VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Now we've got some people filtering in.

Let's come to order, this hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The time is 6:05.

We're on the record.

Won't you please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance with me.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I think what you might be hearing is the delay. We have a remote site location in Maricopa, Arizona, and there's somewhat of a delay.

We'll be getting to them in a moment.

I want to thank you all really for coming tonight, and I really want to thank the people of Casa Grande for hosting us here tonight.

And I know we have Councilwoman Mary Kortsen here with us.
And I think she wanted to have a few words of welcome for us. So we'd invite her to come up to the podium.

You're usually on the other side of us.

MARY KORTSEN: Unfortunately the mayor couldn't be with us, Bob Jackson. He's in Tucson.

Just want to welcome the Commission here. I want to thank you for your dedication and the time that you're putting in here.

I know you're getting really big bucks to come to do this. Like nothing.

I'm also aware that you have to go -- that you are making an effort to cover the entire state.

Mrs. McNulty was in Bullhead City last night, and now she's over here.

So we do appreciate your efforts in trying to get comments from everybody.

I also wanted to recognize some other folks that are in the audience.

And if I miss anybody, I apologize.

My fellow council member, Carl Montoya, is here.

He serves with me on city council.

Supervisors, we have all three of our supervisors, and we are under the process of redistricting.

And quickly we have Mr. Pete Rios from District 1,
who's also a chairman.

Supervisors Mr. Brian Martin, District 2, and Dave Snider from District 3.

And we also have our state legislative representative Frank Pratt.

And hopefully I've mentioned everybody here.

If not -- and I also want to thank this whole room of people.

I mean, this is not easy to come together on a summer night to come and listen to what could be a very important time, so I appreciate their interest in our community.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you. Thank you so much for hosting us.

My name is Scott Freeman. I'm one of the five appointed commissioners.

I serve on an alternating basis as vice chairman with Jose Herrera, who could not be with us tonight.

To my right is Richard Stertz, and to my left is Linda McNulty.

Our chair is Colleen Mathis.

And I have no doubt that Commissioner Herrera and Chair Mathis are watching these proceedings tonight via the live streaming.
And I know we can't all make -- make all of these hearings, but we all -- I think we are all able to watch them on the Internet now.

This, what the Commission is embarking upon, on this two-week period, is we are touring the state and holding hearings in different cities all across the state with the sole purpose of collecting public comment.

The only item, aside from a presentation that our mapping consultant will present in a moment, on the agenda is to hear from you.

And that's a very important part of this process.

A great thing about Prop 106 that established this Commission is it really makes the public involved. The public has a say in how these districts are drawn.

It was taken away from the Legislature.

So these maps that we are going to be developing don't belong to the legislature, any interest group, or anyone else. They belong to you.

It's very important for us to get your comments.

There is a request to speak -- speak forms out in the lobby. If you would like to address the Commission, please fill one of those out and hand them to our -- Ray Bladine, our executive director, and we'll get you on the agenda.

There are also forms, I don't know what color they
are today, but -- blue?

Blue comment forms.

If you don't wish -- there, someone is holding them up.

If you don't wish to speak to us, you can provide your comments in writing. Tell us what your concerns are.

If your concerns involve community of interest you believe the Commission should respect when drawing these maps, look on the back of that form. There are four questions back there on the back that are designed to draw -- elicit information about your community of interest.

The more information we get from you, the better.

If you don't want to use that form, write us a letter, submit your comments in writing.

If you have maps, those are very helpful. Submit them as well to the Commission.

Or you can go to our website. There is contact information there on the website that allows you to submit your comments that way.

It's AZredistricting.org.

With that, before we get too much further, federal law requires that we make translation services available in Spanish.

And we have our interpreter here, Carlos Reyes,
who will give an announcement in Spanish.

(Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in Spanish.)

CARLOS REYES: I think we're good, Mr. Freeman.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay.

I've already introduced the commissioners here tonight.

I also want to introduce Mr. Joseph Kanefield from the firm of Ballard Spahr, and he's counsel for the Commission.

And sitting next to him is Willie Desmond from the firm of Strategic Telemetry, who will be giving a presentation in a moment about the IRC and the redistricting process.

Ray Bladine, who is our executive director.

And Marty Herder is our court reporter.

Everything that we say here tonight is going to be taken down by him and becomes part of the record.

And then in Maricopa is Kristina Gomez, our assistant executive director.

And there is a delay, but, Kristina, are you with us?

(Brief pause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, that's quite a delay.

Let's move on, and she will interrupt me in a
moment with her acknowledgement.

   All right. I think at this moment we'll move on to the next item of our agenda, which is our presentation by Mr. Desmond.

   So you have the floor.

   WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you all for allowing me to be here today to speak with you.

   Again, my name is Willie Desmond. I work with Strategic Telemetry.

   We were the firm hired to provide technical assistance to the Commission as they begin drawing their maps.

   This is, I believe, the 6th of 17 first-round meetings, where we're just here to collect public input about the mapping process and things that you would like considered as this process begins.

   There will be another round after, after this, after the initial maps are drawn, all over the state, again, for you to comment on the first draft map.

   For anybody who's watching this via the live stream, the Power Point is available for download on the website just next to where you see the live stream.

   All right.

   This presentation will just cover the basics of redistricting and the redistricting process here in
Arizona. We'll be talking about seven things.
First of all is, why do we have a Redistricting Commission?
Next is, what is redistricting?
What is the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?
Why do we have to redistrict?
What guidelines need to followed when drawing new districts?
What are the steps in the redistricting process?
And, how can public input be submitted to the AIRC?
All right.
First of all, why do we have a Redistricting Commission?
Well, this is the second time that Arizona's congressional and legislative districts are being redrawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.
The Commission was created in 2000 when the voters of Arizona approved Proposition 106 which created the IRC and established a process and criteria for drawing new district lines.
The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two Republicans, and a fifth member that isn't registered with
either of the parties already represented on the Commission.

The 2011 AIRC members are Vice Chairman Scott
Freeman, who is chairing tonight's meeting,
Vice Chairman Jose Herrera, Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, and
Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard Stertz, who are also
with us tonight.

Next, what is redistricting?

Simply put, redistricting is the process of
drawing congressional and legislative district lines.

The difference between redistricting and
reapportionment, while slight, is there. There is a
technical difference.

Reapportionment is the process of allocating
congressional districts to the state based off of changes in
population.

Because Arizona saw a population growth in the
last decade, it was allocated a ninth congressional
district, an additional district, following the 2010 census.

And, again, redistricting is simply the process of
redrawing the lines based off of that new allocation.

All right.

Why do we have to redistrict?

Well, because Arizona gained a new congressional
district, new lines would have to be drawn just for that.

However, even if Arizona had not gained this new
district, the congressional and legislative district lines would have to be redrawn to account for changes in the population.

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

Because the rate of population growth is different in different areas, the existing districts now have divergent populations.

What guidelines need to be followed by the AIRC when drawing these new districts?

First, all new districts must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

They must also have equal population.

These first two criteria are federally mandated, and any plan submitted must have -- meet at least these two criteria.

Also Proposition 106 established some other criteria.

The districts must be compact and contiguous.

They must respect communities of interest.

They must use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

And they must create competitive districts where there is no other significant detriment to other goals.
All right.

The Arizona redistricting process.

The first stage is really these meetings. Like I said, this is the first round of public meetings designed to solicit the public’s input about what criteria they want used.

