STATE OF ARIZONA

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC SESSION

Yuma, Arizona
September 10, 2001
3:00 p.m.

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50349
The State of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Convened in Public Session on September 10, 2001, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., in Yuma County at Yuma County Board of Supervisor's Office Hall, 198 South Main, Yuma, Arizona, in the Presence of:

Appearances:

CHAIRMAN STEVEN W. LYNN
COMMISSIONER ANDI E. MINKOFF
COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK
COMMISSIONER DANIEL R. ELDER
LISA T. HAUSER, Commission Counsel
JOSE DE JESUS RIVERA, Commission Counsel
DR. ALAN HESLOP, NDC, Consultant
DOUG JOHNSON, NDC, Consultant
AMY REZZONICO, Press Information Officer
AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Outreach Staff
AMLA VILLARREAL, Outreach Staff
Spanish Interpreter
LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter

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Phoenix, Arizona
PRESENTATION BY:

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI E. MINKOFF

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

JIM WOODDELL

DAVID HOLM

J. P. MELCHIONNE

JUDY BUMP

MAYOR VERLYN MICHEL (Quartzsite)

COUNCILMAN CHUCK BUSBY

SUPERVISORY CLIFF EDEY

WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH

GENE FISHER

MAYOR MARILYN YOUNG (Yuma)

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT CANNELL, M.D.

DENNIS BOOTH

SUPERVISOR LUCY SHIPP

THERESA ULMER

DAVID HOLM

MAYOR VERLYN MICHEL (Quartzsite)

SUPERVISORY CLIFF EDEY

JIM WOODDELL

COUNCILMAN CHUCK BUSBY

SUPERVISOR BOB McLENDON

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CHAIRMAN LYNN: Good evening, everyone. We'll start right on time, be respectful of everyone's time.
I'm Steve Lynn, Chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commission this evening is represented by four-fifths of the Commission. Mr. Huntwork is not on the dias. He'll be joining us.
On the far right of the dias, next to Mr. Huntwork, is Andrea Minkoff. He'll be joining us. There's Mr. Huntwork. To my left is Dan Elder, a member of the Commission. To Dan's left, Lisa Hauser, one of our two legal counsel. At the end of the dias, Lisa Nance, the public stenographer for the Commission. For Lisa, if you are going to speak, that's why we're here, to listen to you, come to the podium, say and spell your name. That's most helpful.
Let me also introduce the other members of

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the staff here. The gentleman in the very nice pink shirt this evening, red tie, nice combination --

MR. RIVERA: I'm not afraid.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: -- is Jose Rivera, the other of our legal counsel. To Jose's left is Doug Johnson representing our consultants, National Demographics Corporation.

We also have the Commission staff who I'll try get to later if we have time.

I need to, at the beginning of the meeting, ask:

(Whereupon the Chairman asks the audience in Spanish if anyone requires the services of a Spanish interpreter. No one indicates a desire for the proceedings to be interpreted in the Council Chambers. The evenings proceedings are televised and interpreted in Spanish on Yuma Channel 77.)

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Por favor. Gracias.

So we'll conduct the meeting this evening in English.

And, as is custom, we start with a Power Point presentation.

Andrea Minkoff, Vice Chairman, will be presenting it to you. It will be shown on the screen.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

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Can you all tell me, is it on?

Is it on?

Is this better?

Nope?

A VOICE: It's just low.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Is this better?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to add my welcome to those of
Chairman Lynn and say we're very, very glad you are able
to be with us.

I have a very brief Power Point
presentation to provide you with background about the
process so far. Hopefully it will tell you the time
frame for your marks and comments which we'll be anxious
to listen to immediately after the Power Point
presentation.

The purpose of the hearings is really to
obtain your thoughts, your opinions on the draft maps
we've developed.

We're going to be showing you these draft
maps in a little while. We hope to hear from you what
we've done right and what maybe needs fixing.

There are also wall maps, two maps over

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there which deal with the Yuma County area specifically,
also some maps you can pick up on the table which are a
little bit larger maps that cover the whole state. I
courage you to look at them.

Also, I hope each of you received a
citizen kit when you came in the room, a manila
envelope. If anybody did not receive one, raise their
hand.

We need one back there.

Anybody else?

We encourage you to look through them.

There's lots of very, very good information.

Please remember one thing. The maps you
are looking at tonight, the maps we are showing you, the
maps on the wall, the maps in the citizen kit are
drafts. And we're here tonight to have you tell us what
you would like to see in the final maps that are going
to be drawn in the next stage of the process.

Last year the people in Arizona voted by a
rather substantial majority in the first citizen led
redistricting in the State of Arizona to provide for a
new kind of mechanism for drawing the Congressional and
Legislative Districts, which we do every 10 years.
These are the new rules, all straight from Proposition
106.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Minkoff, if I may ask, let's keep conversations to one at a time. It would be most helpful.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Thank you.

There are two provisions in the federal requirements we must comply with, the first is the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution. According to the equal protection clause, districts must be substantially equal so that one person's vote counts the same as somebody else's vote in another district.

The other federal requirement is the United States Voting Right Act. That requires that districts we draw do not in any way diminish the ability of minorities to elect candidates of their choosing to office. They should have at least the same access to political office as they currently have.

Then a number other criteria were established by the State of Arizona. Those are listed under C, D, and E, talking about districts being compact, contiguous, respecting communities of interest, using geographic features, city, towns, boundaries, undivided Census tracts.

Notice in each one of the phrases, the "term to the extent practicable" appears. That's very
important because very often, I'll show you some
examples, we're going to see where one of these criteria
are in conflict with another one and we have to do a
balancing act to determine in each given situation where
to draw lines.

Finally, F refers to competitive
districts. It says to the extent practicable,
competitive districts should be favored when there is no
significant detriment to other criteria. We'll deal
with that in a little while as well.

Proposition 106 has something unique to
Arizona. It requires to us start by designing a grid.
Now a grid is a regular geometric type of figure,
including straight, regularly spaced lines, and
according to Proposition 106 the grid should take into
account only population, none of the other factors. We
had to begin with a grid, then adjust it to reflect
other criteria.

These were our grid maps. If you look at
them, the first thing you'll say is what was she talking
about, straight lines, evenly spaced? It doesn't look
very grid-like to me. What happened was we decided to
use townships as the building blocks for our grid map.
Townships are six miles square. However, population
figures provided by the Census Department, Census

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Bureau, are according to Census Tracts. Census tracts are not quite as regular in shape as townships. We had to take Census tracts and overlay them on townships. Census tracts, in no cases, ever cross county boundaries. You'll see a lot of irregular lines, county boundaries, or boundaries of other geographic subdivisions that have not crossed Census tracts.

This was our grid. We knew it didn't do the job. It didn't take any other criteria into consideration. At least it forced us to start over.

We couldn't take existing districts and move a line here, move a line there. We really had to start over, and the grid did force us to do that.

Then we went around the state for a series of public hearings, and there was one here in Yuma at the City Council Chambers I had the privilege of attending.

We asked citizens for their opinion, and they made it very, very clear there were certain principles they wanted us to follow.

First: Respect for communities of interest and second was respect for integrity of cities, towns, counties, local government.

The term community of interest was a term coined by Sandra Day O'Connor in a Supreme Court
opinion. She never defined it. We determined rather than defining it ourselves, we'd go to you and ask you to define it.

You told us what your communities of interest were, told us the groups with whom you share common interest, and groups with whom you had no commonalty. We listened to you. Out of that, we developed what we called Arizona units of representation, AURs, which really are just another term for communities of interest.

Those were developed from your input.

There were three major communities of interest that were identified during that first round of public hearings. First, there was a lot of testimony telling us we should respect the integrity of the Native American communities and tribal reservations, and we attempted to do that. Second was we should respect Hispanic communities of interest where they were self-identified. And we have attempted to do that. And the third was there should be a very, very clear division between rural and urban areas to the extent possible, and they should be separated, something, incidentally, we heard not just from the rural areas, that they did not want to be swallowed up by the State of Maricopa, we also heard it from urban areas where
they felt their interests and concerns were different
than rural areas and they probably should be in separate
districts.

We developed draft districts that you are
going to see in a little while that were very, very
different from the existing districts. Those were
thrown out when we developed the grid and are also quite
different from the grid, the maps developed,
superimposed over other criteria on the grid.

The draft plans, because we've tried to
respect the integrity of cities and towns, have many
fewer splits.

Our current Congressional District map
split 16 cities and towns. The draft districts, and
remember we're drawing now eight districts where
existing districts only had six, added two additional
districts, only split six cities and towns in the
process, and at least one of them, Phoenix, is much too
large for one Congressional District and would have to
be have been split in any case.

Legislative Districts, the existing 30
Districts split 39 cities and towns. Our draft maps
split one third that amount, 13 cities and towns.
The same thing is true about county
boundaries.

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We have tried, where possible, to respect the boundaries of the 15 Arizona counties. In some cases, Sedona, for instance, the city is in both Yavapai and Coconino County. A number of Indian Reservations cross county boundaries. In those cases, we tried to respect the integrity of those areas. In most other cases, we tried to split as few counties as possible.

The existing six Congressional Districts split five counties in the State of Arizona. Our draft, eight Congressional Districts, split only one additional county, six counties.

The existing Legislative Districts split 13 existing counties in Arizona. The Draft Districts split only nine counties.

In terms of communities of interest, we have not split any tribal reservations, and in many cases we tried to unify reservations within the same district so there are two, three, or more within a districts.

Hispanic communities of interest, where they identify themselves, we’ve tried to respect their request to be kept together in their own districts.

Rural and urban communities were also distinguished, for the most part.

Most other AURs or communities of interest

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you developed have been respected by the draft plans.

Here again, I have to caution you,

communities of interest were developed that overlapped.

We'd have one group come in and say this is a community
of interest, these boundaries are the communities of
interest. We'd like to be together in the same
district. These are our interests and communities we
share. At another meeting somebody else would stand and
say: These are the boundaries we share. When we'd look
at the two of them, there are some that would overlap.

