Wednesday, July 21, 2011
6:06 p.m.

Location
South Mountain Community College
7050 South 24th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85402

Attending
Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

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PROCEEDINGS

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: We don't have a gavel.

Okay. Let's go ahead and start the meeting.

First of all, thank you all for being here. And the -- what we'll do is we'll start off with the Pledge of Allegiance. It's the right thing to do.

The flag is. . .

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance commenced.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, thank you, guys, for being here and for being patient with us.

What we'll do is we have two presentations before we start the public comments.

And what we're looking at is about a three-minute comment period per person.

And what we want to do is, so we want to get as much -- maximize the public input is limit it to three minutes, no more than three minutes.

And we will have Buck -- where is Buck?

Buck will be monitoring the time, and we expect to
start on time and end on time.

Again, thank you for being here.

We're here to hear your thoughts and ideas of what we can do to help you guys and make this redistricting fair, a fair process, and transparent.

So Commissioner McNulty and Commissioner Freeman are here with me.

So, let's go ahead and get started with Willie.

You want to go -- he's with Strategic Telemetry.

ANNA GARCIA: Vice Chair, excuse me, I need to make the announcement for the interpreter.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Oh, please, I apologize.

So, we will have been having a Spanish interpreter.

(Whereupon, AIRC staff member Anna Garcia made the announcement in Spanish.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Anna.

As a requirement of federal law, we are required to provide a Spanish translator in areas that are populated by Spanish speaking individuals.

What we would like to do, in addition to introducing my fellow commissioners, is introducing the staff.

Kristina Gomez, who is talking to our attorney, Mary O'Grady. Kristina Gomez.
Ray Bladine.

Buck Forst.

Thanks again.

So, are we forgetting anybody?

Marty, our court reporter.

And Kristin Windtberg.

And there's Andy Drechsler.

And Korrine Kubena.

You know, I am forgetting names right now. So, are you waving at me?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: We are having trouble hearing you back here.


We'll go ahead and turn up the mic.

So, again, thank you for being here.

And now, Willie, if you don't mind starting the presentation.

WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you, everyone, for being here.

This is a short presentation on the Arizona redistricting process.

During this presentation we'll have seven things.

The first is why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

What is redistricting?
What is the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?
Why do we have to redistrict?
What guidelines need to be followed when drawing new districts?
What are the steps in the redistricting process?
And, finally, how can public input be submitted to the AIRC?

So starting with why do we have Redistricting Commission.
This is the second time that Arizona's districts have been redrawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

In 2000 Arizona voters approved Proposition 106 that created the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. It established a process and criteria for drawing new district lines.

The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two Republicans, and an Independent chair, elected by other commissioners.

The fifth member shall not be registered with any party already represented on the Commission.

The 2011 AIRC members are: Vice-Chairman Scott Freeman, Vice-Chairman Jose Herrera, Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, Commissioner Linda McNulty, who's also kind enough
to be here today, and Commissioner Richard Stertz.

What is redistricting?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing congressional and legislative district lines.

The difference -- what is the difference between redistricting and reapportionment?

The two terms are often used interchangeably.

However, there is a difference.

Reapportionment is the process of allocating congressional districts among the states based on changes in population.

That's what the census does. It tells you how many Congress people every state receives.

Because of population growth over the last decade, Arizona was allocated an additional congressional district in 2010, after the 2010 census.

Now it's gone from nine -- or eight to nine districts.

Redistricting specifically is the process of drawing those actual boundaries of those districts.

Why do we have to redistrict?

First, because Arizona gained a congressional district, new lines will have to be drawn to add the new district.

Even if Arizona had not gained a district, the
congressional and legislative district lines would have to be redrawn to account for changes in population over the past decade.

The concept of one person, one vote, dictates there should be as close to the same number of people per district as possible.

Because population growth is not static, or equal, in all areas, the existing districts now have different populations.

What guidelines need to be followed when drawing new districts?

First, we must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

Next, must ensure equal population among all the districts.

These first two criteria are federally mandated, and all plans must satisfy these two criteria to be accepted.

The third is compact and contiguous districts.

Fourth is respect communities of interest.

Fifth is use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries and, when possible, undivided census tracts.

Lastly, create competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.
The Arizona redistricting process.

Proposition 106 mandated that we start with a grid map. In some states the previous plans are used as starting points. This is not the case in Arizona.

The commencement of the mapping process for both the congressional and legislative district shall be the creation of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state.

The initial grid map will most likely only meet criterias B and C, which is equal population and compact and contiguous districts.

Following that, we adjust the grid map to meet the other six criteria.

First one is the Voting Rights Act.

Arizona's congressional and legislative districts receive preclearance or approval from the Department of Justice for a federal -- under a Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can take effect.

To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that new districts do not discriminate against minority voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination.

Next, under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights.
Finally, the presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

Following that, the next criteria are -- after adjusting the grid map, are equal population among all the districts, compact and contiguous districts, and respect for communities of interest.

One of the goals of these public meetings is to solicit public input about communities of interest.

There are forms available at the hearings or on the AIRC website that can be used to define an area that you feel should be considered a community of interest.

Finally, you must use visible geographic features, such as county boundaries, cities and towns, and census tracts.

Luckily, census geography often follows these visible features.

And, lastly, we have to create competitive districts where there is no significant detriment to other goals.

Now, this is talking about how you can submit your input to the AIRC.

First, you can fill out a request to speak form at the public hearings and provide the Commission your input.

Examples of input include thoughts on criteria,
communities of interest, or anything else about the redistricting process.

Also you can speak at hearing or submit your input using one of the input forms at the hearing or on the AIRC website.

Finally, you can visit us at azredistricting.org or call (602) 542-5221.

And I was supposed to mention at the beginning, for anyone watching this on the live stream, this Power Point is also available on the website.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present today, and we look forward to beginning this process.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Willie.

I just want to remind the audience that if you're planning on speaking, you have to fill out a form. It's very simple form, it looks kind of like this. And I would recommend that you do that.

Now, if the -- our next speaker is the Honorable Leah Landrum Taylor. I think she's in the audience somewhere.

Senator Taylor?

She has a presentation.

LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: Good evening.

Thank you very much, and thank you for the commissioners for being here, to the chairs as well as the
guests that are here.

    UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Could you turn the volume up, please?

    LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: All right. As well as the guests here today this evening. I'm extremely excited --
    can I just take this off?

    I'm extremely excited to see the number of people that have come out for something that is so important. We know how important, of course, the census was. And when the census was going forward, we were letting people know that this is one of the reasons we wanted to make sure that folks filled out their census form.

    So here we are, and I'm very glad to see that you all are here, of course, in our district, and you want the best districts in the entire world, so I'm not biased or anything like that. But certainly when we think about the South Mountain Village, it's a fabulous place.

    But I do have a couple of maps that are there. We worked really hard with a collation. It's the Arizona Minority Coalition that we have. And we've come together with some ideas that we put forward for four districts in particular that we would like to take a look and make sure that there are true opportunities to have representation as it relates to, of course, minority populations, but making sure that we have a voice there at
the capital and that the capital is truly reflective of what
our Arizona population is.

So we have four districts that we would like to
talk about.

One in particular tonight, and that's of course
where the lines that are around the South Mountain Village
area, Laveen as well as downtown, a little bit downtown
Phoenix as well.

The other districts I know individuals could not
make it this evening. It was a little bit of a short notice
and a lot of people are not here.

But, as I understand, there will be another
meeting that will be held in the West Valley, so it will be
a little bit of a bigger turnout for that.

So I don't know, I came in a little earlier and
put it up there on the Power Point.

The one that says 16 is the one I want to look at.

So if you take a look at what the -- what just the
proposed lines are, the beauty of this whole process is that
anyone actually here in this audience can come up with ideas
that they would like to see, to be able to come forward to
the Commission, and to be able to present these as you all
are going to be traveling across the state.

So this is not the last time to do that if folks
have ideas.
We worked really hard on this, and we wanted to make sure that as we were looking at the different boundaries of the district, if you notice it's, it's very similar to what the district looks like now. And there's a lot of reasons for that.

One of the things that we're really focused on are communities of interest. And that's very important. When you think about the South Mountain Village, we have, as we're sitting here the right now in South Mountain Community College, the satellites that are throughout the district.

There's a satellite that's in Laveen.

There's also a satellite school that's in the town of Guadalupe for the South Mountain Community College.

Also, we're looking at the airport as being very strong in staying in the district as well.

One of the things throughout the South Mountain Village, we fought very hard to try to have things to help with, you know, to build our revenues and our certain tax pressure in order to be able to have funds coming into our district.

And that's really important.

So the airport is certainly an important area that we have.

We also have natural boundary lines. If you take a look to the very bottom of the southern portion of that
green portion that we're talking about right now, it's a beautiful area which is the largest municipal park in the world, from what I understand, is our South Mountain Park.

So take a look at South Mountain along those boundaries, it goes all the way down into Laveen. Goes over up to the boundary of the I-10 freeway there.

So that's another thing is we're looking at various communities of interest.

Another thing is even, for instance, with our chamber. You know, we have the Laveen South Mountain chamber, works very well together, and so we want to make sure that as we're looking at our communities of interest, things like our school districts, we have Roosevelt School District, which encompasses a large portion of this district.

So if we were to split that district, it would be pretty difficult to be able to have, you know, different representatives that are focusing in on those concerns of, say, for instance, even Roosevelt or the Laveen School District, to try and keep that together.

We've had an opportunity to talk to those that have served on the Roosevelt School District, and certainly they would like to -- they are in support and would like to have this particular proposal go forward.

But we stand, of course, for any questions.
I know it's a lot of people that are here today to speak on behalf of this particular map and others that they would like to talk about.

But, again, I would like to thank you all.

I know we have a limit in our speaking time, so I don't want anybody to buzz me.

So, questions? I'm here to stand for your questions.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Well, thank you so much. Did you submit the information to our staff?

LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: This is what I have, and I'd like to make sure it's formally submitted. And I also have some paperwork that I would bring up here to make sure that's passed out as well that talks specifically about the breakdown demographically of each of the districts as well.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much.

LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: You're very welcome.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now, I also know that we have other distinguished representatives within the audience.

I know Mr. -- Councilman Michael Johnson is in the audience.

Mr. Johnson, do you want to say a few words? It's up to you.

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL JOHNSON: Thank you.
Let me, first of all, just thank the Commission for taking the opportunity and the time to come out here in our district.

I think this is the best district in the entire city of Phoenix. I know that it is the hub of the city of Phoenix.

Because we have all of downtown. We have the airport.

We have the fastest growing area in the city.

So, as we start to look at these maps and we look at how contiguous these maps are, I hope that we're able to keep these same communities of interest that have existed for many, many years when you have a lot of residents that are living here.

But what is also concerning is that you have a lot of residents and families moving back home.

And, you know, I kind of call it youngsters or young people moving back to be in the same area where their parents have lived.

And you have South Phoenix, South Mountain Village, the Laveen areas, has continually grown so that in looking at the redistricting, that we're able to keep those things together and take into consideration that growth that we've actually had here within the area.

I know within the city, the Laveen area has been
the fastest growing area in the city, the southern part of
the city.

   So we've had a lot of redevelopment, a lot of
growth, to put those things together, continue to work with,
and I am looking forward to really hearing some of the other
comments that the citizens actually have to have about what
their opinion, what they're thinking about the district, the
districts being contiguous, and all the things we're having.

   So I take that opportunity to thank you.

   I take that opportunity also to welcome all those
that are here, all the constituents that are here in the
district.

   For those of you who don't know, the new ones, I
love District 8. So I hope you leave here today saying I
love District 8.

   VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

   We also have State Senator John McComish.

   Is he here?

   Would you like to speak?

   SENATOR JOHN McCOMISH: Thank you very much for
that.

   The first thing I should say is thank you for the
volunteer job that you folks do. I appreciate it, and I
know many others do, and I know it's a lot of hard work.

   I wanted to make -- actually I can take what my
friend and colleague Senator Leah Landrum Taylor said about
the district she represents and pretty much flip it a little
bit south and say some of the similar comments about
district 20 that I represent.

And I'd like to make just three points, if I may.

Two have to do with communities of interest and
one with competitive districts.

And community of interest and District 20,
Ahwatukee Foothills is a part of District 20. Ahwatukee is
a community of interest.

In the '90s it was divided, and we never thought
that was very fair.

The last Redistricting Commission put it together,
recognized it as a community of interest. And Ahwatukee
Foothills as a whole is part of District 20.

Ahwatukee has its own Chamber of Commerce and its
own newspaper, has its own libraries, its own swimming pool,
has its own village planning committee, et cetera,
et cetera.

And it has natural boundaries with the South
Mountain Range on the north and the Gila Reservation on the
south.