After these meetings are completed, the Commission will start with a grid map.

You can think of a grid map as just the most basic looking map.

Ideally it would be nine perfectly-sized squares going over the state of Arizona.

In some states they start with the previous plans, but that is not the case in Arizona.

Proposition 106 specifically mentions that the plan must start with a grid map.

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

This initial grid map is likely only to meet criteria B and C, which are equal population and compact and contiguous districts.

After it’s completed, it will be adjusted to meet the other criterias, first of which is the Voting Rights
Act.

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

To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the 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 this first adjustment, the grid map is then again adjusted to meet the equal population criteria to make sure that districts are compact and contiguous and that they respect communities of interest.

Again, one of the main goals of the -- or the main goal of these meetings is to solicit the public's input.

If you're here today, you can fill out one of the request to speak forms.

I think they're white now, but -- the request to speak forms, or one of the blue forms if you don't feel
comfortable speaking but you'd still like to have your input submitted to the Commission and have it put on the record.

Following this stage, the districts are again adjusted to use visible geographic features. County boundaries, cities and towns, and census tracts.

And we're lucky that the census geography often follows these visible features.

Finally, they must -- they are again adjusted to create competitive districts where there is no significant detriment to other goals.

All right.

How can you submit your input to the AIRC?

You can fill out a request to speak form, again, and you can talk about anything that is of particular interest to you.

Sample criteria are: The actual criteria themselves, various communities of interest you'd like to see taken into account, or anything else on the redistricting process.

You can also submit one of the blue input forms, if, if you like, or if you have any other information, I believe we have some maps here tonight, that can all be submitted to the Commission too.

We do ask if you're submitting something else, if comfortable please put your name and contact information on
it so that we can contact you should we have any questions about the criteria that you are laying out.

You can also visit us at www.AZredistricting.org, or call (602)542-5221 and submit your input that way.

Thank you very much for allowing us -- allowing me to speak tonight, and we look forward to hearing your input.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next we'll move to the public comment portion of our agenda.

Just a few ground rules for public comment.

I'll call three or four names so you know where you are in the queue, but please step up to the podium, speak -- these microphones seem pretty good, but speak loudly, not only so that our court reporter can hear you, but so people live streaming can hear you as well, and get a good record.

After you correct me for mispronouncing your name, please spell it for our court reporter and tell us whether you're here representing yourself or a group and tell us where you're from, city, town, that's fine.

And then we'd ask that you please try to limit your comments to about four minutes.

I'm not wearing a watch, and I don't know if we
got somebody who can be time keeper.

         Mr. Bladine?

RAY BLADINE: We do.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay. Is this the one minute --

RAY BLADINE: Yes, our four minutes.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: When you hear that time, that beeper goes off, please try to wrap it up.

If you absolutely can't do it, please visit us in Prescott where we'll be tomorrow night or submit some comments in writing to us.

So with that, I'd like to ask the Honorable Pete Rios to come to speak.

He'll be followed by Richard Lynch, and then I think we're go to throw it to Maricopa for Anthony Smith from the City of Maricopa.

Mr. Rios.

PETE RIOS: Again, thank you. I was before the IRC on Monday, in Mesa, so I will be brief with my comments today.

But, again, thank you all that serve on the IRC. For the most part, it's a thankless job, but I'm glad you're willing to do it.

And we appreciate the fact that you are willing to do it.
My name is Pete Rios. I am the chairman of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, but I'm here speaking for myself, not for the board, not for anyone else.

So I want to make that clear.

I want to address Legislative District 23. And what we are looking at is trying to develop an LD 23 that is competitive, competitive between Republicans and Democrats.

And we're looking to try to come up with something that's within five to eight percentage points difference, so that at least people in the state of Arizona, when they go to vote in the general, they have an opportunity to decide if they really want to go with one party or the other. And clearly the Independents will have a huge impact there as well.

Part of what we're looking at right now is parts of Pinal County.

Parts of Gila County I mentioned Monday, the mayor of Globe, some people in Miami have indicated an interest in being part of the copper corridor, along with some other communities in Pinal that would include Florence, Eloy, and Coolidge.

And part of what is coming together right now, it looks like it would go into Cochise and Graham County. That would make that a very, very competitive district.
And I hope that we are in a position -- and when I say we, I am working with other folks, but I'm not speaking for other folks -- is be able to submit maps, demographics, so that you all can see exactly what I'm talking about.

One of the things that I do want to ensure is that LD 23 will be in compliance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and that protected classes are not in racially polarized districts, because we in Pinal County are going through redistricting as well.

We have some consultants that are looking at Pinal County and the precincts.

They have identified some precincts that they have determined to be racially polarized.

So my hope is, and goal is, that we ensure that those protected classes are not included in racially polarized legislative districts.

And with that, I thank you again, and I will conclude, since I had already addressed the board on Monday, so leave people an opportunity.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next will be Richard Lynch.

RICHARD LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I'm Bob Lynch. I'm an attorney in Phoenix, Arizona. And I appear here this evening on the behalf of
the Pinal County Governmental Alliance.

The county and the local communities and districts in Pinal County have the voluntary organization that addresses issues of county importance, and they've engaged our firm to come up with some suggested maps for your consideration.

The first is the congressional map. Our task was to try to keep as much as possible of Pinal County in one congressional district.

And if you will look at the maps that are in front of you. And this one, which is the blowup of that first map, you will see that we have suggested a set of nine districts based on the premise that, except for the Indian communities, the rest of Pinal County will be in a single congressional district.

Ak-Chin, Gila River, and Tohono O'Odham are part of Congressional District 7 now. And as I understand the requirements of the Justice Department, we felt they would remain in that district.

A couple of things I will point out to you very quickly.

One, there are two majority minority districts in this state now.

Our suggestion continues that.

District 7 goes from 53 percent to 54, and
District 4 as we've drawn it goes to 57.

District 4 moves slightly west of Maricopa County.

District 7 adds a little of Cochise County and a little more of Maricopa County in order to maintain its minority population and loses some Yuma County.

We start from the premise -- I know you have to do a grid map. We start from the premise that it's been a very long time since the Hopis and Navajos have been represented by the same congressman.

And we doubt seriously that they will end up in that condition.

So if you start from the premise that they will be represented in two different districts, that you have 19 Indian communities -- Indian tribes in this state, 21 reservations, that you have certain specific geographic areas of minority populations, it leads you to some commonalities that you cannot ignore and that the Justice Department has not ignored in the past.

So our Congressional District 9 is most of Pinal County, all of Graham, all of Greenlee, all of Apache, all but the Hopi portion of Navajo, and part -- and all of Gila and part of Coconino.

We have given you statistics.

We have run statistics on population.

Oddly enough we are two people off in District 8,
but perfect on District 7.

   And not so perfect that, you know, a street here or there in some of the other districts, but very close.

   We have tried to apply the Voting Rights Act principles as we understood them, and we hope that you will have a chance to study our proposal and analyze it as you move through the process.

   We also have a less grandiose proposal related to legislative districts in Pinal County.

   And you will find in your presentation proposal for two legislative districts that are primarily Pinal County, and the statistics to go with it. And we will hope you consider those as well.

   And thank you for the opportunity to be here.

   VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

   Okay. Now, bear with us.

   I understand that the mayor of the city of Maricopa would like to address the Commission, Anthony Smith.

   So, Kristina, if you could go ahead and give him the microphone, and we'll wait until you come on.