Obviously Abraham Lincoln taught us: You can't please
all the people all the time.

We tried to accommodate as many AURs as we
can.

Competitiveness. It said it can only be
considered after the first stage of the mapping process
is completed. We can only do that when there is no
substantial detriment to other goals.

We heard a lot of comment up until now at
the public hearings from people saying they want
competitive districts, and that was one of the reasons
why they voted for Proposition 106. We're asking the
people who feel this way to give us some help to let us
know ways they feel we might make districts more
competitive while still respecting all the other

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criteria in Proposition 106.

We have designed the following draft plan for our eight Congressional Districts. This is it. If you have a hard time seeing it, you may have picked up the maps on the table, and there is also a map in your citizen kit.

Now here's a perfect example of conflicting criteria. If you look at District A, that's the green district. That doesn't look real compact, does it.

A VOICE: No kidding.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: That's because there was a community of interest identified, the Hopi Tribe. They asked to be in a district separate from the Navajo Nation that surrounds them. The only way we could do that was creating that little neck of the flying giraffe, if you will. It has only, I think, four people who live in it. It doesn't displace a lot of people. And it allowed us to respect the Hopi community of interest and put them in a district of their choosing. In order to do that we had to make a district not as compact as some others on the map. That's a balancing act we had to do.

Draft Congressional Districts in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.
These are draft maps in the Tucson Metropolitan area.

And the Legislative map, these are the 30 Legislative Districts in the Phoenix area. Once again, I refer you to the map in the citizen kit. I think you'll be able to see it a lot more clearly. These are Legislative Districts in the Phoenix area.

These are Legislative Districts in the Tucson area.

A legislative District has approximately 171,000 people in it. A congressional District has 641,000 people in it.

Now we're at the point where we're -- we've done our draft maps and taking our show on the road. Our hope is that you'll take this opportunity tonight to let us know what you think so far, whether favorable or not favorable.

If you like the districts as currently drawn, let us know. We hear from people that want things changed. If all we hear are people that want changes, we'll hear they should be changed. If you want them changed, we appreciate all the detail you can possibly give us. If you have suggested changes for district lines, give us the specific boundaries, city limits, county lines, individual streets, whatever you
can give us. We'd appreciate it.

If you wish to testify, you need to fill out a yellow speaker slip. We have a number turned in already. If you want to speak, haven't filled out a speaker slip, raise your hand and we'll get one to you. If, as public comment goes on during the course of the evening, something occurs that hasn't occurred yet and you decide later on in the meeting you want to speak, that's fine. We won't close off speaking until the end of the meeting. If at any time you decide you want to fill out a yellow speaker slip, please do so.

You will also find a citizen kit form to fill out and mail back and an envelope in your citizen kit. It's an easy form, doesn't take long at all. It tells what you think about the Congressional Legislative map.

You also can go on the website address up there, www.azredistricting.org. It is there in the kit and also on the website. You can fill it out and send it to us electronically.

There is a whole bunch of additional information on the website. There are draft maps there, the capacity to zoom in on draft maps, statistical data about various districts, press releases there.

As we go around the state to meetings such

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as this, within a few days, a summary of the meeting is posted on the website. The text of Proposition 106 is on the website. It's a very user friendly site, very well-designed. I say this because I have no part in its development. But I would encourage you to visit it early and visit often because I think if you are interested in the redistricting process, you'll find a lot of good information there.

You can also use regular old snail mail if want to send it to us. The website has the opportunity to send us a narrative e-mail, should you like.

This redistricting process is going to determine the kind representation we all have in the state for the next 10 years. It's worthy of all the energy and attention we can give to it.

We appreciate your interest and participation in Arizona's first citizen conducted redistricting process.

Now it's time for us to listen to you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mrs. Minkoff, very much.

The rest of the evening this evening will be devoted to your comments. What we ask is this. As your name is called, come to the podium. And again, state your name and spell it for the record.

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We also ask that in your comments, first of all, if you could try, we're not putting a stopwatch on anyone, but if you try to contain your comments to perhaps three, four minutes, initially, so we can hear the most number of people that we can of an evening. And then at the end of the first round, if there are additional comments you wish to make, we're happy to hear you a second or third time, if that's appropriate. The most important thing, as Ms. Minkoff said in her presentation, really, at this stage of the process, it's not enough for you to just say I like this or don't like that. We've heard enough of that and we understand there are those who are happy with certain aspects of the maps as presented and those quite unhappy with other aspects of the map. If you wish to have the map changed, as she also mentioned, you need to be very specific about how it ought to be changed. To the extent you've given thought to how adjustments should be made be made to accommodate the kind of things you are suggesting, we need that information, if you can provide that to us.

Again, any comment is useful, and we'll take all comments into account as we move forward in the process.

So with no further ado, let me, as is our

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custom, call in the order we received the speaker slips,
I'll give you both a speaker and then sort of an on deck
so you know you are next, we can move through these as
expeditiously as we can.

First speaker is Jim Wooddell.

Mr. Wooddell is followed by David Holm.

Mr. Wooddell.

MR. WOODDELL: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
Commissioners, man in pink. I saw my first transvestite
yesterday at a little bar --

(Laughter.)

MR. WOODDELL: I'm all flustered now.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: How do you think legal
counsel feels? You are flustered.

MR. WOODDELL: I'd like to share with you
one example of community of a interest La Paz County
probably shares with Yuma County.

You may be aware La Paz County went
through a flooding ordeal that affected people in La
Paz. Citizens of Yuma County went into action. Our
committee was formed within a few days after the
disaster and gave immediate aid to all people that asked
for help. The idea for this committee came from Larry
Nelson, a citizen from Yuma County. The mission of this
committee was to give immediate aid to the citizens of
the flooding at no administrative cost. Larry ended up being the honorary chairman. Myself and primarily Larry, the Rotary Clubs, Yuma Foundry, and others were involved the purchase of beds, baby cribs, blankets, et cetera. Most people we helped were Mexican. Many did not know how to speak English. We had help from fine organizations. Yuma citizens helped. We were able through this mission to give aid to Wenden, Salome, and throughout the counties.

Robert Cannell, our current State Representative, resides here, and also gave from the heart on behalf of the children in the flood area. And others from Yuma did the same.

To the best of my knowledge, even though we asked, no one organization from the Mohave County assisted us in this committee's efforts. Much money was spent at stores like Walmart that were in Mohave County. This example is typical of the community's of interest in La Paz and Yuma County.

Best my knowledge, this sort of interest between Mohave County and La Paz County does not exist. The current Legislative draft isolated 20 percent of La Paz County, roughly 4,000 people, rough numbers, I don't really know the exact numbers, from the rest of La Paz County, roughly 20,000 people, according
to the Census. 4,000 people in Yuma County, if you cut along the southeast portion of the current draft.

Roughly two percent and change in Yuma County, a very insignificant number as regards the border issues that concern the people of Yuma County as a whole.

Any way you look at it, change, I suggest a very small change in Yuma County would be a very significant change for La Paz County.

I drew a little map I'd like to give somebody here.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'll take it.

MR. WOODDELL: Although the draft is rough, it meets the needs of the people in La Paz County: fair, compact, contiguous, and keeps existing counties. The Bill Williams River is used for many boundary issues at the state and local, federal level, and significant geographic boundaries, and keeps the community of interest intact, Yuma and La Paz County.

My redraw also agrees with many comments stated about Yavapai and La Paz Counties in the first round of appearance.

That's all I have.

If there are questions, I'll be happy to take them.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We're happy to take them.

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MR. WOODDELL: May I approach?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Please.

MR. WOODDELL: Very user friendly.

The math was very rough.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'll make copies.

MR. WOODDELL: I have to write down transvestite to the state memo. (chuckling.)

COMMISSIONER ELDER: There's a map in here?

MR. WOODDELL: The map is on the second page.

Basically it was.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'll --

MR. WOODDELL: Basically use it --

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'll get it in the record.

Thank you very much, Mr. Wooddell.

Next is David Holm and then J.P. Melchionne.

MR. MELCHIONNE: I own O.L.M. I'm the owner of River Communications in Parker, Arizona, the primary internet service provider for the Greater Parker area of Arizona, but I live in Bouse, Arizona, a better community than Parker.

You've completely -- you're supposed to

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plan redistricting around one thing and vote for
something else entirely? Because I have been cut off
from my common area of interest, which is the community
of Parker, which we are only a bedroom community of.
Also when you cut it off, you cut off Wenden, the Salome
area, and have taken this relatively poor farming area,
low income area, and taken it and placed it with the
affluent, nuevo rich area of Mohave County. This is the
community made up Lake Havasu, Bullhead City, imported
people from California, Nevada, the north, both high in
income or have much money, and lumping them together as
a commonality of interest with poor Mexican and farming
community people. I think: God, there's no commonalty
of interest there.

Not only that, did you offer contiguity?
Where is the contiguity of Wenden and Salome to Havasu
and Bullhead City, when they have to travel through
Parker, another district, to get there? There is no
road from this area to that area. I don't see a common
interest here. I don't see a contiguity.

There definitely is compactness in
physical, not in a personal manner. People have to move
from one area to the next, have to go through another
area just to get to another section of their area.

And then you would completely ignore the

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natural boundary of the Bill Williams River, which traditionally divides the river area into the north and the south, and it's been this way for many, many years, that's my comment on the Legislative District.

On the Congressional District, this, this is completely crazy. This corridor runs 400 miles of state to include the Hopi Nation with us. It's ridiculous.

I was at the Colorado River Indian Tribe's Fish and Game this morning working on their computer systems. I was sitting in their lunch room with a number of them, and they were speaking with this issue. And a number of them were Navajos, a number of them Hopis, and they all live together there on the, on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, function well together, and don't have the problems you're seeing up in the northeast section of the state. Know what they said about what they have in common with the Hopi Nation up there? It's dogs. The only thing they have in common is dogs. They both own dogs.