So it clearly fits the definition of community of
interest, and I hope that's something that you people will
consider.
Another point regarding a community of interest is District 20 itself, which includes Ahwatukee Foothills, south Tempe, west Chandler. It's a very homogeneous area. And I think, again, the Redistricting Commission from ten years ago did a very good job in designing that district. As I said, it's very homogeneous.

And it also encompasses almost perfectly, not quite, but almost perfectly the Kyrene School District. So those boundaries are pretty much a mirror of each other, and I think that's a real strength.

That the -- and I know that you can't maintain perfectly the integrity of districts because there's going to be changes. In fact, District 20 would be -- if you left it alone, it's a little too small. We would have to add about 30,000 people.

So I know there has to be those changes, but I hope that you'll consider Ahwatukee Foothills as a community of interest and District 20 as much as possible, and particularly how it is encompassed by the Kyrene School District.

Final point is about competitive districts.

And while District 20 is -- has a Republican majority and has had historically, those majorities are shrinking over time, have shrunk. And, in fact, in 2008 there was a Democrat elected to the State House of
Representatives.

So I'm not sure exactly how we define a competitive district, but I think if you have representation from both parties, I think that's a -- should be part of the definition.

So, again, thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Appreciate what you do, and thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

We have Ben Miranda, who is the former state representative and current Phoenix Union high school -- member of the Phoenix Union High School governing board.

BEN MIRANDA: Thank you very much.

I'd thank you, and I'd also like to welcome you to the district.

As you know, I represented the district for eight years.

My wife is in Rhode Island today on a -- actually on a national group that she chairs, and she wasn't able to be here today.

But she also has asked me to express some of the sentiments that you'll hear today.

One of them is, to start off with, the proposal for the map that was presented earlier today by Senator Landrum Taylor. We support that, absolutely support for the Arizona Minority Coalition.
But also I'd like to point out to you some of the geographic features that I think you'll hear constantly throughout this hearing.

Obviously we're bordered by the mountains, which is probably the anchor for the whole district.

And then you've got the river bottom.

Even though the proposal extends beyond that, the fact is for the most part that is vacant land. And the airport has encroached on it to the point that really the airport belongs to District 16 in many ways.

I'd like to also indicate that Guadalupe is a very important community to us, and it's simply important because of the cultural ties that it has to this district and the fact that for 20 years it's been represented by the same district that encompasses this south Phoenix, South Mountain community.

I served with Roosevelt School Board, and I'm now serving the governing board for Phoenix Union High School District.

And Roosevelt is in many ways considered probably, in terms of cultural, ethnicity, history, almost from every perspective, a community of interest.

The fact is it also, next to the mountain, probably anchors District 16 as well.

I'd like to also indicate to you that
South Mountain Community College, the campus that you're on today, has a satellite office in Guadalupe, and it ties it in naturally to what we feel is -- should be within the same district.

Again, I'd ask that you consider very strongly the proposed map.

This may very well be the easiest map that you'll draw in Arizona.

Because of -- because it's so naturally compacted and meets all the criteria that you set out in terms of redistricting.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you, and I also want to welcome you again to District 16.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now, we have Rick Moreau with the Tonopah Community Council.

He's the president.

RICK MOREAU: Hello.

I'm here to speak about community of interest.

I'm from the community of Tonopah. We're in the far west valley. We're a very rural community.

But currently the districts are split, split us right down the middle.

And we're not happy with that.
We don't feel we have proper representation being split into two different districts.

We're on the far fringes of both of those districts.

And we want to try to be considered as a community of interest and pull together into one district. That would give us, we feel, a much better representation.

We're about 5,000 residents out there. So it's not just a sprinkling. It is a small community, but still substantial as far as we're concerned.

So that's the boundaries that we'd like to have considered would be west of the Hassayampa River, north of Elliot Road, south of the Belmont Mountains, and east of 459th Avenue.

That gives a square that covers basically the area that we represent.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Well, thank you.

The next person would be a former city councilman from Phoenix representing -- had represented District 16, Calvin Goode.

Calvin Goode. That's what I meant.

CALVIN GOODE: Thank you. People have called me worse names, so . . .

I'm in District 8. I'm also in District 16.
I was on the original city council on the original -- when we redistrict -- all members of the council supported that, and certainly it has worked out well. I know they certainly support the proposal submitted by Leah Landrum Taylor, Councilman Johnson, and certainly I think that it is a great proposal. Certainly hoping that you will see fit to apply what they have told you today. Again, thanks, all of you, all five of you, for serving. And it certainly is a worthy opportunity for you to do what's right by the citizens of the city of Phoenix. Again, good for good government, good for a better redistricting.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Goode.

The next person is from the community of Guadalupe, community development director, Gino Turrubiartes.

I'm probably butchering his name.

GINO TURRUBIARTES: No, you did very well.

Thank you, Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you, and I'm really happy to see such an active participant here.

My name is Gino Turrubiartes. I'm from the town
of Guadalupe. I grew up there, and now today I am an employee of the Town.

It's great that I've seen in the years that I've been there where we have now South Mountain Community College. We have a library, the Boys and Girls Club. We have an active mercado.

We are working really diligently on economic development there in the town of Guadalupe.

Great road project that's happening, Sun Circle Trail.

We have, that's active right now, in Guadalupe, road enhancement project been completed as well as updated monthly.

But as the Town of Guadalupe council had a meeting a couple of weeks ago, the council position is that the Town of Guadalupe wants to stay in District 16.

We also want to be represented through the Congressional District 4.

We feel that we have been very well represented, not just in the last 20 years, but through the time of Guadalupe's incorporation in 1975.

We've had a lot of great things that have happened for Guadalupe.

I want to give a lot of kudos also to Representative Richard Miranda, who has been very supportive
for the town of Guadalupe, been very active, you know, in communicating well with the council, with us, you know, on, on these processes and how redistricting works.

For a lot of us, that's brand-new stuff. And we're just learning as we go.

I want to say thank you again to your staff, to yourselves.

Guadalupe requests that -- not requests, but actually Guadalupe takes the position that District 16 and -- I mean, District 16 and Congressional District 4 best represent the town of Guadalupe.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Before we have the next speaker, if you guys have cell phones that are not turned off, please turn them off now.

And also if you don't mind not speaking when people are speaking, we'd appreciate it.

Next speaker is CJ Briggle, from Ahwatukee.

If I'm not pronouncing your last name correctly, please accept my apologies.

CJ BRIGGLE: And I appreciate the opportunity.

Thank you very much for having me.

Although I will say Senator McComish has reiterated most of my comments, we just are here to
represent Ahwatukee as a community of interest.

And do appreciate that the natural borders and the Kyrene School District really are already sustained within LD 20, and that is our purpose for being here this evening.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

As we're going forward, if you don't mind, when you come up, say your name and spell it for Marty. It will be very helpful.

The next person is Paul Lowes, representing himself.

PAUL LOWES: Takes me a while.

Can you say the next person so they can be line?

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: That is a good idea.

I'm going to do this, let's call the next person.

Rosie Lopez will be next. Then Dave Wells. Then Isaac Serna.

Go ahead, sir.

PAUL LOWES: All right. I'm Paul Lowes from Tempe.

And I love politics.

I live politics.

But I'm hoping that one thing that you all remember, and you've been undergoing a lot of pressure so
far, an awful lot of pressure from political people that posterity matters more than politics. And I hope your goal will remain keeping Arizona as fair as possible and making it more fair all the time.

So, all these issues about, you know, mapping, all that's important, but the key principles of posterity and fairness should rule what we do in the long run.

Thank you so much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

ROSIE LOPEZ: My name is Rosie Lopez, R-O-S-I-E, L-O-P-E-Z.

And I'm representing the Arizona Hispanic Community Forum, founder.

And I have been involved in redistricting before in the past.

But, anyway, I'm here to speak on communities of interests.

I want to start with the congressional, because I think that we have a -- we have basically a very good bunch of boundaries here.

And, by the way, I'm from Legislative District 16 here. And I thank you so much for having this here, because I think it was wonderful that you chose south Phoenix, because I don't think -- you know, sometimes we're neglected.
So, anyway, but I have also lived in District 13 and 14. Used to be 22 in the old days. I lived there for many years.

So I want to tell you that the community of interests are Tolleson and central Phoenix, Maryvale, historic Glendale, and, as I said, 13 and 14 and 16.

So those are community of interests that I'd like to see, you know, and I'd like to recommend to the -- and Guadalupe, how can I not -- how can I leave out Guadalupe. I'm very supportive of what the gentleman said about Guadalupe.

And I am in full support and we are in full support of Guadalupe being a part of Congressional District 4.

And, but also of District 16 as well.

I think that we are -- our communities of interest are very much alike. We have the culture. We have the history. We have the language as well.

And also I want to mention in terms of this District 16 that we have the natural boundaries that Senator Leah Landrum spoke so well of. And I reiterate what she said. Those are the natural boundaries. I think they should stay. I'm very appreciative that she and others put that map together, and I'm very supportive of that map for District 16.
So, I also want to say that we have, in terms of our district, we have a very similar income -- low income level to middle class level. And the language of course. The education level is about the same.

I'm sorry I don't have data right now, but I probably will have it later.

Transportation needs are very important here, in our district.

And thank you to our congressman that represents us now, we have some of that taken care of, but we're not there yet.

We have the ancestry. We have religious worship, south Phoenix churches. And we also have celebrations that we celebrate here that are very unique to us, with the fiestas, quinceaneras, and all of those good things that happen in our district.

And of course Laveen, I cannot leave that out, is very much a part of it, and we go to their barbecues and have a lot of interest there.

So thank you very for having us, and thank you for listening to me.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

DAVE WELLS: I'm Dave Wells, and I live in Tempe. I'm not representing ASU, but I teach political science there.
And so I'm just going to talk to you a little bit about some of the issues with redistricting.

As you can see from people who have already spoken, that you're going to have a lot of micro pressures about preserving the status quo.

You also have to look at the macro picture of, you know, the general issue is these people are going to get elected to office, especially at the state legislature and congress. And collectively they need to represent the collectivity of the state. If you don't get the balance right, then we can distort political issues.

One of the things that most disturbs my students when I teach about this stuff is gerrymandering. When they find out it's actually legal to discriminate to where they draw a line except for on racial issues, it really bothers them.

And I'll give you a little thing where you can draw your own.

These are much easier to draw these ones.

But you did draw ones where you can create massive majorities that go beyond what the macro picture would show you.

And so one of the key problems with the Voting Rights Act and the challenge that poses, because number the ethnic minorities tend to be registered Democrat.
And you're required by law to have a majority minority district. So you need to have at least 50 percent of the voting age population be of the minority group that you're trying to represent so they have a fair chance to elect. But if you have a super majority, super minority district, what you're going to do is super cluster a number of Democrats and then make the Democratic interest generally have a more difficult opportunity in a macro picture of including of being well-represented.

And that's a difficult balance that you've got to try to work through. And you'll likely work with the Voting Rights Act and your options are initially as you go through that.

Now, a number of people are concerned about the population breakdowns. Now, although you're supposed to have equal population, when you actually look at it, you're allowed for congressional districts to be plus or minus two percent by districts.

And at the state level they give you even more flexibility. According to things I've read, it can be high as ten percent.

You probably won't go that big, but you can have
some variation, so you're -- and that can enable you to keep some of these communities of interest together that you might otherwise feel like you have to cut up because of population concerns.

And then with each -- with competitiveness you also might want to think about what are your macro goals. And I actually haven't had a chance to sit down and try to plot things out.

But generally, and perhaps with a little deviation from here, something like being able to find ten Democratic districts, ten Republican districts, and ten competitive districts might be, you know, a general broad macro goal that might help assure things.

Because Independents are a little bit hard to figure out. So although they are Independents, they tend to vote one way or the other.

Some of the ways, and, again, I haven't run numbers on these things, but some of the ways you can check that might be in the presidential races, because although Senator McComish talked about legislative races, sometimes if it's not a really competitive district now, the minority party won't bother running a candidate so the strongest candidates don't run.

But in the presidential race is, and especially in our governor race in 2002 and 2010, you had a chance to
actually see where they could vote for Republican or Democrat, and you had got a good sense of how that -- how the people in that district tended to vote.

So those are some of the things I'd like you to think about and consider.

And just for fun, when you don't have any time, you can play with these.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Could you actually state your name and spell it out.


VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much, sir.

And before we get to Mr. Serna, I'd like the next three people that will be speaking will be Mari Alvarado, and Bob Thomas, and Tony Sissons.

So, Mr. Serna.


First, I'd like to thank you all for coming out today. I know it's a very difficult job you have ahead of you.

First thing we would like to say is we concur fully with Senator Leah Landrum Taylor's maps and her presentation.

We know that here in Laveen, which is bounded by
South Mountain to the south, the Salt River to the north, and south Phoenix to the east, we know that, you know, currently our representation, they travel our same roads, they have our same issues, and they can fully see what our concerns are.