   (Whereupon, Mayor Anthony Smith spoke via videoconference.)

   ANTHONY SMITH: My name is Anthony Smith, mayor of the city of Maricopa.
I want to thank members of the Commission for this opportunity.

As mayor of the city of Maricopa, I would like to welcome you to Maricopa via the videoconference.

Speaking on behalf of our residents, we would like to thank the Commission for including Maricopa as a location in the first round of public hearings to take comments from Maricopa residents in the redistricting process.

As mayor, I sit on -- sit as a member of the Pinal County Governmental Alliance.

As you may know, the Alliance approved the set of maps created by Richard Lynch of Lynch & Associates.

I want to thank members of the Commission.

As a member of this Alliance, I would like to state my support for these maps to be considered in your redistricting process.

Lastly I would like to thank you for your hard work in making this an open and transparent process, and assure you that Maricopa will continue to stay involved as you complete this process.

Thank you, commissioners.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mayor Smith.

Thanks to all of you for bearing with us there.

The next speaker will be Gregory -- it looks like Schuller.
Followed by Shirley Murray.

And it looks like Trent Mackenzie.

GREGORY SCHULLER: How do you do. My name is Greg Schuller.

I'm interested in keeping LD 23 as compact and as together as it presently is.

I realize that someplace along the line there's going to have to be some part of a split off with LD 23, but -- because of the size, but in doing that, as was stated earlier, there could be two LDs within Pinal County if Pinal County was kept intact as one of the districts.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sir, could you please spell your name?

GREGORY SCHULLER: S-C-H-U-L-L-E-R.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Shirley Murray.

SHIRLEY MUNEY: The name is Muney, M-U-N-E-Y.

And I'd like to thank the Commission for operating as originally intended by the voters in Proposition 106, with a balanced Commission, with a truly independent chair, and significant input from the public.

Of the five main criteria specified in Proposition 106 for redistricting, I'd like to emphasize competitiveness.
As we can tell from the polarized political views we hear every day on the news, it's important that voters in each district have a significant and fair choice.

Competition is the hallmark of our society, and it should be reflected in our voting process as well as in commerce.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Trent MacKenzie.

FRED MACKENZIE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and committee members.

I appreciate the opportunity of speaking before you.

My name is Fred MacKenzie. I am chairman -- and I live in Saddlebrooke.

I'm chairman of a grassroots organization called Pinal County Citizens For Excellence In Government.

We are a, as I said, a grassroots organization that is nonpartisan and believes in good government, and we are trying to learn as much as we can about good government, and educate our fellow citizens.

My slant in my talk this afternoon is a little different than maybe some of the previous speakers, and perhaps also the ones that will follow.

I'm approaching my concerns strictly from a Pinal
County standpoint and not the state.

I realize the purpose, the main purpose of this meeting is redistricting at the state level. However, as you know, there's a separate process at the county level.

But I'd like to share with you my concerns as to what is going on at the county level in my opinion.

I have met with Attorney Bruce Adelson, who's the attorney hired by Pinal County to come up with an acceptable redistricting format that will be acceptable at the Department of Justice.

And we understand that the preliminary maps for this redistricting at the county level will include a couple of points.

One of them, Casa Grande will be split in two. Two separate districts.

I think we would all agree that Casa Grande constitutes one separate community of interest, and of course it's a compact community.

So this, this really confuses me.

I'm learning about the ground rules of this Commission, which is similar to those that the Department of Justice have set for the county level.

And this one clearly doesn't meet that standard.

The second one we heard, and this is not
26 substantiated, but -- and we hope it never will be, would be
that Saddlebrooke, the community where I live, and Maricopa,
a community which we have little community of interest, is
103 miles away, let me repeat that, 103 miles away, and will
be in the same district.

Now, I submit to you that that makes no sense from
a layman's standpoint.

And my purpose in appearing before you and
communicating this is that I respectfully hope that in your
dealings that you don't consider a solution similar to the
two that I mentioned.

Because I'm not an attorney, but I just cannot
understand how either one of those two would even be
considered.

So in conclusion, I thank you for letting me
appear before you, and I respectfully ask that you consider
the intent of my concerns.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. MacKenzie.

Would you please spell your name for our court
reporter.


My first name is Fred.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

FRED MACKENZIE: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next we'll have Lynne
ST. ANGELO, followed by Pat Robertson, followed by Chula Robertson.

LYNNE ST. ANGELO: Good evening, commissioners.
I am Lynne St. Angelo, S-T, A-N-G-E-L-O.
And much has been said about competitive districts. Based on the comments from the public, it seems that people think that if a district has had both Democrats and Republicans elected then it is a competitive district.

If that is the definition for a competitive district, then I live in one of the nine competitive legislative districts in the state and in one of the three competitive congressional districts in the state.

Several people have said there are only four competitive legislative districts, and we should have ten.

But if you look at the elections since the last redistricting, there are nine districts that have elected both Democrats and Republicans.


There are three congressional districts that have changed hands as well. CD 1, CD 5, and CD 8.

I live in LD 26 and CD 8, both competitive districts.

Arizona's voter registration now has Independents and no party registration that are higher in number than the
Democrats and less than the Republicans.

So the real voting group that is determining which candidate wins an election is that middle group. And they seem to swing either way depending on the year.

I have attended most of the redistricting meetings since March, even when there were only two members of the public present. And freedom of speech is guaranteed in the First Amendment.

And this is a public forum, so I really was offended by the Commission's attempting to silence speech at the last meeting. That was as bad as saying to a 100 people who had just spoken that, quote, you are just a sliver of the people we serve, end quote.

By saying that, you were saying that you don't care what the public says at these meetings. I understand the commissioners are accountable to no one, but your votes must be questioned in the light of day.

To vote for the less aggressive, less experienced attorney for the Republicans and President Obama's only D.C. campaign company to draw maps for Arizona reeks of partisanship.
The three commissioners that voted this way either thought no one would notice or no one would say anything. But we did notice. And we will say something. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Pat Robertson.

PAT ROBERTSON: Hey, you guys. I'm Pat Robertson. I'm a farmer from Coolidge, Arizona, and I would like to keep it rural. Thank you.

(Appause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Chula Robertson.

CHULA ROBERTSON: Hi, I'm Chula Robertson. I'm her daughter. I'm a student down at the U of A. And I really want to encourage you guys to keep it competitive. As a student I learn so much about politics and competitiveness and how important it is for students and kids my age to vote. And I really want to thank you guys also for all your hard work.

Good luck.

We really appreciate what you're doing.

(Appause.)
VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks. Ms. Robertson, could you spell your name, please?

CHULA ROBERTSON: Yes. It's C-H-U-L-A, R-O-B-E-R-T-S-O-N.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have David Snider, followed by Tom Ramsdell, and Donna Branch-Gilby.

DAVID SNIDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission.

My name is David Snider, S-N-I-D-E-R.

And I am here representing myself, although, like Mr. Rios, I am a member of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

I'm here to speak in favor of the mapping suggestions offered by the Pinal County Alliance.

I've been with the Alliance in one responsibility or another since its inception in 1987. And I've seen the county through so many changes.

The proposal that the Alliance has set forward, first of all, for the congressional suggestion, does, in fact, in my opinion, help keep Pinal County in a rural district.

We have a great deal of community of interest relationships with the counties that are included in there, such as Graham and Greenlee, and parts of Yavapai and
Coconino.