Now, if an Indian tribe doesn't feel a commonalty of interest here, where is anybody else finding a commonalty of interest? Where does -- what is my commonality of interest with a Hopi Indian up in the northeast part of the state? I have none.
What they want, what they need, are valid things. But they are not what I want and what I need.

They are what they need for representation and it is not what I need for representation.

And for compactness, it's certainly not compact.

I see the same thing, even on the other map. You bring Cochise halfway up across the state, central part of the state, and wrap it around Phoenix. Where is the compactness here? Sure, contiguous. You have a corridor up, but it's not compact.

I feel the whole thing is -- the best I can say is gerrymandering at its finest.

CHAIRMAN LYNCH: Mr. Holm, before we go, as with many speakers, it's helpful if we have questions or comments if you wouldn't mind engaging in dialogue.

MR. HOLM: Sure.

CHAIRMAN LYNCH: Mr. Elder.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Mr. Holm, I'm not sure after all the discussion if I know what you are asking for as far as in relation Parker on the Legislative maps. Are you looking for Parker to be moved with Lake Havasu or looking for the area around Parker to be more distinctly removed from Havasu?

MR. HOLM: When I look at the population

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figures of Yuma County, La Paz County, I find they
almost exactly fit the figures for a Legislative
District.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Irrespective of
figures, where is your community of interest? Where do
you fit is the question I'm asking.

MR. HOLM: We have no commonalty of
interest with Mohave, the section you have us in. You
split the Town of Parker in half.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Did you --

MR. HOLM: If you see, the road goes down
and turns south. Parker is south, the Town of Parker is
expanding. As the Town of Parker is set up now, one
square now is bounded by the Indian Reservation, and we
cannot expand Parker south out there which is where
expansion started --

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Parker south jumps the
reservation boundary expanding further south.

MR. HOLM: Yes. It's cut off completely,
14 miles separated from the present Town of Parker, they
are cut off completely. The Town of Bouse, the bedroom
community for Parker, 90 percent people live in Bouse,
work in Parker, their livelihoods are in Parker, buy
groceries in Parker. There is no business industry in
Bouse other than Indian stores, and so forth. It's

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totally a system in Parker. They are cut off completely.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Is Bouse along State Route 95?

MR. HOLM: State Route 72.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: In relationship to the, the district boundary we've drawn, which is drawn to the east following the Colorado River Indian Reservation land, point it out to me. Where would it fit?

MR. HOLM: Can I --

A VOICE: 14 miles east of it.

MR. HOLM: Okay. Bouse is 14 miles east right there.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Okay. Great. Thank you.

MR. HOLM: Highway 72. This is 72. 95 here. 75 splits here. 95 here. Parker is south. This area right here, and it starts at the reservation line.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Got it.

MR. HOLM: Cut the line, Parker in half here. Also the Town of Quartzsite is chopped up here.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Okay.

MR. HOLM: The Town of Quartzsite is chopped up.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Mr. Holm, I understand both the need in the early round of hearings

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and now tonight the desire of La Paz County and Yuma County.

MR. HOLM: Yes, ma'am.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Numbers may not work.

MR. HOLM: Mr. Wooddell showed a map.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The population of La Paz County is just little bit too large. Not too small, a little too large. So something has to give. So what I'm asking you, I understand that you want the two of them to be together. If we put the two together, we'd be in violation of the one person one vote mandate that districts be substantially equal in size. Something has to be taken out.

What I'm asking you is if we have to remove four, five thousand people from that two county area, where would you suggest we remove them?

MR. HOLM: I'd suggest what Mr. Wooddell suggested, 4,000 be removed from the lower portion of Yuma County.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Southeast rather than Southwest.

MR. HOLM: Yes, southeast. This has very little impact on Yuma County. Percentagewise it does not hurt Yuma County. But the percentage size, the way

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you have it now, drastically hurts La Paz County. We're already at the count where we're so insignificant this committee couldn't even schedule a meeting in La Paz County.

I had to take two hours off work, drive 120 miles to attend this meeting. We must be awfully insignificant. You cut us in half, can't hold a meeting in La Paz County. Other counties have a population density similar to ours, you schedule two, three meetings. I see there's a meeting in Show Low, Snowflake up there this weekend, just as desolate as we are in La Paz County.

I thank you for allowing me to speak. It would have been nice if I could have spoke to you in Parker.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I understand. Thank you. Other questions?

Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

J. P. Melchionne followed by Judy Bump.

MR. MELCHIONNE: J. P. Melchionne,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak,

Mr. Chairman, Members of the board. I kind of feel for the last speaker. I'd like see Yuma and La Paz in one Congressional, one Legislative District also. I don't
know where the cut-off for Yuma is. Get rid of four, five thousand people. The southeastern is a bombing range and monument area. There are not four, five thousand there.

I'd like to see you combine us all.

Quite, frankly, I don't see how you can do it.

My big question I'd like to either see all the border districts, Yuma, most of Pima, cut off at the intersection, Cochise County, let Pinal go somewhere else if possible. Either one, La Paz, Mohave, water is a big interest.

The Colorado River you have right there, I think a Congressional District where the river, that's something in common, and of course the border issues. We know the border problems, all along the California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas border.

If you take Yuma County, Pima County, go across I-10 as it goes, cut down, take in Cochise County, it might make more sense. I don't know how numbers work, kind of -- the only bad thing about this, I didn't have the time to look through the packages, to do the studying I'd like to do, I don't know how the numbers the work. I think there's commonality with either one of the two possibilities, having a border district or a river district.
One other thing, the Congressional District map, Navajos, Hopis separated from Navajos don't want to be part of it. Legislative District for state, don't mind sharing Legislative representative. Evidently all the same district there. Two separate sets of rules depending on whether state or federal? That's all.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Just to briefly respond, they've expressed a very clear desire to be separate in both maps, the Hopi have. That issue is still in play in the final mapping for both the Legislative and Congressional map.

I wanted to ask you a question about the river district. I think that's a theme we may hear more, a theme we've heard in the first round of hearings. It's less of an issue to talk about Legislative. Numbers can be made to work in terms Legislative Districts in the western part of state. But it seems as though the only practical way to get the river district enough population is to have the river district wind up in either Phoenix or -- Tucson would be a stretch. Phoenix probably would be a more logical place, wind up finding 641,000 people. Do you have an opinion how that works?
MR. MELCHIONNE: Not exactly where it's supposed to take place. Can't take growth into account. I'll tell you in two, three years, we'll have more than enough people. The next time redistricting comes along, we'll probably have too darn many people, won't be able to have a river district, cut off part of Mohave, part of La Paz again, or perhaps part of Yuma to make it.

We're the fastest growing area of the state. Folks, San Luis is the fastest growing part of the state. That's not going to stop. People, like it or not, it's not going to stop.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Elder.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Given the choices, that's our problem, where end up trying to balance competing interests here. If looking at the Congressional District like a river district as one option, or a Congressional District that was a border district and get numbers to work in either scenario, which one is preferable?

MR. MELCHIONNE: I prefer a river district. People may make a good argument for a border one. Water is the key to what is going to happen in this state and west for the next foreseeable future. So I prefer a river district. But people may sit and argue for -- I'd not argue against a border district.

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CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Melchionne, very much.

The next speaker is Judy Bump. Then next is the Mayor of Quartzsite, and if that person would help me pronounce it.

MAYOR MICHEL: Verlyn Michel.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Michel.

MS. BUMP: Judy Bump, just like it sounds.

In answer to a question earlier. I'd vote for a river district earlier.

I am not making a statement for any political party or any other group, only for myself. We voted for a committee to redistrict our state, to reflect our growth.

Where did we -- did I miss the part about hiring consultants and everything else?

It has been brought to my attention there are two sacred cow districts in Arizona, one in Phoenix, one in Tucson.

Phoenix and Tucson can be put into new districts just like the rest of the state, even if we don't like what is being done.

I also want to thank you for being so prompt in notifying me of the meeting dates and places.

The postmark on the envelope was August 31st, 2001.
received it on September 1st. Certainly that gives me a lot of time to prepare. That was the first time I saw any of the maps other than what was in the Arizona Republic.

One doesn't make any citizen input I heard. Pinal County population, could make them a district on their own. I have recently been told that La Paz and Yuma can be a district on their own. These are Legislative Districts.

Those would be your rural counties, right here, Yuma and La Paz.

It has been mentioned in relation to Congressional and Legislative District -- sorry, lost my place.

It's hard to believe listening to the public you're dividing up communities sometimes into three, four more districts. If it fits with paragraph two, I can't see it.

As you have already heard, I don't believe in splitting up counties. I feel the only two maps I have seen causes significant detriment to our state as a whole and individual voters regardless of party.

My personal feelings, you've done nothing but solidify problems we already have in Arizona. We are not members or -- numbers or statistics but people
who deserve consideration for our comments and
suggestions and listening instead of the consultants
being paid for your work on the four-plus counties.

I realize they will have to be combined,
in some cases divided, not to the extent you're seeing
on the maps I have dated August 21st.

From my point of view, it all stinks.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

Next speaker, Verlyn Michel, Mayor of
Quartzsite, followed by Chuck Busby, Chuck Busby.

Mayor Veryln Michel. The name is spelled.

MAYOR MICHEL: Veryln Michel. I'll spell
them both. V E R Y L N, M I C H E L.

As the Chairman announced, I am Mayor of
Quartzsite.

I wish to thank the Chairman and
Commission for the time to be able to address you.

One of the major problems I have with your
maps is apparently nobody knows where Quartzsite is on
there. The county seat of La Paz is on there. And the
smallest town, we don't have the smallest town, or the
largest town of La Paz. Quartzsite, we beat Parker. We
have 3,400 people. They have 3,354. Yet you don't know
where we're at.

Mr. Woodell mentioned the flooding of

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Wenden. The Town of Quartzsite was involved in that also. We were prepared to accept any survivors that needed to be brought in, were totally alerted. I even went myself to the flood area to inspect. I did take time out for that.

