographically compact area if we are part of section O. We are currently in the Encanto Village Planning Community and wish to remain so. As stated, the neighborhood is eligible for historic qualification in the year 2002. I strongly desire the historic district be part of the Central Phoenix community. It meets the goals of keeping like communities together and our interests with the historic neighborhoods."

15. Allen Grass: "I've lived in the house in Westwood Village since 1975. It's a beautiful area, as many of the others have intimated. We're looking at going historic next year, if everything goes well. We're working heavily with the Encanto Planning Committee as a Historic Planning Committee, as the others stated. As we essentially stated, east of 19th Avenue, the leg there, the dividing line on 19th Avenue creates difficulties working with the historic area in the Central Phoenix area. I believe District O, as mentioned, should extend to I-17 versus stopping at 19th Avenue.... I think if necessary there could be some adjustments made to District N, if there are population issues, that sort of thing. Again, with the freeway I-17 being a boundary, that makes more sense.... I mentioned Westwood District filing for historical status. Currently with the Encanto Planning Committee, keeping like communities together, I mentioned that in there. I think it's important we remain tied to the Encanto community as we work on our historic status, as we move forward on that."

16. Representative Bill Brotherton: "I guess from the standpoint of talking about historic status, I've checked with our staff. On the Legislative level, we've never dealt with any type of legislation that dealt with historic neighborhoods. It's a city issue. Putting them all together in one Legislative District would be fine. I don't think it makes any difference from the standpoint on a statewide level. It is a local issue."

17. Patricia Buckmaster: "Murphy School District. I see part of our district is in one district, and part of our school district is in another. I'm also on the Estrella Village Planning Committee. We have Fowler School District, Murphy School District, Isaac School District, and Riverside School District. We feel like we should be a part of

section M here, because we are in the west part of the valley, and we are in the southern part of that section."

18. Susan Bitter Smith: "The current District Chairman for District 26 and I, we've visited. My sense is what is the most practical area we're seeing bounded on the north, in the current proposed District Q, it's bounded north by the Crosscut Canal following down 56th Street to Oak and over to 64th, which is the area I specifically represent. That potentially has an affinity with proposed District K. Now if you do that, obviously you have to lose something from District K. South of Thomas, in District K all the way to 48th or even 32nd Street, is, on the west side of 56th Street, is in fact Phoenix Union High School District and Balsz Elementary District. That makes sense. Those neighborhoods have much more in common. They may disagree. Other areas currently proposed, District P, if you make those exchanges, as I read my cursory demographics, make the demographics as you are charged to do, on the other broader issue, the rest of South Scottsdale, then east of 64th Street, if you were potentially to move that into potential District G, all I suggest is move proposed District Q further south, proposed District T, some neighborhoods complete the cycle in Tempe in a more totality fashion create some balance. Some neighborhoods in the south part of Tempe, south part of Scottsdale, have similar economics and demographics. I'm less confident of the numbers there. The other gentleman might come up with more definitive numbers."

19. Ken Waters: "Then you were also mandated to ignore the residency of incumbents. Low and behold, all six Congressional incumbents land in their own separate districts. I mean, that's a slap in the face to the voters of Arizona. No competitiveness and incumbents retaining power."

20. Bob Haran: "I live in South Glendale. We have drugs, drive-bys, a lot of neglect, indifference by the powers that be. You have us, have split our community. Legislative L, its split us right in half, right down Maryland Avenue, right through the heart of Glendale. You have, I don't know what the areas are, I don't know whether it is south of Cotton Avenue, the southeast valley, inner city of Glendale, hooked in with an agricultural area. I don't know where the logic is there. I don't know where it is at all. That's a big problem I have with this district. Looking at other draft districts you have, probably the best solution for my neighborhood -- my neighborhood, the only problem I have, is this the end of L, it comes out here, way out here. That's south of Glendale. Push M up into that. I understand this is Republican now. I'm asking for a Democratic district. I want to keep my community in one piece. I put my community before my party."

21. Suzanne Schweiger-Nitchals: "I do hope you will take under consideration that school districts do have an interest. It's very difficult in this state to find support for schools, especially in our Legislature and in National Congress, also. We are underfunded, and part of it is because we have very little voice."

22. Representative Bill Brotherton: "Some heard what I said before, some didn't. I don't support putting Westwood into the Central Phoenix area. As you have N now, it's a

majority-minority district. What I'm concerned about, above them, the other parts in between I-17 and 19th Avenue, if you indeed go ahead and take them there and put it into the Central Phoenix District, that's fine. What I'm concerned about is let them, the people come speak for themselves. Perhaps they are not here. There are folks in other parts of that same strip that are not historic. What I'm concerned about is changing the entire map for that portion. Certainly taking them out would be fine. I have no problem with doing that. So I just wanted to make sure that was clarified."

NOTE: These summaries and excerpts were developed for the Independent Redistricting Commission by its consultant, National Demographics Corporation, and have not been reviewed by the Commission prior to posting. They are not official statements of the Commission and represent only the consultant's best effort to identify major themes and highlights of each public hearing. The excerpts were chosen by the consultant in an effort to identify common themes and especially noteworthy statements.

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