We share philosophies. We share natural resources.

With regard to the legislative districting proposals, from our perspective Pinal County is going to clearly be a part of the sun corridor, which will include Maricopa County, Pima County, and of course Pinal County. We refer to ourselves as the meat in the sandwich.

I would like to point out that this proposal that Mr. Lynch has put forward on our behalf shares that community of interest with extensions both into Maricopa County for one district and Pima County for the other district, ensuring that that dialogue and that connection with those communities of interest continue and are enhanced in a competitive and compact way.

Finally, I share your pain. The closest I’ve ever come to taking on such a thankless task is being a school board member for 12 years. So, thank you for your passion and your commitment.

I would like to note that you did volunteer for this, not getting paid anything, but you volunteered, so thank you for your service to our state.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Tom Ramsdell.
TOM RAMSDELL: Vice Chairman and commissioners, my name is Tom Ramsdell, and I live right here in Casa Grande, right smack in the middle of Pinal County.

That's R-A-M-S-D-E-L-L.

I want to thank you for coming to our community this evening to receive public input from us as you gather the information and our community interest and concerns in your process of establishing the new boundaries for Arizona's congressional and legislative districts.

I'm sure the five of you are -- well, in this case the three of you, are acutely aware of the rules for fair and equitable redistricting.

And that as they're well established in the Constitution of the United States, the Voting Rights Act and the Arizona Constitution.

And if you must -- and they must strictly be followed along with other laws that govern the Commission's duties.

As a Pinal County citizen, I would like to enumerate how I think our community of interest should be defined.

First, Pinal County in its total should be considered a community of interest.

Pinal County's population is now 375,770 souls.

A congressional district must have 710,000 -- I
think 220 people.

Pinal County is a rural county.
And we're proud of that.
And we're bounded on the north and the south by urban counties.

Maricopa County to the north with a population of 3,817,000, and Pima County to the south with a population of 980,000 and change.

So in Maricopa, they'll have approximately 5.4 congressional districts.
And in Pima County, they'll be 2.4 -- 1.4 congressional districts.

And it didn't go unnoticed by me that, um, that two of the commissioners are from Maricopa County and three are from Pinal County -- Pima County.

Two urban districts that, you know, bound our county north and south.

And so I just want to be mindful that Pinal County -- of Pinal County's rural concerns and our rural interests when you establish these boundaries.

Urban and rural counties clearly do not have many of the same interests.

Pinal County has always been known as an agricultural county. The county of the three Cs: Cotton, copper, and cattle.
Whole counties and whole cities should be placed in a single district to the extent possible.

And I refer you to Arizona Constitution Title IV, Section 2-14(d).

Second, Latinos currently make up 29.5 percent of Arizona's population.

Simple math would indicate that the Latino population should have two majority minority congressional districts, so they would have the ability to elect a candidate of their choice because they have the majority of the votes.

And also one more district that would be considered competitive. And I'll touch on competitive in a minute.

Regarding the LDs, legislative districts, Latinos should have nine Latino minority legislative districts, if geography and demographics permit them without illegal gerrymandering.

Third, I've been hearing of a new way to redistrict called the spoke and wheel concept.

Clearly the spoke and wheel concept would be in direct violation of state and federal law, and I refer you to Title IV of the state constitution.

And you've already touched on the mapping process.

Redistricting guidelines are in place to ensure
fair and equitably based districts.

    And I am respectfully reminding the Commission to
consider that they shouldn't be outcome based.

    And, quickly, there's been much talk about
competitive districts.

    This is not, however, the defining criteria. It's
only one of the five. And to the extent practicable,
competitive districts should favor -- should be favored
where there is no -- they do not create any significant
detriment to the other goals.

    I want to thank you for being here and listening
to my comments.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Donna Branch-Gilby.

DONNA BRANCH-GILBY: Good evening, commissioners
and Vice Chairman Freeman. Thank you for being here and
being open to all of the public comment that you're getting.

    My name is Donna Branch-Gilby. That last name is
B-R-A-N-C-H, hyphen, G-I-L-B-Y.

    And I would like to say a few words about
competitiveness, and particularly as that relates to
community of interest.

    I would like to recall for you a few years ago
when we were at the beginning of our economic recession and
we saw the legislature reducing the funding for public
education.

The public was given the opportunity on the ballot to decide whether to adopt a one percent sales tax earmarked for education specifically.

This state, the voters in this state, overwhelmingly adopted that support, raising our own taxes to support additional funding for public education.

Yet we currently have a legislature which has voted exactly the opposite way.

To me this indicates that the whole state looked at as a community of interest supporting good quality education for all our students is not reflected in the legislature that we currently have.

And I'm most grateful that you're going to be looking at these boundary lines with a fresh eye.

This is an opportunity for us to really see that we arrange the lines so that voters have an opportunity to elect representatives who will truly reflect the interest of the whole state.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have Councilman Dick Powell.

He'll be followed by Tom Miller, and Stephanie Mach.

DICK POWELL: Thank you very much. My name is
Dick Powell, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight.

I'm a member of the Casa Grande City Council.

I know you guys are looking at mission impossible and trying to do the best you can with the task in front of you.

Two or three things that I think is really paramount is Pinal County to be as whole as possible being a rural county in the redistricting and not cut into pieces where they really don't have the influence they should congressionally. I think there's at least two or three rural areas that need that in your districts as you look at the ones.

The second one is on the legislative part in the state of Arizona. We went through -- in Casa Grande years ago we were gerrymandered and basically were disenfranchised for a number of years.

We had people in the legislature, and all of a sudden having two districts run right down through the middle of town left us unable to do that and be represented.

And I think that you need to look at your population centers, where the people are in these rural areas, and make sure that the community gets to speak, because when you divide one of them, you basically have wiped out that ability, and there's a number in Pinal
County, and so hopefully they can be included together as much as possible to make sure and don't split up major communities if possible.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Tom Miller?

TOM MILLER: Members of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, I want to thank you for allowing me a few minutes to express some of my thoughts.

My name is Tom Miller. I'm a registered voter and resident of Casa Grande.

I moved to Pinal County in 1969. I was engaged in agriculture in Maricopa until 1990 when I moved to Casa Grande.

Both of my sons graduated from Casa Grande Union High School, which at that time this building was part of that campus.

In these past 42 years there's been many changes in the makeup of Pinal County. This is especially true in the past decade with a dramatic increase in our county's population.

Members of your commission have a very difficult task, and an important one as you go about the job of laying out our new congressional district boundaries.

Your efforts are to be commended and appreciated.
As you're aware, Pinal County lies right in the middle between our two most populated counties, Maricopa and Pima.

I have always thought about -- thought of Pinal County as being an agriculture hub.

When I first moved here, as I mentioned earlier, the slogan was Pinal County, cotton, copper, and cattle.

Today it has become cotton and copper.

When I moved to Maricopa, agriculture was the common thread between which was then the town of Maricopa and Casa Grande, Coolidge, and Eloy, Florence, and on up into the mountains with San Manuel and Mammoth.

To me that thread remains in place today.

Your commission is not above the law if you have to follow the language of the U.S. and Arizona constitutions and the Voting Rights Act.

To complicate your job, you have to try to make sure all the voters are happy as well.

That is no easy task to be sure.

Article 4, Section 2, Line 14A of the Arizona Constitution states, quote: To the extent practical, district lines shall be visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries and undivided census tracts.