We have worked very, very well with the county of Yuma and the Town of Yuma.

Marilyn Young, the Mayor here, she and I have worked very well together, and we wish to continue that.

Also, if you'll notice on your Legislative map, if you can't find where Quartzsite is, I'll clue you in. On Interstate 10 west of the C for the word county at the intersections of 95 and I-10. 95 is going to be a CaniMex Highway, is already designated that, to take from people from Mexico to Canada. I-10 is the only interstate highway in the United States that goes from water to water, the Atlantic to Pacific. We're in an ideal position and yet seem to be ignored for our wants and wishes.

Also, the Legislature map, if you notice, has split the town into four pieces. Why? You have the northeast section of the town in the part Mohave County and part of the northwest section. The rest of the northwest section, southwest, southeast, are in Yuma.
County. This doesn't work. How can it possibly work for us? It's impossible when you put us in two different districts. It's like splitting your own home in four parts. You wouldn't know which one you could be in or which to vote in. It doesn't work.

And I also agree with the Congressional District map. That has to be the most ridiculous looking thing that ever happened. It sure looks funny.

You are calling it a giraffe, but we look very closely with Bob Cannell, not Bob Cannell, Bob Stump. He helped the town of Quartzsite in numerous times. The Western Power Administration, a federal power company that had a big line going through the middle of town, they decided to go in, move into the residential area. Told the field supervisor there not a damn thing we could do about it. When I got the news about it, I called Bob Stump. Now they've moved over into a proposed light industrial area.

Quartzsite is on the grow. We have the opportunity to even outclass Phoenix as far as population, industry, and everything else by having a dual highway system right through the middle of us.

Even at the present time, we have, very shortly, a population in increase of snow birds. Last year, 1.8 million came people in our town. We could

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handle it. We know how to handle it.

But please, don't tear us up on Legislative or Congressional. We wish to stay with Yuma County. We worked very well with them. We worked very well with their elected officials. And we wish to continue that.

I know you are having problems with numbers, especially into La Paz County on the Legislative District map. Ms. Minkoff mentioned that.

The other problem you might not think of that could arise in what you have is because part of our district in what you have cut off, put with Mohave County, there isn't a sole there, not one person, and that would be the northwest section, northeast section of La Paz County. There's nobody there. We are very limited in the number of people we do have. Most of them are on Interstate 10 at our place, Ehrenberg.

There's Highway 60 going up through to Ehrenberg. This is Brenda, Hope, Wickenburg, 72, we have Bouse, only, and Parker is on 95. That is the majority of our population is that right there. So I don't see how your maps that you have can be fair in districting anybody, especially in La Paz and Yuma counties. It's impossible.

Okay. I'll answer questions, if you wish.

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CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Minkoff.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I have a couple questions. One thing I wasn't sure about in your question about the Congressional District, currently, La Paz County, Quartzsite, are in Congressional District Three represented by Bob Stump.

MAYOR MICHEL: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yuma County is represented by Ed Pastor.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I heard you express satisfaction with Congressional representation and also that you wanted to be in Yuma County. I need clarification.

MAYOR MICHEL: It would work with the district in Yuma County. I mentioned Bob Stump because we had more dealings with him than anybody else. Okay? But, if we can be put down into Yuma County, I'm sure we can work there very well with Mr. Pastor.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Or whoever else represents that area.

MAYOR MICHEL: Whoever represents anyone at the time. Any official hopes to get re-elected.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Same question on Legislative, if you ask members of the Commission, Yuma County, put La Paz and Yuma together in strong support,
can't do it, numbers don't allow us to do it. Let me ask you what you would propose that does fit the numbers.

MAYOR MICHEL: The two percent I was handed, two percent could be started at Dateland in Yuma County.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: For Dateland east?

MS. BUMP: Gila Bend. I can explain better. I lived out there most my life. Most people from Dateland, Hyder, go to school in Antelope. Most business are actually more toward Gila Bend.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: And that would be --

MAYOR MICHEL: I don't know.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: 4,000 --

MAYOR MICHEL: I don't know what the numbers are. That's a start.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Other questions for the Mayor?

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much.

MAYOR MICHEL: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Next speaker, Chuck Busby.

Mr. Busby followed by Cliff Edey.

One way or another, it's usually wrong.

Mr. Busby.

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Phoenix, Arizona
COUNCILMAN BUSBY: Chuck Busby, B U S B Y.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission,

thank you for letting me speak tonight.

I don't want to echo the Mayor's comments too much. You don't want to hear it.

I want you to know I do substantially support everything he said.

The biggest problem, not only the splits, La Paz County had the largest, and it splits Quartzsite down the middle. I think that's unacceptable, not acceptable to me at all.

We have one township, you know, 36 square miles, 3,300 plus people in there, 1.8 million in January, and we don't need to be split, particularly in the Legislative District.

We're extremely happy with the Legislators we have, all from Yuma. We like and respect every one of them. I've known Jim Curothers for 20 years, know Herb Guerther for probably 15 years. And you heard when he was in the Legislature. We work very well with those people. Those people come see us. You split us up and put us with Mohave County, how many of those people do you think come down to Quartzsite to see us? We work with those people in some situations. We don't have a relationship with those people up there, with the people
in Yuma. We come to Yuma, might go Lake Havasu, very
seldom go to Kingman unless I have to go to a meeting.
Same thing is true with the Congressional map.
I'm not really sure how this works,
talking about La Paz County being represented by Bob
Stump, Yuma County represented by Mr. Pastor.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Currently.

MR. BUSBY: Isn't there a split in La Paz
County?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: The railroad line
is set up 10 years ago.

MR. BUSBY: It's represented in the
current maps.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I think it's all Yuma
County.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: All Yuma County in
Congressional Two and all La Paz in Congressional Three
in the current maps.

MR. BUSBY: It wasn't that way. It's been
around too long.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Hopi are in the
Congressional in the current district.

MR. BUSBY: I won't repeat what I think
about that. It may be necessary, but it's the height of
ridiculousness. There ought to be a better way.

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If you come back, don't know what you do with it, if you divided it in two Legislative Districts somewhere, Mr. Lynn is saying that they desire to be that way on both maps, that could get in even more ridiculous, so many already in there. Maybe split the Hopi Reservation, put in half Gila and the other half Coconino. I think La Paz, Gila, ought to be still represented together.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Busby, very much.

Comments or questions?

Thank you, sir.

Next is La Paz County Supervisor Clifton.

SUPERVISOR CLIFTON: Good afternoon Commissioners, Chairman.

Glad I don't have the job. I don't have the time.

Two issues, draft districts.

I understand the issue, quite a mess.

Somebody got carried away with a paint brush. La Paz could be attached La Paz, a small portion of the Mohave section could be given over a very little to balance it out. 20,000 people, a total easy shift, I imagine, below Phoenix and Mohave if you were to put back Section A, a large Section of Mohave into it.
That solves that problem. We could be back as far as Congressional. Gets us out of the giraffe.

The other situation, the Draft Legislative Districts are a lot more complicated. 20,000, also I understand the situation of Yuma with 165, ends up at 185,800. We are split or Yuma is split. To ask Yuma, what we feel is inappropriate, gets me in trouble with Quartzsite. Yuma or La Paz, I don't know how do it. If Yuma could give us something, but that's not going to happen. If I look at the bitter pill, it's the lesser of two evils, how keep La Paz together. Maybe we'll be forced to go to Mohave.

Do we like that? No. Do the numbers reflect that? Maybe so. If it's the only chance to see where La Paz can stay together as a unit, I think that's more important than anything. Do we like Yuma County, you know, on a firsthand basis, the doors is always open. We'd probably continue so, even if not directly with the Legislators. Mohave has three different polarized personalities up there, three towns. It's more entertaining. Do I have concern about that? Yes. It requires more lobbying efforts for us county supervisors.

We need the county intact as a whole unit.

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I don't know how to do it on the map otherwise.

Now, we're within .28 percent, something like that. Even if you put it at five percent, that puts it at 180,000. We're at 185,000. It doesn't work, the same problem. It's our hopes and dreams.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Edey, a question. Do you have an opinion, expressed as if you do need to shift, the situation of going eastern from Yuma County, a population sufficient to separate from the Yuma area, per se, that it might be able to be moved?

MR. EDEY: Speaking to a fellow a County Supervisor, it's a problem that they're not out there. It's clear too well, to go to get adequate population, you'd have to dig that deep into Yuma. How to do that, they'd absolutely adamantly oppose my county. That's not the way to look at that. They'll not allow it.

They'd fight my agency, have more clout. We'd go up against a battle we can't win, or take a second battle. We don't want that battle. We'd rather salvage the county, keep it together. That is what is the choice, to keep the county together.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you. Appreciate it.

Next, William Michael Smith. Mr. Smith followed by Mr. Fisher, Gene Fisher.

MR. SMITH: Good evening. I appreciate

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the opportunity to be here and for you to come down to Paradise in Yuma Arizona.

I commend you for the difficult work on a difficult task. I'm not sure how much background and experience and help you have with the difficulty you have to do.

A VOICE: We cannot hear.

MR. SMITH: I'm Chairman of the Democratic Party, the for county of Yuma.

Initially, my reaction to your map as it pertains to Yuma County, the Legislative District and Congressional Districts, I don't know why we're here, frankly. You did exactly what we asked you to do: Keep Yuma County intact, which you did. I'll address some other issues.

One of them is, as it pertains to Congressional Districts, we have a hundred thousand more Republicans registered to vote in the state than Democrats. If you divide into eight Congressional Districts, 12,500 per district, I think my math is correct, correct me if I'm wrong, yet when I look at the districts you've created, and I heard what was said by Ms. Minkoff earlier, that the last issue we address is competitiveness. And that's what I'd like to address.