So as representation goes, you know, that's what we're hoping that we have.

Because if we were to go south over the mountain, they no longer have the same concerns or issues.

On the congressional side, we feel that our demographics in Laveen are similar to south Phoenix, Guadalupe, west Phoenix, and Tolleson.

Which we currently do have now.

And same thing, we have full representation now.

We're hoping that we can continue to have that.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

MARI ALVARADO: Good evening.

Can you hear me?


And, again, I also want to thank the Commission, the chair, everyone here.

And I think you're right. This is a great turnout for one of your first public meetings.
I actually represent three different options here, different organizations.

I was a member of the Legislative Latino Caucus that drew up the map that representative or Senator Richard Miranda and also Senator Leah Landrum Taylor presented to you.

And I am in support of that map.

I'm also a member of the Alhambra Elementary School Board.

I serve on that board.

And it is also a voluntary position, so I know that it's a lot of work and your task before you is very daunting.

And, thirdly, I am the immediate past district director for the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC.

And it was in that position that in 2010 we came out real hard and we worked very tirelessly to get everyone counted. (Wherupon, Ms. Alvarado spoke in Spanish.) It was a real important issue for us.

We wanted to make sure that all of our community was counted in 2010.

So we got the word out right away.

The redistricting process is very critical. It's very important because it only comes out every, you know,
And you just mentioned. This is only the second time in Arizona.

So it's very important to us.

I want to mention three things.

Number one, that the process is very, very important to our population.

We are taking this very seriously.

The second thing is the voter participation as far as getting our community out registered to vote, and to vote on the day of voting is very, very critical to us.

Because, as you know, there are many of our population that they just have a very hard time getting out to vote.

So getting these maps drawn in a fair way and in a way that our candidates have a chance to get in is very important to us.

And thirdly I want to say that we are looking very closely at the work that the Commission is doing, and that we expect to have representatives at all of our public meetings, and that we certainly are going to follow the Voting Rights Act to make sure that it does not discriminate against minority populations.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
BOB THOMAS: I'm Bob Thomas.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. The microphone is up? Okay.

I'm glad to see counsel here and I'm glad to see this being recorded, because I want to speak to the record.

I want to speak to an issue about competitiveness and community of interest that I'm involved with.

And I really hope that you will listen to what I'm trying to say.

I live in the LD 15, which is the central corridor of Phoenix just north of the state capital.

For 35 years we have been dominated by one party.

Seventy percent of the registered voters in LD 15 are one party.

Consequently you could run a course of Howdy Doody Howdy Doody and Pinky Lee and put a D by their name and they would get elected. It is not a competitive district. It is a very gerrymandered district, one that is obvious to everybody in the room and certainly the Commission and counsel.

When you're considering this, I'm a board member of the Willo Neighborhood Association currently, also a representative to the Phoenix Historical Society Neighborhood Association as well.
And I speak of community of interest for the people that -- board members tonight that can't be here to speak for their own selves.

We would like to see the LD 15 in a competitive atmosphere.

We would like it to be a 50/50 district where the Independents and Republicans would also have a voice in that district in state government.

It's gone on too long.

I understand that this only happens every ten years. This is your one chance to maybe correct this, because it's not fair to the 67,000 people that are living in that legislative district.

I would really appreciate if you all would look into it and absolutely draw those lines for it to be more competitive.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

After Mr. Tony Sissons, the next three other individuals are Karen Damaso representing herself, Todd Schwartz representing himself, and then Janice Cottrill -- Reverend Janice Cottrill representing herself.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Sissons.

TONY SISSONS: Good evening, commissioners. My name is Tony Sissons, that's T-O-N-Y, S-I-S-S-O-N-S.
I'm a redistricting consultant. I'm very busy this time of the day.

But I wanted to -- and I was one of the applicants to be your mapping consultant.

And during that process we included on our team a man who has a particular expertise, and I'm really kind of just hoping that you will consider finding a way to involve him in your process.

Because most of my concerns really relate not to competition or communities of interest, but to this Commission's relationship and the state of Arizona's relationship with the Department of Justice.

Now, Mr. Yazzie, Alfred Yazzie, who was on the team, he is an expert in native languages and also in voting rights.

And I think from the perspective of the Justice Department reviewing this process and seeing the gentleman of his caliber as part of Arizona's team would be a very useful thing.

Let's see.

The second point that I'd like to make.

And I don't now how much has been discussed up to now.

And that has to do with one of the, one of the elements that was listed on the -- in the presentation
earlier was the matter of the kind of analysis of voting --
of racially polarized voting that has to be done to be able
to draw districts that do comply with the Voting Rights Act.

And two of the major elements of that kind of
statistical analysis are census data and election data.

Now, there's nothing particularly amiss with the
election data that is on record with the Secretary of
State's Office.

However, the census data where it aggregates data
by voting precincts, about 300 of those precincts in the
federal database have the wrong precinct name on them.

And this is a problem that your mapping consultant
is aware of, and there are ways for, in your use of the
data, to sort of make those crossovers to the correct names.

My concern is that knowledge of that needs to be
spread, you know, to -- for instance, the reviewers of the
Justice Department need to know about those name switch
problems, name scrambles, as I call them.

Also organizations like MALDEF and Southwest
Voters Registration and other groups who do their own
independent analyses of voting rights issues. If they are
not aware of these scrambled names, then in essence they
would be coming up with analyses that do not fit.

So I encourage you to have your mapping consultant
and your attorneys looking at this issue.
And the third point --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: If you can be brief. You've run out of time.

I think that that was the timer; right?

TONY SISSONS: Then I will give you the microphone.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much, sir.

We have Karen Damaso next.


So, thank you again, Chair Mathis(sic) and commissioners for your time and service today and hearing my statement regarding the current redistricting considerations for Arizona's congressional and legislative boundaries.

I understand there's certain rules that must be followed when drawing the district limits.

I see that one requirement includes communities of interest in order to keep boundaries united. This is important to me since I've resided in the Biltmore area of Phoenix for almost seven years and I've worked in Kierland for almost six.

And these are my communities of interest.

I spend most of my time with my family and friends, colleagues, in the Biltmore, Arcadia,
Paradise Valley, and Kierland areas, which I consider to be my neighborhood.

We frequently support many of the resorts, restaurants, retail shops, schools, clubs, and churches, and these are my communities of interest.

Within these areas I am driving to different places, and these are linked via Tatum, Lincoln, Camelback Roads. And I see Scottsdale Road as a logical divider between congressional districts, since my communities of interest or our communities on interest are west of Scottsdale Road.

So I just wanted to say thank you for your consideration, and I hope you will acknowledge my neighborhood when you decide to draw new boundaries for the congressional districts.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

I think it's Todd Schwarz.

TODD SCHWARZ: My name is Todd Schwarz, T-O-D-D, S-C-H-W-A-R-Z.

And I am a member of the Balsz Elementary School Board and am also an active Democrat in District 15.

And as a school board member, I can appreciate the communities of interest question.

In terms of -- currently Balsz is representative by five district -- different legislative districts, which
is kind of frustrating if you have to go talk to
15 different legislators on an education issue.

    But also know that that district was drawn that
way because of, I think, some communities of interest being
defined.

    District 15 might have been an unintended
consequence.

    I would actually agree with Bob Thomas that it
would be hard for a Democrat to lose, but I think
Howdy Doody and Pinky Lee were Republicans.

    But this is a district that's roughly 12 miles
long, and parts are only a half mile wide.

    It's very heavily Democratic.

    And it actually suppresses voter turnout that it
is so uncompetitive.

    A lot of people think that their work is done in
the primary election and there's no reason to go out and
vote during a general election.

    I just want to urge the Commission that when you
look at communities of interest, don't ignore competition.
Because, again, when competitiveness is not considered and
compactness is not considered, then the result of the
district where if there are communities of interest, they
are very diverse to the point of having very little in
common.
And, again, the voter suppression, voter suppression issue I think is especially concerning for those in the district.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

TODD SCHWARZ: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: First one is French, Dan Schultz, and Danny Sullivan, all representing themselves.

JANICE COTTRILL: My name is Janice Cottrill, C-O-T-T-R-I-L-L.

First of all, I just wanted to start off with a complaint.

I would like to have seen the mapping consultants be more Arizonian.

But other than that, we didn't have a choice, so now we have what we have.

And I would like to see all of the meetings open, with good agendas put on the Internet, that people can see exactly where the meetings are going to be, maybe even locations would be a good idea.

And the more input you take from Arizona people, we're very smart.

And I thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

DAN SCHULTZ: Hi, I'm Dan Schultz. That's S-C-H-U-L-T-Z.
I'm going -- my community of interest, I'm going to speak about community of interest, and I want to also speak a little bit about competitiveness.

I'm in LD 17. And LD 17 does not seem to be competitive.

We've been represented by the Democrats.

And I think it's because of the ASU influence within the district.

But with respect to CD 5, I think that the competitiveness is there.

My other community of interest is the people who live in my district, and my congressional district, want to see this Commission work in an independent and transparent and nonpartisan fashion.

I know the name is independent Commission.

But there's been a lot of, a lot of information in the press recently about the transparency of this Commission, you know, why it meets in secret so much, why the decision to select the mapping consultant was apparently done behind closed doors.

I'd like to see more transparency.

And there's also been some comment in the press about the fact that the meetings, or your minutes, don't seem to get published very quickly.

I don't know that to be a fact, but that's what
I've read.

So I'd like to see that too.

You know, again, that word independent.

As I understand it, there's two Republicans, there's two Democrats, and then there's an Independent on the Commission.

But there's really been some question in the press as to whether that Independent really is Independent.

And I think that calls into question the process, and the process has been mentioned here earlier tonight.

And then with respect the Commission being nonpartisan.

I've looked at the Strategic Telemetry application.

It doesn't look like a nonpartisan outfit to me at all. It looks very partisan, based on the bios and past client list.

Now, that's water over the bridge. There may be nothing that we can do about that.

But I would like you to try to be as nonpartisan and independent and transparent as you can be for this process going forward.

And I appreciate all you're doing.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)
VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: To save some time, the people that are clapping, you will always -- if everybody claps, we'll be here all day. So if you'll hold the applause until the end.

I think Kristen French was next.

So -- you got to move up.

KRISTEN FRENCH: Hi, I'm Kristen, K-R-I-S-T-E-N, F-R-E-N-C-H.

First I'd like to thank you for volunteering.

I'm a resident of the 40th Street and Camelback area.

And when I think about my communities of interest, I think about what I have in common with my neighbors, friends, and coworkers.

And living in the 40th Street and Camelback area for most of my adult life, I feel most connected to the areas north of me, including Paradise Valley, Biltmore, and north central Phoenix. This is where most of my time is spent, whether it's shopping, dining, worshiping, or other community-type activities.

And I feel specifically connected to the city of Phoenix, just because of the fact that we share public amenities, schools, and recreational areas.

As large as Phoenix is, I feel like I'm still able to maintain that hometown feeling, running into friends,
coworkers, and neighbors, while out on the weekend hiking Camelback, Piestewa Peak, shopping at the Biltmore, or eating within Arcadia area.

Since all of these communities of interest lie within -- lie west of Scottsdale Road and north of Thomas, I believe that they should be in their own congressional district.

Thank you for your time.

I hope you'll acknowledge my neighborhood when you're redrawing the boundaries.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Mr. Sullivan, before you speak, let me introduce the next three.

Jacquie St. James.

Brian Woloshin, representing the -- business owner representing the Computer Wizard.

Jacquie St. James is representing herself.

And Lauren Kuby, the first vice chair of the Maricopa County Democratic Party.


First of all, I'd like to thank the Commission. It is a daunting task that you've taken on.

Again, I can't imagine what you're going to go
through in the process, but it's greatly appreciated.

Also thank you for allowing these kinds of public forums and comments. That's greatly appreciated.

My wife and I live in Moon Valley, which is roughly Bell Road and 7th Street.

Moon Valley is kind of a bedroom community, if you will.

A lot of us in Moon Valley work in the business district of northeast Phoenix, the Biltmore area, the Camelback corridor.

And my wife and I attend church on Seventh Street between Bethany Home and Glendale.

So with the restaurants we've frequent, the businesses we do business with, our church, our doctors, my work, everything we do pretty much is in an area west of Scottsdale Road, north of Indian School, and east of 35th Avenue, really.

So that that entire area really composes our community of interest.

I quite often get involved in conversations regarding the issues that face us, whether it's city of Phoenix planning and zoning issues or whether it's, you know, issues on the national level.

And I can't really imagine what it would look like or feel like if somehow that area that I've described was
split up and we didn't all have the same representative in Congress.

It would be disconcerting, and I think it would divide that community.

So I want to thank you for this opportunity, and I hope you'll seriously consider what I've presented to you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

JACQUIE ST. JAMES: Good evening. My name is Jacquie St. James, spelled J-A-C-Q-U-I-E, St. James, S-T, J-A-M-E-S.