Line 14F in the same section says: To the extent possible, competitive districts should be favored where, and
I emphasize this, to do so would create no significant
detriment to the other goals.

And I want to stress those last few words, to
do so would create no significant detriment to the other
goals.

That is why I urge you to consider allowing
Pinal County to stay together in the new district.

It was sad to see Maricopa placed in a different
congressional district from the rest of the county in the
first redistricting process.

These cities in rural counties like Pinal have
citizens with common wants and needs. To leave the citizens
with the feeling their votes mean more, these cities and
towns and the county as a whole would be better served to be
in a single district.

I know there will have to be other communities
included in our district to fulfill population requirements.
The cities of Miami, Globe, Safford, and others in the
Graham, Greenlee, and possibly Cochise counties will seem to
be a good fit for consideration in the new district.

The same concept holds true for the Native
Americans on the reservations.

Their community should never be split by putting
CD or LD boundaries through a reservation.

They do have similar interests and want their
votes as effective as possible, and they therefore should enjoy the same privileges as everyone else.

In conclusion, I believe the needs of all voters, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, will be well served if whole communities are placed into districts as opposed to being split up.

I believe that in rural areas, priority should be given to establish CD and LD boundaries that follow county lines wherever possible.

Again, I want to thank you for allowing me to speak and for the work you’re about to do.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

Stefanie Mach.

And I’ll just remind everyone to please spell your name for our court reporter.

She'll be followed by Shirley Andreatta. I apologize for mispronouncing it.

And Mohur Sidhwa.


Thank you, again, as was said we really appreciate your time and your thoughtful consideration for this monumental task which you're about -- or actually currently undertaking.
I'm here to talk about competitiveness.

I know that you have six criteria from which to choose.

And I would argue that competitiveness is of the most importance.

You know, I work with young kids and also through college age young adults, and I try to encourage them as much as possible to be civically engaged and to really be a part of their community.

And I tell them, their voice is important. They need to express it. They need to act on their beliefs and whatever they think is important for their communities.

With noncompetitive districts, I feel that oftentimes they come back to me and say, my voice isn't heard, I don't see that, beyond a primary, I have any chance of ever really getting a person who represents me and my views.

And then on top of that I feel like it encourages a system where oftentimes you have representatives who feel that because of extreme partisanship they don't even have to listen to you or respect other people once they even get into office.

So not only can you not get people who represent us, but then the ones who are supposed to represent the
entire community do not.

And I just really want to encourage you to really consider that.

And I want to assure you that although you may not hear from many moderates, and you may not get to hear that opinion, there are a lot of reasonable people out there who may not have extreme views on either side and really want to encourage competitiveness, an American value I believe, that actually encourages us to be better, to be better as representatives, to be better as citizens, and to be better at creating the best system that we can.

So I appreciate, again, what you're doing.

I also appreciate everyone who's come here today, because, as I've stated, civic engagement is really important.

So thank you for your voice.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Shirley Andreatta.

SHIRLEY ANDREATTA: Okay. Commissioners, my name is spelled A-N-D-R-E-A-T-T-A.

I'm here today to urge the Commission to give due consideration to competitive districts.

I feel they're very important.

I want to feel when I vote that I have a choice.

And I want to feel that my voice will count.
And to me that's one of the most important things that I think redistricting can do, is to bring us to a point where we have more competitive districts.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Mohur Sidhwa.

MOHUR SIDHWA: Good evening.

Thank you once again for taking the time out. And I know you're all volunteers.

I recently heard somebody complain that there was only one commission member present at one of the hearings that took place.

I had to remind them that you all have day jobs, and you're taking time out from your lives to do this, and you can't be hopping all over the state all the time.

But I would like to thank whoever is here and those who are listening elsewhere. I'm sure they're following along.

Thank you also for showing consistent grace even when under fire, as we had been in the past, and for insisting on the independence from the legislature of special interest or pressures.


When we don't compete with others, we wind up
competing with ourselves very often.

It is also a uniquely American value in that it is really valued in the classroom, in the sports field, in business, or in the arena of political ideas and policies. By removing competitiveness, you remove that which is the foundation of a functioning democracy.

I really urge you not to do that, because this kind of removes the citizens' rights to a viable choice. Yes, we always have choices, even in the most noncompetitive district. But citizens would prefer a viable choice where both sides of the aisles can speak to the common interest.

So just wanted to bring that up.

And I thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have Warren Young, followed by Geri Ottoboni, and Brian Martin.

WARREN YOUNG: I'm Warren Young, Y-O-U-N-G.

I'd like to thank you for the -- for this huge undertaking here that you're doing.

I would just like -- I remember, when was it, about '93, my son was in the process of getting into the Air Force Academy. And the congressman that we went through was Jim Kolby in Tucson.

And I thought, gee, that's really -- that's crazy,
isn't it.

I mean, I know he cared about Casa Grande, but I think he was probably a little more affiliated with Tucson. So I think it's -- to me it's kind of important that we don't have things split, you know, different streets going to different districts, and that sort of thing.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Young.

Geri Ottoboni.

GERI OTTOBONI: Commissioners, my name is Geri Ottoboni.

Before I start -- oh, by the way, it's G-E-R-I, O-T-T-O-B-O-N-I.

And before I start, I was so delighted to see you have an interpreter here for the Spanish speaking individuals.

My question is: Do you also provide one for the deaf community?

There's a very large deaf people in Phoenix, and I don't see that they're being represented at all.

And also on your videos, I haven't seen any captioning, so you might want to consider captioning the video so the deaf community can have an opportunity to know what's going on in this process.

Anyway, I want to set the record straight about
the Mesa meeting.

I worked on fiscally conservative Democrat and Republican campaigns in the 2010 election.

What I care most about is being fiscally responsible.

And with my money.

Since the government is taking my money from me, I expect my elected representatives to be careful and prudent with how they spend it.

Proposition 106, instituting the Arizona Redistricting Commission, took redistricting out of the hands of 90 legislators and put it in the hands of five unelected commissioners who have total authority and are accountable to no one.

Before Proposition 106, we the people paid our legislators an annual salary which included the cost of redistricting.

Our legislators still receive the same salary, but now they don't do the redistricting.

I stand corrected in the amount of money the Commission spends.

Proposition 106 required, No. 18B, the treasurer of the state shall make $6 million available for the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission pursuant to the year 2000 census.
However, it actually cost the taxpayers 9,554,100, according to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee document Page 186, that I'm submitting into public record.

That budget committee was of the 2000 -- 2010 Redistricting Commission actually spent.

The JLBC had recommended that the current commission receive 10,203,000 for this ten-year cycle, for we were supposed to get public input into lines and look into all the dealings of the process.

Now documents have been shredded so that no one can tell how the Commission chose the mapping company.

The company the Commission has hired is a campaign company that only works on progressive candidate campaigns and was hired by the DNC to map lines in every state to get the most Democratic districts possible to counter the huge Democratic losses in the 2010 election.

Over 50 percent of the Commission's time has been spent behind closed doors and in early meetings in the morning, because I've been there.

Now, the -- let's see.

Sorry.

And the documents supporting what transpired behind these closed doors are mysteriously missing.

In addition, there were cell phone conversations where voter trading was discussed, which is a violation of
the open meeting law.

So three commissioners are corrupt, and we have a corrupt process.

With the 47 -- with the legislature, 47 elected people would have to be corrupt to get the same result.