We're fine down here in Yuma from my party

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standpoint, but I'm not happy for my colleague, who is Chairman of the Republican party. I don't think it's fair we pack this Congressional District G or other Congressional District with 65, 70, 72 percent Hispanic at the sacrifice of six other districts that become, for all practical purposes, substantially uncompetitive, I don't think there's but maybe one competitive district out of the eight.

The percentages, beyond that 12,500 are substantial.

I would like to see, you know, when you look at the one that our colleagues have on A, District A, and I make my living working on the Indian Tribe here, I want to commend you for keeping them intact. I think that's important. We all like to remain intact as a community. I don't see what the arm has done with the Hopi Reservation remaining intact along with some other Indian tribes and the rest of the geographic area just because they don't like Navajos. I don't think that's appropriate.

Won't speak ill any of those people. Everybody has objected to that, not only people that aren't Hopis. You can keep them intact and it makes more sense in terms of compactness of A.

Start getting districts competitive. I'll
tell you why I'm concerned about that.

Yuma County, we have approximately a
hundred thousand people who are eligible to register to
vote. We have something less than 140,000 registered
Democrats. There's 18,500, 18,700 Republicans, 18,005;
16,500 Independents, or no preference. It's not a very
good statistic. I think we'll find that, if I recall
recently across the state, people involved in the
political process are limited in number, percentagewise.
Arizona doesn't have a very good track record of people
registering to vote and turning out to vote. Compared
to what, I'm not sure. I haven't looked at other
states. Compared to what I perceive personally as what
the standard should be, it's pretty damn poor on all our
parts. Part is lack of competitiveness in certain areas
of our community, whether it's our Congressional
Districts or whatever.

When you have a hundred thousand
differential in voter registration between two major
parties, yet you have packed into two districts an
excess number of Hispanics, which, frankly, relates to
an excess number of Democrats, and leave one or maybe
two somewhere in there sort of closer, and you've got
four more packed the other direction, it doesn't make
for much interest in politics, as it were, what I relate

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to the political process.

Why do I want to get involved in being involved in the Congressional race for this part or my part of the state if it's a foregone conclusion what the results will be because of the way the political districts are configured? What is the purpose?

And when we have that type of attitude, and that's the, that's the incentive created by what I perceive as your presently draft political districts, there's disincentive to be involved because of the disparity in the competitiveness, or lack of competitiveness, disparity created by it.

I think the whole object of what we're about here is to get people involved in the political process, to get people registered to vote, people to care and understand that every that vote counts, candidates should be out, candidates, good candidates, with experience in their background, interest, that have an opportunity to have, to make a difference, even if they don't win, to run a good race and somebody that has some influence on the outcome of what our society is about and how to function in the future. These are things we're really talking about when doing the redistricting process.

If we don't create this competitiveness,
all this community of interest is for not because it doesn't make any difference, we don't have anybody involved. Without the competitiveness, which is taken away when you pack districts, as I perceive packed in order to get communities of interest is what I'm talking about, kind of going around in a circle, aren't we? It's a very difficult task. There's a way to do it. I think the idea is the competitiveness aspect be put to an end, see where all the communities of interest are, geographic lines as it is set out.

Now let's talk about what we need to do to change this, create the last element necessary, that's the competitiveness.

We can start. That's where I want to talk about Yuma County and my good friends from La Paz, despite they filed a petition and divided Yuma County in 1982, effective 1983, the first time that's been done in the United States of America since 1988 in Wyoming that I'm aware of. I wrote opinions in Yuma County as far as what happens when you split a tax base. I was the County Attorney for Yuma County, have a feel for the geography of Yuma County.

I do remember La Paz, Arizona, was the original county seat of the territory of the County of Yuma, one of the original four territorial counties in

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the Territories of Arizona.

Be that as it may, we have a lot of interest with us, starting Congressional District G, making adjustments, bringing La Paz County down into G. It's a suggestion, pick up what some people seem to believe is a river issue. I don't think there are any issues left on the river except who gets how much water. That won't have anything to do with Congress. There are a lot of irrigation districts, cities, counties, districts. Most have been resolved at this late date. The only issue is whether they'll keep all the undeveloped Indian water, 190 acre feet. The only issue left is when do the Indians get it.

La Paz has a lot of historical and present interest with Yuma County. It would be a start to unpack G. You say why would you as a Democrat do that? I think I explained that. I think the whole state is important. I have some good Republican friends here. If my friends in the Republican party are not strong, that makes me weak. Without competition and interest, my party is lost. That's the same with all areas, they're related from geographic subdivisions in Arizona. Let's start there. I have suggested, you know, that picks up a little of the river area, covers what is left on the border.

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Go all the way to Santa Cruz, Cochise. I don't mean to speak for my sister counties there, they have an affinity historically for being associated with other folks. We have an affinity of interest, I am aware, at one point in time with a Congressional District, I looked at, across the bottom part of the state, all the Sonoran Desert, and all, and the border, and it -- I don't know what that does to the other statistics, but some things, adjustments to be made I think quite you could easily reconfigure these and take in constant competitiveness.

I don't have a problem picking up Republicans in the district. I have a lot of good friends in that party. I want them to be reasonably strong because that gets me off my butt and gets me out working and to do a good job and get everyone registered up over 50 percent.

Every vote counts.

If we fail in that, all redistricting is unimportant. It really is. Because that's what it all is about.

How do we get people involved in the political process? We set these guidelines. But if we don't pull them all together, and leave one of them out, we're left with 10 more years of six guaranteed

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Republican Congressmen with only a hundred thousand
differential in voter registration in state out of three
and a half, four million people, and it doesn't make any
sense. What about my good Hispanic friends, the
Hispanic Congressmen who are prime, probably going to be
Democrats, six others, and, you know, the rest of the
state even more? If no competitiveness, they have their
two, the others have six, it's not related to population
at all.

My county happens to be fifty-fifty
Hispanic, non-Hispanic. We all live together, friends,
like the Vice Chairman and I here. We all are in the
ship together regardless of what political party. We
all know the ground rules, all play the game together.

Nobody likes to watch a game that is
one-sided, regardless of what side you are on. And
that's what I'm afraid has happened here.

No matter how you do it, there's been a
number of maps presented to you on that, and I don't
know what the problems are. I haven't been sitting in
on meetings. I'm certain there are several maps that
come close to accomplishing at least the competitiveness
of which I speak. Whether or not they fill in the rest
of the problem you have with that, I'm not sure. I
doubt they are perfect. Somewhere in that mess of

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eight, 10, 12 maps, I know you received from various
organizations, I'm certain there is something in there
that will help make these adjustments.

I don't -- adversity and competition
builds character. Without it, it builds laziness and we
don't all go to the game, do we? We go to something
else. That concerns me. That truly concerns me. And
that's what will happen if we leave it the way it is.
I think you know that. I know it, and
everybody in the room knows it.
I don't say this in a derogatory or
critical fashion. That's the thing I observe about the
entire fashion, whether we go all the way up the river,
I have no reference. I, like my buddies from old Yuma
County, we don't have a lot in common. You heard from
my buddies. We can make suggestions, make a few
comments that interfere -- if you looked at the history,
the detail La Paz County detail, you'll see where the
adjustments could be made they ask about.
It's unfair for me to speak about it.
I'll probably end up doing it before it's over.
Look north to the great reservation. You
can see a little difference between the strip, 14 miles
of the Colorado River, a strip north of Parker,
different than Parker Valley and Bouse and Wenden and

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Salome and Quartzsite and Ehrenberg. They are
agriculture areas, a little different people. Folks up
on that strip north of KRIT, entrepreneurs, a lot of
people from the coast, people come in, own property
there, businesses, are more related to recreation, more
related to a little different environment. They feed
off each other, don't get strong. They are part of the
community, related to La Paz, as you would have. If
Mr. Edey would tell you that is wrong, I'd yield to
that. I've stuck my nose someplace wrong. I have a bad
habit of that.

Same out in Yuma County. Everybody wants
to be intact. Yuma County. You've done that. I
really, all of us appreciate that.

Are there areas in eastern Yuma County? I
don't know. It's pretty thin pickens out there.

You know, you have Dateland, there might
be eight, 10 people there. North of Dateland, 20.
North of Dateland, there's an El Camino Market, stand
around there at 5:00 o'clock, pick up a six-pack after
work. Wintertime, it's busy, lettuce picking time,
tarry as they are cutting lettuce, see a few people. Go
up to Hot Springs, some shrimp farms up on the county
lines, maybe 20, 30 people up there. Not much out
there.

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If you look on a map, geographically old Yuma County was split, La Paz and Yuma County. That line, it wasn't accident. You didn't go out and survey a line, split a line. Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma Hospital, the District One boundary line.

Back in '58, 1958, the Yuma Hospital District, in '58 it was created. That was created by a split in the county, a good, geographic place to use, already --

You'll also, if you look at that map, see a piece, don't know how big a piece, a square on east Yuma County, over by the interstate, cut out of the district. I never understood why that don't show on any maps. There is one that shows that. It hits Hot Springs along the river, old highway Phoenix River. Along the River, the south side of Gilespie Damn --

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Smith, you've gone 15 minutes.

MR. SMITH: Sorry.

CHAIRMAN MANN: We asked you to try to go three. If you have more to tell us, let us go through the list and we'll have you back. We're happy to hear you once we do that.

MR. SMITH: Fine. Thank you. I apologize, unless there are questions.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Hauser?

MS. HAUSER: I just had one question for you.

Obviously, you made very eloquent remarks with respect to competitiveness. One of the things proposition 106 requires the Commission to do is comply with the US Constitution and Voting Rights Act. I wondered if you could comment, briefly, on the suggestions that you are making with respect to the proposed Congressional District G which you characterized as having been packed.

It is 45 percent Hispanic voting age population.

MR. SMITH: Uh-huh.