I'm a relatively new resident.

I live in Ahwatukee.

I thank you for the opportunity to have this forum so that I get to know my community better.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.


I first want to thank you for taking on a difficult job and for taking on the pressures and firestorms surrounding this. You're doing a magnificent job, and I commend you on the approach and actions you've taken thus far.

I'm a local small business owner and formerly a ten-year school teacher. I'm here to speak today on
non-competitive districts and a need for competitive
districts in the future.

Due to having non-competitive districts, my voice
is not being heard.

As a business owner and a former teacher, this has
a very negative impact on me directly.

Districts have got to be created -- districts have
been created currently to protect the legislature's job and
promote an extreme agenda, not to represent the best
interests of our state.

This leads to too much partisanship because of
this.

Our legislature is no longer working for my
interest, for my state's interest, for my family's interest,
but instead is working for their interest in promoting its
agenda.

Thinking back as a Phoenix native, and the last
truly nonpartisan act that I can truly remember our district
doing as a team and standing up doing something difficult,
believe it or not, was the impeachment of Evan Mecham
24 years ago.

Twenty-four years ago. I had hair back then.

That should not be what's happening. That needs
to change.

Since then we've had nothing but extreme
partisanship. We need to get back to having people work
together, making the difficult choices, and doing the right
thing for our state, not for themselves, not for an agenda,
but for us.

You have the knowledge, the power, the time, and
the high amount of skill and information it takes to do
this.

It is my expectation as a small business owner
and Phoenix native and former teacher that this will take
place.

Thank you again for all the work you're doing.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Before the next speaker. We have Barney Switzer,
representing himself.

Kim Allen, representing herself.

And Michael A., I think McAfee, representing
himself.

And, again, I encourage you to hold the applause
or any comments, hold them to yourself.

LAUREN KUBY: My name is Lauren Kuby, L-A-U-R-E-N,
K-U-B-Y.

So I represent Legislative District 17 Democrats
as well as the Maricopa County Democratic Party. I'm also a
23-year resident of Tempe and a Sun Devil.

So two equal criteria of the independent
redistricting process are communities of interest and
competitiveness, as you well know.

First off, I urge you to keep Tempe mostly intact
as a community of interest.

We also have our own community edition of the
Republic, and we're focused on higher education as we are
the home of ASU.

Go Devils.

I also, in contradiction to Mr. Schultz, we are
not a Democratic dominated district. We are -- there's
36 percent Independents, 34 percent Democrats, and
30 percent Republicans in District 17.

So Legislative District 17 currently represents
most of Tempe, and some of south Scottsdale, needs to add
about 42,000 more voters to its legislative boundaries.

I realize that it's highly probable that Tempe
will become less Democratic, more Republican, more
Independent, when the new maps are drawn.

Currently we are only one of nine legislative
districts in the state that have an all Democratic
representation in the Legislature.

You might think that I as a Democrat and an
activist might fear competitiveness as the redrawn maps will
invariably become a more -- Tempe will invariably become a
more red district.
But I say bring it on.

Voters always benefit when their legislative
district is competitive.

That way decisions are not made for them by the
party regulars and in the primaries.

Competitiveness must continue to be emphasized so
that candidates and elected officials speak to all
constituents instead of only their party loyalists, like me.

I also want to remind, you know, Mr. Schultz,
because you also made this point, and we'll spar outside if
you want, that those who complain about the choice of the
mapping consultant, that it is the Commission, you
commissioners, that will make the decisions about the final
map, not the technical consultants and not the staff.

So thank you, commissioners, for all your
thankless work, and for all the public input you are
gathering over the next few months.

You're all to be commended for your public
service.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

BARNEY SWITZER: Hi, my name is Barney Switzer,

I live on the southern edge of
Congressional District 3, close to central Phoenix, but I
live, work, and volunteer regularly in four -- at least four congressional districts.

I don't feel like I have a community of interest, but I do feel like partisanship has elevated to a point where political discourse has been dumbed down.

And I can no longer have intelligent conversations with people who I suspect were moderates not too long ago. Or at least were capable of having an intelligent conversation.

I believe that having competitive districts will help that process.

And I've lived in a bunch of different districts. Right now I can think of seven people who represent me, and only one of them I feel would be willing to actually listen to anything I have to say.

I've lived in districts where my representatives were on, you know, my side of the political spectrum, although I consider myself somewhat moderate, and they are less accountable to me as well.

Competitive districts are about accountability.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

KIM ALLEN: My name is Kim Allen, K-I-M, A-L-L-E-N.

And I object to the Strategic Telemetry -- what a
word -- being hired, because I believe it is biased towards the progressive Democrats, they have no experience in state mapping, and they work for the progressive campaigns and lobbyists that should be -- that should not be redrawing Arizona lines.

I believe it should be done by Arizonans.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Before we have Michael -- is it McAfee?

MICHAEL MCAFEE: McAfee.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'm sorry. Diego, just goes by Diego, U.S. veteran.

We have Gordon Posner, representing himself, and Sean Bowie, also representing himself, next in line for when we speak.

MICHAEL MCAFEE: It's Michael R. McAfee, M-C-A-F-E-E.

Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to speak.

You folks have your work cut out for you.

We are to achieve the goals set forth in our state constitution, the goals of the competitive elections, geographically sane boundaries, which consider communities of interest, and then meet all the requirements of the United States, we will have accomplished something.
It must be a hard task.
The previous Commission's efforts fell well short in my opinion.

Take a look at current Legislative District 21, where I live and vote.

It may be contiguous, but that's about the only criteria it satisfies.

Ranging from Dobson Ranch in southwest Mesa to the north, the district stretches south incorporating parts of Chandler, down to the Maricopa County line, and then shoots east dozens of miles all the way to the Maricopa County eastern boundaries.

It's a huge district.

Communities of interest? No.

Compact? No.

Geographical features? No.

Municipalities? Parts of several.

Competitiveness? Don't make me laugh.

District 21 is at least one of the poster boys for failure from the last effort.

We can do better.

It seems to me that competitiveness is the key to a successful redistricting.

If our districts are competitive, then democracy will apply.
Democracy is not served when the outcome of a general election is assured just because the redistricting Commission drew the district boundaries in such a way that only a few districts are competitive.

Such results stifle prospective candidates and end up regulating our representation to government to just a few -- just the anointed few.

America is supposed to be the world's greatest democracy.

Now is our time to make that patriotic maxim come true, at least so far as Arizona is concerned, by drawing our district boundaries, especially our legislative districts boundaries, in a manner that will foster competitive elections.

I think you can do it.

I believe that we have a chance right here in Arizona to fashion a model for the entire world to follow. You can draw boundaries that result in competitive districts while preserving communities of interest that are compact and contiguous.

I know that I'm rooting for you. And I am sure that many, many others are too.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Diego, are you here?
If not, we can go to Gordon Posner.

GORDON POSNER: My name is Gordon Posner, G-O-R-D-O-N, P-O-S-N-E-R.

I want to thank the Commission for giving us the opportunity to speak.

I want to emphasize the importance of competitiveness.

Whether you're a Democratic voter in a Democratic district or a Republican voter in a Republican district, if election is assured, your vote doesn't count.

All that matters is the primary voters.

These districts should not be futile thiefdoms handed down based on the divine right of party membership where a candidate can be assured that their political kin will win the next time.

We must have competitive districts, because that's the only way our votes will count.

I don't want a government that just listens to the primary voters. I want a government that listens to all the voters.

Make our vote count.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, hold the applause.

So after Sean Bowie, I'd like to have Steve
Muratore, the publisher representing the Arizona Eagletarian.

Kelly Townsend, and representing -- she's a committee woman representing herself.

And then Bill Mitchell.

SEAN BOWIE: My name is Sean, S-E-A-N, Bowie, B-O-W-I-E.

I want to thank the Commission for allowing me and everyone else the opportunity to speak tonight.

I just want to take this opportunity to tell you firsthand how important competitive districts are to our communities.

I've lived in the Chandler, Ahwatukee area for almost 20 years, and throughout this time we've had the benefit of living in a legislative district that has grown more competitive over time.

In fact, since 2008 there's only been two legislative districts in all of Maricopa County that have elected both Democrats and Republicans to the Legislature. And my district, District 20, is one of those two districts.

Over the years we've received more attention, better candidates, and higher voter turnout because we've evolved into a competitive district.

The core of our district, Ahwatukee, has about
78,000 voters, and has its own unique section of Phoenix, we're blocked off by South Mountain from the rest of the city.

And I always believed that Ahwatukee represents a community of interest.

And like Senator McComish said earlier, we really evolved into our own community. And it's my hope it will continue to stay that way for another 10 years.

With the new census numbers, District 20 has about 176,000 voters, so it needs to gain an additional 37,000 to form a new district.

It's my hope that the Commission will keep our district intact, also currently includes south Tempe and west Chandler, and seek to add voters that would create a true 50/50 Democratic and Republican vote split in future elections.

With the Commission stating that competitiveness is one of the most important priorities in drawing lines, I would encourage them to focus on districts that already have roughly equal numbers of registered Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, and seek to modify those districts and make them truly competitive.

Out of all legislatures in Maricopa County, District 20, I believe, is the easiest to achieve the goal of creating a more truly fair and competitive district.
Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Kelly Townsend.

Do you mind stepping up?

KELLY TOWNSEND: My name is Kelly Townsend. I'm from Gilbert, Arizona.

I have a dual passion. My personal work is right here in south Phoenix, with South Phoenix Healthy Start helping family, parents.

My other passion is what we're doing here and what's going on in our state.

And I represent a very large group, the Greater Phoenix Tea Party.

And I preface what I'm going to say with I'm spending quite a bit of time this past week working on an issue in Quartzsite. If you haven't been watching the news last week, I recommend you watch what's happening Arizona.

People are watching this around the world right now that.

Because what's happening in Quartzsite is gross corruption, basically alleged gross corruption.

And the world is asking what's happening in Arizona, why the corruption, while the lack of involvement in the political process.

And it's quite embarrassing.
And it is a multi-partisan effort.

We have racial Democrats and racial Republicans and everyone in between working on this issue, because what's important is a cry for integrity. Everybody is interested in integrity.

And I was here on the 7th. I listened to the comments, listened to everything you presented.

And because what's most important to me is integrity.

I am even more disappointed in the information I've learned since that time.

One of my biggest concerns was the application that the mistake was made on, Madam Chair, where you failed to disclose your husband's work experience.

And I understand you apologized to us and explained it was a mistake.

So whether it was a mistake or if it was done intentionally, neither one is -- because that's an attention to detail issue, and I am concerned with your further work on this Commission, if you can't see the first item on the spouse. It's concerning to me.

I don't mean to be mean about it. I'm just very concerned. Because I really believe had you marked that, it would have made a big change on the consideration.

I believe the result of that mistake is now
another issue of integrity, where I've read in Arizona Capital Times.

I'm astounded at this, but one of the Democrats on this board, a Democrat Jose Herrera, gave -- said that all three of you gave Strategic Telemetry perfect scores during the final round scoring, and Herrera told the Arizona Capital Times he had to, quote, had to give the firm a perfect score even though he actually preferred another applicant because there were concerns that the Republicans would give the company poor marks because it caters to Democratic candidates and unions.

Now, whether I was a Democratic or Republican, I take issue with that, because that's lack of integrity, that you didn't vote according to what you felt. And I think damages Arizona's reputation.

I think this will be a second scandal in this.

And I care about every single person in here, as an Arizona -- a fellow Arizonan, we don't need another scandal, and we need to work together.

And I am petitioning you to step down, and I petition all of you to reconsider.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Just -- I really want to caution all of you, because we do have police officers that
I don't want to be using to escort people out of the room. I think that, you know, we're all adults here.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's keep it civil. I appreciate that.

Steve -- so, please, let's not do that again.

After Steve, we'll have Bill Mitchell representing himself, Dave Wong representing himself, and Bradley -- I think it's Vandermark, representing himself as well.

So you guys can step up and get ready to speak after Steve.

STEVE MURATORE: Thank you, commissioners. My name is Steve Muratore, M-U-R-A-T-O-R-E. I publish the Arizona Eagletarian. And I think I'm in a unique position to speak about integrity of this Commission.

I know these guys. I've been to almost every meeting. I follow them. I listen to them. I talk with them.

And I know that this process has been as open as it can be. I know that the integrity of all five of the Commission members is without question, and I think it's time to move on beyond the controversy.

Anyways, I want to tell you, number one, the
previous speaker apparently thought you, Ms. McNulty, were
the commissioner -- or the chair.

    And we know that's not true.

    But, anyways, I appreciate the service of all
three of you, and Ms. Mathis and Mr. Stertz who are not
here.

    And, of course, you know where I stand on a lot of
the issues.

    I'm very interested in competitiveness. Because,
like many others have said already, that's when the
politicians will be accountable to the voters in their
district.

    Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

BILL MITCHELL: My name is Bill Mitchell,
M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L.

    I live in the northwest Valley, and I appreciate
the opportunity to visit with everybody.

    And I also appreciate the Commission's work. I
know it's daunting. It's probably the least happy
experience you can have in your life.

    I became interested in this starting in the papers
back in November with the process, because I was a bit
concerned what was going on.
By the way, Howdy Doody and Pinky Lee were not Republicans. I know this because they're still not trying to vote, they're Republicans.

I became very concerned because of the independence of the Commission. The chair's comments about the selection of the Strategic Telemetry, I did read her comments.

I did read the applications.

And then today I find out that our attorney general's investigating the Commission, and one of the issues is the perfect score given.

Well, I guess the good news is it was only a ten. The bad news it was a perfect score. The good news is it wasn't extra credit, which we can find today in liberal education.

I noticed on financial commercials they say that past results don't guarantee future performance.

Well, the same thing is true of what you have to do.

We have a population increase of almost 24 percent.

The United States of America is comprised of 50 states.

Arizona is one of those states.

The more I think that we have communities of
interest, which I think have a tendency to weaken that
dream. I think that one of the strengths of this country,
Americana, and the democracy that we have, is the ability of
our citizens to assimilate for the purpose of creating a
better life for themselves and for their neighbors and for
every state in this country.

So I think sometimes this community of interest
stuff is a bit overblown, because it takes away the
opportunity for the people in those communities of interest
to know what the people -- with their fellow citizens.

The main reason they came up is to talk about
competitiveness.

I've been researching the Commission, and I'm
concerned about your definition of competitiveness which has
yet to be established.

And like a number of other people here, I have a
partisan side.

I came here because I think the rudder of the ship
is a little bit to the left. Not a lot, just a little bit.
And I think the more the people come here, find out about
the process, understand what's going on and what needs to be
done, may help you.

I know it's a little bit about the equivalency
with respect to the parties and people that are Republicans,
Democrats, or Independents, but you can't always figure out
which of those people are going to vote.

So I'm not sure how you're going to figure out competitiveness or how you're going to define it, but I'm very concerned about what that definition ends up being.

I think one of the things you might want to consider is nonpartisan votes, like for CAP or something where you've got people who aren't partisan candidates in theory.

I think competitiveness is good, and I do have a partisan side, but I think competitiveness brings out the ideas of people to explore, to examine, and encourages participation of all the citizens for a better government.

And Senator Taylor brought a slide of District 16.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Can we --

BILL MITCHELL: Yes. Just a note that it was a very progressive congress that did it.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

DAVE LONG: Hi, my name is Dave Long. L-O-N-G. I'm from LD 8, a resident of Fountain Hills. I just want to thank the Commission for their hard work.

And I did attend the last meeting, and I had my hats off to you for that six-hour meeting you had. I bailed after two hours. So I applaud you for the patience you demonstrated
at the last meeting.

    I'm becoming a groupie.

    Anyway, I just wanted to say what I like.

    What I like is that despite some of the controversy that is apparent there about the Commission, I like the fact that the Proposition 106 gives us the guidelines that we need and that we should abide by for coming up with fair districting.

    I like the fact that there are legal constraints.

    I remember last time it was a legal presentation about what the state and the federal government expects of the Commission.

    There are lots and lots of places where folks can look at the district maps, redistricting, and get their input.

    I like the way we have these meetings throughout Arizona that's going to be going on for several weeks now.

    I think that we're off to a good start.

    And I really appreciate the fact that I think we're going to have a fair result.

    We have a good opportunity.

    Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Before we have Bradley speak, Marty, did you want a break?
After Bradley will be Bob Stannard, and representing himself.

Ray Sweeney representing PC District No. 11.

And then Mel Hannah, chairman of the African American Leadership and Legislative Council.

Those will be the next speakers.


I'm from LD 20 in the Ahwatukee area.

First I'd like to compliment the Commission. You folks also have today have your communities of interest, hopefully selected, and even though four of you are because of partisan politics, that's fine.

And the fifth one is basically Independent. You were selected. And I do not question your integrity.

I might disagree with your ideology, but I don't question your integrity.

And I am personally outraged at the innuendoes going -- that are going on recently.

Number two, in the future hopefully redistricting will be done by now, July the 15th, July the 20th.

Currently 10 -- 17 states are done.

Seven because they only had one representative.

Ten because they're done.

We should be done by now. Period.
Three. The Hopi Navajo relationships are much better than they were last redistricting cycle. However, please honor their request to either be kept in separate districts or integrated into a unified district.

Four, for compactness, communities of interest, and geographic features, keep Ahwatukee area solely within Maricopa County and separate from Pinal County.

And, five, since Ms. Townsend brought up Quartzsite, Sunday's paper about two council members saying outright they have violated open meeting and public records laws, and yet our attorney general hasn't slapped them with a cease and desist order. Yet today as I'm riding in here at 5:34, on the radio they're talking about he is doing an investigation for your procurement of whatever the hell.

My sense is the U.S. Attorney should be investigating Attorney General Horne for interfering with this process, for the innuendos and outrageousness of what he's going through.

So thank you -- and by the way, there are people like me in the society, keep up your integrity, hang in there. You have a tough job.

And like I said, you may have your political parties, but I have no doubt you have strong integrity.

Thank you very much.
VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Bob, if you don't mind stepping up.

I think it's Bob Stannard. I apologize if I'm not pronouncing your name correctly.


And I am representing myself or possibly a very shrinking minority in this country that recognizes that we're not a democracy, we're a democratic republic. Democracy is nothing more than a mob.

At any rate, the reason I'm concerned or one of my concerns is the way the proposal was allotted to Strategic Telemetry.

I didn't see anything in the paperwork that was supplied to us at the first meeting about what the procedures were or what the criteria were for evaluating the responses to the request for proposal.

And that concerned me, and the fact that there were only seven replies.

In a country of 310 million people with what must be hundreds of thousands of computer information technology majors and many, many GIS majors, that we couldn't find more companies to respond to that.

The second thing that kind of jumped out at me was the fact that all of the projects previously worked on by
them were Democratic or progressive organizations. In fact, it looked like it was a division of a Democratic national committee that was responding.

Also, all the employees of that company had the same backgrounds.

So I think that process probably should be redone and reevaluated.

That's about it.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

RAY SWEENEY: My name is Ray Sweeney, S-W-E-E-N-E-Y.

I'm a PC, District 11.

And, first of all, I'd like to thank you for choosing a room that's much more appropriate for the meeting, allowing for citizen input.

The first meeting, as we all know, was pretty pathetic.

So thank you for your foresight in doing that.

There's a couple of issues that I would like to bring forth, some of which may have been brought up previously, some of which may not have.

These are all concerns that I have perceived from folks that I have spoken with throughout the entire city of Phoenix.
One, it seems highly unusual that Mr. Bladine, the executive director of the committee, was the one to sign the contract with Strategic Telemetry without publishing the scoring methods or anything used for that. That's pretty unusual for that to occur.

And I'm not so sure in his capacity if he's an actual member of the committee.

And it seems to me that the general perception is the committee should have had control of that and not someone outside of the committee that's beyond the scope of what we're trying to do here.

That's number one.

Number two, it's my understanding on hearing Mr. Strasma, from Strategic Telemetry, that it's not really a mapping agency.

It's a political consultant, who is actively engaged in Democratic activity on a national scale and on a local scale throughout the United States.

And the perception on the part of the people is that's a pretty heavy-handed way of dealing with something. It doesn't show fair representation.

One of the other concerns is in regards to Chairman Mathis having certain omissions we feel is material in being able to judge whether she is truly an independent voice, for those folks that may be independent
and not affiliated with either of the other two major parties.

There's some difficulty in trying to digest that, since her family is a pretty strong supporter in the Democratic party.

And last thing is, unfortunately, the state's attorney general may feel the same way, because it was announced today that Tom Horne is going to take an investigation under way to investigate those kinds of improprieties.

So I suggest to you on behalf of the people that are in the room and for the people who may not be here that what we're essentially looking for is honesty and transparency. At the very least we have a right to expect that from you.

And we'd appreciate it if you could deliver that for us.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Mel Hannah.

And then after Mel Hannah, we have Jesse Ary, retired community advocate.

Randall Holmes, representing himself.

And then Michael Williams, adjunct instructor at Gateway Community College.
Those are the next three after Mr. Hannah.

MEL HANNAH: Good evening, my name is Mel Hannah, H-A-N-N-A-H.

I'm here to support two previous proposals.

Before that, just to share with the group, I had the honor of serving as the co-chair of the city of Phoenix Census Minority Coalition Committee, and it's refreshing -- and the objective obviously was to get folks counted in the census, so it's refreshing to see that activity materialize in what we're doing tonight in terms of some of the first steps of how that's going to be conducted.

In terms of your boundaries, I want to support two communities of interest comments that have been earlier made.

I live in Ahwatukee. I serve on the Ahwatukee planning committee, so I'm here supporting ironically chairman comments and support for community of interest for our area presented earlier by Senator John McComish, good friend Senator John McComish.

And also ironically by the chairman of our Democratic precinct out there, Mrs. CJ Briggle.

So I want to endorse their proposal in terms of Ahwatukee being retained as a community of interest.

The second one is, as the chairman of the African American legal Leadership and Legislative Council, I want to
strongly endorse the very first proposal we heard this
evening by Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, the proposal put
forth by the Minority Coalition as was also supported by my
good friend Mrs. Lopez, by former senator Ben Miranda, and
others.

As chairman of our group, we want to strongly
encourage the Commission to do the best that we can possibly
to retain the proposal that outlines.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

JESSE ARY: My name is Jesse Ary, A-R-Y.

I would like to thank each of you for devoting
this time and this effort in this concern.

And you do have a tremendous task, I might
suggest.

I've lived in the Valley for over 40 years.
I live in Legislative District 11. And I'd like
to make a comment or two concerning community of interest.

I'm a former member of the Arizona State Board of
Education.

And I'm very, very pleased that we had so many
folks representing school boards and education to come and
speak, because, to tell you the truth, folks, the school
districts really have a tremendous magnetic appeal to
causing things to happen within a community.

And I can tell you that since I served at the
pleasure of the state school superintendent formerly as a liaison to the State Senate for the Department of Education, I too saw how splintered a community can become when the Roosevelt School District had some issues.

Roosevelt is not the only school district that has had issues. But when a school district unites, the community also unites.

And it is really not a good idea to split up people that make up communities like that.

I've seen a number of these redistricting projects in my 40 years here.

Most of them have resulted in gerrymandering.

I urge you to cause that to not happen.

You have an opportunity to be a first. Please, I challenge you, to be that first.

Another concern I have is when you do gerrymander, you suppress the community's right to vote.

I support that proposal that Senator Leah Landrum Taylor and Councilman Calvin Goode and current Councilman Michael Johnson proposed to you.

And if you are wise, you will take note of that proposal.

Because if you don't, a federal law will challenge it, because you will be dealing with a majority minority community, because those communities must have homogeneous
interests and homogeneous goals.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you wrap up?

JESSE ARY: And my last comment to you is this.

Competitive districts are never competitive, unless you begin with an even playing field.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Now we've got Randall Holmes.

If you could come up to the mic, please.

RANDALL HOLMES: Hi, folks. Randall Holmes of Legislative District 17, Tempe. Member of the board of Arizona Advocacy Network, and Democratic party, and tonight I'm speaking only for myself.

I'm sorry that Commissioner Stertz and Chairwoman Mathis aren't here tonight.

At the last meeting down at the tower of power, I had a long conversation with Commissioner Stertz in the back hallway.

And although he's a Republican and I am a Democrat, I think that we came to a meeting of minds where we agreed that we're Christians first.

And at the end of that conversation, Mr. Strasma came up.

And it occurs to me that the mapping company or consultants, or whoever they are, might be doing the
drawing, but you, the commissioners, will be telling them
where to draw the lines, that you will be making the final
determination of where the districts are.

I'm sorry Chairwoman Mathis isn't here.
I am disappointed that she didn't disclose her
partisan affiliations before taking the job on the
Commission.

She did say at the last meeting that her husband
had been a Republican for 40 years, and that she and he were
guests at the Bush -- George H.W. Bush's inauguration at the
White House.

That notwithstanding, I still have faith in her
independence politically.

My conversations with Commissioner Stertz ended
when we said that although Strategic Telemetry may draw the
lines, the Commission will make the determination where the
lines are.

As far as the independence of Strategic Telemetry
goes, by their fruits we shall know them.

I'd just like to conclude by saying that I
represent the largest community of interest, the people of
Arizona.

And as I said before, we want a legislature and a
congressional delegation that reflects the vast majority of
the people of Arizona, and those are the people that aren't
yelling at you.

In safe districts, which we have far too many of them now, whatever party is safe in that district, they're not accountable to the vast majority of the voters.