And this is what we have acquired for $10 million, not $6 million that I mentioned before.

I doubt the public had any idea.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next will be Brian Martin.


I do sit on the Board of Supervisors for Pinal County, but I'm representing myself.

A brief background on Pinal County.

I support Pinal County staying as a single congressional district. Pinal County is almost 5700 square miles. We're the size of Connecticut.

There are 3,147 counties in America. We're the second fastest growing county. 109 percent.

Over the last ten years, we've built a home every hour of every day for ten years.

Our growth pattern is unprecedented in Arizona.

It's imperative that we have the ability to have a
single representative in Washington to represent our interests.

Right now we share four congressmen.

Those congressmen are beholden to a number of communities.

They do their best to represent Pinal County, God bless them all.

Our growth pattern remains consistent. We will grow. We are in the sun corridor.

There will be over three million people estimated in this county within the next 20 years.

It is imperative we have the ability to get the federal programs that we need to meet our needs, so we have a voice in Washington.

And although the district is not Pinal County inclusive, I think it's imperative that we look at Pinal County and then try to match our interests with those interests throughout the state of Arizona.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have Paula Maniszko, followed by Weymouth Fogelberg, and Frank Oliveri.


I'm a Casa Grande resident, retired teacher, and
I've lived in Arizona since 1979.

I'm a -- I have a very healthy respect for all the guidelines you must follow in making your decision.

I'm a big fan of the Voter Rights Act.

I would like to see two greater Arizona districts.

Casa Grande needs to have their interest be matched with the small towns of Pinal County.

I really believe in competitive districts.

I would like to encourage people -- I'd like to tell people that their vote counts, that it matters when they go to the polls.

I want to thank the Commission for the task that lays ahead of you.

Please don't let the noise distract you from the important task that lays before you.

Arizona needs statesmen and stateswomen now more than ever, and I believe that you're in a good position to give that back to Arizona.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Weymouth Fogelberg?

WEYMOUTH FOGELBERG: Good evening. Thank you very much for what you are doing, and thank you for doing it well and appropriately.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Could you spell your name?

When I go to Florence, I still feel at home.

When I go around the county and the repetition here of how we like to be homogenous is not something that's boring. It is something that's really being emphasized. It's almost like a pleading.

I don't feel quite as at home in Scottsdale in terms of the common interest that we have together.

And so I'd like you to pay attention to that, and at the same time I'd like to tell you I trust that you will do it well.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks.

Frank Olivieri.

FRANK OLIVIERI: Thank you for letting me speak today, commissioners.

O-L-I-V-I-E-R-I.

I am from the unincorporated area of Pima County.

I talk about the -- presenting a map of LD 26 and its relevance to Pinal County.

The -- this map of LD 26 I present of redistricting is favorable to the Voting Rights Act, equal population, contiguous, and considers the communities of interest, and competitiveness that everyone likes, as mentioned today.
This map considers next major economic growth area of Arizona for the next ten years.

The map is, boundaries would be from River Road to Oracle Road to Ina Road boundaries of southern borders of Pima County incorporating Oro Valley, Marana east and west of I-10, the southwest -- as the southwest border, eastern boundary, Coronado National Forest and Rancho Vistoso and east of Arizona State Route 79.

Northern boundary is south of Florence and includes Casa Grande.

Finally, this is a major transportation corridor for rail and air transportation cargo in a free trade zone. From Oro Valley, unincorporated Pima County, Marana, past Eloy, Picacho, and Casa Grande. These communities all have a common economic interest in growth for the community as stated earlier by many other speakers.

Thank you -- participants.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next we'll have Steven Kohut, followed by Vince Leach and Rose Robertson.

STEVEN KOHUT: Members of the Commission, my name is Steve Kohut. That is K-O-H-U-T.

Tonight I'm speaking on my own behalf and not on behalf of any organization.

The first requirement for this Commission under Prop 106 of the state constitution is of fairness.
Before we get into mapping or anything else, it's a requirement of fairness.

And I have major problems with the Commissions, its makeup, and the mapping consultants being able to do that.

So let's talk about fairness.

Is it fair that the chairwoman of the Commission would not be eligible for the position that she holds if she had disclosed that her husband was a paid staffer for Democratic campaign.

Is that fair?

Is it fair that when we're picking counsel, the Democratic portion gets what they want for their counsel. Two Democratic members and the chairwoman vote for their counsel.

The Republicans don't get their choice. The two Democrats and the chairwoman vote for and pick the Republican's counsel.

Is that fair?

Our state today is much more populace than it was in 2000.

The Commission is holding a third less hearings, stifling public input.

Is that fair?

Half of the meetings that have been held have been
in executive session where the public has no input.

   And decisions have been made in those sessions.

   That's an issue with the open meetings law, and

it's not fair either.

   I think the most gross unfairness that we're
dealing with now that we have that Commission is the mapping
consultants.

   As the previous speaker noted, they were the
mapping consultants for Barrack Obama's 2008 campaign.

   Is that fair?

   What's even worse, they are currently under
contract for the DNC to tell them how to redistrict the
nation state by state to deal with legislative losses and CD
losses.

   How is that not a conflict of interest?

   How can you have a company doing work for the DNC
nationwide and supposed to be nonpartisan here?

   How is that remotely fair?

   And now how do we pick them?

   We have one council committee member who openly
admitted, Mr. Herrera, that he gave them a perfect score
because he was afraid that they wouldn't get in if he didn't
do that.

   Now three people voted to pick ST.

   And they got three perfect scores. ST doesn't
meet the requirements for the request of proposal.

Their cost is twice as high, they have no
experience in this process, and yet somehow Barrack Obama's
and Eric Holder's company is here redistricting Arizona in a
nonpartisan fashion.

How is that remotely fair for the citizens of this
state who under Prop 106 demanded fairness and openness of
the Commission?

It just boggles my mind.

And as they were getting elected, the chairwoman
is on her cell phone brokering votes.

It's, you know, an issue with open meetings law,
and there's an affidavit filed to that effect.

How is that fair?

You know, and, lastly, the best part is the score
cards in this process hit the shredder.

Your own executive director admits that's the
case. They're gone. I can't request them under open
meeting law requirements for documents.

How is that fair?

So we're being asked today to talk about maps and
push map lines around.

The grid lines, the starting points, haven't been
created yet, and we're talking about pushing lines around.

When the process itself and the starting point
isn't fair.

I think the sad point for the people of Arizona, people like me, I live in unincorporated Pinal County is where I live, what we're going to have to do to get fairness is we're going to have to raise money and we're going to end up in court.

Ultimately that is going to be the requirement for fairness.

Because the other option is ST will call Eric Holder and the DNC, and say, what would you like, if they haven't already. And that's going to be the map.

Because that's how the process stands today based upon the votes that were taken, the choices that were made, and the company that was selected.

I can't see any way under God's green earth that we're going to have fairness.

And I thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VINCE LEACH: Thank you, Vice Chairman, members of the Commission.

Last name is Leach, L-E-A-C-H.

I'm a Saddlebrooke resident, Pinal County, southernmost I can -- from my driveway I can see the Pima County line.
I will be speaking, hopefully within the four-minute time frame, I will be speaking to community of interest this evening and how we view ourself.

I'm not speaking for the community. I'm speaking for myself. But how we engage our daily lives and where we engage and do business and our everyday living.

Well, we are in Pinal County, and many of us focus and spend a lot of time in Florence. Our everyday lives, if you will, our trading zone is that of Marana and Oro Valley.