MS. HAUSER: A concern would be that making any kinds of changes might cause a problem with respect to retrogression in that particular area and a problem under the Voting Rights Act. I wondered if you could comment on that, as far as other criteria, including competitiveness. They are things the Commission should do insofar as practicable in particular with competitiveness so as not to be too significant to other factors. So, as with many things, it's a balancing act: Compliance with the Voting Rights Act, avoiding retrogression and vote dilution are things
that are mandatory.

Again, I'm wondering if you have an opinion with respect to the impact of the change you propose.

MR. SMITH: My personal opinion, that's all you do. You have a long way to go before you get to retrogression in that district, quite frankly, where we balance out all population throughout the state and take a look at it. You -- I don't think it takes 45 percent of some ethnic group to guarantee a seat in Congress. You are taking in -- have to remember, 35,000 people on the Tohono O'odham Reservation. You have a number of other minorities in there, too. And --

Don't misunderstand me. I represent minorities, primarily. But you have a long time to get to retrogression.

I think people are overreacting to that. What they are doing to avoid it, react to it, react, overreacting to it. It's a tough balancing act you have to make.

Give me 45 percent of one group, let me show you what I can do with it in a campaign or a race. You know, it's --

I don't have anything else.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you. Appreciate it.
Next speaker, Gene Fisher.

Mr. Fisher, thank you. Mr. Fisher will be followed by Mayor Marilyn Young.

MR. FISHER: My name is Gene Fisher, G E N E, F I S H E R.

I think this is an incredible goal, what you've had to do.

La Paz thinks you should tweak it so it gets better. I'd like to talk about that tonight.

Four counties have the same number of Legislative Districts as did the Legislature in it's redistricting. The way now, nine counties are reduced in the number of Legislative Districts within the county. You are left, left with counties that have increased. Yuma County is the second largest increased one. La Paz is the second smallest in the state, increased by one. What I propose tonight is you had shown you can in fact get to plus or minus of almost exactly no deviation.

Chairman Lynn, when in Havasu, one of the first statements made by the Legislature when it divided the state up, plus or minus three percent. You felt as a committee, felt you'd get within one or less. I think you've proven you've done that. I think now you can step back and say we improved what we've done to get

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away from numbers just a hair.

What I submit is if you put all of La Paz
with Yuma, you will be very, very, very close to the
plus five percent. And if you need reasons, the Justice
Department allows plus five percent deviation. If you
need reasons why you do what you do, there are three
tribes within that region, the Colorado River Indian
Tribe, Cocopans, and have the Quechans. You can make an
incredibly strong case why you should be putting Yuma
and La Paz together, even though you deviate plus or
minus five percent, by two or three hundred folks that
are incredibly close. It's doable. It's all our county
needs and for you to take care of our issues with
Quartzsite. I'm sure that's an unintended consequence
of this, easily remedied. I say this fix isn't
intended. Deal with numbers. It's an incredible job.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Fisher, one question.
I don't want interrupt.

MR. FISHER: That's the proposal I have.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: I want to talk about
Justice allowing up to five percent. Historically
that's been the phrase in various places around the
country when they approved a plan. Because Proposition
106 elevates the Legislative redistricting commitments
to the same level as Congressional, there is an opinion

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that has been expressed that we're going to be held to a higher standard, and, in fact, very close to the same standard as we are held to with respect to Congressional apportionment, meaning it has to be as nearly equal as possible, and that would now be a state mandate as opposed to federal mandate. Do you have an opinion about that?

MR. FISHER: I should have been aware of that, wasn't aware of it. I have an opinion about it.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Put it on the record.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Want it printed?

MR. FISHER: I submit the Justice Department will still be looking at does it seem reasonable and, more importantly, who will object. What I proposed will not draw a challenge from those within the State of Arizona. You could get letters from the Quechan, letters from the KRIT supporting it, and I will tell you it's done.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: It's interesting, because those particular tribes have been nonparticipatory to date in terms of our interactions. And we've had two specific meetings with Inter Tribal Council. Those tribes have been present and not communicated in any overt way about their desire. If there is anything you could do, that would be useful.

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MR. FISHER: I believe that will be forthcoming. Certainly with the KRIT I know that will be true.

Generally you get comments from people when they have a problem and not when everything is great. So I don't know, I'm certainly not trying to say the Quechan and KRITS are saying "Great." At the very least, it appears they are okay with this plan. If you don't get a letter of support from them on the plan, if letters are not forthcoming, I withdraw the suggestion.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'd love to have them.

Mr. Elder.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: I have a question.

It may be philosophical.

If we get advice from counsel, and they say it's two percent is what we think DOJ will approve, how much or what risk should we take, you know, do we want to try five percent, knowing that DOJ may kick it back and now we have no Legislative Districts for the next election?

MR. FISHER: I think, as a suggest, if you are going to talk with DOJ, that you test that balloon, see if it's going to fly, get comments from them as you work through the process. If they say "No way," then you have to do what you have to do. I don't believe
that's what they'll say.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Elder may have a
different take. I'm not worried about DOJ saying "No."

It's Proposition 106 as written which raises the
standard, that it's under state law, state law, the
State Constitution 106 as amended, that we are held to a
higher standard in Legislative redistricting with
respect to population. That's the potential challenge.

MR. FISHER: Chairman Lynn, who do you
suppose would challenge that?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: That's the key.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: I think it becomes
an issue in any challenge of a Legislative plan.
Department of Justice isn't going to care a bit at all.
It's not a federal issue. It's a state issue. But if
anyone wanted to challenge the plan for whatever reason,
they could look to that as one additional point to make
in filing their brief. If others are invalid but the
Court looked at that and found it was valid, it could
result in the whole plan being thrown out. I think
that's the concern you are hearing from us. We may be
held to a higher standard.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Hauser has one.

MS. HAUSER: For the record, co-counsel
across the room, if you disagree, holler.

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I want to state on the record a couple statements. Department of Justice will not approve or disapprove with respect to deviation. That is not in fact an issue they look at. They are concerned only with, because we're a Section Five preclearance state, they will be looking to determine whether or not there is retrogression, whether or not there's essentially been a moving backwards with respect to minority representation. They will not look at the population issue. That is for others to consider.

MR. RIVERA: One other aspect you have to remember: Deviations, they looked at it 10 years ago, before the modern of age computers and changes to debate rapidly. Changes of debate were not around. Federal criteria may be more diligent at this time.

MR. FISHER: Guidelines published to date using plus minor five percent, that's from the Attorney General's Office.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Understand that we're trying to be as exacting in this process as both technology and ability to be exact will allow. To the extent we have competing interests, which is, if you look at the criteria shown on the Power Point presentation, all those are is competing interests. To the extent there are competing interests, we'll do our
best to attempt to put a plan together to at least make them explainable, to your point earlier. If there is deviation that we feel stretches the limit which is at some point problematic, certainly if we believe strongly it does more good than harm to try to press that point, we'll try to press that point. There are some limits, obviously, out of our comfort zone. Some of the suggestions you think may draw back into that area we might be able to give consideration.

MR. SMITH: Chairman Lynn, that's what I've hoped to have happen here. I didn't expect to make the sale at the first offer but to give you time to think about it, start thinking about the plusses, the suggestions that I made. It may make sense later on to deviate to five percent.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We'll need a three-day right of rescission.

MR. FISHER: I'd be comfortable with that.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Always good to see you.

Thank you very much for coming.

We traditionally take a break. In deference to everybody here, there are four more, five more speaker slips. We'll see if we can press through those, get everybody home at a reasonable hour.

I'll ask the Mayor, The Honorable Mayor of

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City Yuma, Marilyn Young. Next after that, Robert Cannell.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. We welcome you back to the Yuma Paradise State of Arizona.

Let me -- one statement I'd like to make in support of my friends to the north and south, Quartzsite, back with the county of Yuma. A Congressional District is like Yuma. The reason for coming up, the reason you say when here before is you listened to Yuma County, listened to the County community and said "Leave us alone" and you've done that. And we thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Madam Mayor. At least we got some right.

Next speaker is Robert Cannell.

REPRESENTATIVE CANNELL: Robert Cannell, C A N N E L L, State Representative of this district. I just wanted to applaud you for all your efforts. It's a complex situation. The only thoughts I have, before carving up east Yuma districts, Herb Guerther is in this district. Don't cut that part out of the district. In support of keeping La Paz and Yuma together, there are a lot of rules. If you move

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Quartzsite, Salome, Wenden, and Boule, these people lose a lot of impact. Not that they have tremendous impact now, they are small towns, but they are precious to us. Bob McClendon and others have set examples for Representatives. It doesn't make sense to follow the law one way, disenfranchise people, and say they're supposed to be enfranchising them.

Anyway, keep the people together as voters. They're better represented. That's all I had to say.

MS. HAUSER: Mr. Cannell, I wanted to clarify one thing for the record.

REPRESENTATIVE CANNELL: And for the record, it's Representative Cannell.

MS. HAUSER: Appreciating the comments about Herb Guerther, I know him. He's a terrific individual. But to state for the record, the Commission is not allowed to consider the residences of any incumbents. They will have to disregard that information.

Thank you for your comments.

A VOICE: Good try, Bob.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: You know we did have somebody speaking at a public hearing in Phoenix that tried to read the address of an incumbent into the
Mr. Rivera was kind enough to jump over the table and stop him mid-sentence.

MR. RIVERA: He was my ex-partner.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: But we do appreciate that.

And thank you for your comments.

Two more slips left.

If you've not turned one in and wish to speak, now is a good time to do so.

The next speaker is Dennis, Mr. Booth,

followed by Lucy Slipp.

MR. BOOTH: Dennis Booth, B O O T H.

I come tonight to thank you for doing a lot of hard work. I appreciate it and appreciate the chance to speak.

I'm active in party politics in Yuma County. Tonight I come as a businessman, a member of the community, because I think the most critical elements of this strategy you are talking about is communities of interest.

Nothing raises the ire of the voters in Yuma County much more than those who would fight against the agricultural community or that represents half of the locally economy.

I believe the County Board of Supervisors are represented by many good Democrats and Republicans,
one Republican.

A VOICE: A good Republican.