They're chosen in a primary election by the hard core partisans who show up at primary elections, and they represent that hard core.

And the vast majority of people in that district have no opportunity or accountability or power over who represents them, either in the legislature or in congress.

And that vast majority of people is disenfranchised.

This is why it's so important to have competitive districts.

Whatever communities of interest we all identify with, and we all identify with several I'm sure, the competitiveness of our districts should be our primary interest for our community of interest.

Thanks for your time.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

After Michael Williams, we'll have Tonya Norwood, community member, Delta Sigma-Theta Sorority.

And also Nick Collins representing himself.

And John Gallagher representing himself.

Everybody has to get ready to speak after
Mr. Williams.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Mike Williams. I'm a resident of Ahwatukee and LD 20.

I serve on the -- as faculty member for Gateway Community College and Chandler Mayors Advisory Board, PC District 20, and former district chair.

I hate following that guy.

When I look at what's transpired tonight, if we go on and knock out all of the people that seem to want to keep the process from going, we find that there's a lot of people that want things to stay the same.

And recognizing that that can't happen, I just say, let's do it wisely.

I have to agree with my good Senator John McComish, as well as my current district chair CJ, in the fact that District 20 has become somewhat competitive.

But at the same time, in the 20 years I've been there, we've had one Democratic senator.

Okay.

So, we have had one Democratic senator, and we're starting to go growth. It's starting to get more competitive.

At the same time, like I said, we know it's got to change, so let's change it to be more competitive and think wisely about it.
Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

TONYA NORWOOD: Good evening. I interact as -- Chair Mathis, commissioners, community leaders, and neighbors -- community leaders and neighbors.

I'd like to acknowledge the ladies of Delta Sigma-Theta Sorority, my sorority sisters to my right.

Please stand.

We are advocates of community service and self-reliance.

Right now you only see a few of us.

We represent well over 300 voters in this area alone.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Pull the mic up.

TONYA NORWOOD: Right now you only see a few of us.

We represent over 300 voters in this area alone.

We stand today in support of the Senator Leah Landrum Taylor coalition map --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Pull the mic up.

TONYA NORWOOD: -- based on natural boundaries.

The coalition has worked effortlessly, tirelessly, to put together a fair map that represents not only one set of people, but all set of people in that area.

We have voluntarily removed 35,000 residents in
a very lucrative area for the purpose of fair redistricting. And we just want to restate what we said earlier. We are here in support of the senator's map and the coalition's efforts, but in addition we stand behind you, this process, and the job you have to do. We thank you. And we ask that you continue to think of us as a people of Arizona, and we will be following this process as an entity. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

NICK COLLINS: Hi, my name is Nick Collins, N-I-C-K, C-O-L-L-I-N-S.

I just had three things I wanted to reinforce that some people have already said and maybe a couple of suggestions.

One is for keeping Ahwatukee as a community of interest, LD 20.

That's where I'm from.

And Guadalupe, keeping that as a community of interest, for our Districts 4 and 16.

And just a couple of suggestions for -- I think CD 5 is a good example of a badly drawn district, ten years ago, and I hope we can improve on that CD 5.

One more thing about outside of this whole districting, I know it seems -- it seemed like an impossible
sort of thing, it's great that you guys are doing this, but maybe sometime in the future Arizona can consider not having any lines for LDs or CDs and having some sort of proportional representation.

I think that's especially important if we want to have more than just two parties.

How can you be competitive with only two parties? It's impossible.

We have Libertarians. We have Green Party. Other parties that might come up.

And I think proportional representation is the way to go and would eliminate the need for this huge task you're undergoing.

Thanks a lot.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

After John Gallagher, we have Cheryl Vachon representing herself, Ron Counts representing himself, and Joe Murphy representing himself.

Get ready to speak after Mr. Gallagher.


And I'm speaking on behalf of myself as an Arizona voter today.

First of all, I'd like to thank the members of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission to let you
know that I appreciate the commitment and the sacrifice you're making by serving on this Commission.

I know it's a lot of work, and you don't get paid for it.

I was surprised to learn that I agreed with Bob Thomas and his comments earlier, because Bob's a Republican and I am a Democrat, but we both agree that his district LD 15 ought to be more competitive because a lot of people like Bob are disenfranchised because they live in districts where the winner of the election is determined in a partisan primary. And the result of this is a polarized legislature which is out of touch with most Arizonans.

I hope while balancing the other relevant criteria required by law, you will remedy this situation by creating as many competitive districts as possible.

I would argue that the legal requirement to respect communities of interest does not preclude creation of competitive districts if communities of interest are properly understood.

And since legislative antenna is important in determining what a law means, I'd like to quote from an article that appeared earlier this week in the Arizona Republic written by the co-chairs of the committee that wrote the initiative that resulted in the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission on which you now serve.
Quoting from the article, our Arizona Constitution now calls for political lines to respect communities of interest. We were thinking this: A river or a highway might make a very handy political boundary, but if a jog this way or that way would keep a historic district or a retirement community, a town, or a Native American Nation intact, the line should move if possible.

This certainly does not mean an incumbent's most reliable voters, in and of themselves, qualify as a community of interest.

In fact, the new practice takes pains to exclude data that might serve to protect incumbents.

They go on to state.

Our expectation was that if the self-interested pressure of parties, candidates, and incumbents could be lessened in the mapping process, the districts will be more competitive.

Make no mistake, the whole reason for writing and passing the reform was to allow a process that will result both in fair representation for communities and more naturally competitive races.

The authors of the independent redistricting initiative never intended for a community of interest to be an area where everyone is of a like mind politically. And you are not forced to choose between respecting community of
interest and competitiveness, because it's possible to have differences of opinion and even a competition within a single community of interest.

There are those who will attempt to manipulate this redistricting process for partisan purposes on both sides, and they'll attempt to protect the incumbents in their own party and attempt to stifle competition by creating bulletproof districts they will attempt to justify by claiming fake communities of interest.

You must not allow this.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Cheryl.


First off, I'd like to thank all of you for your service on this Commission.

I'm pleased to see that one of the provisions was respect to communities of interest.

I live in the New River area.

And I moved there six years ago because we wanted to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

It's a great rural middle class community, and still has easy access to north Phoenix with the I-17 widening project.
So most of my neighbors and I use I-17 to get to work in the north Phoenix area.

And when I think about the communities of interest, I think of what my friends, coworkers, neighbors, you know, all have in common.

And we share many common interests with the communities that run along Carefree Highway, including Cave Creek, Carefree, and Desert Hills, as well as the communities that run along I-17 in north Phoenix.

So I just think that it's important that you consider keeping us intact in our current districts.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

RON COUNTS: She's something else.

Hi, I'm Ronnie Counts, C-O-U-N-T-S.

First of all, I'd like to say to all of our active duty veterans, on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for serving our country.

To the Commission, I'd like to say to you that thank you for taking the time to serve on this Commission and to redistrict.

I live way far north, up in New River.

And we're pretty much -- our community of interest is up north.

I work at home, so I don't get out very often.
But when I do, I pretty much stick to one central area, which is, like, down the 17 corridor.

Rarely do I ever make it over to the Scottsdale area.

But Cave Creek, we go there just about every other weekend or so for, like, dinners and to hang out and see the areas and stuff.

So I would ask that you would keep New River intact and our congressional and legislative district intact, for the purpose.

And, again, thank you for your time.

And God bless our troops, especially our snipers.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: After Joe, Joe Murphy, we'll have Jeff Winkler representing himself, Kathryn June representing herself, and Wendy Schops, president of Sons of Liberty.

Those are the next three.

JOE MURPHY: I'm Joe Murphy, J-O-E, M-U-R-P-H-Y.

I live in LD 15, which you've heard isn't real competitive. It's not 70 percent Democratic, but I guess if you added Democrats and Independents together.

I think the problem with having so many non-competitive districts is we don't have good representation. We have what we've got, which is a laugh.

My Republican relatives back in Michigan wonder
why I moved out here 31 years ago and why I stay here, because of it.

The Voting Rights Act was not meant to suppress voters, voters coming out to vote. It was meant to increase it.

And when you have so many non-competitive districts, that's what you end up with, voter suppression.

So I hope you take that into consideration when you draw the lines, because I know the commissioners draw the lines, not some nebulous computer somewhere.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

JEFF WINKLER: Good evening, members of the Commission. My name is Jeff Winkler. That's W-I-N-K-L-E-R. What we've heard tonight is very interesting. We've heard a lot of people talk about competitive districts.

And so what I would like to just add kind of pile on to the Republicans and the Democrats all want competitive districts, is say the largest community of interest in our state is the roughly 60 percent of voters who find themselves somewhere in the middle. Whether they're a little bit to the left or a little bit to the right, they're somewhere in the middle.

It's these 60 percent of voters right now who are...
completely disenfranchised in our state.

So if we can make a good goal to take our competitive districts from our current three statewide to nine or ten, that would be great.

Understanding that demographics and the constraints placed upon you by the Voter Rights Act, understandably there are going to be solidly blue districts, there's going to be solidly red districts.

But if we can get the competitive districts up to ten, what that will yield is a legislature that can come together, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, and they can work together on the massive challenges that face our state.

I think one thing that we all agree on is we all have a lot of challenges.

What we need is legislatures that will be able to collaborate and work together to face those challenges.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.


And just want to thank you for being here.

I'm excited to be here to be a part of this process.

As a citizen I appreciate that this is, of course,
a citizens' commission, and I am a proud Arizonan, almost a
native. Over 20 years I've been here.

And I'm at the point now where I'm beginning to
start a family and raise my family in Arizona. And in
Phoenix, I live along the central corridor.

I'm happy and proud to be raising my family here.

And, like I said, excited to be a part of this
process.

I hope at some point to teach my own child about
this process and hope that she can participate.

I think that it's most important to let our
younger people know that their vote actually matters and
that it counts, and I think that being here and speaking
illustrates that.

I've been paying some attention to this process,
not wildly close attention, but just what I've heard in the
news.

Of course this is a big deal.

And I just am here to make my voice heard to
ensure that the process is fair and genuinely representative
of all of the citizens of Arizona, not just the loud ones.

I think that there are a lot of people out there
who may not participate or choose not to participate, don't
want to for whatever reason, in this process, but they still
deserve to be represented here.
I see -- you know, we've heard some people talk
tonight about a lot of the hoopla that kind of has
surrounded this.

And I certainly hope that you'll continue to move
forward and make Arizona districts that are as fair as
possible and that you won't feel pressured or bullied to do
any less.

I know that one gentleman commented about a
particular district that you could run basically anyone in
and simply based on party and have a particular outcome.

And that, of course, you're speaking about
District 15.

But understanding some of the process, I know that
there are many, many, many districts in which that is the
case, whether it's Democratic, which are far fewer, or
Republican, which are far more.

And I, you know, think that it's just fair that,
again, everyone's voice should be able to be heard and
counted.

I also just want to note that in coming here
today, you know, I get e-mails forwarded from friends and
family and whoever.

And I saw an e-mail today that was quite
discouraging.

It encouraged one particular group of people to
wear their colors, which was primarily yellow, to, quote, scare the heck out of them.

    I don't know if the them that the e-mail referred to was you, the Commission, or us, the group that are here, but I certainly wasn't scared, and hope that this kind of an e-mail doesn't discourage more people like me who just want to have their voices heard, who just want to be a part of this process.

    I hope that everyone has a fair shot to be heard and represented.

    On that note, thank you for your time, and I encourage you to keep up the good work.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

After Wendy Schops we have -- after Wendy we have Jayne or Jayne Friedman, Ann Heins, and Geri Ottoboni.

    Now, in the interest of time, we still have plenty of people, if you don't mind limiting your comments to two minutes, because I want to maximize the number of people that are speaking. I think two minutes will allow us to finish, there's still a lot more, and we have a time limit we can stay in this room. So hopefully two minutes is adequate.

WENDY SCHOPS: I hope it is. I didn't time this out.

    My name is Wendy Schops, W-E-N-D-Y, spelled
I'm Arizona president for Sons of Liberty Riders. We're a nationwide political bikers group. And I am here to hold feet to the fire.

Proposition 106 specifically states that voter records are not to be used in mapping.

For the last week these have been downloaded by Strategic Telemetry. They've been down in the GOP voter vault data.

The last Commission held almost three times as many meetings.

Since Arizona is almost twice the size of Wisconsin, over twice the size of New York, and 1600 times the size of Washington, D.C., we need more than 20 meetings if this Commission truly wants public input in this process.

This Commission does not engender the trust of the people.

The process will be fair, open, and honest.

People are frustrated. I think that's why you have a large turnout tonight.

Proposition 106 was supposed to take the redistricting process out of the back rooms and bring it to the light of day.

Sadly, almost half the time the current Commission has met in executive sessions behind closed doors.
The Commission recently selected Strategic Telemetry as their mapping consultant.