Our TVs come out of Tucson.

Most of us use the Tucson airport, even though the Phoenix airport is a viable alternative and cost effective alternative.

We use the restaurants. Our shopping is done in Pima County, which Pima County supervisors enjoy our tax money.

Our newspapers, both are supported out of the Arizona Daily Star and the Northwest Explorer.

We recreate, movies, bowling alleys, the like. We buy our cars, that the closest dealership outside of Saddlebrooke, there's one dealership to the north of us at Oracle, but for all the major dealerships you're going at least 15 miles, 20 miles into Tucson.

Our doctors are located within -- all through. We utilize doctors and medical facilities all through Pima
County.

That's where we go.

That's, in fact, when we fill out your
insurance -- I'm not of Medicare age. When you fill out
your insurance, they ask you what market are you in. Are
you in rural Pinal County or are you in the Tucson market?
I pay Tucson market rates.
So I would ask you to consider that.

Many of us utilize and go to houses of worship
within Pima County, some of which are literally right on the
line.

And most importantly, in a recent development, is
the development and the coordination between Oro Valley and
Marana along with our Pinal County economic development, Tim
Kanavel.

As Oro Valley and Marana continue to expand and
grow and look for growth areas, they have plenty -- a lot of
room to grow to the north and into Pinal County and up the
I-10 corridor.

An earlier speaker talked about the transportation
hub that's going to come. And it will come. And I would
remind you that, not that you need reminding, but just to
reiterate, you are redistricting for a period of ten years.

So while we sit here on July 27th of 2011, you're
making decisions for elections way down the road and
population booms that are absolutely going to expand if the right conditions are set.

We are working hard, county supervisors, development people, to make Pinal County that growth area off that corridor.

So I would ask you to not only look at that growth corridor, but I would ask you to look at that -- those two precincts that sit called Saddlebrooke and look where our trade zone is, look where our spear of influence is, and look to the utilities, Tucson Electric Power, Southwest Gas, all of that comes from that market.

That is our focus.

To take us from that market and push us into something else would be -- it just doesn't fit the community of interest.

I thank you for your time and for the opportunity to speak before you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Leach.

Next we'll have Rose Robertson, and then we'll we're going to -- I understand we have a speaker in Maricopa, Julia Gusse, from the City Council.

ROSE ROBERTSON: Good evening.

My name is Rose Robertson, R-O-S-E, R-O-B-E-R-T-S-O-N.

I'm a local farmer here.
I've been in Coolidge for my whole life. I'm 23.
I'm a third generation farmer.
And the importance of keeping Pinal County rural right now is really important to me and several other young farmers.

We're still small. And until we start to grow, I'd like to see it stay rural.

That's pretty much all I have to say.
Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.
All right. Next we'll go to Maricopa.

(Whereupon, Councilwoman Julia Gusse spoke via videoconference.)

JULIA GUSSE: Good evening. My name is Julia Gusse. I'm a council member for the city of Maricopa.
And, yes, the pronunciation was correct.
I am here representing myself.
(Whereupon, Councilwoman Gusse made a brief statement in Spanish.)

JULIA GUSSE: I was present when Mr. Lynch presented to the Pinal County Government Alliance, and during his presentation I asked him a question if there would be equal Latino representation within the proposed maps.

And his answer, his response, was that he believed
that there was.

Now, what I failed to ask him was whether or not those populations -- how those populations were determined.

So my concern is the proper Latino representation.

The census includes prisoners in Eloy and Florence, but yet they cannot vote, and therefore they skew that count.

So my question to the IRC, more like my comments, is let's take into consideration the true and the proper, the real population for equal representation in Pinal County.

And what I mean by that is Latino representation in Pinal County.

As Mr. Tom Ramsdell -- greetings. He was one of my coworkers.

Pointed out that the population, the Latino population is 29.5 percent.

So I ask the IRC tonight to please take into consideration the Latino population, and don't have those numbers skewed by the current prison count in Eloy and Florence.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have Jere Hansen, followed by Onita
JERE HANSEN: Good evening. My name is Jere, J-E-R-E, Hansen, H-A-N-S-E-N.

I'm a CPA in Casa Grande, and I also serve on the elementary school board.

And I appreciate your efforts and a job that others have said that probably garners very few friends.

I've been a resident of Casa Grande since 1978.

I've seen the town grow, especially in the last few years.

And, but it has remained a rural district. The mind set here is separate and apart from Maricopa County or Pima County.

Most of the people here I think would agree that we think of ourselves as rural.

And I would propose that it would be best that the Casa Grande area remain in a congressional district that is made up of the what they're calling the greater Arizona rural districts.

I would also hope that we can fulfill some efforts to make the legislative districts more competitive.

Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Onita Davis.

ONITA DAVIS: Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the
Commission, my name is Onita, O-N-I-T-A, Davis, D-A-V-I-S. As an Independent, I'm not here because I favor one political party over another. But rather because I deserve a fair and objective redistricting process. A process that respects my wishes to be in a district with communities of like interest, not districts that are drawn for purely political reason, such as to make them politically competitive.

When I chose to live in Oro Valley, I did not consult voter registration data or ask potential neighbors how they voted in the last election.

I looked at the ability of the city to deliver vital services, the location of the closest hospital, the nearest Lutheran church, grocery stores, parks, distance from the highway, and airport.

I looked at the economic health of the community and the aesthetic beauty of the area.

None of these factors related in the least to political competitiveness of my district.

I chose to live with like-minded people, some of them Democrats and some of them Republicans.

The boundaries of my neighborhood, I'm not restricted by political labels, but rather include Saddlebrooke, Catalina, Marana, and unincorporated Pima County.
It should be noted that LD 26 is one of the most competitive LDs in the state. And CD 8 is also.

I'm assuming when we are defining competitive, we're talking about the ability for either Democrats or Republicans to be elected in any given time.

And the group that holds the greatest leverage is the Independent.

I have maps here for you of LD Districts 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29. That's southern Arizona, Tucson area. And the maps that I present maintain competitiveness. Over the past ten years these districts have been equally represented by Republicans and Democrats, meet the criteria for contiguous and compactness, and it does not affect minority influence.

Yet, a process that was superficially designed to ensure fair and impartial, i.e., independent framework for a very political task has morphed into something very partisan.

I do not require a partisan process. That's why I'm an Independent.

I like the flexibility of being able to look at all sides and choose what is best for me without being indebted to any party or political agenda.

Today we have a redistricting process, sad to say,
that clearly leans to the left.

It would be remiss of me not to stand up and speak out.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Davis.

Matthew Capalby.

MATTHEW CAPALBY: Good evening, commissioners, staff, Ray.

I'm sorry you have to hear from me again.

My name is Matthew Capalby, C-A-P-A-L-B-Y. And I am actually with a group called Greater Arizona Success. We are a group of like-minded people throughout greater Arizona, outside of the two metropolitan areas.

And to reflect many of the comments you've heard here tonight -- and, again, good evening, Commissioner McNulty, we visited last night in Bullhead.

But, just to reflect on many of the comments that have been stated here tonight, there is a strong consensus throughout greater Arizona to create ten Arizona congressional districts. There's enough population now because of the growth here in Pinal, as well as in Yavapai and Mohave, for the creation of those two districts, one predominantly on the west side of the state and one predominantly on the east side.