MR. BOOTH: They are aware how much interest brings everyone to the table when you negotiate what is best for the community. I encourage you to make certain we continue in that vein.

Look at the politics of it. We Republicans in Yuma County are distinct in numbers. Are numbers changing? No. We've been in this situation for years. Ideally we'd like to have more competitive block voting. Herb Guerther, a Democratic Senator, speaks loudly for Yuma County agriculture when we need him to. That's a common interest I believe brings people to the table, gets them to register to vote and vote more so than any other reason. It's what inspires fever in everyone.

We had good people from La Paz County speaking. There was some discussion about what the vested interest of Dateland and Hyder might be. It's an agra business community very much intertwined with Yuma County. I'd not want see them split from us. Their children, the high school, Antelope High School, is very much part of the larger community. Ideally I'd also say somehow the Congressional District which went along the Colorado River, it would be excellent for a community of

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interest. Not that I want that, I underline, to change what any other communities of interest are.

I will suggest to you that rural Arizona is in a battle in many ways for resources of this state. Water is the life blood, the future growth potential, as we see it. Those along the Colorado River have common interest that way, agricultural up the river. Fortunately the US Congress does have something to say about long-term water rights.

I'd like to have you at least consider that possibility of the Colorado River Congressional District.

Thank you very much for your time.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Booth.

MR. BOOTH: Any questions?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Again, the last slip I have, the last speaker submitted slip, County Supervisor Lucy Shipp.

SUPERVISOR SHIPP: Lucy Shipp, L U C Y, S H I P P.

I do serve on the Yuma County of Board Supervisors. Let me make it clear I'm only speaking on behalf of myself. The Board has not taken any action on the board of redistricting. My comments are mine alone.

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Thank you for coming back down. It's super to have you down.

Thank you for the web page. I don't know who thank. I click on that, zoom we're in. They don't print real well, but be that as it may, I thank the Webmaster. When I send an e-mail, 24 hours later I have a response from the Webmaster. I feel I'm being heard.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: For the record, that's Tim Johnson. Thank you for that.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: We'll be sure to let him know.

SUPERVISOR SHIP: I didn't know.

MS. HAUSER: I'd also note, it's thanks to Maricopa. Tim is an employee of the Maricopa County Elections Department. He's been loaned to us through an Intergovernmental Agreement.

SUPERVISOR SHIP: I appreciate hearing e-mail is received and has gone into the proper channels.

On Legislative channels, you heard, before you heard us, there is a unanimous voice: Leave Yuma County as a unit. You've done that both ways. I really insist you consider keeping us, Yuma County, as a whole.

As Dennis just said, eastern Yuma County is a major part of Yuma County, part of the school.
district, our 4 H, the agricultural community. It isn't out in the boonies. It's part of our heart of Yuma
County. To split off part of that would be very, very unfortunate. Again, it's a rural area. If you take off a huge hunk -- I'd ask you to pursue what the Supervisor was referring to. I talked to Cliff Edey. He's smiling. Let's see if can't go for using all Yuma, La Paz County, as a Legislative District. If I've done that right, I'm showing the deviation at 4.68 percent. I don't have it over five percent. Maybe I don't have that right. But if you are talking community of interest, talking the folks that want you to do it, you'll get a hundred percent of Yuma and La Paz County to make us a solid unit as a Legislative District.

We were a county. We're still joined at the hip. They're our neighbors. And we'd like it very much to have that be our Legislative District.

I know that's stretching it. Go back to the numbers. If I'm right, it's still under five percent deviation. I gamble you to run that, if you feel you can.

On the Congressional District, I know there's talk of a river district vs. a border district.

When here before, I spoke in favor of a border district. I'll do that again. The river district to me, one, is
critical importance, water. When you do the numbers, I
think it will show that that river district, you need so
many people, populous from Maricopa County, we end up
being carried by someone from Maricopa County and it
isn't going to be the type of local river water person
we're looking for. I don't think it will happen with a
Maricopa County district. I feel strongly we're better
off around the border and urges you look to the federal
arena as our concerns. We have border issues. It has
to do with NAFTA, has to do with the ports, trucks
crossing, what do you do with illegal immigration, the
causes, ports, the medical care and border patrol. Our
issues are border issues. We also share issues of
military bases, MCSA Yuma Proving Ground, Davis Monthan,
they need to be in that area on the Congressional level.
So for those reasons, I strongly support leaving us as a
border Congressional District.

Now if you shift so La Paz joins us and
part of Pinal goes somewhere else, and I don't know what
you heard from Nogales when we were down there, do they
approve being split or do we want to move that line over
and all be in place? I don't know what you heard down
there.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: They rather like it the
way it is in general terms.

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SUPERVISOR SHIPP: Split, okay. If talking fourths, because many in Yuma, Douglas, Nogales, the strength of the Congressional District and that, a person to carry the message to Washington on the border.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Cochise, if Douglas were to take the whole county, what that creates is more of a population problem in terms of the southern part of state.

Again, it's compensating balances.

SUPERVISOR SHIPP: I'd like to say I'm so pleased, it seems as though you heard us, you've done what you heard at the previous meeting. I really appreciate that.

Let me ask you this. I know you will go back and do some changes. Don't mess us up. You've done right by us. Please leave us alone, now.

With that, I'll answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Comments or questions for Supervisor Shipp?

Ms. Shipp, thank you very much for coming.

We appreciate you hosting us this evening as well.

Other members of the public wishing to be heard, either those spoken or those that wish to speak?

Let me take the young lady that has not been heard and then go back to those who have spoken.

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Turn that in and we'll get to you.

MS. ULMER: U L M E R, Theresa Ulmer. I'm a resident in Yuma.

First I wanted to comment on the Congressional Districts. I know the comments regarding the Hopis. I find it respectful you've taken them into your considerations. I don't think any could find if they wanted to be excluded a way to have chosen to express that. I think that's a very honorable way you've honored it to this point and hopefully will continue to do so.

I also agree with the border districting with Yuma County. I think it's very important that we have someone representing that area that understands the entire area along the border. So that looks very promising.

On the Legislative District map, I'll echo what everyone is saying on La Paz County. I think as rural areas, it's important those interests are kept together. They have special issues and need to be addressed. And hopefully that might be something that can be worked out with the numbers.

I do have one question. I don't know if it's something easily answered.

I'm curious what efforts have been taken.
to really look at that competitiveness? What is the
criteria that I believe Mr. Smith was referring to, the
lack of competitiveness? I was curious if someone could
answer that.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: We've been going through
an extensive review process of draft districts, using
the variety of methodologies. One, a simple way of
looking at it, the voter registration differential, and
perhaps to look at some voting history with respect to
how a district may have voted in the past.

There are, are more complex criteria used
to judge competitiveness, some of which we're employing
as well, beyond the quick and easy way of looking at the
competitiveness issue. And all of those tests are being
run so that we will, when we get back together in
October to finally make adjustments in the map, not only
for geographic changes which we have heard about but
also competitiveness changes we're committed to try to
do, all those analyses will be done and we will
understand the nuances of competition.

Competition, as you know, is not just a
matter of registration, it's a matter of what has been
done traditionally, it's a matter of history of
various -- not only various individual races for office,
also issues decided by the public over the past that
might lend us -- might lend some idea of how they might
predictively vote in the future. We're also utilizing a
methodology called Judge It.

If you look at the formula, it's well
beyond my math capabilities to put it on paper, but it
is a fairly complete formula by which you can take a
look at a variety of factors and predict the outcome of
elections based on those factors.

MS. ULMER: Are special interests in any
certain priority of order, minority groups, percentages,
of those at the bottom, Democratic, Republican groups,
in any order, the way listed or --

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Just the way the Census is
listed, Census data way comes out.

Doug, want to answer it?

MR. JOHNSON: I can answer it. We started
the process with only demographic data, started the
spread sheets with demographic data, later incorporated
voter registration to maintain continuity.

MS. ULMER: You'll have more information
on the website?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Yes. As more information
is developed, it will make its way to the website as
soon as presented to the Commission.

MS. ULMER: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN LYNN: Ms. Ulmer, if you might.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Yes, Ms. Ulmer, what I'm looking for in almost all districts is what is the glue that holds you together.

We've heard water, heard agriculture, referring to Legislative Districts, now what other things or elements hold the community or community of interests together between La Paz and --

MS. ULMER: I think health care issues are very important.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: That span both counties, one health care delivery system?

MS. ULMER: Issues are similar. What they are facing, we're facing, are similar issues. I'm not knowledgeable to tell you beyond that. What I know is rather general. It's something Representative Cannell is working hard to tell us on issues regarding health care, something they're struggling with as well.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: The Mayor of Quartzsite indicated their city has grow 1.2 million, or something, during the fine winter season down here. Also, you see tremendous areas in Yuma with the same influx of winter visitors. Tourism, RVism, it's something you both deal with together or as a separate element?
MS. ULMER: I think the similarities are there, the burden on infrastructure, positive, negatives as well.(145,179),(543,223) We have some of the same issues as well.

I've been through Quartzsite in the middle of winter, a couple streets and a lot of rocks. I love the town.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: You meant summer.

MS. ULMER: Yes. I had it backwards.

Similar interests.

Mentioning border issues, immigration, I don't know if tourism, industry, if it's anything like ours, of course, a lot of migrants are there to fill tourism positions. I'm sure there are a lot of commonalities.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR SHIPP: I want to weigh in, answer Mr. Huntwork's question. On Arizona Western College District, Yuma, La Paz County, they are members of the Arizona Western College District.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you very much.

Two gentleman indicated -- three indicated they wanted to speak again now for.

Before we get ready for another round, let me ask you gentlemen to come up, restate your name, again, share what you want. We'll start with Mr. Holm

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who I think spoke first, in the order.

MR. HOLM: Thank you, Chairman Lynn,

H O L M.

Do I need to spell David?