What I want to know is why was this company selected if they're not a mapping company, what was the process of selecting this, and that's what I want out in the open and transparent.

They advise progressive campaigns per their website.

At the last meeting they said they would need time to learn the mapping software package which is standard in the industry.

I'm sorry that Colleen Mathis is not here tonight. I would like to speak to her directly on her omissions on her application, and I would like to know why she was appointed.

And Ken Strasma, the president of Strategic Telemetry, used to be the policy director for the National Committee for Effective Congress.

On their website, they claim to be one of the most influential political organizations, having helped elect hundreds of progressive candidates to congress.

That's what they do.

They are not a mapping company.

I just want to know why these things have not been exposed and the public has not been told, and this has not
100

been explained, and this does not sit well with me.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now the next person is Ann Heins.

We will no longer be taking any speakers slips in
the interest of time.

So these are the last ones we have.


The gentleman before was talking about Tempe.

Tempe is darn near impossible to elect anybody but
a progressive. Our school board and our city council are
controlled by the unions, and that's impossible for any
other person of that persuasion -- other than that
persuasion to run.

And so I would like to see Tempe be more
competitive.

It's been gerrymandered around. South Tempe is
removed from us. We're part of the vote, so that we can be
sure to have progressives in.

And there's talk that maybe Mesa, part of west
Mesa comes into Tempe.

And I can tell you a college town is very
different than west Mesa.

I would like to talk also about the Prop 106
requires fair and transparent nonpartisanship.

I would like to know why the State Procurement
Office refused to deal with the contracts so you had to go outside and get Mayor Gordon's manager to write and sign the contract.

I would like to know who authorized him to do that on the behalf of the citizens of Arizona.

When the chair decides that she is going to honestly fill out the application, I would like her to explain that she's been a donator to Mr. Obama, President Obama, excuse me, why she suddenly got a job in 2009 after he was elected distributing the stimulus money in a city of Tucson, and now she is a, quote, independent chair.

Lastly I also protest about our voter information going to the SEIU MoveOn.org.

That gentleman over there.

When Part 106 says specifically the candidate info -- or voter information is not to be released.

I object to my personal information sitting in the arms of a progressive organization whose goal is destroy the United States.

(The audience interrupts responding loudly.)

And I --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Keep your comments to yourselves. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: After Geri Ottoboni we
have -- excuse me -- after Geri Ottoboni we have three additional people.

    Margaret M. Knowles representing herself -- or actually Saddlebrooke.

    Gini Crawford representing herself.

    And Maureen Bayardi, a citizen, representing herself.

Again, let's be respectful of all the speakers. I appreciate that.

GERI OTTOBONI: Hello. My name is Geri Ottoboni. Can you hear me?

It's G-E-R-I, and the last name is O-T-T-O-B-O-N-I.

I have worked to get fiscally responsible Democrat and Republican candidates elected to the office.

According to an article by Ann Eschinger, Bart Turner and Dennis Michael Burke, who were the co-chairs of Proposition 106 drafting committee back in 2000, quote, our Arizona Constitution now calls for political lines to be -- to respect communities of interest and our original intent was to respect these communities of interest.

Certainly a retirement community, for example, deserves representation without such manipulations like gerrymandering so that if a jog this way or that would keep a historic district, a retirement community, a town, or a
Native American Nation intact, the line should move if possible.

This article further states that our faith, quote unquote, in the system depends on our faith in the commissioners to do the right thing for Arizona, end of quote.

And this would result in both fair representation for committees -- I'm sorry, communities, and more naturally competitive races.

Arizona's historic redistricting reform opens up what was once a back room process to daylight and to public scrutiny.

Citizens have an opportunity to participate in this effort and make a real improvement in Arizona politics.

Alas, this has not been the case.

The 2010 Redistricting Commission over half the time spent by the commissioners, and I've been there, has been in back room processes not open to the public.

And when the public has commented about the outcome of this back room process, done. Not in light of day, but behind closed doors inaccessible to public scrutiny.

Commissioner Herra said -- I'm sorry, Herrera said, you and 102 members of the public who showed up and spoke out represent a sliver of the 6.3 million that we
This means that the commissioners don't really care what the public says or thinks, and one back room elected official paid by an accountant to the voters is actually better than unelected, unaccountable commissioners who are using over 300 times the amount of public money in a horrible financial downturn and are unaccountable to no one.

We the people of Arizona have jumped from the frying pan into the fire.

We cannot trust the commissioners to do the right thing since they have not done the right thing in the selection of the lawyers or the campaign company or Barrack Obama to do the mapping for Arizona.

Remember, I have worked for both Democrat and Republican campaigns in the 2010 election cycle, and that is an unbiased epitaph.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I would appreciate it -- Marty has a tough job as it is, so don't speak while people are speaking. Be quiet.

Marty, would you like a break?

So, again, I urge politeness.

You must be Margaret?

JAYNE FRIEDMAN: No, I'm Jayne.
I'm Jane Friedman. I know you called me.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Did I skip you?

I apologize. I skipped you.

JAYNE FRIEDMAN: That's okay.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, let's be polite.

Let's not speak while people are speaking, so Marty's job can be a lot easier.


I just -- I have a process comment.

I'm waiting for lines to be drawn, so I could make appropriate comments then, but right now it's a process comment.

And I think that there's a bit of a kabuki theater going on right here in Arizona.

Everything is a deception.

People enter the stage dressed up as one thing while, in fact, they're something else.

We have an Independent chairman, chairwoman, who if measured by her past behaviors seems like a fierce progressive.

We have a mapping company, which is not really a mapping company, but rather a data mining operation. It harvests information that it receives and maps districts according to a political ideology, a far left partisan
progressive ideology.

Kabuki on the political scene is malevolent.

It tells their followers that they're only trying to right the scales of justice.

Well-meaning people accept their deception.

Well-meaning people suspend their common sense and entrust such players in their game of deception.

Strategic Telemetry has never worked for a Republican or a conservative.

No one on their team has either.

Mayor Bloomberg does not qualify for a Republican and/or a conservative.

Mr. Strasma, who owns Strategic Telemetry, performed microtargeting in his home state of Wisconsin while advocating for the recall of Republican Governor Scott Walker.

This is the nonpartisan company Colleen Mathis has chosen to redraw our states district lines?

You are asking that we suspend our common sense and believe that Strategic Telemetry has no ulterior motives.

The American way is straightforward.

The American way does not micromanage.

The American way tabulates numbers and readjusts district lines accordingly.
An American founder, Alexander Hamilton, told us a long time ago that a feeble executive implies a feeble execution of the government.

A feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad execution.

And a government ill executed, whatever may be its theory, must be in practice a bad government.

By the way, in Brooklyn --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. Thank you.

JAYNE FRIEDMAN: -- you see roaches, you don't see -- you don't understand Arizona.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am. Ma'am.

Margaret Knowles.

Thank you.


Thank you for the opportunity --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Be sure that -- there's people in the audience, let's let the lady speak.

MARGARET KNOWLES: Thank you for the opportunity to share my views and hear those of my fellow citizens this evening. I dearly appreciate it.

I'm here to speak about communities of interest, in particular Saddlebrooke and LD 26.

I am a retired -- disabled retired lady that moved
to Saddlebrooke in 2005 with my husband, who's a financial
consultant working out of our home.

And we chose Saddlebrooke because it's an
accessible community with the climate that works well for my
recovery from a massive stroke, as well as the fact that it
has proximity to the city of Tucson, where there's lots of
arts and culture that we enjoy.

And we are very major supporters of UA Presents;
ATC, Arizona Theater Company; CCP, the Center for Creative
Photography.

And when we enjoy all these activities, we support
heavily the restaurants and other establishments in our city
that is so close by. We feel very attached to it.

Also in addition to arts and culture, there's a
very strong volunteer connection between Saddlebrooke,
Catalina, our neighbors in Oro Valley, and the city of
Tucson.

This is a big example where I'm a member of the
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 132 in Oro Valley.

And working there, I'm able to go to the east side
of Tucson, to the therapeutic riding ranch, helping our
veterans. Go down to the Veterans Association for stand
down where we participate.

And it just links us very strongly and helps our
community.
Also in Oro Valley is our church, St. Mark, the Evangelist Catholic Church, where we are also very involved.

And Coronado K through 12 school where many of my neighbors gather to perform in an orchestra that is an intergenerational orchestra, side by side with the students from the school.

This healthy interaction is what makes a strong community and a strong state of Arizona.

Also we have services that support us in those areas. For instance, our doctors and medical services all mostly are in Oro Valley and downtown for the citizens of Saddlebrooke.

And as I talk about this strong knit unity, I'd like to also say something about LD 26.

It is a competitive district, and this is a very valuable asset.

And our representatives currently, both our state representatives and our state senator, are serving this district very well.

And I would like you all to take under consideration the importance of keeping this close community tied together as part of LD 26.

It would be very unhealthy and effective for all, so please consider that and maintain it.
VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

MARGARET KNOWLES: Appreciate it. Good luck with your job. I look forward to the outcome.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Gini Crawford.

GINI CRAWFORD: Hi. I'm Gini Crawford, G-I-N-I, C-R-A-W-F-O-R-D.

I have to admit, I wasn't going to say anything tonight.

You all know my opinion of the partisan mapping company you all picked.

But I'm really confused because I expected a grid map to be here, because from what I get it says the first round of public hearings. So you're going to go from city to city to city and just talk about this stuff.

Is that what I understand?

Because I have a database of thousands of people that want to know, who are lining up to come to these meetings, and they expect to see a grid map, and there's no grid map.

And they expect to have the mapping company here to start, whether we agree with this mapping company or not, to start us into the process.

So what's wrong? What's happened? Where's the grid map?

This right here on your website says first round
of public hearings.

Can anyone answer that for me?

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: This is your time for public comment. We don't respond.

GINI CRAWFORD: Well, I'm looking -- this is a public comment.

We're all ready for your first round of public hearings.

And whether we agree with your mapping company or not, we're trying to get on the same page. And there's no grid maps.

I got here. The first thing I said, is where's the grid maps?

So we can get on the page you want us to get on.

And I've read Strategic Telemetry's 56 pages of their plan, why you hired them. And they're supposed to be here, a part of this meeting with the grid map.

And it says right here in your thing you gave us tonight that we start these things with a grid map, and the grid map is just population and compact.

So really just has to do with population, not points of interest or anything like that.

So I guess you're not going to answer.

Can someone answer to me? Is every meeting around the state going to be like this?
VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: These are public comments.

GINI CRAWFORD: You know, you're just, you're just, you're just causing trouble for yourself because you're not clear with us.

If you would be clear with us, the majority of us would get on your page and try to work with you.

So can someone tell me, where's the grid map?

Are you going --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ms. Crawford, can I interrupt you for one second?

Our attorney, Mary O'Grady, will be speaking possibly to answer your questions. Okay?

GINI CRAWFORD: Okay.

MARY O'GRADY: Just briefly, I know the time is up here, the grid is the first stage of the mapping process, but this is to get public input to help with the adjustments.

GINI CRAWFORD: Okay. So every --

MARY O'GRADY: And I guess the time is up. That's, that's -- this is to get public input in terms of the overall development of redistricting lines.

GINI CRAWFORD: Okay. So all -- because I have thousands of people waiting --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, your time is up. Your time is up.
GINI CRAWFORD: That's the problem. We don't know.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Maureen Bayardi. After Maureen, we will have Karen Garrett representing herself, Lynne Stevens, and Fred Barlam. If those three individuals can line up after Maureen, that would be great, so we can keep the process moving.

MAUREEN BAYARDI: My name is Maureen, M-A-U-R-E-E-N, B-A-Y-A-R-D-I. And I am very concerned, like many others, about this mapping company. And why there was not public input, why we didn't have an opportunity to hear about the companies that applied for this. It's -- I am of the impression that Strategic Technologies(sic), they're not really here to represent us in a nonpartisan fashion. Everything that I see about them is Democrat. And I don't have anything wrong with the Democrats, but it should be Democrat, Republican, and Independent. We all need to be heard. And I think it was kind of a back room deal that those people -- and I can't -- Mr. -- I can't think of his
name now, oh, well, got that contract.

And I think that was wrong.

And you did an injustice to the citizens of this state.

And I'm very upset and frustrated.

And obviously, you can see tonight, I'm not alone.

You need to listen to us. And we need to be able to give input. And that company needs to go.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Karen Garrett.

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Lynne Stevens?

LYNNE ST. ANGELO: I think I must be scribbled.

It's Lynn St. Angelo, S-T, period, A-N-G-E-L-O.

I was present at the Redistricting Commission's meeting when Jean Clark, the State Procurement officer, went over and over for an hour or more with the commissioners how they must be very careful in what categories they use and the weight they give to each criteria in evaluating the mapping company.