And, again, we'd like to, so far, the consensus up
north is to keep as much of eastern Pinal, if not further west, in within that configuration, because they share a community-wide interest due to the fact that they're not part of either the Tucson or Phoenix metropolitan area.

Also, there is, I think, broad-based stakeholder consensus on the fact that there needs to be eight strictly greater Arizona legislative districts.

And especially with the opportunity to make them as competitive as possible.

Certain areas, of course, that's not going to be practical.

But for the most part, greater Arizona believes that we have to maintain at least that number of eight legislative districts and make them as competitive as possible when and where possible.

And certainly appreciate the time, and I'm not sure if you can comment or ask any questions, but I'm available.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have Jim Hartdegen, followed by Michael Liburdi.

JIM HARTDEGEN: Thank you very much. My name is Jim Hartdegen, H-A-R-T-D-E-G-E-N.

I have a Casa Grande address, but I do live in the
Thank you for coming to not only Casa Grande but western Pinal County.

I do feel for you, because I've been fortunate -- I'm not actually as old as I'm going to sound, but I've been part of redistricting since 1970 in one form or another through the legislative process and through a paid consultant on the last go-around.

And I know that your task is really hard.

The old-fashioned way of doing things, we had reams and reams of paper, and stayed up late nights, and trying to figure out stuff.

It's much easier now.

But you have more pressure on you as a Commission because of Internet communication.

It's not easy, and I feel for you, and I'm sure that most of you will have gray hair in the next year or so. But, I support the Pinal County Government Alliance map.

At least for a starting point.

I think Mr. Lynch and his associates have done a fine job on trying to create a starting point for Pinal County.

If I may, what I would do if I were you to save a lot of time, I would take that map and use Pinal County as
the starting point, and then just work yourself out. Go
north, go south, go east, go west.

It would save the consultant over here a lot of
time after he makes his grid. But just use that map as a
starting point, and then just go all directions, and you'll
save a lot of time, and make us happy as heck.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Michael Liburdi.

MICHAEL LIBURDI: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
members of the Commission.

My name is Michael Liburdi. That's spelled
L-I-B-U-R-D-I.

And I'm an attorney. I represent the Fair Trust.
And the Fair Trust is a group of voters who are committed to
following the process and ensuring that the redistricting
process is done in a fair and impartial manner.

Just wanted to respond a little bit to the Pinal
County Government Alliance's proposal.

We support the general concept of keeping Pinal
County in one congressional district, subtracting the
reservations areas that should be joined in one minority
majority district.

We also support the concept of placing Pinal in no
more than two legislative districts. Again, placing the
reservation areas in a separate majority minority district
or districts.

We'd like to reserve the right to comment further on the Alliance's proposal once we got a chance to consider the specific lines, you know, and comment further.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Well, since I'm not aware of any other speakers in Maricopa, that concludes our public comment session tonight.

But before we adjourn, I want to offer my fellow commissioners a chance to impress you and say a few words.

So I'll ask Commissioner McNulty if she has anything to say.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you for -- thank you for coming and spending the evening with us.

This is a hard and complex process, and it's critical to us that we receive thoughtful input from folks like you.

And the more specific, the better.

We are -- I guess I should speak only for myself, although I believe this applies to all of us.

We are doing this because we love the state. We love every part of this state.

Not just Tucson where I'm from, Phoenix where some five million of us are from, but, but the rural counties, the remote counties.
And our job is to try and satisfy federal law and state law and to mesh all these criteria in a way that is as fair as possible to each and every one of us.

I'm committed to doing that. It's the only thing I'm committed to doing.

And I hope that you will follow the process along. And if you have questions about what we're doing or why we're doing it, please come to our meetings, please contact our staff.

We put a great team together. We truly have.

Mr. Bladine, our executive director, and his staff will -- are available to provide you information, to answer questions.

We have a website, at which we have quite a bit of information, and we'll have more information as this proceeds.

Once we do have draft maps, we will be doing more hearings.

If you think about things that you wish you had said today but didn't as the process goes on, send us written comments or call us.

Send us draft maps.

They don't have to be fancy. They can just be a neighborhood, can just be on a napkin. Just tell us what's important to you, and we'll appreciate that.
Thank you very much for spending the evening with us, and we hope that we'll be hearing from you and talking to you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you,

Commissioner McNulty.

Commissioner Stertz?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you,

Commissioner Freeman.

I want to, again, reiterate Commissioner McNulty's thanks to everybody for coming out. There are some of you that have been following us from the very beginning that have been traveling with us.

And hello to Chairman Mathis and Commissioner Herrera who are watching online, as I've been doing in the meetings that I've not been attending in person.

Just as a reminder that tomorrow is -- will be in the city of Prescott, followed by the town of Window Rock, and up at Hon-Dah.

And Commissioner Freeman, I think, is going to be traveling to those.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding competitiveness, and competitiveness is going to be a large challenge.

The Arizona Constitution requires that the IRC
follow federal law.

    And as the state is sort of concurrently
comprised -- we've got just slightly under a million active
Democrats registered, a little over 1,050,000 registered
Independents, and a little over 1,138,000 active registered
Republicans.

    So it's fairly close to a third, a third, and a
third.

    The question is what we're required to do as
commissioners is to first follow the Voters Rights Act,
Section 5.

    So as we look at competitiveness, what we're going
to be looking for too is getting input from you on what you
believe makes up a competitive district.

    What do you see competition being?

    Is a competitive district a district that is
evenly split, where there was an equal amount of
Republicans, Democrats, and Independents?

    Or is it something else?

    We're looking for that sort of input as well,
because we've heard these words competitive, but we haven't
really heard the underlying meaning other than the fact
that, and I truly agree with several comments that were
made, it is truly a part of our American fabric for
competitiveness.
So if you can give us that sort of input as well, it's going to be -- it's going to help us as we move down the road.

Again, thank you very much for the -- it is an honor, it is a challenge, and so far it's been quite a bit of fun moving around the state and meeting a bunch of new folks and friends.

So thank you very much for coming out tonight and joining us.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Commissioner Stertz.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I just want to endorse what my fellow commissioners have said, and I really want to thank you all for coming. It's a real honor and privilege to sit on this Commission. And I know when I applied, I thought one of the best things about it was going to be getting out on the road and meeting different people in different parts of the state and some -- traveling some roads rarely traveled.

I was born and raised in Phoenix, and I've spent some considerable years down in Tucson attending the University of Arizona with my father, who was born in Bisbee by the way, and my brother both attended, so I've been up and down that stretch of I-10 a lot of times since the '70s,
and I've seen a lot of changes.

    And I can tell you I know every roadside and wrong turn on that road, and it's been interesting watching the change, so it's good to get out here.

    I occasionally come down to Pinal County to do a little dove hunting, so I really enjoy the rural areas.

    So thank you, thank you for having us.

    And like Commissioner Stertz said, the Commission will be in Prescott tomorrow and Window Rock followed by Pinetop after that.

    And I really encourage everyone to come out, because it's so important to hear from you because you're helping us.

    You're helping us. You're giving us ideas. You're giving us options. And you're telling us what your needs and wants are.

    And that's our job, to give you a fair and balanced and independent redistricting.

    And that's what we're going to do.

    So, with that, it is 7:47 p.m., and the meeting is adjourned.

    (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

    * * * * *
STATE OF ARIZONA )
COUNTY OF MARICOPA ) ss.

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 75 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 3rd day of August, 2011.

______________________________
C. Martin Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50162