I did wanted bring up a couple points, one

about Arizona Western College. I taught at Arizona

western College, am a graduate of Arizona Western

College. Every year the tax bill comes out, right on

the tax bill, I pay taxes for the Arizona Western

 Colleges.

SUPERVISOR SHIPP: Yes, you would.

MR. HOLM: A number of people talked about

keeping school districts together. The school district

is a part of Yuma.

The other thing is I want tell you a

little bit about the history of Bouse. Probably most of

you have never heard this. Bouse sits in the middle of

La Paz County. Bouse has the oldest Mercantile market.

This business has been in constant operation since

before the highway was there, highway 72. It almost

sits on top of Highway 72 because it was there before

the highway. There's hardly room to park in front of

it. It's been in business before the old stage coach,

before the Indian compound in Parker. We had general

Patton there in World War II. This is where the tank

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Corps for the United States train was, in Bouse, Arizona. Some of the biggest Manganese mines there, biggest gold mines in the world. Bouse is an extremely old community, has been there since before Arizona was a state. And you are going to try and now take us and put us with the nuevo rich, recent immigrants up in Mohave County. You are going to take one of the oldest towns in the state and place it with some of the newest, and we have no interest in common, none whatsoever. We wish to remain with Yuma County.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

Mayor Michel.

MAYOR MICHEL: Thank you, Chairman, and Commissioners.

He's right about Bouse, also not quite the oldest. Quartzsite was first founded in 1879. Getting pretty close to the oldest. Elevation is 879. Funny how the numbers that way.

Anyway, General George Patton also came to Quartzsite to allow access to part of the Boston Printing Corps. Troops were taught to fly there and then ferried in aircraft to Europe.

We have a lot of history. You wouldn't know what we have in common with Yuma. There's a lot of
tourism. That's a major part.

Eastern Yuma, the city of, is loaded out in the foothills with snow birds, as we call them. I know, if you'd call the snow birds, you think snow bird season, but you can't hunt them. Sorry about that.

We have the snow birds, too. As I mentioned before, 1.8 million. That's a lot of snow birds.

We depend upon that tourism for our sales tax. This is how we run our town. Our town does not receive one cent, per se, of real estate taxes. That goes to the county. They distribute back to us a small amount in our fire district and our school district and partially with the sheriff department and deputies there. That's all we see with taxes.

La Paz County is an agricultural district. Ehrenberg, Parker, Poston, Bouse, et cetera, it's all agriculture. This is the basis of our income. We have itinerant farm laborers that come up from Mexico, work there, spend a lot of their money in our county. This is one of the considerations that Walmart is making in the Town of Quartzsite. They know money is there to be made, not just us, itinerant farm workers. If you want to see it, go to Walmart and you can see it, if you can get in the store.

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We need to stay together with Yuma. I don't know how many more meetings you plan on having. We would like to see you come to La Paz County. Let us know. You know, we're on the map and we'd like to invite you to a meeting we're holding in the council chambers, to our Quartzsite chambers, which are larger than this, accommodate more people.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you.

We'll take Supervisor Edey, then

Mr. Wooddell.

SUPERVISOR EDEY: I looked at the numbers, of the big dissimilarity, and it's less than five percent. It shows it's within five percent.

I understand it's not biggest the criteria. I.

Understand your concern. We waited for Supervisor Fisher.

On the issue to the communities like we have, we like have commonalities, and it seems like it's worth being weighed in, testing the water, and giving a good fight. We'd like very much if you'd make that attempt.

Agriculture, 45, 48 percent our community is like Yuma. A lot of issues work parallel. As much as we split apart and wonder why a couple times, we

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still have very a good match, and I like it that they'll keep it that way.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Edey.

Mr. Woodell and Busby.

MR. WOODDELL: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, Vice Chairman Minkoff, you mentioned twice during the hearing you could not make the La Paz County and Yuma County numbers work. Could you explain that?

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: Yes.

Now, the ideal population for a Legislative District is approximately 171,000 people. The courts have held in the past that they would for good reason accept a deviation of plus or minus five percent allowable people, plus or minus. If you look at Proposition 106, the language in there uses the same terms for the need for population equality for Congressional and Legislative Districts. The federal standard for Congressional Districts is much, much stricter. As a of fact, if you look at the 1990 population of the six Congressional Districts created after that Census, there was one person difference, and that's because the population of Arizona wasn't divisible by six. There were three people left over.
The population in the 2000 Census is divisible by eight. It means we should come as close to exactly equal population and partywise as Congressional Districts as we possibly can.

There is a train of thought that says that because the same language is used for Legislative population as Congressional population, even though federal courts do not required it, Proposition 106 may have taken the federal standard and applied it to Legislative Districts; therefore as great as 8,500, people while the federal courts might allow the it, state, they might not. But I'm not a lawyer. If you guys want to weigh in on it, please do.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. Huntwork has a point.

COMMISSIONER MINKOFF: He is a lawyer.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: I'm a lawyer, but I want to ask a question of our lawyers not necessarily to be answered right now.

I want to point out, the reason that we have these public hearings is so that we can come and listen to people and get new ideas.

At least in my mind, this is a new idea and one I want to take very seriously, I think the Commission wants to take very seriously. Proposition 106 places before us a number of mandatory criteria, one
of which is equal population, to the extent possible;
another is communities of interest, to the extent possible; another is compact and contiguous. To those who thought our attempt to recognize the concerns of Hopis who expressed to us directly and in person just as you are doing here, we weighed our compact criteria and community of interest criterion. You are asking us to way two criterion, one of which is equal population, the other is community of interest. I would simply at this point at least like acknowledge that is a very good question and ask our counsel that they consider advising us as soon as possible whether we have the flexibility to take that into consideration.

MR. WOODDELL: I would support that, rather than my suggestion, because I don't want to see Yuma and La Paz County split in any which way. If you at all can crunch the numbers and make them work, I think if we're within the five percent, it's worth a try.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: To Mr. Huntwork's point, counsel will advise us as to what they think a safe margin might be.

MR. WOODDELL: September 19th, La Paz Count County Board of Supervisors is holding a meeting on this. We'd invite any or all of you to attend and

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maybe hear from what La Paz County people have to say.
The intent of the meeting I called was to get these forms into the people's hands so they could -- so you have more input into what you want.

I think it's clear tonight we want to stay together. I hope -- it's your job, and I hope you can do it.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Thank you, Mr. Woodell.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: Mr. Woodell, we're probably meeting within three, four days after that to start giving direction to consultants on options, alternatives, to see how they've tested competitiveness, compactness, areas of interest, communities of interest.

If you stress when you hand out or get the comment sheets to people at that meeting, if you try to turn them as fast as possible, e-mail, express mail, or something else, so it gets involved or integrated into the process.

MR. WOODDELL: What I had in mind, I'm kind of a computer nut, would it be okay if I took the forms from the meeting and retyped it onto a submit form on the e-mail, web page, or --

Would fax work?

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Fax is great.

MR. WOODDELL: Fax is terrific. We'll get

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them into your hands immediately. Works for me.

(Off the record as reporter changes paper.)

MR. BUSBY: Mr. Huntwork said the other things I wanted to say. There are other criterion other than population. That's all I was going to say. Try as much as possible, look as close as possible, whatever the wording is, and I would certainly hope that Supervisor Gene Fish' position, you look at that closely. If all else fails, remember one thing said before splitting the Town of Quartzsite in half, in two, that that is totally unacceptable. "We heard you."

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Appreciate it.

One other person is up.

This person should be familiar with filling out a form before speaks. However, he didn't do it. We'll take Mr. McLendon's comments.

Thank you --

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Say and spell your name for the record.

SUPERVISOR McLENDON: I'd like to do that.

Bob McLendon, McLENDON. Now that I'm County Supervisor, there was previously a Supervisor McClendon. It's kind of confusing sometimes.

I want to make one comment. I really

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enjoyed what you had to say.

I think you could make more changes as you go around the state.

I look at Legislative District W, and I think you'll have a real problem there. It stretches from Cochise County all the way up through the center of the state.

I've been through this process at the Legislature and know how difficult your job is, but you are not going to be able to satisfy all criteria exactly. Again I think you put very well the pressure of community interests against population, and so forth.

You heard there was a lot of community of interest between Yuma and La Paz Counties as far as Legislative.

I was a Legislator for 18 years. For 18 years I was constantly a Representative of La Paz County as well as Yuma County. Supervisors were together. Agriculture interests are similar. There were commonalities with the Colorado River, as far as what happens there. Tourism is big with both counties. You heard that also.

I think of Arizona Western College District, and taxes were paid to citizens by both counties.
I wanted to put my two cents in about that.

I think our commonalities of interest outweigh population numbers as far as importance are concerned. And I hope you can take that into consideration. If you have to make adjustments, take a look at Kingman.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ELDER: And we have.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Mr. McLendon, I've appeared before you in my capacities a number of times and been treated very well. I'm delighted to give you the same treatment and have you here before us this evening. Good to see you.

SUPERVISOR McLENDON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: Are there other members of the public wishing to be heard this evening?

Ladies and gentlemen, what you've done is important. You've given us a lot good information to continue to work through various balancing acts we have to deal with to make the map work in all of its eight Congressional and 30 Legislative Districts. It's been most helpful. We appreciate you very much being with us and giving us information.

We'd ask if you have additional thoughts

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along the way, continue to correspond with us through
the e-mail, through the fax, and other methodologies so
we can continue to get input as we move through the
process. And we're looking to have the maps tweaked,
changed, made better, by early in October. So that's
the time frame we're working with.

Thank you very much for coming.

Anything from counsel?

MS. HAUSER: No.

CHAIRMAN LYNN: From the consultants?

This meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at
approximately 8:50 p.m.)

*   *   *   *

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STATE OF ARIZONA )
COUNTY OF MARICOPA ) ss.

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing hearing was taken before me, LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Arizona, Certificate Number 50349; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing 92 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said hearing, all done to the best of my ability.

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

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 21st day of September, 2001.

LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate Number 50349

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