There can be no perceived bias or favoritism with the selection of the mapping consultant or the State Procurement Office would have to pull out of the selection process and the commissioners would have to write and administer the contract with the mapping consultant...
themselves.

The reason Jean Clark gave for this was that the State could then be sued if there was bias and favoritism used in the selection of the mapping company.

In the Tucson meeting, it became very obvious that the State Procurement Office was no longer involved in the mapping company selection or contract negotiations.

This all happened behind closed doors where the public could not see what had gone on in the process.

Then the Arizona Capital Times investigation revealed that all three commissioners gave Strategic Telemetry exactly the same score.

A perfect score.

Very fishy.

Especially when Commissioner Herrera said, I had to give them that score even though his first choice was supposedly another one of the companies considered.

So he gave two companies a perfect score?

And the agency's procurement file appears to be missing a majority of the evaluation records compiled for Commission meetings, according to the Arizona Capital Times investigation, even though the State Procurement Office staff were present and should have taken the evaluation records to place in the file according to open meeting laws.

This is actually reminiscent of the scoring
records on the hiring of lawyers.

It was reported that Commissioner Freeman faxed his vote in, and so there should be a copy of that.

And Commissioner Herrera also said in an interview that his vote was turned in.

But according to an article, other scoring sheet records are missing.

Similarly, Arizona Capital Times reports that the commissioners eliminated three mapping firms from consideration without giving any scoring.

According to Proposition 106, No. 16, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall advertise a draft map of congressional districts and a draft map of legislative districts to the public for comment, which comments shall be taken for at least 30 days.

The Commission is taking comments, but where is the map for the public to see a comment on?

What is going to happen is that when this happens tonight, which is everyone is going to comment on their area, want to keep their area together, I don't believe this is the transparent system that voters approved.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

After Fred Barlam, we have L. Laughlin.

Jim -- it is Vaaler or Vaaler?

And Amy Kalman, I apologize, representing herself.
And, again, let's not speak when people are speaking.
I appreciate that.
Fred.

FRED BARLAM: My name is Fred Barlam, B-A-R-L-A-M. I live in Ahwatukee, which is located in LD 20. I'd like to thank the Commission for the hard work you've already done and the hard work ahead of you and commend you on your taking your civic responsibility so seriously.

In passing Proposition 106 in 2000, voters made it abundantly clear that they wanted an independent redistricting process to be in place without control from political interests, the legislature, or elected officials.

I find it very troubling that this Commission is being attacked by elected officials and outside political interests when the decisions it makes aren't what those outside interests want.

By doing this, the outside political interests threaten the independence of the redistricting process in direct contradiction to the will of the voters of the state of Arizona who mandated that politics be removed from the process.

What the IARC is currently doing is following the process that the voters endorsed.
I commend that, and that must continue.

I also want to state to the IRC that the competitiveness and communities of interest are both of the six criteria, and I urge the IRC not to prioritize one over the other.

Both can and for the purpose of fairness must be done.

Arizona has a very diverse population, and protecting communities of interest is the only way that all communities can be fairly represented.

The IRC must also remember that the goal of voters was to make sure that the candidates and elected officials speak to all their constituents, not just their own party.

The only way to accomplish this is with competitiveness.

In conclusion, the voters of Arizona made it very clear that the Commission ultimately makes the decision about the final maps, not any consultant, not any staff, and certainly not elected officials or outside political interests.

I thank the Commission for allowing me to state my opinion in this public forum.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

L. LAUGHLIN: Excuse me. It's L. Laughlin. And you'll excuse me if I don't stand for this right now because
the room is a little bit warm, and I don't want my knees to buckle, because I'm not a public speaker. So I'm trembling over here, and I've seen a couple of people trembling, and my heart goes out to them.

But, I wasn't going to speak tonight. And I am listening to all of this stuff go on.

I am so not comfortable. My hands are just trembling.

But, in listening to everything people are saying here, and I am -- and thank you for letting me speak, by the way.

Communities of interest, competitiveness, gerrymandering, kabuki, terms I haven't heard until tonight, so this is not my forum.

And I just want you to know that I wouldn't want your commissioner's job for all the world, because the threats I hear almost on both sides that are almost veiled threats, like the Hispanic lady that said we'll be watching you, and then other people -- I mean, I'm hearing both sides say things that are almost scaring me that I wouldn't want to go home if I were you guys.

I would be watching behind me.

But what I'm hearing over and over from people saying if there are things going on behind closed doors and if there's a commissioner or a company with a strong
political leaning, or if some of these accusations of perfect score on the hired company or scoring sheets missing, this is almost spooky to me to hear this kind of stuff.

And for those reasons, I mean, I started writing more notes as I'm listening of this is spooky stuff.

I think that as a citizen I would want to know that we're not going to have a dark cloud hanging over what's going to happen for the next ten years.

Whatever decisions you guys make should be something that everybody feels good about. And to have the public sit here with a cloud hanging over them because people either don't step down that have something questionable against them or a company that has something questionable about it, we could scrap all this right now, have the one person step down that's in question, have that company just start from scratch, and not have this cloud over us, because there's always going to be people griping about it. And we have the chance yet to do that.

I hate that that sounds like what most of us -- there's such a dark cloud over this.

And I am not in favor of the Republicans or the Democrats or whoever. I wish we would scrap the parties and make people just think when they vote.

And know the issues.
But so this is not a left leaning or right leaning comment. It's just a citizen that sees a really dark cloud over this, and that shouldn't be what this is about.

We've got ten years to live with whatever the decision is, and it should be fair without any anxiety on either side.

Thank you for letting me talk.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

You're Jim?

JIM VAALER: Yeah.

I bet I can do this in less than 30 seconds.

My name is Jim Vaaler, that's V, as in Victor, A-A-L-E-R.

I would like to thank the Commission for doing a fair, straightforward, and transparent process.

I think you will go forward and do an excellent job, in a fair and bipartisan manner.

I've lived in the Arcadia School District for about 40 years, and I think that's my community of interest.

And I think school districts probably are a good way to go.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

You know, I'm hearing a lot of conversations on this side of the room.
If you guys could actually not speak at all or go outside, I'd appreciate that.

After Amy, we have John Chiazza representing himself, Channel Powe representing the community activists, and Randy Keating representing the LD 17 Democrats.

AMY KALMAN: Hello. My name is Amy Kalman. I'm a resident of District 17, but just on the border to District 20. I expect that I will become a member of District 20.

I want to thank you for the job that you're doing, under very difficult circumstances, under a great deal of scrutiny.

And I'd just like to say that Mr. Jesse Ary spoke extremely eloquently, well over an hour ago, about the importance of the Voting Rights Act and the importance of its consideration in communities of interest.

And in the job that three and the two who are not present must do, communities of interest are why all of us are here.

But taking them into account, they're not to be feared. They're not inconsistent with the Voting Rights Act.

The Voting Rights Act is our guiding light. It is vital. It is important, to avoid the abuses that have occurred in the past, to remind us of how important it is to
preserve the safety, the diversity, our ethnic and racial communities.

And I would ask you to consider that the Voting Rights Act need not be a burden, need not be inconsistent with the state of Arizona, need not be inconsistent with competitive districts.

But it is important, and it should be the priority of this district.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

JOHN CHIAZZA: My name is John Chiazza, C-H-I-A-Z-Z-A.

I've been a Gilbert resident for 23 years, a former Democratic district chair.

And Gilbert is not a competitive district at all. And for that matter, neither is all of the East Valley pretty much east of Dobson Road.

And you really have to take a hard look at the East Valley and what's happening out there.

There has been candidates out in the East Valley from the Republican party, and I know for a fact because I've worked in many of the campaigns for the Democrats out there, candidates from the Republican party that don't even show up at debates, or any kind of speaking engagements, and somehow they win.
What is wrong with this picture? Something is definitely wrong.

For that matter, all of the East Valley really has to become competitive.

And I've there been for 23 years and seen it all.

And I know that we have many people in the East Valley that speak just like I do.

And I want it to be really taken a hard look at it.

Three districts that you supported in the congressional district, in the south, should be just drawn down to two, because it would go too far north.

I want to thank the Commission. You're doing an excellent job. I support the Commission. And I highly respect the hard work that you're doing.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

CHANNEL POWE: Good evening. My name is Channel Powe.

I am representing -- well, I'm actually here from District 14, and I'm here to represent the people, the community.

My goal of coming here is one, first of all, thank you, the Commissioners, for giving us an opportunity for coming with our opinions and coming for -- for some of us,
like myself, to find out a little bit more about the redistricting process and how it works.

I can understand a lot of pressure that you guys are under, but I want you to stand strong and just know that this is a great opportunity for Arizona to stand out.

This is a great opportunity for us to help us turn our reputation around and be a leader within the community and around the United States.

Let's definitely follow the Voter Rights Act, and definitely go along those lines and keep the community of interest where they are.

And also to look forward to learning a little bit more about this process.

And, like I said, once again, just stay positive. We know that everyone was picked for a reason.

I am supporter of Prop 106, although I didn't get a chance to vote on it, because we people do believe in you, and this is America, and you'll do the right thing.

So thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

After Randy Keating will be Henry Wade representing himself, Franklin Brodsky representing himself, and Doug -- I think it's Minga representing himself.

Those will be the last speakers.

So, Randy.
(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: No Randy.

How about Henry Wade?

HENRY WADE: Good evening. My name is Henry Wade, W-A-D-E.

And I have never been in a room with so many sheep in my life.

I am a 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force, and I believe in the process that you guys are going through.

And all I come to you to say is do not, do not cave to any group, any organization, any idea that's out there, that you might not be integral.

Obviously you are.

We selected you to be here. You selected your chair to be there.

I just want you to do the things that are right for us.

106 was put in place to make sure that it would be non-biased.

This process was put in place so that it would be non-biased.

We come to you, and we complain. Of course, we're citizens. We will complain about the process. That's what we do.
But what you have to do is be strong and do what you know is right.

When you draw those lines, draw them because you know it's right, regardless.

Look, if you need another company, I'll get my three-year old grandson to come and help you with the lines.

But just do what you got to do.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Franklin Brodsky --

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's keep our clapping. . .

Franklin Brodsky: My name is Franklin Brodsky, F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N, B-R-O-D-S-K-Y.

I believe a mathematical approach could be used here.

I hope to make your job easier.

This could be handled using a simulated annealing algorithm, providing locations of populations, precinct results from the last ten years on all partisan elections to determine approximate number of active party members in each precinct and topographic maps to show where the natural boundaries lie.

The algorithm should attempt to minimize the sum of the perimeters of all the districts to avoid gerrymandering. It should minimize the difference in population of each district from the total population.
divided by the number of districts. It should minimize the
difference between the number of members in each party in
the district to match -- number of members in each party to
maximize competitiveness.

The formula devised has an error term which is
defined as the sum of the squares of the perimeters of the
precincts, plus the sum of the squares of the population
minus the mean population, plus the sum of the squares of
the difference in the number of Republicans minus Democrats
in each district.

So start with your existing map, the current map.
Take the district with the largest population, just draw a
line through the middle, and let the computer score that
map.

Then let the computer randomly pick small segments
of all the interior boundaries and move them in random
directions.

Rescore the map.

If the score is better, use the new map as a new
baseline.

If the score is worse, use the existing map as the
baseline, and repeat until that error term appears to be at
a minimum.

If you like, I can give you this.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Sure.
Thank you.

Now we have Doug Minga, representing himself.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'm sorry, I don't understand your handwriting.

DOUG MINGS: It is a chronic problem. My name is Doug Mings, M-I-N-G-S.

And that was my handwriting.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

DOUG MINGS: Thank you for making me feel so tall.

I wanted to talk to you this evening about -- we've heard a lot about communities of interest. I've been going to quite a few of these meetings, and there's been everything from my district should be east of Campbell, it should be west of Scottsdale Road, it should include this area or that area.

And at the last Commission meeting, there was some talk about creating three congressional districts on the border.

And talking about the communities of interest, I think it's a better idea to maintain the two districts that are there, because we're going to have nine congressional districts, and it would be physically possible to make all nine of them line up against the border, but we have to go all the way to Kingman and the Grand Canyon and Page, so maintaining the communities of interest along the border and
making sure that the people there have a voice in congress is a something that is important.

And I think the more congressional districts you add, the more you water down the people whose voice that is there and they don't get heard.

So I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I think that is the last speaker form.

So thank you all for being patient. I think --

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I don't know if you're clapping because it's over or . . .

Before we adjourn, I thank you again. And I think we did a really good job of being considerate to speakers. We have a presentation public forum tomorrow in Nogales, and then one in Yuma on Saturday.

I think the rest of the information is on our website.

Commissioner Freeman, if you want to say some words.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: No, thank you.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thanks for coming.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's adjourn the meeting at 8:50.
Thank you, the staff, for putting this together.
And thank you, Marty.
(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

* * * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 131 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 2nd day of August, 2011.

______________________________

C. Martin Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50162